

THE ORATORY OF SAINTS

GREGORY & AUGUSTINE



Welcome to the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine

The Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine is pleased to welcome you. We are an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis faithful to the teachings of the Church and striving to grow as a family of faith through the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass and other Sacraments.

In the First Book of *The Confessions*, the other great St. Augustine (of Hippo) wrote the following: "Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee." Whether you are curious about the traditional Latin Mass and interested in exploring its beauty, searching for a parish community where you and your family will feel at home, or seeking rest for your heart, we hope that the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine can provide that respite for you.

Our bulletin serves to provide information about the weekly activities occurring here at the Oratory. Along with our website (www.stlouislatinmass.com), the bulletin is your point of contact with the ever-increasing activities at the Oratory. I hope this will give you some sense of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. I am delighted that God has brought you here! *Oremus pro invicem!* ~ The Very Reverend Monsignor C. Eugene Morris, Rector

MASS AND SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses

- 6:30 am (Low Mass)
- 8:00 am (Low Mass)
- 10:00 am (High Mass)

Weekday Masses **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

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

Confession **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

- Monday thru Friday: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 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 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays of the month beginning at 10:00 am. Families expecting newborns and anticipating that they will be baptized here at the Oratory should schedule their baptism at the earliest convenience by contacting the Oratory office.

Adult Baptism – If you are interested in becoming Catholic or if you are an adult Catholic not yet confirmed, please contact the Oratory office for more information about adult catechesis.

Matrimony – Please contact the Oratory office at least six months prior to the desired date for the rite of marriage. The date is reserved after consultation and confirmation from the Rector of the Oratory.

Extreme Unction/Visitation of the Sick – Contact the Oratory to arrange the sacrament either at home or in the hospital.

STAFF/ORGANIZATIONS

- **Rector:** Msgr. C. Eugene Morris
rector@oratorysga.org
- **Vice-Rector:** Fr. Michael Rennier
vicerector@oratorysga.org
- **Deacon:** Deacon Steve Pieper, MD
deacon@oratorysga.org
- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller
office@oratorysga.org
- **Facilities Manager:** Ben Schubert
facilities@oratorysga.org
- **Auxiliary:** Anna Kalinowski
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- **Almonry of Ss. Gregory & Augustine:**
almonry@oratorysga.org
- **Altar and Rosary Society:**
altarandrosary@oratorysga.org
- **Altar Servers:**
servers@oratorysga.org
- **Choir:**
choir@oratorysga.org
- **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD):**
ccd@oratorysga.org
- **Co-Op:**
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- **Events:**
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- **Knights of Columbus:**
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- **Schola:**
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- **Ladies Schola:**
ladies_schola@oratorysga.org
- **Troops of Saint George:**
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ostiarii@oratorysga.org
- **Young Adults:**
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 virtue of humility is difficult to cultivate in any age, but particularly difficult for modern man because he is convinced of his own power and ability. Humility is the cardinal virtue because it engenders in us a docility to God's Divine Providence and an obedience to His commands and laws. As is often preached here at the Oratory, the modern age is collapsing because people refuse to be governed. Everyone believes he is his own master and is free to do as he pleases. The devastation that his idea has wrought is constantly ignored: broken families, promiscuity, the scourge of abortion and contraception, the dominance of the homosexual ethos, the emptiness of our Churches, and the confusion preached by priests and bishops alike. This refusal to be obedient is most devastating for the Church precisely because She needs to be the guard rails for humanity, guiding God's faithful on the path that is straight and narrow, the only path that leads to peace and joy. As the Church has failed, society continues to give in to its depravity. There is, however, always hope because Christ is victorious once for all. This victory is real and true even when men elect a different path. We must put aside our hubris, arrogance, and disobedience and embrace the law of God which is His love written in our hearts. When we are truly honest, we know that apart from God we can do nothing. We must conquer all our prideful impulses and submit with joy to the will of God. In our humility we will be better instruments of God's grace for our own salvation and the salvation of the whole world.

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UPCOMING EVENTS**SUMMER SCHEDULE****Monday, 3 August:**

- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 4 August:

- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, 5 August:

- Gibson/Minyard Wedding Rehearsal @ 4:00 pm
- Adoration/Confessions @ 5:00 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

Thursday, 6 August:

- Gibson/Minyard Wedding @ 2:30 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 am

Friday, 7 August: Offices Closed

- Adoration @ 1:00 pm
- Confessions @ 5:00 pm
- Holy Mass @ 6:30 pm
- Vita Communis @ 7:30 pm

Saturday, 8 August:

- Jones (Gabe & Sarah) Baptism @ 10:00 am
- Rolwes (Adam & Gianna) Baptism @ 11:00 am

Sunday, 9 August:

