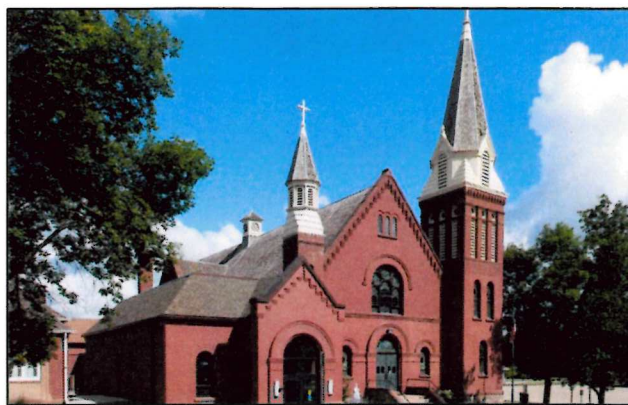


St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

**Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025**

www.catherineofalexandria.org



**No Daily Mass or Reconciliation
May 5th - 9th**

**Adoration 8:30am to 10:00pm
Tuesday, May 6th**

**Mass Saturday at 5:00pm and
Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30am**

**Reconciliation Saturday from
4:00 to 4:45pm and Sunday
from 7:30 to 8:00 am**

Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:30pm

Closed from 12:00 - 12:30pm everyday



Coffee and Rolls Sunday

Between the masses



Parish Appreciation Dinner

It's that time of year again. The parish appreciation dinner will be Wednesday, May 21st at the Eagles. Social at 5:30pm, meal at 6:00pm. This dinner is for all volunteers and workers for St. Catherine Church, School, and Nearly Nu. **Please RSVP to the Parish Office by May 15th.** 845-0354 or email stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com



KCs are serving Mother's Day Breakfast!!!

Sunday, May 11th 9:00 am - Noon

We will be serving French toast, scrambled eggs, and ham. With strawberries, blueberries, whipped cream and Sunny D.

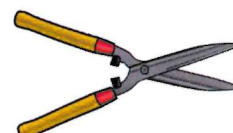
Free will Offering.



Parish Family, please note that May 9-11 is the Million Rosaries for the Unborn. Please plan to pray the rosary each of those three days or as best you can. One rosary helps!!!

Cemetery Spring Clean Up

May 14, 6:00 pm.



May Calendar of Events

SUN 4	Third Sunday of Easter 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 9:30am Coffee and Rolls 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass
MON 5	NO MASS
TUE 6	NO MASS 8:30am – 10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 6:40pm KC Rosary & Meeting
WED 7	NO MASS
THU 8	NO MASS 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters 6:30pm St. Catherine School Spring Program
FRI 9	NO MASS 2:00pm Mass – St Raphael
SAT 10	10:00am Mass – Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
SUN 11	Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 9:00am to Noon KC's Mother's Day Breakfast 9:50am CDA Candlelight Rosary 10:30am Mass

MASS INTENTIONS May 5 – 11

M 8:00am **NO MASS**
 T 8:00am **NO MASS**
 W 8:00am **NO MASS**
 Th 8:00am **NO MASS**
 F 8:00am **NO MASS**
 2:00pm † Roxanne Reed
 Sa 5:00pm † Marybelle Judd
 Su 8:30am † Pauline Lemer
 10:30am People of the Parish

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading — Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Second Reading — Rv 5:11-14

Gospel — Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rv 7:9, 14b-17;
Jn 10:27-30

PRAYER NETWORK

Remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who are ill or are in need of our prayers:

Warren Ventch

Audrey Suhr

Darlene Miller

Renita Westerhausen

Larry Doyle

Tyana Judd

Lucille Winkler

Colleen Musgrave

Marlys Koble

Jeff Gross

Donna Hammond

Shelly Differding

Jerry Sand

Mary Elmore

Krystal Lemer

Cemetery Announcement

St. Catherine cemetery is open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, if you need any help, you can call our Sexton Deacon Joe Leitner 701-840-7429.

May Serving Information:

Temporary Chairperson:

Margaret Doyle: 701-840-0142

Events: May 4, Coffee and Rolls

Valley Voices Concert

Spring Concert Sunday, May 18 at 2:00pm

United Congregational Church

217 4th St NW

All are welcome!! Free Admission



KC/CDA are serving Breakfast!!!

Sunday, May 18th 9:00 am - Noon

We will be serving Pancakes, scrambled eggs, links, smokies, fruit, and Sunny D.

