

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 **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

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

Confession **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

- Monday thru Friday: 11:00 am – 12:00 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 Rennier
vicerector@oratorysga.org
- **Deacon:** Deacon Steve Pieper, MD
deacon@oratorysga.org
- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller
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- **Facilities Manager:** Ben Schubert
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- **Auxiliatrix:** Anna Kalinowski
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- **Oratory Co-Op:**
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- **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD):**
ccd@oratorysga.org
- **Altar servers:**
servers@oratorysga.org
- **Altar and Rosary Society:**
altarandrosary@oratorysga.org
- **Knights of Columbus:**
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- **Troops of Saint George:**
tsg@oratorysga.org
- **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

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FROM THE RECTOR

It is difficult at times to overcome the tendency to trust only in ourselves, in what we know, can see, can verify. This tendency has intensified in its frequency over the last several centuries due to technological and scientific advancements. There are so many concrete manifestations of the ability of the human person to take care of himself that there really does not seem to be a reason to have trust in God. While our nation claims a Christian identity, the majority of those who profess faith in Christ live as if the Lord of Hosts has not conquered the world. This self-reliance and independence from God have increased in the years since the Great Lockdown caused by the Covid-19 realities. More people have remained apart, separated from institutional realities, and have foregone life in Christ and the practice of their faith. This is a trend that does not seem to be abating. It is true that to give ourselves over to God's Divine Providence is never an easy feat. Conquering our willfulness and subduing our pride is the daily challenge of the Catholic life. Of course, for all the signs of man's success and prowess there are as many more signs of self-destruction, failure, and weakness. The destruction of the unborn, the licentiousness of culture, the breakdown of family life, and general lack of social civility point toward the results of living as if God is not in charge. But He is! Our task is to trust, keep faith, and remain steadfast and confident in Him. Regardless of the world, good – bad – indifferent – my only true choice is to trust in the Lord at all times!

UPCOMING EVENTS**Sunday, 27 July:**

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

Monday, 28 July:

- Server Camp @ 8:00 am
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Ladies Schola Practice @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 29 July:

- Server Camp @ 8:00 am
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, 30 July:

- Server Camp @ 8:00 am
- Catechesis Class @ 4:00 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Thursday, 31 July:

- Server Camp @ 8:00 am
- Priests' Holy Hour @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Friday, 1 August: OFFICE CLOSED

- Server Camp @ 8:00 am
- Church cleaning @ 1:30 pm
- Confessions @ 5:00 pm
- Holy Mass @ 6:30 pm

Saturday, 2 August:

- No Events Scheduled

PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2025

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
09/07-09/14 Agnew	09/14-09/21 Buyle
09/21-09/28 Leljedal	09/28-10/05 Grizzle

10/05-10/12 Turntine	10/12-10/19 Haulard
10/19-10/26 Kelly	10/26-11/02 Jones
11/02-11/09 Holman	11/09-11/16 Carapella
11/16-11/23 Cook	11/23-11/30 Hayward
11/30-12/07 Joseph	12/07-12/14 Blum
12/14-12/21 Wisniewski	12/21-12/28 Catalano

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, 28 July – **Ss. Nazarius & Celesu, Victor I, St. Innocent**

12:15 pm: Katherin Schepers (d)

Tuesday, 29 July – **St. Martha**

12:15 pm: Jim Griffin (d)

Wednesday, 30 July – **Ss. Abdon & Sennen**

12:15 pm: Rachel Edwards

Thursday, 31 July – **St. Ignatius Loyola**

12:15 pm: Anthony J. & Gertrude Buescher (d)

Friday, 1 August – **St. Peter in Chains**

12:15 pm: Br. Macarius of Jesus Christ Crucified

6:30 pm: Andrew Pumphrey (d)

Saturday, 2 August – **St. Alphonsus Ligouri**

8:15 am: Andrew Pumphrey (d)

Sunday, 3 August – **8th Sunday after Pentecost**

6:30 am: Pro Populo

8:00 am: James O'Neill (d)

10:00 am: Andrew Pumphrey (d)

~ 07/20/2025 ~

Weekly Collection Total	\$ 7,822.56
Online Giving	\$ 8,431.00
Total	\$ 16,253.66
Needed	\$ 16,800.00
Year to Date Total	\$ 51,643.14

MISSIONARY SISTERS of ST PETER CLAVER



The Board of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver invites you to attend the “All Children of One Father” Annual Dinner Auction on Saturday, 20 September @ 6:00 pm at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. The annual dinner auction will benefit 2025 Mission Projects. **REGISTER TODAY** at <http://SSPC25.givesmart.com>. Deadline to register is 13 September.

