



Dear Parish Family,

You'll notice this month's newsletter is a little longer than usual — but June gives us so much to celebrate, we didn't want you to miss a thing!

These feasts are all beautifully connected, and each one has something important to say to our hearts.

We encourage you: take your time with it. Maybe read a little at a time, and let it be a way to stay close to the Lord throughout the month.

Also don't miss the article with details on the **parish Legacy Project** which begins very soon! Register on SignUp genius so we can be sure to have enough materials for all.

Thanks for walking this journey with us.
We're so glad you're here!

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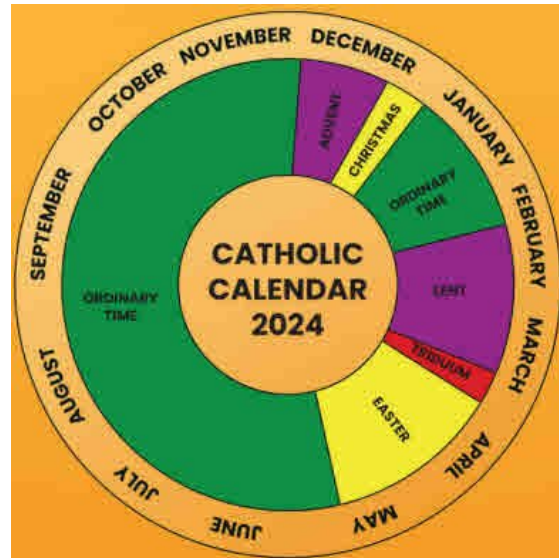
List of Feast days

Learn More: FORMED.org & HALLOW

The Liturgical Year in June: The Return to Ordinary Time

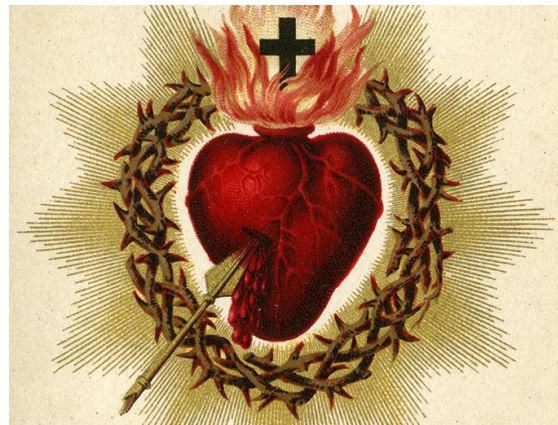
The Easter season concludes with **Pentecost** on **June 8**. We are once again back in ordinary time, but rest assured, June is not ordinary with its abundance of beautiful feast days.

The Month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will dig deeper into all of this for you below.



June: The Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Feast: June 27)

In June, the Church invites us to turn our hearts toward the Sacred Heart of Jesus — one of the most beautiful and powerful devotions in our Catholic faith. Yet many Catholics are familiar with the term without fully knowing its meaning or significance.



The devotion to the Sacred Heart focuses on the deep, boundless love of Jesus Christ for all humanity. His Heart symbolizes not just His emotions, but His very being — burning with love, pierced for our salvation, and open to all who seek refuge in Him.

The modern form of this devotion was revealed by Jesus Himself to **St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**. In a series of visions, Jesus showed St. Margaret Mary His Heart, surrounded by thorns (symbolizing our sins) and burning with love. He asked her to promote devotion to His Heart as a way for souls to return love for love — to make reparation for

the indifference, ingratitude, and coldness He often receives.

Through St. Margaret Mary, Jesus gave twelve promises to those who honor His Sacred Heart, including:

- **Peace in their families**
- **Comfort in their sorrows**
- **Strength in their labors**
- **Blessings upon their homes**
- **A secure refuge at the hour of death**

The devotion particularly encourages:

- Receiving Holy Communion on the **First Fridays** of nine consecutive months
- Honoring the image of the Sacred Heart
- Making acts of reparation for offenses against His love
- Spending time in prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

The reminds us that Christianity is not simply a set of beliefs, but a relationship with the living Heart of Jesus — a Heart that loves, suffers, and longs for us in return.

For a further explanation of the devotion including all 12 promises click [here](#).

