



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

JUNE 2025

Each year, we set aside the third Sunday in June to honor the role fathers play in the family structure and society. As we celebrate Father's Day, it is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the incredible gift of fatherhood, both in our earthly fathers and the perfect Father we have in God.

Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as a loving and compassionate Father. Jesus teaches us to pray to God as our "Father in heaven," which signifies a deep, personal relationship with Him. To address God as "Father" was a revolutionary thought to the Jewish mind at that time. The Hebrews feared God and attached such sacredness to His name that they would not even utter it. In the Old Testament, God is referred to as "Father" about 15 times (depending on the translation). And when He is, it is either indirectly or rather remotely. In fact, when Jesus referred to God as His Father, He was accused of blasphemy.

If you want to know what kind of Father we have in heaven, just look at Jesus. Because Jesus said, "He who has seen Me has also seen the Father." (John 14:9). Unlike earthly fathers, God's love is unwavering and unconditional. His care for us is not based on our performance or behavior, but is rooted in His eternal, perfect nature.

In Matthew 7:9-11, Jesus teaches us that if we, as imperfect human fathers, know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will our Heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him. This passage beautifully illustrates the generosity and goodness of God the Father. Just as earthly fathers provide for their children's needs, so much more does God provide for us with love and grace. And God gave us the greatest gift that we could ever receive. He sent his Son Jesus to live on this earth and to die for our sins so that we would be forgiven.

In 1 John 3:1, the Apostle John marvels at the love of God when he writes, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" This love is lavished upon us daily, and it calls us to draw near to Him, to depend on Him, and to trust in His perfect plan for our lives.

May we always remember that God the Father's heart is always turned toward His children. He desires to bless, comfort, guide, and lead us. His love is not distant or passive but is actively involved in our lives. He wants to see us flourish in the freedom that comes from being His beloved children.

As we celebrate earthly fathers, let us also pause to honor our Heavenly Father, who loves us with an everlasting love, and praise Him for His unfailing love and presence, and draw near to Him as we celebrate the greatest Father of all.

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate