



# Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Piscataway



**13405 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735-4564**

**301-292-0527 (Parish office)**

**301-292-2522 (School office)**

**Church E-Mail Address:** [parish@stmaryspiscataway.org](mailto:parish@stmaryspiscataway.org)

**Church Internet Address:** <http://www.saintmaryspiscataway.net>

**Facebook Address:** <http://www.facebook.com/StMarysPiscataway>

**School E-Mail Address:** [school@smsp.school](mailto:school@smsp.school)

**School Internet Address:** <http://www.stmaryspiscataway.org>

**Pastor:**

Rev. Samuel I. Plummer

[plummers@adw.org](mailto:plummers@adw.org)

**Parochial Vicar:**

Rev. Conor E. Hardy

[HARDYC@adw.org](mailto:HARDYC@adw.org)

**Permanent Deacon:**

Dcn. George B. Ames, Jr. (ret.)

**Pastoral Associate:**

Dr. Lubomir Martin Ondrasek

[ondrasek@uchicago.edu](mailto:ondrasek@uchicago.edu)

**School Principal:**

Mr. Jack Schaefer

**Parish Administrative Assistant:**

Miss Michèle Fulk

**Parish Bookkeeper:**

Ms. Claudette Kim

**Director of Music/Liturgy:**

Dr. Eran Lupu

**Facilities Manager:**

Mr. Larry Cruz

**Weekend Masses**

Saturday ~ 4:00 p.m., Main Church

Sunday ~ 8:00 a.m., Our Lady's Chapel

9:30 a.m., & 12:00 p.m., Main Church

**Weekday Masses**

Monday thru Friday; ~ 8:15 a.m., Our Lady's Chapel

Saturday: ~ 9:00 a.m., Our Lady's Chapel

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)**

Saturday ~ 2:30 to 3:45 p.m., (Main Church)

Saturday ~ before/after 9:00 a.m. Mass, (OLC)

Sunday ~ 7:15 to 7:45 a.m., (OLC)

Sunday ~ before/during most 9:30 & 12 Masses, (Main Church)

Monday thru Friday ~ 7:30 to 8:05 a.m., (OLC)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Closed on Mondays

Tuesdays thru Fridays ~ 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Closed on most Holy Days & Federal Holidays)



**Founded in Colonial Catholic History in 1640**

+

**Canonically Established in 1830**

*Welcome to our new parishioners and visitors!*

**Registration forms are available in the gathering area of the Church, at the Parish Office, and on our website.**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN**

—Infants: Newborn children of at least one Catholic parent should be baptized as Catholics shortly after their birth. Parishioners with newborns should complete a Baptismal preparation form (available online or hard copy) give it to Fr. Plummer after Mass, and call Fr. Plummer at the Parish Office to schedule a preparation class.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

For a valid marriage, a Catholic must marry in the Catholic Church before a Priest or Deacon and at least two witnesses, unless he or she receives a dispensation from the Church. The bride or groom should be a parishioner of St. Mary's. Call Fr. Plummer at least 6 months in advance to arrange preparation classes. As Catholics, we are bound to observe the Rite of Marriage as prescribed in the Roman Ritual, and to observe additional diocesan and parish policies. Weddings typically do not take place in Lent. Musical arrangements must be made with our Music Director, Dr. Eran Lupu at (301) 292-0527 #106.

**FUNERALS**

To prepare a Funeral Mass in either the Main Church or Our Lady's Chapel, please call the Parish Office [(301) 292-0527] in order to arrange an appointment with a priest. For burial arrangements in our parish cemetery, please call the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Catholic Cemeteries at (301) 932-1766. A representative will meet with you at our Parish Office.

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)**

This is required for unbaptized adults who wish to become Catholic, non-Catholic Christians who wish to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, baptized Catholics who wish to receive Confirmation and/or Eucharist, as well as any other inquirers are welcome. Call Fr. Plummer at (301) 292-0527 #101 to discuss your situation.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)**

All parish families' children in grades K-8 who do not attend Catholic school should enroll in this program. Weekly classes begin in September on Sundays from 10:40 a.m.—11:50 a.m.. Please call the Parish Office (301) 292-0527 #100 to register.

**HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK**

To arrange for a home "Communion call" contact the Parish Office.

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION/ADORATION WEEKLY TIMES**

We are always in need of more adorers to make a "Holy Hour" before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady's Chapel. Contact Anne Marie Ramsey (202) 368-7189, to "sign-up" for an hour within the following times:

Tuesday ~ 8:45 a.m. Mass to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday ~ 8:45 a.m. Mass to 6:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet, 5:30 p.m.

**SCAN HERE TO DONATE**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL OF PISCATAWAY

## 24 Hour Eucharistic Exposition in JUNE

**First Friday, June 6th, 8:15 a.m. Mass  
followed by Devotions  
to First Saturday, June 7th, 9:00 a.m. Mass  
followed by Devotions  
Our Lady's Chapel**


**Sign-up sheets are in the Main Church Narthex  
this weekend.**

**We will need two adorers per slot. Thank you!**



### **Prayer for an End to Infanticide**

*"Jesus, Lord of Life, transform the hearts of our elected leaders to recognize that infanticide is wrong and must not be tolerated. We especially pray for our Senators Cardin and Van Hollen. Open their hearts and minds to recognize and defend the precious gift of every human life."*

 **Pamphlets**—There are some fantastic pamphlets for you to take home and read. You can find them in our pamphlet racks on the either side of the Main Church Narthex (near bulletin board and near the kitchenette).

### **!!! ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!!!**

LPi, our publishing partner, is sourcing advertising opportunities for our weekly bulletin. We need your help! Please consider purchasing an ad. Your participation makes our bulletin successful in building a vibrant community, and you attract customers to help you grow in your business! Please contact our LPi partner: Jay Swartz (216) 424-4191 or you can email him [JSwartz@4lpi.com](mailto:JSwartz@4lpi.com).

Benefits Include:

- Affordable, local, community advertising for one full year, at one low price.
- Free, professional ad design
- 4 Free design changes/year
- A free ad listing on [parishesonline.com](http://parishesonline.com)

You will be seen as a trusted source by other members & families.



**St. Mary's Choir**—Do you enjoy singing? St. Mary's Liturgical Choir is looking for new choristers to sing at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. No previous musical experience is necessary, only a love of singing (in tune).

Singing is praying to God twice!

Contact Dr. Eran Lupu at: [eranlupu@icloud.com](mailto:eranlupu@icloud.com) Practice:  
Sun. May 18th, 10:45-11:45 a.m. (MC)



### **Eucharistic Exposition Tuesdays & Wednesdays:**

† Exposition is in Our Lady's Chapel after Mass (Approx. 9:00 a.m.) until 6:00 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday (Devotions and Benediction).

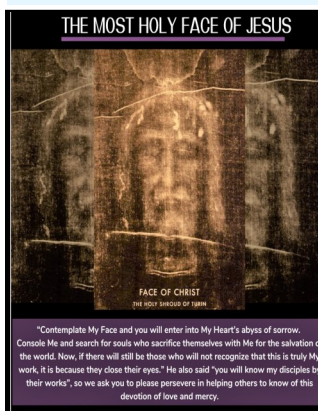
† We need to be sure to have adorers the whole time the Lord is exposed. At least two people at a time would be ideal.

† We cannot provide this devotion without your participation.

† Please contact Anne Marie Ramsey, at (202) 368-7189, to sign up for an hour.

**COME SPEND TIME IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD!**

We Need Adorers to cover empty spots!



## **Mass and Novena**

**Friday, May 30th**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Our Lady's Chapel**



**Happy Mother's Day from the JFK Council Knights of Columbus. Thank you for choosing LIFE.** Members of JFK Council 5482 in Accokeek distributed flowers to each Mother after all Masses last weekend. The Knights respect life and honor the women in our parish community who have chosen life.

