

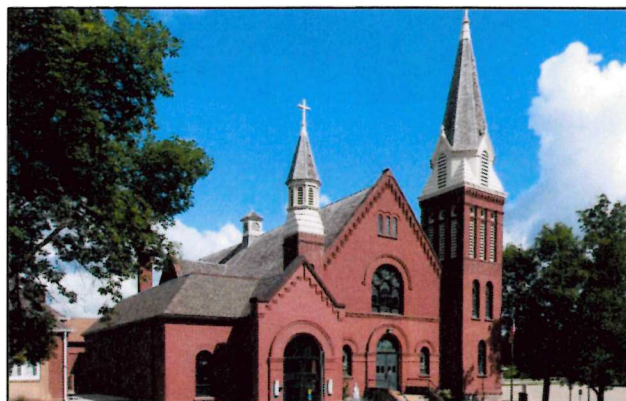
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

Pentecost Sunday

June 8, 2025

www.catherineofalexandria.org



MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 7:50 am

Tuesday 8:15 - 9:30 pm

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 pm

Sunday - 7:30-8:00 am

Summer Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 7:30am - 3:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday: 7:30am - 5:00pm

Friday: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Closed from 12:00 - 12:30pm everyday

June Serving Information:

Chairpersons are:

Dawn Dieterle: 701-490-1187

Kim Eggermont: 701-845-8947

Deb Burchill: 701-840-2354

If an event is scheduled, please volunteer.



We are Hiring

Store Cashier/Clerk needed

Saturdays, 10:00am to 5:00pm

Please stop in the store to inquire about this position or to apply.

Store hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm

Monday - Saturday

Phone Number 845-1022



CONGRATULATIONS to Greta Goven and to Brielle Killoran, recipients of our REACH Club scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year!!!

Note: REACH Club scholarships are funded exclusively through free will donations made at REACH social events throughout the year. Every REACH membership dollar and/ or memorial donation made to REACH is invested and used exclusively for the benefit of St. Catherine School.

CDA Father's Day Breakfast

Sunday, June 15th

9:00am to Noon



Menu includes:

Badland and Canyon Land eggs, bacon, biscuits and gravy, caramel and cinnamon rolls, filled rolls and long johns, fruit, juice, coffee and tea

* Free Will Offering *

June Calendar of Events

SUN 8	Pentecost Sunday 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass
MON 9	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 6:00pm CDA Prayer and Meeting
TUE 10	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 8:30am -10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie
WED 11	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 5:00pm Nearly Nu Meeting
THU 12	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters
FRI 13	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 12:00pm Parish Office Closed 2:00pm Mass – St Raphael
SAT 14	10:00am Mass – Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
SUN 15	The Most Holy Trinity Father's Day 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 9:00am - Noon - CDA Father's Day Breakfast 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading — Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading — 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or
Rom 8:8-17

Gospel — Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14;
Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: Acts 11:21b-26, 13:1-3; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: 2 Cor 3:15-4:1, 3-6; Mt 5:20-26

Friday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-21; Mt 5:33-37

Sunday: Prv 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15

PRAYER NETWORK

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

Warren Ventch

Renita Westerhausen

Larry Doyle

Tyana Judd

Lucille Winkler

Colleen Musgrave

Marlys Koble

Shelly Differding

Donna Hammond

Mary Elmore

Jerry Sand

Katie Anderson

Krystal Lemer

Linda Hesck

MASS INTENTIONS June 9 - 15

M 8:00am	† Jeff Differding
T 8:00am	Travis & Amy Steele
W 8:00am	† Marilyn Beach
Th 8:00am	Mike Green
F 8:00am	† Mylo Falstad
2:00pm	† TJ McGough
Sa 5:00pm	† Mary & David Kurtenbach
Su 8:30am	People of the Parish
10:30am	† Dave Winkler

Grant Them Eternal Rest

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of **Kevin Winkler**, son of Arvid Winkler, who recently passed away. May he rest forever in God's Loving care.

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of **Audrey Suhr**, who recently passed away. May she rest forever in God's Loving care.

Pastor's Page

ST. CATHERINE'S "LITTLE SAINTS" CHILDCARE CENTER OPEN!

