

# Abiding Press

## *Abiding Presence Faith Community*

*A PARISH OF THE REFORMED CATHOLIC CHURCH  
AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
MAKING GOD'S LOVE KNOWN IN CENTRAL FLORIDA*

June 2025 VOLUME 4 #7  
5330 Poinsetta Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792  
321-594-4922  
Office [info@apfcwp.com](mailto:info@apfcwp.com)

*Vigil Mass is Celebrated at Saturday at 5:00 pm  
The Sanctuary Building of the First United Church of Christ  
4605 Curry Ford Rd, Orlando, Florida 32812*

*Social Media*  
Web Site [www.apfcwp.com](http://www.apfcwp.com)  
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386619738179316/?ref=bookmarks>  
YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP9i133esG31lRPfgk-In4w>

### *Clergy Serving the People of God*

Pastor: Most Rev. William R. Cavins [pastor@apfcwp.com](mailto:pastor@apfcwp.com)  
Rev. Mr. Christopher M. Larsen

### *Volunteer Staff Serving the Parish*

Gene L. Thompson II – Technology [TechSupport@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:TechSupport@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com)  
Keegan Glover - LGBTQ+ Liaison  
Dennis Last – JMB Crock Pot Ministry  
Klaus Stodtmann – Bread Baking [kstodtmann@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:kstodtmann@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com)

## Mass Intentions & Prayer Requests

If you would like to have someone remembered during Mass or added to our Prayer Lists, please email your request to the pastor. We also invite you to support our community through your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated and can be made at your discretion.

Additionally, we offer Mass Cards that you can send to loved ones to let them know they are being remembered in our prayers.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

### Upcoming Dates

June 1	First Day of Week of Prayer for Immigrants
June 2	Second Day of Week of Prayer for Immigrants Breaking Open the Word 7 PM Zoom
June 3	Third Day of Week of Prayer for Immigrants Rebecca's Pantry 9:30 to 11:30
June 4	Fourth Day of Week of Prayer for Immigrants Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00 Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only
June 5	Fifth Day of Week of Prayer for Immigrants
June 6	Sixth Day of Week of Prayer for Immigrants
June 7	Seventh Day of Week of Prayer for Immigrants <b>Divine Worship – Vigil of Pentecost 5:00 PM</b> <b>Intention: For the Universal Church</b> Pentecost Pot Luck Supper – Bring a dish to share.
June 9	At Home with the Word 7 PM
June 10	Rebecca's Pantry 9:30 to 11:30
June 11	Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00 Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only
June 12	Divine Worship – Thursday - 10 <sup>th</sup> Week of the Christian Year 6:30 PM Intention: For Victims of the Pulse Nightclub Shooting Bishop's Residence & YouTube Live
June 13	Faith Network of Immigrants Are Welcome Here 2 to 4 PM Narthex.
June 14	Divine Worship – Vigil of the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity 5:00 PM Intention: For All Fathers
June 16	Breaking Open the Word 7 PM Zoom
June 17	Rebecca's Pantry 9:30 – 11:30

June 18	Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00 Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only
June 19	Juneteenth – Celebrate Freedom
June 21	Divine Worship – Vigil of the Corpus Christi 5:00 PM Intention: RIP Joseph J Witkowski
June 23	Breaking Open the Word 7 PM Zoom
June 24	Rebecca's Pantry 9:30 – 11:30
June 25	Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00 Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only
June 28	Divine Worship – Vigil of the Solemnity of Sts. Peter & Paul 5:00 PM Intention: All Reformed Catholic Candidates in Formation Food Bank Saturday -0 Bring your donations to Church
June 29	Divine Worship – Solemn Evening Prayer Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul TBA – Rite of Candidacy for Holy Orders

\*SCAP = Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest

## Financial Update as of 5/29/2025

Total Income Year to Date: \$ 4432.81  
 Total Expenditures Year to Date: 4859.90  
 Difference -\$427.09  
 Balance available on hand: \$1672.6

## Make a Difference with Your Donation

You can now easily make donations online through our website! For the most efficient processing of your donation, we recommend using Zelle. If you choose a different payment method, please ensure that your donation is sent as if to an individual.

