



*From the Pastor
7th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
May 13, 2018*

Like many of you, my mother has gone on to her eternal reward, which she certainly deserved after she raised me! Since we cannot have a mother without a father, and since, also like

many of you, both my parents are deceased, I invite my fellow 'orphans' to pray this **Mother's Day** by offering and reflecting on the orations a Priest is honored to say at Masses for his deceased parents. My parents, Vincent and Mildred [wedding photo above] were married on February 12, 1944, in Saint Ann Church in Newark, NJ

These orations may be prayed by anyone for their deceased parents; ideally, you should gather - even via phone or the internet - with your siblings to offer these prayers, adapting them for the singular or plural as needed. Our prayers for our deceased parents [and for all loved ones] is the greatest gift we can give them, as the dying **Saint Monica** told **Saint Augustine**, her son: **"Bury my body wherever you will, do not be concerned about that. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord."** To have a Mass offered, or to memorialize a sanctuary lamp, votive candle or other item in memory of your parents or anyone else, contact the Parish Office.

Collect - Masses for the Dead: For the Priest's Parents

*O God, who commanded us to honor father and mother, have mercy in your compassion on my father and mother (our parents), forgive them their sins, and bring me (us) to see them one day in the gladness of eternal glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ ... and ever. Amen.*

HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER. The 4th Commandment does not expire when our parents expire; our prayers for them and their eternal rest must go on for as long as we live! And isn't it true that the older we get, the more we realize how hard they had it; how thankless was their job; how often we neglected to say

thank you? Luckily, with God, it is never too late! As long as we enjoy the breath of life, we can atone for our own sins, offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of the sins of others, even the dead ... and, above all, start anew.

Prayer over the Offerings - For the Priest's Parents
*Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice we offer you for my father and mother (our parents); grant them everlasting joy in the land of the living and unite me (us) with them in the happiness of the Saints.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SACRIFICE FOR ALL WHO SACRIFICED FOR YOU. No one is perfect; most fall far from the mark; some even have bitter, hurtful memories of the faults of deceased family members. All the more reason to place **everything** and **everyone** in God's all-powerful, all-merciful, all-knowing, almighty hands! Only God can sort it out; only God, who alone knows what is deep within us, can properly mete out justice with compassionate mercy. That's why we must pray -and offer sacrifices - for our own sins and the sins of others ... even as our deceased loved ones offer prayers for us who did [do] not always live up to their expectations.

Prayer after Communion - For the Priest's Parents
*May participation in this heavenly Sacrament obtain perpetual light and rest for my father and mother (our parents), we pray, O Lord, and bring me (us), along with them, to the fullness of your everlasting glory.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WE AWAIT A GRAND FAMILY REUNION. Until God gathers us together in the eternal joys of His Heavenly Kingdom, we gather around earthly Altars to 'stay connected' with each other: with those on earth, and with those whose earthly journey has ended. For since all are alive in Christ; we are only a prayer away! We Catholic Christians also have the added benefit and joy of the **Sacraments**, especially the **Eucharist**, which unites us with the **Risen Lord**, with the **Angels** and **Saints**, with my deceased parents and loved ones, and with each other.

With God's love and my prayers,

Father Mike

Very Reverend Michael J. Kreder, KHS