



WITH FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

# CELEBRATING ALL WOMEN CALLED TO MOTHERHOOD

On Mother's Day we recognize and honor the gift of motherhood. At the same time, the day can be fraught with sadness for those struggling with **infertility, miscarriage or loss of a child, complications with adoptions or fostering, broken relationships** with their own mothers or children, and more.

The Church recognizes that part of every woman's genius is her call to motherhood, expressed not only in conceiving and bearing children, but in the particular sensitivity of all women to the needs of others.

*"The Church gives thanks for each and every woman: for mothers, for sisters, for wives; for women consecrated to God in virginity; for women dedicated to the many human beings who await the gratuitous love of another person; for women who watch over the human persons in the family, which is the fundamental sign of the human community; for women who work professionally, and who at times are burdened by a great social responsibility; for "perfect" women and for "weak" women - for all women...."*

*- Saint John Paul II*



*Springs in the Desert is a Catholic apostolate dedicated to spiritually and emotionally accompanying those struggling with infertility and loss.*

FOR MORE RESOURCES, VISIT:  
**WWW.SPRINGSINTHEDESERT.ORG**



*Our Springs in the Desert team has some pastoral resources here and on our website to help you honor mothers this weekend, while also recognizing the unique spiritual motherhood of those women carrying the burden of infertility and loss.*

**WWW.SPRINGSINTHEDESERT.ORG**

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

*Below is a bulletin announcement suitable for showing support on Mother's Day to those struggling with infertility and loss.*

For women suffering with infertility, Mother's Day can be hard. There is hope and healing in community! Springs in the Desert is dedicated to spiritually and emotionally supporting women and couples navigating the frustration, pain and difficulty of infertility and loss. For encouraging blog posts, our free online retreat, and a community of support, visit [www.springsinthedesert.org](http://www.springsinthedesert.org).

## BLESSINGS FOR MOTHERS AND ALL WOMEN

*If you usually impart a special blessing for mothers at the conclusion of Mass, consider recognizing mothers first, and then all women who live out different aspects of motherhood each day (ex. godmothers, aunts, spiritual mothers, mentors, etc.). This acknowledges those who struggle with infertility or the loss of a child, affirming that their motherhood is expressed in a unique but fruitful way.*

This Mother's Day, we give thanks for all women who have been called to motherhood. Let us remember with gratitude and joy our own mothers and grandmothers, our godmothers and those women who have been spiritual mothers to us, as well as the poor and vulnerable through personal charity and service to the Church. We pray for hope and healing for mothers who have lost children and for those struggling to become mothers. We entrust all of these women into the hands of Mary, Blessed Virgin, and ask God's blessings upon them this day and always.  
Amen

## SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS FOR PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ON MOTHER'S DAY

*Below are some options from which to choose as additions to the intercessions you are already using for Masses on Mother's Day.*

For women who are bearing the cross of infertility, that they may know God's loving presence and trust in His plan for them... We pray to the Lord.

For couples desiring to be parents who carry the cross of infertility, that they may trust in God's plan for fruitfulness in their marriages... We pray to the Lord.

For mothers who have lost a child through miscarriage, or at any time in their lives, that they may rest in the Lord's loving embrace and be comforted by His merciful plan for their loved ones... We pray to the Lord.

For the women who are loving spiritual mothers to us, especially our godmothers, aunts, mentors and all women who positively impact our lives...  
We pray to the Lord.

For couples experiencing infertility, that we as the Body of Christ may walk with them, support them and simply listen as they share their stories with us...  
We pray to the Lord.

## INSPIRING IMAGE

*Please consider using this image on social media.*





# A TRIBUTE HONORING THE EXPERIENCE OF MOTHERS

ADAPTED FROM A LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY - BY AMY YOUNG

*This tribute can help remind those celebrating and suffering that the Church is the place where we ought to truly feel comforted, supported, encouraged, and cared for in our joys and sufferings.*

St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans,

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

On this day, when we acknowledge the importance of motherhood,  
we are grateful for all who have shown us a Mother's love,  
and grieve with those who are experiencing pain and loss.

To those who gave birth this year - we celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child - we mourn with you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage or failed adoptions - we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with feelings of isolation, tears and disappointment - forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make things harder.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms and spiritual moms - we need you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children - we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heartache and distance from your children - we support with you.

To those who lost their mothers - we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother -  
we acknowledge your experience.

To those who have aborted children - we remember them and you on this day.

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children -  
we pray for the fulfillment of God's plan for your life.

To those who stepparent - we walk with you on these complex paths.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet the dream is unrealized -  
we grieve with you.

To those who placed children for adoption -

we commend you for your selflessness, and remember how you hold that child in your heart.

To those who are pregnant with the gift of new life, hoped for or unexpected - we anticipate with you.

And to our Blessed Mother,  
we thank you for your example and motherly love,  
which leads us always to the divine love of your Son.  
Amen.



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