

Volume 9 - MAY, 2025

GETTING TO KNOW YOU





Devotional by Elder Nicole Freeman

"The God that Changes Not"

***"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore
ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."***

Malachi 3:6

In a world that is constantly changing (our mind), it is comforting to know that we serve a God who never changes. I know personally this verse brought much

comfort and peace into my world just speaking the words.

This said to me I am the sure thing in your life. When nothing felt sure, and situations had me tossed. This verse was an anchor for my soul. It would remind me no matter how far I would wander in my mind or how foolish I was.

God doesn't change. In a world where confusion is everywhere, hope can seem lost (in our mind). It would cause me to cry out to God and out of His great love for me, He would answer, not because I was so great but because He is just that good. There is nothing we can do that will keep Him from loving us. I am grateful for the people God brought into my life that were able to love me when I didn't feel I should be loved. And that makes me want to love like that, it causes me to love Him more. We are all created in God's likeness and image we have His nature. What I do does not define me who I am does. I love that God knows who we are we need to know him. His love, mercy, and grace remain constant in our lives. This unchanging nature of God is the foundation of our faith and the assurance of our salvation.

The salvation of our souls is a testament to God's unchanging nature. From the beginning of time, God has had a plan for mankind. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins, providing a way for us to be reconciled with Him. This act of love and sacrifice is the ultimate demonstration of God's unchanging nature.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are assured of our salvation. Our souls are saved, not because of our own efforts, but because of God's unchanging promise. He has promised that whoever believes in His Son will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). This promise is as true today as it was when it was first spoken.

As we go through life, we realize the saving of our soul is progressive, but the good news is the anchor never leaves. He is faithful to His promises and will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

To God be the Glory, Amen



Hello From Helen

Hello Family,

May is upon us and it is Mother's Day month. Happy Mother's Day to all because Mother's Day is another name for "Love Somebody"!

