



WE HAVE A POPE!

# HABEMUS PAPAM

POPE LEO XIV

O God, who chose your servant in succession to the Apostle Peter as shepherd of the whole flock, look favorably on the supplications of your people and grant that, as Vicar of Christ on earth, he may confirm his brethren and that the whole Church may be in communion with him in the bond of unity, love and peace, so that in you, the shepherd of souls, all may know the truth and attain life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*-Roman Missal*

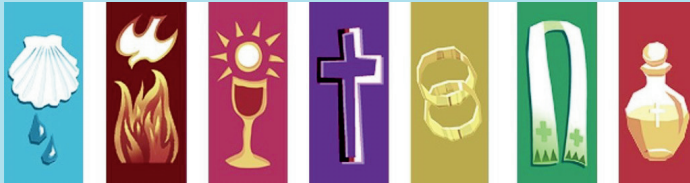




## NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to a very friendly and enthusiastic community. Please fill out the information in the Binder on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or register at the Church Office. A Census Form can also be found on our website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

### Sacraments



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Due to demand, some months may be eliminated or another day or time may be chosen by the family if it is available on the church schedule of events." To begin the process, parents are encouraged to go to our website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) to access the forms under Sacraments and return the forms by email or drop off at the Church Office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a seminar prior to the Baptism. The Baptismal Seminar is held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Day Chapel. If you need more information or have questions, call the Rectory at (504) 394-0314 or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION:** First Eucharist is celebrated the first Saturday of May for students in the 2nd grade or above. Children older than 2nd grade will be prepared on individual situations. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must be celebrated prior to Communion.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. Candidates who attend Catholic high school or are enrolled in the High School of Religion program come together for Sacramental preparation. All candidates are asked to pre-register in their freshmen year and no later than December of their 10th grade year. Information and registration can be found on our website: [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

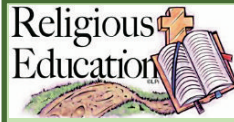
**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

**For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact the Church Office or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).**



**VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Inform the Church Office when someone is sick, shut-in or hospitalized and unable to attend Mass.

**FUNERALS:** Inform the Church Office as soon as possible when someone in the family dies, preferably before contacting the funeral home.



### Religious Education

The mission of OLPH's Religious Education program is to bring the "Good News" of God's love to all children and their families and to call them to commit their lives to Christ. Religious Education is available for children in Kindergarten through adults. We encourage parents to be parishioners of OLPH when registering students for Religious Education classes. Census forms can be obtained from the Parish Office during regular business hours, on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or you can register online. Call the Church Office at (504) 394-0314, or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org) for more information.

**SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Children in grades K-2nd are invited with a catechist during 10:30 a.m. Mass to the Day Chapel for the Liturgy of the Word for Children (September-May). A summary of the readings of the day is discussed on their level.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Our PSR program is divided in two parts. Family Faith Formation is the "academic" part with the textbook discussed at home as a family. Our Encountering Engaging Events are a chance to come together as a community to worship together, do crafts, or engage in traditional events like our Nativity Play and Living Way of the Cross.

**HIGH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Students in 9th through 12th grade not attending a Catholic High School are offered Faith Formation with academics at home, working at their own pace, but also some time to get together to discuss what they have learned with their peers about three times a year. It is intended to be an informal study with honest Catholic answers.

**RCIA:** Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or completing Sacraments? Please join our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We have a Year-Round RCIA process that you can enter into whenever you are ready. This is for you if you have never been baptized, if you have been baptized into another denomination and now want to become Catholic, or if you are an adult Catholic but have never been confirmed. Sessions will be held in person with day and time to be adjusted to personal schedules. For additional information and to register, contact the Church Office or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Safe Environment—** Refer to the Web Site: <http://www.nolacatholic.org/safe-environment> for policies and procedures concerning safe environment and child protection.

## Scripture Readings & Events this Week

### Saturday, May 24, Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.  
Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)  
Blessing for Graduates—All Masses

### Sunday, May 25, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rev 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. M) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. K)  
Blessing for Graduates—All Masses

### Monday, May 26, Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest; Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 15:26-16:4a

Daily Mass, Day Chapel—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
Church Office Closed for Memorial Day

### Tuesday, May 27, Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

Daily Mass, Day Chapel—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Confessions, Church—5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.  
Novena—Mother of Perpetual Help, Church—6:50 p.m.  
St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.  
Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

### Wednesday, May 28, Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; Jn 16:12-15

Daily Mass, Church—8:30 a.m. (Fr. K)  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.

### Thursday, May 29, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord; Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Choir Rehearsal, Church—7:00 p.m.