**Parish School of Religion**—Our last PSR class will be held on Sunday, May 18th, from 10:40 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., in the School Classrooms. There will be a donut social hosted by Couples for Christ. All students who received Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation will receive their certificates that day. Parents bring a favorite snack for all to share!

### **Around the Archdiocese**



**Retrouvaille**—Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register, please visit our website [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email: [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org)



### **2025 Archdiocesan "Second" Collection**



**May 18th**

**Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC)  
& Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)**

**CCC/CCHD:** The Catholic Communications Campaign helps bring the richness of the Church's social teachings to life through engaging media including social media. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development for more than 50 years has supported organizations that combat poverty and improve the lives of people in communities across the United States. **THANK YOU!**

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-communication-campaign>

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-campaign-human-development>

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | MAY 18TH, 2025

## Parish Week Events:

<b>Sunday, May 18</b> <b>5th Sunday of Easter</b> <b>K of C Sunday</b>	8:00 a.m. Mass (OLC) 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon Masses (MC) Litany of prayers for Priests—before 9:30 a.m. Mass Donut Social (Couples for Christ)—10:30 a.m., (PH) Last PSR for this year—10:40 a.m. (School Classrooms) Study Moments: Introduction to the Devout Life— 10:45 a.m. (PCR)
<b>Monday, May 19</b> <b>Easter Weekday</b>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Parish Office Closed
<b>Tuesday, May 20</b> <b>St. Bernardine of Siena</b>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Eucharistic Exposition—following Mass until 6:00 p.m., (OLC)
<b>Wednesday, May 21</b> <b>St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions</b>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Eucharistic Exposition—following Mass until 6:00 p.m., (OLC) Divine Mercy—5:30 p.m., (OLC) All School Mass—9:30 a.m., (MC) Study Moments: Introduction to the Devout Live— 7:00 p.m., (PCR)
<b>Thursday, May 22</b> <b>St. Rita of Cascia</b>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC)
<b>Friday, May 23</b> <b>Easter Weekday</b>	Morning Mass—8:15 a.m., (OLC) Life in Christ Series—7:00 p.m., (OLC)
<b>Saturday, May 24</b> <b>Easter Weekday</b>	Morning Mass—9:00 a.m., (OLC) Confessions—2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., (MC) Vigil Mass—4:00 p.m., (MC)
<b>Sunday, May 25</b> <b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>	8:00 a.m. Mass (OLC) 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon Masses (MC) Donut Social (Couples for Christ)—10:30 a.m., (PH) Study Moments: Introduction to the Devout Life— 10:45 a.m. (PCR)

## Current Week's Mass Schedule—EASTER

<b>Mon., May 19</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>
8:15 a.m.	Arlene Linda Harding—BD
<b>Tues., May 20</b>	<b>St. Bernardine of Siena</b>
8:15 a.m.	Michele Kitchens—BD
<b>Wed., May 21</b>	<b>St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions</b>
8:15 a.m.	Peter Agboli—BD
9:30 a.m.	School Intentions
<b>Thur., May 22</b>	<b>St. Rita of Cascia</b>
8:15 a.m.	Teresa Riconda (+)
<b>Fri., May 23</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>
8:15 a.m.	Bill Gates (+)
<b>Next Weekend's Mass Schedule</b>	
<b>Sat., May 24</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b>
9:00 a.m.	Lilia Salonga Puyawan (+)
	<b>Sunday Vigil</b>
4:00 p.m.	June Gates
<b>Sun., May 25</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>
8:00 a.m.	Roger Brown (+)
9:30 a.m.	Victorino Brigida (+)
12 Noon	Mark & JP—Thanksgiving

KEY: MC= Main Church, OLC=Our Lady's Chapel, PH=Parish Hall, PCR=Parish Conference Room

