

### MAY at a GLANCE

Until further notice, **all services will continue to be available online only**. No parishioners will be able to attend these services. You can view the services on facebook or you can access them via the church website. We will post on our website and facebook and send an email blast out when services can resume. Hopefully in the not-too-distant future! But not until it is safe to do so.

Sunday, May 3      **The Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 10    **The Sunday of the Paralytic**  
**Mother's Day**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 17    **The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 21   **Saints Constantine and Helen**  
Orthos at 9:15, Divine Liturgy at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, May 24    **The Sunday of the Blind Man**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, May 25    **Memorial Day**

Thursday, May 28   **Holy Ascension**  
Orthos at 9:15, Divine Liturgy at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, May 31    **The Sunday of the 1st Ecumenical Council**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

### JUNE in ADVANCE

Saturday, June 6    **The Saturday of the Souls**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 7     **Pentecost**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 14    **The Sunday of All Saints**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 21    **The Second Sunday of Matthew**  
**Father's Day**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 28    **The Third Sunday of Matthew**  
Orthos at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.



## SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Constantine Makrinos  
Protopresbyter

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# May 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

We are entering into May where the trees and flowers are blooming everywhere from all the rain we've been having! But these past several months we have not noticed this change in the seasons. We are closed up in our homes due to the peril of the coronavirus which has closed our social gathering places and businesses. This virus has sadly taken hundreds of thousands of lives, especially from the United States and Europe. Many more are still in hospitals and nursing homes, still suffering, and almost everyone knows someone who has felt the pain of loss in one way or another.

This pandemic closed our churches, with only the priest, chanter and altar assistant doing the videotaped services. It was very unusual this year to have Holy Week services without people! We could not give out Holy Unction, flowers, eggs and especially Holy Communion to our faithful. This is the first time this has happened in my 34 years of priesthood. It was most shocking that, at the Holy Saturday Resurrection Service, we could not give out the Holy Light to our people. We have been praying for the coronavirus to leave our people alone, so we will not have any more deaths or suffering. We have been lighting candles for love ones for their health, and for our loves one who have passed away. I hope and pray that this pandemic leaves us soon.

Do *not* give up to despair, my beloved parishioners. With warmer weather, we *will* go outside and breathe in the fresh Spring air. We *will* see the trees blooming, and hear the birds singing. Do you know how I know this? Because we are blessed with the Blessing of our Risen Lord, Who conquered death and was resurrected. He gave us this perpetual new beginning, this new life! Children of God know that, no matter the suffering, Christ died for us and was born again for us. He is Risen! For *US!* With this, we can keep our faith and our knowledge that we will overcome. The Holy Light was lit, and it continues to shine. Keep it bright, let it bring warmth to your hearts, and pass it on through your thoughts, words, and deeds.

With Faith in Christ's Resurrection,

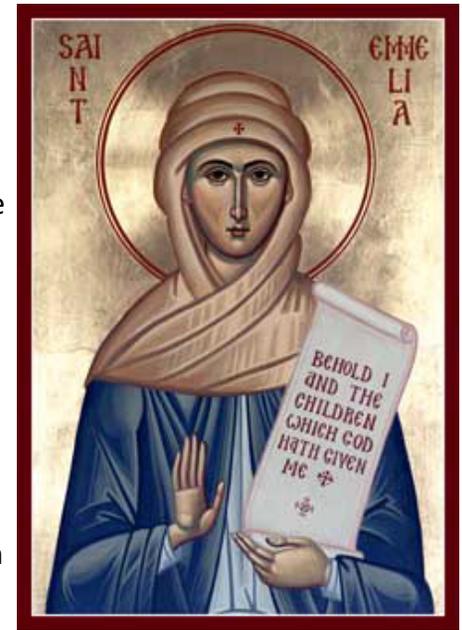


Fr. Constantine

## Saint Emily (Emilia) The Mother of Saints May 30

There are precious few descriptions of Saint Emily's life. She was the daughter of a martyr and the daughter-in-law of Macrina the Elder. Along with her husband Basil the Elder, she gave birth to ten children. She instilled the Orthodox faith in her children, teaching them to pray and devote their lives to the service of the Church. As a result of her zealous yet maternal instruction of her children, five of them are commemorated as saints on the calendar of the Church: Saints Macrina, Basil, Peter of Sebaste, Gregory of Nyssa, and Theosebia, a deaconess. Therefore, Saint Emily is often called without exaggeration "the mother of saints." When her son Naucratus suddenly died at the age of twenty-seven, she was consoled by her eldest daughter Macrina. Macrina reminded her that it is not befitting to a Christian to "mourn as those who have no hope" and inspired her to hope courageously in the resurrection vouchsafed to us by the Pascha of the Lord.