Thank you for your generosity and support! **Our email address for all donation platforms is: [bkpg@apfcwp.com](mailto:bkpg@apfcwp.com)**

## RED CARDS AVAILABLE

During these uncertain times US Citizens and Immigrants need to know their rights. We are making available the Red Card which lists what you should do should Law Enforcement or ICE come to your door. You may pick them up at Mass on the desk in the Narthex or by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Parish Office. Those



requesting by mail are limited to 5 cards. Please indicate English/English or Spanish/English version. We are seeking a donor to help us cover the costs of publishing the cards in Creole/Haitian. If you have \$100 to spare it would be much appreciated.

## From the Bishop's Desk

### Pentecost and Active Hope

Pentecost is a significant event in Christianity, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. This event, which occurred 50 days after Easter, marks the birth of the Church and the beginning of its mission to spread the Gospel to all nations. The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to speak in different languages, enabling them to communicate the message of Jesus to people from various regions.



Active Hope in the context of Pentecost refers to the dynamic and transformative hope that believers experience through the Holy Spirit. It is not passive waiting but an active engagement in the mission and work of the Church, inspired by the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

### The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. **Wisdom:** This gift allows believers to see things from God's perspective. For example, a person might use wisdom to make decisions that align with their faith and values, even when faced with difficult choices.
2. **Understanding:** Understanding helps believers grasp the deeper meaning of their faith. An example could be a person who studies the Bible and theological texts to gain a better comprehension of God's word and its application in their life.
3. **Counsel (Right Judgment):** This gift enables believers to seek and give advice that is in accordance with God's will. For instance, someone might use counsel to guide a friend through a moral dilemma, offering advice that reflects Christian teachings.
4. **Fortitude (Courage):** Fortitude gives believers the strength to stand up for their faith, even in the face of adversity. An example is a person who defends their beliefs in a challenging environment, such as a workplace or social setting.
5. **Knowledge:** Knowledge allows believers to understand God's plan and how they can contribute to it. For example, a person might use knowledge to discern their vocation or how they can serve their community.
6. **Piety (Reverence):** Piety fosters a deep sense of respect and love for God and His creation. An example is someone who regularly participates in worship and prayer, showing devotion and reverence to God.

7. Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe): This gift instills a profound respect for God's majesty and a desire to avoid sin. For instance, a person might feel a deep sense of awe during moments of prayer or reflection, recognizing God's greatness and striving to live a holy life.

### The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are qualities that manifest in the lives of believers who are guided by the Holy Spirit. These include:

1. Love: Demonstrating unconditional love and compassion towards others.
2. Joy: Experiencing deep and abiding happiness in God's presence.
3. Peace: Maintaining tranquility and harmony in relationships and situations.
4. Patience: Showing endurance and perseverance in difficult circumstances.
5. Kindness: Acting with generosity and consideration towards others.
6. Goodness: Living a life of moral integrity and virtue.
7. Faithfulness: Being reliable and trustworthy in one's commitments.
8. Gentleness: Exhibiting humility and tenderness in interactions.
9. Self-control: Exercising discipline and restraint in one's actions.

Active Hope is demonstrated through the application of these gifts and fruits in daily life. For instance, a person might use the gift of Fortitude to volunteer in a challenging environment, showing Kindness and Patience to those in need. Another example is using the gift of Counsel to mentor others, fostering Love and Faithfulness in their relationships.

Pentecost and Active Hope are deeply intertwined, with the Holy Spirit empowering believers through His gifts and fruits to actively engage in their faith and contribute to the mission of the Church.

In Christ's Love

**+William**

Pastor

## Are you looking to become more involved in our parish?

We have a variety of opportunities for you to contribute and make a difference throughout the week. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Saturdays:** Join us in a range of roles including readers, technical support, musicians, singers, altar servers, and Eucharistic Ministers. Your participation enriches our worship experience.

- **Mondays and Tuesdays:** Help us with our Crock Pot Classes. If you're interested in presenting, please reach out to Dennis Last for more information.
- **Tuesdays:** Volunteer at Rebecca's Pantry in the morning. Your assistance can make a significant impact on those in need.
- **Wednesdays:** Contribute to our Thrift Shop. We need enthusiastic helpers to support this valuable outreach.
- **LGBTQ+ :** Contact Keegan Glover for information.
- **Ongoing:** We are also establishing a new ministry for Special Ministers to the Sick. This role is a wonderful opportunity to provide comfort and support to those who are ill.
- **Immigration:** We are seeking individuals who would be willing to **accompany** immigrants to court or other appearances.

