

Mother's Day

Observed the second Sunday in May, this day honors all mothers. It began in its present form with a special service in May 1907 at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. The service was organized by a Methodist laywoman, Anna Jarvis, to honor her mother, who had died on May 9, 1905. By 1908, Anna Jarvis was advocating that all mothers be honored on the second Sunday in May, and in 1912 the Methodist Episcopal Church recognized the day and raised it to the national agenda.

Prayer

For our mothers, who have given us life and love,
that we may show them reverence and love,

we pray to the Lord... *Silent prayer*

For mothers who have lost a child through death,
that their faith may give them hope,
and their family and friends support and console them,

we pray to the Lord... *Silent prayer*

For women, though without children of their own,
who like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,

we pray to the Lord... *Silent prayer*

For mothers,
who have been unable to be a source of strength,
who have not responded to their children,
and have not sustained their families,

we pray to the Lord... *Silent prayer*

Loving God, as a mother gives life
and nourishment to her children,
so you watch over your people.

**Bless these women,
that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(BOOK OF BLESSINGS, U.S.A., 20TH CENT., ALT.)