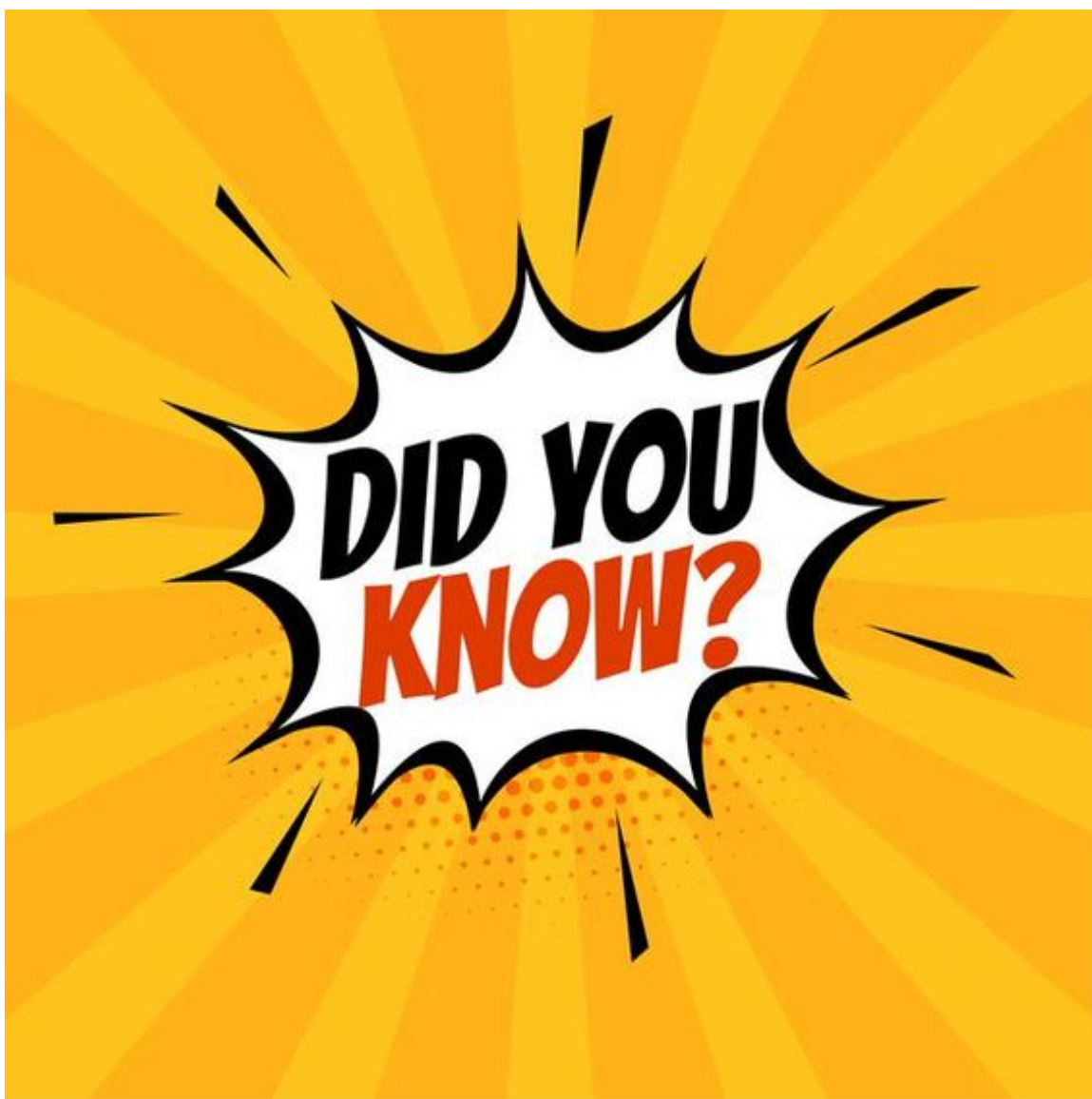
Wow, April was just beautiful; First and foremost, thank You Lord for the beautiful gift of your Son rising up from the grave; this is the gift that was for us all; "The Gift that Keeps on Giving", I am so grateful. Church was amazing, the sermon, the Hymn Sing, the Lilies, the dedications, and of course our wonderful church family. We are blessed here at New Image Ministries! All this and I didn't even mention afterward when we got to go and spend the day with our family and loved ones. I am so grateful, thank You Lord!

Our church picnic in Veterans Park was awesome; there was a wonderful sermon, (which by the way, they are always wonderful) then a barbecue of hamburgers and hot dogs and assorted salad and desserts. There were games and very enjoyable fellowship. It is in these times that we really get to bond with our church family in a more intimate way and it just brings us closer together. These times are irreplaceable.

On Sunday, May 4th Aniyah Marie Hall is going to be dedicated to the Lord. It is such a blessing and we are grateful to Ashley for sharing her baby with us. We love you all! There will be a luncheon to follow. Another Blessing, they just keep coming!

I would love to mention that our building grounds are just so beautiful, everyday when I pull up to work (church) I have so stop and take it all in. So many amazing family members work so hard to make this happen and I want to give a big thank you so all.

Until next month and always with love and blessings,
Deacon Helen J. Caliendo



If you have trouble making a decision, flip a coin. While you're waiting to get the result, your mind

automatically starts to wish for what it wants

WHERE DID THE PHRASE

"Butter Someone Up" COME FROM?:



Where did the phrase “Butter Someone Up” come from?

This phrase finds its origins in ancient India, where devout followers would throw balls of clarified butter (ghee) at statues of gods to seek their favor. While the practice of literally buttering up has thankfully faded, the metaphor for flattery remains deliciously intact.

Mother

She speaks with **wisdom**,
and **faithful instruction** is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her **blessed**;
her husband also, and he **praises** her:
“Many women do **noble** things,
but **you surpass them all.**”
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord
is to be praised.
Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her **praise**
at the city gate.