So much to choose from! Reflect on how you might be called to serve and make a difference. What is God inviting you to do?

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or have questions, please contact [appropriate contact person/office] for more details. We look forward to your involvement and contributions to our parish community!

## Fatherhood

The Reformed Catholic understanding of fatherhood is grounded in Scripture, tradition, and a renewed theological vision shaped by the Reformation. It emphasizes covenantal love, spiritual leadership, and servant-hearted care. In contemporary contexts, this vision is being reexamined and expanded to include diverse family structures, including male same-sex couples who seek to embody the vocation of fatherhood.

Traditionally, fatherhood in the Reformed Catholic tradition reflects the character of God the Father—loving, just, merciful, and faithful. Earthly fathers are called to mirror these divine attributes in their homes, not as authoritarian figures, but as humble leaders and nurturers. This calling is not limited by biology but is rooted in covenantal responsibility and spiritual formation.

In the case of male same-sex couples, the Reformed Catholic concept of fatherhood invites a broader understanding of how love, care, and spiritual leadership can be expressed. When two men commit to raising children together, they take on the sacred responsibility of forming a household grounded in love, stability, and faith. Their shared vocation as fathers can reflect the same covenantal principles—guiding their children in truth, modeling grace, and cultivating a home where Christ is central.

The Reformed emphasis on the priesthood of all believers further supports this inclusive vision. Every believer, regardless of gender or orientation, is called to participate in the spiritual life of the community and the family. In this light, both fathers in a same-sex couple can serve as spiritual leaders, teaching Scripture, praying with their children, and modeling Christian virtues. Their partnership can exemplify mutual submission, sacrificial love, and shared responsibility—hallmarks of Christian fatherhood.

Moreover, the Reformed Catholic tradition values the communal nature of the Church. Spiritual fatherhood is not confined to the nuclear family but extends into the life of the Church, where mentorship, discipleship, and care are shared among believers. Male same-sex couples who are raising children can find support and accountability within the Church community, contributing their gifts and receiving encouragement in their parenting journey.

Critically, this inclusive approach does not dilute the theological depth of fatherhood but enriches it. It challenges the Church to focus on the essence of fatherhood—faithfulness, love, and spiritual guidance—rather than rigid forms. It also calls for a pastoral response that upholds truth while extending grace, recognizing the image of God in all who seek to live faithfully.

The Reformed Catholic concept of fatherhood, when viewed through a lens of grace and covenant, can embrace the reality of male same-sex couples raising children. It affirms that fatherhood is not merely a role but a vocation—a calling to reflect God's love, lead with humility, and nurture the next generation in faith.

## **Prayer for Vocations**

*Gracious God, we give thanks for your call to both women and men to serve in Christ's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. We ask that you send your Holy Spirit to inspire and guide others to respond with generosity and courage to your call. May our community of faith nurture and support vocations rooted in sacrificial love, especially among our youth and young adults. Through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **Health Fair and Pancake Breakfast**

Please see the following flyers for our Health Fair and Pancake Breakfast July 5, 2025. We need volunteers, Feel Free to print and post.



Abiding Presence Faith Community

# CELEBRATING FREEDOM & WELLNESS

**SATURDAY**

**July 5, 2025**

**10am - 3pm**

**\$6 • PANCAKE BREAKFAST •  
HEALTH SCREENINGS • VENDORS •  
• MEDICAL REPS • RAFFLE PRIZES •  
• AND MORE ~ FREE TO ATTEND •**

**For more information**

**Alicia Figueras-Lambert - 631-741-5616**

**Bishop Cavins - 407-761-4941**

**4605 Curry Ford Road, Orlando**

**PRE-SCREEN  
REGISTRATION  
(WINTER PARK)**



**VENDOR  
REGISTER  
HERE**



***Your Health, Your Independence!***





Abiding Presence Faith Community

# **CELEBRANDO LA LIBERTAD y el bienestar**

## **SABADO**

**Julio 5, 2025**

**10am - 3pm**

- \$6 • DESAYUNO DE PANQUEQUES •
- EXÁMENES DE SALUD • VENDEDORES •
- REPRESENTANTES MÉDICOS • PREMIOS DE LA RIFA
- Y MÁS ~ ASISTENCIA GRATUITA •

