

# LITURGY BYTES

## May – Mary's Month



As we begin the month of May, we focus our attention on the Blessed Mother. Mary is highlighted in song, through May crownings, and recitation of the Rosary at a variety of events in parishes.

During this month, there are some special “Marian” feasts: Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament which shares May 13th with the feast of Our Lady of Fatima; Mary Help of Christians on May 24th; Our Lady Queen of Apostles, celebrated the Saturday after Ascension Thursday, which is May 28th; and finally the Feast of the Visitation on May 31st .

Families can kick start their devotion to Mary in a variety of ways. Referring to the above feast days mentioned, try to celebrate that feast within your own home by finding out about that particular feast and talking about it, especially with your children. If there are family members with the name of Mary, discuss why that name was given to them. Even getting the family together to pray a decade of the Rosary once a week in May is another wonderful way to spread the good news about our Blessed Lady.

Right here on Long Island, we have the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Manorville. A family field trip to the shrine can also be an excellent way to celebrate Mary. It is a wonderful experience on a sunny, spring day where you and your family can learn about Mary—a real family experience in the midst of our busy lives.

Let us reflect and see what our Mary devotion will be this month. Pope Francis said, “that when we look at the present needs of the Church or at the state of peace in the world, we have compelling reasons for believing that at the present time, the whole Christian people need to be united in prayer more than ever.”

**Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, and Queen of Families, pray for us!**

*Have a blessed, healthy, and safe week! ~ Michele Hall*