Proverbs 31:26-31



WHO AM I?

I was born in Camden NJ
My favorite color is blue
I love painting pictures
Right now my day is learning Quick Books
It was crazy when I stayed Florida without help as a young person
My most treasured memory is the birth of my first born
I have worked as a nurse and a Book Keeper
I would rather eat out than cook out
I love Spanish rice
I listen to Christian music
My favorite singer is Lauren Daigle
My favorite author is Jesus
My favorite movie is "God is Not Dead"
My favorite T.V. show – "The Chosen"
My husband is what truly makes me happy
I feel most at peace when I'm praying
I have been to the Bahamas
My favorite vacation was going to the cabin in Georgia
My favorite holiday is Christmas
I love the smell of Orange blossoms
My autobiography would be titled "The Girl Outside of Church"
The best gift I have ever received is my marriage
The best part of waking up is having another day to be better
If I could have one superpower I would choose to have consistent love
One thing I dream about doing one day is helping others learn of God
The one thing I am most proud of is my children
My philosophy is Psalms 46:5 – God is within her she will not fall
The thing that makes me laugh the most is – my grand-daughter

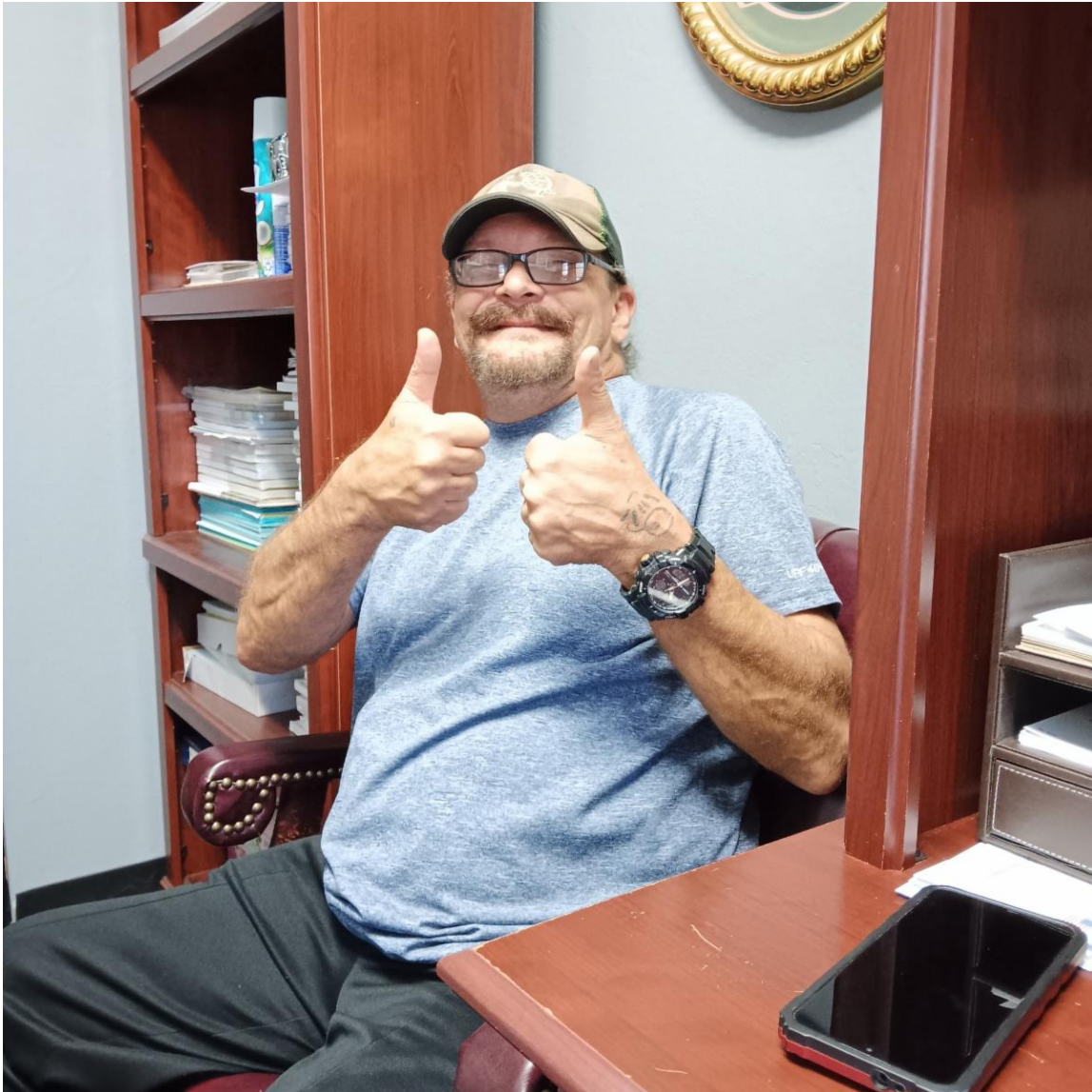
I collect Bibles

The most important law I would enforce if I were ruler is "Love and forgiving"

My warning label would say "Handle with Caution"

I would like people to know that I recently bought 30 bibles so that I can plant them in unknown locations for people to find.