**Para mas informacion**

**Alicia Figueras-Lambert - 631-741-5616**

**Bishop Cavins - 407-761-4941**

**4605 Curry Ford Road, Orlando**

INSCRIPCIÓN  
PREVIA A LA  
PANTALLA  
AQUÍ  
(WINTER PARK)



PROVEEDOR  
REGISTRO  
AQUI



*¡Tu salud, tu independencia!*

## **A Prayer for Those in Formation**

*Almighty God, we lift up all those in formation, preparing to serve with hearts full of faith and dedication. Grant them wisdom, strength, and discernment as they grow in their journey. Guide their minds, strengthen their spirits, and fill them with your love. May they always walk in humility and grace, ready to serve others and follow the path you have set before them. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.*

Current candidates in diaconal formation include Zach Baker, Ken Gladding, and Kody Hall, All for the Diocese of St. John XXIII.

## **The Blue Triangle**

Have you seen the Blue triangle being worn by Bishop Cavins and other members of the parish? Have you wondered what it represented?

During World War II, blue triangles were used to identify foreign forced laborers and emigrants in Nazi concentration camps. This included stateless people and refugees from countries occupied by Nazi Germany.

Bishop Cavins has repurposed its meaning to that which indicates a person who is supportive of immigrants and welcomes them in the name of Christ. If you would like a blue triangle you can get one by requesting them through the mail and including a small donation to cover the costs of producing them. Send a self-addressed and stamped envelope to Blue Triangle Project, Abiding Presence Faith Community, 5330 Poinsetta Ave., Winter Park, FL 32792-7234.

## **Annual CommUNITY Rainbow Run & Festival**

Bishop Cavins and Deacon Larsen hosted the April 23 meeting of the Affirming Leaders Network. One of the items under discussion as participation in the Annual CommUNITY Rainbow Run and Festival in support of the Survivors and Families from the PULSE Nightclub Shooting.

The annual CommUNITY Rainbow Run is a celebration of how following the Pulse tragedy, our community came together in love and how we continue to be Orlando United. At the CommUNITY Rainbow Run we unite to honor the 49 angels, their families, the survivors, first responders and all those impacted.

Join us for the 9th Annual CommUNITY Rainbow Run, presented by Orlando Health. More than a race, this is a celebration of our community's enduring resilience and love. This year, we run with renewed hope as the Pulse Memorial continues to move forward now that a conceptual design is complete, and an opening is expected in late 2027.

**When:** Saturday, June 7, 2025,

**Where:** City Hall Plaza, 400 South Orange Avenue

To register click this link: <https://events.hakuapp.com/community-rainbow-run> and show your support in one of the many ways listed.

## **Prayer for the Rainbow Run**

Written by Bishop William Cavins

Spirit of unity and love,  
We gather today in vibrant stride—runners and walkers, side by side—  
Each step a celebration of life, identity, and resilience.

Bless all who move forward today,  
With strength in their legs, joy in their hearts, and purpose in their souls.  
May the spirit of Genderfullness remind us that every identity is worthy, seen, and celebrated.

We remember Pulse—each name, each light—  
And carry their memory in every heartbeat of this journey.  
Let our steps echo with remembrance, and our colors shine with pride.

Bless this community, woven from many threads,  
Unified in love, courage, and the radiant spectrum of the Pride Rainbow.  
May we uplift one another, run with compassion, and walk in peace.

Together, we move forward—stronger, brighter, united.

Amen / So be it / Let it be so.

## **Trinity Sunday**

The Solemnity of the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost, holds significant importance for Reformed Catholics. This feast is dedicated to

the mystery of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—which is central to Christian faith and theology. For Reformed Catholics, the observance of this feast is rooted in theological, spiritual, and communal dimensions, reflecting their commitment to understanding and living out the mystery of the Trinity.