Free will Offering.



Pastor's Page

THAT WAS QUICK!

Wow! - Last weekend in this Pastor's Page I wrote that the work on our church roof had begun . . . and perhaps might take a couple of weeks. My my . . . by the time you read it last Sunday the Fargo Roofing and Siding crew were basically done! Amazing! - in one week! Perhaps you saw them during those short five days - crawling around on that steep roof, attached by ropes, straddling the top peak-line. And they did a good job - what a blessing!

So - as of now - ALL the roofs that were part of the Capital Campaign project to "Repair My House" have been completed: the church roof, the rectory roof, and the parish office/school, daycare, and RE building roof. (There is the small flat roof between the church and the gym that will be done, and also the steeples . . . they will be finished up this summer.) I am so happy (and relieved) that those projects are all finished now - and that so many of you gave to make it happen. Thank you!

Still to come this summer: the completion of the new HVAC system, the flooring in the school/RE building, and the front church steps. And the new daycare ground floor in the school/RE building is shaping up quite nicely. Lots of progress being made in these necessary projects!

* * *

It's that time of the year when some of the parish programs begin to finish up for this year. This past week we had our closing Mass for the Religious Education year. It was a blessed year for the kids, and for the catechists. I want to publicly thank our catechists, who put in a lot of time and effort and make the year-long commitment on Wednesday evenings for the sake of our young 'uns. What a wonderful offering to Our Lord of their time, talent - and NO treasure for them - all volunteers! May our God truly bless them.

And I wish to publicly thank Carol Jabs, who took on the job of the Director of Religious Education (DRE) for this year. She jumped right in and did a great job. And - she has agreed to stay for a second year - thank you, Carol!

* * *

Okay . . . it's time. It's been a long time. It's time for me to get out of Dodge for a week. I'm going to be away from the parish from Sunday afternoon, May 4, until Monday afternoon, May 12. It's too late to go too far south where the heat of summer already is hitting the deserts and canyons, and it's too early to go into the high mountains where there is still snow . . . so I'm taking the middle ground and head to northeastern Utah, which should be just about right this time of year. No canyonlands there, but it's still Utah, and I haven't traversed through that part of the state and will take in some hikes there - as well as the area around the Great Salt Lake. I'm just looking forward to getting away after a long winter.

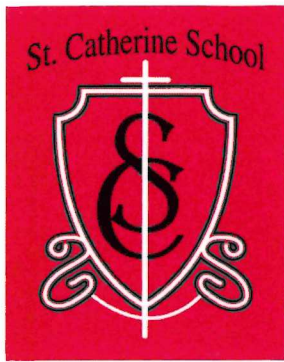
Fr Dale Lagodinski will be here for Masses next weekend. Please welcome him.

Fr Chad Wilhelm and Fr Joseph Littlefield at the Basilica of St James will cover for any priestly *emergencies*. Please do not call them unless it is an emergency - and be patient with their response time if needed. I am very grateful they are willing to look after those kinds of happenings if they occur.

There will still be Adoration on Tuesday (May 6) and there will be Mass at St Raphael's on Friday (May 9). Fr Don Leiphon does have Mass for the Sisters at Maryvale throughout the week but please call ahead for the times and/or if there might be a reason they could not accommodate others at Mass on a particular day.

Hello to May! I love May 1 - it's the beginning of the four-month long stretch of summer that most everyone looks forward to - yeehaw!

Fr Duchscher
Pastor



Principal's Page

Painting Projects – Help Needed!

Several painting projects around the school need attention during **May**, especially as we prepare for the opening of **Little Saints Childcare** on **June 2nd**. If you have any free time—even an hour—we would be so grateful for your help.

We also want to **paint the lunchroom, school hallways, and additional spaces this summer**. With the momentum of our **capital campaign projects**, let's continue making our parish and school as beautiful as the faith-filled people inside it.

To volunteer, please call the **school office at 701-845-1453**.

Little Saints Childcare – One Crib Left & Enrollment Update

We're excited to share that **7 of our eight cribs** have been generously sponsored—**thank you** to everyone who made this possible! We need **one more crib sponsor** (approx. \$250) to complete our infant room setup. **Let's finish strong!**

Our **Day 1 enrollment goal** for June 2 is **30 children**, and we are **about halfway to that goal**. There are still **openings available** in several age groups.