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Confessions @ 7:30 am
- Blessing of items after 8:00 am Holy Mass
- Terce @ 9:40
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm

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PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2026-2027

07/26-08/02 Hayes	08/02-08/09 Schuette
08/09-08/16 Filla	08/16-08/23 Petrick
08/23-08/30 D'Cunha	08/30-09/06 Henry
09/06-09/13 Stolarski	09/13-09/20 Kiser
09/20-09/27 Santschi	09/27-10/04 Buyle
10/04-10/11 Agnew	10/11-10/18 Grizzle

10/18-10/25 Leljedal

11/01-11/08 Turntine

11/15-11/22 Kelly

11/29-12/06 Holman

12/13-12/20 Cook

12/27-01/03 Joseph

01/10-01/17 Wisniewski

01/24-01/31 Kenney

02/07-02/14 Hayes

10/25-11/01 Haulard

11/08-11/15 Jones

11/22-11/29 Carapella

12/06-12/13 Hayward

12/20-12/27 Blum

01/03-01/10 Catalano

01/17-01/24 Raymond

01/31-02/07 Schuette

02/14-02/21 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 please contact Sharon Alexander via email at: saalex@sbccglobal.net.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, 3 August – ***Finding of the body of St. Stephen***

12:15 pm: Donald George Mueller (d)

Tuesday, 4 August – ***St. Dominic***

12:15 pm: Poor Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, 5 August – ***Dedication of Our Lady of Snows***

12:15 pm: Sr. Maria Veronica

Thursday, 6 August – ***the Transfiguration***

12:15 pm: John Mendel (d)

Friday, 7 August – ***St. Cajetan/Sacred Heart***

12:15 pm: Edward & Margaret Sweeney (d)

6:30 pm: Jim & Bernice Smith (d)

Saturday, 8 August – ***St. John Mary Vianney***

8:15 am: Eva Susovica (d)

Sunday, 9 August – ***11th Sunday after Pentecost***

6:30 am: Pro Populo

8:00 am: John Mendel (d)

10:00 am: Juraj Susovica

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MEN'S SCHOLA

The Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine is pleased to welcome Raymond Spiotta as the new precentor for the Men's Schola. Most recently Raymond has been on faculty at St. Martin's Academy in Fort Scott, Kansas. Raymond holds a B.A. degree from Hillsdale College and M.A. from the Polis Institute. Prior to teaching at St. Martin's Academy, Raymond taught several years at Classical charter-schools in the Phoenix and Dallas areas, and did a two-year stint in Jerusalem, where he honed his Greek, learned Hebrew, and came to know the land he'd always read about in Scripture. He brings to the schola expertise in Language, History, Holy Scripture, and most especially sacred chant.

The Oratory also wants to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Murphy for his service as precentor of the schola for the last year and a half. During his tenure, Kevin expanded the number of participants in the schola, instructed young men in sacred chant, and continued the good work of the celebrating the Divine Office here at the Oratory. Kevin will continue to be a part of the schola as he also completes further studies in Sacred Theology at the Augustine Institute. Please pray for Kevin and his wife Greta as they begin this new chapter of their lives as husband and wife.

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FESTIVAL OF SAINT LOUIS: 25 August 2026

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

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COFFEE HOUR

PLEASE NOTE: Effective immediately, we are pausing the 8am and 10am coffee hours for the remainder of the summer. We are navigating a lot of projects this summer with virtually no space so we need the SJR as we navigate all of the projects. **We will resume the normal coffee hour schedule on the Sunday after the Assumption (8/16/26). Thank you for your understanding.**

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COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Oratory Communication Committee is in need of an individual who is interested in helping us with social media communications. If you're creative, comfortable working with Canva, social media, and video, a team player, and interested in supporting our community and sharing the Faith, please email the committee at communications@oratorysga.org.

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IMAGE OF GOD INSTITUTE

Michael and Heather Vento of the Image of God Institute Invite you to Join us for A Benefit Dinner celebrating 10 years: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 at Orlando's in

Maryland Heights. The evening will feature keynote speaker Bart Schuchts, from The John Paul II Healing Center and Church on Fire; honoring Frank Gallagher with a Legacy Award and Emcee Thomas Cobb. Please visit imageofgodinstitute.org for more information and to purchase tickets, tables, and sponsorships

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SUMMER SCHEDULE (29 JUNE -14 AUGUST)

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 office 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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CHURCH CLEANING HELP NEEDED

The Altar & Rosary Society is in need of more volunteers who are willing to clean the main sanctuary, the side altars, and the sacristies. We do this on the first Friday of each month between the 6:30am and 12:15pm Masses. It is a simple dust, sweep, and mop; nothing too strenuous! If you would like to volunteer, or for more information, please contact Erin Turntine at altarandrosary@oratorysga.org.