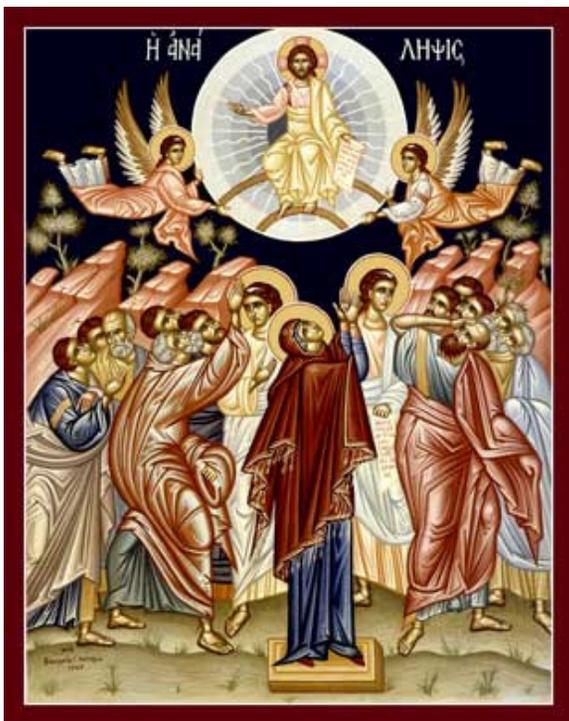
After her children left home, Saint Emily was persuaded by Macrina to forsake the world. Together they founded a monastery for women. Emily divided the family property among her children and freed her slaves. Retaining only some meager possessions, she and Macrina withdrew to a secluded family property in Pontus, picturesquely located on the banks of the Iris River and not far from Saint Basil's wilderness abode. A number of liberated female slaves desired to join the pair, and a convent was formed. They lived under one roof and held everything in common: They ate, worked, and prayed together, serving the Lord in with a singular purpose. They were so eager to advance in virtue that they regarded fasting as food and poverty as riches. The harmony of this model community of women was unspoiled by anger, jealousy, hatred, or pride. Indeed, as the Church sings of monastics, they lived like angels in the flesh.



## Holy Ascension May 28

The icon is painted with bright colors, to show joy. Christ's love and teachings are always with the Church. At the top, Christ in Glory is ascending to heaven, accompanied by angels.

Christ is blessing us with his right hand, which shows us His love for humanity. Christ holds a scroll in his left hand, which represents the teaching of His Word.



The oval surrounding Christ is called the “mandorla” and is a symbol of God’s uncreated Light and His divinity. The mandorla and the rays of light show that Christ is present to the faithful from outside time and space.

In the middle of the lower part of the icon is the Theotokos (Mary, the Mother of God). She protects the entire Church as we wait for Christ’s return, and she prays for all the faithful.

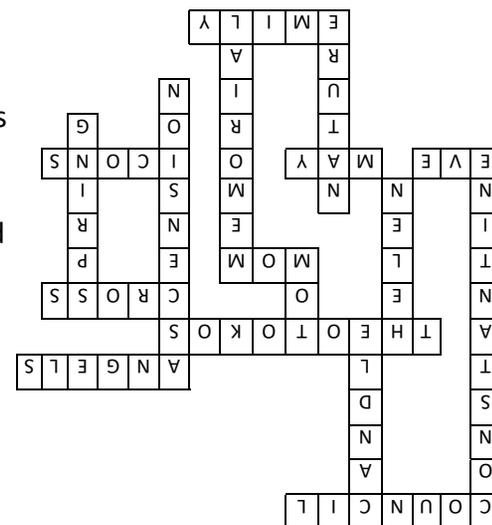
The disciples are waiting for the descent of the Holy Spirit, which is commemorated at Pentecost. The Orthodox Church sees Pentecost as the final fulfillment of the mission of Christ and the beginning of the age of the Kingdom of God, which is mystically present in His Church. Pentecost is traditionally called the beginning of the Church. The Apostles were the first bishops. Even though we see Christ going up from the earth in the Ascension icon, the Orthodox Church teaches about the Second Coming in the same icon. Christ will return exactly as He ascended. The two angels (shown in white clothing in the icon) said to the disciples, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11).

