

e-Echo

e-Newsletter of the
Department of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Mobile
June 2026



Our summers usually operate at a somewhat slower pace, but it seems that's not quite the case this year.

Pope Leo has just promulgated his first encyclical. Read more about it on page 3. You may want to share Ascension's summary guide with your parish family. Perhaps there will be a group that would like to delve into the encyclical more thoroughly?

Our bishops have set June 11th as the date to consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Check out the ideas for both parish and family activities on page 4.

July 4th will mark our nation's 250th birthday! Sadlier and Sophia have created great resource kits to help families learn more about how Catholics and Catholic values have helped shape our country. Check out their offerings on page 8.

And, if these weren't enough things to start planning for, we're also asking you to save the date for a "summit and retreat" this August. All those who are leaders in parish educational ministry—Parish Catechetical Leaders, Youth Ministry Leaders, OCIA Leaders, Adult Education Leaders, and leaders of any other parish educational ministry—are invited to spend the weekend (or whatever portion of the weekend you're able) with others who minister in similar ways from parishes from across the Archdiocese. Part ministry workshop, part spiritual retreat, 100% valuable! Details will come soon, but for now save Aug 14-16 (or any part of that weekend) on your calendar for YOU! We want to see you there!

And finally a note about future e-Echo newsletters—we are now moving to put out this newsletter just four times a year—August, November, February and May. We'll still provide educational resources to our schools and parishes, but in a more compact presentation. Always remember, if you need any resources from our office, please just reach out to us by phone or email. We'll be happy to serve you!

From Catholic Answers

What is the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a profound and enduring symbol within the Catholic Church, representing the immense love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a special form of devotion to Jesus—the focus being his Heart, which exemplifies our Lord's redemptive suffering for the whole world. Explore the history, significance, and devotion associated with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Discover the great benefit of paying homage to the Love of Jesus represented by his Heart of flesh.

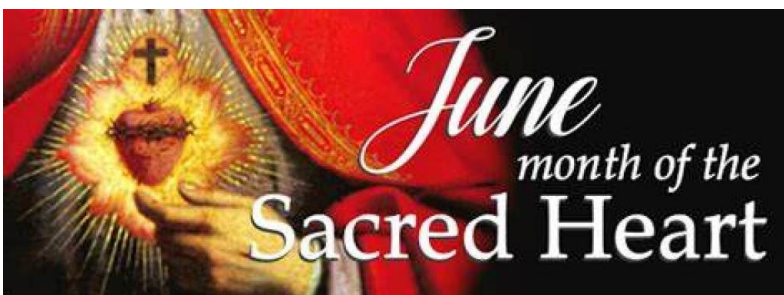
Origins and Early Devotion to the Sacred Heart

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, but became more prominent through our Lord's private revelations to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the seventeenth century. Between 1673 and 1675, St. Margaret Mary, a nun in the Visitation Convent at Paray-le-Monial, France, received several visions of Jesus. In these visions, Christ revealed his Heart as a symbol of his boundless love for humanity and emphasized the need for people to return his love through devotion and prayer.

[Read more](#)

Important Dates coming up...

- June 6—Ordination Mass—Permanent Deacons
- June 7—Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- June 11—Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and formal consecration of the US to the Sacred Heart (see pg. 3 for more information)
- June 21—Father's Day
- June 24—Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
- June 29—Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles





August 14-16, 2026
Holy Spirit Hall

‘Summit & Retreat’ for all those
who are leaders in Parish Evangelization:
Parish Catechetical Leaders, Youth Ministry
Leaders, Leaders of Adult Education, & OCIA
leadership.

More information will be coming!

But for now, **Save the Date!**

(if you can only join us on the 14th & 15th,
that’s fine too!)

Tell your fellow parish evangelization leaders
to save the date also! Come as a team!

PCL Reminders for June



ADMINISTRATION

Hold Vacation Bible School

Thank catechists and helpers afterwards – dinner, gift, etc.

Replace, repair, and reorder... supplies and equipment

Plan for next year's supplies and equipment based on catechists' needs

Replenish the library with new books, videos, and resources

Draw up a report and meet with Pastor

Results of the evaluation

Plans for recruitment of catechists

Continue preparations for upcoming school year

Take some well-deserved time off

PRAYER

The Intention of the Holy Father for June is:

For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

From The Holy See

Pope Leo's First Encyclical Letter, promulgated May 25, 2026:

Magnifica Humanitas On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Human Intelligence

[Read the full text here](#)

From Ascension

A Complete Guide to Pope Leo's First Encyclical: Magnifica Humanitas

Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), addresses one of the defining questions of our age: how to safeguard human dignity in the era of artificial intelligence. Signed on May 15, 2026, and released on May 25, 2026, the document explores technology, human identity, work, truth, and the Christian vision of authentic humanity. The Ascension edition of *Magnifica Humanitas* will feature a foreword by Harvard professor and bestselling author, Arthur C. Brooks, PhD, and an afterword by *Bible in a Year* host Fr. Mike Schmitz.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the key points and themes of *Magnifica Humanitas*.
[Read more](#)

Ideas for the celebration of the USCCB's consecration of US to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Parish and Family—June 11, 2026

On June 11, 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Parishes around the country are encouraged to join the bishops in celebrating the consecration of our nation to the Sacred Heart.

