



# Alleluia

EASTER 2025

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

5750 North High Street, Worthington, OH 43085  
614-885-7814 • [www.saintmichael-cd.org](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org)

# SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Website: [saintmichael-cd.org](http://saintmichael-cd.org)

Parish Office: 614-885-7814

## MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor: Father Stash Dailey

Parochial Vicar: Fr. David Johnstone

Priest in Residence/Diocesan Judicial Vicar:

Fr. Robert Kitsmiller

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Dcn. Bill Demidovich

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## ST. MICHAEL

## PARISH SCHOOL

Website: [stmichaelworthington.org](http://stmichaelworthington.org)

School Office: 614-885-3149

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Preschool Director: Laura Wells

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## PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

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# SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER



## ADORATION CHAPEL

There is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Consider signing up for Adoration. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition each Monday from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. and from 5:00 a.m. Tuesdays until 9:00 p.m. Friday evenings. Adoration is available at all other times with the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the tabernacle. Registration is easy to do from your phone. Visit [StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com](http://StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com) to sign up or use the QR code.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are currently available to schedule for 2025. If you would like to remember a loved one in this way, please scan the QR code to order and pay online or visit the Parish Office. One should never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul, both for the living and the deceased.



## LOW-GLUTEN HOST

If you are in need of a low-gluten host, please scan this QR code for full details.



## NEW MEMBERS

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and a commitment to the life of the parish family. We are often asked to provide affidavits for parishioner standing. We can only do this if a person is a registered, active, and contributing member in our parish. You can register by scanning the QR code above or by visiting our website at [www.saintmichael-cd.org](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org).

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

To submit a bulletin request, the request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday. Send bulletin requests to [rlund@saintmichael-cd.org](mailto:rlund@saintmichael-cd.org) with "BULLETIN REQUEST" in the subject line with all details and contact person for questions. Early submission deadlines may be required surrounding holidays. All bulletin requests are subject to approval.

## HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

St. Michael's Homebound Ministry is available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound. If you or a loved one within St. Michael Parish boundaries would like someone to bring the Eucharist to you, please reach out to Sr. Riya Mary to coordinate. She can be reached by calling the Parish Office or by emailing [srriya@stmichael-cd.org](mailto:srriya@stmichael-cd.org).



## ONLINE GIVING

St. Michael offers online giving as a convenient tool for you to use. Scan the QR code to learn more or to set up online contributions.

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 25, 2025

## DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, May 24

4:00 p.m. + Joseph Doersam (The Luft Family)

### Sunday, May 25

8:30 a.m. + Thomas V. Lavin (Deacon John & Mary Crerand)  
 10:30 a.m. + Deacon Klaus Fricke (Deacon John & Mary Crerand)  
 12:30 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish  
 5:00 p.m. Special Intention of the Carmelite Sisters  
 of the Aged & Infirm (Fr. Michael Lumpe)

### Monday, May 26

6:30 a.m. + Mark Higdon (The DeCenzo Family)  
 8:15 a.m. + Fr. Ronald Schmelzer (Fr. Michael Lumpe)

### Tuesday, May 27

6:30 a.m. + Antonio Cruz & Luisa Caso Cruz (The Caso Family)  
 8:15 a.m. + Luann Toth

### Wednesday, May 28

6:30 a.m. + Louis Caso & Paula Diaz (The Caso Family)  
 8:15 a.m. For the School  
 6:00 p.m. + Attilio Russo (The Marinelli Family)

### Thursday, May 29

6:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish  
 8:15 a.m. Special Intention of the Taylor Family

### Friday, May 30

6:30 a.m. + Paul Butler (Betsy Butler)  
 8:15 a.m. Special Intention of the Stueve Family

### Saturday, May 31

8:15 a.m. Special Intention of Sr. Ave Maria, O.P.  
 (SMS 2nd Grade Class)  
 4:00 p.m. + Claudia Pena (The O'Leary Family)

### Sunday, June 1

8:30 a.m. Special Intention of Glenn Jazwicz (Lauren Jazwicz)  
 10:30 a.m. + Deacon Klaus Fricke (Jim & Cory Bracken & Family)  
 12:30 p.m. + Walter Tortora  
 5:00 p.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

## PARISH CALENDAR: MAY

<b>SUNDAY, May 25</b>	9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR)
<b>Monday, May 26</b>	Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Exposition 9:00 a.m. Memorial Day Parade & Hot Dogs 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)
<b>Tuesday, May 27</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Wednesday, May 28</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass, followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
<b>Thursday, May 29</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U)
<b>Friday, May 30</b>	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
<b>Saturday, May 31</b>	2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
<b>SUNDAY, June 1</b>	Friendship Sunday after Morning Masses 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 2:00 p.m. Baptisms (C)

To view Parish Masses & Ministry Activities in advance,  
 please view our Parish Calendar online by visiting:

[www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/).