Perhaps you have heard, but if not . . . after many months of preparation and hard work getting things done, our parish's own childcare center - "Little Saints" - is now operating in our parish school building on the lower level! It is great to have our first grouping of kids making use of the new space; great to have the staff all trained in and taking care of the kids throughout the day; great to have young 'uns back in the lower level of the school - and it's great to have that lower level all cleaned up, fixed up, and gussied up with new flooring, new paint on the walls, a new kitchen, new furnishings, new toys and things for the kids to play with and learn from, and all that comes with opening up a new childcare center.

Let folks around town know that if they need the services of a childcare center for this summer or for the school year to check out "Little Saints." I am grateful to Nick Lee, our school principal and overall overseer of the operation, and Beth Nadelin, the director, for all the work and effort they made to get this all up and running in less than six months! May it be a true blessing for our parish and community!

* * *

A while back I started making up a list of things that I put under the heading of "Lazy Liturgy." Now of course "liturgy" in our Catholic faith is first and foremost the worship that the Church, as the Body of Christ, offers to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit: that includes all the sacraments and especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I'm using the phrase "lazy liturgy" in an analogous way to indicate those things that we might do as individuals in connection with our own personal worship that can become lackadaisical - or being offered in a lazy way. Our Lord deserves better than our "lazy liturgy" - and this listing began with the ones I find myself falling into. I thought it would be good to share this with you - and perhaps let it be a good examination of conscience to better your own approach to Our Lord in your devotional life. He deserves our best.

Concerning myself with two examples:

- I often find myself offering the grace before meals prayer *while I'm walking to the table to begin to eat*. In other words, I'm so "lazy" in that way that I don't have the discipline or respect for a proper prayer attitude to before God to approach the table, stop, and offer the prayer in a still and reverent manner.

- In offering my daily prayers as a priest, the Church often gives a number of options: and I began to realize that I was almost always using the "shortest" option every day. The shortest option in this case would probably cut 15 seconds off the prayer time, but I could be so lazy as to always choose it instead of one of the other options - at least once in a while - if nothing else to vary the prayer that I'm offering to God. But that shortest option is what I gravitated towards . . .

Other examples I've noticed concerning "lazy liturgy":

- With vocal prayers, I more often than you might think hear folks praying using the wrong words but being "lazy" enough to not even notice that what they are saying is sometimes nonsensical and not taking the time to learn the proper words. (For example, it is not a rare occasion when someone will start the Act of Contrition in confession with the words, "O my God, I am *hardly* sorry for having offended Thee . . ." instead of "O my God, I am *heartily* sorry for having offended Thee." Or "I firmly resolve, with the help of *my* grace . . ." instead of "I firmly resolve, with the help of *Thy* grace . . .")

2) With vocal prayers, simply praying so fast it becomes like the "babbling on" that Our Lord warns us about. "Perhaps I can finish the Rosary in 17 minutes if I hurry instead of 20 . . ." - that's what I call "lazy".

Continued ➡

3) When praying, having a posture that is simply not very respectful before the living God and conducive to humility and modesty before Him: sagging down when on one's knees to lean up against the pew or the chair, laying down that tends to lead to falling asleep before the prayer is over, and being in an easy chair with the legs up and recliner back. For me, that would be "lazy" - I would never take on that posture talking to anyone important in an important matter - and prayer is certainly talking to Someone important in an important matter.

4) Approaching liturgy as a "duty" and/or "ritual" to be done as minimalistically as possible: going to confession only during Advent or Lent - instead of when I need to and should at this time and not wait; making a cursory examination of conscience that leads to a very incomplete confession of all the sins I need to confess - especially if it has been a long time since the last confession; skipping Mass when it becomes "inconvenient" - as for example when one is on vacation or with relatives or friends who "don't go".

5) Folks who don't make it to Mass because they have a "hard time getting around" . . . and then I run into them at Wal-Mart, or the grocery store, or heading into a movie theatre. Or those who were not able to go to Mass during that period of Covid when public Masses were not being offered, but now years later just never seemed to find the wherewithal to come back to worship and receive the Eucharist, when they did find the wherewithal to start up everything else that was stopped for them during Covid. Hmmmmm . . .

6) Genuflections that simply do not indicate the reality of what that is about: getting down on one knee in reverence because done in the Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. I know when I've done that - and it's because I'm being lazy before God.

In any event, there are any number of things that could be included here. Just remember, *it is the Living God we are before in our prayer and liturgical moments, and we must take care to not become "lazy" before Him.* I'm hoping you understand what I'm saying here, and I'm hoping that you - and I - both make sure we do our best before Him.

