



## “THE SPECIAL MOTHER”

BY ERMA BOMBECK

Most women become mothers by accident, some by choice, a few by social pressure and a couple by habit. This year, nearly 100,000 women will become mothers of handicapped children. Did you ever wonder how these mothers are chosen?

Somehow, I visualize God hovering over Earth selecting his instruments for propagation with great care and deliberation. As He observes, he instructs His angels to take notes in a giant ledger.

“Armstrong, Beth, son. Patron Saint, Matthew.”

“Forrest, Marjorie, daughter, Patron Saint, Celia.”

“Rutledge, Carrie, twins, Patron Saint... give her Gerard. He’s used to profanity.”

Finally He passes a name to an angel and smiles. “Give her a handicapped child.”

The angel is curious. “Why this one, God? She’s so happy.”

“Exactly,” smiles God. “Could I give a handicapped child a mother who knows no laughter? That would be cruel.”

“But does she have the patience?” asks the angel.

“I don’t want her to have too much patience, or she’ll drown in a sea of self-pity and despair. Once the shock and resentment wear off, she’ll handle it. I watched her today. She has that sense of self and independence so

rare and so necessary in a mother. You see, the child I’m going to give her has a world of it’s own. She has to make it live in her world, and that’s not going to be easy.”

“But Lord, I don’t think she even believes in You.”

God smiles. “No matter, I can fix that. This one is perfect. She has just enough selfishness.”

The angel gasps, “Selfishness? Is that a virtue?”



God nods, “If she can’t separate herself from the child occasionally, she will never survive. Yes, here is a woman whom I will bless with a child less than perfect. She doesn’t know it yet, but she is to be envied. She will never take for granted a spoken word.

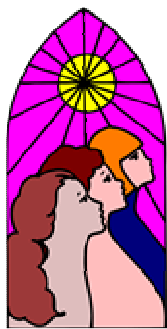
She will never consider a step ordinary. When her child says ‘Momma’ for the first time, she will be witness to a miracle and know it. I will permit her to see clearly the things I see – ignorance, cruelty, prejudice – and allow her to rise above them. She will never be alone. I will be at her side every minute of every day of her life because she is doing my work as surely as she is here by my side.”

“And what about her Patron Saint?” asks the angel, his pen poised in the air.

God smiles. “A mirror will suffice...”

# CONTINUING PRAYER LIST – MAY 2024

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Joy and Gene, Fay, Effie, The entire McDaniel family, Sue Combs, Terry Gholson and her brother Joe and her sisters Jennifer and Nancy, Stan Harpole, Mark Dousman (Keith's brother-in-law), David and Nancy Fligor, Marcia and Richard Bittle, Bob Hughey, Harold Lee, Patti and Stuart, their missionary hosts, Heather Smith, those recently bereaved, the upcoming yard sale, our church, missionaries, military, and government officials throughout the world.

**REMEMBER, THE SPRING MISSIONS  
GROUP YARD SALE WILL BE HELD  
MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup> & MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM DAILY  
*SPREAD THE WORD!***

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: STRAWBERRIES 'N' CREAM BREAD

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½ cup butter, softened

¾ cup sugar

2 eggs

½ cup sour cream

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1¾ cups all-purpose flour

¼ tsp. ground cinnamon

½ tsp. baking powder

½ tsp. baking soda

½ tsp. salt

¾ cup chopped strawberries

¾ cup chopped walnuts,  
toasted, divided

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In a mixing bowl, cream but-  
ter and sugar until fluffy.

Beat in eggs, one at a time.

Add sour cream and vanilla;  
mix well. Combine the flour,  
cinnamon, baking powder,  
baking soda, and salt; stir

into creamed mixture just  
until moistened. Fold in  
strawberries and ½ cup nuts.  
Pour into a greased 8" x 4" x  
2" loaf pan. Sprinkle with  
remaining nuts. Bake at 350°  
for 65 - 70 minutes or until a  
toothpick inserted near the  
center comes out clean. Cool  
for 10 minutes; remove from  
pan to a wire rack to cool  
completely.

# May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4  <i>Terry Gholson's Birthday</i>
				 <b>MISSION GROUP YARD SALE</b> 		
5  <i>Carol Dickson &amp; Milton McDaniel's Birthday</i>	6	7	8	9	10  <i>Mary Vincent's Birthday</i>	11
				 <b>MISSION GROUP YARD SALE</b> 		
12  <i>Mother's Day</i>	13	14	15	16 	17	18  <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
19  <i>Pentecost</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27  <i>Memorial Day</i>	28	29	30	31	

*Come worship with us...*

**BOSKYDELL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3518 Boskydell Road  
Carbondale, IL 62903  
WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:30 AM

# Church Mice™

GOD REALLY LOVES YOU!



A Christian Cartoon by Karl Zorowski

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