**Food Pantry Volunteers Urgently Needed**—Pope Saint John Paul II once said that the call to prayer must precede the call to action, but the call to action must truly accompany the call to prayer. If you are looking for actions to accompany your prayers, won't you please consider helping those in need by volunteering at our parish food pantry? The work involves soliciting and picking up donations, receiving and managing food inventory, and preparing and distributing or delivering food parcels. Don't worry if you have never done this kind of work, as we will show you how to do it. The pantry's scheduled hours of operation are Monday and Tuesday from 8:30AM to noon; however, donations are picked up throughout the week as the need arises. Volunteers would not have to participate in all activities, but some flexibility would be useful. If you are interested in joining our team or would like more information, please call or text David Beckner at 301-221-9783.

The names listed next to a specific Mass indicate an act of love for a living or deceased member of a family or a friend. If you would like to schedule a Mass for a specific date, or intention, please contact Michèle Fulk, in the parish office at (301) 292-0527, or [parish@stmaryspiscataway.org](mailto:parish@stmaryspiscataway.org). *Mass intentions are filled on a first come, first served, basis.*

Customary Donation: Mass Intention—\$10 per Mass.

**MEMORIAL FLOWERS:** THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE DECORATING AND WATERING THE LOVELY FLOWERS IN OUR LADY'S CHAPEL AND IN THE MAIN CHURCH.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Brian Ashby, Catherine Beck, Brendamarie Smith-Bottorf, Harry Burton, Leticia Calata, Leonard Carter, Paul Carter, Jr., Steven Carter, Patience Chukwura, Gail Cruz, Nancy Cyr, Michael L. DeMoulin, Iris Edelen, June Gates, Cathy Gwiazda, Carol Hickey, Rusty Hickey, Normita Ijadunola, Soddy Johnson, Mary Jones, Carol Kapitan, Jerry Laguilles, Charles Lloyd, Jr., Peggy Mattos, Bill Maxwell, Mary McNeice, Diane Miles, Janet Miller, Wendy Onsted; Anaisa Cruz Ovia, Shanda Reecks, Azucena Santiago, Gabrielle Sellers, Michael Sellers, Priscilla Simms, Katherine Smith, Shirley Smith, Lorraine Thompson, Thelma Tilman, Eileen Upperman, Gil Vigneault, Rena Walzel, Donna Webb, Joyce Windsor, AND Beverly Woods, . *Names will remain on the prayer list for up to 60 days. If you want you or your loved one to stay longer on the prayer list, please call Parish Office.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD:** We are honoring the anniversary of all of our beloved dead who died in the month of May, from 2019-2024. Durran Leonardo Beasley, Sr. (05-08-2023); Rogelio Bulahan Cayron (05-03-2023); Elizabeth Bernice (Proctor) Harley (05-24-2024); Dorothy McSpadden (05-07-2020), Manuel E. Mendenilla (05-24-2023); Ronald Eugene Miller, Jr. (05-26-2022), Ann Elizabeth Newman (05-17-2023); Hortense Christina Reynolds (05-23-2020); NOTE: All of the names that were here originally, are now on the Prayer List Page on our website <https://saintmaryspiscataway.net/prayer-list>.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY HERE & AWAY:** PO2 Alicia Babauta, USN; PFC Eric Bean, U S Army; Daniel Burton, USAF; PO1 Andrew Cruz, USN; Sgt Major Anthony A. Cruz, USMC; MSG Benny A. Cruz, USArmy; Senior Airman Jesse Cruz, USAF; TSgt Michael C. Cruz, USAF; Sgt Richard R. Cruz, USArmy; SFC William Cruz, USArmy; Sgt Raymond Flores, USA; Staff Sargent Brandon Fournier, USAF; Master Chief Bobby Henson, USN; LT. Laura Carts Hills, USCG; PO2 Junielle C. Lujan, USCG; CPO Mary Patton, USNR; Capt. Christopher Ramsey, USMC; SSgt John Rushworth, USAF; and Major Stephen Voglezon, US Army. Please contact us if you have relatives in the military serving overseas.