(U) = Undercroft/Cafeteria, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym, (MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library, (UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center, (LMR) = Meeting room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center, (AC) = Adoration Chapel, (A) = Atrium

## Early Bulletin Deadlines

Please note the following early bulletin deadlines as we enter the summer season. Submissions are due at noon on the deadlines listed.

**May 25 Bulletin submissions due May 19**

**June 1 Bulletin submissions due May 21**

**June 8 Bulletin submissions due May 26**

**June 15 Bulletin submissions due May 26**

**June 22 Bulletin submissions due May 28**



± **MARRIAGE BANNS** ±

CONGRATULATIONS TO

**ROBERT SASSONE &**

**EMILY SCHREPFERMAN**

MAY 23, 2025

CELEBRATING THE

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Last weekend our local church received the great blessing of three new priests! One of the three has been with us at St. Michael serving as a deacon, Fr. Samuel Severance. Please pray for Fr. Severance and his classmates, that they may be good priests, holy priests, priests after the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

This weekend we remember all of the men and women who died in defense of our country as members of the military. An essential element of our discipleship is remembering and to remember and recall the sacrifice so many made so we can be free is a beautiful element of our civic duty as Christians. May our Memorial Day celebrations be filled with gratitude and honor for those who have paid the greatest price for our freedom.

The children of the parish, who had been preparing for their first sacraments, have all received them. We now look forward to another formation year in the faith. If your children are of the age to begin preparation for receiving their sacraments, please register them now for their proper level of formation.

Children who are three years of age and older may be enrolled in our parish's Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, this formation will prepare them for their sacraments.

Children who are in their second grade year or older may also be registered for classes.

This weekend we begin our kickoff of the parish's participation in the Annual Appeal. Our goal has been set at \$158,245.94, and our parish's enhanced goal is \$208,245.94. Any and all funds generated above the Diocesan goal come directly back to St. Michael.

May the Lord continue to bless each of you as you persevere in remaining close to Him!

In Jesus our Lord,

Fr. Stash Dailey

## AROUND THE PARISH



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# MEMORIAL DAY

Join us in praying for our fallen heroes

MONDAY, 26 MAY 2025  
DAILY MASSES AT 6:30AM & 8:15AM  
WORTHINGTON MEMORIAL DAY  
PARADE BEGINS AT 10AM

JOIN US FOR THE PARADE AND  
ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY  
LEMONADE  
AND HOT DOGS.



# *Come and Adore*

Inviting all parishioners to take an hour of Eucharistic Adoration on behalf of our parish. Time spent in the presence of Our Lord will quickly become the most fruitful part of your week & will better equip you for all that you do in your daily life. Register at [stmichael.weadorehim.com](http://stmichael.weadorehim.com) or by scanning the QR code.





## Do This in Remembrance of Me; Part 60: The Lord's Prayer, Part 2

We continue diving into the great treasure of the **Our Father**. I once met a priest who was giving a week-long retreat focusing on the Lord's Prayer. He had prepared to give two or three conferences a day over the course of a week. As he prepared his notes from meditations in prayer, he only got to the first two words: "Our Father." As Edward Sri says, "The word **Our** in this prayer also is significant. It points to the deep unity we have together by virtue of our common heavenly Father. All who are united in Christ are truly brothers and sisters in him. In Christ, Jesus' Father has become our Father and we all are the Father's children in the covenant family of God" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 124). Sit back and think for even a few minutes about what that means. God is our Father; we are his children. Amazing! If you ever need a meditation or find yourself with a few extra minutes to think and pray, just think about those two special words: "Our Father."

