

THE ORATORY OF SAINTS

GREGORY & AUGUSTINE



TRADITIO | REVERENTIA | COMMUNITAS

Welcome to the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine

The Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine is pleased to welcome you. We are an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis faithful to the teachings of the Church and striving to grow as a family of faith through the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass and other Sacraments.

In the First Book of *The Confessions*, the other great St. Augustine (of Hippo) wrote the following: "Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee." Whether you are curious about the traditional Latin Mass and interested in exploring its beauty, searching for a parish community where you and your family will feel at home, or seeking rest for your heart, we hope that the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine can provide that respite for you.

Our bulletin serves to provide information about the weekly activities occurring here at the Oratory. Along with our website (www.stlouislatinmass.com), the bulletin is your point of contact with the ever-increasing activities at the Oratory. I hope this will give you some sense of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. I am delighted that God has brought you here! **Oremus pro invicem!**

—The Very Reverend Monsignor C. Eugene Morris, Rector

MASS AND SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses

- 6:30 am (Low Mass)
- 8:00 am (Low Mass)
- 10:00 am (High Mass)

Weekday Masses

- Monday thru Friday: 6:30 am & 12:15 pm
- First Friday: 6:30 pm
- Saturday: 8:15 am

Confession

- Sunday: 7:00 -7:45 am; 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- Monday thru Friday: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- First Friday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Saturday: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

Divine Office

- Sunday: Prime @ 7:20 am; Terce @ 9:40 am; Vespers @ 2:30 pm
- Monday: Vespers @ 6 pm; Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Tuesday & Thursday: Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Wednesday: Vespers @ 6 pm; Compline @ 6:30 pm

Infant Baptism – Baptisms are normally scheduled on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of the month beginning at 10:00 am. Families expecting newborns and anticipating that they will be baptized here at the Oratory should schedule their baptism at the earliest convenience by contacting the Oratory office.

Adult Baptism – If you are interested in becoming Catholic or if you are an adult Catholic not yet confirmed, please contact the Oratory office for more information about adult catechesis.

Matrimony – Please contact the Oratory office at least six months prior to the desired date for the rite of marriage. The date is reserved after consultation and confirmation from the Rector of the Oratory.

Extreme Unction/Visitation of the Sick – Contact the Oratory to arrange the sacrament either at home or in the hospital.

STAFF/ORGANIZATIONS

- **Rector:** Msgr. C. Eugene Morris
rector@oratorysga.org
- **Vice-Rector:** Fr. Michael Rennie
vicerector@oratorysga.org
- **Deacon:** Deacon Steve Pieper, MD
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- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller
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- **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD):**
ccd@oratorysga.org
- **Altar servers:**
servers@oratorysga.org
- **Altar and Rosary Society:**
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- **Knights of Columbus:**
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- **Troops of Saint George:**
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- **Oratory Schola:**
schola@oratorysga.org
- **Choir:**
choir@oratorysga.org
- **Young Adults:**
youngadults@oratorysga.org
- **Oratory Events:**
events@oratorysga.org
- **Almonry of Ss. Gregory & Augustine:**
almonry@oratorysga.org
- **Online Giving:**
<https://www.osvhub.com/st-louis-latin-mass>

CONTACT US

314-644-2144 / stlouislatinmass.com
7230 Dale Avenue, Richmond Heights, MO 63117

FROM THE RECTOR

Our Gospel from St. John reminds us of the intimacy that is the relationship between the Father and the Son. Our Lord's work has been in obedience to the will of the Father for the reconciliation of the whole world. In the glories of the Resurrection, we are now to fully understand into what it is that we have been drawn: new life in Christ which involves unity with the Father. So too, with the coming of the Holy Spirit the complete gift of God Himself is given to us. To be doers of the word, as we are exhorted by St. James today, we must have a relationship of love with the Holy Trinity to animate our activities. Doing good works is not unique to believers in the sacred mysteries. What is unique to our practice of virtue is the love that spurs us to do and seek good things. And this love that gives life and fruit to our actions can only be authentic when it is rooted in God in Christ. We are blessed to have the model of Our Lady to make manifest what this looks like in our daily lives. Her love was profound and complete such that her heart was the perfect home for our Incarnate Lord. Deepen your love of Our Lady in order grow in your love of the Lord. Final thoughts: as the month of May comes to an end, please remember to pray for the newly ordained and all those priests ordained in the month of May. Ask the Lord to send more laborers in the field and increase priestly vocations.

