

# CONGRATULATIONS

## TO THE REV. MSGR. C. EUGENE MORRIS

### ON YOUR 30<sup>TH</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY



The Oratory of Ss. Gregory & Augustine would like to congratulate Monsignor Morris on his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the priesthood. We are eternally grateful to him for his work and dedication not only to the Oratory but to Holy Mother Church. The growth of our Oratory and the beauty of our community is the fruit of his work and reflects his love of God, the Catholic Church, and the priesthood.

Thank you, Monsignor, for your hard work and dedication! You are a blessing to us and to all who are impacted by your priesthood and fidelity!

*31 May 2026*

## 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  
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- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller  
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- **Facilities Manager:** Ben Schubert  
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- **Auxiliary:** Anna Kalinowski  
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- **Almonry of Ss. Gregory & Augustine:**  
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- **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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- **Young Adults:**  
[youngadults@oratorysga.org](mailto:youngadults@oratorysga.org)
- **Online Giving:**  
<https://www.osvhub.com/st-louis-latin-mass>

### CONTACT US

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7230 Dale Avenue, Richmond Heights, MO 63117

**FROM THE RECTOR**

The mysteries of Christ are inexhaustible. Lifetimes of contemplation would never deplete the Wisdom of God and the new life given to us through the redemptive work of Christ. It is blessing of this well-spring that strengthens us to continue to strive for holiness that God is the infinite well-spring of mercy, love, and holiness into which we have been invited by Christ. Today’s celebration of the Most Holy Trinity places before us the central, foundational mystery of our Catholic lives: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit from whom all goodness comes and this same Trinity of persons to whom we all desire to return. In Her wisdom and love, our mother the Church provokes our hearts and minds to a contemplation of the Trinity immediately after celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Abbot Rupert, writing in the twelfth century, beautifully expresses this wonderful relationship: **“As soon as we have celebrated the coming of the Holy Ghost, we hail in song the feast of the Holy Trinity, the following Sunday, a well-chosen place in the calendar, for immediately after the descent of the Holy Spirit, preaching and conversion began and faith through baptism and confession in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”** How blessed to have revealed to us this perfect communion of persons. Let us also be mindful of the great responsibility bestowed upon us at our own baptisms into this blessed communion to go and preach, teach and baptize in name of the Triune God. So too, let us work to live peacefully with one another recognizing that our call to community is not rooted in good social order, but rather in the mystery of the communion that is the Holy Trinity. Take time this week to revisit the Sacred Scripture from today’s Holy Mass and strive to enter more deeply into this great and august Mystery!

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Monday, 1 June:**

- Server Training @ 4:30 pm
- Girls’ Guild @ 4:30 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

**Tuesday, 2 June:**

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

**Wednesday, 3 June:**

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

**Thursday, 4 June:**

- Priestly Holy Hour @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

**Friday, 5 June: First Friday**

- Church Cleaning @ 7:30 am
- Cardona/Leonardi Rehearsal @ 10:30 am
- Eucharistic Adoration @ 1:00 pm
- Confessions @ 5:00 pm
- Holy Mass @ 6:30 pm
- Vita Communis Gathering @ 7:30 pm

**Saturday, 6 June: First Saturday**

- First Holy Communion @ 8:15 am
- Cardona/Leonardi Wedding @ 2:30 pm

**Sunday, 7 June:**

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Confessions @ 7:30 am
- Coffee Hour @ 9:00 am
- Terce @ 9:40 am
- **Corpus Christi Procession @ 11:30 am**
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm

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**PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2026**

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 quit the schedule contact Sharon Alexander saalexa@sbcglobal.net

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, 1 June – FERIA**

- 6:30 am: Poor Souls in Purgatory
- 12:15 pm: William H. Kuhlmann (d)

**Tuesday, 2 June – Ss. Marcellinus, Peter, & Erasmus**

- 6:30 am: William H. Kuhlmann (d)
- 12:15 pm: Matthew Schnur

**Wednesday, 3 June – FERIA**

- 6:30 am: William H. Kuhlmann (d)
- 12:15 pm: Rosalie Cenni

**Thursday, 4 June – Corpus Christi**

- 6:30 am: John Mendel (d)
- 12:15 pm: William H. Kuhlmann (d)

**Friday, 5 June – Octave of Corpus Christi**

- 6:30 am: William H. Kuhlmann (d)
- 12:15 pm: The Horan Family
- 6:30 pm: Kristy Clark (d)

**Saturday, 6 June – Octave of Corpus Christi**

- 8:15 am: William H. Kuhlmann (d)

**Sunday, 7 June – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/External Solemnity of Corpus Christi**

- 6:30 am: Rev. Larry Huber (d)
- 8:00 am: Msgr. C. Eugene Morris
- 10:00 am: William H. Kuhlmann (d)

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# Trinity Sunday

31 May 2026

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

The Oratory community is celebrating Msgr. Morris' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the priesthood 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. We hope you can join us as we celebrate Msgr. Morris!

