ST. MICHAEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

751 Locust Street

PO Box 103

St. Michael, Pennsylvania 15951

Rev. Brian L. Warchola, Administrator MASSES:



(814) 266-9718 / Ext. 507 Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday Morning 8:00 am

Secretary: Susan Poldiak 10:30 am

Bookkeeper: Kathy Kalicky Daily Mass See Bulletin

DRE: Laurie Sloan Holy Days See Bulletin

Maintenance: Rodney Turgeon

Office Hours:

PHONES: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Rectory / Office: (814) 495-9640 Monday, Tues., Thurs., Friday

Fax: (814) 495-9424 Confessions:

Rel. Education: (814) 495-4873 Saturday 3:30 pm to 3:45 pm

Parish Website Sunday 7:30 am to 7:45 am

www.saintmichaelchurch.weebly.com 10:00 am to 10:15 am

Secretaries’ E-mail Anytime Requested

[saintmichaelsecretaries@yahoo.com](mailto:saintmichaelsecretaries@yahoo.com)

YEAR: 2017 NUMBER: 20

SERVING GOD AND COMMUNITY FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS!

BAPTISM: By Appointment. Reserve at least one month in advance.

Preparation classes are necessary.

MARRIAGE: Make arrangements at least nine months in advance.

Preparation sessions are necessary.

FUNERALS: Arrangements are made in conjunction with the funeral home.

Eulogies should be given at the funeral home at the time of the wake service or at the luncheon.

REGISTRATION Those new to the area, newlyweds, and single adults, (even if registered

and before with their families) are asked to register by calling the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: Every parishioner must be registered. This is a condition for admission

to our Program and reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Penance, First Eucharist, and Matrimony; also, for testimonial letters or sponsorship of Baptism and Confirmation outside the Parish.

VISITATION: We are concerned and want to be advised when someone is ill at

home or in the hospital. Call the rectory to have the shut-in placed on our monthly Holy Communion calls or seriously ill prayer list.

SACRAMENTAL Requires parish registration and active Mass participation for Baptism

POLICY: and Marriage.

BULLETIN ARTICLES: Articles are due to the Parish Office by Noon on Mondays.

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2017

**Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

MASS INTENTIONS: (May 15 – May 21, 2017)

Monday No Mass

Tuesday 8:00 AM Irene Hribar req. by George & Carol Caroff

Wednesday 9:00 AM John Owens req. by St. Michael Funeral Committee

Thursday 8:00 AM Brandon Baxter req. by Wayne & Anna Oldham

Friday 9:00 AM David Gdula req. by Slovak Catholic Sokols #82

Saturday 4:00 PM Andrew Paulson req. by Mike & Pam Brence

Sunday 8:00 AM People of the Parish

Sunday 10:30 AM John L. Podrebarc req. by Rick & Nancy Wessel

LITURGICIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Saturday, May 20 4:00 PM Offertory Procession

Lector: Sherry Dipko Paulson Family

Minister of the Host: Vince Arena

Ministers of the Cup: Babe Richards & Susan Blazosky

Altar Servers: Garrett & Carson Kundrod

Cantor: Amy Spangler

Greeter: Mary Ann Spangler

Sunday, May 21 8:00 AM Offertory Procession

Lector: Cathy Faher Dick & Carol Hautz

Minister of the Host: Ellen Grattan

Ministers of the Cup: Betty Long & Pauline Minor

Altar Servers: Michael Kresic & Brian Bernard

Cantor: David Knepper

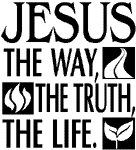
Greeter: Pete Parisi

Sunday, May 2110:30 AM Offertory Procession

Lector: Michael Caddy Podrebarac Family

Minister of the Host: Michael Barton

Ministers of the Cup: Dave & Edie Knobloch

[](https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/viewimages?book_number=43&chapter=14&entry_date=1/1/0001&image_type=cl&page=2&ipp=12)Altar Servers: Colby Rearick & Brooke Williamson