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is foundational to Christian belief. It encapsulates the understanding of God as three distinct persons in one divine essence. For Reformed Catholics, the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity is an opportunity to delve deeper into this profound mystery. It is a time to reflect on the nature of God and the relationships within the Trinity. This feast underscores the unity and diversity within the Godhead, inviting believers to appreciate the complexity and beauty of God's nature. By keeping this feast, Reformed Catholics reaffirm their belief in the Trinity and its central role in their faith.

Spiritually, the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity offers a moment for Reformed Catholics to renew their devotion to God in His triune form. It is a time to contemplate the love, grace, and power that emanate from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This feast encourages believers to deepen their relationship with each person of the Trinity, recognizing the unique ways each interacts with humanity. For instance, the Father as Creator, the Son as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier. Through prayer, worship, and reflection, Reformed Catholics seek to experience the fullness of God's presence in their lives.

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity also has a strong communal aspect. It is a celebration that brings the Church community together in worship and unity. For Reformed Catholics, participating in the liturgical celebrations of this feast reinforces their sense of belonging to a larger faith community. It is a visible expression of shared belief in the Trinity and a collective commitment to living out the faith. The communal worship during this feast highlights the unity of the Church, mirroring the unity within the Trinity. It is a reminder that just as the Trinity is one, the Church is called to be one in faith and mission.

Reformed Catholics may incorporate specific practices during the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity to emphasize its importance. For example, special prayers and hymns dedicated to the Trinity are often included in the liturgy. Some communities might engage in theological discussions or study sessions to deepen their understanding of the Trinity. Others might focus on acts of charity and service, reflecting the love and unity of the Trinity in tangible ways. These practices highlight the multifaceted nature of the feast, combining worship, reflection, and action.

The Solemnity of the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity is of great importance to Reformed Catholics for several reasons. Theologically, it reaffirms the belief in the triune nature of God. Spiritually, it offers a time for deepening devotion and renewing faith. Communally, it



strengthens the bonds within the Church and provides a public witness to the faith. Through various practices and celebrations, Reformed Catholics honor this feast, recognizing its central role in their spiritual lives and the life of the Church. The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity is not just a day of celebration but a profound reminder of the mystery and majesty of God in His triune form.

## **The Body and Blood of Christ**

The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi, holds profound significance for Reformed Catholics. This feast, celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, is dedicated to the Eucharist, the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. For Reformed Catholics, the importance of this feast can be understood through its theological, spiritual, and communal dimensions.

At the heart of Corpus Christi is the belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Reformed Catholics, while embracing certain reforms, maintain the traditional Catholic doctrine that the bread and wine become the actual Body and Blood of Christ during the Mass. This belief underscores the mystery and miracle of the Eucharist, which is central to Catholic worship and faith. The Feast of Corpus Christi serves as a powerful reminder of this mystery, inviting believers to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the sacrament.

Spiritually, Corpus Christi is a time for Reformed Catholics to renew their devotion to the Eucharist. The feast encourages a profound reflection on the sacrifice of Jesus and His enduring presence in the lives of believers. It is an opportunity to contemplate the love and grace that Christ offers through the Eucharist. For many, this feast is a moment of spiritual renewal, fostering a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper commitment to living out the teachings of the Gospel.

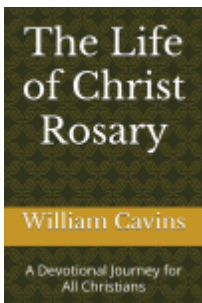
The Feast of Corpus Christi also has a strong communal aspect. It is traditionally marked by processions, where the consecrated host is carried through the streets, accompanied by hymns and prayers. These processions symbolize the public witness of faith and the unity of the Church community. For Reformed Catholics, participating in these processions and communal celebrations reinforces the sense of belonging to a larger faith community. It is a visible expression of the shared belief in the Eucharist and the collective commitment to living out the faith in everyday life.

Reformed Catholics may incorporate specific practices during Corpus Christi to emphasize its importance. For instance, some communities might focus on Eucharistic adoration, spending extended time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Others might engage in acts of charity and service, reflecting the love and sacrifice of Christ in tangible ways.

These practices highlight the multifaceted nature of the feast, combining worship, reflection, and action.