## Free Digital Services and Online Tools

We are still utilizing the website and facebook more than we have in the past. The services we have had are available on the website, and new recordings will be too: [NBStGeorge.com](http://NBStGeorge.com).

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has many options online as well. If you go to [goarch.org](http://goarch.org), the easiest way to navigate through it is to scroll all the way to the bottom of the page. There you can look for things by topic, lesson plans, e-books, services or liturgical texts, even hymns and music. The Greek Orthodox calendar and all of the saints and feasts can be found here as well.

OCMC, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, has all of their magazines online if you ever want some spiritually uplifting light literature. Just go to [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org).



### PLEASE BE ADVISED:

You SHOULD NOT come to the church for applications.

**There are SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS available ONLINE:**

Scholarship	Deadline for submission
Pan Gregorian Society	May 29
Philoptochos Society 72	June 7
District 7 AHEPA Family	July 31
Demetrius Kounaris	September 15
Elpis Chapter 117 AHEPA	September 15

Also , if you have children or grandchildren who may be eligible, tell them to go to <https://www.nbstgeorge.com/clubs-organizations>.

Click on the links, print out the applications to complete, and mail them to the respective chairpersons. The Elpis scholarship and the Kounaris scholarship have waived the necessity of the official transcript being mailed. You can have the transcript sent electronically (THIS year only).

## Mother's Day & Father's Day Memorial Trees

If heaven celebrates these days,  
How special it will be  
A gathering of the parents  
Upon our family tree.  
Our moms and dads, and grandparents  
And great grandparents too,  
How wonderful it will be if they  
Can spend these special days with you!  
May you know how much we love you,  
Though we're here and you are there,  
Happy Mothers Day and Father's Day in Heaven  
To the best parents anywhere.



In tribute to Chrysanthe Lampros, we are continuing to honor the memories of our mothers and fathers by placing their names on leaves. These leaves will be placed on the bulletin board at the church in time for Mother's Day and Father's Day, respectively.

As we may or may not be back to our regular lives by May 10th, we will be making a video of the names as well, to be placed on our website. All the names we receive will be honored and memorialized both, on the board and in the video. Each name will be \$5., as a fundraiser for Saint George Church, as was the original idea of our dearly departed Chrys. Please send your names for Mother's day and your names for Father's day, payment of \$5 each name to the church, p.o. box 1753. Please make sure you write the names very clearly so there won't be any confusion with the spelling!

*Memory Eternal*



After three hundred years of persecution, Christians could finally practice their faith without fear.

The emperor deeply revered the Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. His mother agreed to attempt the search.

Although St. Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing this task with enthusiasm. Finally, after many years of searching, in 326 she was directed to an elderly Hebrew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried at the Temple of Venus. After praying, the ground began to be excavated. Soon, the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate. During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross, miracles took place. Many Jews came to believe in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Christians came in huge throngs to venerate the Holy Cross.

While in Jerusalem, St. Helen performed a variety of good works, including giving money to the poor. She also worshipped at all places connected with the earthly life of the Lord, and directed that churches be built at each of these places. St. Helen gave the Life-Creating Cross to the Patriarch for safe-keeping, and took part of the wood back to Constantinople.

St. Helen continued to journey to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than eighty churches: at Bethlehem at the birthplace of Christ; on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven; and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried. Emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years.

St. Helen did not survive to see the dedication of this temple. She entered into the Eternal Kingdom in 327. However, the church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established. Because of her great service to the Church and her efforts in finding the Life-Creating Cross, Empress Helen is called "the Equal of the Apostles."

*from the Orthodox Church in America*



**St. Helen, Mother of Emperor Constantine,  
Equal of the Apostles  
May 21**

*With his mother Helen, Constantine today brings to light  
The precious Cross: The shame of unbelievers,  
The weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies,  
For it is manifest for us as a great and fearful sign in struggle!*

St. Helen, mother of St. Constantine the Great, was born in Asia Minor to parents of humble means. She married Constantius Chlorus, and their son was born in 274. After he became emperor, Constantine showed his mother great honor and respect, granting her the imperial title "Augusta." After St. Constantine became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. St. Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced him in this decision. In 323, when he became the sole ruler of the entire Roman Empire, he extended the provisions of the Edict of Milan to the Eastern half of the Empire. >

## Memory Eternal

Our most sincere sympathy to the family of  
**Kyriakos Kourakos**  
who passed away on April 27, 2020.

Our most sincere sympathy to the family of  
**Chryso Psillas**  
who passed away on April 25, 2020.