Cantor: Amy Dobbins

Greeter: Mary Ann Oravis

Sunday, May 21 Collection Counters

Tom & Sharon Paterson,

Robert Casti, Sara Zybura

[](http://www.churchart.com/Subscriber/ViewImages.aspx?keywords=&entry_date=1/1/0001&image_type=,cl&topic_id=346&image_source_id=&page=1#no)Weare placing names of the sick in the bulletin for prayer providing they give permission. Although we remember all sick and shut-ins at every Mass, we would like our parish family to be aware of the need for special prayer intentions because of a most serious illness or hospital stay. *May the* *Divine Physician send healing grace for those for* *whom we pray:* Allen C. Rosemas, Patricia Murphy, Bernice Myers, Dwight Fyock, Lori Facciani, Dylon Wills, Dawn Hagen, Debbie Dibert, Missy, Joanne (Kolar) Hufford, Christine Flanagan, Ayden Alan Grata, Remy Beaver, Mary Lou Offman, Marian Chuckalovcak, Arlene Diamond, Mary Zangaglia, Dorothy Rosemas, Natalie Zerby, Patricia Grata, Michael Wadsworth, Valencia & Frank Tursi, Homer Locher, Brayden Schofield, Michelle Kasper, Diane Kingera, Allison Krischer, Ted Paluch, Brandt Hutzel, Pearl Litzinger, Patrick Munro, Fran Baldassarre, Corey Lybarger, Kristen Sinosky Long, Helen Ranieri, Cresta Micik, Loretta Panick, Basil Costantino, Madison McCrory, Laura, Maria, Joe Yoder, Dolores Yanzetich, Sandy Krug, Wanda Gramling, Merna Smay, Muriel “Jean” Wiesheier, Heidi Allison, Agnes Plummer, Jennifer Hagans, Katie Ansell, Mary McCall, Sean, Holly, Shane, Melisa Ruddek, Patrick O’Donnell, Owen Taylor, Keith Hoyer, Gail Faher, Marjorie (Latshaw) Feldman, Jayden Scott Beam, Derrick Varnish, Mark Baloga, Daniel Koshute, Vincent Koshute, Karen Lovrich, Melissa Cordek, Tammy Webb, Ron Ripper, Sr., Michelle Elliott, Marie Hudson, Shannon Meyers, Heather Romanow, Mackston Barrick, Connor Thomas, and all of the sick of our parish, the homebound, those in nursing homes, those who care for them, and those in the military along with their families. (Please call the Rectory to have your name removed from the list when no longer seriously ill. Thank You.)

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Adults $ 3,730.00

Loose $ 195.00

Youth $ 148.50

Monthly $ 1,464.00

Maintenance Fund $ 95.00

Easter $ 20.00

Ascension $ 15.00

Catholic Communications $ 15.00

Peter’s Pence $ 10.00

Father’s Day $ 10.00

Mother’s Day $ 235.00

Food Pantry $ 20.00

Candles $ 33.00

Total $ 5,990.50

We sincerely thank and ask God’s blessing upon all who have care and concern for our parish.

[](https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/viewimages?topic_id=81&image_type=cl,ph,pp,bc,ca,mv,wt,nt,pt,ft)

*May 14 John 14:1-12*

*Jesus tells us in the gospel: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me!" The point is: God is in each one of us, in our relationships and in our homes. The vocation of the Christian family is to live the divine gift which is already in and around us. Mothers are instruments of Christ's presence in the home*.

[](https://images.search.yahoo.com/images/view;_ylt=AwrB8plKK_1XrE8ADDKJzbkF;_ylu=X3oDMTIyajBlaTZqBHNlYwNzcgRzbGsDaW1nBG9pZAM0MTMxYjYxYzY5YzhiNGY5MzEwN2RhMGUyZDZiMDFjMgRncG9zAzcEaXQDYmluZw--?.origin=&back=https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?p%3DFree%2BClipart%2Bof%2BLottery%2BWinners%26fr%3Dyfp-t%26tab%3Dorganic%26ri%3D7&w=420&h=589&imgurl=images.clipartpanda.com/winner-clipart-clip-art-lottery-431235.jpg&rurl=http://www.clipartpanda.com/categories/winner-20clipart&size=87.3KB&name=%3cb%3eWinner%3c/b%3e+20clipart+|+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Panda+-+%3cb%3eFree%3c/b%3e+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Images&p=Free+Clipart+of+Lottery+Winners&oid=4131b61c69c8b4f93107da0e2d6b01c2&fr2=&fr=yfp-t&tt=%3cb%3eWinner%3c/b%3e+20clipart+|+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Panda+-+%3cb%3eFree%3c/b%3e+%3cb%3eClipart%3c/b%3e+Images&b=0&ni=192&no=7&ts=&tab=organic&sigr=11n47l7ao&sigb=139407utj&sigi=1223krgs8&sigt=12i151aj8&sign=12i151aj8&.crumb=wKQwdzP0bBS&fr=yfp-t)MAY 2017 PARISH TICKET WINNERS

