



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](http://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: 7:30 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

#### Adoration

- Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- First Friday: 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm (starting 2/6/26)

#### 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rector@oratorysga.org)
- **Vice-Rector:** Fr. Michael Rennie  
[vicerector@oratorysga.org](mailto:vicerector@oratorysga.org)
- **Deacon:** Deacon Steve Pieper, MD  
[deacon@oratorysga.org](mailto:deacon@oratorysga.org)
- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller  
[office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org)
- **Facilities Manager:** Ben Schubert  
[facilities@oratorysga.org](mailto:facilities@oratorysga.org)
- **Auxiliary:** Anna Kalinowski  
[auxiliary@oratorysga.org](mailto:auxiliary@oratorysga.org)
- **Almonry of Ss. Gregory & Augustine:**  
[almonry@oratorysga.org](mailto:almonry@oratorysga.org)
- **Altar and Rosary Society:**  
[altarandrosary@oratorysga.org](mailto:altarandrosary@oratorysga.org)
- **Altar Servers:**  
[servers@oratorysga.org](mailto:servers@oratorysga.org)
- **Choir:**  
[choir@oratorysga.org](mailto:choir@oratorysga.org)
- **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD):**  
[ccd@oratorysga.org](mailto:ccd@oratorysga.org)
- **Co-Op:**  
[co-op@oratorysga.org](mailto:co-op@oratorysga.org)
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[events@oratorysga.org](mailto:events@oratorysga.org)
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- **Young Adults:**  
[youngadults@oratorysga.org](mailto:youngadults@oratorysga.org)
- **Online Giving:**  
<https://www.osvhub.com/st-louis-latin-mass>

### CONTACT US

314-644-2144 / [stlouislatinmass.com](http://stlouislatinmass.com)  
7230 Dale Avenue, Richmond Heights, MO 63117

# Finding of the Holy Cross (Fourth Sunday after Easter)

3 May 2026

## FROM THE RECTOR

Preparation begins for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, the Consoler, is bestowed upon us to continue to teach and admonish us about the ways of the Messiah. The Lord will eventually ascend to glory and take His rightful place at the right hand of the Father. But as He goes, the Lord does not leave us bereft or alone to continue our pilgrim journey. We receive from Him the Holy Spirit who when He comes will teach us all truth. How profoundly beautiful to contemplate and remember that truth is not decided by me personally, nor by committee; rather, truth comes from God for God is truth and in His love for us He teaches us truth. In this way our foundation is firm and sure. Moreover, it is upon this firm foundation that we are able to build the fortress of our souls to withstand the persecution of the world and to embrace the joy of the Cross. So too, the reality of Holy Mother Church and the work she accomplishes is efficacious because of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, we must use this time to make ourselves pliable in the hands of the Holy Spirit. The perfect model from whom we can learn is the Blessed Mother. She is the spouse of the Holy Spirit and is easily moved by His promptings. As she has instructed us on how to respond to her Son, she will likewise teach us how to be receptive to the Holy Spirit. Let us make every effort to pray the rosary daily as an expression of our filial devotion and trust in the Blessed Mother. Finally, as we continue to contemplate the glories of the Resurrection let us rejoice in the new life gained for us upon the cross and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Holy Spirit!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 4 May:

- Server Training @ 4:30 pm
- Girls' Guild @ 4:30 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Troops of St. George @ 6:30 pm

### Tuesday, 5 May:

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

### Wednesday, 6 May:

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

### Thursday, 7 May:

- Compline @ 6:30 am

### Friday, 8 May:

- **OFFICE CLOSED**
- No Events Scheduled

### Saturday, 9 May:

- Ribeiro Baptism @ 10:00 am

### Sunday, 10 May:

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Confessions @ 7:30 am
- Blessing of Religious Items @ 9:00 am
- Terce @ 9:40
- Coffee Hour @ 11:30 am
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm

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## PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2026

04/19-04/26 Turntine	04/26-05/03 Haulard
05/03-05/10 Kelly	05/10-05/17 Jones
05/17-05/24 Holman	05/24-05/31 Carapella

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 saalex@sbcbglobal.net

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## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, 4 May – *St. Monica*

6:30 am: Donna Mueller  
 12:15 pm: Anna M. Vanik Bultas (d)

### Tuesday, 5 May – *St. Pius V*

6:30 am: John Mendel (d)  
 12:15 pm: Matthew Schnur

### Wednesday, 6 May – *St. John before the Latin Gate*

6:30 am: The Heyne Family  
 12:15 pm: Dotty Kuhlmann

### Thursday, 7 May – *St. Stanislaus*

6:30 am: Conversion of sinners  
 12:15 pm: William Donald Walker (d)

