

May. Mary. Can we celebrate this month and express our love for Mary better than with this beautiful song, *Bring Flowers of the Rarest?* I have provided the site for you, if you wish to hear it sung by a true Irish heart!

[YouTube - Bring Flowers of the Rarest - Queen of the May](#)

Among the Catholic devotions for our Blessed Mother, we honor Mary during May under her title of Mother of God. The tradition of a May Crowning ceremony was revived in our parish last year, and will be conducted again this year on Friday, May 7 at 9 AM in St. Cecilia Church (the entire parish is welcome to attend and participate in the ceremony). Children from our middle school and high school will perform the ceremony, walking in procession, singing songs, and bringing flowers to lay at the feet of our beautiful Marian statue. A high school senior has been chosen to crown the Virgin statue with a beautiful wreath of flowers. The statue will be lifted onto a special pedestal, and remain there through the month of May, adorned with fresh flowers.

I would like to encourage all parishioners to embrace the devotion of the rosary during the month of May, and for families, to make the commitment to pray a family rosary together each day in the month of May. This powerful prayer works miracles in family life as it deepens our understanding of the mysteries of faith and opens our hearts to the Motherhood of Mary.

One of our parishioners has encouraged me to open our parish to the five first Saturday devotion to our Blessed Mother. We will begin this devotion on May 1, 2010. The five first Saturday devotion was given by our Blessed Mother to Lucia, one of the Fatima visionaries, on December 10, 1925. The devotion is designed to make reparation for offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mary told Lucia, "I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me" [Citation: *Treasure of Fatima*, by Father Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., page 4-5].



I will preach a short reflection on this devotion at our 7 AM Mass on May 1, and begin promoting it through other means throughout the year. I believe it will be a great addition to the spiritual life of our parish.

Together, let us make May, 2010, a month of devotion and love for Mary, our Mother and the Mother of our Lord.