Day Date Amount No. Winner

Friday May 5, 2017 $ 75.00 362 Louise Dadura

Saturday May 6, 2017 $100.00 057 Quinn, Eva & Ana Spangler

Sunday May 7, 2017 $100.00 534 Robert Haberkorn

Monday May 8, 2017 $ 75.00 253 Mary Petrosky

Tuesday May 9, 2017 $ 75.00 124 Joe Parisi

Wednesday May 10, 2017 $ 75.00 266 Suzi Blazosky

Thursday May 11, 2017 $ 75.00 809 Brian Weis

UNSOLD TICKETS/NOT RETURNED TICKETS ~ Any ticket that wins that was not sold or not returned, the winnings will be split between the number above the winning number and the number below the winning number.

[](http://www.churchart.com/Subscriber/ViewImages.aspx?keywords=Baptism&entry_date=1/1/0001&image_type=,cl&topic_id=&image_source_id=&page=1#no)BAPTISM ~ On Saturday, May 6th, we celebrated the glorious baptism of Kai Louis McCloskey, son of Louis and Jamie (Baker) McCloskey by Father Brian Warchola. He became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism. Now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity, we warmly welcome him into our St. Michael Parish Family.

MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH ~ All mothers and daughters of the parish are invited to a Mother’s Day Brunch on Sunday, May 14th sponsored by the Holy Name Society. They will be paying for, preparing and serving the meal in the church hall immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Help is needed on Saturday night, May 13th to set up. Sunday morning help is needed in the preparation, serving of the meal and the clean up after. Please call Pete Parisi at 487-5351. (This is a good way for male REACH students to earn service hours. Contact the Religious Education Office at

495-4873 to volunteer.)

MOTHER’S DAY MASS INTENTIONS ~ Envelopes for Mother’s Day Mass Intentions are in your packet of envelopes. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during the month of May in remembrance of all mothers, both living and deceased. Extra envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church.

C:\Documents and Settings\Susan\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\XHXVAJYK\CAK5OTOS.wmfMOTHER’S DAY CARNATIONS FOR BIRTHRIGHT ~ REACH students will be handing out carnations before each Mass on Mother's Day weekend to the women of the parish.  A donation from REACH will be made to Birthright for their Pro-Life efforts. Birthright is an interdenominational pregnancy support service that enables women who are facing an unintended pregnancy to choose life for their unborn babies by providing emotional and material support. Birthright helps women in these situations find medical care, clothing, food.... even housing. For thousands of women, Birthright is hope. Hope that they, and their unborn children, are not alone. Since 1980, over 5,000 babies have been born in our area under the auspices of Birthright.

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULES ~ Lay ministry schedules for the months of June through September are now being made up. Anyone who would like to serve as an Altar Server, Reader, Cantor, Greeter or any current minister who has scheduling preferences at this time, should call Suzi Blazosky at 495-5287 or e-mail her at [sublazosky@gmail.com](mailto:sublazosky@gmail.com) no later than Sunday, May 21st. Father Warchola will be conducting Altar Server, Lector and Eucharistic Minister training at a later date.

The Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of

all deceased Mothers and Daughters of the Parish

and

the Our Lady of Grace Candle will burn in honor of

all Mothers and Daughters of the Parish

during the week of May 14, 2017

[](https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;_ylt=A0LEV1kSWptXvOwAKINXNyoA;_ylu=X3oDMTEyZGdkcmRoBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDQjIwODlfMQRzZWMDc2M-?p=Clipart+of+a+sanctuary+candle&fr=ush-mailn_02&th=110&tw=110&imgurl=http://www.henningers.com/389-168-wall-sanctuary-lamp.jpg&rurl=http://pixshark.com/sanctuary-lamp.htm&size=43KB&name=Sanctuary+Lamp+Bronze+wall+sanctuary+lamp&h=600&w=600&turl=http://ts2.mm.bing.net/th?id%3DOIP.M68453c67108cdc5ab485d309b395bd03o0%26pid%3D15.1%26rs%3D1%26c%3D1%26qlt%3D95%26w%3D110%26h%3D110#inline&tt=Sanctuary+Lamp+Bronze+wall+sanctuary+lamp&sigr=116keh5le&sigit=13gvlt42j&sigi=11ip0pgm4&sign=119kp6100&sigt=119kp6100)