### Friday, 8 May – *Apparition of St. Michael*

6:30 am: John Mendel (d)  
 12:15 pm: Rosalie Cenni

### Saturday, 9 May – *St. Gregory Nazianzen*

8:15 am: Br. Macarius of Jesus Christ Crucified

### Sunday, 10 May – *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter*

6:30 am: Reverend Larry Huber (d)  
 8:00 am: Melba Wilmarth (d)  
 10:00 am: Sheryl Ann Gibbs (d)

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~ 04/26/2026 ~	
Weekly Collection Total	\$ 10,446.16
Online Giving	\$ 10,471.69
Total	\$ 20,917.85
Needed	\$ 16,800.00
Year to Date Total	\$ 813,976.90

# Finding of the Holy Cross (Fourth Sunday after Easter)

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## OFFICE CLOSED \*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*

PLEASE NOTE that the office will be closed Friday, 8 May through Friday, 15 May and will reopen on Monday, 18 May. Please DO NOT come to the rectory door and/or ring the doorbell as there will be no one to answer the door and/or to assist you. If you need to schedule a baptism or a wedding please email [office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org) with the necessary details and Donna will reply to you as soon as she is able.

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## 2026 MASS INTENTIONS \*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*

PLEASE NOTE: the Mass intention calendar for 2026 is full. We are no longer able to accept Mass intentions for 2026. We will begin accepting Mass intentions for 2027 later this fall.

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## PRIESTLY ANNIVERSARY TALK FROM MSGR. MORRIS

Thursday, 28 May @ 6:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Room

This May, Msgr. Morris is celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination. As part of this month's events, he will give a talk reflecting on his 30 years of priesthood. There will be opportunities to ask questions and mingle with other Oratory faithful. Drinks and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Reservations are required. This event is limited to 55 guests, ages 21 and older. Please R.S.V.P. via email to [office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org) no later than 14 May to with your name(s) (so it is clear who is attending). Do not delay! Spaces will be reserved in the order they are received.

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## CELEBRATING THIRTY: SAVE-THE-DATE

This May, Msgr. Morris will celebrate his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination. The Oratory community will celebrate this joyous occasion on Sunday, 31 May, following the 10:00 am Mass. Please follow the bulletin for more information in the coming weeks.

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## FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

“Look My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console Me and announce in My name that I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making Reparation to Me.” *Our Lady to Lucia on December 10, 1925*

In response to Our Lady's request for the devotion of reparation to her Immaculate Heart, all are invited to join us in reciting the Holy Rosary on First Saturdays, beginning 2 May. The Rosary will begin at 7:40 am, finishing in time to allow for the additional 15 minutes of private meditation on any of the mysteries of the Rosary

with the intention of making reparation to Our Lady. Confessions are available 7:00 am – 8:00 am; Mass begins at 8:15 am. Help Our Lady bring about peace in the world!

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## CONFIRMATION DATE CHANGE

Attention families of Confirmandi: the Rite of Confirmation has been rescheduled for Tuesday, 26 May, at 7:00pm. Please notify anyone impacted by this change (especially Confirmation sponsors) and please forgive any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you. - J. Fowler

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## BIRTHRIGHT MOTHER'S DAY CARDS

Birthingright of Hillsboro has provided us with Mother's Day cards. Please feel free to take as many as you need for the mothers in your life. The cards are located in the bulletin holder (on the right side of the double doors) in the main vestibule. For more than 40 years, Birthingright 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 Birthingright as you honor the special mothers in your life this Mother's Day. Please also consider donating to their ministry.

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## ORATORY CO-OP IS LOOKING FOR A CATECHIST

The OSGA True, Good and Beautiful Homeschool Co-op is looking for help. We offer both a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program for 3-5 year olds and a supplemental Art, Music, and Literature program for 6-14 year olds. We are in need of a CGS Level 1 Catechist for Thursday morning. If you are trained and would like to volunteer your time for one morning a week, OR if you would like to be trained, a local training is beginning for the school year. The co-op is willing to fund this training in return for leading our Thursday CGS program. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please contact Cory Grizzle at [co-op@oratorysga.org](mailto:co-op@oratorysga.org)

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## CELL PHONES

There has been an increasing number of cell phones ringing during Holy Mass. Please be sure to silence your cell phones before entering Church. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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## ST. LOUIS MARIAN CONFERENCE

The 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Louis Marian Conference is 15-17 May 2026 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. Everyone is welcome and parking is FREE. The cost is only \$60 for 3 full, dynamic days of inspiring talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Confession, a large selection of vendors, beautiful music, and fellowship with Catholics

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from all over the country (20 states so far). The hotel group rate is \$119 per night (1-4 people).