UPCOMING EVENTS**Sunday, 25 May:**

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Terce @ 9:40 am
- Coffee Hour @ 11:30 am
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm

Monday, 26 May: Memorial Day

- **OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Holy Mass @ 8:15 am**
- **NO Confessions/ NO Holy Mass @ 12:15 pm**

Tuesday, 27 May:

- Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Choir practice @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday, 28 May:

- Holy Hour/Confessions @ 5:00 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Thursday, 29 May:

- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Friday, 30 May:

- No events scheduled

Saturday, 31 May:

- No events scheduled

PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2025

05/18-05/25 Fowler	05/25-06/01 Blum
06/01-06/08 Wisniewski	06/08-06/15 Catalano
06/15-06/22 Kenney	06/22-06/29 Raymond
06/29-07/06 Hayes	07/06-07/13 Schuette
07/13-07/20 Filla	07/20-07/27 Petrick
07/27-08/03 D'Cunha	08/-03-08/10 Schenk
08/10-08/17 Stolarski	08/17-08/24 Henry
08/24-08/31 Santschi	08/31-09/07 Kiser

Drop off and pick up the statue in the vestibule (back of church). Place the statue bag on the floor to left of the Oratory table. To join or to quit the schedule contact Sharon Alexander saalexa@sbcglobal.net

MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, 26 May – St. Philip Neri**

8:15 am: Joseph Andrew Decker (d)

Tuesday, 27 May – St. Bede the Venerable

6:30 am: Barbara Hurley (d)

12:15 pm: Joseph, Arlo, & Mae Iannuccilli

Wednesday, 28 May – Vigil of the Ascension

6:30 am: The Mueller Family

12:15 pm: Kathleen Flynn (d)

Thursday, 29 May – ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

6:30 am: Br. Macarius of Jesus Christ Crucified

12:15 pm: Tim Hughes

Friday, 30 May – Feria after Ascension

6:30 am: Autumn Ashlock

12:15 pm: The Wilson Family

Saturday, 31 May – Queenship of Mary

8:15 am: Msgr. C. Eugene Morris

Sunday, 1 June – Sunday after Ascension

6:30 am: Pro Populo

8:00 am: Stephen & Anna Otto (d)

10:00 am: Alexander & Rita Okwuashi (d)

~ 05/18/2025 ~

Weekly Collection Total	\$ 6,931.08
Online Giving	\$ 7,093.76
Total	\$ 14,024.84
Needed	\$ 17,869.00
Year to Date Total	\$ 775,600.31

Fifth Sunday of Easter

25 May 2025

IN THANKSGIVING

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their assistance in cleaning up after the tornado on Friday, 16 May. We are most grateful for their prompt response and their willingness to do what was needed to clean up the property (on such short notice). May God reward your generosity!

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NEW CONFESSIONAL LIGHTS

The two confessionals in Church now have lights indicating when the priest is present and when the confessional itself is available. The light for the priest is a white light at the top of the confessional where the priest sits. The penitent's light is only on one side of each of the two confessionals. When the light is green it is free; when the light is red it is occupied. Please only approach the side of the confessional that has a light indicating its availability. Going forward, the unlit side of each confessional **will not** be operative. A special word of gratitude is extended to Michael McMahon for agreeing to oversee this project to its completion. The Oratory is grateful for his generosity and ingenuity.

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PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION

On Wednesday, 28 May 2025 @ 10:00 am, Rev. Mr. Steven Kalinowski will be ordained to the sacred and holy priesthood for the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter at Saint Peter's Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Deacon Kalinowski has been studying at the Fraternity seminary in Denton, Nebraska, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and is a parishioner of the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine. His parents, Robert and Barbara Kalinowski, and sisters, Anna and Kristin Kalinowski, are also parishioners of the Oratory. The Oratory is grateful to have played a small part in supporting Deacon Kalinowski's vocation to the priesthood. So too, we are grateful for his generous service at the altar for Holy Mass and for calling the Oratory his home.

The newly ordained Fr. Kalinowski will celebrate a **Mass of Thanksgiving here at the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine on Sunday, 1 June 2025 @ 10:00 am**. Everyone is encouraged to attend Holy Mass and to greet the newly ordained priest. When a priest celebrates his First Mass after ordination, it is an opportunity for the faithful in attendance to gain a plenary indulgence if all the usual conditions are met. Holy Mother Church updated this tradition by granting a plenary indulgence to all first Masses the priest celebrates. The additional first Masses are sometimes called Masses of Thanksgiving.