### Friday, May 30, Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 16:20-23

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

### Saturday, May 31, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Zeph 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Lk 1:39-56

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.  
Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. M)

### Sunday, June 1, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. M) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
2nd Collection—Building & Maintenance Fund

## Mass Intentions

5/24, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.—Joyce C. Ehrhard, Sandra Longley, Donna Pobrica, Jacqueline Cain, Irwin Cooper, III, Ferdinand Von Behren, Darrell Roy, Lyle & Lana Stockstill, Francis Gainey, Cindy Darce', Alexandra "Allie" Boteler, Audrey Creppel Treme', Geraldine Arnold, Rene' Bowers, Archie & Josie Lyles, Amy Pignoli Armstrong, Butch Burlette, Randy Lemoine, Ronnie Lemoine, Samuel Tague

5/25, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.—For the Parishioners (living and deceased)

5/25, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.—Blaze St. Marie, Byron Basco, Wade J. Bolotte, Brigid Dufrene, Mae Rita Plaisance, Marija Tesvich, Kuzma Tesvich, Sr., Anthony Tesvich, Maria Marroquin, Leonora Adames, Samuel Tague, Amy Pignoli Armstrong

5/26, Monday, 7:30 a.m.—For the intentions of the Priest

5/27, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.—For the intentions of the Priest

5/27, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.—Blaze St. Marie

5/28, Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.—For the intentions of the Priest

5/29, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.—For the intentions of the Priest

5/30, Friday, 7:30 a.m.—For the intentions of the Priest

5/31, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.—For the intentions of the Priest

5/31, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.—For the Parishioners (living and deceased)

6/1, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.—Amanda Luneau, Louise & Joseph Johnson, Richard & Anne Fowler, Johnny Pennison

6/1, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.—Wayne Perrin, Debbie Buras, Blaze St. Marie, Jacqueline Cain, Theresa L. Bossier, Rosebud L. Dumesnil, Sandra Longley, Francis Gainey, Anthony Tesvich, Audrey Creppel Treme', Geraldine Arnold, Samuel Tague, Amy Pignoli Armstrong



### Do Something Beautiful for God

May 27 —You are called to be holy where you are, wherever God has put you, right now.



### Confirmation Preparation Classes

The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred in the Junior year of high school (11th grade) in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. OLPH celebrates this sacrament in the Fall each year. There will be a Parent/Student Meeting on **Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM** in the church to go over all requirements for preparation for the sacrament. High school students in both Catholic and non-Catholic schools should attend and register for Confirmation as soon as possible. Registration can be done through our website at [www.olphbc.org/hsr-forms](http://www.olphbc.org/hsr-forms). For more information check our website or contact Suzette Perrin at the church office at (504) 394-0314.



**Begins: Friday, May 30, 2025**  
**Ends: Saturday, June 7, 2025**

Devotion to the Holy Spirit is an inherent part of our faith and our prayer life. In preparation for the Feast of Pentecost (June 8, 2025), parishioners are encouraged to begin this novena of prayer and renewal. We pray that God will give us a tremendous outpouring of His Holy Spirit in this time so that we can cooperate to bring about peace in our lives.

**The Novena pamphlets are located on the information table at the back of Church.**



## OLPH School News

7th Grade Graduation! Congratulations Class of 2025!



7th Grade End of Year  
Water Slide fun and a  
Crawfish picnic.



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or Visit <https://school.olphbc.org>





## Thank You Fr. Maestri!



OLPH sends a BIG “thank you” to Fr. Maestri for presiding over Holy Week and Easter Mass celebrations, which allowed Fr. Kyle to be away from our parish in order to help Fr. Gerry and the parishioners at St. Patrick’s Church in Port Sulphur.



Fr. Maestri singing “Because He Lives” with Ms. Allison Riley on Easter Sunday Morning!

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Presents

### A Journey Aboard Biblical Eagle 4:

### The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John is one of the most rewarding, theologically and spiritually, in the whole of Scripture. At the same time the Fourth Gospel illuminates our DAILY PILGRIMAGE, following Jesus, in the Spirit, to our heavenly Father who is LOVE.



#### DESCRIPTION:

Passengers will be introduced to the Gospel of John (Fourth Gospel) by way of a Chapter-by-chapter analysis of the text. Some of the highlights include: Seven Signs; Seven I AM Sayings of Jesus; Jesus’ dialogues on Born Again; Bread of Life; Water of Life; Eternal Life; Discipleship; and the struggles between: Sin/Grace, Darkness/Light, Disbelief/Belief, and Fear/Love.

#### INFORMATION:

##### Departure:

Monday, June 2, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. from terminal OLPH School Facility.

