

THE ORATORY OF SAINTS  
**GREGORY & AUGUSTINE**

CELEBRATING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTLY  
ORDINATION OF MSGR. MORRIS



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)
- **Events:**  
[events@oratorysga.org](mailto:events@oratorysga.org)
- **Knights of Columbus:**  
[kofc17355@oratorysga.org](mailto:kofc17355@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

**FROM THE RECTOR**

Preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit continues. The process of properly preparing ourselves, it is situated in the context of the Lord’s glorious Ascension to His place in Heaven. Often times, the glories of the Ascension are overshadowed by the Resurrection and Pentecost, celebrations and feasts that on one level relate more to our lived experiences of sin, forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit. However, the celebration of the Ascension sets before us the fullness of the Paschal Mystery now complete as Christ takes His place at the right hand of the Father. It is from heaven that Our Savior continues the work of priestly mediation, interceding on our behalf to the heavenly Father for forgiveness and mercy. So too, the Ascension is the celebration of the king’s enthronement. Having established His kingdom on the cross, Our Lord now takes possession of His kingdom, sitting upon His throne and bringing with Him the fruits of the Incarnation. As the disciples watched Our Lord ascend to glory, they were admonished to return to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. This is specifically what we are doing today: preparing ourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We do this through steadfast prayer and constant faith and hope. The Lord has not left us alone but sends the Spirit to teach, admonish, and bind us together. As we await the coming of the Holy Spirit, let us, like the apostles, rejoice in the glories of the Savior!

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Monday, 18 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, 19 May:**

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

**Wednesday, 20 May:**

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

**Thursday, 21 May:**

- Compline @ 6:30 pm
- Vita Communis Barn Dance @ 7:00 pm

**Friday, 22 May:**

- Mohr/Ryan Wedding Rehearsal @ 5:00 pm

**Saturday, 23 May:**

- Girls’ Guild Picnic Brunch @ 10:00 am (@ Art Hill)
- Houser Baptism @ 10:00 am
- Balderrama Baptism @ 11:00 am
- Mohr/Ryan Wedding @ 2:00 pm

**Sunday, 24 May:**

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

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**PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2026**

05/03-05/10 Kelly	05/10-05/17 Jones
05/17-05/24 Holman	05/24-05/31 Carapella
05/31-06/07 Cook	06/07-06/14 Hayward
06/14-06/21 Joseph	06/21-06/28 Blum
06/28-07/05 Wisniewski	07/05-07/12 Catalano
07/12-07/19 Kenney	07/19-07/26 Raymond
07/26-08/02 Hayes	08/02-08/09 Schuette

08/09-08/16 Filla

08/16-08/23 Petrick

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 be removed from the schedule, contact Sharon Alexander [saalexa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saalexa@sbcglobal.net).

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

Monday, 18 May – **St. Venantius**

- 6:30 am: Shane Kiser (d)
- 12:15 pm: Sharon McCormick

Tuesday, 19 May – **St. Peter Celestine**

- 6:30 am: Shane Kiser (d)
- 12:15 pm: Theresa E. Boeckman (d)

Wednesday, 20 May – **St. Bernardine of Siena**

- 6:30 am: Shane Kiser (d)
- 12:15 pm: Mark Mueller

Thursday, 21 May – **Octave of Ascension**

- 6:30 am: Shane Kiser (d)
- 12:15 pm: Rita Ohlman

Friday, 22 May – **Feria**

- 6:30 am: the Mueller Family
- 12:15 pm: the Horan Family

Saturday, 23 May – **Vigil of Pentecost**

- 8:15 am: Shane Kiser (d)

Sunday, 24 May – **Pentecost**

- 6:30 am: Pro Populo
- 8:00 am: John Mendel (d)
- 10:00 am: Br. Macarius of Jesus Christ Crucified

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~ 05/10/2026 ~	
<b>NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING</b>	
Weekly Collection Total	\$
Online Giving	\$
Total	\$
Needed	\$ 16,800.00
Year to Date Total	\$

# Sunday in the Octave of the Ascension

17 May 2026

## 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 this fall.

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## PRIESTLY ANNIVERSARY TALK FROM MSGR. MORRIS

**Thursday, 28 May @ 6:30 pm 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. The RSVP deadline was 14 May...at time of publishing there were still a few spots remaining. If you are interested in attending, and to see if there are spots available, please email [office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org). Spaces are reserved in the order they are received.

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## CELEBRATING THIRTY: 31 MAY 2026 @ 11:30 AM

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 in the Oratory Piazza (parking lot between church and school). Food and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP via email to [office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org) (please include the total number of adults and number of children attending) no later than 25 May so we can get an accurate count for the food. We hope you can join us as we celebrate Msgr. Morris!

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## SUPPORT OSGA CHESTERTON STUDENTS – PIZZA FUNDRAISER FOR SENIOR CLASS PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

Next spring, OSGA Chesterton seniors will make a pilgrimage to Rome—the heart of the Church—where they will pray, attend the sacred liturgies, and walk in the footsteps of the saints who have gone before us.