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2026 MASS INTENTIONS ** UPDATED NOTICE **

PLEASE NOTE: the Mass intention calendar for the Oratory 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.

Fr. Rennie has his calendar set up for the coming schoolyear at Chesterton. If you would like to schedule a Mass intention for the chapel at Chesterton please email Fr. Rennie directly at vicerektor@oratorysga.org.

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FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration takes place every First Friday afternoon 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.

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SAVE-TH-DATE: HARVEST FAIR

Saturday, 17 October 2026 in the 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 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 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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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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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 for your cooperation.

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BLESSING OF ITEMS

As a reminder, the blessings of religious items will take place after the 8:00 am Holy Mass at St. Joseph Altar on the 2nd Sunday of each month. 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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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.

Please register with the Oratory and confirm class times and days. Generally, catechumens who are actively in formation meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 4:00-5:15 pm in the St. Joseph Room (rectory basement). If you are not currently in formation and would like to begin attending the classes please contact the office.

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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WHAT ARE STOLE FEES?

It is customary in the Catholic Church for the provision of the clergy to offer “stole fees,” at baptisms, weddings, funerals, or the blessing of homes. These stipends form a part of the compensation for the clergy. Most priests don’t want to sound greedy or ungrateful, so stole fees are not often mentioned or taught about, but because people are not aware of them, the faithful usually find it helpful to learn that they do exist (and that the priests are grateful for your generosity!).

These fees are *not* obligatory but are given as a sign of appreciation and support for the clergy’s work. The Catholic Church emphasizes that these fees should not be seen as payment for sacraments, which are free gifts of God. The clergy at the Oratory are particularly keen to make clear that no one who asks for a sacrament will ever be denied for lack of a stole fee.

10th Sunday after Pentecost

2 August 2026

In our archdiocese, there are suggested amounts that people usually give, and that information will be shared with you by the office when the event is scheduled. Thank you!

There is a promise of marriage between:

III ~ Daniel Minyard & Grace Gibson

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 Greg & Nancy Latham; Heath Cheaney, son of Michael & Jaime; Jeanmarie DeCoster; Donna Hagan; Donna Kavanaugh, mother of Carla Filla; Dotty Kuhlmann, mother of Donna Mueller; Greg Latham; Mary McMahan; Michael Norfleet, son of Marsha Norfleet; Ramona Rosales; Elizabeth Ryan; Jim Schaefer, father of Christi Reinlein; Karen Saykes; Mary Joseph Schenk, daughter of Nicholas & Elaine; Patrick Schneider; Henry Schubert, nephew of Ben Schubert; Kevin Smith, husband of Carol Smith; Caleb & Sheila Ten Eyck; Lara Trudell, daughter of Sharon and Jim Alexander; Renee Weidner; and Msgr. Witt.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

- William Robert Erdel
- Darlene Harris, sister of Sharon Leanord & Joe (Mary) Mendel
- George H. Morgan, father of Robert (Kim) Morgan
- David E. O’Gorman, Sr., husband of Mary Ann O’Gorman and father of David O’Gorman, Jr.
- Rolando Rosales, Sr., father of Rolando (Ramona) Rosales, Jr., and grandfather of Jennifer Rosales
- Sue Schaefer, mother of Christi Reinlein
- David M. Smith, brother-in-law of Carol Smith
- Patrick Paul Weber, brother of Dennis (Julie) Weber

USHERS’ SCHEDULE

Sunday, 2 August

6:30 am Ben Schubert*, Bill Saccente

8:00 am Terry Conway*, Greg Rheinheimer, Jeff Martin, Joe Thomas

10:00 am Grant Hofmann*, Adam Rolwes, Charlie Raymond, Ethan Lamons

Sunday, 9 August

6:30 am Ken Jones*, Jim Alexander

8:00 am Greg Rheinheimer*, Jeff Martin, Joe Thomas, Kip Babington

10:00 am Adam Rolwes*, Charlie Raymond, Ethan Lamons, John Simmons

Sunday, 16 August

6:30 am Ben Schubert*, Evan Adair

8:00 am Jeff Martin*, Joe Thomas, Kip Babington, Mike Blum

10:00 am Charlie Raymond*, Ethan Lamons, John Simmons, Tom Gates

Sunday, 23 August

6:30 am Chris Bauman*, Brayden Bauman

8:00 am Joe Thomas*, Kip Babington, Mike Blum, Ken Catalano

10:00 am Ethan Lamons*, John Simmons, Tom Gates, Jordan Hermann

+ Altar Server Schedule: August 2026 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
2 August 2026	6:30 am	Jack Ryan			
	8:00 am	Benedict Armesto			
	10:00 am	John Morgan	Michael Norfleet	George Blaxton	Dominic Green
9 August 2026	6:30 am	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00 am	Leo Grizzle			
	10:00 am	Philip Petrick	Raymond Buyle	Elijah Garvey	Robert Jones
16 August 2026	6:30 am	Jack Ryan			
	8:00 am	Matthew Rheinheimer			
	10:00 am	Michael Rennie	Paul Keys	Theodore Grizzle	Stefan Noble
23 August 2026	6:30 am	Ben Schubert			
	8:00 am	Peter Blum			
	10:00 am	Sebastian Petrick	Joseph Fowler	Silas Buyle	Sean Kenney