Fr. Kalinowski will offer his first priestly blessing at the conclusion of Holy Mass at the St. Joseph altar rail. Although not a plenary indulgence, an additional grace may be gained from receiving the first blessing of a newly ordained priest. First blessings are customarily given when first Masses are celebrated, but they may be given up to a full year after ordination.

Following Holy Mass and First Blessings, cake and soft drinks will be served in the Oratory Piazza (white tent area). All of the faithful are encouraged to attend.

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FIRST CONFESSION

On Saturday, 12 April 2025, 19 young people of the Oratory of Ss. Gregory & Augustine received their First Confession. I am grateful to their teachers in preparing them well and to Jake and Terri Fowler for their leadership of our CCD Program. Please continue to pray for all our young people enrolled in the CCD program here at the Oratory especially those preparing for Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

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SUMMER SCHEDULE

While this is several months away, to allow the faithful of the Oratory to plan accordingly, the Oratory will again implement the summer schedule. Beginning on Tuesday, 1 July 2025 and concluding on Thursday, 14 August 2025 the Oratory will have one daily Holy Mass at 12:15 pm with Confessions at 11:00 am. **The Saturday and Sunday schedules will remain the same.** The offices hours during this time will be Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am until 2:30 pm. **The offices will be closed on Fridays. In order to assist the priests and the staff, please do not anticipate any parish business on Fridays.** These scheduling changes allow the priests of the Oratory to take vacation and more importantly to make their canonical retreats. So too, the changed office hours will allow our dedicated staff time for vacation. As we move closer to the month of July, more information will be provided.

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THE COMMUNION RAIL

In recent weeks there have been several incidents where the faithful have fallen from the communion rail after receiving Holy Communion. The severity of the injuries has varied, but sadly this has occurred far too often. I would ask everyone to be attentive to the step up AND down at the communion rail. Please be aware of those with any mobility issues and assist them if no ushers are present. If you bring someone new to the Oratory for Holy Mass, please remind them of the step at the communion rail or if you see someone struggling, please assist them. If the community is more cognizant of this at the time of communion it is hoped that the accidents can cease. Please pray for those who have fallen, especially for a swift recovery from their injuries.

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IN THANKSGIVING

A profound word of gratitude to everyone who assisted in making our celebration of Lent, the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday truly beautiful gifts of praise to God. For all those who assisted in veiling our statues and preparing the Altar of Repose; for the musicians, men and women's scholas and the choir; for the servers, Masters of Ceremony; the Head Sacristan and those who assisted him; the sacred ministers who assisted as deacon and subdeacon; for those who helped clean the Church and the Knights of Columbus for their work as ushers. May God reward your generosity!

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TRANSCEND CATHOLIC FAMILY RETREAT 2025

July 25-27, 2024 (deadline: July 10) @ Corpus Christi Priory, Springfield, IL

The Transcend Catholic Family Retreat is a weekend of spiritual renewal, family bonding, and fun! This retreat is

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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designed to help your family elevate its focus towards Heaven by examining how we live day-to-day.

Enjoy age-specific activities, engaging talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, and much more. Connect with like-minded families and religious leaders, discovering new ways to grow in your faith. Don't miss this opportunity to unplug from the secular world and reconnect with what truly matters.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for registration details. We can't wait to see you there! For More Information: tinyurl.com/TranscendRetreat2025

BULLETIN ADS

Bob Swagman from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com. He can be reached at: 636-346-2058 (call/text) or RSwagman@4lpi.com

CHANT CAMP

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish (in Saint Charles county) is hosting a weeklong Chant Camp for elementary and high school students. We are pleased to have the instruction of Mr. Jeffrey Wisniewski, Director of Music at Kendrick-Glennon Seminary, and his wife Wendy. The camp will run from 16 – 20 June, with a cost of \$60 per student (family discount available). Please find more information and registration at ChantCampSTL.com.