### Three Prayers in One

As for the rest of the Lord's Prayer, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "Essentially, it consists of three prayers for the glory of God (hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done) and an expression of the extent of that glory (on earth as it is in heaven), followed by three requests (for food, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation) and a final plea for deliverance from evil, that is, moral evil" (Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 358). Focusing on the petition for food, The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states, "In the Lord's Prayer a petition is made for daily bread, which for Christians means principally the Eucharistic Bread, and entreating also purification from sin, so that what is holy may, in truth, be given to the holy" (GIRM, 81).

### The Seven Petitions of the Lord's Prayer

While so much could be said about each of the seven petitions, Charles Belmonte gives us a brief overview of each one:

- 1. Hallowed by thy name.** "It is not that we think to make God holy by our prayers; rather we are asking God that his name be made holy in us... [W]e desire to give glory to God: that he may be loved and feared by all; that his holiness, his goodness, and his wisdom may be acknowledged everywhere."
- 2. Thy kingdom come.** "In the second petition, we desire that God may reign in everybody's will. We ask that we all may happily reach our destination in his Kingdom. We pray that the Kingdom promised to us by God will come, the kingdom won by Christ's Blood and passion..."
- 3. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** "In the third petition, we pray that all men serve and obey God on earth as he is served by the angels in heaven; and that all may always avoid sin and do what is pleasing to God..."
- 4. Give us this day our daily bread.** "In the fourth petition, we ask for whatever is necessary for nourishment, clothing, and other temporal needs; for our daily food, which for a Christian means also the Body of Christ, and for the forgiveness of sins. Thus, we can understand this petition in a spiritual and in a literal sense..."
- 5. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.** "Once we requested the needed sustenance from God's magnanimity, we ask him pardon for our sins. To be reminded that we are sinners and forced to ask forgiveness for our faults is prudent and sound..."
- 6. Lead us not into temptation.** "In the sixth petition, we ask God to keep us from falling into temptations. We should not trust our own strength; we should fear our malice and lack of constancy, lest these induce us to wander away from his grace and friendship."
- 7. Deliver us from evil.** "In the seventh petition, we ask for deliverance from the evils which afflict us and may set us away from his fatherly love... We ask to be liberated from the guilt and punishment of sin, from all snares of the devil and the world set up against us." (Understanding the Mass, pp. 170-172).

There can be no doubt that this is the greatest prayer. Jesus himself gave it to us. It reveals our special relationship with God. It thoroughly covers so many aspects of our lives. It prepares us with a healthy and real longing for union with God, through Holy Communion on earth and eternally in heaven! No wonder this prayer is found at the heart of the Mass!

### For Reflection:

1. Using a prayer journal or other medium, pray with and write or draw your response to each of the petitions in the "Our Father." Allow this way of prayer to integrate your own experiences and intentions with those of all who are united in praying, "Our Father..."
2. Deepen your appreciation of this central prayer by studying, individually or with others, the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the "Our Father" (CCC 2759-2865).

## Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 61: Embolism

If you have ever prayed together with Christians from different backgrounds, one prayer you might have prayed together is the **Our Father**. As Charles Belmonte says, "Jesus Christ himself deigned to compose this prayer to indicate how we should address God. It is our Savior's own prayer and, therefore, the prayer of the Christian. In the early Church, the Lord's Prayer was taught to the catechumens [those preparing to enter the Church through baptism] only a few weeks before baptism. Outside the Mass, it was always said in a low voice. It seemed that the faithful recited it before Communion..." (Understanding the Mass, p. 169).





The Our Father is the prayer of the Christian, the follower of Jesus. However, as we know, different groups of Christians have developed some different traditions over time. Among those traditions is what we say next after the Our Father.

## A Prayer between Prayers

As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, in the Mass, after the Our Father, the priest prays some special words called the Embolism, "asking the Lord to deliver us from evil, keep us free from sin and [distress] until the day when we see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face" (A Study of the Mass, p. 17). Most of us will probably recognize these words: "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." As the Missal says, "The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming: 'For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever'."

