

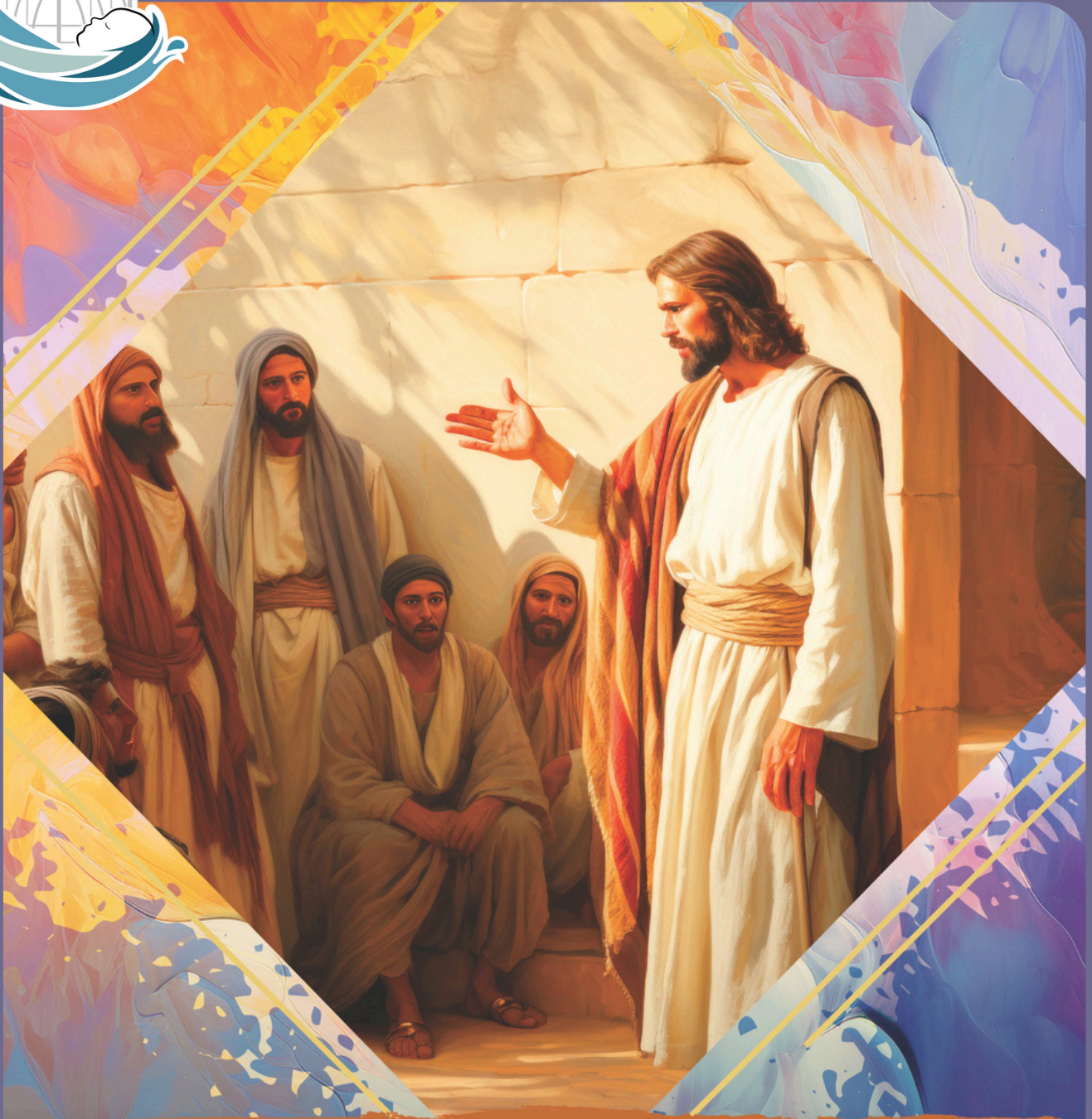
May 18, 2025



Our Lady of the Lake

ollbranson.com | 203 Vaughn Rd. Branson, MO 65616 |

office@ollbranson.com | 417-334-2928



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I give you a new commandment:
love one another.” - Jn 13:34a



