

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary in many cultures. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. Already in Greek culture, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Roman culture, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of bloom, of blossoms. The Romans celebrated *ludi florales* (literally: floral games) at the end of April, asking the intercession of Flora for all that blooms. This is also related to the medieval practice of expelling winter. May 1 was considered the beginning of growth.

### **WAYS TO CELEBRATE**

There are many ways to celebrate this particular devotion. Most churches have a recitation of the rosary. The important thing is that Mary be honored in a special way. At one time, the domestic celebrations of the month of May were widespread, especially by setting up a small May altar in the home. In a special place of honor decorate a statue or picture of Mary with a small bouquet of fresh flowers during the month.



### **Liturgical Celebrations for Mary in May**

Two Marian liturgical celebrations are commemorated in May. When Ascension falls in May, the Saturday after the Ascension of Our Lord is traditionally celebrated as the *Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles*. The liturgy commemorates the period of time after the Ascension when the apostles were gathered in prayer with Mary and the women in the Upper Room.

***In the Diocese of Wilmington the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is transferred to Sunday May 17th.***

On May 31, in the United States, we celebrate the Commemoration of the Visitation. When Mary heard that her elderly relative, Elizabeth, was expecting a child, she hurried to help her. Mary's service brought Christ to the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

### **Patronal Feast Day – *Our Lady of Fatima***

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the saint after whom we are named. It is important that we give thanks for all those who went before us and brought us to this time and place. Take time to read the story of Our Lady of Fatima and learn more about the history of our parish. Share stories with your families and look through old photos. Begin this very special day in the parish by joining us for Mass.

### *Novena To Our Lady Of Fatima*

Most Holy Virgin, who has deigned to come to Fatima to reveal to the three little shepherds the treasures of graces hidden in the recitation of the Rosary, inspire our hearts with a sincere love of this devotion, so that by meditating on the mysteries of our redemption that are recalled in it, we may gather the fruits and obtain the conversion of sinners, the conversion of Russia, and this favor that I so earnestly seek, request which I ask of you in this novena, for the greater glory of God, for your own honor, and for the good of all people. Amen.

*Pray 3 sets of : 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, and 1 Glory Be to the Father*