



Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus

Dominican Friars

Mothers' Day & Fathers' Day Novenas 2022

My Dear Friend of our Patron, St. Jude:

As our troubled world confronts the forces of evil that bring such suffering upon the earth, we once again turn to the Patron of Holy Hope: St. Jude, who brings spiritual comfort to those who seek God's manifold graces through his intercession.

Our special focus at this time is on the Fathers and Mothers whose children are threatened by war, even as we also intercede with Heaven for our own parents.

The time will be soon upon us when we celebrate both Fathers' Day and Mothers' Day when our prayers are especially directed for the well-being of our own parents, whether living or deceased. **The Dominicans invite you to join us for these two special Novenas — nine days of prayer — for all our Mothers (April 30 to May 8) and then for all our Fathers (June 11–19). Please use the enclosed enrollment forms or go online to www.stjude-shrine.org and click on “Novena”.** Feel free to include the names of all fathers and mothers, living and deceased. Also please consider including in the novena all of the spiritual fathers and mothers in your lives.

In her life as a Dominican, St. Catherine of Siena was spiritual mother to many, including Blessed Raymond. Men and women of great faith owe their knowledge of God and His mercy through spiritual Mothers and Fathers. Such was the case, for example with J.R.R. Tolkien (author of *The Lord of the Rings*) who lost his father when he was around three, and his mother when he was 12. Before her death, his mother had assigned the guardianship of her two sons to Father Francis Morgan, who brought them up as devout Catholics. In a letter to his own son years later, Tolkien recalled the influence of this priest of whom he said, “From him I learned charity and forgiveness.”

We priests and religious – spiritual fathers – need these prayers too in order to carry out our vocations!

Finally, let us all join St. Jude in praying for families suffering from the war in Ukraine and elsewhere, and for all fathers and mothers in the most difficult situations. With God's grace ALL things are possible, and we have a powerful intercessor in St. Jude.

Sincerely in Our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostle of holy hope, St. Jude,

Fr. Emmerich Vogt, O.P.
Director

