

OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



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May 2023: Kindness



May Dates to Remember

- May 1: Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
- May 4: Confirmation rehearsal
- May 6: Confirmation
- May 13: Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
- May 18: Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation); First Communion rehearsal
- May 21: First Communion
- May 28: Pentecost

*see our bulletins for Mass times:
<https://olveasthampton.org/bulletins/>

In the Easter season, we have celebrated new life in Christ. As the flowers rise ever more beautifully under the May sun, we celebrate the month of Mary, who gave life to Christ. The “Mystical Rose,” Mary brings much sweetness, drawing us closer to Her Immaculate Heart. Through Her, we are led to Christ. She is the channel to life in Him, guiding us to the light, so that we can grow in His love. Mary looks at us kindly and gently. Helping us gives Her joy, as does seeing us honor Her Son. One way we can do so is by honoring Her. Jesus’ love for His Mother shines through His actions. Beholding the Mother God gave us, we see the greatest saint, the embodiment of kindness, showing us how to love with a full heart.

Mary magnifies the Lord, shining a light on His greatness, through Her own acts of kindness and love that reflect so much of God’s goodness. Kindness brings joy. Our kind acts are how we rejoice in God, shining His light, as Mary did. This May, let’s do kind things in honor of Mary and Jesus, rejoicing in the gifts God has given. We share in the joy of our Confirmation and First Communion students as they make their sacraments, and can continue to channel this joy into every reception of the Eucharist, the Bread of Heaven filling us with God’s love, love extended to others in our acts of kindness. With Pentecost on the horizon, we pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to use His Gifts, so that we will realize God’s great plans for us, seeing that all He gives is out of kindness, coming from His vision of what we can blossom into.

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A Prayer to Mother Mary

Holy Mother Mary, bless my heart and soul.
I pray that faith as strong as yours,
I will come to know
With heart so pure and faith so strong
you knew your path was right.
You did not doubt His will for you
and welcomed fate, in God's true light.
Holy Mother Mary, like you, I pray to be,
To hear God's call and without fear
accept His plan for me.
My heart is young and faith is new,
I pray you guide my way.
Help me to say yes to God
just as you did, this I pray. Amen.

Prayer Source: Loyola Press



May Crowning Ceremony

Saint Spotlight: Mother Mary; Our Lady of Fatima

On May 13, 1917, Mother Mary appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal. They were shepherds named Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia (Lucy). Mother Mary has appeared to people around the world throughout history, but She shows special kindness and motherly love in appearing to children like Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia. Mother Mary told the children about how important it is that people pray and honor God, because following God is what brings peace. God has a perfect plan. Following it means that our world can have harmony and balance. God makes everything fall into place. Mother Mary wants our souls to be saved, so that we can be with Her and Jesus in Heaven someday. Out of Her loving kindness, Mother Mary wants to help us. A nurturing Mother, She is always there to care for us, just like Jesus, the Good Shepherd, tending to His flock. One of the gifts She has given us is the Rosary, which includes the Fatima Prayer, a prayer for God's mercy. God is kind, and forgives. Through the Hearts of Mary and Jesus, our hearts can be filled with deeper kindness, shining a light on God's goodness to the people around us, much like how the Fatima children shared Mother Mary's message with the world, increasing the faith of people everywhere.

Scripture Spotlight: "My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior."
-Luke 1:46-7 DRA

Song of the Month: "Salve Regina" ("Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above")

