

Grace grams

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE IN THE DESERT
MAY 2021

From Moms to Flames to Memories to Trinity

May is a month that takes us on a whirlwind and rollercoaster of emotions and events that may leave us breathless – and filled for service

May is a busy month – there is no doubt about it. We start out with Mom's Day, move to various graduations of all sorts, then to Pentecost, which is the birthday of the Church, then to Memorial Day, where we remember the sacrifice of those who died so that we could be free, and, finally, on to Trinity, where we celebrate the One in Three who we worship and praise each Sunday – and, hopefully, all during the week. So, how will you celebrate and/or commemorate each of these important days in the month of May? Will you have a family gathering, a picnic, a visit to the cemetery ... what is your traditional way of celebrating these holidays? Do you have

time for God in each of them? Will you make Him the center of whatever you do during this Month of many causes for gathering? Will you gather in worship and then go to your family or friend gatherings? Or is God just an afterthought during this month? Let's remember this – God gave us our Moms, He arranged for the entrance of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, He paid a high price for our Freedom, just as those who sacrificed for our national freedom did, and He, as the Triune God, is to be the center of all that we are and all that we do. How are we all doing with that – riding the rollercoaster and finding Him in the whirlwind?

ALPHA IS ALMOST HERE ... INVITE PEOPLE!

The next Alpha course starts on June 2 at 6:00 p.m. Arizona time. Please search your heart and pray – we would like to be represented as we partner with The Well in Huntington Beach to help others get to know Jesus – please let me know who you would like to invite.

Church Events

- † May 2 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
 - Worship at 9:00 am
 - Kingdom Parable – “The Bridegroom’s Arrival”
- † May 4 – Bible Study at 6:30 pm
 - “The Bridegroom’s Arrival”
- † May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
 - Worship at 9:00 am
 - Kingdom Parable – “The Master and His Servants”
- † May 11 – Bible Study at 6:30 pm
 - “The Master and His Servants”
- † May 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
 - Worship at 9:00 am
 - Kingdom Parable – “The Return of the King”
- † May 18 – Bible Study at 6:30 pm
 - “The Return of the King”
- † May 23 – Pentecost
 - Worship at 9:00 am
 - “Are We a Church on Fire?”
- † May 25 – Bible Study at 6:30 pm
 - Pentecost Discussion
- † May 30 – Trinity
 - Worship at 9:00 am
 - Embracing the Mystery that is the Trinity”

Pastor Ceri's Corner

Moms and rushing winds and memorials and the Trinity are the order of the day in May, but what does that mean for who and what we are in Jesus?

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!
:o) As we move toward Pentecost and the entrance of the Holy Spirit, we always need to keep in mind the resurrection and what it brings to us – Salvation, Grace, Peace, and Mercy through the outstretched arms of Jesus on the cross and His victory over death on that first Easter morning.

And, just as the Apostles did on that first Pentecost, we are called to share that good news of the Gospel with others. We need to ask that the Holy Spirit fill us with such love and power that we are not afraid to speak of the Gospel to those who need to hear it – those who have no idea that Jesus died for them, too. And even though we all have a part in the nails that went through His hands and feet on the cross, we also have a part in being called children of God through this life-giving death – people need to know that – they need to feel the strength and empowerment that only the Holy Spirit can give them – but we are the ones who can plant the seeds – and plant them we must. That

is what our job is as disciples of the One who paid the ultimate price for our freedom from sin. But make no mistake – it is the Holy Spirit who does the ultimate job of working faith in and through our hearts and the hearts of others – we are simply the seed planters. And that brings me to Memorial Day. We have no problem proclaiming to the world the sacrifice made by those who paid the ultimate price for our earthly freedom. We honor those whose blood paved the way for us to be able to worship where we want – or not worship, as the case may be. And well we should – for without them, who knows where we would be and what type of oppression we would be living under. As we remember them on this Memorial Day, we also need to remember the One who's ultimate sacrifice bought the ultimate freedom. And, what can we say about Moms? Without them, we would not be here. 😊 We are called to honor them in the Fourth Commandment – we are to honor our fathers and mothers that it may be well with us and that we may live long upon the earth. Our Moms are precious gifts given to us by a loving and merciful God. They, in many

cases, are our faith models. They, in many cases, have been rocks that our ideas of who and what we are are built upon. Sometimes, our relationships with our Moms aren't so great, but even then, we still honor them for giving us life and for showing us the way. Some of us are blessed to have our Moms with us still. Others remember our Moms for who they were and what they were in Jesus – either way, we remember the sacrifice they made for us during our growing up years and beyond. Jesus honored His mother, even as he was suffering on the cross, as He made sure she would be taken care of in His absence. So, too, we should be aware of the gift that we have been given in our Moms – and we should love them with the same kind of love that God showers upon us. In the month of Moms and memories and mighty rushing wind, let's be sure we honor all of these and more – by being what God created us to be and doing what He created us to do – by abiding in the vine and being branches that bear much fruit. By that, they will know that we are Christ's – by the work that we do, by the way we honor our Moms, by the way we listen to the voice of the Spirit as He moves us to where we need to be and do what He calls us to do – and by the way we honor those who died to give us freedom – not only our veterans, but the One who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and

2 Corinthians 3:17
"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.,

It is the Holy Spirit that works in our hearts and offers of the gift of God's Marvelous Grace. When we accept that Grace through Faith, we are set free from the bondage of sin – not that we never sin – we do – but we are freed from the consequences of that Sin through the Blood of Jesus Christ – so in Christ, we are not only new creations, but we are free, indeed.



bought for us the ultimate freedom.....
Let's get out there and win souls for Jesus – that's our ultimate calling as Children of God! 😊
Happy and Blessed Mom's Day to all you Moms out there – we love you all! 😊
In His Abundant Grace and Love,
😊 Pastor Ceri