##### Length of Journey:

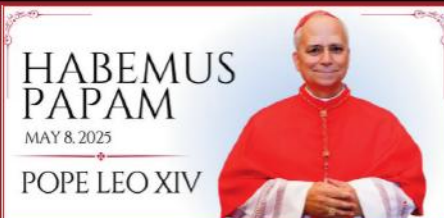
Each Monday, beginning on June 2nd and arrival on December 15th at a stable in Bethlehem.

##### Luggage:

Carry-on.  
BIBLE IS REQUIRED for boarding.

The Eagle 4 will be piloted by **Fr. William F. Maestri**.  
The aircraft has an ever-expanding pressurized cabin space. The doors are opened...

**To ALL – “Welcome Aboard!”**



## Fun Facts about Pope Leo XIV (born Robert Francis Prevost) to help you get acquainted with him!

- He is the first American Pope (born in Chicago, IL).
- He is also the first Peruvian pope. Pope Leo spent 20 years in Peru. He has dual citizenship of both the US and Peru.
- Pope Leo likes to play Wordle, and according to his brother, the soon-to-be pontiff squeezed in a quick puzzle session right before the Conclave.
- Pope Leo watched “Conclave” right before his very own Conclave.
- He has a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Villanova University in Pennsylvania in 1977.
- Pope Leo met Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.
- Pope Leo XIV’s birthday (September 14, 1955) is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. He is 69 years old.
- Pope Leo’s favorite sport is Tennis!
- His native language is English, but he also speaks Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese. He can read Latin and German, two important theological languages.
- Pope Leo is the youngest of 3 boys. He and his two brothers Louis and John all served their Chicago parish of St. Mary of the Assumption as dedicated altar boys, musicians, lectors and volunteers.
- Pope Leo is a Chicago White Sox fan.
- He grew up surrounded by priests as the Pope’s mother enjoyed hosting priests and cooking for them.
- Young Robert Prevost was the smartest boy in his class and considered a bit of a genius according to one of the Pope’s elementary school classmates. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in speech and debate.
- Pope Leo’s seminary formation began in high school. Also, he was an editor-in-chief for his school yearbook.
- Pope Leo’s parents: his dad was a Navy Lieutenant, his mom was a “church lady” and ran the parish and also worked in the library.
- Pope Leo has family roots in New Orleans. His maternal grandparents, Joseph Martinez and Louise Baquie’ lived in NOLA. The family later moved to Chicago, where the Pope’s mother, Mildred Martinez was born.



The flowers in church this week were donated in loving memory of: **Loredia Terrebonne**, requested by The Kennair Family; and **Brigid Dufrene**, requested by Lindey Elliott and Brandon Dufrene.

*Church Flowers—Anyone who wishes to donate the flowers in church in memory of a loved one for a particular weekend may call the church office. The donation is \$50 payable to the Altar Society.*



*The Sanctuary Light by the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.*

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in loving memory of: **Nazimova Fleming**, requested by Dolly Roy.

*If you would like to have the Sanctuary Light burn in memory of a loved one, call the Church Office. The donation for the Sanctuary Light is \$10.*

#### Sponsor of the Week:



Look to the back now! Look and remember to support these businesses when you need a product or service. Also, tell them "thank you" for their interest in Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

### Next Sunday is the Ascension of the Lord (Year C)

**Acts 1:1-11.** Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

**Ephesians 1:1-23.** He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

**Luke 24:46-53.** He blessed them, withdrew from them, and was carried up to heaven.



### A Humble God

The second reading from Revelations gives us a picture of the new Jerusalem as a sign of the power and majesty of God. Yet the other two readings seem to describe a humble God who wishes "not to place on you any burden beyond . . . necessity" (Acts 15:28), and Jesus in the Gospel tells his disciples that "the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my

name . . . will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (John 14:26). This gentleness reminds me of an icon by the Russian monk Andrei Rublev that depicts the Trinity as three angels bowing in deference to each other. This humility may be what moved Jesus to say that "the Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). It is certainly a unique way of understanding God. I used to think of free will as God's way of testing our worthiness for the kingdom of heaven. But it is more likely part of that same humility, God not being forced on us. While we are given ways to know God, especially through the scriptures and the witness of those who went before us in faith, God leaves us free to believe or not, to love God or not.

So does this mean God leaves us on our own to get through life? No, he gives us the Holy Spirit to teach and remind us of all that Jesus said. That "reminding" is an important way the Spirit helps us today. You may have spent years in religion classes or the RCIA process. When you need an answer to life's questions, the Spirit may remind you of something you heard from a teacher or read in the scriptures. As you pray over that question, the Spirit may help you understand how the scripture applies to you. So the more you read the Bible, the more likely that the Spirit will have something of which to remind you.