Consecration Resources for Parishes

[LOCAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONSECRATION](#)

[PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS](#)

USCCB Website—[Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)

Explanation from “Morning Offering”—[Facebook reel](#)

The Catholic Company—[Sacred Heart of Jesus Enthronement Ceremony in 12 Steps](#)

Oblates of the Virgin Mary—[Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Your Home](#)

Catholic Mom—[Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the Whole Family](#)

Welcome His Heart—[Growing the Sacred Heart Devotion in the Life of Your Parish](#)

Parish-Wide Ideas

Parish Mission & Education: Implement a nine-week preaching series on the Sacred Heart. Invite a guest speaker or use materials from [SacredHeartApostolate.com](#) to explain the meaning of the devotion.

- **Mass and Celebration:** Schedule an evening Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart followed by a potluck or social event for the whole parish.
- **Mass Consecration:** Encourage families to go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and have a picture or statue of the Sacred Heart blessed at a designated weekend Mass, then take it home for private enthronement.

Provide Kits: Buy "Enthronement Kits" in bulk from [WelcomeHisHeart.com](#) for families. (scroll halfway down)

Family-Centered Activities

Home Enthronement Ceremony: Create a "throne" (an altar/conspicuous place) in the home with a statue or picture, candles, and flowers. The family recites the [official Act of Consecration](#) together, preferably led by a priest or the father of the family.

- **First Friday Devotion:** Encourage families to attend Mass and receive Communion on the First Friday of the month for nine consecutive months, as requested by St. Margaret Mary.
- **Family Prayer Rituals:** Integrate the [Litany of the Sacred Heart](#) into daily family prayer and hold a small family party to celebrate the anniversary of the enthronement.

From USCCB

FATHER'S DAY SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

[These sample intercessions](#) can be used during Masses on Father's Day ([Spanish](#)). [These considerations help homilists](#) honor fathers while also showing sensitivity and compassion to all who may find this holiday especially challenging ([Spanish](#)). More Father's Day resources [are also available](#).

PCLs, YMLs, Principals, Catholic School Teachers, Catechists, Youth Ministry Team Members— Let's work with our parents!

Let's supply our families with the tools they need live our faith at home! Here are this month's resources—this month, the month of June, let's help families learn about the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Corpus Christi, and to celebrate Father's Day, Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate, and June Saints. Remember to get this info out to families in as many ways possible!

June — month dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus

- ⇒ Share [this link](#) from TeachingCatholicKids about celebrating the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- ⇒ Encourage families to make "[Heart Aflame Sundaes](#)" sometime this month (third recipe)
- ⇒ Share [this resource](#) so that families can learn more about the devotion to the Sacred Heart
- ⇒ Share "[How to make a simple origami Sacred Heart of Jesus](#)"

Corpus Christi (June 7)

- ⇒ Share from Crafty Catholic Moms, "[Corpus Christi Sunday, Cycle A, Catholic Family Resources and Activities](#)"
- ⇒ Share from Holy Heroes, "[5 Ways to Celebrate Corpus Christi as a Family](#)"
- ⇒ Share from Catholic Answers, "[Feast of Corpus Christi: What It Is and Why It Matters](#)"

Father's Day (June 21)

- ⇒ [Meaningful Ways to Celebrate Catholic Dads](#) for Catholic Word Mission
- ⇒ [5 Ways to Celebrate a Catholic Dad](#) on Father's Day from the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart

Ordination (June 6 for permanent deacon ordination)

- ⇒ Encourage families to attend the ordination Masses this year. It is a beautiful celebration which speaks volumes about our faith.
- ⇒ Suggest that families write notes of encouragement to our newly ordained deacons
- ⇒ Share this short video, "[What is a Catholic Deacon?](#)"

June Saints

- ⇒ June 13—St. Anthony of Padua—Share the [story of St. Anthony](#), and 5 [Easy Ways to Celebrate the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua with Kids](#) from Shining Light Dolls. Suggest "[A Multitude of Fish](#)" Cupcakes for dessert tonight!
- ⇒ June 24—Birth of St. John the Baptist—suggest that families act out the "Silence of Zechariah" as a spin on charades: reenact Luke 1, where Zechariah loses his ability to speak because he doubted the angel's message. Have family members take turns acting out scenes from the story without making a sound, such as an angel appearing, burning incense in the temple, or writing, "His Name is John" on a tablet. Also, suggest Honey Buns as dessert tonight!
- ⇒ June 29—Sts. Peter and Paul—As we remember these two men who helped build the Church, encourage families to bring out the Lego and challenge each other to build a church. The theme could be "most beautiful", "largest", or another theme that the family chooses.