The Solemnity of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is of great importance to Reformed Catholics for several reasons. Theologically, it reaffirms the belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Spiritually, it offers a time for deepening devotion and renewing faith. Communally, it strengthens the bonds within the Church and provides a public witness to the faith. Through various practices and celebrations, Reformed Catholics honor this feast, recognizing its central role in their spiritual lives and the life of the Church. Corpus Christi is not just a day of celebration but a profound reminder of the enduring presence and love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

## Great Book for Father's Day



**Discover a New Dimension of Prayer with *The Life of Christ Rosary: A Devotional Journey for All Christians***

This illuminating guide reimagines the traditional rosary by highlighting 35 key moments in Christ's life—from His conception to His ascension—to deepen your faith and enrich your prayer practice. Each decade of the rosary is thoughtfully paired with meditative prayers and reflections centered on pivotal events in Jesus' life, providing both spiritual insight and personal enrichment. Whether you're new to the rosary or seeking to enhance your practice, this book offers a fresh exploration of the rosary's historical context and its spiritual significance. With its practical guidance and contemplative meditations, this book serves as a cherished devotional tool that will inspire and elevate your spiritual journey. Embrace Christ's life more deeply and transform your prayer life with this meaningful guide.

*The Life of Christ Rosary: A Devotional Journey for All Christians* is available on Amazon.com.

## Family Faith Activities

Courtesy of LTP's At Home with the Word 2025.

**June 8, 2025**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

### Questions

◆ Today we celebrate the Holy Spirit filling Jesus' disciples with energy and courage to spread the Good News. Scripture describes the Spirit as "tongues of fire." Ask your child,

“What kind of fire helps and does not hurt? Think of all the good things fire can do for you.”

◆ One morning, ask your child, “What wakes you up full of energy in the morning when you went to bed tired the night before? What renews your courage when you’ve been feeling scared?” When you jump out of bed, it’s the Spirit that enlivens you. The same Holy Spirit that came as fire to the disciples renews you and me each day.

◆ Ask your child, “Have you ever said, or felt, ‘Aha! Now I understand’?” Perhaps she has just learned a new word or a new skill. Recall the time when it was still vague and murky and the moment when the child suddenly “got” it. At Pentecost, Jews from every nation were assembled in Jerusalem, and each heard the disciples tell the Good News in his or her own language. Suddenly, they got it.

### **Activities**

◆ The Spirit gives each of us special gifts. Ask your child, “What are you particularly good at?” Think of friends or family members. What is each person’s special gift? How can you use your gift for the common good?” Plan a specific action to share your gift, such as helping a parent, creating something beautiful, or making a new friend.

◆ If anyone (or everyone) in your family speaks a language other than English, discuss the difficulties of learning a new language. Alternately, listen to a foreign-language broadcast on radio or television and note how the disciples must have felt, surrounded by foreign tongues. List words the child can learn to use in any language. Then imagine the sudden clarity of understanding everything you hear.

◆ Read your child the first few lines of Acts 2. What happens when a strong wind blows? Think of scarves flying, people grabbing hats and leaning into the wind, having trouble walking. Encourage the child to try to walk as though against the wind. Then ask the child to draw a picture of the bewildered crowd at Pentecost, maybe adding tongues of fire.

**June 15, 2025**

## **The Most Holy Trinity**

### **Questions**

◆ Ask your child to tell you about favorite games and the ways the child likes to play. Include in your discussion make-believe, physical activity, and any creative activities the child enjoys. Then help the child see that his or her play, “playing on the surface of the earth” (from the Proverbs reading), delights God, as does all of God’s creation.

◆ At a tearful moment, ask your child, “When you fall and hurt yourself or have a stomach-ache, can you still love God?” Let the child explore feelings about and expectations of God, maybe adding your own response to adversity. People are often angry with those they love, and wrestling with God is a biblical tradition (as in Genesis 32:23–32). This week’s Scripture (Romans 5:1–5) reminds us that affliction can lead to endurance and hope.

◆ In today's Gospel, Jesus promises the Spirit of truth to guide his disciples after he departs from them. You might include older and younger children in this discussion. Ask, "Do you ever hear the Spirit of truth guiding you? It might be in your own choice to tell the truth when a lie would be easier or to do the right thing when that is difficult. Can you listen for the voice of truth inside you?" Younger children may profit from more articulate older ones.