MEET: DEACON MICHAEL "BEAR" FINICUM



I was born in Las Vegas

My favorite color is Red

My favorite activity is Playing Guitar

My typical day consists of "Loving the world and everything around it"

The craziest thing I've ever done is that I prayed for and planted a seed in people who didn't believe

My most treasured memory is meeting my wife

I have worked as a painter and as an Audio visual Tech among other jobs

I enjoy eating dinner at home

Favorite food is spaghetti

I listen to listen to Christian music

My favorite singer is Jeremy Lake

My favorite author is Terry Goodkind

My favorite actor is Robin Williams

My favorite actress is Meryl Streep

My favorite T.V. show is The Curse of Oak Island and Skin Walker Ranch

What truly makes me happy is watching someone else be happy

Seeing other people happy is what makes me feel at peace

I have traveled to Mexico and Canada

My favorite vacation was when I visited Florida to propose to my wife and to ask her families permission to do so

My favorite holiday is the 4th of July

I love the smell of Drakkar men's cologne

My autobiography would be titled "I'm On My Way"

The best gift I have ever received is "My children"

The best part of waking up is "Seeing my wife's face"

If I could have one superpower "I would choose to feed the world"

One thing I dream about doing one day is to "own my own homeless shelter"

The one thing I am most proud of is

My philosophy is "It is Not Hard to Love"

The thing that makes me laugh the most is "everything"