We are not able to have funerals or memorial services  
at the church for people to attend at this time, but we  
will be praying for the souls of our loved ones  
who have passed away.

**May their Memories live Eternal.**

**Memorial Day is Monday, May 25**



Remember those who served before,  
Remember those who are no more.  
Remember those who serve today,  
Remember them all on  
Memorial Day.

The "front lines" is a phrase that is being used a little differently today. We are thanking all of those who are going out of their homes each day, sacrificing their health and safety to keep us well and safe.

On this Memorial Day let us all express our gratitude and pride for those who have gone to war for us. Mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, who left their families behind to protect the rights of all mankind. They bravely went into combat, putting their lives in harms way, fighting for our security. For each soldier called who has served their country with dedication, and each who has sacrificed their very lives for our freedom.

**God Bless you All!**



## **The First Bright Pascha: The Risen Lord Appears in a Locked Room**

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

May the bright Light of the Risen Lord heal the wounds of coronavirus!

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been spreading rapidly across the world and causing a large number of deaths. In view of the evolving risks from the infectious disease, human beings cannot remain unaffected by this global pandemic. An emergency has been declared in the hospitals and lock down everywhere. There is fear and trauma in the world. The economists, journalists and politicians are analyzing the financial impact of the pandemic on global trade. COVID-19 will leave a long lasting impact and I believe when the crisis is over, it may change everything such as world trade, bilateral relations and foreign policy.

In this global crisis, I was contemplating on the First Holy Bright Pascha. *“Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, ‘Peace be unto you’”* (John 20:19). In COVID-19 we are locked down. The holy hierarchy of the Orthodox Church very positively instructed the Orthodox Believers all over the world to follow the instructions of doctors, specialists and abide by the law of their respective governments. So this is the time that we must experience the Holy and Bright Pascha of the Church in quarantine, and let the Risen Lord appeared to our families in our locked rooms. In COVID-19 there is lockdown, so it is a time to think about our lives, what we want and where we are going... We are closed in our rooms and it is good, because we must rebuild our spiritual relation with God our Heavenly Father. It has given us the chance to say the fervent prayers to the Most Holy Theotokos, holy angels and all the saints and cry for the mercy of God on earth.

Coronavirus is a major "milestone:" do not be panicked when the doors are locked, please be silent and reflect. It is a bridge between our past and our future and we must think about our relationships being husband and wife, being parents to our children and being children. We cannot escape from ourselves! May the peace of Christ be with you and your families at this unprecedented time in our generation! God's mercy be upon you and yours.

Fr. Joseph Farooq

## **THE TRINITY - The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

The Orthodox Church teaches that our God is one God in three Persons. They are all of the same “essence” - their thoughts are one, and their love for us the same.

### **RESURRECTION**

Jesus Christ arose for ever, unto eternity, in a “glorified” body which is immortal and will never change. Although Christ visited the apostles and some other persons after His Resurrection, He did not rise in order to return again to an earthly life. His Resurrection was not the same as those who He had restored to life. They returned to life in the same body, which would eventually die. However, because of Christ’s Resurrection, the soul of anyone who believes in Christ can have Eternal Life. That is why we sing that by His death and Resurrection He “destroyed death.”

### **ASCENSION**

And now with Christ’s Ascension, He rises up to “sit at the right hand” of the Father. But the Spirit of Christ did not go away. He is with us, the faithful, for ever. By His Ascension, Christ opened up to us the “gates” (entrance) of heaven. He is in heaven for our sake -- “He honored them He loved by putting them close to the Father.” It is only through belief in Christ that anyone can approach God the Father, enter heaven, and have Eternal Life.

### **PENTECOST**

Ascension is related to the descent from heaven to earth of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate at Pentecost. An important Orthodox saint, St. John Chrysostom explained it this way: “Heaven received the Holy Body, and the earth accepted the Holy Spirit.” CHRIST’S PROMISE The Resurrection, the Ascension, and Pentecost are the events that the Holy Trinity accomplished to give Salvation to the people of the earth. They are God’s promise that everyone who believes in Christ can also ascend to Eternal Life. The Ascension is also a sign of the Second Coming of Christ. The angels said, “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

St. Michael’s Orthodox Church, Jermyn, PA

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Mother's Day is always celebrated on the second Sunday in May. It's not a federal holiday, but Mother's Day is widely celebrated as a special day to honor all mothers and motherhood. Together, let's honor the women who raised us - and all the mothers who sacrificed for their children.

