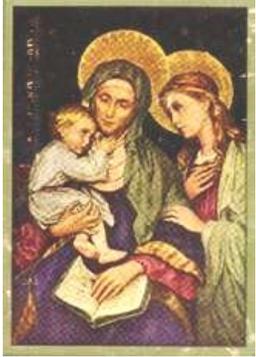


SAINT ANNE, THE GREATEST OF GRANDMOTHERS

As we celebrate Mother's Day, it is fitting that we also honor the greatest grandmother of all, Saint Anne. "Good Saint Anne" is the loving way many Christians address the mother of the Virgin Mary. Saint Anne is often forgotten in our celebration of motherhood. The picture to the left brings a renewed sense of the wonderful relationship between Saint Anne, the greatest of Grandmothers, the Virgin Mary, the most honored of Mothers, and Jesus, the most popular of grandchildren. Meditate on these three amazing models of unconditional love, immediate forgiveness, and undying compassion. In honoring Mother's Day, we honor the great-grandmothers, grandmothers, mothers and children, living and deceased, who have shared their lives and their faith since time began.



THE TRADITION OF THE MOTHER'S ROSE

Since Victorian times, the various colors of roses have had different meanings, but an especially beautiful tradition is that of the *Mother's Rose*. This custom states that a red rose is given to or worn by anyone whose mother is alive, while a white rose is given or worn by one whose mother has died. Giving a red rose to your own mother signifies respect and undying love. Therefore, it is traditional to wear a red rose on Mother's Day to signify a living mother, and a white rose to honor a mother who is no longer alive. The white and red roses on the cover honors this beautiful tradition of the *Mother's Rose*, and hopefully provides you with a lasting reminder of the living or deceased women who nurtured and loved in their role as mother. May the tradition of the *Mother's Rose* bring peace and comforting thoughts to all women as they remember and pray for all those "children" into whose lives they have brought the joy of God's unconditional love.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

*"And may you see your children, and your children's children,
unto the third and fourth generation:
and may your children be blessed by God,
for ever and ever...Amen." — Tobias 9:11-12*



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Prayers and Roses for Mother



*Inside are special prayers for mothers in all stages of life and motherhood.
As you pray these prayers, please remember all women,
those who have been biological mothers and
those who have mothered so many whose lives
needed their comfort and their care.*

A PRAYER FOR MY MOTHER

Loving God, I give thanks to you for my mother. With your gift of life, she gave me life. She loved and cared for me and brought me to my life today. No one delights in my life successes more and no one comforts me better in my failures. Bless her, Lord, and comfort her. Help her to continue to love and give of herself to others. When she feels dejected and alone, hold her close and help her to feel your close presence. Holy God, most of all on this Mother's Day, give my mother all the graces she needs, and hold her close to your loving heart. I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A MOTHER WHO HAS DIED

Most loving God, my mother has died and now rests in your arms. For many years she held me close, and now I know you hold her close in your arms. Still Lord, she is gone from my life and even now I miss her so deeply. You know, Loving God, how much she gave me and all the ways she loved me. Help me to find comfort in you and in the promise of Christ which assures me that even now, she is at your side still praying for me and loving me until I am reunited with her in your presence. I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A MOTHER WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Loving God, St. Ignatius of Loyola prayed: "Lord, take and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my entire will...Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me."

Lord, my mother has Alzheimer's disease, and that prayer of St. Ignatius can be her prayer now. Bless her and bless every mother who has Alzheimer's disease. She taught me to walk, steady her uncertain steps now. She kept us safe, help her to be safe in unfamiliar places now. She came to us when we had nightmares, remove her fear of the life she lives now. She cooked and cleaned, help her to accept the loving hands that care for her now. Loving God, I look into my mother's eyes now, and they respond with a dazed stare. Compassionate God, help her accept her life in these days and open her heart and passing mind to always be aware of your presence with her. Give each of us who love her, the patience to understand her illness, the courage to stand by her, the ability to remember her as she was, and the power to love her as she is. I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR AN EXPECTANT MOTHER

God of all Life, I pray for all expectant mothers who carry hope in her body and bring life into our world. As she watches her body change, may her prayer be the song of the Virgin Mary: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exalts in God my savior." I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER AFTER THE DEATH OF HER CHILD

God, my prayer is a scream within the agony of my life. Everything is out of place and will never be the same again. Oh, Lord, I can only ask "why" over and over again! You know the tremendous pain that is always in my heart, it never leaves me, it surrounds me constantly. Even when I wake up in the morning ready to be filled with life, I suddenly remember the death of my child, and the pain once again envelopes me, chokes me and drowns me. Bring me some calm, Lord. Help me to breathe even if only a little more each day. Be with me in this awful pain. It is my constant companion, and yet a reminder of the love I still share with my child who is now with you, and still waiting for me. I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF A MOTHER WORRIED ABOUT HER ADULT CHILDREN

Loving God, my heart is troubled. I know Saint Francis said: "We are called to be gentle healers of wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way." I am so worried and concerned about my children, how they live and where they are today. My children don't seem to hold the faith we tried to pass on to them. My heart breaks when I think of them and my grandchildren not knowing and loving the faith as I do. Help me Lord, to be gentle in my conversation with them, kind in my discussions of faith and values, and above all, unconditional in my love for them and their families. Let me trust in your will, feel confident of your love, and know when to get out of your way so that you may work directly with them—without any interference from me! I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

A MOTHER'S DAILY PRAYER

My Loving Creator, Help me echo the love of Saint Anne and the Virgin Mary with my love for my children and family. Let me remember the patience of Saint Anne, the strength of Mary and the love that they shared for the child Jesus. Keep me close to you and to my family, Lord, and bring me all the grace I need to be strong in the face of danger, relentless in my prayer for my children, and always dependent on you for love. You are my God and I love you, You are my strength and I need you. And you are the source of my faith and I ask your help in passing this faith on to my children and to my corner of the world. I ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.