Confirmed speakers: His Eminence Raymon Leo Cardinal Burke; Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J.; Fr. Bill Casey, CPM; **Msgr. Eugene Morris**; Sr. Gianna Casino, LIHM; Patty Schneier; Susan Tassone; Ken and Mary Ann Duppong (parents of Servant of God, Michelle Duppong); and Eric Genius.

For more information, to register, or to book your hotel room please visit us at [www.stlmc.org](http://www.stlmc.org) or call 314-850-7718.

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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 implement a summer schedule again. Beginning on 29 June 2026 and concluding on 14 August 2026 the Oratory will have daily Holy Mass at 12:15 pm (NO 6:30 am) 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. 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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### BLESSING OF ITEMS

Going forward, the blessings of religious items will take place after the 8:00 am Holy Mass at St. Joseph Altar. This will happen on the Second Sunday of each month. In this way, items can be blessed and retrieved in a more timely manner. This process will replace bringing items to the rectory to be blessed. **ALL ITEMS TO BE BLESSED MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE ST. JOSEPH ALTAR ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH BEFORE HOLY MASS.** Those who desire to have items blessed should bring them to the St. Joseph Altar before the 8:00 am Holy Mass with their names clearly marked on the items to be blessed. These items should be left on the St. Joseph Altar. If there are a large number of items, they can be placed around the altar but should not impede the distribution of Holy Communion. Two blessings will be given: one for rosaries and one for all other items grouped together. There is no need to take items from their packaging. **This new process began Sunday, 8 February 2026, therefore the rectory is no longer accepting items to be blessed (as of 9 February).**

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### FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

It has long been a desire of mine as rector to have more Eucharistic Adoration at the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine. Our hope is that Adoration will take place every First Friday afternoon going forward to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As a reminder: faithful are needed to adopt an hour of adoration to ensure that the Blessed

Sacrament is never left alone. To sign up for an hour, please email Anthony Jones at [events@oratorysga.org](mailto:events@oratorysga.org).

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### ADULTS SEEKING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

**\*\* CATECHISM CLASSES WILL RESUME ON 27 MAY\*\***

We welcome those interested in becoming Catholic. To get started in that process within the OSGA community, please email one of our priests for an introductory meeting. Their contacts are available in the bulletin. After this, candidates for Initiation at the Oratory will be directed to complete a registration form with our Administrator.

Catechism classes are held in the St Joseph Room (rectory basement) generally on a bi-monthly basis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 4:00-5:15 pm.

The content surrounds a set of topics central to Catholic teaching, as set forth by Msgr. Morris. Deacon Pieper moderates most meetings through a question-and-answer format and hopes to promote sincere dialogue with the candidates regarding those topics and/or related questions. The intent is to communicate Christ and His Church. Sacraments are offered on an individual basis, on a rolling schedule throughout the year, after mutual discernment by the candidate, our deacon, and priests.

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### RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For those in our community who are new to the Traditional Latin Mass, when you approach the altar rail for holy communion it is the custom to begin filling in the altar rail at the far right near St. Joseph's altar and fill in the rail until its end at the Marian altar. This practice is not impacted by which side of the Church you are seated. You are allowed, and encouraged, to switch sides in order to keep the communion line moving. This is particularly important when there are two sacred ministers distributing Holy Communion. So too, do not overly delay approaching the rail waiting for others to return to their pews. If everyone moves with attention to what is happening, there should be a flow of movement between those departing the altar rail and those approaching the altar rail. Also, for daily Holy Mass: please kneel at the rail only where the houseling cloth has been prepared for communion. Please keep in mind that we should not keep the Lord waiting but moving with grace and deliberation to the altar rail to receive our Eucharistic Lord.

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### WEDDING BANNES

There is a promise of marriage between:  
**I ~ Jack Ryan & Grace Mohr**

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### NEW FAMILIES for APRIL (alphabetical order)

A warm welcome to our new parishioners!