5th Sunday of Easter



Events

SATURDAY May 17th

Our Lady Cares Second Collection
Sacrament of Reconciliation
3:00 - 4:30 pm - Confessional

SUNDAY May 18th

Our Lady Cares Second Collection
Coffee & Christ
9:15 - 10:15am - Faith Formation Room

MONDAY May 19th

Nanesti Wannithantri Funeral
10:00am - Funeral Mass
11:00am - Lunch - Faith Formation Rm
Burial will be at Our Lady of the Cove Columbarium

TUESDAY May 20th

Spiritual Companionship
6:30 - 7:30pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY May 21st

Stitchers
9:00am - 12:00pm - St. Francis Room

OCIA - TOTB

6:30 - 8:00pm - Heritage Room

THURSDAY May 22nd

OLL Games
1:00 - 3:30pm - Faith Formation Room

FRIDAY May 23rd

Red Cross Blood Drive
Noon - 5:00pm - OLL Parish Center

Spanish Charismatic Group
6:00 - 9:00pm - Faith Formation Room

SATURDAY May 24th

No morning activities

Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm
7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am
10:30am

MONDAY

10:00am
Nan Wannithantri
(Funeral Mass)

TUESDAY

9:00am

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm

THURSDAY

9:00am

Adoration

TUESDAY

No Adoration
will resume June 10th

THURSDAY

No Adoration
will resume June 12th

Important Links

[click here for
PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[click here for
MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[click here for
FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

Mass Intentions

Sat.	5/17	5:00pm	The Family of Jeffrey Jordan (Living & Deceased)
Sat.	5/17	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	5/18	8:00am	Marty Waller +
Sun.	5/18	10:30am	Lynch Family +
Mon.	5/19	10:00am	Nan Wannithantri + (Funeral Mass)
Tue.	5/20	9:00am	Lisa Schumacher (Special Intention-Living)
Wed.	5/21	5:30pm	Pete Houston +
Thur.	5/22	9:00am	Deceased family members of John & Margaret Casey +



[Haga clic aquí para el boletín en español](#)

[Click Here to Make a Prayer Request](#)

[Click Here to Contact Parish Staff](#)

[Click Here to Donate Online](#)

WORSHIP WITH US



Click [here](#) for Mass Times & Sacrament of Reconciliation



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR DAILY MASS READINGS

Collection through May 11, 2025

Envelopes:		\$26,685.42
Plate:		\$4,040.00
Green Envelopes:		\$6,178.14
Total:		\$36,903.56



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA





2025 DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND
**ONE CHURCH,
Anchored in Christ**

To date our parish has given \$33,265.00 toward our \$79,163 goal.

Thank you!

If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given by returning a pledge card. The diocese and Church in southern Missouri needs your participation.

"...By the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be All in all" (CCC 1326).



Lectio: Mary
"The Bible and the Mother of God"
with
Dr. Brant Pitre

Why is Mary so important to Catholics,
and why have so many people been
devoted to her over the centuries?

Coffee and Christ Sunday

9:15am to 10:15am

Faith Formation Room



Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary.

Session 6: Mother of Sorrows

The Christian belief in the miraculous birth of Jesus affirms that Mary did not experience physical labor or birth pangs. However, as she stands at the foot of the Cross, she experiences the pain foretold by Simeon-"a sword will pierce through your own soul"-when she becomes the Mother of the Church.

COME SEE

Do you know someone who would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith?

Please invite them to any one of these
Come and See sessions.

Tuesday, June 24th, 6:30 - 7:30pm

Tuesday, July 15th, 6:30-7:30pm

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:30-7:30pm

Sessions will be held in the Heritage Room,
on the lower level of the Church.
Childcare can be provided.

The Come and See summer
sessions are a meet and greet, and
an opportunity for you to ask
discerning questions about the
Catholic Faith, to decide if you do
want to go further and learn more.

Official OCIA
start date

Tuesday, August 26th,
6:30-8:00pm

**No registration
required,
just show up!**

**There is no decision making you have to commit to.
This is simply a Q and A discussion.**



If you have any questions regarding PSR,
Sacraments, or Quinceañeras.