P O P E L E O X I V

# DEO GRATIAS HOLY FATHER POPE LEO XIV



©LPi

## A Prayer for the Pope

*Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love and peace for all the world. Amen.*

V/ Let us pray for the Pope. R/ May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth, and not hand him over to the power of his enemies.

V/ May your hand be upon your holy servant. R/ And upon your son, whom you have anointed.

*Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...*

## Habemus Papam!





### A Saint for Troubled Times

St. Francis de Sales was born in 1567 during one of the most challenging periods in the Church's history. The Protestant Reformation had taken hold in significant parts of Europe just a generation earlier, leaving behind theological controversy and deep wounds in the Body of Christ. Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk and professor of theology, raised concerns in his 95 Theses that addressed genuine issues—particularly abuses in pastoral practice, failures in clerical discipline, and widespread misunderstanding of Church teaching. Yet rather than fostering authentic reform in continuity with the Church, his actions ultimately led to rupture. As sometimes happens when grievances are pursued apart from ecclesial communion, the result was not renewal but division. For the faithful of that time, it was a painful and disorienting season—one that called for clarity, charity, courage, and humility.

The Reformation's upheaval did not unfold in a vacuum. While ecclesial concerns were central, the movement spread rapidly through converging cultural and political forces that shaped the religious landscape. The invention of the printing press enabled the swift circulation of new ideas, granting reformers newfound influence. The rise of nationalism across Europe led many rulers to distance themselves from Rome—some out of conviction, others in pursuit of power and autonomy. Religious reform became entangled with political ambition and cultural identity, and the consequences were profound. What began as a call for change within the Church gave rise not only to theological divisions but also to centuries of unrest, persecution, and religious wars that tore through communities and nations.

The Catholic Church did not remain passive. In time, it responded with theological clarity and a reinvigorated commitment to holiness. The Council of Trent (1545–1563) played a central role in this reform. It reaffirmed essential doctrines of the faith while addressing abuses in Church discipline and calling for renewal in clerical life and pastoral care. A new generation of religious leaders emerged, notably through the Society of Jesus (founded in 1540), whose members underwent comprehensive formation—spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral. The Jesuits became a driving force for revitalization within the Church through their emphasis on unwavering fidelity, spiritual discernment, rigorous education, and missionary work.

Great spiritual figures such as Teresa of Ávila, John of the Cross, and Ignatius of Loyola—all later canonized as saints—emphasized the transformative power of prayer, the purification of the heart, and deep union with God. Another future saint, Francis de Sales, offered a distinctive voice—pastoral, accessible, and rooted in tradition and lived experience. While many spiritual writers of his time and earlier primarily addressed clergy, religious, or those in monastic life, Francis turned his attention explicitly to ordinary believers. He insisted that devotion was not reserved for monasteries, convents, or clerical vocations but was possible for every person, regardless of vocation or circumstance. With clarity, gentleness, and deep spiritual insight, he invited laypeople to pursue holiness in daily life—through prayer, virtue, and a heart directed wholly toward God.

St. Francis de Sales understood that Christian discipleship requires the integration of *orthodoxy* (right beliefs), *orthopraxy* (right practices), and *orthopathy* (right affections). Every believer is called to grow in all three: to learn the faith, live the faith, and love the faith. To put it differently—doctrine, duty, and devotion; theology, ethics, and spirituality; head, hands, and heart. Though each analogy has its limits, together they point to a holistic vision of the Christian life—one that unites the intellectual, volitional, and affective dimensions of the human person in response to God. The enduring power of his life and work lies in its ability to hold all three in harmony—inviting us to believe with conviction, act with integrity, and love with sincerity and devotion.