- Evan Boothe
- The Bowler family ~ Samantha and Ilya
- The Gibbenhuck family ~ Tyler & Katherine

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- The Hankammer family ~ Benjamin & Cameryn, and Franny
- Dylan Karr
- Wendy Watson

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## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your charity, please pray for the following members of the Oratory who are ill: Mary Jane Bolte; Amanda Camarillo, daughter of Gregory & Nancy Latham; Heath Cheaney, son of Michael & Jaime; Jeanmarie DeCoster; Donna Hagan; Dotty Kuhlmann, mother of Donna Mueller; Mary McMahan; Kim Morgan; Michael Norfleet, son of Marsha Norfleet; Elizabeth Ryan; Mary Joseph Schenk, daughter of Nicholas & Elaine; Patrick Schneider; Sylvester Soldinie; Caleb & Sheila Ten Eyck; Lara Trudell, daughter of Sharon and Jim Alexander; Renee Weidner; and Msgr. Witt.

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## PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

- Andrew Richard "Andy" Gilfoil, brother of Joe Gilfoil
- Darlene Harris, sister of Sharon Leanord
- Joan Rita Short, aunt and godmother of Gregory Latham
- David M. Smith, brother-in-law of Carol Smith

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## USHERS' SCHEDULE

### Sunday, 3 May

- 6:30 am Jeff Logullo\*, Bill Saccente
- 8:00 am Greg Rheinheimer\*, Jeff Martin, Kip Babington, Ken Catalano
- 10:00 am Adam Rolwes\*, Charlie Raymond, Joe Thomas, Robert Morgan

### Sunday, 10 May

- 6:30 am Brayden Bauman\*, Chris Bauman
- 8:00 am Jeff Martin\*, Kip Babington, Ken Catalano, Terry Conway
- 10:00 am Tom Gates\*, Joe Thomas, Robert Morgan, Ethan Lamons

### Sunday, 17 May

- 6:30 am Evan Adair\*, Ken Jones
- 8:00 am Kip Babington\*, Sam Ashlock, Ken Catalano, Michael Nelson
- 10:00 am Robert Morgan\*, Ethan Lamons, John Simmons, Gabe Jones

### Sunday, 24 May

- 6:30 am Chris Bauman\*, Brayden Bauman
- 8:00 am Joe Thomas\*, Ken Catalano, Kenny Buyle, Mike Blum
- 10:00 am Ethan Lamons\*, John Simmons, Tom Gates, Jordan Hermann

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BULLETIN COVER Photo Credit:  
*Christ in Majesty with Twelve Apostles*, c. 1320  
 Workshop of Pacino di Bonaguida

## + Altar Server Schedule: May 2026 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
3 May 2026	6:30	Ben Schubert			
	8:00	Michael Rheinheimer			
	10:00	Peter Blum	Michael Rennie	Cabhan Ten Eyck	John Wayne Santschi
10 May 2026	6:30	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00	Joseph Blum			
	10:00	Castor Armesto	Anthony Green	Benedict Armesto	Scott Fowler
17 May 2026	6:30	Jack Ryan			
	8:00	Castor Armesto			
	10:00	Joseph Noble	Michael Blum	William Hayes	Theodore Grizzle
24 May 2026	6:30	Ben Schubert			
	8:00	Benedict Armesto			
	10:00	John Morgan	Levi Garvey	George Blaxton	John Paul Sinak

## FIRST FRIDAY/FIRST SATURDAY

1 May 2026	6:30 pm	Peter Blum	Michael Blum	Leo Grizzle	Sean Kenney
2 May 2026	8:15 am	Joseph Noble	Joseph Fowler	Charles Fowler	Scott Fowler

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## WELLSPRING OF TRADITION: FINDING THE CROSS

The ultimate paradox of the ignominious and horrific death by crucifixion being itself the ultimate purpose and glory of our Saviour and the source of our salvation, as Sacred Scripture tells us so clearly, remains even now, despite centuries of reflection by countless generations, as challenging a mystery as ever. In addition the Veneration of the Holy Cross on Good Friday, the traditional Roman rite celebrates two major feasts dedicated to the Holy Cross to reflect on this further. On 3 May, we celebrate the discovery of the Holy Cross by St. Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine the Great. On 14 September, we celebrate the recovery of the Holy Cross from its captivity by the Persians and its 'exaltation' or raising up for

eneration once again by the faithful.