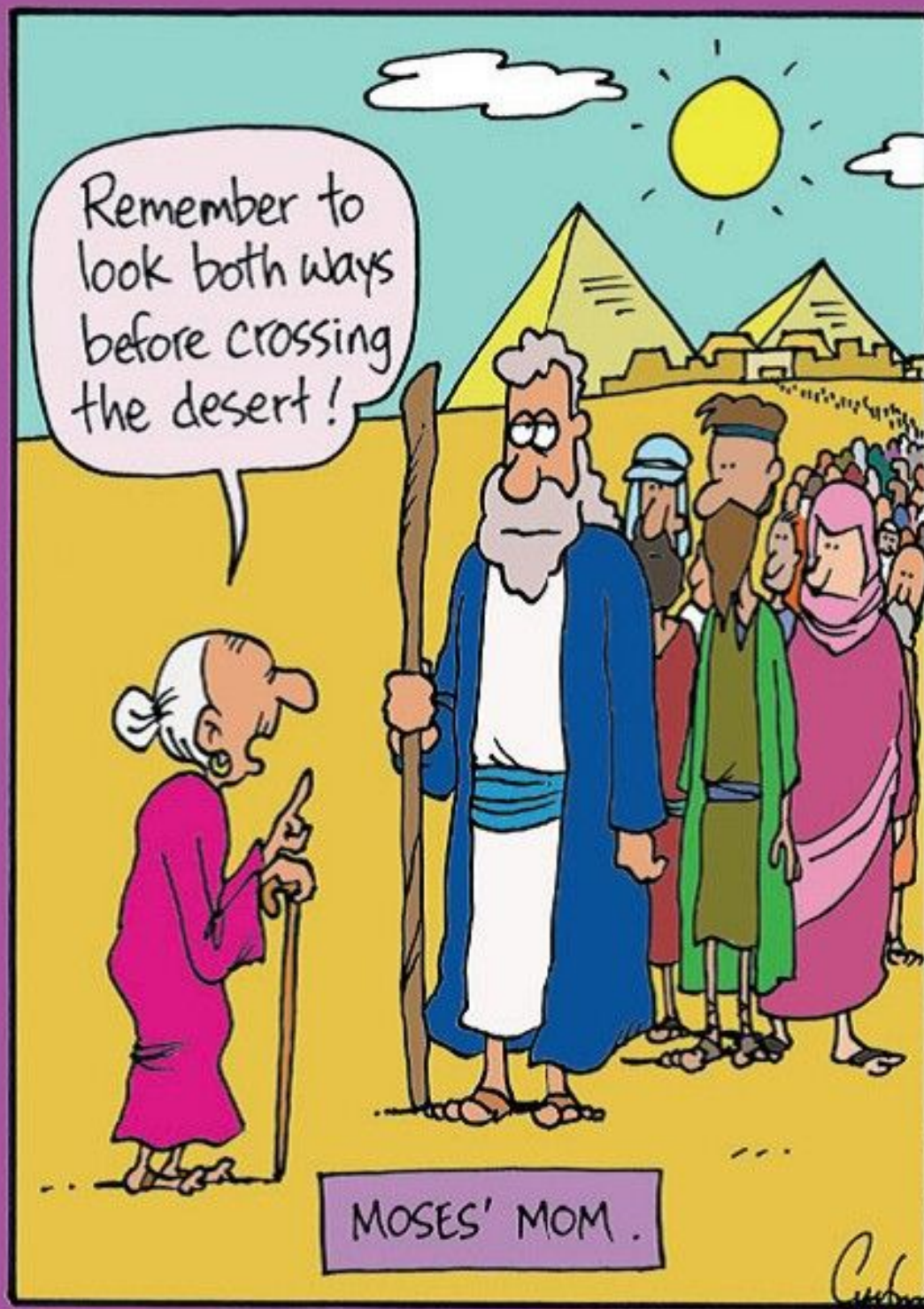
The most important law I would enforce if I were the ruler is

"You have to make sure everyone is fed"

My warning label would say "**Don't Poke the Bear!**"



"Before I tell you what happened, Mom,
remember...The Lord will never give
you more than you can handle."



**That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing?
I really meant that!**



**I want to be so full of Christ that if a
mosquito bites me, they will fly away singing
"There's Power in the Blood"**



EASY LEMON BUTTER FISH IN 20 MINUTES

Ingredients

4 firm white fish fillets, about 6 inches long, 1-inch thickness throughout (cod, halibut, or mahi mahi are great)

3 TB melted butter

Juice and zest from 1 medium lemon

½ tsp **kosher salt**, divided, plus extra to taste

1 tsp **paprika**

1 tsp **garlic powder**

1 tsp **onion powder**

¼ tsp **freshly ground black pepper**

3 TB **olive oil**

freshly chopped basil or parsley leaves, for garnish and flavor

extra lemon slices for serving

Instructions

1. Use paper towels to *thoroughly* pat-dry excess moisture from fish fillets. This step is crucial for fish to brown nicely in pan – otherwise, it will steam instead of brown. Set aside.
2. In a bowl, combine melted butter, lemon juice and zest, and

1/4 tsp kosher salt. Stir to combine well. Taste and add a bit more kosher salt, if desired.