BIRTHRIGHT FATHER'S DAY CARDS

Birthright of Hillsboro has provided us with Father's Day cards. Please feel free to take as many as you need for the mothers in your life. For more than 40 years, Birthright of Hillsboro has offered free, confidential help to the mothers in our community. They need funds to continue the work of ministering to pregnant mothers, easing the burdens of those faced with an unexpected pregnancy, pledge funds toward rent and utilities and helping provide the essentials for children under the age of 3. Please consider supporting Birthright as you honor the special fathers in your life this Father's Day. Please also consider donating to their ministry.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

The Oratory's communication committee is looking to expand to better meet the needs of our growing community. If you are interested in joining the committee and are comfortable working with social media, photo and video, or if you are interested in learning more, please email Msgr. Morris at rector@oratorysga.org.

VITA COMMUNIS

The Young Adult Group of Ss. Gregory and Augustine is always welcoming new members. To receive email communications regarding events for young adults 18+, please email your name and phone number to youngadults@oratorysga.org.

WHAT ARE STOLE FEES?

It is customary in the Catholic Church for the provision of the clergy to offer "stole fees," at baptisms, weddings, funerals, or the blessing of homes. These stipends form a part of the compensation for the clergy. Most priests don't want to sound greedy or ungrateful, so stole fees are not often mentioned or taught about, but because people are not aware of them, the faithful usually find it helpful to learn that they do exist (and that the priests are grateful for your generosity!).

These fees are *not* obligatory but are given as a sign of appreciation and support for the clergy's work. The Catholic Church emphasizes that these fees should not be seen as payment for sacraments, which are free gifts of God. The clergy at the Oratory are particularly keen to make clear that no one who asks for a sacrament will ever be denied for lack of a stole fee.

In our archdiocese, there are suggested amounts that people usually give, and that information will be shared with you by the office when the event is scheduled. Thank you!

ORATORY PILGRIMAGE

Throughout history, the Church's faithful have taken Jubilee years to make pilgrimages to Rome in order to visit the major basilicas, walk through the Holy Doors, and gain the Jubilee Indulgence. Msgr. Morris will be leading a Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome October 6th-16th, 2025. The fully-guided pilgrimage will include daily Latin Mass, time for prayer, and an itinerary of some of Rome's greatest sites, as well as a few hidden treasures. There is also a day trip to Monte Cassino. For more information, please see the flyers in the magazine holders at each of the church entryways or email Anna Kalinowski at auxiliatrix@oratorysga.org.

JUBILEE YEAR INFORMATION

The Jubilee Year of 2025, (24 December 2024 through 6 January 2026), offers the faithful many opportunities to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Local designated pilgrimage sites are as follows: The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis (New Cathedral), The Basilica of St. Louis, King of France (Old Cathedral), Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (St. Louis), The Carmel of St. Joseph (St. Louis), St. Mary's of the Barrens National Shrine of the Miraculous Medal (Perryville), Monastery of St. Clare (St. Louis), Passionist Nuns of St. Louis (Ellisville), Immaculate Heart of Mary (New Melle), Immaculate Conception (Union).

For more information about the Jubilee Year and how to receive an indulgence, please see the flyers on the bulletin board in the church vestibule. For more information: <https://www.archstl.org/2025jubileeyear/>

POLYHYMNIA CHORAL SUMMER CAMP



Polyhymnia is having a choir camp for children ages 10-17, July 7-11 from 9am-1pm at Little Flower Church (1264 Arch Terrace, Richmond Heights 63117). \$40 per singer, discounts for additional siblings. The children will be divided by grade and

Fifth Sunday of Easter

25 May 2025

or skill level. We will have sections of Music History, Group vocal coaching and the choice of individual lessons, group chant and choral practice. Please visit BIT.LY/STLCAMP website (all caps) for more details or contact parishioner Cathy Saccente at catsaccente@gmail.com.

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BLESSED ITEMS

If you wish to have items blessed, please drop them off at the rectory (Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm) and include your name and telephone number. Please make sure all items are clearly marked. Once Msgr. Morris or Fr. Rennier have blessed the items Donna Mueller, Administrative Assistant to the Rector, will call you to let you know the items are ready for pick up (from the rectory office, Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm). **Please drop off/pick up items at the front door on Dale Avenue, across from the field parking lot.**

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SAFETY ALERT

PLEASE do NOT allow your children to play on or walk on the metal grates that are in between the rectory and church (near the pergola) and the one that is on the east side of the rectory. THEY ARE NOT SAFE to walk on or play on. We do not want anyone to get hurt. Please be mindful of your children and make sure they are not playing on or around the black metal grates.