Fr Duchscher
Pastor

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 Duchscher—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

St. Mary's 120th Eucharistic Procession
for the feast of

CORPUS CHRISTI

Lead by Bishop John Folda

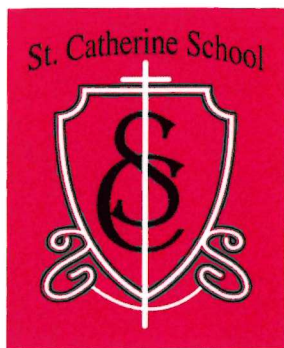
10:00AM Holy Mass followed by a
Eucharistic Procession, Outdoor Rosary,
Free will Offering Meal, Fellowship,
and Outdoor Kid Games

An honor guard of those who made their
First Communion/Confirmation will
lead along side Bishop John Folda
(Wear your special attire, veil and everything)

Saturday, June 21, 2025
at St. Mary's Catholic Church

6 miles East of Dazey, ND
1624 115th Ave SE, Dazey, ND, 58429

Please plan accordingly for weather and outdoor activities



Principal's Page

Just one day later than planned, we officially opened **Little Saints Childcare Center**—a new ministry inside our school building. This is not just a daycare—it is a living, breathing extension of the mission of St. Catherine School: *to inspire excellence through faith, learning, and service.*

Every decision we've made in this process has come back to a single question: *What is best for our families, and what is best for children?* Guided by our faith and a deep love of Jesus Christ, Beth Nadelin (our Childcare Director) and I have worked tirelessly to build this center from the ground up. But we have not done this alone.

To the volunteers, donors, staff, prayer warriors, and the families who entrusted their children to us on Day One—thank you. Your belief in this mission has meant everything. Childcare is about trust—trust in where you drop off your child, and trust that those caring for them see you, the parent, as a partner in forming that child into the person God intended them to be. We do not take that trust lightly, and we are deeply humbled that even without years of reviews or reputation, families have chosen to believe in this vision. That trust is sacred.

I've never worked harder on a project—and I've never felt more energized. That's how I know this is God's work. Building His Kingdom takes time, effort, and a whole lot of faith. And throughout this journey, I've seen His hand again and again—far too many “coincidences” to chalk up to anything else. To my wife, Kaitlen—thank you for every late night, every “can you grab the kids,” and every time I said, “I just need a couple hours at school.” Your support made all of this possible.

On our opening day, as I walked my youngest son to his classroom, he looked up at me and asked, “Is Jesus here?” I said, “Of course He is.” Then he asked, “He's always with me?” I smiled and pointed to his heart. “Right here.”

That moment brought a deep sense of peace. Because I knew his teacher—and every adult in that hallway—was going to guide him with the same faith, love, and care that we are building into this ministry.

At the same time, we see so many signs of God's blessings all around our campus. Flooring projects continue in the school. Heating and cooling improvements are underway. The church steeples are being restored. The drain pipe project has launched. These are all visible reminders of our Capital Campaign in action. It's amazing to witness our parish come together in such a strong and faithful way. These projects—essential, overdue, and impactful—are helping us position our parish to serve Him well for many years to come. This is OUR parish—but ultimately, it is HIS parish.

If you would like to learn more about Little Saints Childcare or schedule a tour, please contact us. We'd love to welcome your family. The direct line to the childcare center is **701-490-3800**, or you can email Beth Nadelin directly at **beth.nadelin@k12.nd.us**.

And as we continue to prepare the space for our youngest saints, we invite you to visit our **Amazon Wishlist** to help us gather the last few essentials. Visit <https://a.co/idrLDEt> to view the list. Thank you for helping us launch this ministry with love, faith, and excellence.

Please say a prayer of thanksgiving with us today. There is so much to be grateful for. May everything we do—inside the church, inside the school, and now inside our childcare—be for His glory.

In His Name,
Mr. Lee

St. Catherine's Parish Team

Parish Office 845-0354

Summer Hours:

Monday 7:30am - 3:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday 7:30am - 5:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm

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

Little Saints Childcare 490-3800

Director: Beth Nadelin

Sexton: Deacon Joe Leitner 840-7429

Cemetery Gate Hours: 7:00am to 9:00pm

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: June 1, 2025

Regular Parish Income

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Last Week	\$6,868.02	\$10,265.38	(\$3,397.36)
Year to Date	\$491,596.97	\$492,738.24	(\$1,141.27)

Registered Families 469

Adult Envelopes	\$6,223.00
Children	\$3.00
Plate	\$587.02
Votive	\$55.00

Total Collection **\$6,868.02**

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, June 23, 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!**

Check out Formed this Summer: The Wild Goose series is truly a work of the Holy Spirit from 4PM Media and the Ministry of the Wild Goose. "Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. It is a 14-part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka and various interviews.