To sponsor the final crib or inquire about enrollment, don't hesitate to contact our Childcare Director, **Beth Nadelin**, at beth.nadelin@k12.nd.us or call the school office at **701-845-1453**.

Once the final crib is sponsored, we'll release our **Amazon Wishlist** for additional room setup needs.

Daycare Hiring – Join Our Team!

We are currently **hiring for Lead Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and Float Staff** (full-time and part-time). Applicants should send a **resume, cover letter, and three professional references** to beth.nadelin@k12.nd.us.

Summer Tutoring Interest

We are exploring **summer tutoring in reading and math** for students entering **grades K–6**. This is open to **all families**, not just current school families. If interested, please email nicholas.lee1@k12.nd.us so we can gauge interest before releasing more details.

Big Ticket Raffle – Let's Get Them Sold!

Our **BIG TICKET RAFFLE** is back!

- **Only 300 tickets available**
- **\$100 each**
- **\$5,000 Grand Prize**
- **Five additional \$1,000 cash prizes**

Get yours **after Masses on May 3–4** or at the **Parish Office**.

We still need to sell **over 200 tickets**, so please spread the word. All proceeds benefit **St. Catherine School**. Thank you for supporting Catholic education!

May Crowning & Chess Tournament Highlights

May 1 was our **final All-School Mass** for the year. It was a beautiful **May Crowning Mass** honoring Mary, the mother of our Savior. The liturgy reminded us of our mission in action, with students leading the celebration.

Also, we held our **school chess tournament on Tuesday**, and **13 students from grades 4–6** participated. No screens? No problem! These students love the game and play with skill and focus—**everyone can beat me!**



With gratitude and blessings,
Nick Lee
Principal, St. Catherine School



St. Catherine's Parish Team

Parish Office **845-0354**

Hours:

Monday 8am - 12pm and 12:30pm - 3:00pm

Tuesday - Friday 8am - 12pm and 12:30pm - 4:30pm

Pastor: Very Rev. Paul Duchscher

e-mail: paul.duchscher@fargodiocese.org

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Joe Leitner

Rev. Mr. Tom Vanorny

Parish Office Administrator: Jessica (Jess) Storhoff

e-mail: stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Liturgy Coordinator:

e-mail: st.catherine.liturgy.schedule@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Carol Jabs

e-mail: stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

Lay Directors: Jeff Bopp & Rhonda Fairfield

Parish Council:

Steve Jorissen

Doran Chandler

Larissa Musgrave

Mark Oberlander

Joe Zubrod

St. Catherine School **845-1453**

Principal: Nick Lee

Office Assistant: Terra Giesen

Sexton: Deacon Joe Leitner **840-7429**

Rectory **845-0725**

Fax **845-0556**

Nearly Nu Store **845-1022**

Baptisms: Contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Contact the Pastor at least 7 months prior to the wedding.

Home Bound Eucharist: Darlene Kerzman,
701-721-1899

Bulletin Deadline: 3 PM on Wednesdays

If you have an announcement for the bulletin,
please email Jess:

stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Newcomers: WELCOME! Please register at the Parish Office or use the registration form on our website.

FINANCIAL REPORT: April 27, 2025

Regular Parish Income

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Last Week	6,714.91	10,265.38	(3,550.47)
Year to Date	453,925.51	441,411.34	12,514.17

Registered families.....469

Adult Envelopes	6,031.00
Children	5.41
Plate	578.50
Utility	100.00

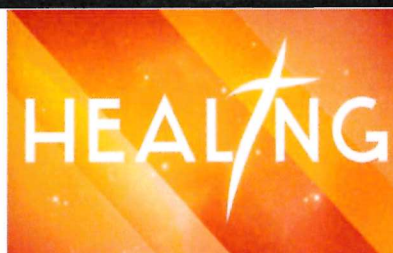
Total Collection **6,714.91**

Thank you for your generous gifts!!

***Online Giving available @
www.catherineofalexandria.org***

Prayer Quilts/Shawls Available

Some of our parishioners may be dealing with some very challenging physical, mental, spiritual or emotional situations/needs (a terminal illness, treatments, an accident, severe depression, a miscarriage) To convey the prayers & support of our parish family, Prayer Quilts/Shawls are available for all parishioners who will need them. To request a Prayer Quilt/Shawl contact: Georgia, 840-2737 or Lela, 840-8352.



