

## Mothers' Day Novena ~ May 3-11, 2025

## Fathers' Day Novena ~ June 7-15, 2025



Dear Friends of St. Jude,

I'd like to invite you to participate in our Mothers' and Fathers' Day novenas.

It's an interesting thing that of the Ten Commandments that God left Moses, most are *negative* precepts— thou shalt not have false gods before me, thou shalt not steal, etc. But two are *positive* precepts: remember the sabbath day and keep it holy and **honor your father and your mother**.

Both of these are important because they solicit one response: gratitude. Gratitude to God for having created the world, and gratitude to our parents for having cooperated with God in bringing us into this world.

For many of us, gratitude to our parents is easy. Perhaps our parents were examples to us by which we learned virtue and came to come closer to our Lord. I think of the great example of my parents raising me in the faith.

But I also know that for others, gratitude might be more difficult to solicit. Sometimes, our parents were not good examples. Some may have even hurt us deeply. Nevertheless, the fourth commandment calls us— despite the facts or our feelings— to still offer thanks to our parents, because whoever they are— good or evil— they cooperated with God in bringing us into this world, this fact compels us to desire their welfare.

And this is important, because ultimately, our connection to our parents is rooted in our connection to God. If we cannot learn to look to our parents, whom we see, with gratitude, how can we look to God, whom we do not see, with gratitude?

**I encourage you all, therefore, to submit your petitions in these novenas for your parents— living or deceased. Let us cultivate a heart of gratitude, especially to our parents.**

In Christ and St. Jude,

*Rev. Br. Elias Guadalupe Ford O.P.*

Rev. Br. Elias Guadalupe Ford, O.P.  
*Director*

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Mothers' Day



Fathers' Day



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