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

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." - St. Augustine

St. Augustine, 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: "In Her Footsteps" the story of St. Kateri Tekawitha. 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

June 9: 6:00pm CDA sisters join Sisters of Mary of the Presentation at 4:45pm for Mass with the sisters. Potluck Supper. Plan to Eat at 5:30pm, short meeting around 6:00pm

June 15: 9:00am - 12:00pm Father's Day
Breakfast - Free Will- Celebrate as a Parish

CDA Meeting minutes can now be found on the St. Catherine of Alexandria website. Link is below.
<https://catherineofalexandria.org/catholic-daughters>
Scroll down to the box that says CDA Meeting Minutes, click on the month you would like to view.



Welcome

We welcome Frank and Melody McDowell to St Catherine's Parish. Frank has been in Valley City for a few years and Melody recently moved here from Manila, Philippines. Frank works as a Truck Driver and Melody is employed at a Childcare Center. They enjoy pickleball in their free time. Welcome Frank and Melody!!!

Join Bishop John Folda as we invoke God's
blessing upon our rural communities



8th annual
RURAL LIFE
celebration



Sunday, June 29, 2025

Calvin & Linda Leyendecker farm
4585 97th Ave SE, Marion, ND 58466

4 p.m. Welcome
4:30 p.m. Mass
5:30 p.m. Blessing of land, machinery, animals
6 p.m. Meal

- RSVP by June 16 to (701) 252-0119 or parish@stjamesbasilica.org (preferred)
- Event is free and open to all
- Mass will be indoors
- Bring a bag of soil or seed to be blessed
- Visit fargodiocese.org/rural-life





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

June 2025

St. Catherine Church
Very Rev. Paul Duchscherer

One Minute Meditations

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Born in 1568 to the Marquis of Castiglione Castle in Italy, St. Aloysius was living at the court of Francesco de' Medici as a page when he met St. Charles Borromeo. In 1585, St. Aloysius entered the Jesuit Order. His studies for the priesthood were disrupted by famine and a plague. He volunteered to tend the sick. He died of the same plague at the age of twenty-three. He was known for his purity, penances, and theological brilliance.

Encountering God's heart

It's one thing to "know about" God — like knowing someone's name and zip code — but knowing His heart is a different matter. Jesus founded the Church so everyone everywhere could encounter God and experience His redeeming, transforming love. If just "knowing about" Jesus isn't enough for you — good! He's always calling us to experience His love more.

"A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer. When no one listens to me any more, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation...he can help me...if I pray, I am never totally alone."

Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*

You are a passion of Christ

Want to know someone? Find out what he or she loves. So what is Jesus passionate about? It's simple — He is passionate about you. Not humanity in general, but you.

When Jesus looked at the crowds, He didn't see a blur of faces. He saw each person—knew them, loved them. The Crucifix and the Eucharist aren't just symbols; they're proof that His love goes to staggering lengths to be with us and bless us. It's a love so personal and intense, it demands a response. So how do we respond?

Start simple: "Thank you. I love you." We assume people know we love them, but it still matters to say it out loud. The same is true of Jesus. In His appearances to St. Margaret Mary and later to St. Faustina, He shared how deeply wounded He is by indifference and ingratitude, especially in the Eucharist. He also promised immense grace to those who console Him with

love, thanks, and attention.

Come to the Feast. At every Mass, Jesus gives everything—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374). He gives us His whole Heart, hoping we'll give ours

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9).

in return. He is as present now as He was at the Last Supper. Simply showing up to be with Him is an act of love — and a bold act of faith.

Receive His Mercy. When we come to Him in Confession, genuinely sorry, He doesn't scold—He celebrates. Not because of our sin, but because He gets to pour out His mercy. "Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me" (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 1146). Confession doesn't just free your soul—it fills His Heart with joy.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics hold Eucharistic processions?

A Eucharistic procession — a public act of worship during which the Blessed Sacrament is carried by a priest through the streets — is a centuries-old tradition.