[FORMED.org](#) offers this perspective on the devotion: [Strengthening Your Marriage and Family Through the Sacred Heart.](#)



The Holy Spirit: Our Sanctifier and Guide to

Pentecost (June 8)

As we celebrate Pentecost this June, we are reminded of the wondrous gift of the Holy Spirit — not only sent to the Church as a whole, but also to each of us personally. In reflecting on the writings of Archbishop Luis M. Martínez in *The Sanctifier**, we are invited into a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit's intimate work in our souls.

Martínez describes the spiritual life as a "mutual possession" between the soul and the Holy Spirit. Through our free cooperation with grace — through surrender, docility, and trust — the Holy Spirit takes possession of us, and we, in turn, give ourselves entirely to Him. This relationship is not static; it is a living, transformative union. The Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, shapes us gradually into the image of Jesus Christ.

Each soul's journey to holiness is unique. Perfection does not mean becoming identical to others; rather, it means becoming the particular "Christ" God intended us to be, shaped by the Holy Spirit according to our own personality and vocation. In this transformation, we are made pleasing to God the Father — not by our own merits, but because He sees in us the reflection of His beloved Son.

Martínez reminds us that sanctity is **not primarily about extraordinary works** or visible greatness, but about **allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us**, often silently and humbly. It is through love — and especially through surrender to the Spirit's gentle action — that we grow into the full maturity of Christ.

As we approach Pentecost, may we open our hearts anew to the Holy Spirit, inviting Him to transform us in love, so that we may more perfectly mirror Jesus and give glory to the Father.

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love!"

The Sanctifier by Archbishop Luis Martinez. Imprimatur: James A. McNulty, Bishop of Paterson, New Jersey, April 24, 1957

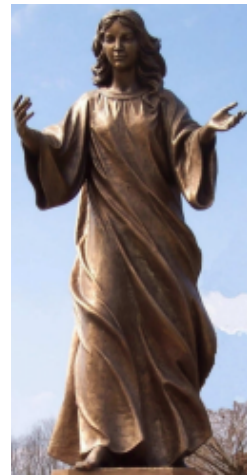
Mary, Mother of the Church: A Gift After Pentecost (June 9)

After Pentecost, the Church turns to another gift from God: Mary, whom Jesus gave to us as our Mother from the Cross: *"Behold your mother."* (John 19:27)

After the Ascension, Mary gathered with the Apostles in the Upper Room, praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Church was born — and Mary was there, mothering her Son's new Body on earth.

In 1964, Pope Saint Paul VI officially gave Mary the title *Mother of the Church*, recognizing her role from the earliest days of our faith. In 2018, Pope Francis established a special Memorial to be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost. This ensures that, immediately after recalling the descent of the Holy Spirit, **we remember the one who was already filled with the Spirit and now prays for us as our Mother.**

Mary continues her mission today: leading us to Christ, praying for us, and strengthening the Church. When we struggle, we can turn to her with confidence. She is a Mother who never leaves her children.



On this beautiful feast, we are reminded:
We are never alone.
We have a Mother — and through her
loving intercession, the Church will
endure and flourish.

Check out this short, powerful film: [The Woman](#) which presents the beautiful Catholic teaching about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her important role in the Church and in the lives of Christians today on FORMED.org.



Celebrating the Mystery: The Feast of the Holy Trinity (Jun 15)

On the Sunday after Pentecost, the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Most Holy Trinity** — one of the greatest mysteries of our faith. Many of us learned about the Trinity as children using simple analogies like the three leaves of a clover: three parts, but one whole. While helpful at first, the reality is even more beautiful and profound.

The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christianity: **One God in Three Divine Persons — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**. Each Person is fully and truly God, sharing the same divine nature, yet each is distinct.

- The **Father** is unbegotten, the eternal source of all.
- The **Son** is eternally begotten of the Father, consubstantial (of the same substance) with Him.
- The **Holy Spirit** proceeds eternally from both the Father and the Son as their shared love.

The early Church Fathers often spoke of the Trinity in terms of **relationship and love**:

The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, and the Holy Spirit is the Love between Them — a living, divine communion of perfect love.

This means that **God Himself is not solitary**, but a perfect and eternal relationship of love. When Scripture tells us, "God is love" (1 John 4:8), it is not a figure of speech. It is a revelation of God's very nature.

Why does this matter to us?

Because we are created **in the image of the Trinity**. We are made for communion — with God and with one another. Love, relationship, and self-gift are not just things God does; they are who God *is*.