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## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Congratulations to all those who graduated this spring from grade school, high school, and college. Blessings to the parents, family, and friends who sustained and supported all the recent graduates from the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine. Know of the prayers of this whole community as you move to the next phase of your life and your on-going journey with the Lord and Holy Mother the Church

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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 this fall.

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## SUMMER SCHEDULE (29 JUNE -14 AUGUST)

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

Birtheright 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, Birtheright 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 Birtheright 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 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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**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.

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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**

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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**THE ORATORY VESTIBULE**

The Rector of the Oratory has requested that any materials left in the vestibule of the Oratory be approved before dissemination. This permission includes materials deemed pious and worthy by the individual leaving the materials. To the person(s) who continues to leave material related to the Miraculous Medal, please contact the Rector of the Oratory before leaving any more materials. The material that has been left has been collected and is being kept in the Oratory offices. This will continue to be the practice of any, and all, materials left in the vestibule or at the doors of the Church without permission: the material will be confiscated or disposed of completely.

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**WEDDING BANNES**

There is a promise of marriage between:

- III ~ Daniel Leonardi & Barbara Cardona
- II ~ Andre Chavez & Sarah Gay
- I ~ John Jones & Danielle Murphy

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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 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 & godmother of Gregory Latham
- David M. Smith, brother-in-law of Carol Smith

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**USHERS’ SCHEDULE**

**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

**Sunday, 14 June**

- 6:30 am** Jim Alexander\*, Bill Saccente
- 8:00 am** Terry Conway\*, Greg Rheinheimer, Jeff Martin, Kip Babington
- 10:00 am** Zach Morley\*, Brandon Roberts, Owen Bruns, Josh Cummins

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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
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

**FIRST FRIDAY/FIRST SATURDAY**

5 June 2026	6:30 pm	Castor Armesto	Thomas Koschmeder	Cabhan Ten Eyck	Robert Jones
6 June 2026	8:15 am	Avery Blaxton	Paul Keys	George Blaxton	Scott Fowler

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**WELLSPRING OF TRADITION: THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI**

The feast of Corpus Christi is not an ancient one. It was first celebrated in 1247 in the diocese of Liege (in today’s Belgium), at the urgent plea of an Augustinian Prioress, St. Juliana of Mont Cornillon (AD 1193-1258). From her youth she had a recurring vision of the moon that was full and beautiful, but marked by a black spot that signified that there was no joyous celebration of the Eucharist in the otherwise complete Church calendar. She began sharing her vision and prevailing upon local clergy and their superiors to inaugurate the celebration of the feast. Over the next several decades, her efforts enjoyed limited success, in varying degrees, as the politics of Church and state in Germany were altered by the relationship of the emperor and the papacy. In 1261, the one-time Archdeacon of Liege and a friend of St Juliana became Pope Urban IV. She appealed again to him to make the feast a universal one.

In 1263, her efforts received a boost when Peter of Prague, a German priest, stopped at the Church of St. Christina in Bolsena during a pilgrimage to Rome to offer Holy Mass. Although a holy and devout man, he had doubts about the Real Presence. These doubts were completely resolved when the Host he consecrated during that Mass began to bleed. He rushed to meet Pope Urban IV in Orvieto, bringing the Host with him. The Duomo (Cathedral) of Orvieto commemorates the miracle and now houses the blood stained corporal that Peter of Prague used. The following year, Pope Urban extended the feast to the universal Church. However, he died shortly thereafter and it was not until Clement V re-published Urban’s decree in 1311 that the feast really took hold.

St. Juliana composed the first office for the original celebration of the feast in the diocese of Liege with the aid of a monk named John, and much of it is still preserved. This office was rooted more in devotional and theological texts, stressing the emotional value of the enduring presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The Cistercians found this too simple and emotional, and composed another office. In Germany, several rhyming offices were developed. Although still debated by many, it was likely St. Thomas Aquinas (1225—1274) who arranged a Roman office between 1261 and 1263 for a special celebration of the feast in Orvieto in 1264, around the time when Urban IV extended the feast to the universal church in view of his impending death. Sometime after he died, a new Roman office was composed. After much debate during the 20c, most scholars now accept that St. Thomas was the author of this office. This formulary, drawing heavily on themes St. Thomas develops in his famous sermon *Homo quidam fecit cenam magnam*, contains some of the finest liturgical texts ever written, and is the source of the texts we still use today for this feast. They

remained—almost singularly—unscathed during the horrendous devastation of Urban VIII’s humanistic demolition of the breviary hymns. And Bugnini’s butchers left much of it intact in creating the new Divine Office for the Liturgia Horarum (Liturgy of the Hours) as a rare exception to their normal practice. To have survived both of these iconoclastic periods of liturgical havoc is powerful testimony to the quality of St. Thomas’s texts and the high regard in which they are held.