Please call, text, or email 417-251-1819 Cell
NickieRivera@ollbranson.com
Director of Formation



A huge thank you to all the parents who make sure your kids are here to participate in this important ministry.

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" – Matthew 19:14



Thank you to all those who helped with PSR ~
Our priests, teachers,
food prep, cleanup crew and
Ms. Nickie who coordinates
all this.

Final PSR before summer break.
Make your own pizza & games

Wishing you all a safe
&
fantastic summer

Stay tuned.....



We are in need of Sacristans for all Masses
(especially 8:00AM)

If you are interested, please contact

Mike Rivera

417-334-2928 ext. 102

MikeRivera@ollbranson.com

or

Samantha Barron

417-334-2928 ext. 111

SamanthaBarron@ollbranson.com

Volunteers
needed



LET THE Word OF Christ DWELL IN YOU Richly.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

"What state produces the most saints?"



"The state of grace!"



FUN FACT! Being in a state of grace means that we are free from mortal sin and in communion with God. By going to confession, we are able to have our souls restored to communion with our Lord, should we ever fall into serious sin.

©LPI

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is another name for a priest's sermon?

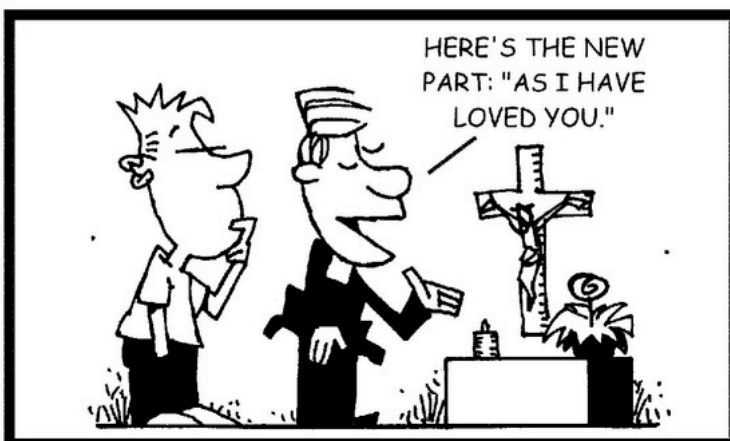
Answer: Homily

©LPI

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

Inquiring minds want to know --- about Pope Leo XIV

On May 8, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected Pope Leo XIV by the College of Cardinals as the 266th successor of St. Peter, making him the 267th pope and the first from the United States and Peru (dual citizenship). Various news outlets have flooded us with all sorts of tidbits about Pope Leo XIV, Below is a collection of facts that I wish to share about Pope Leo XIV.

- Robert Francis Prevost was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph. His brother John says he knew that “from the time he could walk” that his brother was going to be a priest.
- His birthdate is September 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, commemorating the day that St. Helen located the relics of the True Cross of Christ in Jerusalem.
- He completed his high school studies at the minor seminary of the Augustinians in 1973 in Michigan. In 1977, he became a member of the Order of St. Augustine and took his solemn vows in 1981.
- He completed a Master of Divinity degree at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and earned a licentiate and doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical College of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He went on to teach canon law in seminaries during his time in Peru.
- He was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, by Archbishop Jean Jadot in Rome. He served extensively in Peru from 1985 to 1998, working as a parish pastor, seminary teacher, and diocesan official. He was also part of the leadership of Caritas Peru, the Church's charitable organization.
- He is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese, and proficient in Latin and German.
- After being elected the head of the Augustinian Province of Chicago, he returned to the U.S. in 1999. He was elected prior general of the Augustinians in 2001 and then reelected in 2007, serving as head of the order until 2013.
- Pope Francis appointed him apostolic administrator and then bishop of the Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, in 2014 and 2015 respectively, and received episcopal consecration on Dec. 12, 2014, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Chiclayo.
- He was made a cardinal by Pope Francis on September 30, 2023.
- While serving the Church in Peru, Francis made him a member of the Dicastery for the Clergy in 2019 and then a member of the Dicastery for Bishops in 2020. In 2023, Francis made him Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.
- His episcopal motto — which is a bishop's personal motto — is “In illo uno unum,” which means “In the one Christ we are one,” reflecting his commitment to unity.

