

After the Heart of Jesus ...

God our Creator, we pray:

*for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility ;
for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;
for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;
for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;
for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;
for those who have children they do not want;
for those who raise children on their own;
for those who have lost a child;
for those who care for the children of others;
for those whose children have left home;
and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.*

*Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender,
and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good,
living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others.
Amen.*



This weekend we celebrate Mother's Day, a time to honor our mothers and say to them, "We love you, we thank God for you, and we pray for you." The celebration of Mother's Day dates back all the way to ancient times, but the idea of the celebration was first proposed in the early 1870's. Julia Ward Howe, author of the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," began a one-woman peace crusade and made an impassioned "appeal to womanhood" to rise against war and proposed Mother's Day as a day dedicated to peace.

But it was Ann Jarvis, however, who really pushed for a national day to honor mothers. On the second anniversary of her mother's death, Jarvis asked her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia, to celebrate a day to honor mothers. Her mother had died on the second Sunday in May. The church obliged and the following year, the city of Philadelphia joined in the celebration. Thanks to a campaign by Jarvis and her supporters, by 1911 almost every state celebrated Mother's Day. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday.

May all of our moms be blessed in a special way this Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day!

This week we say "Thank you" and "Farewell" to Father Charles. His faithful, often quiet, priestly service at St. Walter Church since 2005 has been so important to the spiritual life of the parish. We wish him many of God's choicest blessings as he returns home to India to be with his family. We will miss you, Father Charles!

As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, Caroline Karpinski has decided to retire from her position as Director of Pastoral Care. I have asked Deacon Rich Foy to take over the responsibilities of that staff position through June. He will be responsible for funeral planning, visiting the hospitals, and working with our Ministers of Care to make sure the homebound are being visited and brought Communion. Please feel free to contact Deacon Rich with any questions regarding Pastoral Care. In the meantime, we are reviewing the position description of the Director of Pastoral Care so that it meets the current needs of the parish, and we will be searching for a new staff person. Please pray for a successful process in filling that position.

We continue to pray the rosary daily in May at 6:30 PM by the outside statue of Mary. Individuals, families, and groups are invited to sign up to lead the rosary. The sign-up sheet for leading is in the narthex.

Thank you to those who have already made their contributions to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal. Because the reports come directly from the Diocese now, rather than generated locally, they will be about a week behind in the numbers published in the bulletins. I am confident that we have reached more than 50% of our goal of \$117,154. But we need the participation of many more parishioners to surpass our goal. The Diocese serves as our partners in faith, helping us to do what we could not do on our own as individual believers or even as a parish. St. Walter Parish has a strong tradition of going over goal, and I pray that this kind of generous and sacrificial support will continue into the future. Please make a pledge or gift reflecting a desire to support the important work of the diocesan Church.



After the Heart of Jesus!

Father John