Your text here

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE ~ Thank you to all parishioners who have responded to the *Catholic Ministries Drive.* Please join them in supporting our Parish and a select group of ministries that provide outreach to the poor, family life, youth and seminarians. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, you may give online at www.dioceseaj.org. On behalf of these vital ministries, thank you for your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION ~ This weekend is our Second Sunday Food Collection.

Please bring in non-perishable food items or toiletries with you. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ~ There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 24th after the 6:00 PM Anticipated Mass for Ascension Thursday beginning at 7:00 PM. It will be held in the St. Paul Room . Please make every effort to attend.

**CHOIR PRACTICES** ~ Practice for Sunday Choir will be held on Mondays at 7:00 PM. The Saturday Night Choir practices on Thursdays at 5:30 PM.

FIRESIDE BIBLES ~ We have only one copy left of this large, beautiful white covered family Catholic Wedding New American Bible Revised edition. This is a perfect gift for all time for a bride and groom to make their wedding day a most blessed occasion. The cost of the bible is $35.00. If interested in purchasing one of them, please call the rectory. There are also three Burgundy Family Bibles, same size, same price.

MACKSTON BARRICK ~ Please continue to pray for Mackston, the 11 month old with Bilary Atresia. He had his liver transplant on Tuesday, May 9th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ~ The Knights of Columbus will be taking up The Arc Collection on May 20th and 21st. The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their familes. We encompass all ages and more than 100 different diagnoses including autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and various other developmental disabilities. If using checks please make them out to Knights of Columbus 2275.Thank-you.

ANNUAL ROSARY DEVOTION WITH MARY ~ The Altoona-Johnstown Curia of the Legion of Mary cordially invites the Knights of Columbus and all parishioners to attend our Annual Rosary Devotion with Mary on Sunday, May 21st at 3:00 PM at Prince of Peace Church, 811 Chestnut Avenue, Northern Cambria.





Religious Education And Christian Helping

May 14, 2017

C:\Users\Laurie\Clip Art\subsale_3598c5_print.tiffREACH NCYC Fundraiser—9”Hoagie & Gob Sale*:* .

We are having a NCYC Hoagie & Gob fundraiser for the weekend of May 20th  to help subsidize our 1st of three payments due of $175.00 each. All proceeds of this sale will go towards our NCYC trip funds. We have 5 Students and 2 Adult chaperones registered to attend National Catholic Youth Conference which takes place in Indianapolis, Indiana this November.

[](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://classweb.gmu.edu/bhawk/susie/chocolate-gobs-sm.jpg&imgrefurl=http://sustenance.motime.com/archive/2005-05&h=188&w=250&sz=23&hl=en&start=2&tbnid=kzciGxqJnGI2xM:&tbnh=83&tbnw=111&prev=/images?q=Gobs&gbv=2&hl=en&sa=G)All orders for this sale are due by today, Sunday, May 14th. Hoagie and Gob Orders will be ready for student delivery pick-ups and Parishioner pick-ups starting at 10:30 a.m. next Saturday, May 20th or after any of the weekend masses May 20th & 21st.

Orders will be accepted until May 14th.

Make checks payable to "St. Michael REACH".

Order forms can be returned along with payment in 2 ways: 1) by placing in an envelope marked “NCYC Fundraiser” and placing in the weekend collection baskets, or 2) place in the “Green Tub” outside the Rectory door. Orders can also be placed by calling the RE Office at 495-4873 or the Rectory at 495-9640.

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Upcoming REACH Service Projects

Mother’s Day Carnations ~ Help pass out carnations at all masses May 13th & 14th.

Mother’s Day Brunch ~ Male REACH students are needed to help our Holy Name men this Sunday, May 14th. help set, prepare and/or serve for the meal. If interested, report to the hall kitchen anytime Sunday morning after the 8:00 AM Mass to volunteer.

