

The Bell Ringer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS + JUNE 2026



Go, teach
all nations
(Matthew 28:19)



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Our Country Will Be So Dedicated on June 11

The history of our Sacred Heart Chapel is on page 2.

Did you know this is a Jubilee Year? See details on page 3.

The three steps to Recollection of the Spirit, according to St. Alphonse Ligouri on page 4.

An Interesting View of John the Baptist, on page 5.



Quotes from Pope Leo's Encyclical on AI, turn to page 6.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted to dedicate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to celebrate America's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The consecration will be on June 11th, the opening date of the USCCB's annual Spring Plenary Assembly, at the assembly's opening Mass, rather than waiting for the June 12th Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus itself.

Devotion to Jesus' Sacred Heart has developed over the centuries following the experiences of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the apparitions she witnessed in the 17th century. Popes have

lauded the practice of consecration of one's self, homes and families, and even whole nations to the Sacred Heart.

In his encyclical instituting the Solemnity of Christ the King, Pope Pius XI, drawing on the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, commended the "pious custom" of consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a way to recognize the kingship of Christ.

Bishop Alexander Sample, the USCCB's chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty has noted: "In *Dilexi Te*, Pope Leo invited us to contemplate Christ's love, which moves us out on our mission to attend to our sisters and (Continued on page 2)

Sacred Heart. . .

Continued from page 1

brothers suffering in the world today, particularly in our care for poor and vulnerable people.

“As we reflect with gratitude on the blessings God has bestowed on our country, our devotion to the Sacred Heart demands that we consider how we might foster truth, justice, and charity in American life. We are called to bring our faith into the actions we take and the lives we lead in our communities.

“We celebrate the ways the Church has contributed to a more just world, and we invite all in our society to see the face of Christ reflected in each sister and brother. . .

“This anniversary and consecration will be a great opportunity to promote the beautiful devotion to the Sacred Heart and to encourage the laity to offer their lives in service to God and their country.”

The Bishops encourage dioceses, parishes and the laity to consider how they may join in this historic event in the history of the Catholic Church in America.

Keep tuned in with our Parish Bulletin and website sfxyannis.org for updates. Also find out to get a copy of the Novena on page 4. +

Sacred Heart Chapel

On Summer Street, West Yarmouth

When the first pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish was appointed in 1902, Father Daniel E. Doran had two buildings and a cemetery in the parish.

The oldest building was St. Patrick’s Chapel, no longer existing, located on what is now Barnstable Rd. but then was Ocean St. in Hyannis, built in 1874 and Sacred Heart Chapel, built in 1899, on Summer St. in West Yarmouth.



Sacred Heart Chapel and interior from old postcards

It was originally built as a heartfelt token of gratitude by the prominent Simpkins family to honor their devoted

nurse, Jane Byrne, who had cared for both their parents, Congressman John Simpkin and his wife.

On the wall to the left of the altar is a reminder of the part Jane Byrne played in the construction of the Sacred Heart Chapel. It reads: “In memory of Jane Byrne 1826 - 1911 in whose life the love of God was manifest. By her devotion this church was built 1899.”

The chapel is home to a loyal congregation of neighboring Catholics who have two Novo Ordo masses each weekend, 4 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. on Sunday.

The chapel is also home to a devoted congregation who enjoy the Latin mass according to the 1962 missal on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Special devotions, such as Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, are also held in Sacred Heart Chapel, as are weddings and funerals.

No doubt during the celebration of the dedication to the Sacred Heart this month, some special events will be planned as well. +

The Jubilee Year of St. Francis

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Jubilee Year dedicated to St Francis of Assisi, from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.

On January 10, Pope Leo XIV did something that surprised even the most seasoned Vatican watchers. Just four days after closing the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, he announced a new extraordinary jubilee — the Year of St. Francis of Assisi — running from that day to January 10, 2027. The jubilee year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of one of the most famous saints in Christian history

St. Francis of Assisi (c. 1181–1226) was born into a wealthy merchant family in central Italy. After a period of illness and spiritual crisis, he underwent a dramatic conversion and embraced a life of radical poverty, prayer, and service to the poor.

St. Francis is known for the creation of the first Nativity scene in Greccio, Italy, of the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures, a hymn to the holy beauty of creation, and that of the impression of the Sacred Stigmata, which took place two years before his death. He also founded the Franciscan Order, one of the largest religious orders in the world today, and inspired thousands to live the Gospel in a simple, joyful way.