FIRST SATURDAY/ FIRST FRIDAY

1 August 2026	8:15 am	Sebastian Petrick	Paul Keys	George Blaxton	Dominic Green
7 August 2026	6:30 pm	Castor Armesto	Michael Norfleet	Benedict Armesto	Stefan Noble

WELLSPRING OF TRADITION: BLOOD AND FIRE--A REFLECTION ON MARTYRS AND MARTYRDOM

Blood is powerful, both as a liquid that sustains life and as a potent symbol of power, of love, and of life itself. The deliberate and needless spilling of it, especially to the ultimate end of a life, remains one of the few evils still recognized as such in our modern society's increasingly relativistic code of ethics. The Oratory celebrates our foundation anniversary on a feast day dedicated to that most important spilling of blood in human history, the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ (1 July). Through the centuries since then, in various persecutions and wars, the blood of many others has been spilled in defense of and in opposition to the God-Man who died and was raised again in a glorified body.

Taken from the Greek word *martys* (μάρτυς), the basic meaning of the word martyr is a witness; but it has come to mean one who dies, or at least suffers, for a belief or cause. People of many different persuasions view those who gave their lives in defense of a cause they support as heroic, as martyrs. More often than not, however, it is used in a religious context to describe those who choose to die rather than deny the faith they hold or its tenets. Early Christians used the word to describe those who were killed for their faith during various periods of persecution. In recent years, Islamic radicals have used the term to describe those who die fighting against those who do not accept their particular version of Islam and/or their view of how the world should function under that version. For them, even choosing self-inflicted death is a form of martyrdom if done with a view to furthering their particular cause.

The Christian view of martyrdom, of course, is one that never embraces deliberate self-harm. A Christian martyr is so titled because he or she has suffered at the hands of others for being a witness to the reality of a person, to the reality of who Our divine Lord is. In July and August we celebrate several famous and not so famous martyr saints: e.g., Oliver Plunkett, Thomas the Apostle, Maria Goretti, Augustine Zhao Rong, Apollinaris, Phillip Evans, John Lloyd, Sixtus II, Lawrence, Pontian, Hippolytus, Maximilian Kolbe, Bartholomew the Apostle, David Lewis, and John the Baptist. And we remember an even longer list each day in the chanting of the Roman Martyrology at the hour of Prima. That long—and growing—list each morning is a reminder of how many people have held fast to the truth of their faith, hope, and love for Christ and His Church to the point of being willing to suffer and die rather than deny what they knew to be real. The Martyrology should also remind us that it's not only something that happened long ago.

Since childhood, I have wondered whether or not I would be able to hold fast when confronted with the agony and the torments those brave men and women have undergone. Of course, the Fathers of the Church have often pointed out that we all have an opportunity to be witnesses (martyrs) to the faith in many situations of daily life. In today's society, calmly but firmly explaining and defending the Catholic view of the world and morality in words and deeds can certainly be a form of martyrdom, as the outcome of several court cases evidence. But the example of those who are currently swelling the ranks of blood martyrs from the wars in the Middle East, which we can see on our screens in all too vivid color, makes the question far less theoretical than in years past. They challenge me anew. Knowing my own weakness, I recognize that only with a very special grace could I ever find that much strength and perseverance. It's not a question that I am eager to answer first hand.

It's not mere coincidence that we wear red on the days of our Lord's Precious Blood, on the feasts of martyrs, and on Pentecost, to symbolize blood and fire. For if we are truly fired up with the presence of the Holy Ghost in our lives, then the shedding of blood will often follow. After taking it blithely for granted throughout my life, current events make me more aware of that connection. Even the great privilege of celebrating the Sacred Liturgy is under threat in many places. Will the public celebration of it in an authentic manner be a part of our lives in future? And to what extent are we willing to suffer to share in it? The prediction of the late Cardinal George that we are likely to face these questions sooner rather than later no longer seems so unlikely. Should it ever come to that, I pray God will give me the grace of fortitude to stand fast in the faith.

(Authored by Stan Metheny)

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

Ss. Gregory and Augustine, pray for us!

Perfect Love

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