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ASSUMPTION PROCESSION

Following the 12:15 p.m. Mass on the feast of the Assumption (Friday, 15 August), there will be a short procession in honor of Our Lady around the neighborhood. All are encouraged to participate.

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ASSUMPTION BLESSING OF FLOWERS AND HERBS

On the feast of the Assumption (Friday, 15 August), the faithful are encouraged to bring flowers and herbs to the Marian altar for the traditional Assumption day blessing of flowers and herbs. The blessing will take place **prior** to both the 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Masses. After the blessing, the faithful may bring their newly blessed items home to enjoy.

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ASSUMPTION BOUQUET SALE

The Altar and Rosary Society will be selling bouquets on the Dale Avenue side of the church (across from baseball field parking lot) prior to the 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Assumption Masses. All proceeds of the sale go to the feast day flower fund. Bouquets cost \$10. Cash, check, and Venmo accepted.

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FESTIVAL OF SAINT LOUIS: 25 August 2025

In the coming weeks you will be receiving information regarding the liturgical celebrations for the Feast of St. Louis, Monday, 25 August 2025. With each passing year, since we started the Festival, the response from the community has grown. I would encourage everyone to participate in as much as their schedules will allow. A Rosary Novena at the statue will begin on 17 August and lead up to the feast day itself on the 25th. There are many other prayers and events that make up the festival. I especially recommend the procession to the Apotheosis of St. Louis in Forest Park which will take place on Monday the 25th. This is a remarkably beautiful experience, and your prayerful participation will allow us to celebrate well the patron of our archdiocese. **Please see festivalofsaintlouis.com for all of the details.**

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INSTITUTE OF CATHOLIC CULTURE

Once again, the Institute of Catholic Culture is offering a number of excellent free courses for anyone looking to enrich their lives through further education. The fourth quarter of the ICC curriculum year offers an examination of the issues facing Christians in the modern world, including biblical apologetics, modern philosophical errors, and modern moral problems, equipping attendees with valuable tools necessary to offer a reasoned and convincing defense of the Faith they profess. For more information, visit: <https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/>.

PARISH HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

The True, Good and Beautiful Homeschool Co-op is a well-kept secret in our parish. We have been established since the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine moved to the current location in July of 2018. Our homeschool co-op serves our parish families with children aged 3-14 on either Tuesday or Thursday each week and we are now located at Little Flower School just down the street. Our parish ministry offers supplemental education in Literature, Music and Art for our homeschool families. Each subject is taught from a traditional Catholic perspective focusing on Church history and our treasures of the faith. We provide Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Level 1) and a Learning Center for ages 3-5 and space for the babies to play and mamas to sit. Registration for this year is almost closed. If you are interested in becoming a co-op family, more details are on the OSGA website: stlouislatinmass.com/about-us/homeschool-co-op

We have a wishlist on that website that is always growing. If you feel called to contribute, please take a look. Contact Cory Grizzle for more information or any questions at co-op@oratorysga.org

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WEDDING BANNS

There is a promise of marriage between:

I ~ Cecilia Filla & Kevin Syrgos

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CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to those who received the sacrament of Confirmation (9 June 2025) and their First Holy Communion (21 June 2025). Please pray for them, their parents, teachers, and catechists.

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NEWLY CONFIRMED

- Simon Martin Armesto (St. Juan Diego)
- Patrick Joseph Belken (St. Athanasius)
- Domenico Giovanni Brex (St. Lawrence)
- Celine Michaela Cheaney (St. Therese of Lisieux)
- Mason Lewis Fisher (St. Francis of Assisi)
- John Paul Sebastian Fowler (St. Caleb of Axum)
- Gianna Kathleen Gardner (St. Rose of Lima)
- Gianna Elizabeth Garvey (St. Mary of Bethany)
- Stellamaris Anne Hayes (St. Joan of Arc)
- Kaylee Elaine Hough-West (St. Rose of Lima)
- Louise Frances Kalish (St. Theresa of Calcutta)
- Anna Grace Kenney (St. Clare)
- Emile Francis Kenney (St. Matthew the Apostle)
- Campbell James Knaust (St. Lawrence)
- Selene Marie Kukielski (St. Bernadette)
- Xavier Gabriel Kukielski (St. Thomas Aquinas)
- Cecilia Marie Lejedal (St. Felicity)
- Rosemarie Ann Moritz (St. Maria Goretti)
- Rifka Cecilia Moss (St. Kateri Tekakwitha)
- Anthony James Pieper (St. Michael the Archangel)
- Leo Francis Pieper (St. Benedict)
- Aria Kennedy Porter (St. Mary)
- Teresa Caeli Prewitt (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)
- Charlotte Cathryn Sara Marie Roberts (St. Kateri Tekakwitha)