At the end of the Our Father, we pray for forgiveness and acknowledge our need to forgive. As we approach Jesus in the Eucharist, we anticipate a strengthening in peace that he brings. However, as Fr. Guy Oury notes, "But before the people are invited to show that they are at peace with one another, there is a sort of commentary that lingers on the final words in the Our Father ('deliver us from every evil'). Almost all Christian liturgies have this. It is called an embolism (a development placed between two prayers, from the Greek em-bal-lein, [meaning] to put in or between). The Church develops the final petition of the Lord's Prayer to ask that we be delivered from the power of evil" (The Mass, p. 109-10). As Oury continues, "The people's acclamation in response existed in almost all liturgies of the Mass. That is why the Roman liturgy adopted it in turn. It comes from the Didache or the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, a document of the Apostolic Age (first century) that gives it as a conclusion to the Our Father. Its liturgical use is very old..." (The Mass, p. 110).

## An "Extra Ending" to the Lord's Prayer?

Regarding the people's acclamation, Edward Sri writes, "This prayer is sometimes known as the Protestant ending of the Lord's Prayer. Though it is not part of the prayer that Jesus actually taught us (and fittingly is not included in the Our Father recited in the Catholic liturgy) (see [Mt 6:9-13](#); [Lk 11:1-4](#)), this prayer does have biblical roots and finds its appropriate home at this moment in the Mass. On a basic level, the prayer reflects similar acclamations found in the heavenly liturgy ([Rev 5:12](#); [19:1](#)). And when we pray it, we come in contact with the Mass of some of the earliest Christians. For these words are taken from a prayer of thanksgiving used in the celebration of the Eucharist in the first generation of Christianity after the apostles" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 128).

Does that mean that the "extra ending" of the Our Father that many other Christians pray is actually a "Catholic" ending? Yes: it came from some of the earliest celebrations of the Mass! If you look up the Our Father in your Catholic Bible, you won't find these additional words. (Some Protestant versions of the Bible may have it inserted in the text, although scholarly versions typically do not.) However, if you look in the living Tradition of Christian faith in the Catholic Church, you will find those words as part of the Mass as a commentary and response to the Our Father.

## The Biblical Roots of the Acclamation

Continuing with Sri, "the words themselves reach 1,000 years further back into the Old Testament period. They are derived from King David's climactic praise of God at the end of his reign, representing one of David's last acts as king before he passed the throne on to his son Solomon: 'Blessed are thou, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all' ([1 Chr 29:10-11](#)).

At every Mass, we echo these words of King David. In doing so, we acknowledge God as the Lord of our lives and praise him for all the blessings he bestows upon us. Whatever good we might do, whatever success we might experience, ultimately comes from God: 'For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever'" (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 128-9).

## For Reflection:

1. Meditate with the acclamations in the heavenly liturgy found in the context of [Rev. 5](#) and [19](#) and in David's prayer in the context of [1 Chr. 29](#). Reflect on how all your thoughts, words, and actions can give glory to God today.
2. Next time you participate in Mass, be mindful of other Christians and offer the Embolism as a prayer for Christian unity.

## Coming Up NEXT: Rite of Peace & Exchanging the Sign of Peace



# Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

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*The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

***"For man cannot attain that true happiness for which he yearns with all the strength of his spirit, unless he keeps the laws which the Most High God has engraved in his very nature."*** +POPE SAINT PAUL VI

**Monday, May 26 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter  
Memorial Day**

**Holy Gospel: John 15:26-16:4a** Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. “I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me. I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you.”

**Meditation:** What does Jesus tell us about the Holy Spirit? First, the Holy Spirit is inseparably one with the Father and the Son. It is the Holy Spirit who gives life – the very life of God – and who kindles faith in hearts receptive to God's word. The Spirit makes it possible for us to know God personally. He gives us experiential knowledge of God as our Father. The Spirit witnesses to our spirit that the Father has indeed sent his Son into the world to redeem it and has raised his Son Jesus from the dead and has seated him at his right hand in glory and power. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the knowledge, wisdom and plan of God for the ages and the Spirit enables us to see with the "eyes of faith" what the Father and the Son are doing. Through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit we become witnesses to the great work of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus warned his disciples that they could expect persecution just as Jesus was opposed and treated with hostility. We have been given the Holy Spirit to help us live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Spirit gives us courage and perseverance when we meet adversities and challenges. Do you pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you in faith, hope and love and to give you courage and perseverance?