Tom Schmidt

### Stewardship

*All things are possible with God.*



Give Treasure

A way of life

### Church Financials Year to Date through March 31, 2025

	Operating	Maintenance	Cap. Campaign	Total
Income before Fair, Maint. & Capital	423,266			423,266
Fair Proceeds	91,000			91,000
Maintenance Monthly Collections		48,229		48,229
Capital Campaign Collections			44,010	44,010
Expenses	(516,809)	(52,674)	(230,462)	(799,945)
<b>Total YTD Actuals</b>	<b>\$ (2,543)</b>	<b>\$ (4,445)</b>	<b>\$ (186,452)</b>	<b>\$ (193,440)</b>

*Thank you to our parish family members who faithfully support our parish. May God bless you for your generosity!*

Online Giving Is Available on Our Website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) (click on Give Online), or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You can easily create your donation account online and make changes at any time.







## Straight Talk

by: **Father William Maestri**  
**The NEW FRONTIER**

Once again, our shrinking imagination has been grasped, at least until the next click of the computer Green Goddess screen, by "Space. The New Frontier". (JFK and Star Trek).

The return home of our politically stranded astro-explorers, aided by the technological genius of Elon Musk and the political will of President Trump, has rocketed our gaze upward to the "Starry, starry night" with "palette blue and grey". ("Vincent" by Don McLean)

The feelings of earned pride, the flawless touchdown in the Gulf of America, and the spectacular Chorus Line of curious dolphins, gave rise to a collective case of goosebumps (grace?). It also provided us the opportunity to revisit a 'Space Sage' from the closing decades of the previous century: Carl Sagan (1934-1996).

Sagan was a perfect match for television: brilliant, telegenic, likable, and possessed that rare gift of communicating the mysteries of the cosmos. Sagan didn't talk at you or above you. He was able to explain the mysteries of the universe in such a way that you were not "Lost in Space". Never stranded in ho-hum indifference.

Sagan's extremely popular thirteen-part series, 'Cosmos: A Personal Voyage', struck a chord with the general public. Like Aristotle, Sagan believed that the human being by nature desires to know. Hence, knowledge begins with wonder - WHY is there something rather than nothing? This first question, the question about existence itself (being), is the door that opens to the truth and meaning of the nature and destiny of the human person. Sagan walks through that door as an endless searcher for knowledge. And his GPS is the SCIENTIFIC METHOD.

His approach and journey raise the God-Question: Did Sagan believe in a Supreme Being, a Creator God? His response to this question is direct: "I am not an atheist. An atheist is someone who has compelling evidence that there is no Judeo-Christian-Islamic God. I am not that wise, but neither do I consider there to be anything approaching adequate evidence for such a god. Why are you in such a hurry to make up your mind? Why not simply wait until there is compelling evidence?" (Letter to Robert Pope, Oct. 2, 1996).

Sagan often talked about the "God hypothesis". He was an agnostic, that is, the verdict of God/No God had not been rendered by science beyond a reasonable affirmation or negation. This refusal to "rush to judgement" came from his disdain for DOGMATISM, either the religious or secular variety. That is, he dismisses any truth-claim which lacks evidence from the scientific method. For Sagan, to abandon science and turn to "clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes" results into a decline of our "critical faculties". This ends in our being "unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's good and what's true". We, "almost without noticing, back into superstition and darkness". (*Cosmos*). (See Jacob Bronowski's series/book, *The Ascent of Man*).

At the same time, a science which narrows rationality to the natural and social sciences denies the spiritual, ethical, and transcendent dimensions of reality. Pope Benedict XVI lectured: "This [shrinking of truth to only science] was a dangerous state of affairs for humanity, as we see from the disturbing pathologies of religion and reason which necessarily erupt when reason is so reduced that questions of religion and ethics no longer concern it [science]. Attempts to construct an ethic from the rules of evolution or from psychology and sociology, end up being simply inadequate." (2006 Regensburg Lecture).

As science and its application continues to advance in its technical/utilitarian power, the religious and ethical questions become more important, and urgent, for the theological and scientific communities, the dignity of the human person, the advancement of the common good, and the wonder of creation and the splendor of the God who "looked at everything he had made, and found it very good." (Gen 1:31).

The way ahead is NOT a fork in the road: one for Sagan, one for Benedict. The two paths find the same sign - DEAD END.

The way forward is a complimentary path of faith AND reason. At the road's end is the sign - TRUTH. WELCOME. NEW FRONTIER.

We have never been so free!



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