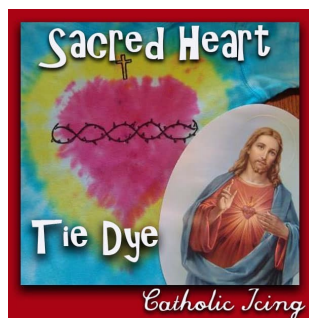
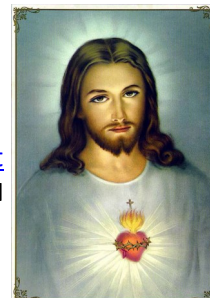
June — the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart



[Activities for the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Immaculate Heart of Mary](#)
The Religion Teacher

[Novena Prayer to the Sacred Heart](#)

EWTN



[Tie Dye Catholic Shirts—Sacred Heart, Immaculate Heart, and Divine Mercy](#)
Catholic Icing

[Catholic Vacation Bible School Ideas](#)

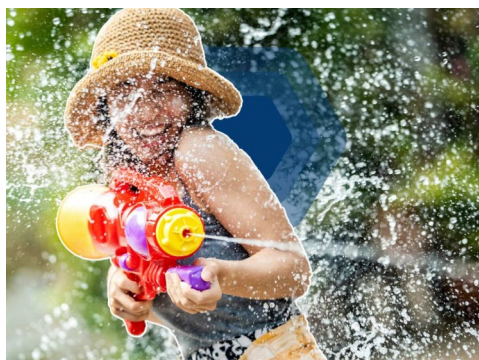
Catholic Icing



[Staying Holy: A Summer Game Plan](#)
Life Teen

[75 Silly and Spiritual “Would Your Rather?” Questions for Kids](#)

Paper Scissors Craft



[23 Super-Soaked Youth Group Water Games](#)
churchtrac

[Vacation Bible School: Keeping it Fun And Keeping it Catholic](#)

Catechist



From Springtide Research

Catholic Teens & Young Adults Today: Patterns of Belief, Belonging, & Engagement

To document patterns in how young people relate to Catholicism today, we conducted new research exploring patterns of affiliation, relationships, and religious practice among young people who currently or formerly identify as Catholic.

In our open-access report, [*Catholic Teens and Young Adults Today: Patterns of Belief, Belonging, and Engagement*](#), you'll find insights into how young Catholics identify, participate in the Church, disaffiliate, and view gender roles.

[Free download](#)

From Zenit

The Bible and Young People: 7 Striking Findings from New Global Research

For years, much of the Western world has embraced a familiar narrative: religion is fading, churches are emptying, and younger generations are drifting irreversibly toward secularism. Yet a major new international study suggests that reality may be far more complex. Beneath the surface of declining institutional affiliation, a surprising spiritual curiosity is emerging among young people — especially around the Bible itself.

The newly released Patmos Youth Report, based on data gathered through the Patmos World Survey on attitudes toward the Bible, paints a picture that challenges many assumptions about faith in the twenty-first century. Conducted in collaboration with Gallup, the Patmos Initiative, and the United Bible Societies, the study surveyed 91,000 people across 85 countries, including approximately 28,700 young respondents between the ages of 15 and 30.

[Read more](#)

From Team Initiation

How do we support neophytes after the Period of Mystagogy is over?

The Period of Mystagogy normally lasts from Easter to Pentecost. But our care and concern for the neophytes doesn't end there. Simply because the initiation process concludes with this last period, the relationships formed between seekers and community still need nurturing—maybe even especially during this fragile time after being reborn in baptism.

In this short video blog, Diana shares a lesson she learned from an unlikely place: an episode of “Call the Midwife”! The plan laid out in this TV show for how to care for newborns and their families in the weeks and months after birth can inspire us to see new ways to support our own newly born family members in Christ.

As we strive to draw seekers to Christ and his body, the Church, let us keep looking for ways to deepen not only our neophytes' experience of welcome but also their sense of true belonging. These ideas can help your entire parish find renewed life in Christ long after the end of the Easter season.