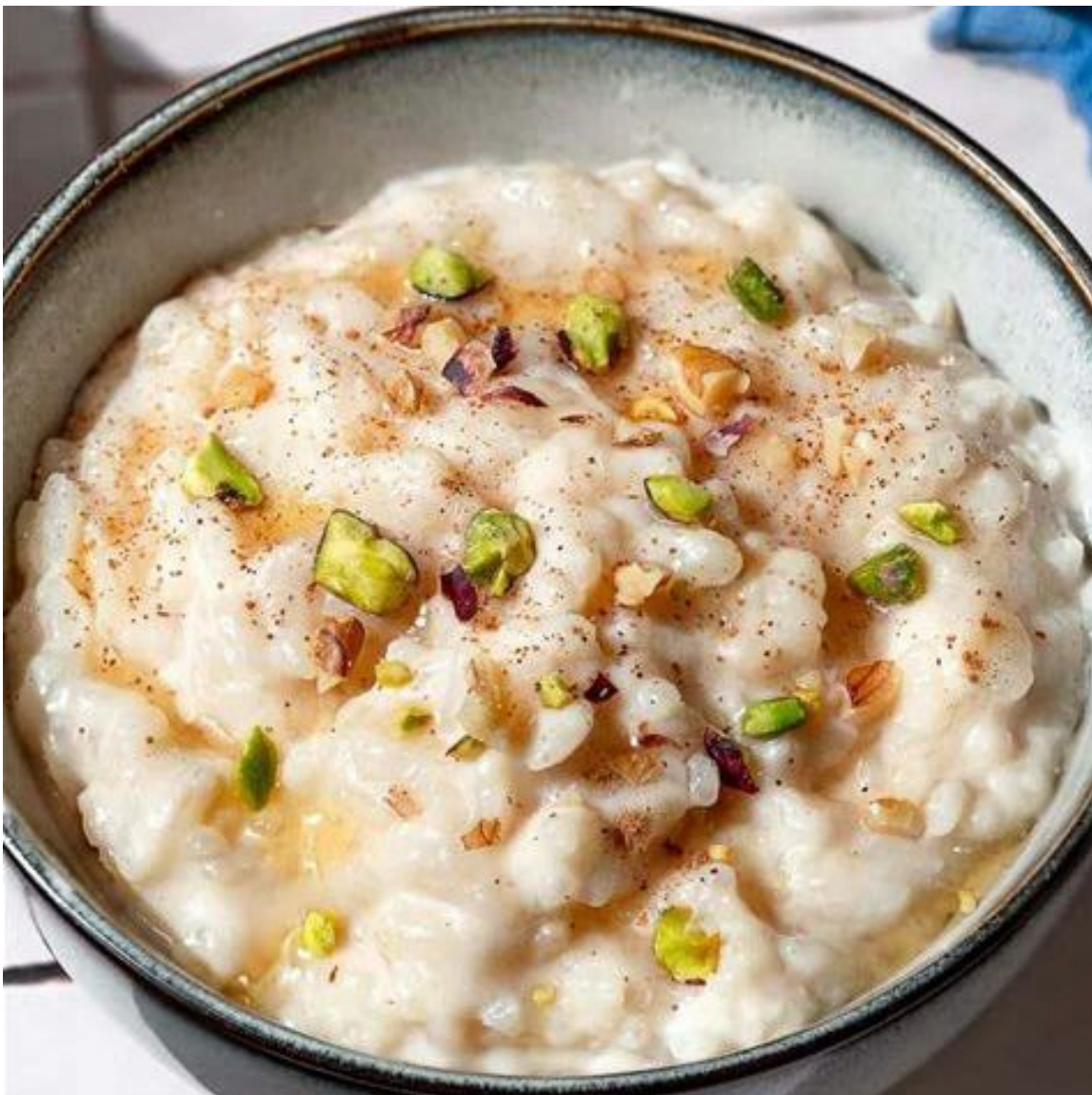
3. In a separate bowl, combine remaining 1/4 tsp kosher salt, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, and black pepper. Evenly press spice mixture onto all sides of fish fillets.