Pope Leo XIV brings with him a rich blend of American roots, missionary zeal, and deep theological formation. His unique background — as a Chicago native, a Peruvian citizen, and the first Augustinian pope — promises a pontificate rooted in tradition and energized by global experience.



Join a local Give 5 class to **connect** with other active retirees, **learn** more about your community, and decide where your unique talents and experience can be utilized to **help** others in our area.

Q: What is Give 5 Branson?

A: Give 5 is a program that matches active retirees with nonprofits that utilize volunteer time and talent to serve the critical needs of the Branson/Tri-Lakes area.

Q: Who gives five of what?

A: First, Give 5 class participants learn about several local agencies and nonprofits, tour their facilities, meet their teams, and understand how they utilize volunteers to fulfill their missions. After four classes, participants are invited to choose a cause they want to support with five hours per month of their volunteer time and talent.

Q: Are the nonprofits local agencies?

A: Yes! Retirees who join a class in Taney or Stone County will visit nonprofits in Taney and Stone Counties.

Q: What are the requirements to join a Give 5 session in our area?

A: A willingness to learn and help is all that's required. Register in advance for a session when you can attend at least three of the four, all-day classes. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, this program is 100% free for any resident of Stone or Taney County.

Q: How do I register for a session?

A: Use the QR code to the right, go online to OLLBranson.com/Give5, call 417-334-2928, or email MikeRivera@OLLBranson.com...and bring a friend!

Upcoming Sessions

TANEY COUNTY

Wednesdays

June 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2025

STONE COUNTY

Wednesdays

September 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2025



For more information and to register, go online or call 417-334-2928

www.OLLBranson/Give5

With Thanks to Our Sponsors...



Our Lady of the Lake
Catholic Church



OLL Games



Join us on May 22nd for
OLL Game Day

Plan to come together with fellow parishioners for fun and games!

Thursday Faith Formation Room 1:00pm

OLL Train - OLL Gamers
BIG Winner is Sandy -260
Curtis -321 Joe -460
Lil' Winner is Judy -565



OLL Train - Four Little Angels
BIG Winner is Julie -113
Pam -212 Shelly -390
Lil' Winner is Brenda -394

Swoop - Crazy Bunch
BIG Winner is Lisa -251
Joyce -290 Harry -385
Sharron -447 Dan -558
Margaret -572 Sharon S -659
Lil' Winner is Sharon A -716



OLL Train - Remy's Team5
BIG Winner is Ed -144
Eva -323 Susan -349
Marty -362
Lil' Winner is Remy -466



Come Close to God's Heart



As we come to know, more and more, that we belong to God and are part of the life of God, we also come to know the heart of God.

Some of our frantic questions –
What must I do? How can I get what I need?
– fade away when we come closer
to God's heart.

Then we begin to hear the questions and see the struggles that we encounter from that sacred place. In God, we gain new ears to hear,

new eyes to see, and new hearts to discern what is really happening. Concerns that, in the past, completely occupied our minds lose their meaning. Distinctions that seemed so very important to us dissolve when we look at them from our vantage point in God. What seemed a reason to fear no longer holds us in its power; what made us travel far and wide no longer drives us. Instead, our being is filled with a deep desire to see God's will be done on earth as in heaven.



Knights of Columbus®

Knights' Corner ~ Council 6470



MAY TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

While we typically have only done Tootsie Roll Drives in the fall, last year we added an additional drive in May to give our summer visitors a chance to support our cause as well, and the results were so good we're doing it again!

Your Knights of Columbus will be under the bell tower every weekend in May, your donation to the Tootsie Roll drive helps raise money for developmentally disabled individuals.

Save the DATES!

More Events Coming...

Our Council has reserved the following dates for more food and fellowship opportunities to come:

June 15th - August 3rd - November 9th

Plan ahead to come and support our charitable endeavors!
Knights! Check to see how YOU can be involved and help out!

Seminarian Support Fund

K of C Council 6470 is starting something new, and we're inviting YOU to be a part of it.

Our Council has historically supported our diocesan seminarians with their living expenses while in seminary, but we're looking to do more.