St. Francis de Sales did not write *Introduction to the Devout Life* as a theoretical treatise but as a response to real pastoral need. First published in 1609, the book originated from letters written to Madame de Charmois, a young noblewoman seeking guidance on how to grow spiritually while living an active life in the world. Francis later revised and completed these letters into a structured and accessible guide for laypeople desiring a deeper life with God shortly before his death in 1622. The work is divided into five parts, beginning not with external duties or doctrinal instruction but with the orientation of the heart. The recipient of the book is called "Philothea," meaning "lover of God"—a symbolic name inviting each reader to see themselves in her place. This choice reflects Francis's fundamental conviction: that the devout life is not reserved for the few, but is open to all who sincerely seek to love God, follow Christ, and live in communion with the Holy Spirit.

In the weeks ahead, we will more deeply explore the spiritual vision at the heart of *Introduction to the Devout Life* by focusing on three essential dimensions of Christian discipleship: devotion, doctrine, and duty—united in their aim and fulfilled in deeds that bear abundant and lasting fruit for the glory of God. We will consider what it means to grow in love for God, to deepen our understanding of the faith, and to live with greater spiritual integrity and joy. As always, my hope is that these reflections will not only inform but inspire, helping us grow as a parish rooted in learning, living, and loving the way of Christ.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

And when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. (Acts 14:27)

### Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.  
(Ps 145) Or: Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.  
He will dwell with them and they will be his people  
and God himself will always be with them as their God."  
(Rv 21:4)

### Gospel:

I give you a new commandment: love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.  
(Jn 13:34)

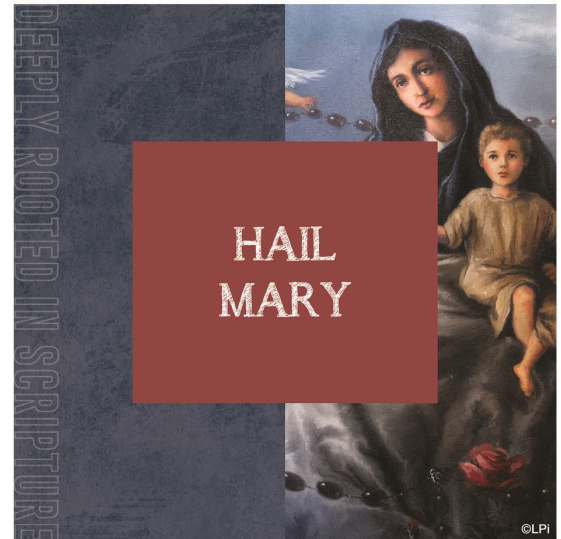
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

There is an invitation in the empty tomb and the abandoned burial cloths. What great things could we accomplish, if we only believe that Christ has conquered death? Go forth this Easter season, boldly embracing the hope of the resurrection.

## Observances for the week of May 18, 2025

**Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter  
**Tuesday:** St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest  
**Wednesday:** St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs  
**Thursday:** St. Rita of Cascia, Religious  
**Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter



## Devotions, *Explained!*

The words of the Hail Mary — undoubtedly the most recognizable Catholic prayer after the Lord's Prayer — are deeply rooted in scripture, but Catholics did not begin to utilize the Hail Mary prayer in its current form until around the 11th century.

## Prayer of Christian Love

Fill our hearts, O Lord, with Your love, the deepest, richest, purest love any of us has ever known. May Your love be our standard for love.  
May Your love be what we bring and communicate to the world. May Your love define us as Christians, made in Your image and likeness.  
Amen.

## Worship & Meditation

### Readings for the week of May 18, 2025

#### Sunday:

Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see 1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

#### Monday:

Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/  
Jn 14:21-26

#### Tuesday:

Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/  
Jn 14:27-31a

#### Wednesday:

Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/  
Jn 15:1-8

#### Thursday:

Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/  
Jn 15:9-11

#### Friday:

Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/  
Jn 15:12-17

#### Saturday:

Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

#### Next Sunday:

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/  
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29



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Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
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### Gospel Meditation

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I've always found it amazing that Jesus never says to his disciples the straightforward and bumper sticky words "I love you" or "I will always love you" (a la Dolly Parton's song). Why doesn't Jesus say, "I love you"?

