

Late March

Send the bulletin and pulpit announcement submissions you hope to have featured. This will help your parish plan and allot the necessary space in the bulletin.

Mid-April

Reconnect with appropriate parish staff regarding your bulletin and pulpit submissions, and make sure they have received all the materials needed, including the spiritual bouquet announcements and the *Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life*. If you have obtained permission from the pastor, make arrangements to set up a table in the vestibule or other gathering area on Mother's Day weekend.

Touch base with your pastor to offer further assistance and to confirm any plans you may have made, such as the spiritual bouquet or the *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*. Make sure he has everything he needs, such as pulpit announcements or a copy of the rite.

Early May

With your volunteers, prepare all the spiritual bouquet materials except for the flowers.

Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend

Gather with your volunteers to set up the table prior to the vigil Mass. Keep the flowers in a safe area. Consider allotting a certain number of flowers for each Mass, and setting out each allotment just prior to each Mass. This will help ensure that you don't run out of flowers before the final weekend Mass. Remember that some Masses have higher attendance than others, and plan accordingly.

Mother's Day Weekend

Help participants complete the spiritual bouquet following each Mass. Depending on how you have planned to complete and/or adapt this activity for your parish, specific logistical steps will vary. (See the sample activity at the end of this Mother's Day action guide for various options for doing this activity.) After the final Sunday Mass, break down the table, and clean up any leftover materials. The spiritual bouquet can remain in place for the next 1–2 weeks.

1-2 Weeks After Mother's Day

Clear away the spiritual bouquet, and remove any leftover vases.

BULLETIN & PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are using the Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb, see the action guide for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord for sample announcements and other ideas (www.respectlife.org/action-guides).

◆ Bulletin Announcements

(Suggested Weekends: The Two Weekends Before Mother's Day)

On Mother's Day weekend, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to Our Blessed Mother. Following each Mass, parishioners will be invited to write down their prayer intentions and offer them to Our Lady along with flowers of thanksgiving for her motherly love and intercession. *[To cut the cost of providing flowers, consider adding: "If you would like to participate, please bring a flower with you to Mass that/next weekend."]*

As we celebrate the gift of mothers and honor Our Blessed Mother, *we also recognize that Mother's Day can be a difficult holiday for many*. We hope this spiritual bouquet provides an opportunity to pray for the intentions brought to your heart by Mother's Day.

◆ Pulpit Announcements

Option 1

(Suggested Weekend: Weekend Before Mother's Day)

Next weekend after each Mass, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to Our Blessed Mother. All are invited to write down a prayer intention and offer it to Our Lady with a flower of thanksgiving for her maternal care. Please see the bulletin for more information.

iStock.com/Yevhenii Dubinko; iStock.com/TatianaDavidova; iStock.com/LightFieldStudios. Models used for illustrative purposes only. Photos used with permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2021, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Option 2 (if you are *not* providing flowers)
(Suggested Weekend: Mother's Day Weekend)

After Mass, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to Our Blessed Mother. All are invited to *[insert location of the table with the supplies]*, where there are pens and paper for you to write down a prayer intention. You can then present your intention to Our Lady by placing it in the basket at *[insert designated Marian statue, icon, or painting and location]*. If you brought Our Blessed Mother a flower, you can offer it to her in thanksgiving for her maternal care by placing it in the vase located *[insert location]*. *[Consider adding: "For those who did not bring a flower, a limited supply is available near the pens and paper."]*

As we celebrate the gift of mothers and honor Our Blessed Mother, *we also recognize that Mother's Day can be a difficult holiday for many.* We hope this spiritual bouquet provides an opportunity to pray for the intentions in your heart today.

Option 3 (if you *are* providing flowers)
(Suggested Weekend: Mother's Day Weekend)

After Mass, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to Our Blessed Mother. All are invited to *[insert location of the table with the supplies]*, where there are pens and paper for you to write down a prayer intention. There are also flowers for you to offer to Our Lady in thanksgiving for her maternal care. After writing down your intention, take a flower, and present both to Our Blessed Mother at *[insert designated Marian statue, icon, or painting and location]*.

As we celebrate the gift of mothers and honor Our Blessed Mother, *we also recognize that Mother's Day can be a difficult holiday for many.* We hope this spiritual bouquet provides an opportunity to pray for the intentions in your heart today.

iStock.com/TatianaDavidova. Photo used with permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2021, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

INTERCESSIONS

These sample intercessions were written for use on Mother's Day; however, many can be used throughout the year. These intentions are appropriate for inclusion in the Prayer of the Faithful at Sunday Mass. They can also be printed in the weekly bulletin, featured in email newsletters, shared on social media platforms, or prayed during personal or family prayer times.

For all mothers:
That they may be supported and encouraged in their special vocation of love;
We pray to the Lord:

That all might treasure and support God's plan for life and love;
We pray to the Lord:

For all mothers:
That their children will honor their many sacrifices by lives of service and virtue;
We pray to the Lord:

For mothers facing unexpected pregnancies:
That they may find strength and courage in the example of our Blessed Mother;
We pray to the Lord:

For all mothers awaiting the birth of their children:
That the Lord protect them and bring their babies to safe delivery;
We pray to the Lord:

For all married couples struggling to have a child:
That the Lord grant them peace as they hope for the gift of a son or daughter;
We pray to the Lord:

For all those longing to welcome a child through adoption:
May the Lord guide their journey and grant them peace along the way;
We pray to the Lord:

For mothers who mourn the loss of a child:
That they may find peace and consolation in the hope of eternal life;
We pray to the Lord: