



Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Mother of the Church. In 2018, Pope Francis instituted this feast day for the Monday following the Solemnity of Pentecost, which is the birthday of the Church.

*The title 'Mother of the Church' ... reflects the deep conviction of the Christian faithful, who see in Mary not only the mother of the person of Christ, but also of the faithful. She, who is recognized as mother of salvation, life and grace, mother of the saved and mother of the living, is rightly proclaimed Mother of the Church." – Pope St. John Paul II*

The theological roots of the title "Mother of the Church" go back to the early Church. The Fathers of the Church often spoke of Mary as the New Eve. Just as the Woman Eve was "the mother of all the living" (Genesis 3:20), the Woman Mary was the mother of all those living in Christ. In Revelation 12:17, St. John says that this Woman's offspring are "those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus."

Pope St. John Paul II said, "Although the title 'Mother of the Church' was only recently attributed to Mary, it expresses the Blessed Virgin's maternal relationship with the Church as shown already in several New Testament texts." This title is alluded to with the Annunciation and the Wedding Feast at Cana. As Our Lord approached His final moments, He entrusted His mother to the care of the Apostle John saying, "Behold, and your mother!" (John 19:27). With those words, Our Lady became mother not only to the Apostle, but also to all those who follow Jesus as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. And St. Luke recounts that the Blessed Virgin Mary was present with the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ after Our Lord's Ascension.

Encouraging the young Church with her maternal presence, she persevered with them in prayer as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (see Acts 1:12-14).

The Blessed Virgin Mary continues her vigilance and care for the Church. Pope St. Paul VI said, "... the Blessed Mother of God, ... Mother of the Church, continues in Heaven her maternal role with regard to Christ's members, cooperating with the birth and growth of divine life in the souls of the redeemed."

Let us turn to Our Blessed Mother for intercessory assistance with confidence, trusting in her constant prayers for the Church and her enduring love for each of us.