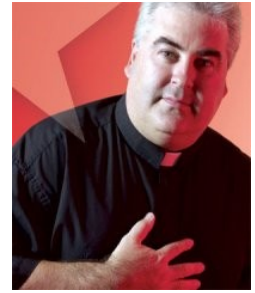




Rev. Fr. Mark J. Niznik - Pastor
Masses: Saturdays 4pm & Sundays 10am
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Mother's Day History

Contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day was not conceived and fine-tuned in the boardroom of Hallmark. The earliest tributes to mothers date back to the annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to Rhea, the mother of many deities, and to the offerings ancient Romans made to their Great Mother of Gods, Cybele. Christians celebrated this festival on the fourth Sunday in Lent in honor of Mary, mother of Christ. In England this holiday was expanded to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday.



In the United States, Mother's Day started nearly 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day."



Fifteen years later, Julia Ward Howe, a Boston poet, pacifist, suffragist, and author of the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," organized a day encouraging mothers to rally for peace, since she believed they bore the loss of human life more harshly than anyone else.

In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen like John Wannamaker, and politicians including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, at her church in West Virginia, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation. Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday.

At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church, writing letters to their mothers, and eventually, by sending cards, presents, and flowers. With the increasing gift-giving activity associated with Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis became enraged. She believed that the day's sentiment was being sacrificed at the expense of greed and profit. In 1923 she filed a lawsuit to stop a Mother's Day festival, and was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a convention selling carnations for a war mother's group. Before her death in 1948, Jarvis is said to have confessed that she regretted ever starting the mother's day tradition.

Despite Jarvis's misgivings, Mother's Day has flourished in the United States. In fact, the second Sunday of May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express appreciation of their mothers.

Taken from the website of: <http://mothersday.123holiday.net>

Spaghetti Dinners



Come and bring your friends to our weekly all you can eat spaghetti dinners on Fridays 4:00-7:00pm. Dinners include salad, roll & butter and your choice of a free beverage, either coffee, iced tea or lemonade. Adults are just \$5.00 and Children 12yrs and younger are FREE. There are also homemade desserts from our Ladies ANS Society for only \$1.00 each. If you are bringing a large group, please contact Bob Canfield at 352-433-8654 and let him know how many in your party and what time you will arrive, and he will reserve your table(s) for you.

YMS of R Men's Group

The next YMS of R meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8th at 9:00am at Cal's Restaurant in Belleview. All men from the parish are encouraged to attend. If you are new to the parish, this is a good opportunity for you to meet some of the men of our parish.



St. Paul Choir

We have a fantastic, spirited choir here at St. Paul's, under the direction of Charley Stoykovich. We are still looking for singers for our Saturday Mass. Anyone interested in joining the choir can meet here at the church on Tuesdays at 6:00pm for practice.



Ladies Adoration Society

Thank you Jesus for your never ending guidance and we praise you for our great success.

A big thank you to Pete Tokas for our Easter Bread, not only was it delicious, but very beautiful too. We also must thank Clara Smith, Wanda Pace and Marge Cappelli for all the time and effort they put in to make our Easter Lamb Butters so unique and so cute.

May is the month we honor our Blessed Mother. Her color is blue and her statue, in a place of honor, is beneath her son, our Lord Jesus, to the right of the Altar as well as in the Vestibule of the church.

Our next meeting is Sunday, May 5th following the 10:00am Mass at Pasta Faire in Belleview. All the ladies of our parish family are welcome. If you wish to attend please let me know so I can give the correct count to the restaurant. You can contact me at 352-233-9961 or doricanfield@gmail.com.

On behalf of our Adoration Society, I would like to wish all the ladies of our church family a Happy Mother's Day.



In His Service,
Dori Canfield



"To Our Lady"

Lovely Lady dressed in blue, teach me how to pray!

God was just your little boy, tell me what to say!

Did you lift him up sometimes, gently, on your knee?

Did you sing to him the way Mother does to me?

Did you hold his hand at night?

Did you ever try telling stories of the world?

Oh! And did he cry?

Do you really think he cares if I tell him things - little things that happen?

And do the Angels' wings make a noise?

And can he hear me if I speak low?

Does he understand me now?

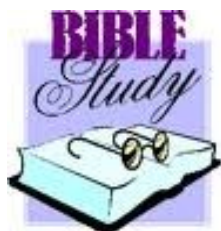
Tell me for you know, lovely lady dressed in blue, teach me how to pray!

God was just your little boy. And you know the way.



We welcome our new members of our church family who have joined in the month of April

Elaine Beckler



Father Mark is conducting bible class on Thursdays, 10:00am at Church On The Square in The Villages. This ongoing class is for everyone interested in finding out more about their faith. Father Mark brings us many pearls of Scripture each week and whether you are a first time bible reader or an astute learned scriptural connoisseur, there's something special in the Word of God for everyone. You are encouraged to bring a friend.

Backpack Program



This is another of our school support programs that we are helping out with. Teachers distribute care packages to families in need. **Sample size** personal care products are most appropriate. There are plastic bins in the back of the church to drop off these supplies.



Birthdays

- 1st** Diane Hollinsworth
Fernando Varela
- 3rd** Alexandra Toth
- 5th** Roman Stopa
- 6th** Leona Curtis
- 8th** Ro Kpoec
- 12th** Bob Pace
- 13th** Sandy Elstad
- 18th** Trish Flynn
Roger Hunt
- 19th** Travis Thorpe
- 20th** Shirley Whalen
- 23rd** Dottie Middleton
Linda Thompson
- 24th** Loretta Keegstra
- 26th** Kevin Stevens
- 28th** Don Ditto
Cindy Yackowski
- 30th** Peg Brosig
- 31st** Valda Niznik

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Anniversaries

- 6th** Bernie & Marlene Kress
- 18th** Gary & Diane Hollinsworth
- 20th** Dick & Jan Nowak
- 26th** Paul & Peggy Puglisi
- 27th** Bill & Alexandra Toth

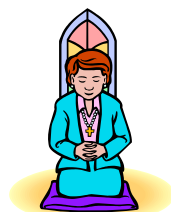
* Members, if your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please inform Debbie Niznik.

Sunday Coupon Flyers

At the April 21st Parish Committee meeting, Debbie Niznik had a table display of 303 free items that she had been able to obtain for the Backpack Program since the Annual Parish meeting back in February, using the coupons in the flyers. Debbie wants to thank all of you for your continued support and asks that you keep bringing in the flyers. Below is a picture of the items. Total items to date: 502.



Women's Prayer Group



The Ladies Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, May 8th and 22nd.
Rosary at 3:00pm
Prayer Group at 3:30pm.
All the ladies of the parish are welcome.

Holy Saturday Pictures



Blessing of the first light to be brought into the church

Below: Blessing of Easter Bread and Easter Baskets



Blessing of the Holy Water

Words for Thought

God sends the brilliant light of a rainbow to remind us of His presence.

Verdell Davis

Easter & Luncheon Pictures



Fernando & Susan joined us for Easter Mass



Kielbasa from Chicopee, MA



Painting Display of Donna Fazzenbaker



On the weekend of April 13-14, 2013, parish member, Donna Fazzenbaker displayed over 50 of her paintings in the social hall for all to view. Donna won many awards for her paintings. At the end of the month, she will be heading down south for another show. Good luck Donna and bring home those prize ribbons!