Well, actually he does, but in particular ways. He says, **"As the Father loves me, so I love you"** (John 15:9) thereby rooting his love for us in the space of the Holy Trinity. This week he commands, **"Love another as I have loved you" (John 13:34)**. He presents his love for us as a completed action which continues into the present moment. How *has* he loved us? By becoming one of us, one with us, and finally giving his life for us in his suffering on the cross. We weren't there when he did that, but neither were his Apostles (except one). Still, that action is his great "I love you" to us.

His love is also hedged in a command: **"Love one another."** So how can we practically follow it? The great St. John XXIII wrote in his diary that each day he followed this rule: "Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it." The hidden nature of a good deed is a sign that it is truly loving. This week, take on St. John XXIII's practical method of following Jesus' great commandment of love. It's a splendid way to say, "I love you."

— Father John Muir

## Liturgical Life

### (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as *theirs* somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

#### Resembling Jesus

I once wrote an article about several women residents of a local nursing home. In researching the piece, I discovered that they had grown up in the same neighborhood as my grandmother, and that one of the women was, in fact, my grandmother's dearest childhood friend.

When I visited this woman to take her photograph, she took a long look at my face, and I could see in her eyes that she was reaching back in her memory across the years.

She said: "You resemble her."

I wept on the way home.

My grandmother died when I was nine, and for the last several years of her life she suffered from Alzheimer's disease. I have always deeply grieved the time we lost, the relationship we could have had. I have hazy fragments of memory from before her illness that lead me to believe we loved each other very much.

Being told I look like my grandmother by someone who knew her well — being identified as belonging to her in some way — was one of the more beautiful things to happen to me.

When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as *theirs* somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

The only way we can resemble Jesus is through love. It is his most recognizable quality, his most famous trait. *This is how all will know that you are my disciples.*

As Catholics, we are always talking about finding ways to live our faith boldly, unapologetically, publicly. Good — we should! But if we want people to know we are Catholic, we should love them. Bravely. Recklessly. Sacrificially.

As he loves us.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

If God is good, why is there evil in the world?

#### Answer:

The problem of evil is perplexing. If God is all-powerful and all-good, why doesn't He stop bad things from happening? He must either not be all-powerful, or perhaps He's not very good after all. Human beings have faced the possibility of evil since the very beginning of our existence. In granting us free will, God gives us the ability to make free choices. God does not force us into moral perfection. We are not forced to love Him or to love our neighbor. We must make the decision ourselves. This means, of course, that we have the ability to choose against love.

One small decision of selfishness, jealousy, or pride may not seem so bad. But every decision — good or bad — is like a stone dropped into a still pond. The ripples extend much farther than the original stone. When decisions against love begin to compound, they affect families, neighborhoods, and nations. This is all the more reason for Christians to be faithful to our baptismal call to love one another as Christ has loved us!

## Liturgical Life

Jesus said,  
“My children,  
I will be with you  
only a little while  
longer.  
I give you a new  
commandment:  
love one another.”  
- Jn 13:33a, 34a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for  
Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

#### First Reading:

Despite facing many hardships, Paul and Barnabas succeeded in preaching the good news of Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. How do you work through personal setbacks?

#### Second Reading:

At the start of his final vision, John sees the age to come in which God comes to dwell with his people on earth and all tears, pain and even death itself is gone. Who in your life needs to hear this incredible message of hope?