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TROOPS OF ST. GEORGE

Virtus. Honor. Fraternitas. Calling all boys ages 6-18 and their fathers! How would you like to pray The Rosary around the campfire, The Angelus atop Taum Sauk Mountain, or St. Michael's Prayer in military formation? Troops of St. George uses the outdoors as our canvas and the sacraments as our path to light the way for the formation of Holy Catholic men and boys. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30pm in the St. Joseph Room in addition to campouts, hikes and service projects. Cost is \$50/person, with a max of \$150/family and scholarships are available. Please visit troopsofstgeorge.org, contact tsg@oratorysga.org, or join us at our next meeting for more information.

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NEW FAMILIES for APRIL (alphabetical order)

A warm welcome to our new parishioners!

- Dakota Davis
- Justin Gionet
- James Jasper
- The Morrisette Family ~ Michael & Mary Kate
- Reed Parrish
- Thomas Tucker
- Andrew Turnquist
- Jarrett Walker

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PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your charity, please pray for the following members of the Oratory who are ill: Damien Bruening, son of Aurora Miller; Petra Felicity Cheaney, daughter of Michael & Jaime; Jeanmarie DeCoster; Mary Gleckler, mother of Cathy Saccente and Mary Nelson; Hannah Green, daughter of Nicholas & Julie Green; Donna Hagan; Lena Henry, daughter of Toni & Mickey Henry; Shane Kiser, husband of Maggie Kiser; Doty Kuhlmann, mother of Donna Mueller; Mary

McMahan; Michael Norfleet, son of Marsha Norfleet; Elizabeth Ryan; Patrick Schneider; Sylvester Soldinie; Lara Trudell, daughter of Sharon and Jim Alexander; and Renee Weidner.

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PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

- Daniel Burke
- Frederick Robert "Bob" Duplantier, father of Isabel Kenney
- John Isadore Ilya Mendel, son of Joe & Mary Mendel; nephew of Sharon Leonard
- Francis James Mooney, brother of James Mooney
- Clare Therese O'Toole, daughter of Brian & Bailey O'Toole
- Claudia Lee vonSydow
- Ruth Wilke, sister of Robert Schuette
- John Williams, brother of Mary McMahan

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USHERS' SCHEDULE

Sunday, 25 May

- 6:30 am Jim Alexander*, Chris Bauman
- 8:00 am Kenny Buyle*, Kip Babington, Terry Conway, Ken Catalano
- 10:00 am Gabe Jones*, Jesse Hermann, Charlie Raymond, Joe Gassiraro

Sunday, 1 June

- 6:30 am Bill Saccente*, Evan Adair
- 8:00 am Kip Babington*, Terry Conway, Sam Ashlock, Greg Rheinheimer
- 10:00 am Jesse Hermann*, Charlie Raymond, Joe Gassiraro, Tom Gates

Sunday, 8 June

- 6:30 am Chris Bauman*, Bill Saccente
- 8:00 am Terry Conway*, Sam Ashlock, Greg Rheinheimer, Michael Nelson
- 10:00 am Joe Gassiraro*, Tom Gates, John Simmons, Brandon Roberts

Sunday, 15 June (Father's Day)

- 6:30 am Evan Adair*, Ben Schubert
- 8:00 am Sam Ashlock*, Greg Rheinheimer, Michael Nelson, Jeff Martin
- 10:00 am Tom Gates*, John Simmons, Brandon Roberts, Mark Scheer

+ Altar Server Schedule: May - June 2025 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
25 May 2025	6:30	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00	Castor Armesto			
	10:00	Salvatore Saccente	Michael Blum	Charles Fowler	Theodore Grizzle
1 June 2025	6:30	Jack Ryan			
	8:00	Leo Grizzle			
	10:00	Sebastian Petrick	Elijah Robeson	Benedict Armesto	Sean Kenney
8 June 2025	6:30	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00	Kolbe Grizzle			
	10:00	Paul Thomas Blaxton	Castor Armesto	Raymond Buyle	Joseph Sinak

First Friday / First Saturday

6 June 2025	6:30 pm	Michael Rennier	Elijah Robeson	Augustine Rennier	Heath Cheaney
7 June 2025	8:15 am	Michael Rheinheimer	Castor Armesto	Benedict Armesto	Silas Buyle

WELLSPRING OF TRADITION: Alleluia is our song

On the eve of Septuagesima, we celebrate the burial or *depositio* of the Alleluia, a solemn and emotional way of saying farewell to the most beloved of Christian chants. For most of us living in the 21st century, words are commonplace, used in innumerable ways in multiple media every day, to the point of overload. It may be difficult for us to grasp how a single word could command such affection and awe, and how its removal from the daily language of the liturgy could cause such a deeply emotional sense of loss. Yet such has been the role of the word *Alleluia* in the life of the Church. It has been the Church's announcement of the resurrection and a call to salvation since our earliest days.

