

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  
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- **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:**  
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- **Events:**  
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- **Knights of Columbus:**  
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- **Ushers:**  
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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**

The coming of the Holy Spirit draws us into relationship with the Triune God who is revealed to us in all glory and majesty. With the Feast of Pentecost, the apostles are armed with strength in order to fulfill the command given to them by Our Lord at His Ascension: **Go into the world and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.** It is now possible for them to do precisely that for the Holy Spirit enlivens and emboldens them in the success of their apostolic work. It is the Holy Spirit who speaks to the prophets, who overshadows Our Lady and makes Her the mother of God. It is the Spirit who leads the Lord into the desert and is present at His baptism. It is the Spirit who inspires the writers of Sacred Scripture and guarantees the infallibility of the Church through Her bishops and priests. What is clear, then, is the need to become pliable in the hands of the Holy Spirit. All those who have gone before us clearly understood their need to find their confidence and trust in the Spirit and let themselves be led wherever God desires. Now more than ever, the Church needs to find Her confidence and strength in the Holy Spirit by remaining faithful and obedient to the commands of God. The confusion of the world that has permeated the Church is from Satan and his minions who prowl the world seeking the ruin of souls. In order to find solid ground and perfect harmony we must submit to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and trust in God’s divine providence. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us strive to be men and women who become like Her, easily moved by the promptings of the Spirit. Let us pray daily: **Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Kindle in them the fire your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth!**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Monday, 25 May:**

- Memorial Day – Office Closed
- 30<sup>th</sup> Priestly Anniversary of Msgr. Morris
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

**Tuesday, 26 May:**

- Confirmation @ 7:00 pm
- Confirmation Reception @ 8:30 pm

**Wednesday, 27 May:**

- Adult Catechesis @ 4:00 pm
- Adoration/Confessions @ 5:00 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

**Thursday, 28 May:**

- Compline @ 6:30 am
- Presentation on the Priesthood @ 6:30 pm

**Friday, 29 May:**

- Talluto/Gilmore Wedding Rehearsal @ 4:30 pm
- Talluto/Gilmore Rehearsal Dinner @ 5:30 pm

**Saturday, 30 May:**

- Buckley Baptism @ 10:00 am
- Conrad Family Baptisms @ 11:30 am
- Talluto/Gilmore Wedding @ 1:00 pm

**Sunday, 31 May:**

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Confessions @ 7:30 am
- Terce @ 9:40
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration @ 11:30 am
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm

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**PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2026**

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 [saalex@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:saalex@sbcbglobal.net).

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

Monday, 25 May – **Octave of Pentecost**

8:15 am: Msgr. Morris

Tuesday, 26 May – **Octave of Pentecost**

6:30 am: Marie Sloan (d)

12:15 pm: Gloria Del Rosario

Wednesday, 27 May – **Octave of Pentecost**

6:30 am: John Mendel (d)

12:15 pm: Katie & Aden Benedick

Thursday, 28 May – **Octave of Pentecost**

6:30 am: McCormick Family

12:15 pm: Roger Dwight Voorhis (d)

Friday, 29 May – **Octave of Pentecost**

6:30 am: Decease Members of McCormick Family

12:15 pm: Candace Elie

Saturday, 30 May – **Octave of Pentecost**

8:15 am: Michelle Schen

Sunday, 31 May – **Trinity Sunday**

6:30 am: Pro Populo

8:00 am: Kim Willoughy (d)

10:00 am: Elizabeth Mary Warmick (d)

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# Pentecost Sunday

24 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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## 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 have an accurate count for the food. We hope you can join us as we celebrate Msgr. Morris!