We are establishing a K of C Seminarian Support Fund to serve as a sort of endowment to support our diocesan seminarians. Our goal is raise over \$30,000 to establish a fund that will allow us to use the interest earned to provide more than four times the support we typically have been able to give annually, and to grow the fund to continually expand our giving potential. Be on the lookout for more information, and an after mass appeal coming in June, or reach out to our council for more details.



Food Drive Update



As of 4/24/25, Our Lady of the Lake has donated over 2042 lbs of food and \$1510 to the Salvation Army Food Pantry for the Fraternal year 7/1/24 - 6/30/25.

Did you know the Salvation Army can buy food at just \$0.18 per pound? Obviously this makes monetary contributions more effective.

Just a reminder that for every 1000 lbs of food **AND** for every \$500 donated, K of C donates \$100 to the pantry, up to \$500 each from the K of C annually.

Want to make a monetary contribution to the Salvation Army Food Panty through the Knights of Columbus to help reach the bonus gift from the K of C?

Make checks payable to:
K of C Council 6470
Memo: S. A. Food Pantry

Send checks to:
Knights of Columbus S. A. Food Pantry: Our Lady of the Lake
203 Vaughn Dr. Branson, MO. 65616



Need a Digital Way to Donate?

Here's a handy dandy little QR code for our Council's Venmo.

Just be sure to mention what it's for.
It helps to keep our financial secretary sane.

The next blood drive is scheduled
for

Friday, May 23rd
12 noon to 5:00pm

Our Lady of the Lake Parish Center
202 Vaughn Drive, Branson, Mo. 65616

**Red Cross
Blood Drive**

43 - units collected at the March 21, 2025 drive.
57 - drives successfully completed since Nov. 2015.
2859 - units of blood have been collected since Nov. 2015.

GO TO –
www.redcrossblood.org zip code 65616 to schedule appointment

Meeting Reminder

Don't forget, our membership meetings are held every *first* Thursday in the Faith Formation Room in the Church, Rosary starting @ 6:30pm, mtg @ 7pm.

Don't forget! The Larry Konzen Social is on after the meetings too!
Stick around after the meeting for a bit and enjoy some
fellowship and snacks with your brother knights.

Interested in becoming a Knight?

Contact the church office for contact information, or go online @
kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html

Use promo code **SHINKEBEIN** for one year free membership!

Reclaim the Romance!

An afternoon retreat for Married Couples

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

Check-in 1:30pm

Presentations 1:45 - 4:45pm

Holy Mass 5:00pm

Potluck Dinner 5:45pm

(grilled meat provided)



Love



Registration fee of \$20 per couple

Please register online using the QR code or go to:
https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/reclaiming_the_romance

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
2818 E. Bennett St. - Springfield, MO

Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Family Life and Leaders of World Wide Marriage Encounter

Has the busyness of life pulled you and your spouse in different directions?

It is time to reconnect. The Diocesan Office of Family Life is collaborating with Worldwide Marriage Encounter to offer a half-day marriage enrichment experience for ALL married couples.

The cost is only \$20 per couple and includes presentations, time for dialogue with your spouse, Mass, fellowship, and more.

https://dioscg.formstack.com/forms/reclaiming_the_romance

Deadline to register is Mon., June 2nd



BISHOP RICE'S MAY PRAYER INTENTION

May we share in the joy of Our Lady as we celebrate the resurrection of her Son.



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

2025 NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

Leading up to the conclusion of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival in the United States, a new Eucharistic pilgrimage will launch.

The St. Katharine Drexel Route will begin May 18 in the city of Indianapolis and the pilgrimage will end on June 22 in Los Angeles.

Everyone is invited to pray before the Blessed Sacrament at one of its many stops along the way. Although it will not pass through our diocese, there will be stops within driving distance in cities like: Kansas City, Tulsa, and Peoria.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org>

JOIN BISHOP RICE FOR Memorial Day Mass

Monday, May 26, 9:00 a.m. / Resurrection Cemetery

Memorial Day is a special day set aside to remember our dearly departed brothers and sisters, especially those who have died serving our country in the cause of freedom. Please join Bishop Rice for a Mass of Remembrance on Mon., May 26, at 9 a.m. at Resurrection Cemetery, located at 4528 W. Division St., Springfield. Seating will be available under a large tent.