**Memorial Day Prayer:** God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters. Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for the Fallen:** As our nation pauses today to remember those in the military who have given their lives for freedoms we enjoy, we pray you would have us all look to you for strength, comfort and guidance. Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them and their families. Grant your loving protection. Let peace prevail among all the nations, O God. Especially let your mercy rest upon our land, even as we acknowledge with thanksgiving your past goodness on this country. If it is your will, preserve the lives of the men and women in uniform as they defend our citizenry. Most of all, we pray that you would turn the hearts of all – military and civilian – to your holy Word where we find the true peace for our sinful souls that surpasses all understanding. Keep us repentant of sin. Move us to know, take hold and treasure your saving grace. In this peace and hope for eternity, we pray. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Have you ever given any thought as to where you turn for help and support when you most need it? True friendship is strengthened in adversity. Jesus offers his disciples the best and truest of friends. Who is this promised friend? Jesus calls the Holy Spirit our *Counselor* and *Advocate* (also translated *Paraclete* or *Helper*). Counselor is a legal term for the one who will defend someone against an adversary and who guides that person during the ordeal of trial. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate and Helper who brings us safely through the challenges and adversities we must face in this life. As Jesus

approaches the hour he was to be glorified – through his death on the cross and his resurrection – he revealed more fully to his disciples the person and role of the Holy Spirit.

**Memorial Day: A Lesson in Service and Sacrifice (by Tom McGrath, Loyola Press):** What we remember—and honor—on Memorial Day is heroic sacrifice. We acknowledge those who nobly gave of themselves, even unto death, for a purpose they believed was greater than themselves. Since the days just following the end of the Civil War, Americans have gathered in late May to honor those who died in military service to their country. In the spirit of the day, we can also recall, honor, and pray for all those we know who have lived lives of service and sacrifice for the good of others.

One definition of *sacrifice* is “the destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else.” Though suffering is always a part of sacrifice to some extent, seeking suffering for its own sake is *not* sacrifice. Sacrifice implies giving up one good for a higher good. For example, a child gives up a day of play to visit an ailing grandparent, or a parent sacrifices watching a favorite television program to help a child who is struggling with homework. Life in the family is full of opportunities for service and sacrifice.

What counts in this definition is the phrase “for the sake of something else.” Is that “something else” worthy of the sacrifice we make? True sacrifice is always at the service of life. We learn this from Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice and remained faithful through his Passion, death, and Resurrection. Jesus’ greater purpose for this sacrifice was our well-being—that we might have life and have it abundantly.

This Memorial Day, as we remember all who have served and sacrificed on our behalf, let us not forget what Jesus was willing to give up for us—and the lessons we can learn from that perfect example of sacrifice.

## **Tuesday, May 27 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter** **Optional Memorial: Saint Augustine of Canterbury**

**Holy Gospel: John 16:5-11** Jesus said to his disciples: “Now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.”

**Meditation:** Have you ever felt like God is far from you at times? Separation and loss of relationship often lead to grief and pain. The apostles were filled with sorrow when Jesus spoke about his imminent departure. Jesus explained that it was for their sake that he must leave them and return to his Father. He promised, however, that they would never be left alone. He will send in his place the best of friends, the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us that “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:39). By sending the Holy Spirit to his followers, the Lord Jesus makes his presence known to us in a new and on-going way. We are not left as orphans, but the Lord himself dwells within us through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 4:9; 6:16b). Jesus tells his disciples three very important things about the work of the Holy Spirit – to convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. The original word for convince also means convict. The Holy Spirit is our Sanctifier. He makes us holy as God is holy. He does this first by convicting us of our sin and by bringing us humbly to the foot of the Cross. The Spirit convinces us of God's love and forgiveness and of our utter dependence on God for his mercy and grace. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us from the error of our sinful ways and to show us the way of love and truth.

**Prayer:** Grant, almighty and merciful God, that we may in truth receive a share in the Resurrection of Christ your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer ~ Saint Augustine of Canterbury:** O God, who by the preaching of the Bishop Saint Augustine of Canterbury led the English peoples to the Gospel, grant, we pray, that the fruits of his labors may remain ever abundant in your Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The Jews who condemned Jesus as a heretic and blasphemer thought they were serving God rather than sinning when they crucified Jesus. When the gospel was later preached on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:37), many were pricked in their heart and convicted of their sin. What made them change their mind about Jesus? It is the work of the Holy Spirit to both convict us of wrongdoing and to

convince us of God's truth. The Spirit convinces us of the righteousness of Christ, backed by the fact that Jesus rose again and went to his Father. The Holy Spirit also convicts us of judgment. The Spirit gives us the inner and unshakable conviction that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. God's judgments are just and good. When we heed his judgments we find true peace, joy and reconciliation with God. Do you allow the Holy Spirit free reign in your life that he may set you free from the grip of sin and set you ablaze with the fire of God's love?