Through Baptism, we are drawn into the life of the Trinity. Every prayer we make — every Mass we attend — begins and ends "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." **We live within this divine relationship** now and are destined to share fully in it for all eternity.

On Trinity Sunday, let us not only affirm our faith in this great mystery, but also rejoice in the incredible invitation it holds: to live in the love of the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit — starting now and lasting forever.

Be sure to check out this audio talk: [The Holy Spirit: Third Person of the Trinity](#) on [FORMED.org](#).

Did You Know?

There is a Greek word, perichoresis, that's been used to describe the Trinity.

Perichoresis means “to dance around.” The implication is that the Three are always moving, interweaving, enveloping, and indwelling one another in a perpetual dance



Corpus Christi: The Gift Meant to Change Us (Jun 19)

After Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the early Church with divine life, power, and unity. Yet the Spirit did not come just to inspire emotions or memories of Christ. He came to lead us deeper into the mystery that Jesus left us: Himself, truly present in the Eucharist.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is not only about adoring Christ's presence at a distance. It is about recognizing that we are meant to be transformed by Him. The same Holy Spirit who was poured out at Pentecost now draws us into union with the living Jesus — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity — every time we receive the Eucharist.

If Pentecost is the birth of the Church, Corpus Christi is her heartbeat.

In the Eucharist, God's love is not just a message; it is a reality we touch, taste, and carry within us. Christ's Body is not simply "present" on the altar; it is offered to unite heaven and earth in every heart that receives Him with faith.

How easy it is for us to hear words like "Real Presence" without letting them penetrate our lives! Yet if we truly believe that Christ gives us His very self, it demands a response — awe, gratitude, reverence, and a willingness to be changed.

Corpus Christi invites us to renew our wonder. Not just that Jesus is here, but that He hungers for us even more than we hunger for Him. The same Spirit who made the first Apostles bold now sends us from every Mass to live as witnesses of the Love we have received.

May we receive Jesus with open hearts — and let His life become ours.

Dr. Scott Hahn never disappoints. Check out his audio talk: [The Body and Blood Christ](#) from [FORMED.org](#). There are additional resources at the end of this newsletter.

St. John the Baptist: The Bridge Between the Old and New Testaments (Jun 24)



St. John the Baptist occupies a unique place in our faith. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first prophet of the New Testament. His life marks the transition between the two

covenants, as he prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah.

Born to Zechariah and Elizabeth, John was foretold by the angel Gabriel to be the one who would "prepare the way of the Lord" (Luke 3:4). His message of repentance and baptism paved the way for Jesus to begin His public ministry. John's role was to point others to Christ: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Multiple Feast Days

St. John the Baptist is one of only two saints (the other being the Blessed Virgin Mary) whose birthdays we observe. His **birth** is celebrated on **June 24th**, marking the beginning of the great hope for the Messiah. His **martyrdom** is remembered on **August 29th**, when he was beheaded by King Herod for speaking out against his sinful actions.

A Model of Humility and Zeal

John's life was marked by humility and a burning zeal for God. He always pointed to Jesus, saying, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). His example of selflessness and devotion to God calls us to prepare our hearts for Christ, just as he did for the people of his time.

As we celebrate his feast this June, let us reflect on how we can also "prepare the way" for the Lord in our lives.

On [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org) you'll find an interesting discussion on the importance of [**St. John the Baptist**](#).

**Living a Life that Echoes
Eternally — and Sharing
It Through the Legacy
Project**

Each of us is called to leave a legacy — not merely of material possessions, but of the spiritual imprint we leave on the lives around us. As Christians, our greatest legacy is the way we allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us to build up the Body of Christ.



The Holy Spirit, whom we celebrate so richly in this season of Pentecost, is the divine Artist shaping our souls into the image of Jesus. His work within us — through the Gifts of the Spirit, the growth of virtue, and the flowering of the Fruits of the Spirit — is not meant to end with us, but to ripple outward to others.

Have you ever paused to notice how the Holy Spirit has been moving through your life? Sometimes it's in big, life-changing moments. Other times, it's a quiet nudge, a prayer answered in an unexpected way, or a gentle reminder that you're not alone.

St. Paul reminds us that each person is given the Spirit “for some benefit” (1 Cor 12:7). That means every grace we receive is also meant to bless others. Our spiritual legacy is formed by our cooperation with that grace — by our daily “yes” to the Spirit.