Dating back to the Middle Ages, at the center of the procession is the Blessed Sacrament in a radiant vessel called a monstrance. Behind the priest (or deacon), the faithful follow, praying and

singing in reverent joy.

When these processions move beyond church walls and into the streets, they become more than a ritual — they become a living proclamation of Christ's Real Presence. No speeches, no signs — just silent reverence and an open invitation for others to encounter the Lord Himself.

Words can build—or break—bridges

"The way we communicate is of fundamental importance." Pope Leo's point is that words can build up or tear down, open hearts or shut them tight. In a noisy world, choosing how we speak is one of the most important choices we make.

Manners matter. Real communication doesn't bulldoze others. It doesn't chase agreement at all costs. It doesn't feed off competition. A healthy conversation makes space for different viewpoints while still seeking the truth. Winning an argument might feel good—but it rarely changes hearts. And changing hearts is the point.

Speak the Truth—with love. Truth isn't always popular. Sometimes it's hard. But truth, spoken without love, loses its

power. As Pope Leo put it, we must never separate "the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it." This is especially vital when carrying out spiritual Works of Mercy like counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, or even admonishing the sinner. The goal isn't just to be right—it's to bring people closer to Truth Himself.

Ditch the stereotypes. People don't fit neatly into boxes. When we lean on lazy labels, we lose the chance to see each other clearly—and we only deepen division. As Pope Leo said, "Let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment ... Let us disarm words, and we will help disarm the world."

from Scripture

Matthew 16:13-19, Founded on the "Rock"

The events in this passage lay the foundations for the Catholic Church, intended to last for the rest of time. In it, Jesus asks His disciples, "*Who do you say that I am?*" It was a question about Jesus' identity, rather than about the persuasiveness of His teaching or His popularity. Catholicism centers around who Jesus is. The Truth is true, regardless of popular opinion.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Simon answered for the disciples, identifying Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah (Matthew 16:16). For this, Jesus

changed Simon's name to Peter ("Rock"), reflecting a change of identity and mission. He gave Peter (and his successors) the keys to the kingdom — a sign of authority to interpret Scripture, forgive sins, and (re)admit people into the Church.

This truth has been handed down through the ages, from the Apostles to the bishops to us. The Holy Spirit would lead Peter — and his successors, the popes — to continue speaking and acting in truth as the visible head of the Church.

Q & A How can I get more out of using Scripture in prayer?

The practice of *lectio divina*, or "sacred reading" is a Catholic devotion with ancient roots. The best-known form was developed by Guigo II, a twelfth-century Carthusian monk, and consists of four steps.

Reading: The first "rung" of the ladder is simply to read. Consider reading the Gospel of the day, a favorite verse, or an event from Christ's life, e.g., the Anointing at Bethany (John 12:1-8).

Meditating: Reread and wait for the Holy Spirit to point you to something. Sit with it for a while. What do you feel? Can you imagine what's happening in the passage?

Praying: God always speaks to us through Scripture (Hebrews 4:12). This is the time to ask Him to shed light on it. God reveals His heart to us and us to ourselves.

Savoring: This stage is called "contemplation" — a resting in God. It's the moment when a conversation between friends settles into a comfortable silence.

Lectio divina is a guiderail for prayer, rather than a strict set of steps. Don't worry: God knows what we need and how best to reach our hearts.

Feasts & Celebrations

June is the month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, wounded by our sins, yet blazing with divine love for us. We're encouraged to receive Holy Communion worthily and visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

June 3 – St. Charles Lwanga and his companions (1886). While serving under Ugandan King Mwanga II, St. Charles and his friends faced persecution for their faith. When Lwanga and his companions refused King Mwanga's immoral demands, the king ordered them all to be executed, which they underwent in joyful anticipation.

June 17 – St. Emily de Vialar (1856).

Born into the French aristocracy, St. Emily used her inheritance to found a religious order—the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. They cared for the sick and started schools in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

June 19 – St. Romuald the Abbot (1027). Born in Ravenna, Italy, St. Romuald fled to a Benedictine monastery to do penance, after witnessing his father kill a relative in a duel. St. Romuald sought solitude as a hermit, yet many came seeking guidance. He founded several monasteries, including the Camaldolese.

June 28 – The Immaculate Heart of Mary. In response to the request made by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942 and initiated this feast in 1944.

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