4. In a large, heavy pan over medium high heat, heat up the olive oil until hot. Once your oil is sizzling, cook 2 fish fillets at a time to avoid overcrowding; this allows for even browning.

5. Cook each side *just until* fish becomes opaque, feels somewhat firm in the center, and is browned, about 2-3 minutes per side; lightly drizzle some of the lemon butter sauce as you cook, reserving the rest for serving. Take care not to over-cook, as that will result in a tougher texture. Season with extra kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste.

6. If desired, season with extra kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste.

Serve fish with remaining lemon butter sauce, basil or parsley, and lemon wedges.



EASY MIDDLE EASTERN RICE PUDDING

You will need:

**2 cups whole milk
1 cup half and half or heavy cream
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 Cinnamon sticks
6 whole cloves
1 cup medium grain rice
3 tablespoons sugar
½ cup water (plus more as needed)
2 tablespoons unsalted butter (at room temp)
1/3 cup Evaporated milk (plus more if needed)
Ground cinnamon
Honey
Crushed walnuts or any nuts you choose**

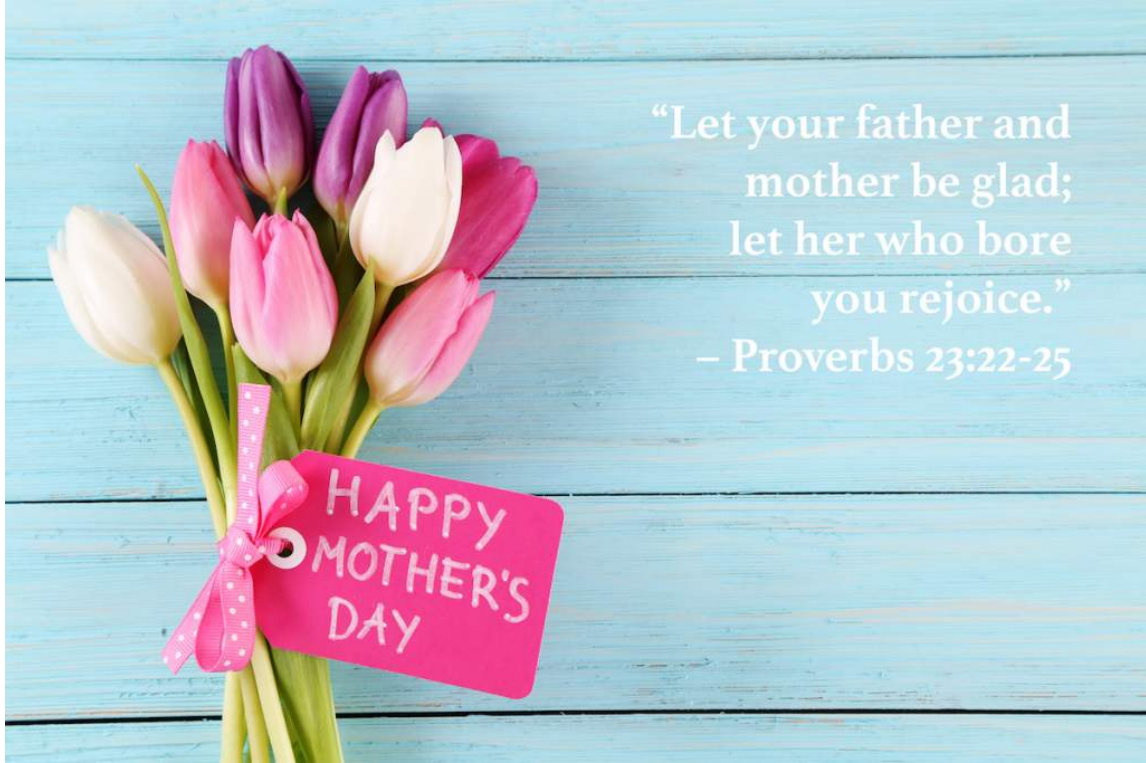
Directions:

Flavor the milk. Place 2 cups whole milk, 1 cup half and half, 2 teaspoons vanilla extract, 2 cinnamon sticks, and 6 cloves in a medium saucepan. Heat on high and watch carefully. Just before the milk mixture boils, remove from the heat. Cool completely and refrigerate for 2 hours (or overnight) so that the flavors develop and intensify (if you don't have time, you can proceed from here).

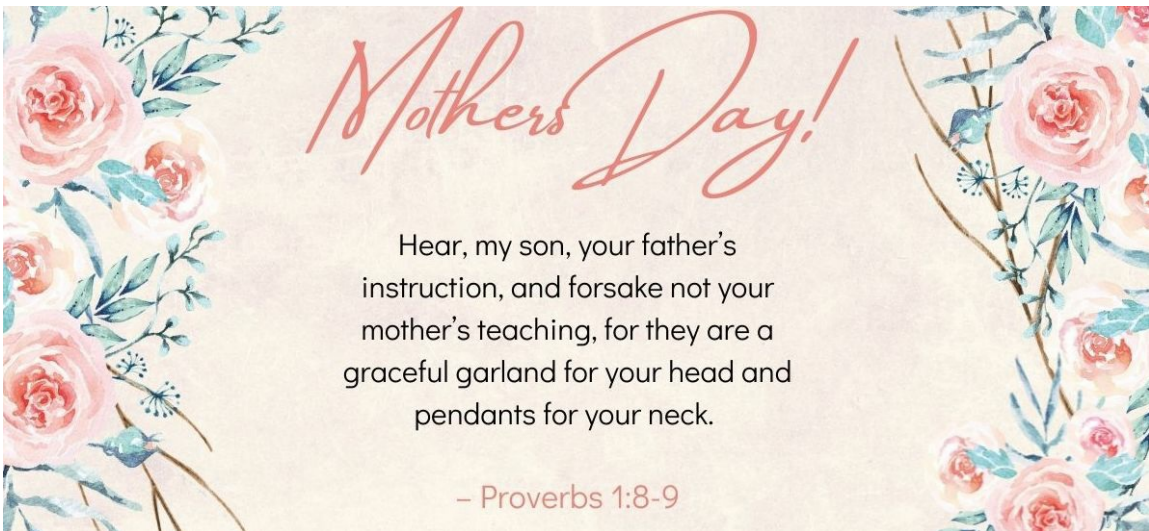
· Reduce the milk. Remove the milk mixture from the fridge and stir in 1 cup Arborio rice, 3 tablespoons sugar, and 1/2 cup water. Bring the mixture to a boil on high heat, then turn to a simmer.

· Continue to stir and simmer until the rice is fully cooked. Simmer for 30-40 minutes, stirring regularly. If the mixture begins to look dry, add a little water (2 tablespoons or so at a time). The mixture should be moist, and the rice should be tender but maintain a little bite (not mushy).

Chill the rice pudding. Remove from the heat and stir in 2 tablespoons butter and 1/3 cup evaporated milk. Carefully remove the cinnamon sticks and cloves, then transfer to small serving bowls or jars. Cover and refrigerate until you're ready to serve



“Let your father and
mother be glad;
let her who bore
you rejoice.”
– Proverbs 23:22-25



Hear, my son, your father's
instruction, and forsake not your
mother's teaching, for they are a
graceful garland for your head and
pendants for your neck.

– Proverbs 1:8-9



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