7th Sunday after Pentecost

27 July 2025

- Matthew Emmett William Jeffrey Roberts (St. Joseph)
- Briella Wynter Scarfino (St. Rose of Viterbo)
- Lucia Noelle Stewart (St. Rose of Lima)
- Brigid Josslyn Ten Eyck (St. Jacinta)
- Victoria Ann Weber (St. Catherine of Sienna)
- Kemp Raymond Joseph Williams (St. Francis de Sales)

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

- Peter Thomas Archer
- Ava Christian Atkinson
- Eleanor Rose Blaxton
- Petra Felicity Cheaney
- Paisley Elaine Felten
- Gabriel Joseph Gardner
- Juniper Corinne Harris
- Leonardo Philip Indelicato
- Liam Julius Jones
- Samuel Charles Kellermann
- Blase John Paul Kelly
- Xavier Gabriel Kukielski
- Cassian Alder Moineau
- Jude Alden Murray
- Ruby Louise Nations
- Stefan Giles Noble
- Aria Kennedy Porter
- Alizebeth Marietta Roberts
- Mercy Evangeline Robeson
- Santiago Josemaria Sanchez
- Jesse Edward Santchi
- John Wayne Santchi
- Dietrich Alexander Scheer
- Philip Robert Sinak
- John Paul Stewart

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NEW FAMILIES for JUNE (alphabetical order)

A warm welcome to our new parishioners!

- Zach Dillard
- Connie Kramer
- Dawn Nordyke
- The Riti Family ~ Michael & Barrett, and Jack
- Scott Sprehe
- The Thompson Family ~ Wyatt & Shelby, and Isla
- The Wilson Family ~ Cole & Lilly, and Cillian

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BAPTISMS (April – June 2025)

(In alphabetical order)

Gianna Rose Barry (Michael & Anne)
Felicity Perpetua DiCarlo (Christopher & Francesca)
Caleb Michael Dickey (Michael & Alayna)
William Grayson Gunn, Jr. (William & Michaela)
Emma Margaret Horan (Chris & Rita Jo)
Martin Alexander Jones (Vince & Sarah)
Cecilia Marie Kraus (Zachary & Madeline)
Basil Beau Leon Levine (James & Ellen)

Robert Louis Moss (Matthew & Lindsay)
Sofia Lynn Murphy (Stephanie)
Malachi Hanlon Ten Eyck (Caleb & Sheila)
David James Terschluse (Jack & Carolyn)
Cillian Wallace Wilson (Cole & Lillian)

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SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Oratory's summer schedule began on Monday, 30 June 2025 and will conclude on Thursday, 14 August 2025. The Oratory will have one daily Holy Mass at 12:15 pm with Confessions at 11:00 am. No Adoration or Confessions on Wednesdays during the summer schedule. **The Saturday and Sunday schedules will remain the same.** The office hours during this time will be MON-THU from 8:00 am until 2:30 pm. **The office is closed on Fridays during the entire summer. 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.

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THE COMMUNION RAIL

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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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. Renner 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-Thu, 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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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!).

7th Sunday after Pentecost

27 July 2025

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!

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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 or visit: <https://www.archstl.org/2025jubileeyear/>

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PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your charity, please pray for the following members of the Oratory who are ill: Petra Felicity Cheaney, daughter of Michael & Jaime; Jeanmarie DeCoster; Donna Hagan; Shane Kiser, husband of Maggie Kiser; Dotty Kuhlmann, mother of Donna Mueller; Mary McMahan; Michael Norfleet, son of Marsha Norfleet; Elizabeth Ryan; Patrick Schneider; Sylvester Soldinie; Jay Staley; Lara Trudell, daughter of Sharon and Jim Alexander; Renee Weidner; and Msgr. Witt.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

- Sherree Conoyer, niece of Mary Schuette
- Marsha Dames, niece of Mary Schuette
- Theresa Hernandez, sister of Mary Schuette
- William H. Kuhlmann, uncle of Donna Mueller