The Hebrew word *Halleluya*, meaning 'praise God,' is a mystical word found in the Old and New Testaments, particularly in the Psalms. Early Christians adopted it for several purposes. Informally, it was an expression of joy, of gratitude for salvation, and of their faith in the triumphant return of the Lord. Formally, they adapted it for their own emerging liturgies from its use in the Temple, where priests sang it as part of the 'hallel' psalms (Pss. 112-117), the last of which which may well have been the 'hymn' that Matthew and Mark tell us our divine Lord and the apostles sang after the Last Supper. As Christian liturgical forms became more solidly established, the use of the Alleluia as a psalm response and/or a greeting for the Gospel became the norm. And so we find it in the ancient Greek Liturgy of St. James and the prototype of the Maronite liturgy, and in the ancient Liturgy of St. Mark. From very early days it was used more heavily from Easter to Pentecost, perhaps because the the *hallel* psalms were chanted by Jews at Passover.

Tertullian wrote in the 3rd century that the faithful of his time used to insert many alleluias in their private devotions. A century later, St. Jerome praised the pious farmers and tradesmen who used to sing it at their toil and the mothers who taught their babies to pronounce Alleluia before any other word. In the Roman Empire the Alleluia became the favorite prayerful song of oarsmen and navigators. Saint Augustine alluded to this custom, saying, 'Let the Alleluia be our sweet rowing-song!' The Roman poet and bishop Sidonius Apollinaris wrote how the river banks and shores of Gaul resounded with the Alleluia song of the rowing boatmen. Roman soldiers fighting against pagan barbarians used it as battle cry and war song. In his history of England, the Venerable Bede reported an 'Alleluia victory' won by the Christian Bretons over the Picts and Scots in 429. St. Thomas Aquinas said 'We should be an Alleluia from head to toe.' In the early Middle Ages, the expression 'Alleluia, the Lord is risen' became the general greeting of Christians for Easter. It was also sung at funerals and burial Masses as an expression of the conviction that for a Christian the day of death was the birthday of eternal life, and so a day of joy. The Eastern rites have preserved this custom in their Masses for the dead.

The earliest references to the Alleluia as a separate element of the Roman Mass formulary are as a form of the Gradual psalm. Later, the heavy influence of the Alleluia in Byzantine liturgies led to the Alleluia becoming a chant separate from the Gradual. This happened first in the East, and then migrated to Rome. At first, the Roman singers often simply translated the Greek texts into Latin. They borrowed some of the Greek melodies, but then elaborated them with the addition of a *jubilus* (described below). Some of the more prominent examples came to be used not only in the Mass but also in an especially splendid form of Vespers celebrated at Rome during the Easter octave and eventually in other places. Pope St Gregory the Great extended the singing of the Alleluia to Sundays other than in the Easter season.

The Alleluia chant in the Mass opens with the cantor singing 'Alleluia,' after which the choir and/or the congregation repeat it, and add a long *melisma* or extended melody on the final vowel. This particular *melisma* is known as a *jubilus*. And it is indeed a 'joyful melody' as befits the singing of this word that proclaims the cardinal reality of our Christian faith: Christ is risen! The cantor then sings the main part of the verse, the choir joins in on the final line, and then all repeat the Alleluia. The musical style of the Alleluia is quite ornate, but often includes repetition of identical melodic elements. The use of melodic formulae in familiar patterns gives the singer a general view of the whole composition, affording him a self confidence that supports the spirit of prayer. In medieval times, Alleluias were frequently 'troped' by having other text sung to some of the notes in the *jubilus*, perhaps giving rise to early Sequences. At the Oratory, we are blessed to have our schola chant for us the soaring and inspiring melodies of the Gregorian Alleluias. Listening to these, we understand anew what prompted the famous declaration of St Augustine, 'We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.'

Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us who have recourse to thee!

Ss. Gregory and Augustine, pray for us!

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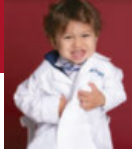
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