### **Activities**

◆ Although the verses in today's first reading don't include it, the Book of Proverbs personifies the wisdom of God as female. (At the beginning of chapter 8, we read, "Does not Wisdom call, / and Understanding raise her voice?") In Greek, "wisdom" is "sophia." Introduce your child to Sophia, the Wisdom of God, using a children's Bible or reading and paraphrasing Proverbs 1:20–21 and then some lines from today's first reading, Proverbs 8:22–31. Help your child envision and then draw this female companion in God's creation, firming up the sky or setting limits on the sea, always both wise and playful.

◆ Read Psalm 8 with your child. It says that God has given us power over creation. We have to use this power wisely, to care for "all sheep and oxen . . . the birds of the air and fishes of the sea." Discuss each group of animals with your child and consider how you can care for the earth. Then choose one action, such as buying local, humanely raised meat, choosing sustainable fish, or joining your local zoo.

◆ The psalmist looks at the heavens, the moon, and the stars and marvels at the scope of God's creation and the place of mortals in it. If you live in a place where you can see stars at night, help your child to identify some of the constellations, pointing out that God cares for all of creation, including the child and the stars. Or find a child's book about constellations and read it together.

**June 22, 2025**

## **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)**

### **Questions**

King Melchizedek was a priest who blessed God with bread and wine (Genesis 14), and his name means "just king." Ask your child, "Are the rulers of your life just?" Consider bigger children, parents, teachers, police, and elected officials. Have you ever been bullied? What makes a just ruler? How does God's justice regard the weak? The strong? See what the beautiful Catholic prayer, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55) has to say about this.

◆ Jesus commands us to eat bread and drink wine together "in memory of" him. Ask your child, "What else do we do 'in memory of'?" Think of celebrations that help us remember past events and the passage of time: birthdays, holidays, and events specific to your family. What do we remember about Jesus? Help your child reconstruct the night Jesus was betrayed (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).



◆ Tell your child the story of Jesus feeding five thousand with five loaves and two fishes or read the story from a children's Bible (Luke 9:11–17). Then ask, "How do you think this was possible?" Let the child speculate and imagine. Then help him consider generosity, sharing, kinds of hunger, and kinds of satisfaction. Consider that human hungers are not for bread alone.

### **Activities**

◆ With your child, prepare some food to share. Let the child help plan, shop, prepare, and serve or deliver. It could be a meal to share with friends, cookies to take to a nursing home or homebound person, or some time preparing or serving food at a shelter. Point out how sharing creates "community," a word close to "communion."

◆ Plan a memorial event at home. It could be a toast to a deceased relative on his or her birthday, a prayer service for a departed pet, or a celebration of one of the child's achievements. The event could include a meal, a song, or a prayer of thanksgiving, perhaps with an object to remind the celebrants of the event, creature, or person remembered.

◆ God's justice favors the poor and the weak. Does your child know anyone younger who could use some help? A younger sibling? A child in a younger grade who might like company for a walk to school or help with math or reading? If there is any mentoring or tutoring program at your school or church, your child could get involved, doing his or her part to bring about God's kingdom.

**June 29, 2025**

## **Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles**

### **Questions**

◆ It is hard to imagine that people were so courageous that they were willing to die for their faith. Stephen did, and now we hear of James, the brother of John, being killed by Herod. Peter has been arrested but is saved miraculously. Use your imagination to visualize the events of this story. What parts of it are the most exciting or interesting to you?

◆ Paul is coming to the end of his life, and he says, "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." What a powerful series of statements! What do they mean to you? Do you compete anywhere? How does your experience shed light on what Paul is saying?

◆ Jesus and Peter have an important conversation in the Gospel story. Peter proclaims who Jesus is and how much he believes in him. Jesus says that Peter is a rock upon which the Church will be built. What is rock like? Who is now in the chair of St. Peter? Do you pray for him? Would he like you to remember him in your prayers?