REACH Hoagie & Gob Fundraiser ~ help needed next weekend ~ two time options available.

Friday Evening Prep: May 19th ~ 6—7:30 p.m., *,* help prep the vegetables

Saturday Morning Prep: May 20th ~ 8—10:30 a.m., make the hoagies orders for pick-ups.

Call the Religious Education Office at 495-4873 to sign-up.

Any students in need of service hours this is a good opportunity to reach the total required.

2017 First Holy Communion



Our 2nd grade class received their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 7th. Members of the class are pictured above left to right,

First Row: Carson Myers, Delilah Settle, Kiera Smith and Bryce Macy.

Second Row: Wyatt Hritz, Cameron Vitez, Mas Jacobs and Jackson Henderson. Third Row: Pauline Minor,catechist, Alexis Henderson, Fr. Brian Warchola, Kirstyn Vitez and Laurie Sloan, DRE.

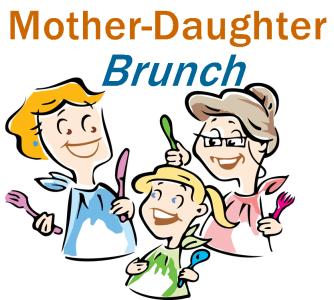
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2017 SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH Registration for our diocesan summer camps, Camp Zacchaeus and Camp Timothy are currently being accepted. Registration brochures are available in the Religious Education Office.

- Camp “Z” is a week-long summer camp for youth grades 4-9 Campers can look forward to lively Liturgies, inspirational music, prayer experiences, evangelization sessions, campfires, games, skits, a live concert and lots more!

- Camp “T” is for youth in grades 10-12 as well as current year graduating high school seniors.

- Camp “T” campers will experience much the same –but even MORE!! We take the fun, faith and excitement to a higher level! Scholarship money is available to eligible applicants for both camps. For more information or to receive a brochure for either camp, contact our Religious Education Office at 495-4873 or Francine Swope, Diocesan Youth Ministry at (814)693-1401.

 Sunday, May 14 Mother’s Day Brunch after 10:30 AM Mass

Second Sunday Food Collection

REACH NCYC Hoagie & Gob Sale / Orders Due!

Monday, May 15 No Mass

Sunday Choir Practice / 7:00 PM / Church

Tuesday, May 16

Wednesday, May 17

Thursday, May 18 Saturday Choir Practice / 5:30 PM / Church

Friday, May 19

Saturday May 20 Hoagie & Gob Pickups at 10:30 AM and after 4:00 PM Mass

Sunday May 21 Hoagie & Gob Pickup after all Masses

The Arc Collection – Knights of Columbus

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 24 Parish Council Meeting / 7:00 PM After 6:00 PM Ascension Thursday Mass /

St. Paul’s Room (Moved from May 17th)

Carmelite Community of the Word Golf Tournament ~ The Carmelite Community of the Word sisters will hold our 13th Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, June 9 at Scotch Valley Country Club. This event has proven to be a fun day for all, and includes a Shotgun start at 12:00 noon., Golf, Lunch, Course Refreshments, Dinner, Prizes and a Live Auction. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. Take advantage of our *Early “Birdie” Special!*  If you register before May 20, the cost is $115 per golfer; $425 per foursome. After May 24, the cost is $125 per golfer; $475 per foursome. Final deadline for Registration is May 31. To register, or for more information, contact Sr. Jane Miller at 814-886-4098 or email at jmseashell@msn.com.

OUTDOOR MASSES ~ Father John D. Byrnes, Rector, and the Parish Family of St. Michael the Archangel Basilica, Loretto, invite the faithful to join us each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. for the outdoor Sunday Mass at the beautiful Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto. The first Mass of the season will be celebrated on Sunday, May 28, 2017 and will continue through Labor Day Weekend, September 3, 2017. Please bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will be held in the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel.

STORYTIME FOR PRESCHOOLERS ~ Please come to Beaverdale Public Library Monday May 15th from

11:30 – 12:30 for story time for pre-school children. Please RSVP to Beaverdale Public Library at 487-7742.

LOCAL CEMETERIES ~ If there is anyone needing a flag or grave marker at any of our local cemeteries, please contact Red Ohler at 659-2007.