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USHERS' SCHEDULE

Sunday, 27 July

- 6:30 am** Brayden Bauman*, Chris Bauman
8:00 am Sam Ashlock*, Greg Rheinheimer, Kenny Buyle, Jeff Martin
10:00 am Charlie Raymond*, Patrick Kelly, Gabe Jones, John Simmons

Sunday, 3 August

- 6:30 am** Bill Saccente*, Evan Adair
8:00 am Greg Rheinheimer*, Michael Nelson, Jeff Martin, Kenny Buyle
10:00 am Patrick Kelly*, John Simmons, Tom Gates, Mike McMahon

Sunday, 10 August

- 6:30 am** Chris Bauman*, Brayden Bauman
8:00 am Michael Nelson*, Jeff Martin, Kenny Buyle, Kip Babington
10:00 am John Simmons*, Gabe Jones, Tom Gates, Brandon Roberts

Sunday, 17 August

- 6:30 am** Ben Schubert*, Jim Alexander
8:00 am Jeff Martin*, Kenny Buyle, Kip Babington, Ken Catalano
10:00 am Gabe Jones*, Tom Gates, Brandon Roberts, Mark Scheer

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+ Altar Server Schedule: July – August 2025 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
27 July 2025	6:30	Ben Schubert			
	8:00	Leo Grizzle			
	10:00	Philip Petrick	Joseph Fowler	Charles Fowler	Cabhan Ten Eyck
3 August 2025	6:30	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00	Matthew Rheinheimer			
	10:00	Sebastian Petrick	Thomas Koschmeder	Raymond Buyle	Sean Kenney
10 August 2025	6:30	Ben Schubert			
	8:00	Michael Blum			
	10:00	Paul Thomas Blaxton	Michael Rennier	Augustine Rennier	Joseph Sinak
17 August 2025	6:30	Jack Ryan			
	8:00	Peter Blum			
	10:00	Michael Rheinheimer	Castor Armesto	Benedict Armesto	Scott Fowler

FIRST FRIDAY / FIRST SATURDAY

1 August 2025	6:30 pm	Matthew Pickert	Michael Rennier	Augustine Rennier	Sean Kenney
2 August 2025	8:15 am	Joseph Blum	Paul Keys	Levi Garvey	Elijah Garvey

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WELLSPRING OF TRADITION – July: month of the Precious Blood

The Abbey of Saint Louis and Saint Mary in St Louis County is a daughter house of Ampleforth Abbey in England. During a Latin Mass Society Lenten retreat day there a few years ago, Fr. Ambrose shared an anecdote about a visit to Glastonbury some years earlier. He was travelling with one of the Abbey's Ampleforth founder monks, Fr. Bede, who later was a founder of our own Oratory. As the two walked Glastonbury High Street, their black Benedictine habits became a target for a street preacher who cried out to them, 'Are you saved, brothers?' Being a very proper English gentleman, Fr. Bede was reluctant to engage the preacher in public. But the preacher persisted; and as he followed them his cries grew louder and showed no signs of abating. So Fr. Ambrose turned to him and—much to Fr. Bede's chagrin—cried out, 'We are indeed saved—by the precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!' The preacher smiled broadly and cried back, 'Praise God, brothers!' Then he turned around and went happily on his way.

Many of us can relate to Fr. Bede's chagrin at his confrere's public exchange with the preacher. No matter how well or how poorly we might handle it in a moment of crisis, the shedding of a lot of blood, whether our own or someone else's, is disturbing. The almost daily images of the ravages of war and disasters remind us of that, and now come with warnings! Even though we all know that our redemption was won by the blood of Christ poured out on the cross, too much focus on that reality puts us off a bit. We're more comfortable with a sanitized image of that sacrifice that we find in art, music, and poetry. Flemish painters in the 15th and 16th centuries were particularly fond of representing the blood flowing from the cross or the triumphant lamb. Poets and theologians in many centuries have found a rich source of lovely imagery to mine. This beauty of the arts can cushion us with a gentler representation of the sacrifice of Calvary in the Mass. Although that beauty can be an aid to enhance our faith, and to point us toward our ultimate goal of true joy in a share of eternal life, Dr. Pierre Barbet's famous book *Doctor at Calvary* and similar studies make it all too clear that the historical event was not pretty.

