

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 7, 2018

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Postal Service Dedicating Madonna and Child Forever Stamp

- What:** First-day-of-issue dedication ceremony for the Madonna and Child by Bachiacca Forever stamps. Bachiacca was known as an Italian Renaissance painter. His work still vividly evokes the timeless traditions of Christmas. News of the stamp is being shared on social media using the hashtags **#ReligiousStamps** and **#ChristmasStamps**.
- Who:** Kelly M. Sigmon, Vice President, Customer Experience, U.S. Postal Service
Mary-Anne Penner, Director, Stamp Services, U.S. Postal Service
- When:** Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, 9:30 a.m., Mountain Daylight Time
- Where:** Loretto Chapel
207 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Followers of the U.S. Postal Service's Facebook page can view the ceremony live at facebook.com/USPS.

Background:

Five centuries ago, Francesco d'Ubertino Verdi (1494–1557), the Italian Renaissance painter known as Bachiacca, proved to be a versatile and popular Florentine artist. This Christmas stamp features a detail of Bachiacca's oil-and-gold-on-panel painting "Madonna and Child", which dates from the early 1520s, showing the Christ child clutching a bouquet of jasmine, a symbol of divine love, alongside the Virgin Mary's profile, left shoulder and right hand.

This painting is part of the Jack and Belle Linsky Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. William J. Gicker served as art director for this stamp, and Greg Breeding was the designer.

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at usps.com/shop, by calling 800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724), by mail through *USA Philatelic*, or at Post Office locations nationwide. Forever stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price. Information on ordering first-day-of-issue postmarks and covers is at usps.com/shop under "Collectors." A video of the ceremony will be available on [Facebook.com/usps](https://facebook.com/usps).

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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