

Mother's Day Carnation Masses

Saint Aloysius Church

May 11-12, 2019 Liturgies

Mother's Day is a very special Sunday that always fosters gratitude and affection for those who carried us, labored through our birthing, and warmly nurtured us when we were most vulnerable in need of attention and constant care. It is fitting that Mother's Day coincides within the Easter Season of eternal life and hope. Today's Gospel exhorts us to enter into the oneness of the Father and Son. One of the principal ways we experience unity in God and faith in the love of risen Jesus is through the sacrament of our mothers. Mothers, as devoted disciples, create a place for Jesus in our homes and point out Jesus as "The Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Not in a sentimental, gushy manner, but as a profound act of gratitude, it is important to remember and give thanks for our mothers, living or deceased, on this day. We need to acknowledge that some are single mothers, foster mothers, adoptive mothers, step-mothers, blended family mothers and many others -- sisters, aunts, neighbors -- who have stepped up to the plate and acted in the role of mother. They all have earned their stripes.

In a spirit of acknowledgment and appreciation, I would like to invite every grandmother and mother present at this Mass to please now stand. Let us express our gratitude.

A Mother's vocation is one most noble and irreplaceable. Your countless nurturing, self-less actions communicate the Love of God as essential and universal. Through you, the prayers, sacraments and teachings of the Church are introduced and taught. In so many ways, mothers announce

Easter and allow the real presence of Risen Christ to be experienced first-hand.

A mother's love mirrors the love of Jesus. In John 13: 34, Jesus gives us a new commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." This selfless outpouring and Christ-like intimacy is the love that every mother desires for her family. We are not only indebted to the Easter Jesus who is Our Good Shepherd but we are also indebted for the many ways mothers lovingly shepherd families and faithfully build the larger family of parish and Church.

American poet Helen Steiner-Rice captures the essence of such devotion in her poem: *A Mother's Love*.

**A Mother's love is something
That no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
of sacrifice and pain.**

**It is endless and unselfish
enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
Or take that love away...**

**It is patient and forgiving
When all others are forsaking,
it never fails or falters
Even though the heart is breaking...**

**It believes beyond believing
When the world around condemns
it glows with all the beauty
Of the rarest, brightest gems...**

**It is far beyond defining,
It defies all explanation,
it still remains a secret
Like the mysteries of creation...**

**A mother's love is a splendored miracle
One cannot understand,
Another wondrous evidence
Of God's tender guiding hand.**

**You have probably noticed that there are containers of
carnations placed in the sanctuary. Each carnation has been
placed in honor of a Mother, living or deceased. Along with the
primary intention of this Mass, the names of these Mothers are
also remembered.**

At the conclusion of Mass, the Knights of Columbus will distribute these carnations, outside the church, to the Grandmothers and Mothers present on this Mother's Day.

On behalf of The Jesuit Fathers and entire pastoral team of Saint Al's Church, our prayers and best wishes for a joyful Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Carnation Blessing Blessing occurs at the end of Mass

- Holy water bucket and aspergillum placed in sanctuary next to flowers
- Assembly invited to extend their hands.

RISEN SAVIOR, BLESS THESE CARNATIONS WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS PRESENT TODAY.

MAY THE BEAUTY OF THESE CARNATIONS BE A SIGN OF YOUR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

IN THE NAME OF [+] THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.