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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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## BIRTHRIGHT FATHER'S DAY CARDS

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

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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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## NEW GUIDE BOOK/DIRECTORY

The 2026 directory is in process. If you do NOT want your phone number or address published in the upcoming directory please email the parish office no later than 26 June 2026: [office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org). Unless we are notified in writing that you do not want your information published we will proceed with publishing the information that we have on file. Also, if you have moved recently and have not notified us of your address change – please email the office prior to 26 June. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

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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

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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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### 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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### 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:

III ~ **Josh Tolluto & Sarah Gilmore**

II ~ **Daniel Leonardi & Barbara Cardona**

I ~ **Andre Chavez & Sarah Gay**

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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 Schaefer, father of Christi Reinlein; Mary Joseph Schenk, daughter of Nicholas & Elaine; Patrick Schneider; Sylvester Soldinie; Caleb & Sheila Ten Eyck; Lara

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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
- Sue Schaefer, mother of Christi Reinlein
- 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, 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

### Sunday, 7 June

- 6:30 am** Bill Saccente\*, Ben Schubert
- 8:00 am** Kenny Buyle\*, Terry Conway, Greg Rheinheimer, Jeff Martin
- 10:00 am** Jordan Hermann\*, Zach Morley, Brandon Roberts, Owen Bruns

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## + Altar Server Schedule: May – June 2026 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
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
7 June 2026	6:30	Jack Ryan			
	8:00	Castor Armesto			
	10:00	Philip Petrick	Raymond Buyle	Elijah Garvey	Robert Jones

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## WELLSPRING OF TRADITION: DULCE REFRIGERIUM

Pentecost often comes around the time of the first blast of summer heat. So when we chant the sequence *Veni Sancte Spiritus* and hear again hear St. Venantius Fortunatus's image of the Holy Ghost as *dulce refrigerium*, the image hits the mark. That description of the Holy Ghost, the ‘grateful coolness in the heat’ as one popular English translation has it, especially comes to mind when stepping inside a thick-walled church on a warm summer day and feeling the cooler air inside. It seems to rush over the body, like a heavy breath, the *spiritus* whose outpouring over the Church we celebrate at the climax of the Easter season. The heat, the pressure, the stifling air, all the intensity of summer’s activity dissipates, even if just for a moment, and a feeling of calm and peace settle in my body. In that moment, it is easy to imagine that sensation might be an early glimpse of that *refrigerium* that we pray in the Roman Canon God will grant to the dead. Then all the burdens and oppression of this life will be lifted, and then we will enjoy the comforting presence of the Holy Ghost without interruption. With its complements, light and peace, it’s a very satisfying thing indeed.

This image fits well with other titles and images for the Holy Ghost: Consoler, Advocate, Sanctifier. He is the giver of gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, fear of/respect for the Lord. All of these attributes flow to us from a Person who enables us to reach a state of contemplation, of basking in the quiet calm of being in the presence of God. It is a transforming experience, and once it takes hold completely, as it has done in the lives of many martyrs and saints following the example of our Lord before them, no pressure or pain or suffering or problem in this world can disturb it. Armed with this certainty, martyrs can readily stand firm against the attacks and tortures of their persecutors, no matter how horrid or mind-numbing they seem to us as we learn about them. Saints are sustained in the face of adversity, persecution, and failure, because they remain so solidly grounded in the inner calm that is inherent in their awareness of the abiding presence of the Holy Ghost. The good news is that our divine Lord, who went before us to become the Way, promised us that He would make this available to us as well. He told his apostles on the eve of His passion, ‘The Advocate, the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.’ (Jn 14:26-27)

Becoming aware of the Holy Ghost’s powerful presence in our lives is an important dimension of full human development. Without that awareness, we will not reach our baptismal potential; we will not become the persons God calls us to be. To support this achievement of our full vocational potential, we are called as part of the Church, the body of Christ. The very word for Church in the scriptures and the liturgy (Latin, *ecclesia*, from the Greek *ekklesia*) means a group of people ‘called out’ from the masses. An *ekklesia* was not just any assembly; many Greek words could mean that. The word *ekklesia* was a specific political term, meaning ‘an

assembly of citizens summoned by the crier, the legislative assembly.’ In the Greek Scriptures, it was chosen to translate the Hebrew *qahal*, the chosen group ‘called together’ by God to be a public witness of His covenant with them through their worship of Him and fidelity to His Law. We are now the new Israel, the heirs of that call to worship Him in fidelity to the new covenant in the blood of His Son. And this call, this vocation, has some consequences.