Refreshments will be provided by the Knights of Columbus.



*Construction has begun
and we're celebrating with
all our friends, supporters,
advocates, and neighbors!*

**FATHER J.'S "LEFT POCKET,"
DONATIONS GO TOWARDS THIS PROJECT**

YOU'RE INVITED!

ELEVATE COMMUNITY DEDICATION

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025

4:00P.M.

**Elevate Community Construction Site at
The Elevate Branson Campus
310 Gretna Road, Branson, MO**

*Please note that this is an outdoor
event at a real construction site. Dress
is smart or business casual. Standing
for the event and available parking will
require comfortable walking shoes. The
event will take place rain or shine and
no RSVP is required.*

*Please join us to celebrate this important
milestone. Elevate Community is set to be
one of the largest, permanent, tiny home
communities in the country.*

*The dedication will include brief comments
from key advocates, a blessing of the
project, and an honorary tree planting to
commemorate the occasion.*

If you have any questions, call Elevate Branson at 417.335.9915
or
email Info@ElevateBranson.org.





DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

Blood Drive

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

**Parish Center
202 Vaughn Drive
Branson, MO 65616**

**Friday, May 23, 2025
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: OURLADYBranson to schedule an appointment.



**Come to give blood May 19 to 31 for a limited edition
Red Cross solar lantern, while supplies last!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

...you will receive

POWER

when the

Holy Spirit
comes upon you
Acts 1:8

Join us for a Spirit-filled weekend featuring:

**Fr. Philip Scott, Fr. Martin Scott, Annie Karto
Marti McCullough & Shelly Pichler**

Experience a spiritual journey that will leave you feeling renewed and strengthened.

**Friday, June 6: 4 pm - 8:30 pm • Saturday June 7: 8:30 am - 8 pm,
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
2200 West Republic Road, Springfield, Missouri**

We begin with Mass in the church then go to the Pavillion which is located on the
North-West Corner of the parking lot

Experience transformation and healing of your soul through Inspirational Talks,
Holy Mass, Adoration, Healing Service

Whether you can come both days or just one, come...You will be blessed!!!

www.strengtheningandhealing.org

\$25 or \$40/couple, Lunch & Dinner provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly: 417-838-2730 or Jan: 417-763-1579



Fr. Philip Scott



Fr. Martin Scott



Annie Karto



Marti McCullough



Shelly Pichler

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025 SPEAKER SERIES

presented by
Council #9533



Knights of
Columbus®

HOW TO BECOME A *Pilgrim of Hope*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025
6:30 PM, FOLLOWING THE 5:30PM MASS



HOLY TRINITY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

2818 E. BENNETT
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804

The theme of this Year of Jubilee is how we all can become Pilgrims of Hope. Dr. Merkle will explore how we and those we love and serve can receive all the benefits of the divine gift of the theological virtue of hope, as she speaks about the lessons Pope Francis teaches us in his recent letter entitled "Hope Does Not Disappoint."



Read Pope Francis' Letter on the Year of Jubilee

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER DR. CLARE MCGRATH-MERKLE



Clare is a spiritual theologian and evangelist with over 25 years' experience in writing and speaking about authentic Catholic spirituality. Dr. Merkle serves as an adjunct lecturer with Benedictine College, teaching courses on spiritual theology, women saints, and Carmelite spirituality. She also taught courses online on divine union and Sacramental Spirituality vs. New Age Spirituality. She is the founder of Our Lady of Holy Protection Society, which encourages intercessory prayer and parish-centered, contemplative Eucharistic community.

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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1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

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:

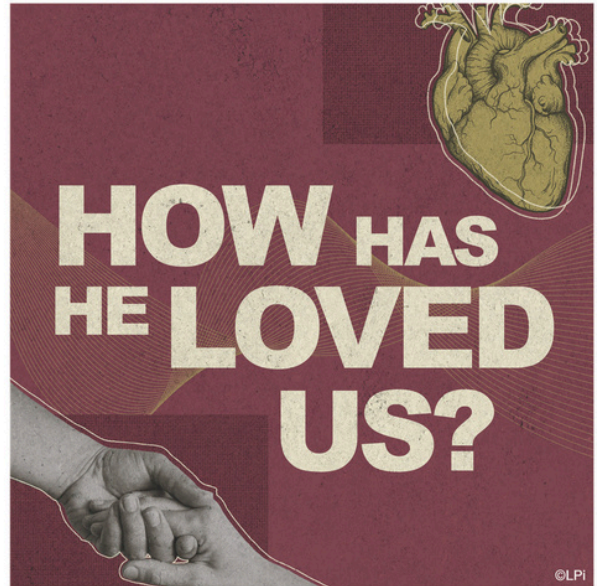
Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/
Jn 15:12-17

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



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



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

(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!



