



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mary is the Mother who watches over us, her children, on our journey through life, often weary and in need, anxious that the light of hope not fail.

*(Christus Vivit, no. 48)*

*The Virgin of the Annunciation,  
Andrea della Robbia, LACM*



## ***Happy Mother's Day!***

On this Mother's Day weekend, we pray for our mothers and thank them for their loving service to our families and communities. This prayer from the Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition, can be said at the beginning or conclusion of meals.

Loving God,  
as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless our mother.  
Let the example of her faith and love shine forth.  
Grant that we, her family,  
may honor her always  
with a spirit of profound respect.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
R/. Amen.

## ***Our Lady of Fatima***

Feast Day—May 13

Mary appeared to three peasant children near Fatima, Portugal, six times between May 13 and October 13, 1917, and asked for prayers for world peace and an end to World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. She entrusted the children with three secrets, regarding devotion to her Immaculate Heart, a vision of hell, and a "bishop in white" shot by soldiers firing bullets and arrows. Many connect the third secret to the attempted assassination of Blessed Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981, and the pope thanked Mary for guiding the bullet and saving him. At the Vatican, Pope Francis has stood before the statue of Our Lady from the Fatima shrine and formally entrusted the world to Mary.

"In Lucia's account, the three chosen children found themselves surrounded by God's light as it radiated from Our Lady. She enveloped them in the mantle of Light that God had given her. According to the belief and experience of many pilgrims, if not of all, Fatima is more than anything this mantle of Light that protects us, here as in almost no other place on earth. We need but take refuge under the protection of the Virgin Mary and to ask her, as the *Salve Regina* teaches: 'show unto us... Jesus.'" —Pope Francis, Holy Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 2017