Our Lord wishes for us to be whole, body, mind and soul. To be healed, to be complete. There is a group of individuals from the deanery

that are offering to pray with you, for healing. We would be willing to come to pray with you as an individual, at your home or parish church. Confidentiality is assured. The St. Catherine's Healing Prayer Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church our next prayer meeting is Monday, May 26, 2025. We are also asking for individuals who would like to be involved in this healing ministry from around the deanery to join us. We have gotten permission from the priests in the deanery so please visit with your pastor. If you are interested, please contact one of the individuals listed below for more information.

Doran Chandler 701-840-1257

Deacon Jim McAllister 701-840-1473

St. Catherine's Religious Education Grades K-8, 6:30 pm



No RE classed until Fall.
Have a wonderful faith filled summer!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact
DRE Carol labs@stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

"The most deadly poison of our time is
indifference." Maximillian Koble

St. Maximillian Koble, pray for us.

St Catherine's Teen Corner Grades 9-12, 7:00 pm

No Youth Group Class till Fall
Looking forward to Steubenville!!!

Classes will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., unless
noted in teen corner. All youth, grades 9-12 are
invited to come, have fun and learn about their
Catholic faith. If you have any questions or concerns,
feel free to contact Deacon Tom Vanorny
701-210-0640.

Tuesday Morning Movies

Please join the Tuesday Morning Movie
Group, each Tuesday morning after the 8:00am
Mass in the Sacred Heart Room for a movie,
muffins and mighty good fellowship. Showing
this week: "God's Doorkeeper" the story of
St. Andre of Montreal. All are welcome!

Prayer - Fellowship - Quilting Join the Fun!



St. Catherine Quilters make
quilts for those in need in
our area every

Thursday 1-4:30pm & 6:30-9pm
next to the school cafeteria.

Everyone is welcome for any
length of time. No experience
necessary & supplies provided.

Questions call:

Christine, 840-2580 or Lela, 840-8352.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Gerard # 2518



Meet Monthly 2nd Monday

May 2 - 4 State CDA Convention, Williston

May 9 12:00pm CDA will be leading a 20 decade rosary

May 11 9:50am CDA Candle Lite Rosary - Mother's Day

SMP-Maryvale Convent Hiring

Are you wanting to work at a place that is faith-
filled, and a home-like atmosphere? Come and
be a part of our team at **SMP- Maryvale
Convent**. We are hiring for a **Fulltime** (at least
36+hrs/week) CNA or PCA to care for our
Sisters, mainly the 3-11pm & 11-7am (shift
differential pay) with the possibility of 7-3pm.
Fulltime position comes with a \$5000 sign-on
bonus, competitive wage and benefit package.
Also hiring for a **Casual** CNA or PCA to work
a variety of shifts. Apply online at:
www.sistersofmaryofthepresentation.org or call
Amanda at 701-845-2864.

formed
Forming Catholics for Life



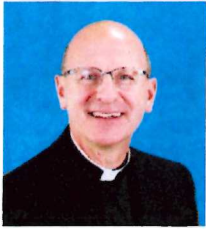
LECTIO
UNVEILING SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION
SALVATION

Lectio: Salvation | Trailer

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from
heaven "for us men and for our salvation." But what does "salvation"
mean? In this remarkable 10-part video series, Scripture scholar and
theologian Michael Patrick Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic,
and deeply biblical, answer.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the Formed app to your phone.





Invitation to the 40th Anniversary of Priesthood

Dear St. Catherine's Parishioners,

With a heart full of gratitude to our Father in heaven, I warmly invite you to join me in commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. It brought joy to my heart to serve the community of St. Catherine's for seven grace filled years as God guided me through your prayers and loving support. I hope many of you will be able to celebrate my anniversary with me.

- Date: Sunday June 8
- Location: Sts. Ann and Joachim
- Holy Mass of Thanksgiving: 4:00 p.m.
- Reception: A banquet meal will be served in St. Ann & Joachim's social hall. [Please RSVP](#)



I would be honored by your presence and ask your prayers for God's gracious blessing for the path ahead.