St. Bernardine of Siena,

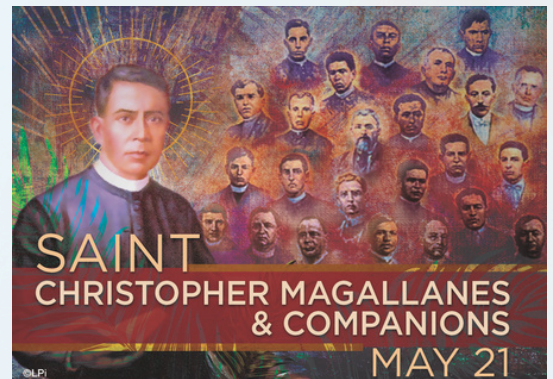
a Franciscan priest, is renowned for his eloquent preaching. Called a "second Paul" by Pope Pius II, Bernadine traveled throughout Italy on foot, preaching about God's mercy and the love of Mary. He was dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, a devotion that he popularized. In a time and place known for intrigue and vendettas, St. Bernardine preached peace and reconciliation. His charisma and his message attracted thousands. It's not surprising that he is the patron saint of advertising, public relations and public speaking.

St. Bernardine devoted his life to preaching. When he realized he was dying, he brought forth one last reserve of energy and preached for 50 straight days, traveling throughout Italy by donkey when he was too weak to walk. He died in 1444
...catholiclife.dioc.org

Long live Christ the King and the Virgin of Guadalupe!"

This was the slogan of the "Cristero" uprising in the 1920's against the anti-Catholic government of Mexico which had instituted and enforced laws against the Church in an absurd attempt to eradicate the Catholic faith in Mexico even going so far as to ban all foreign clergy and the celebration of Mass in some regions. St. Christopher Magallanes, along with 21 other priests and three lay companions, were martyred between 1915 and 1937, by shooting or hanging, throughout eight Mexican states, for their membership in the Cristero movement. Magallanes erected a seminary in Totatiche and he and his companions secretly preached and ministered to the faithful. The last words heard spoken by Magallanes were from his cell, when he shouted, "I am innocent and I die innocent. I forgive with all my heart those responsible for my death, and I ask God that the shedding of my blood serve the peace of our divided Mexico".

Pope John Paul II beatified the Cristero martyrs in 1992 and canonized them in 2000.



St. Rita of Cascia (1381 – 1457)

Had the opportunity to live her life as a wife, mother, widow, and eventually, member of a religious community.

Born in central Italy, St. Rita felt the calling to become a nun, but was pressured at a young age into marriage.

During her 18-year marriage to a cruel man, she raised two sons. When her husband was killed in a brawl and her sons died, St. Rita decided to go back to her first love and attempted to join the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. Her status as a widow caused some complications to her entering, but she eventually succeeded in professing vows.

Throughout her lifetime, St. Rita of Cascia was known for her prayerfulness and charity. She also experienced stigmata on her forehead, meditated frequently on Christ's passion, and cared for the nuns of her religious community and those in the lay community who came to her for counsel.

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MASS SCHEDULE

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Saturday 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Live-Streamed)

WEEKDAY

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9:00 am

Wednesday 5:30 pm

1st Friday 10:00 am

Holy Day of Obligation

Noon and 7pm (Bilingual)

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Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

or by Appointment (417-334-2928)

ADORATION

Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

1st Wednesday of the month. After Mass -

Adoration, Exposition, and Benediction until 7:30pm

Thursday 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

- We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.
- All Adorers, please sign in when you come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Please get in touch with the office if you need a door code or are having trouble with your own.

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