

The MONTHLY

May Edition

Pastor's Corner: MAY FLOWERS AND MOTHERS



May is here! The two things that come to mind when considering “the lusty month of May” are lilacs and Mother’s Day. I would suggest that we residents of the Lilac City might consider how the lilac tells a story of motherhood. While ubiquitous in our South Hill neighborhood, the lilac is not indigenous to Spokane. It was brought to our fair city by those hardy travelers who moved from Minnesota to the Inland Empire in the early 1900s. The custom was when life was uprooted, one would uproot a plant to be transported and transplanted where one settled. This plant would serve as a reminder of the home and family left behind. So, the first lilacs to adorn the Spokane countryside and perfume the evening air were planted by those who made the difficult journey and settled here.

The journey of the lilac might be compared to the journey of every woman who becomes a mother. A woman willingly uproots her life when she has a child. She freely, but nonetheless at no little cost, leaves behind her earlier life when she carries and bears a child. She is the one who first plants her child’s feet in the soil of this earth. It is through a mother’s prayers and sacrifices that her child will grow and bring forth a goodness and beauty to pass on to another generation.



Anna Jarvis

With good reason, we set aside a day to celebrate our mothers. Anna Jarvis campaigned vigorously for this special day. Her intent was for Mother’s Day to be a day when families would attend church and then honor their mother for the remainder of the day. It was in her Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where the first Mother’s Day was celebrated in 1908. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the second Sunday of May as Mother’s Day.

Long before Jarvis promoted Mother’s Day, the Church celebrated “Mothering Sunday.” On the fourth Sunday of Lent, people would return to the church of their baptism – or their mother church. Here is where one was spiritually born and given new life in the waters of baptism. People would decorate the baptismal font with flowers and mementos in appreciation of this spiritual birth. In this month of May, smell the lilacs, remember our mothers, and say a prayer for the mother church where you were baptized.