[Watch Now](#)

From Sadlier

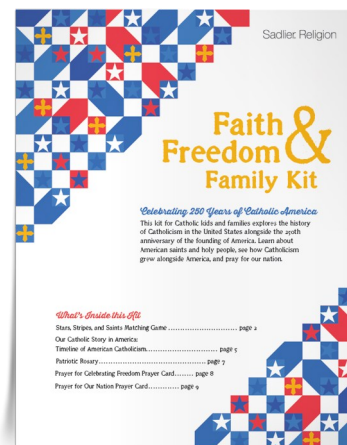
Free Catholic Kit for America's 250th

As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the United States, it is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the faith, freedom, and Catholic witness that helped shape this country.

To help families celebrate this important milestone, Sadlier Religion is pleased to share our new *Faith & Freedom Family Kit*—a fun and meaningful resource designed for children and families to explore the history of Catholicism in America together.

Download the Family Kit today and celebrate faith, freedom, and family together.

[Download now](#)



From Sophia Teachers

Faith, Freedom, and the Future of Our Nation

Fireworks and flags will abound, but this anniversary is about far more than civic pride. It's an invitation to remember that the American experiment rests on profoundly Catholic truths: that every human person is created by God, endowed with dignity, and called to live in freedom ordered to the good.

Catholics have helped write the American story from the beginning. We were signers, soldiers, educators, missionaries, parents, and martyrs, helping shape a nation bold enough to claim that our rights come not from the state, but from the Creator. For Catholic families, this is a moment to do more than look back. It's a chance to look forward: How do we use our freedom well? How do we renew our country by forming virtuous citizens and faithful disciples?

These America 250 resources were created to help Catholic families answer these questions, form virtuous citizens, and put faith-filled patriotism into practice.

[Access the Resource Kits & Videos and Teacher Guides](#)

From Sadlier

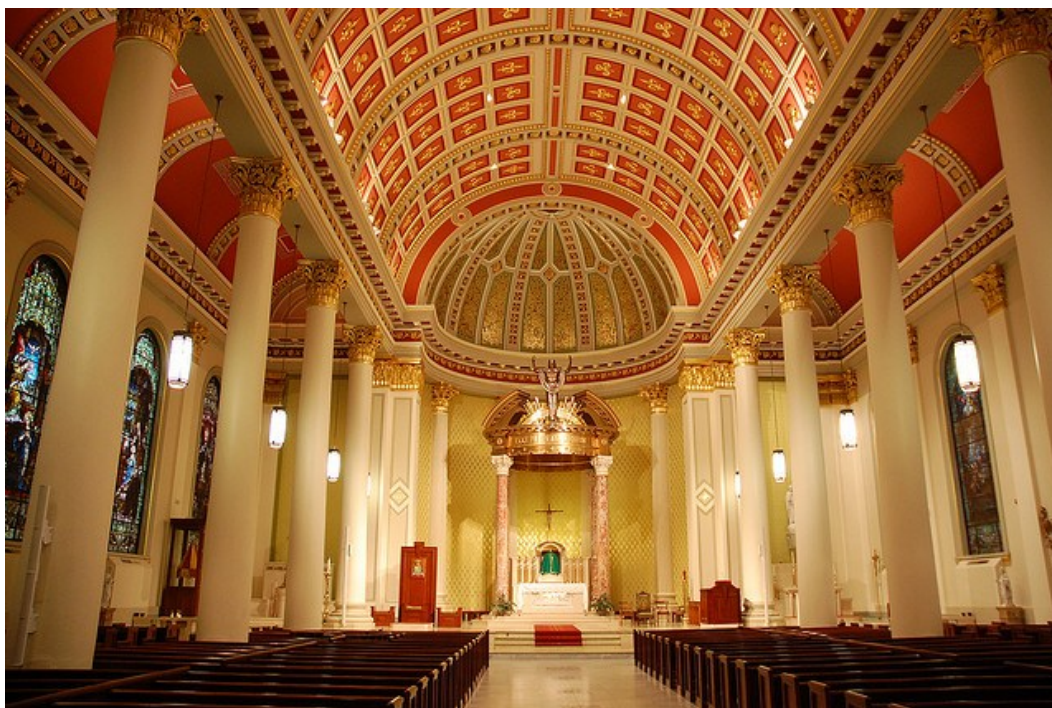
A Faith That Endures: Catholics in US History

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, it's a meaningful time to reflect on the many voices and stories marked by resilience, perseverance, and deep faith that have shaped the Church in our country, including the powerful witness of Native American and African American Catholics.

In these insightful blogs by **Fr. Maurice Henry Sands**, explore the roots of Catholicism within these communities, the challenges they have faced, and the lasting impact of their faith on the life of the Church in the United States.

Read [A History of Native American Catholics](#) and explore the deep roots and enduring faith of Indigenous communities in the American Church.

Read [Six African American Catholics on the Path to Sainthood](#) and follow the inspiring journeys of six trailblazers currently on the path to canonization.



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