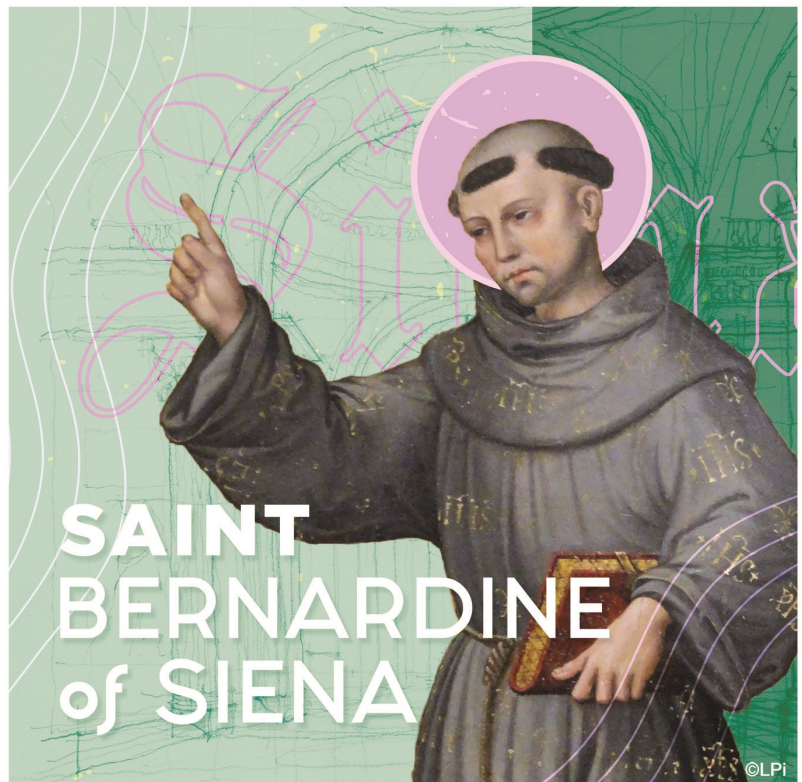
#### Gospel:

Jesus modeled for his disciples how to love one another. Do you have friends or co-workers who show you how to love others?



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## Kids Corner

### Prayer

Lord, teach me to love  
and help others.

### Mission for the Week

I will take three cans of  
food to the church for the  
poor.

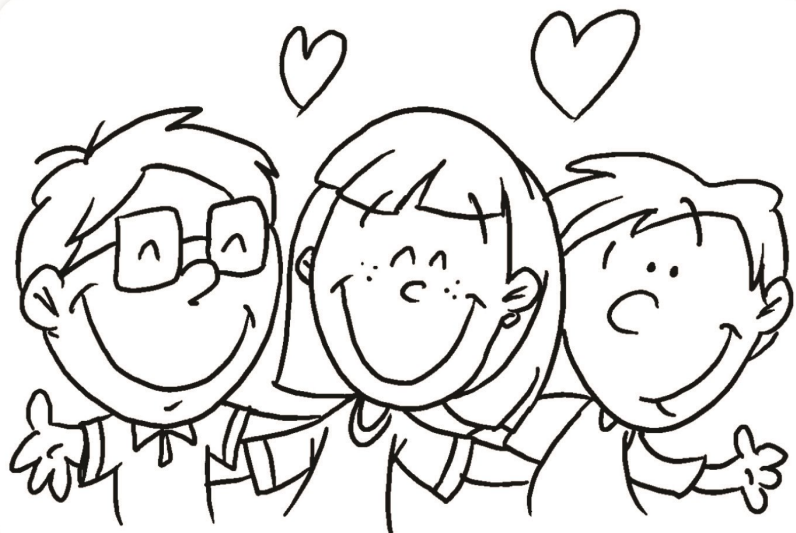
### Sharing the Gospel

Jesus said, "Love  
each other as I have  
loved you." He died  
on the cross so that  
your sins and mine  
might be forgiven.  
Jesus was human  
like you and me. He  
shared his food with  
friends. He visited  
and healed the sick.  
He cried when his  
friends died. He  
told stories to help  
people learn about  
his Father in heaven.  
When you show love  
for others, Jesus  
smiles because he is  
very proud of you.

Now color  
the picture!



Circle the group in each row that has more.  
Then color in all the pictures.



## Liturgical Life

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"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - Jn 13:34-35

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