## Activities

- ◆ Do you know anyone named Peter or Paul? Read a short book on these two great leaders of the early Church. What qualities did they have? Do your “Peters” or “Pauls” share the qualities of these great saints? Relate what you observe.
- ◆ Saints are patrons for certain people or causes. Find out about Peter (patron saint of bridge builders, people with foot problems, popes, ship builders, and more) and Paul (patron saint of authors, laypeople, healing from snake bites, tent makers, and more). Think of someone for whom one of these great saints is a patron, and surprise them with your knowledge, either in person or through a note.
- ◆ Peter and Paul are represented by beautiful symbols, including two keys, and a serpent and fire, respectively. Read about their symbols and depict one in a painting or drawing.

## Joyful June Saints

June is a month rich in saints' feast days in the Reformed Catholic Church, many of whom are celebrated for their holiness, devotion, and significant contributions to the faith. Here is a list of Catholic saints commemorated in May:

**June 1 - Saint Justin Martyr** - Honored for his profound defense of the Christian faith through his writings and martyrdom.

**June 3 - Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions** - Celebrated for their courage and faithfulness in the face of persecution in Uganda.

**June 5 - Saint Boniface** - Known for his missionary work and efforts to spread Christianity in Germany.

**June 6 - Saint Norbert** - Recognized for his reform of the clergy and founding the Norbertine order.

**June 9 - Saint Ephrem** - Honored for his theological writings and hymns that enriched the Church's liturgy.

**June 11 - Saint Barnabas** - Celebrated for his role as an apostle and his missionary journeys with Saint Paul.

**June 13 - Saint Anthony of Padua** - Revered for his powerful preaching and miracles, earning him the title "Doctor of the Church."

**June 21 - Saint Aloysius Gonzaga** - Known for his piety and dedication to serving the sick, especially during the plague.

**June 24 - Saint John the Baptist** - Honored for his role in preparing the way for Jesus and his call to repentance.

**June 29 - Saints Peter and Paul** - Celebrated for their foundational roles in the early Church and their martyrdom.

These saints each have unique stories and contributions that continue to inspire the faithful. Is there a particular saint you'd like to learn more about? Do any of these saints

hold special significance for you? Post about them on our Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386619738179316/?ref=bookmarks>

## June Recipes

### ***Rainbow Vegetable Stew***

#### ***Ingredients:***

- ***Red bell peppers***
- Orange carrots
- Yellow squash
- Green zucchini
- Blue potatoes (or purple potatoes for a similar effect)
- Indigo eggplant
- Violet cabbage
- Vegetable broth
- Garlic, salt, pepper, and herbs to taste

#### ***Directions:***

1. Chop all vegetables into bite-sized pieces.
2. Add the vegetables to the crock pot.
3. Pour in the vegetable broth until the vegetables are covered.
4. Add garlic, salt, pepper, and herbs to taste.
5. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or until vegetables are tender.
6. Serve hot and enjoy the colorful, healthy stew!

### ***Pride Pulled Pork***

#### ***Ingredients:***

- Pork shoulder
- Red barbecue sauce
- Orange juice
- Yellow mustard
- Green bell peppers
- Blueberries (for a unique twist)

- Indigo onions (red onions)
- Violet cabbage (for slaw)
- Salt, pepper, and spices to taste

**Directions:**

1. Place the pork shoulder in the crock pot.
2. Mix barbecue sauce, orange juice, yellow mustard, and spices in a bowl.
3. Pour the mixture over the pork.
4. Add chopped green bell peppers, blueberries, and onions.
5. Cook on low for 8-10 hours or until the pork is tender and easily shredded.
6. Shred the pork and serve with violet cabbage slaw on buns or tortillas.

***Colorful Chicken Chili***

**Ingredients:**

- Chicken breasts
- Red kidney beans
- Orange bell peppers
- Yellow corn
- Green chilies
- Blue tomatoes (or purple tomatoes)
- Indigo black beans
- Violet onions (red onions)
- Chicken broth
- Garlic, salt, pepper, and chili powder to taste

**Directions:**

1. Place chicken breasts in the crock pot.
2. Add kidney beans, bell peppers, corn, chilies, tomatoes, black beans, and onions.
3. Pour in chicken broth until ingredients are covered.
4. Add garlic, salt, pepper, and chili powder to taste.
5. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or until chicken is cooked through and tender.
6. Shred the chicken and mix well.



7. Serve hot with a dollop of sour cream and a sprinkle of cheese.