Even small, hidden acts — a kind word, an act of faithfulness, a silent prayer — when inspired by the Holy Spirit, can have **eternal** effects. The legacy we leave will not be primarily what we built with our own strength, but what the Spirit built in us and through us.

This summer, we invite you to reflect on that legacy by joining **The Legacy**

Project — a simple but powerful opportunity to prayerfully consider how God has moved in your life and to create a beautiful keepsake that shares your story.

By participating, you allow the Holy Spirit to continue writing a story of hope and blessing through you. Trust that your witness, no matter how small it may seem, will be used by God to bless others — now and in the future.

Join us for the kickoff and informational meeting:



Tuesday, June 11



6:30–7:30 p.m. (We'll wrap up before sunset!)



Parish Hall

The time commitment is small: just a few brief reflections on how the Holy Spirit has touched your life. We'll take care of the rest — formatting, printing, and framing your story for you to treasure and to inspire others. See a sample project below.

Thanks to a Jubilee Year grant from the Archdiocese, there is **no cost to participate**.

Please register on the parish website through SignUp Genius so we can have enough materials for everyone.

This fall, we'll display copies of the framed stories in the Narthex — a beautiful birthday gift to Mary, Mother of the Church, and a powerful reminder of the Holy Spirit still moving among us.

Come and be part of this legacy of faith.

Your story matters — and it echoes into eternity.

A Legacy of Faith

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all of your wonderful deeds! (Ps 9:1-2)

The Holy Spirit's guidance has been a steady light in my life. May these reflections encourage you to look for His hand in your own journey and trust in His love.

1984 I had been praying for someone in my life to return to the Church, and out of nowhere, they asked me to take them to Mass.

1989 I felt an unexplainable urge to take a different route home from work, only to later learn that my usual path had a serious accident at the same time I would have been there.

1996 After struggling with 2 job offers, I prayed for guidance. The next day, a friend unknowingly spoke the exact words I needed to hear, confirming my choice.

1999 I was about to walk away from my faith when a stranger shared their testimony with me. It was as if God had sent them just for me at that moment.

2004 During a time of financial hardship, an unexpected gift arrived that covered exactly what I needed, down to the penny.

2005 Finishing a Marian apparitions book, I heard Mary urge me to repair my relationship with God. I said, "not now," but she didn't take no for an answer.

2011 When I was lost—both physically and spiritually—I prayed for help. Moments later, a kind stranger appeared to guide me exactly where I needed to go.

2016 The Holy Spirit told me 3 times to ask a grieving acquaintance what I thought was too forward a question. After doing so she was gushing joy.

2024 In the middle of grief, I suddenly felt a warmth and peace that words cannot explain. I knew it was the Holy Spirit comforting me.

The Holy Spirit is always working—we just have to take the time to notice. If you'd like to hear more about these moments, let's talk! And I encourage you to start your own list as a testimony of God's presence in your life.

The Jubilee Year: A Time of Grace

We hope that you are taking advantage of the great graces offered this Jubilee Year and continue to encourage you to visit any of the 9 pilgrimage sites around St. Louis.

[2025 Jubilee Year of Hope Brochure](#)

[2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites](#)



June Feast Days

Jun 1 Ascension Sunday

Jun 8 Pentecost

Jun 9 Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church

Jun 15 Trinity Sunday

Jun 22 Corpus Christi

Jun 24 Nativity of John the Baptist

Jun 27 Sacred Heart of Jesus

Jun 28 Immaculate Heart of Mary

Jun 29 Saints Peter and Paul

Learn More

On **FORMED.org**

- AudioTalk - [The Holy Spirit: Third Person of the Trinity](#) by Fr. Sannon Collins
- Eucharistic Miracle - [Faith Prevails: The Miracle of Bolsena](#) Video
- AudioTalk - [The Body and Blood of Christ](#) by Dr Scott Hahn
- Video - [Paul VI: The Misunderstood Pope](#) 57m

On **HALLOW** prayer and meditation app/website

- Did you know Hallow has Magisterium AI? You can ask it questions about the faith and the church!

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

FORMED.org Free access to a wealth of Catholic education. *Sign up [here](#)!*

HALLOW app Get a full year subscription for just \$1. Sign up [here](#)!

Find past editions of this newsletter on our [parish website](#) under **Faith Formation** → **Adult Formation**. You'll find them in the left-hand column.