To help make this journey possible, they will be hosting a pizza fundraiser after all Masses on Sunday, 17 May, featuring St. Louis style pizza from Stefanina's, a well-loved local pizzeria known for its thin crust and signature Provel cheese topping.

Stop by the courtyard or the St. Joseph's Room to place your order and support these students in this culminating moment of their high school formation. Payment may be made by cash, check, or Venmo. Pricing: Cheese-\$10; Pepperoni-\$11; Sausage-\$12; and Bacon-\$13.

Your support will help send these students on a pilgrimage that will remain with them for a lifetime. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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## SAVE-THE-DATE: HARVEST FAIR

Saturday, 17 October 2026

Location: Oratory Piazza (parking lot between church and school)

Calling all creatives! This Autumn, the Oratory will host its inaugural Business Fair. This is an opportunity for parishioners to connect with others over shared interests

and to witness and share in others' varied industrious activities. This is an opportunity not only to source goods and services for your family from within our parish community, but to witness a reflected image of God's own creativity, in variation and abundance.

Do you have a good or service to offer fellow parishioners? If so, we'd love to consider you as a vendor for this event. Please email Mrs. Rebecca Hoven at [rebstolarski@gmail.com](mailto:rebstolarski@gmail.com) to indicate your interest! More details about this event will follow in the coming months.

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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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## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

On 18 July at the Cathedral Basilica, all are warmly invited to attend the Bicentennial Jubilee Mass at 10:00am, marking 200 years since the establishment of the Diocese of St. Louis.

The Prayer of the People is an archdiocesan-wide, prayerful and unifying initiative in preparation for this celebration. In the months leading up to the Jubilee Mass, the faithful are invited to submit personal prayer intentions, which will be gathered from across the Archdiocese and symbolically presented during the entrance procession.

Through the Prayer of the People, the faithful of every parish community will be represented in this historic moment. By bringing these intentions together, we express our commitment as one Church and entrust our prayers, hopes, and gratitude to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The faithful may submit prayer intentions (anonymously) in one of two ways: (1) online portal: intentions submitted through the secure online portal on the Bicentennial website; (2) written prayer intentions may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the rectory office until 13 July.

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# Sunday in the Octave of the Ascension

17 May 2026

## 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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## 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 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 Schneiher; 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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# Sunday in the Octave of the Ascension

17 May 2026

## WEDDING BANNS

There is a promise of marriage between:

III ~ Jack Ryan & Grace Mohr

II ~ Josh Tolluto & Sarah Gilmore

I ~ Daniel Leonardi & Barbara Cardona

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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 Dames family ~ Zach & Kimberly
- The Gibbenhuck family ~ Tyler & Katherine
- The Hankammer family ~ Benjamin & Cameryn, and Franny
- Dylan Karr
- Logan Moore
- 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; Jim & Sue Schaefer, parents of Christi Reinlein; 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

- William Robert Erdel
- Andrew Richard "Andy" Gilfoil, brother of Joe Gilfoil
- Darlene Harris, sister of Sharon Leanord & Joe Mendel
- 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, 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

### Sunday, 31 May

6:30 am Ben Schubert\*, Bill Saccente

8:00 am Kenny Buyle\*, Terry Conway, Greg Rheinheimer, Mike Blum

10:00 am John Simmons\*, Josh Cummins, Jordan Hermann, Zach Morley

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## + Altar Server Schedule: May 2026 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
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
31 May 2026	6:30	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00	Matthew Rheinheimer			
	10:00	Joseph Blum	Augustine Rennie	Leo Grizzle	Dominic Green

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## WELLSPRING OF TRADITION: THE HOLY GHOST AND OUR BLESSED MOTHER

When Easter is early, we celebrate the culmination of the Easter season, the descent of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, in May. Traditionally, May is a month during which we in the Northern Hemisphere enjoy the peak of the beauty of springtime and the new life it brings us, and hence is dedicated to our Blessed Lady and the glories of motherhood and new life that she brings to the world. This confluence is an opportunity to reflect on the intimate relationship between our Blessed Mother and the Holy Ghost. His 'overshadowing' of her was the source of the Incarnation, and as part of the preparation for that, of her Immaculate Conception, as St. Maximilian Kolbe reminded us. The theological writing on this relationship, both from the Magisterium and from individual saints and theologians, is extensive. Catholic tradition and the sacred liturgy remind us of this relationship often; and the great treasury of Catholic art: music, painting, sculpture, textiles, etc. overflow with beautiful examples.

The central event of this relationship, indeed of all of human history, is of course the Incarnation. Both St. Matthew (1:18) and St. Luke (1:35) make it clear that Jesus became flesh in Mary's womb by the power of the Holy Ghost. She is by virtue of that fact the *theotokos*, the Mother of God. We profess our faith in this event each Sunday when we sing in the *Credo: Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine* [and by the Holy Ghost was incarnate of the Virgin Mary]. To deepen our awareness of this reality, popular

Catholic tradition has long encouraged us to pray the *Angelus* each day at morning, noon, and evening. (Just now, in Paschaltide, the *Regina coeli* replaces it; but it will resume on Trinity Sunday.) On Sundays, the Holy Father prays it publicly in Latin, the Roman rite's universal language, from his window in the Apostolic Palace along with the faithful gathered below in St. Peter's Square. The prayer, woven from texts of St. Luke and St. John, was once universally known and prayed by Catholics. It is less well-known today but experiencing somewhat of a revival.