### **Wednesday, May 28 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter**

**Holy Gospel: John 16:12-15** Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

**Meditation:** Jesus told his disciples that he would send them the Spirit of truth who will guide you into all the truth...and declare to you the things that are to come (John 16:13). Through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit poured out on the new community of faith on the day of Pentecost, we too are able to profess the same creed which the apostles proclaimed – that Jesus died, and was buried, and rose again on the third day, and will come again to judge, raise the dead, and give everlasting life (the Apostles Creed). We not only have the same faith given to the apostles and early believers, but we have the same Spirit in us who raised Jesus from the dead. The Lord Jesus gives each of us his Holy Spirit as our divine Teacher and Helper that we may grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God. Do you listen attentively to God's word and allow his Holy Spirit to give you understanding of God's truth and will for your life?

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as we celebrate in mystery the solemnities of your Son's Resurrection, so, too, we may be worthy to rejoice at his coming with all the Saints. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** What we would all give to know all truths! Truth, however, is not something we create nor is it our discovery. It is the gift of God who is the possessor and the giver of all truth. Jesus tells his disciples that it is the role of the Holy Spirit to reveal what is true. How can this be? Skeptics of truth don't want to believe in an absolute Truth. If truth is objective then it must be submitted to as authoritative. Some fear the truth because they think it will inhibit their freedom to act and think as they wish. Jesus told his disciples that the truth will set you free (John 8:32). The truth liberates us from doubts, illusions, and fears. Since God is the source of all truth, then the closer we draw to him and listen to his word, the more we grow in the knowledge of him and of his great love and wisdom for us.

### **Thursday, May 29 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter**

#### **Optional Memorial: Pope Saint Paul VI**

**Holy Gospel: John 16:16-20** Jesus said to his disciples: "A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" So they said, "What is this 'little while' of which he speaks? We do not know what he means." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy."

**Meditation:** The world says take your joy now in whatever pleasures you can get from this present life. Jesus points to an "other-worldly" joy which transcends anything this world can offer. Jesus contrasts present sorrows with future joy. A woman in labor suffers the birth-pangs first, but then forgets her sorrow as soon as her new-born child comes to birth. We cannot avoid pain and sorrow if we wish to follow Jesus to the cross. But in the cross of Christ we find freedom, victory, and joy. Thomas Aquinas said: "No one can live without joy. That is why a man or woman deprived of spiritual joy will turn to carnal pleasures." Do you know the joy of the Lord?

**Prayer:** O God, who made your people partakers in your redemption, grant, we pray, that we may perpetually render thanks for the Resurrection of the Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer ~ Pope Saint Paul VI:** O God, who entrusted the governance of your Church to Pope Saint Paul the Sixth, a steadfast apostle of the Gospel of your Son, grant, we pray, that enlightened by his teachings, we may work together with you to spread the culture of love throughout the world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Prayer of Pope Saint Paul VI:** Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow-men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Father of Mercy, forgive my failings, keep me in Your Grace, and lead me in the way of salvation. Give me strength in serving You as a follower of Christ. May the Eucharist bring me Your Forgiveness and give me freedom to serve You all my life. May it help me to remain faithful and give me the grace I need in Your service. May it teach me the way to eternal life. Amen.

**Novena to Pope Saint Paul VI:** <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/pope-st-paul-vi-novena>

**Contemplation:** How do “weeping” and “rejoicing” go together? Jesus contrasts present sorrows with the future glory to be revealed to those who put their hope in God. For the people of Israel time was divided into two ages – the present age and the age to come. The prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah as the dawn of a new age. Jesus tells his disciples two important truths. First, he must leave them to return to his Father and second, he will surely come again at the end of time to usher in the new age of God's kingdom. Jesus' orientation for the time between his first coming and his return in glory at the end of the world is a reversal of the world's fortunes. Do you find yourself weeping and rejoicing in the Lord?