As anyone familiar with this enduring formulary will know, St. Thomas relied heavily on sacred scripture, and especially the psalms, in choosing his texts. He has magnificently expressed the jubilant character of the day, especially in his famous hymns, most notably in *Sacris Solemniis*, which is sung at Matins and often sung during the procession:

Sacris solemniis juncta sint gaudia,	Great is the festive day, joyful and jubilant,
Et ex praecordiis sonent praeconia;	Let us with loving hearts offer the song of praise;
Recedant vetera, nova sint omnia,	Freed from the sinful past, may we renew in grace
Corda, voces, et opera.	All our thoughts and words and deeds

The fifth stanza of *Sacris Solemniis*, beginning *Panis Angelicus* (Bread of the Angels), usually accompanied by its doxology, *Te Trina Deitas*, has been used for centuries as a separate hymn in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. It is known and cherished widely among Christians of many denominations. Besides the superb chant melody, musical settings include those of Cesar Franck (1890), of the French Jesuit Louis Lambilotte (1855), and the powerful four-part setting usually ascribed to C. Casiolini—but which should be more correctly credited to Jacopo Tomadini (1883).

At Vespers we chant the most well-known hymn by St. Thomas, *Pange Lingua Gloriosi Corporis Mysterium* (Praise, O tongue, the mystery of the glorious Body). The last two stanzas of this hymn, *Tantum Ergo* and *Genitori* (the doxology) are sung everywhere at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The best-known musical setting of this hymn has remained the Gregorian chant melody (Mode III) in the *Antiphonale Romanum*. St. Thomas modeled this hymn on the Passiontide hymn *Pange lingua gloriosi proelium certaminis* of St. Venantius Fortunatus.

For Lauds, St. Thomas wrote the hymn *Verbum Supernum Prodiens* (The Divine Word coming forth). Pius Parsch remarked in his liturgical commentary that the famous composer of Latin hymns, Jean-Baptiste de Santeul, (+1697) said he would give everything he ever wrote to be the author of this hymn. As with the other hymns above, the penultimate stanza plus the doxology has become a favorite song and prayer on its own:

O salutaris hostia,	O saving host, o bread of life,
Quae caeli pandis ostium,	Thou goal of rest from pain and strife,
Bella praemunt hostilia:	Embattled are we, poor and weak:
Da robur, fer auxilium.	Grant us the strength and help we seek.

Many of the antiphons for the feast have become famous as well. *O Sacrum Convivium*, the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers, has long been a favorite of composers, and is also the prayer prescribed in the *Roman Ritual* for the celebrant to pray after Holy Communion has been distributed and the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle.

At Holy Mass, the words *Exsultate—jubilate* of the Introit psalm verse announce the theme of today’s feast and of the procession which follows. The psalm from which these words have been taken was once sung at the feast of Tabernacles, which was celebrated in the open, in tents constructed of boughs in memory of the tent-life of Israel in the desert. Hence it also refers to the dwelling of God with us in the desert of this world, and to today’s festive procession in the open over a path often decorated with boughs and flowers. Today Mother Church’s heart overflows with joy—with joy that extends beyond the confines of the church building. All Nature is to exult with her. And, conversely, Nature, with her trees now wearing their most beautiful green, with her wreaths and garlands, is allowed to make a solemn entry into the church. For this is also her festal day. From Nature the Saviour has selected the two species, bread and wine, under the appearance of which He gives Himself to us.

The melodies for St. Thomas’s texts have been borrowed from earlier Sundays or feasts; the Introit, for instance, has received both text and melody from the Monday in Whitsun Week. The melody sounds like the joyous ringing of bells. The famous Sequence of St. Thomas Aquinas in superb language enunciates the dogma of the Holy Eucharist. Its accompanying melody was composed by Adam of St. Victor (+ca. 1192). In its original form it was a hymn to the cross, for which the Alleluia *Dulce lignum* (3 May) supplies the initial motif. If done well, this Sequence takes a comparatively short time to sing. (E.g., at Beuron this chant is sung in six minutes.)

Dom Dominic Johner, OSB, comments on today’s *Graduale* chants: ‘Through Holy Orders priests—and they alone—have received the power to offer the Sacrifice of the New Covenant. Consequently, their lives must be holy. But they act *in persona Christi* as the mediators of *our* Sacrifice, and for this reason we, too, must be holy. Let bread, wine, and incense be the symbols of our labor, our prayer, and our sacrificial spirit. If we rise superior to selfishness, to worldly pleasure, to the world’s way of thinking and acting, and go up to the altar of sacrifice with hearts vibrant with pure love of God, like incense, which seeks only what is above and is consumed for God, then are we a kingly priesthood, a holy nation. The melody borrowed from Whitsunday in a rather good adaptation fits fairly well to the text whose content is related to it.’

+++++

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

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