The Roman Emperor Constantine's mother, St. Helena, a convert to Christianity, was admonished by God in a dream to go to Jerusalem. So she went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to locate where the important events in the life of our Lord occurred, and to preserve the relics of the Christian faith that remained there. One of her main goals was to find the place of His crucifixion and the Cross on which He was hung. Through interviewing many locals, and with the assistance of the Bishop of Jerusalem St. Macarius, she discovered the spot and found the True Cross, previously hidden by the Jews to prevent Christian veneration. According to the historian Rufinus, the identity of the True Cross was confirmed by a miraculous healing after St. Macarius recited this prayer:

O Lord, Who by the Passion of Thine only Son on the Cross, didst deign to restore salvation to mankind, and Who even now hast inspired thy handmaid Helena to seek for the blessed wood to which the author of our salvation was nailed, show clearly which it was, among the three crosses, that was raised for Thy glory. Distinguish it from those which only served for a common execution. Let this woman who is now expiring return from death's door as soon as she is touched by the wood of salvation.

The date of this discovery and miracle, according to tradition, was 3 May 326 AD. St. Helena had a church built on the original site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Her son Constantine dedicated this church on Sept. 13-14 nine years later. Even today, the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem, or the Via Dolorosa, end at this very spot.

St. Macarius also testifies most emphatically that particles of the Holy Cross had been sent for from all parts of the world, and although they had cut many from it, the sacred wood had not diminished, but by a visible miracle had retained its original size, which he declares he witnessed himself. The same is written by St. Paulinus.

The texts and chants of the Mass include some familiar ones: the Introit *Nos autem*, the formula in the collect, the well-known text from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, and the famous gradual *Christus factus est*. But perhaps the Preface of the Holy Cross, as is often the case, sums up the principal message of the feast: *Qui salutem humani generis in ligno crucis constituisti, ut unde mors oriebatur, inde vita resurgeret; et, qui in ligno vincebat, in ligno quoque vinceretur*. 'Thou hast arranged the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one who conquered on the tree might on a tree also be conquered.' At Vespers we sing of the glorious reality that our divine Lord's being lifted up on the wood of the Cross is really the occasion of the ultimate manifestation of His glory. The marvelous poetry of St. Venantius Fortunatus in his hymn, *Vexilla regis*, uses a string of images to reflect the multi-faceted reality of the cross. He calls it a brilliant and beautiful tree, adorned with the royal purple. The branches of that chosen tree bear the price of the world's salvation. It is the altar whose victim is the Life that has taken away death and restored life by His own dying. It is our only hope. We recently prayed these texts in the context of the sufferings of our Lord's death. Now we pray them in the context of the certainty of His glorious resurrection.

But, as the Cross is His glory, so too it must be ours. St. Andrew of Crete, in a famous homily, reminds us that Christ is raised up on the cross in order to draw all of us to himself. In fact, we need to embrace the cross if we are to be drawn to Him and raised up with him. Our Lady provides the outstanding example for us, always. We celebrate Her unique role in her Son's passion on the Friday of Passion Week and again on 15 September. The Invitatory antiphon at this feast invites us to adore the Saviour of the world Who made His blessed Mother an associate in His passion. Then the many verses of the great sequence *Stabat Mater* reiterate in detail Mary's suffering united to Her Son's. Again, the challenge is laid out for us to join our own sufferings with those of Her and Her divine Son.

All that is easy to say, easy to pray. Much harder to actually do. It may be useful to recall that it wasn't easy for our Lord or our Blessed Mother either. In the final moments before His passion began, our Lord prayed for the whole business to go away, as we were reminded in the Communion antiphon on Palm Sunday. *Pater, si no potest hic calix transire nisi bibam, fiat voluntas tua*. 'Father, if this chalice cannot pass by unless I drink it, Thy will be done.' Our blessed Mother struggled valiantly, despite having been warned by Simeon in the Temple that a sword would pierce Her very soul. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical letter *Redemptoris Mater*, comments on this: 'While this announcement on the one hand confirms [Mary's] faith in the accomplishment of the divine promises of salvation, on the other hand it also reveals to Her that She will have to live Her obedience of faith in suffering, at the side of the suffering Saviour, and that Her motherhood will be mysterious and sorrowful.' As any mother can tell you, the vocation of motherhood inevitably entails suffering. A mother feels deeply all the hurts, pains, disappointments, trials, and tribulations of her children. What transforms this into salvific suffering is doing it in 'the obedience of faith as the side of the suffering Saviour,' to use the Pope's words. A fitting meditation for the month of May.

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***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  
 doula@perfectlovedoula.com  
 (903) 348-6205

"Perfect love casts out fear."  
 1 John 4:18



COLDWELL BANKER  
 PREMIER GROUP



Alex Filla

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