The *Angelus* succinctly outlines the key elements of Mary's life and her ongoing role in the life of us who are the Church. God calls; Mary responds. God asks her to give her life for a role that requires nearly incomprehensible faith and trust; Mary accepts God's grace and gives her assent. As a result of her acceptance, God becomes flesh in her body and—if we in turn also accept God's grace—in ours, as St. Paul tells us. (2 Cor 4:10 *et al*) She is also now a special advocate for us, a word also closely linked with the Holy Ghost, who as the eternal love between the Father and the Son is The Advocate. Of course, for her and for us, all of this happens only through the cross, death, and resurrection of her divine Son. In light of that event, we are called by God to do just what Mary did: respond to His plan for us with our own *fiat mihi*, 'let it be done to me'. N.B. emphasis is often placed on *fiat*, but equal emphasis should be on the *mihi* in that response. This consent is her active agreement to become the passive receiver of the unique grace of His divine will for her. She is the model of how God's activity plays out in the world through our giving over of our own will to His.

When our Blessed Mother appears In Sacred Scripture, there is very often an explicit reference to the active presence of the Holy Ghost. Besides the Annunciation scene just mentioned, we find it in the account of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting, 'the babe in her womb leapt for joy and she was filled with the Holy Ghost.' We find it again when the infant Christ is presented in the Temple. It is the Holy Ghost who drives Simeon to find Mary and Joseph so that he can behold the long-awaited Messiah. And of course, the public manifestation of His presence with her and the apostles in the Cenacle on Pentecost, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. (Acts 1:14 & 2:1)

The formularies for the Divine Office and both Masses of Pentecost refer to this scene in Acts 2:1. 'When the days of Pentecost were drawing to a close, they were all sitting together.' [*Dum complerentur dies Pentecostes, erant omnes pariter sedentes*] is the opening antiphon for 1st Vespers of the feast. Mary, Mother of the Church, was sitting with the apostles and other disciples in the upper room. This text and the verses following have been a frequent inspiration for artists and composers. In addition to the well-known Gregorian melody, many composers have given us settings for it. In Christian iconography, the best of the many images of this scene feature Mary at the center of the composition, with the apostles gathered around her, as described a few verses earlier in Acts 1:14. Her central presence was very fitting, because she had the most intimate relationship with the Holy Ghost, and she understood better than the rest the demands on their lives that being filled with the Holy Ghost would bring. As Pope John Paul II wrote:

The apostolic community needed her presence and that devotedness to prayer together with her, the mother of the Lord. It may be said that in the prayer with Mary, one perceives her special mediation deriving from the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Ghost. As his mystical spouse, Mary implores his coming upon the Church born from the pierced side of Christ on the cross, and now about to be revealed to the world. . . . The [Second Vatican] Council . . . adds that she herself cooperated 'in the regeneration and formation' of these 'brethren' of Christ, with her motherly love. . . . The Church's looking to Mary began in the upper room. [*The Holy Ghost Giver of Life and Love: A Catechesis on The Creed*, pp. 44f.]

Vatican Council II, in its Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen gentium*, speaks of Mary in Chapter 8 as 'beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Ghost.' At the time of Vatican II and following, there was in many places a push to discourage or downplay devotion to our Blessed Mother as somehow detracting from the focus on her divine Son and the importance of the Holy Ghost. In reality, the truth is the polar opposite. Our blessed Lady can do nothing other than point us to her divine Son and the action of the Holy Ghost in the life of the Church. Pope Paul VI later reflected on this connection and expanded the Council's teaching in the Apostolic Exhortation *Marialis cultus*:

It is sometimes said that many spiritual writings today do not sufficiently reflect the whole doctrine concerning the Holy Ghost. It is the task of specialists to verify and weigh the truth of this assertion, but it is our task to exhort everyone, especially those in the pastoral ministry and also theologians, to meditate more deeply on the working of the Holy Ghost in the history of salvation, and to ensure that Christian spiritual writings give due prominence to His life-giving action. Such a study will bring out in particular the hidden relationship between the Holy Ghost and the Virgin of Nazareth, and show the influence they exert on the Church. From a more profound meditation on the truths of the Faith will flow a more vital piety.

All the great deeds of God's saving love to which Mary consented, wonderful as they are, will not be fully effective in the world now unless we actively cooperate with God's grace, as Mary did. We must give our free assent to allow that grace to be effective in us and then through us to be effective in the world. Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis all used the image of the door and its threshold in urging us to greater faith and hope. 'So we look to the Virgin Mother that she might accompany us in this crossing of the threshold of faith and that the Holy Ghost might descend on the Church. Then, like her, we might adore the Lord and go out to proclaim the marvels that He has done among us.' The world is sorely in need of hearing the news of God's marvelous deeds. And from whom will they hear it, if not from us?

+++++

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

***Ss. Gregory and Augustine, pray for us!***

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