

Assumption Lilies for Mary's Garden

Planting hope in our homes with Mary



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Welcome to Our Family

In addition to longer days, sunshine, and school graduations, spring is time for a one-of-a-kind event: the Museum of Family Prayer's annual Mary Garden Contest. Gardeners, gardener "wanna-be's," and families young and old are invited to cultivate and care for gardens dedicated to the Mother of God.

What is a Mary Garden? Traditionally, it is an enclosed garden of flowers and herbs whose names speak of Our Lady. These gardens, which appeared in Europe as early as the Middle Ages, are typically planted around a statue of Mary, creating a peaceful space for prayer. Since we welcome gardens of all shapes and sizes, we hope you and your family will be creative as you plan your Mary Garden together and take this opportunity to begin or deepen a habit of family prayer.

You can learn more about this longstanding tradition, find practical advice for creating your own Mary Garden, and submit photographs of your work on the Museum of Family Prayer's website.

As new life springs forth in creation, let us entrust our families to Mary, the Mother of Our Hope. May God bless you and your family!

A Little History

Servant of God Patrick Peyton began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building family unity through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of family prayer. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the slogan coined by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



Family Rosary

HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

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*"There is also a wonderful tradition on this day of giving baskets of fruits and herbs to friends.
In this way we can imitate Mother Mary by bringing comfort to others."*

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15 commemorates her death and bodily assumption into eternal life. This took place before her physical body could begin to decay. But did you know that Mary's tomb was not found empty? In 451 A.D. it was noted by St. Juvenal, Bishop of Jerusalem, at the Council of Chalcedon that the apostle, St. Thomas, was said to have found beautiful roses and lilies where her body once lay. There are several white daylilies that bloom near this date, and together are known as Assumption Lilies.

The late summer blooming varieties to add to your Marian garden are:

Hemerocallis 'Serene Madonna'
Hemerocallis 'Heavenly White Lightening'
Hemerocallis 'Jolly White Giant'
Hemerocallis 'Lady Elizabeth'

Daylilies are one of the easiest plants to grow and maintain, and will grow in most soils, though they prefer those high in organic matter. These are sturdy perennials and adapt to most any garden. They tolerate a wide range of soil and light conditions, establish themselves quickly, and survive harsh winters. For more information on how to grow these lovely plants, visit the University of Minnesota web site. The name Hemerocallis is composed of two Greek words, hemera meaning day and kallos meaning beauty. The name is appropriate since each flower lasts only one day, though some of the newer cultivars can last 24 hours—opening in the evening. Each stalk of flowers contains multiple buds developing throughout their specific bloom period. They are not a true lily from the genus Lileaceae, which are the single-stemmed Oriental and Asiatic lilies.

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This holy feast day is also associated with celebrating the summer's harvest. The Roman Ritual includes the Assumption Day Blessing of Produce, of fields, gardens, and orchards. It is a beautiful prayer ritual; the whole of it can be found in *A Catholic Gardener's Spiritual Almanac*. There is also a wonderful tradition on this day of giving baskets of fruits and herbs to friends. In this way we can imitate Mother Mary by bringing comfort to others.

For more fun gardening insights for your liturgical gardens, read *A Catholic Gardener's Spiritual Almanac*, available from Ave Maria Press.

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Continue the Journey

Want to learn more about Mary or explain to someone you know Mary's role in your faith? Catholic Central, a free video web series that talks about the big Catholic topics, has an episode all about Mary! There you'll learn that she's venerated, not worshiped; asked to pray for us; and makes occasional appearances to the faithful to achieve her one mission ... bringing people closer to her Son.



Margaret Rose Realy, Obl. OSB

Margaret Rose Realy, Obl. OSB lives an eremitic life and is the author of *Cultivating God's Garden through Lent*, *A Garden of Visible Prayer: Creating a Personal Sacred Space One Step at a Time*, 2nd Edition, and *A Catholic Gardener's Spiritual Almanac*. A freelance writer with a Benedictine spirituality, Margaret has a master's degree in communications and is a Certified Greenhouse Grower, Advanced Master Gardener, liturgical garden consultant, and workshop/retreat leader.

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Share your newly finished Marian Garden or your long-time Mary Garden. You've put a lot of work into it, now share that beauty with others. As you enjoy your garden, let it be a special place for your family to pray. Our family is one of our greatest gifts from God. Haven't ever prayed in a garden or as a family? Sounds uncomfortable? Give it a try. You'll be surprised how quickly it becomes comfortable. Or, maybe you pray all the time? Head over to your Mary Garden the next time you need to pray. Whatever your situation, we have prayers to make it special.

Keep an eye on:

Family Rosary @familyrosary.org

Catholic Mom @catholicmom.com

Museum of Family Prayer @museumoffamilyprayer.com

and on our Facebook and Instagram sites too!

#MaryGardenContest



We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Continue to pray with your family every day, wherever you are.

For additional online resources for family prayer including additional e-books and the mobile Rosary App, please visit our website at www.FamilyRosary.org.

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "The family that prays together stays together."

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