The Pope, on the occasion of the Year of St. Francis, grants the Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father), which can also be applied in the form of suffrage for the souls in Purgatory:

1) Members: - of the Franciscan Families of the First, Second and Third Regular and Secular Orders; - Institutes of Consecrated Life,

Societies of Apostolic Life and Public or Private Associations of the Faithful, male and female, which observe the Rule of St. Francis or are inspired by his spirituality or in any form they perpetuate his charism;

2) to all the faithful without distinction who, with a spirit detached from sin, will participate in the Year of St. Francis by visiting in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church, or place of worship in any part of the world named after St. Francis or connected to him for any reason, and there they will devoutly follow the Jubilee rites or spend at least a suitable period of time in pious meditation and will raise prayers to God so that, following the example of Saint Francis, may sentiments of Christian charity towards one's neighbor and authentic wishes for harmony and peace among peoples spring up in hearts, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare and all the saints of the Franciscan Family.

The elderly, the sick and those who take care of them and all those who for serious reasons are unable to leave their homes, will also be able to obtain the Plenary Indulgence, provided that they are detached from any sin and intend to fulfill the three usual conditions as soon as possible, if they join spiritually in the Jubilee celebrations of the Year of St. Francis, offering their prayers to the Merciful God, the pains or sufferings of one's life.

Seek a Franciscan church that you can visit here in Massachusetts for the Jubilee Year. +

June Novena to Sacred Heart

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is offering a pdf printable version of the Novena to the Sacred Heart for the laity to pray beginning on June 3 and go through the 11th, the day of their Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart.

The consecration will be made at the opening Mass of their June meeting on June 11th, the day before the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

This Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus draws its daily devotions from the Litany of the Sacred Heart. Each day reflects on the wisdom of saints and pontiffs on the Sacred Heart and offers opportunities for prayer and action, framed by Pope Francis' encyclical *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us) and Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te* (I Have Loved You).

You will find references to a host of saints and how central this devotion has been to the Church. St. John Henry Newman, the Divine Mercy of St. Faustina Kowalska, and Servant of God Fr. Jules Chevalier, who founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1854, St. Alphonse Ligouri, St. John Paul II, and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque are all mentioned.

To access your pdf printable copy of the Novena go to the usccb.org website and search for Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus pdf to download. +

St. Alphonse Ligouri in his book, *The School of Christian Perfection*, says: "To preserve recollection of spirit or the constant union of the soul with God, three things are necessary: solitude, silence, and the recollection of the presence of



God. It was these three things which the angel of God referred to when, addressing St. Arsenius, he said: 'Flee, be silent and rest.' In other words: seek solitude, practice silence, and rest in God by keeping the thought of His presence ever before you.

"Souls that love God feel a strong attraction for solitude, for they know that God converses familiarly with those who shun the noise and distractions of the world. 'O blessed solitude,' exclaims St. Jerome, 'in which God with loving condescension deals familiarly with chosen souls!' God does not speak in those places where time is squandered in loud laughter and idle talk. 'The Lord is not in the earthquake' (3 Kgs. 19:11), but He says, on the contrary, in the words of the prophet Osee: 'I will lead her into the wilderness and I will speak to her heart.' (Osee 2:14). God speaks to the soul in solitude, and by His words the heart is inflamed with divine love. 'My soul melted when my beloved spoke,' said the spouse in the Canticle (5:6).

"St. Eucherius relates that a person who desired to be perfect once asked a spiritual director what he had to do, and this was the answer he received: 'Solitude is the place where man finds God. In solitude, virtue is easily preserved; in intercourse with the world it is easily lost.' St. Bernard tells us that he learned more about God and divine things in solitude under the oaks and beeches than from the books and schools of the learned. For this reason the Saints felt an irresistible yearning to leave the noise and bustle of the world and retire into solitude; for this reason the mountains and forests and caves were inexpressibly dear to them. In the prophecy of Isaias we read: 'The land that was desolate and impassable shall be glad, and the wilderness shall rejoice, and shall flourish like the lily. It shall bud forth and blossom, and shall rejoice with joy and praise: the glory of Libanus is given to it; the beauty of Carmel, and Saron, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the beauty of our God.' (Is. 35:1). In other words, for interior souls, solitude is the source of abundant delights, for it is there they look upon and contemplate the majesty and beauty of God. +

John the Baptist

Pope Leo XIV Presents John as a Model of Humility

On January 18, at the Angelus

Pope Leo focused on St. John the Baptist, whose nativity is celebrated June 24th.

It references our celebrity culture.

“Today’s Gospel reading (cf. Jn 1:29-34) speaks to us about John the Baptist, who recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God, the Messiah, proclaiming: ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ (v. 29). He adds: ‘I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel’ (v. 31).

“John recognized Jesus as the Savior; he proclaimed Jesus’ divinity and mission to the people of Israel and then stepped aside, having completed his task, as his words attest: ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me’ (v. 30).