Some of the more graphic depictions, such as those in classic Spanish Passion sculptures and popular devotions like the Five Wounds, direct us to think more about just how horrific the historical event was. As with many modern tragedies we witness in the media, most of us struggle to grasp how gruesome 'man's inhumanity to man' can really be. Yet Jesus submitted himself to some of the worst of it—such was the price paid for our sin. Why? If we're honest, we recognize that we can't find within ourselves the power to eliminate our own sinfulness. Only one greater than we could take on our humanity and effect that redemption. And it needed to be done in a manner that teaches us the destructive horror of sin, not only for ourselves but for the whole body of Christ. Jesus had to take on real human flesh and undergo our worst behavior to demonstrate that God sees our sins and yet forgives and loves us.

Devotion to the Most Precious Blood began in Spain. During the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries it grew steadily out of devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and the Sacred Heart. Later St. Gaspar de Bufalo spread it widely in Italy. In most countries a feast was celebrated on Friday after the 4th Sunday in Lent, as part of the devotions to particular aspects of our Lord's passion. Benedict XIV had new texts developed for the Mass and the Office, and in 1933 Pius XI extended the feast on 1 July to the universal Church as an annual memorial of the special Holy Year he declared for the 19th centenary of the shedding of Jesus's blood on the cross.

The Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) speak often of the power of sacrificial blood. At the time of the Exodus, the Israelites were directed to smear blood from the Passover lambs on their doorposts to spare their children from the angel of death. In the desert, Moses anointed the altar and then sprinkled the people with blood from the animal just sacrificed to seal their agreement to God's covenant with Israel. Each year on Yom Kippur, the High Priest was directed to enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle blood seven times on the mercy seat to effect the atonement of Israel's sins. A common thread of these and other examples is that to have its saving, affirming, and redeeming effect, the blood of the sacrifice had to physically touch the doorposts, the people, and the mercy seat. In the New Testament. St. John, St. Peter, and St. Paul make it very clear that Jesus himself insisted, and commanded His disciples to pass on to those who came after them, that we need to consume His very blood, the blood of the new and eternal sacrificial Lamb poured out on the cross. This we do in every reception of Holy Communion. Blessed Pope John XXIII, who had a particular devotion to the Precious Blood, and added it to the Divine Praises at Benediction, explaining his action in an Apostolic Letter:

Unlimited is the effectiveness of the God-Man's Blood—just as unlimited as the love that impelled him to pour it out for us, first at his circumcision eight days after birth, and more profusely later on in his agony in the garden, in his scourging and crowning with thorns, in his climb to Calvary and crucifixion, and finally from out that great wide wound in his side which symbolizes the divine Blood cascading down into all the Church's sacraments. Such surpassing love suggests, nay demands, that everyone reborn in the torrents of that Blood adore it with grateful love.

The Blood of the new and eternal covenant especially deserves this worship of *latría* when it is elevated during the sacrifice of the Mass. But such worship achieves its normal fulfilment in sacramental communion with the same Blood, indissolubly united with Christ's eucharistic Body. In intimate association with the celebrant the faithful can then truly make his sentiments at communion their own: 'I will take the chalice of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. . . The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ preserve my soul for everlasting life. Amen.' So as often as they come worthily to this holy table they will receive more abundant fruits of the redemption and resurrection and eternal life won for all men by the Blood Christ shed 'through the Holy Spirit'. Nourished by His Body and Blood, sharing the divine strength that has sustained countless martyrs, they will stand up to the slings and arrows of each day's fortunes—even if need be to martyrdom itself for the sake of Christian virtue and the kingdom of God.

If only Christians would reflect more frequently on the fatherly warning of the first pope: 'You know well enough that your ransom was not paid in earthly currency, silver or gold; it was paid in the precious blood of Christ; no lamb was ever so pure, so spotless a victim.' If only they would lend a more eager ear to the apostle of the Gentiles: 'A great price was paid to ransom you; glorify God by making your bodies the shrines of his presence.' Their upright lives would then be the shining example they ought to be; Christ's Church would far more effectively fulfill its mission to men. God wants all to be saved, for he has willed that they should all be ransomed by the Blood of his only-begotten Son; he calls them all to be members of the one Mystical Body whose head is Christ. If only all would be more responsive to these promptings of his grace, how much the bonds of brotherly love among individuals and peoples and nations would be strengthened. Life in society would be so much more peaceable, so much worthier of God and the human nature created in his image and likeness.

***Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us who have recourse to thee!
Ss. Gregory and Augustine, pray for us!***

Perfect Love
DOULA SERVICES
Amanda Antony, Doula
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