First, it’s not just happenstance or expediency that finds us coming together to celebrate the liturgy. We come together because God **calls** us to come together, in this place, in this hour, by virtue of our baptism. The Holy Ghost, poured out on us in baptism, is present with us in an especially dynamic way when we come together for the sacred liturgy. In the Mass, we are present again at the sacrifice of Calvary. In the Hours of the Divine Office, we are united with the angels and the entire communion of saints in the unending praise of the Father rendered by Christ the Son in the unity of the Holy Ghost. It is the peak moment of human life, when we experience most fully a foretaste of the glory of the life to come that is our ultimate goal. And in that same peak moment, if we accept the grace on offer, we can make great progress toward that goal.

Second, by the power of this call, and by the mutual support we offer one another in the common life of the Church, we have an opportunity to actually enter into that life of glory now, although in a more limited way than in the world to come. Few come to appreciate this reality, this great gift that life in the Church can offer to those who embrace it. Too many of us become too caught up in the faults, conflicts, heartaches, and failings of our brothers and sisters. We focus on those things which divide us, which don’t satisfy our own perceptions of what is ‘good’ or ‘right.’ We readily succumb to fear, to worry, to anxiety, and other falsehoods which the devil all too easily turns to his advantage in blocking our way to the security of the loving presence of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth.

Third, we are not to keep to ourselves the good news of what the Holy Ghost now makes possible for us in the Church. Our Lord made this perfectly clear. ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will give testimony about me. And you also must give testimony, for you have been with me from the beginning.’ (Jn 15:26-27) So we who are the Church today have an obligation to be witnesses now for the Truth that makes us free. Besides the public witness of celebrating the liturgy together, the witness of our very lives should make it clear that the Holy Ghost is really and truly present in us and that presence makes all the difference in living life to the fullest. How does this happen? St. Paul tells us that the Holy Ghost’s presence in our lives is clearly evident by its fruits: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, mildness, faith, modesty, self-control, chastity.’ (Gal 5:22). We will experience true human happiness to the extent these are characteristic of our lives. And that happiness can be infectious.

In his book *Jesus of Nazareth: Part Two*, Pope Benedict speaks at some length on this duty when writing about the faith of the early Church. Confession of faith in Jesus’s resurrection is inseparable from the responsibility to be witnesses to the fact that Jesus is risen and lives now in His Church by the power of the Holy Ghost until He comes again in glory. But we were not among any of the groups of eye-witnesses to the Lord’s appearing in the flesh that St. Paul lists and then appends his own experience of the risen Jesus. So how does this play out in our lives as believers now? For an answer, Pope Benedict refers us to the well-known sermon of St. Bernard of Clairvaux that we hear in the Divine Office in Advent. St. Bernard talks of a ‘middle coming’ (*adventus medius*) between our Lord’s coming in the flesh and His coming in glory. It is a coming ‘in spirit and in power.’ Here he was coining a new phrase to express an old and venerable understanding of the Christian life: we too encounter the risen Lord now in Sacred Scripture, in the liturgy, and in the events and experiences of our lives together.

The excitement of Easter is overpowering. The death and resurrection of Jesus is not just one mystery or event among many in the life of our divine Lord. It is the central moment in human history. We take a full Paschal season of every year to focus on celebrating it, and continue that focus every Sunday. It is not possible for us to grasp it fully, because it lies outside the realm of our human experience. It is certainly no wonder the Gospel writers don’t even try to describe it. Others who were raised from the dead returned to the same normal human life they had before death. Only our divine Lord has come back from the dead to something completely new, with a body completely transformed, no longer subject to suffering or death. But whatever the reality of the resurrection entails, we know from the testimony of the apostles handed down to us through the centuries that our Lord is alive and with us still. And in some quieter moments of this prolonged celebration of the Easter mysteries, we can hear the gentle whisper of the Holy Ghost reassuring us that the hope that we have from His promise that we too will share in new life is not in vain.

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~ 05/17/2026 ~	
Weekly Collection Total	\$ 6,444.62
Online Giving	\$ 7,476.69
Total	\$ 13,921.31
Needed	\$ 16,800.00
Year to Date Total	\$ 873,523.24

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