COMMUNITY BAND ~ The Forest Hills Community Band will present their annual Spring Concert Series throughout the area. All are welcome! If weather permits, concerts will be held outdoors - so please bring chairs. Sunday, May 14th, Galleria 7 PM; Sunday, May 21s, St. Bartholomew in Wilmore, 7 PM; Sunday, May 28th, Bethel UM Church in Salix, 7 PM; and Sunday, June 4th, South Fork UM Church 7 PM.

WINE TASTING- Second Annual Wine Tasting Event, Saturday, June 3, 2017, 7:00-10:00PM at Holy Family Parish, Caldwell Avenue, Portage, Pa. $20 in advance; $25 at the door. For tickets call Janet @487-5106 or the Parish Office @ 736-4279.

Please [Log In](https://www.scrapbook.com/login.php?r=%2Fpoems%2Fdoc%2F42391%2F409.html) or [Sign Up](https://www.scrapbook.com/signup/?desttitle=Baby%27s+Choice&returl=%2Fpoems%2Fdoc%2F42391%2F409.html) to add to your favorite resources.

Baby's Choice

Did you ever think, dear Mother,  
As the seeds of me you sowed,  
As you breathed new life inside of me  
And slowly watched me grow,  
In all your dreams about me  
When you planned me out so well,  
When you couldn't wait to have me there  
Inside your heart to dwell,  
  
Did you ever think that maybe,  
I was planning for you, too,  
And choosing for my very own  
A mother just like you?  
A mother who smelled sweet and who  
had hands so creamy white,  
A tender, loving creature  
Who would soothe me in the night?  
  
Did you ever think in all those days  
While you were coming due,  
That as you planned a life for me  
I sought a life with you?  
And now as I lay in your arms,  
I wonder if you knew  
While you were busy making me,  
I was choosing you!

*Author: Colleen M. Story*

[](https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/viewimages?keywords=Babies&entry_date=1/1/0001&image_type=cl,ph&page=4&ipp=12)

Thank You: To All The Mothers Without Children: Mother's Day has passed and now Michel Martin would like to praise Mothers Without Children. These women take part in raising a child when the parents need a hand -- though they are rarely celebrated with flowers or cards.

“Today I want to sing the praises of all the women I will call Mothers Without Children. By that I mean all the women who were not able to have children or chose not to or just didn't, but who step in and step up, even though they don't usually get the flowers, the cards or the brunch.

I'm thinking of the aunties who bought the graduation shoes you wanted and could not afford, or who took you out to lunch or the ballet or to church — just you — and made you feel special. I'm thinking about your mom's friend who smoothed things over when you got caught making out with your boyfriend when you told her you were at the library, or the one who sat through your soccer games and birthday parties and really looked like she was having a good time.

I'm thinking about your girl pal who shows up with a latte and takes your kids to the park just when you can't take one more sibling squabble or when that big report is due. I am thinking about the women who take nieces and nephews on college tours and on camping trips and, sometimes, go all in and take kids home, for a month or a year or forever, when the men and women who created those children just cannot do what they are supposed to do.

It goes without saying that women who are not raising children have long been expected to act as caregivers to someone, especially the elderly, and often they have not received any appreciation for that often challenging and lonely work. But caring for parents is inextricably intertwined with history, culture and even faith, so that's a different thing — an important thing, but a subject for another day.

Today I want to focus on the women who are mothers at heart, even though children did not come to them. In this country, where we are expected to hold more tightly to ambition than to family, where we have the freedom to move far away from family both physically and emotionally, raising a family of one's own can be a very lonely thing, and these women, these sister friends, make each family less of an island.

I want to sing their praises because these are the women who show up when the rest of us can't or won't — too busy with our own kids or because we just cannot figure out how to get it all done. Much is often made of the moms who transform their advocacy for their own kids into activism. But what about a word of thanks for the people who get involved, not for the sake of their children, but for the sake of yours and mine?

[easterborder_8330c](https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/viewimages?keywords=Flower+borders&entry_date=1/1/0001&image_type=cl&page=11&ipp=12)So that's why today I want to say a special word of thanks to those who are not raising their own children but are helping to raise everyone else's. They are not childless or child free. No, they are special envoy moms, perhaps mothers without portfolio — mothers at heart.”