[Please RSVP by Monday May 26th to Deidra Lies at \[deidra@stanthonyfargo.org\]\(mailto:deidra@stanthonyfargo.org\), or call 701-237-6063.](#)

In Christ's love and service,

Fr Gerard Braux

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me trustworthy, appointing me to His service."
1 Timothy 1:12

St. Catherine Little Saints Childcare Center





Now Hiring Lead and Assistant Teachers
(Both Part-Time and Full-Time Positions Available)

St. Catherine School & Little Saints Childcare

Opening June 2 | Multiple Positions Available

- Competitive Wages • Benefits Packages (depending on full-time or part-time)
- Faith-Based • Paid Training, Flexible Scheduling, Established Curriculum for Each Classroom, Supportive Team Atmosphere, Spacious Renovated Classrooms

Scan the QR Code for full position description



<https://www.stcatherine.k12.nd.us/>

Start Date: May 15th (or sooner depending on needs of facility)

How to Apply:

Submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to:

• Beth Nadelin - Childcare Director

• beth.nadelin@k12.nd.us

• 540 3rd Ave NE, Valley City, ND 58072

BIG TICKET RAFFLE!



St. Catherine School - 2025
540 3rd Ave. NE, Valley City, ND 58072

\$100 PER TICKET. ONLY 300 TICKETS PRINTED.

Grand Prize - \$5,000

- 2nd Place - \$1,000
- 3rd Place - \$1,000
- 4th Place - \$1,000
- 5th Place - \$1,000
- 6th Place - \$1,000

Drawing to be held Monday, May 19, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in school gym. Winners will be notified. Need not be present to win. Not a charitable donation.

(Prize money already gifted)
All proceeds go to St. Catherine's School

ONLY 300 TICKETS SOLD!
— \$100 per ticket —

All-cash prizes: Grand Prize - \$5,000

2nd - \$1,000

3rd - \$1,000

4th - \$1,000

5th - \$1,000

6th - \$1,000

**Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office!!
Not many left, get yours before they are gone!!**

Twelve Women of the Bible

Women's Retreat † June 23-25, 2025

Maryvale Retreat Center



We invite you to this mid-week retreat to have a closer look at twelve specific women—
What can they teach us today?

Fr. Paul Duchscherer—Retreat Director

- † Retreat begins on Monday, June 23 at 12:00pm
and concludes on Wednesday, June 25 at 3:00pm
- † Bring a Bible
- † Series of talks throughout each day
- † Daily Mass
- † Holy Hour-Adoration (Monday & Tuesday)

Suggested Donation

\$50— daily rate with meals —or—
\$250—seven meals with two nights lodging

Register online at www.maryvalend.org

Maryvale Retreat Center—3150 116A Ave SE—Valley City, ND 58042



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

May 2025

St. Catherine Church
Very Rev. Paul Duchscherer

One Minute Meditations

St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was an Italian Benedictine monk who, with forty other monks, was sent to re-evangelize England. The Celtic population had already accepted Christ, but the incoming Anglo-Saxons hadn't. St. Augustine and his companions arrived at Ebbsfleet in 597, and were, thankfully, welcomed by King Ethelbert of Kent, who gave them permission to preach the Gospel. He also later converted. St. Augustine and his companions successfully converted southern England. He is called the "Apostle of England."

Happy Pentecost!

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Blessed Mother and the Apostles in the Upper Room, in a display of divine glory. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, just as He inspired the first Apostles to go preach to the ends of the earth. How might He be guiding you? (We celebrate Pentecost on June 8, this year.)

"Be the one"

"Be with Jesus. ... I always write that sentence, 'I looked for one to comfort Me, but I found no one.' Then I write, 'Be the one.' So now you be that one. Try to be the one to share with Him, to comfort Him, to console Him. So let us ask Our Lady to help us understand."

Mother Teresa

"Be not afraid"

What God wants most for each of us is to be happy with Him in Heaven. He uses the world to shape us and give us qualities that will help us get there untainted by sin. *"Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand ..."* (Jeremiah 18:6). Sometimes that means allowing us to undergo trials that cleanse and strengthen us.

Don't judge a gift by its ugly wrapping paper. Some virtues can only be acquired through hardship. Avoiding discomfort will cause you to miss out on experiences God wants you to have. While they may be uncomfortable, God would remove them at once if they weren't good for your soul.

"Pray, hope and don't worry." This famous advice from St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) is both comforting and practical. Many of tomorrow's troubles exist only in our minds. Live your trust in God by refusing to think about what might

happen and instead deal with what is happening right now. Refuse to worry. *"Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?"* (Matthew 6:27).

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Accept aid. When overwhelmed, we may overlook the help God is already providing, mistakenly believing we must face challenges alone. This mindset can lead to pride — the temptation to act without God.