This Mother's Day, remember that moms are doubly busy! Moms with kids at home instead of school are underfoot, busy with schoolwork, or bored and sick of being cooped up at home. Moms are trying to prepare meals, get the house, laundry and dishes clean, (and their family up, dressed and clean). Think of the mothers and mothering figures in your life and bless them with a phone call. Communicate to let them know you are thinking of them. Showing them that you are appreciating them is the most valuable thing you can give. Conference calls, Zoom meetings, and facebook messenger are a few ways to chat "in person" with these women we love.

Do you live with your mom but you can't shop for a gift? These ideas work for kids AND adult kids! How about making her breakfast in bed, or offering to paint her nails? Offer to do the laundry or give her a coupon for unlimited hugs! You can also plan a coffee date in the kitchen, or a movie night with the fam. Or let mom pick a game to play. Moms want TIME to build memories with you to treasure! Whether your mom is 20 or 120, she wants to know she's appreciated and loved.

Dear Mom,

May every pain in you be healed. May every sadness in your heart be turned to happiness. May everything that has been taken away from you be restored by God. And most importantly may the joy of the Lord dwell in your heart forever.

May God bless you so abundantly that you run out of space to store the blessings!

MAY GOD BLESS  
ALL OF OUR MOTHERS!



**We hope you are all staying safe and healthy!  
We could use a little help keeping your church healthy, too.**

At this time your church is remaining stable, having services, and paying bills. However, the longer we are closed, the harder it will be to maintain this semblance of normalcy. We would invite and encourage all to give as they are able! We sincerely thank those of you who are answering this call, with additional **stewardship commitments** and **Easter donations**.

We are still not open for parishioners to attend live services, and we are not having any club or organization meetings in May. We must sadly report that we will not be able to have our annual **Dionysos Festival**—our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year—in May, either. Normally Greek Orthodox parishes are holding their **Spring Parish Assemblies** in May. Again, this year is an exception. Hopefully when we are able to return, people will be able to "think outside of the box" and come up with ways to increase our membership and growth. By all means, send in names for **Mother's Day and Father's Day Memorial Tree** leaves. Send in your prayers to have Father Constantine **light a red five-day glass candle** for you. He is still in the office every day and we are still picking up our mail.

We are still making these bulletins for those who are not on the email list as long as we have the capability to do so. Emails are currently an efficient way of reaching our parishioners in a timely fashion. If you want those occasional updating emails, send an email request to [NBStGeorge@aol.com](mailto:NBStGeorge@aol.com). **No addresses are ever shared with anyone!** Otherwise, please do occasionally check our website or facebook to see what's new. Services, classes, meetings, archdiocese news, and more will be posted on these various platforms. **LIVE church services** can be seen via facebook:  
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/161798543993365> or  
- <https://www.facebook.com/Saint-George-Church-459827264082673>,  
and services are available shortly afterwards (for those who do not have facebook) via the church website: [NBStGeorge.com](http://NBStGeorge.com).

On a positive note, our ability to accept **credit card payments** is up and running. At this time, we can only process them over the phone. When we are back in the office we will be able to swipe cards physically, and we are working out the logistics of accepting payments through the website. Baby steps! :)

Okay.

So, I realized after I started this that I apparently have never made a crossword puzzle before. I thought I must have, but the numbering threw me off a bit! I MAY never make another, so just have fun with it. It was a little tricky to make, (that's why you're only getting one puzzle this month!) but the answers shouldn't be New York Times tricky, no matter which day of the week you are solving.

Most of the answers can be found by reading this issue, so if you can't answer any of them you should go back and read it again. :)

(Or find the answer page.)

Happy Spring!

-Me

*Have a Very  
Happy Mother's Day!*

### ACROSS

1. Fathers of the First Ecumenical \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Heavenly hosts, or cherubim.
4. Jesus' mother, the Holy \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What Emperor Constantine wanted to find.
9. I gave you the greatest gift anyone could ever give. I will love you unconditionally as long as you shall live. Who am I?
12. The first parents were Adam and \_\_\_\_\_.
13. A month in Spring that rhymes with DAY.
14. Beautiful drawn paintings found in church.
15. Saint Basil's mother, St. \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. Sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, St. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A way to pass the Holy Pascal Light.
3. May 28th, Christ's rising to heaven, Holy \_\_\_\_\_.
5. St. Constantine's mother, St. \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Tom's mom has three children. One is named April, one is named May. What's the third one named?
8. The season of trees and flowers blooming; the season of rebirth.
10. May 25, we honor our Veterans with \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
11. We learned when we were young never to mess with Mother \_\_\_\_\_.