### **Friday, May 30 ~ Sixth Week in the Season of Easter**

**Holy Gospel: John 16:20-23** Jesus said to his disciples: “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.”

**Meditation:** Why does Jesus tell his disciples to weep and mourn? Jesus was neither a pessimist nor a masochist, and he was certainly more than a realist! The way to happiness and joy in the kingdom of God is through the cross. Sin must be brought to the cross of Jesus Christ and evil can only be completely mastered by the power of God's redeeming love. Jesus told his disciples that it was more blessed to mourn for sin because it would yield the fruit of peace, joy, and righteousness. Jesus knew that the cross would be a stumbling block for those who refused to believe in him. The cross for Jesus was not defeat but victory – victory over sin, over the forces of evil in the world, and over Satan, the arch-enemy of God, humankind, and all that is right and good and true.

**Prayer:** Hear our prayers, O Lord, so that what was promised by the sanctifying power of your Word may everywhere be accomplished through the working of the Gospel and that all your adopted children may attain what the testimony of truth has foretold. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** We must remember that through his death on the cross, Jesus won for us new life and freedom over the power of sin, despair, and death. The Easter victory of Jesus teaches us courage in the face of suffering and death. In the resurrection of Christ our fears are laid to rest. His resurrection is total, final triumph, and for us peace and joy at the end. We will have troubles in the present reality. Through the eyes of faith, we know the final outcome – complete victory over sin, suffering, and death in Jesus Christ. That is why we can pray confidently now, knowing that the Father will give us everything we need to live as his children and as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you know the Easter joy of Christ's victory over sin and death?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Easter* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmuehler, C.P.; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.



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Holy Guardian Angels, pray for them.

St. Joseph, powerful patron, pray for them.

St. John, much-beloved precursor of our Lord, pray for them.

St. John, adopted son of the Sorrowful Mother, pray for them.

St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for them.

St. Augustine, pray for them.

St. Anthony, pray for them.

St. Aloysius, pray for them.

St. Elizabeth, pray for them.

St. Monica, pray for them.

St. Rose of Lima, pray for them.

All you holy fathers and mothers, pray for them and for us.

All you holy children, pray for them and for us.

Amen



# **Patriarch Pizzaballa:**

## **“WE CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF GIVING UP”**

Joining his appeal for peace with the Pope’s, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, calls on the Christian community to “do everything possible to bring help” to those suffering in Gaza.

**By Kielce Gussie**

Peace was once again the word of the day on Sunday, May 18. Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, joined his voice with that of Pope Leo XIV, who during his homily and Regina Caeli greeting called for an end to violence in war-torn parts of the world.

### **ANSWER: PEACE FROM CHRIST**

“The answer is peace,” Patriarch Pizzaballa stressed in an interview with the SIR news agency. But, he emphasized, the peace the world needs is not “a political peace or merely the absence of war.” Rather, the only peace that can help the world plagued by conflict, division, and hatred is the peace “that comes from Christ.”

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem reflected on Pope Leo’s homily during the Mass of Inauguration, referencing Jesus’ words to Peter: “Do you love me?” Patriarch Pizzaballa said this became “the paradigm of Christian life, whose result is peace.”

He explained that if a person has love for God and their neighbor, then peace comes naturally. This peace, the Patriarch argued, is “the kind we all need, everywhere in the world, but especially in the Holy Land.”

### **AN ABSTRACT IDEA?**

Patriarch Pizzaballa pointed out that recently the word “peace” has been repeated many times. For many people, especially those living in places ravaged by conflict, the notion of “brotherly love” is difficult to accept. He said it “seems abstract, far removed from reality.”

Yet, the Patriarch described the Pope’s message as “a call to the entire Christian community – and I think especially of our own” to stay united. He called for this sense of solidarity to come from love of Christ and “not out of fear of the other.” This kind of love creates a chain reaction, even in the public sphere.

### **THINKING OF GAZA**

In his Regina Caeli address, Pope Leo XIV spoke of the “children, families, and elderly survivors” starving to death due to the lack of humanitarian aid reaching the enclave. In response, Patriarch Pizzaballa stressed that “we cannot afford the luxury of giving up or standing still.”

He argued that we all have the duty to help the local Christians and he issued an unambiguous directive: “We must do everything possible to bring help.”

*This article was featured on Vatican News on May 19, 2025. You can also access this article as well as other articles from Vatican News using the QR code.*





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