Instead, stay open to help from others, seek guidance in Scripture and Church teachings, and remain rooted in prayer and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Once your storm passes, you'll be prepared to support others through theirs.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

In the well-known Marian apparitions approved by the Church — Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, and Kibeho — the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance seems to adapt to the local culture of those to whom she appears, while her central message remains consistent: a call to prayer, repentance and renewed devotion to the Faith.

For example, the miraculous image

Why do Catholics have different images of the Blessed Mother?

of Our Lady of Guadalupe features symbolic elements that the Aztec people would have understood, communicating the Gospel message in a way that resonated within their cultural context. This adaptation of Mary's appearance underscores her closeness to the communities she visits, reflecting the profound truth of her spiritual motherhood of all Christians.

The Ascension brings us closer to Jesus

The Ascension might have felt like a moment of separation to Jesus' disciples, but in reality, it brought them closer to Him in a deeper spiritual connection. Through His Ascension, Jesus became spiritually present everywhere, continually interceding on our behalf. He is always thinking of us, presenting our needs to the Father. When we pray, we are never alone—Jesus Himself is praying with us and for us.

Prayer "power-up." Prayer doesn't have to feel good to be good prayer. It can be a real struggle to pray throughout the day, to stay focused on God, and not get distracted. That's when we can lean on Jesus' perfect prayer to the Father. We

can join our prayers to His, and know they are pleasing to God.

Offer it up. Whether it involves suffering, fulfilling a necessary duty, or performing an act of charity, when we unite these actions with Jesus' self-offering on the Cross, they gain profound spiritual significance and immeasurable value for souls — especially our own.

Mass intentions. During Holy Communion or right after Mass, take a moment to present your concerns, and your desires to God, dedicating them to the service and glory of His love. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity!

from Scripture

John 14:23-29, "I am with you always."

This Gospel reading comes from Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper. As He prepared to face His Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus sought to strengthen His disciples, a close-knit group who had followed Him for three years. In this poignant moment, He reassured them of His continued presence, even after His departure. Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus promised, *"I am with you always"* (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus' message was clear: although His followers would no longer see Him physically, He would remain invisibly but powerfully present. If they kept His word, both He and the Father would

dwell within them through grace. Furthermore, He promised to send the Holy Spirit as a guide and comforter, granting them the gift of His peace and the assurance of His return.

It is natural to feel that being faithful would be easier if we could see and hear Jesus directly. Yet, He remains present in His Church—in her worship, prayer, sacraments, and acts of charity.

Above all, Jesus is profoundly present in the Eucharist, where His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity are truly present (CCC, #1374). We do not need to look back in time; we encounter Jesus at every Mass.

Q & A How can I make a consecration to Mary?

The Marian Consecration, or *Total Consecration to Mary*, is a devotion dating back to the 1700s, introduced by St. Louis de Montfort. It involves entrusting one's life to Jesus through the Blessed Mother. This practice has been highly praised by many saints and popes, including Pope St. John Paul II.

Marian consecration does not involve worshipping Mary or treating her as divine. Instead, it acknowledges that Mary, as Christ's mother, always leads us to her Son. Mary serves as a bridge, guiding us closer to Jesus by the safest and most direct route.

On the Cross, Jesus gave His mother to humanity, saying, *"Behold your mother"* (John 19:26-27). St. John Paul II saw this as an invitation to deeper intimacy with Christ by drawing closer to the one closest to Him on earth.

Many who practice the consecration experience a deeper, more transformative prayer life, drawing closer to both Mary and Jesus. (Note: Catholic websites like EWTN and the National Shrine of St. Louis de Montfort provide free downloadable versions and instructions.)

Feasts & Celebrations

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (First Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, the son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 12 – Sais Nereus and Achilleus (d.c.100). Little is known about the early lives of Saints Nereus and Achilleus. They were Roman soldiers of the Praetorian Guard but converted to Christianity. They resigned the army, refusing to serve the Emperor. They

were exiled from Rome to the island of Terracina and were beheaded.

May 29 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). Today marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 29 – Pope St. Paul VI (1978). Born in 1897, near Brescia, Italy, Giovanni Battista Montini spent most of his priesthood working for the Vatican. He was elected pope in 1963 and concluded the Second Vatican Council, went on many apostolic missions, and wrote several significant encyclicals. He died in 1978.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC

Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™

(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax

<http://www.infaithpublishing.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)