“The Baptist was a man whom the crowds dearly loved, to the point that he was even feared by the authorities in Jerusalem (cf. Jn 1:19). It would have been easy for him to exploit this fame; instead, he did not succumb to the temptations of success and popularity. Before Jesus, he recognized his own littleness and made space for Jesus’ greatness. John knew that he was sent to prepare the way of the Lord (cf. Mic 1:3; Is 40:3), and when the Lord came, with joy and humility he acknowledged God’s presence and stepped out of the spotlight.

“How important his witness is for us today! Indeed, approval, consensus and visibility are

often given excessive importance, to the point of shaping people’s ideas, behaviors and even their inner lives. This causes suffering and division, and gives rise to lifestyles and relationships that are fragile, disappointing and imprisoning. In truth, we do not need these ‘substitutes for happiness.’ Our joy and greatness are not founded on passing illusions of success or fame, but on knowing ourselves to be loved and wanted by our heavenly Father.

“The love of which Jesus speaks is the love of a God who even today comes among us, not to dazzle us with spectacular displays, but to share in our struggles and to take our burdens upon himself. In doing so, He reveals to us the truth about who we are and how precious we are in His sight.

“Dear friends, let us not allow ourselves to be distracted from the Lord’s presence in our midst. Let us not waste our time and energies chasing after appearances. Rather, let us learn from John the Baptist to remain vigilant, to love simplicity, to be sincere in our words, to live soberly, and to cultivate a depth of mind and heart. Let us be content with what is essential and make time each day, when possible, for a special moment to pause in silence to pray, reflect and listen – in other words, ‘to withdraw into the desert,’ in order to meet the Lord and remain with Him.

“May the Virgin Mary, model of simplicity, wisdom and humility, help us in this resolve.”+

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Leo XIV, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father. . .

Quotes from Pope Leo XIV's AI Encyclical

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 Spirit of Leo XIII

4. "While Leo XIII spoke in his time of 'new things' (rerum novarum), today we cannot limit ourselves simply to repeating his insightful teachings. Instead, we must ask God for the wisdom to interpret the great trends of our time, particularly technological advances. In recent years, it has become increasingly evident how rapidly and profoundly digitalization, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics are transforming our world. Technology should not be considered, in itself, as a force antagonistic to humanity. On the contrary, it has formed part of our history since the beginning as 'a profoundly human reality, linked to the autonomy and freedom of man.' [Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter Caritas in Veritate] Over the centuries, technological development has significantly improved the living conditions of humanity. At the same time, each phase of progress has also revealed the ambiguity of tools that can cause harm when not oriented toward the good. Today, however, we find ourselves facing a new situation. The power and prevalence of emerging technologies are interwoven into the fabric of daily life, shaping decision-making processes and deeply affecting the collective imagination:

'Never has humanity had such power over itself.' [Francis, Encyclical Letter Laudato Si'] New technologies open up a horizon extending in directions that are imaginable but not yet fully predictable. This complicates the assessment of their potential impact and the long-term effects they may have on both the dignity of individuals and the common good."

Appeal to Laity

. . . 16. "I address this heartfelt appeal to all the Catholic faithful, to all Christians and to all men and women of goodwill. Let us not be afraid to get our hands dirty on the 'construction site' of our time. Like Nehemiah, let us pray, plan wisely and work perseveringly, placing God at the forefront of our actions and the human person at the center of our choices. Thus, the 'rejected stones' — the poor, the sick, the migrants and the least among us — will become the cornerstone, and a solid, welcoming common home will emerge on the earth, where love and faithfulness will finally meet, and righteousness and peace will embrace (cf. Ps 85:10). This is the blessing we implore from God; and the task that stands before us is that of being builders of communion, rather than architects of Babel. We are to be servants of the coming Kingdom, instead of lords of towers destined for ruin. With the heart of a shepherd and a father, I ask everyone to abandon the construction of yet another Tower of Babel and to join forces in building up the common good, so that humanity will never lose its beauty, and the world once again will come to recognize the human heart as the place where God desires to dwell." +

The encyclical runs 54 pages with footnotes and is available at vatican.va for you to read all the full encyclical on artificial intelligence.



USCCB Offers Support to Bill Blocking Title X Funds for Abortions

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Ahead of the July 4th expiration of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act provision that eliminated Medicaid funds to health providers who also perform abortions, the U.S. Bishops’ pro-life chairman expressed support for legislation that would block federal Title X family-planning grants and funds from going to those entities.

The Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, legislation introduced in April in the Senate by Sens. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and Todd Young, R-Ind., with a similar version introduced in the U.S. House by Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., would codify a prohibition on Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers from participating in Title X. Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, wrote a May 8 letter to Blackburn and Foxx to offer support for the bill. +

Eucharistic Pilgrimage’s Florida Start Shows the Mass in US History

On May 24th, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage began in St. Augustine FL. With its founding, St. Augustine became the site of an early Mass in what is now the United States,

celebrated in 1565 to commemorate the landing of a Spanish explorer, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, his crew and Catholic clergy.

“As we focus this year on the Declaration of Independence and the 250th anniversary of that, St. Augustine helps us begin not with politics, but with worship,” said Jason Shanks, National Eucharistic Congress president. “And I think that’s critically important.”



Themed ‘One Nation Under God,’ The St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route will continue up the Eastern Seaboard through most of the 13 original colonies, reaching New England, including the Fall River Diocese. On June 29th, Mass and Eucharistic Processions in Easton and New Bedford are planned, with celebrations on the morning of June 30 in Fall River. +

St. Francis Xavier’s Eucharistic Mass And Procession on June 4th

In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage which began on May 24th in St. Augustine FL, our parish will celebrate a Votive Mass honoring Our Lord in the Holy Eucharistic at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 4th. A procession about the Church Campus will follow the Mass. Do mark your calendars and plan to attend to honor Our Dear Lord. +



Words^{OF} WISDOM

Quotations from the Saints whose feasts are this month . . .

“In her voyage across the ocean of this world, the Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life’s different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship but to keep her on her course.”

— **St. Boniface**

“O Priest! You are not of yourself because you are of God. You are not of yourself because you are the servant and minister of Christ.

You are not your own because you are the spouse of the Church. You are not yourself because you are the mediator between God and man. You are not from yourself because you are nothing. What then are you?

Nothing and everything. O Priest!

Take care, lest what was said to Christ on the cross be said to you: ‘He saved others, Himself He cannot save!’”

— **St. Norbert on his ordination**

“A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life.”

— **St. John Fisher**

“We give glory to You, Lord, who raised up Your Cross to span the jaws of death like a bridge by which souls might pass

from the region of the dead to the land of the living. . . You are incontestably alive. Your murderers sowed Your living body in the earth as farmers sow grain but it sprang up and yielded an abundant harvest of men raised from the dead.”

— **St. Ephrem the Syrian**

“The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much. He runs away when we make the Sign of the Cross.”

— **St. Anthony of Padua**

“Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish.”

— **St. Romuald**

“He is the Light of Truth, the Path of life, the Power and Mind, Hand and Strength of the Father. He is the Sun of Justice, Source of Blessings, Flower of God, God’s Son, Creator of the world, Life of our mortality and Death to our death. He is the Master of the virtues. He is God to us ...!”

— **St. Paulinus of Nola**

“My sheep follow me,” says Christ. By a certain God-given grace, believers follow in the footsteps of Christ. No longer subject to the shadows of the Law, they obey the commands of Christ, and guided by His words, rise through grace, to His own dignity, for they are called children of God. When Christ ascends into heaven, they also follow Him.”

— **St. Cyril of Alexandria**



Words of
WISDOM

Quotations on the Fatherhood, God's and St. Joseph's . . .

“In revealing and in reliving on earth the very fatherhood of God, a man is called upon to ensure the harmonious and united development of all the members of the family.”

— **St. John Paul II**

“God is a father who never abandons His children, a loving father who supports, helps, welcomes, forgives, saves, with a fidelity that immensely surpasses that of men, opening up to an eternal dimension.”

— **Pope Benedict XVI**

“Every family needs a father — a father who shares in his family's joy and pain, hands down wisdom to his children, and offers them firm guidance and love.”

— **Pope Francis**

“The divine fatherhood is the source of human fatherhood; this is the foundation of the honor owed to parents.”

— **Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2214**

“Love no child of your own so tenderly that you would not be content to sacrifice him to God as Abraham was ready to do for Isaac, if God were to command you to do so. And since we know

that God would never do that, offer your child otherwise to God's service.”

— **St. Thomas More**

“Fatherhood is a vocation in God's service to be not held lightly or frivolously, but with the serious determination of serious men.”

— **Father Lawrence Lovasik**

“A man of prayer is capable of everything.”

— **St. Vincent de Paul**

“St. Joseph is the divinely revealed model of human fatherhood.”

— **Servant of God Father John Hardon**

“Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties.”

— **From *Quamquam Pluries*,
Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical
on devotion to St. Joseph
August 15th, 1889**

June is Devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



**During this 250th Anniversary
Year of the founding of
the United States of America,
the Bishops have chosen
to dedicate our country
on June 11th to the Sacred Heart.
Choose how you and your family
can join with them in
enthroning Jesus for peace in
our homes and in our country.**