

# 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**

**April 2025 VOLUME #5  
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/UCP9i133esG31IRPfgk-Jn4w>**

### ***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

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 3  | Vintage Vibes Market 10 am to 3 pm - Church   |
| May 3  | Divine Worship –Vigil Third Sunday of Easter 5:00 PM<br>Intention: RIP Francis, Patriarch of the West                       |
| May 5  | Breaking Open the Word 7 PM Zoom  |
| May 6  | Rebecca’s Pantry 9:30 to 11:30<br>Crock Pot Class – 10 AM Dedicated Senior Medical Center<br>904 Lee Rd, Suite 200, Orlando |
| May 7  | Joni’s Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00<br>Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only  |
| May 10 | Divine Worship – Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Easter 5:00 PM<br>Intention: For All Mothers<br>May Crowning within Mass     |
| May 12 | At Home with the Word 7 PM  |
| May 13 | Rebecca’s Pantry 9:30 to 11:30  |
| May 14 | Joni’s Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00<br>Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only  |
| May 17 | Divine Worship – Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Easter 5:00 PM<br>Intention: RIP Joan E. Podunavac                            |
| May 19 | Rebecca’s Pantry 9:30 – 11:30   |
| May 21 | Joni’s Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00<br>Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only  |
| May 24 | Divine Worship – Vigil of the Sixth Sunday of Easter 5:00 PM<br>Intention: All Deceased Members of US Armed Forces          |
| May 26 | Rebecca’s Pantry 9:30 – 11:30   |
| May 27 | Joni’s Treasures Thrift Shop 10:00 – 1:00<br>Formation Class 6:30 pm Invitation Only  |

May 31

Divine Worship – Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord 5:00 PM

Intention: All Detained Immigrants

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

## **Financial Update as of 4/27/2025**

Total Income Year to Date: \$ 3548.40

Total Expenditures Year to Date: **\$4149.11.**

Difference **-\$600.71.**

Balance available on hand: \$1498.98.

## **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.

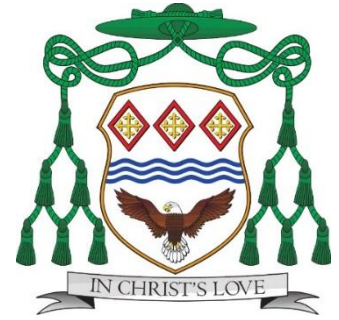
Thank you for your generosity and support! **Our email address for all donation platforms is: [bkpg@apfcwp.com](mailto:bkpg@apfcwp.com)**

## **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.

### Active Hope and Ascension

"Why are you standing there looking up to heaven?" comes from Acts 1:11 in the Bible, where two angels address the disciples after Jesus' ascension. This question serves as a powerful reminder that while it is important to have faith and look to God, we are also called to action here on Earth.



The disciples were likely filled with awe and perhaps confusion as they watched Jesus ascend. The angels' question redirected their focus from passive observation to active participation in God's work. This message is relevant to us today as we strive to build God's kingdom with active hope.

Active hope is not just about waiting for divine intervention but involves taking concrete steps to make a positive impact in the world. It means living out our faith through actions that reflect God's love, justice, and mercy. Here are some ways we can work to build God's kingdom with active hope:

- ✚ **Service to Others:** One of the most direct ways to build God's kingdom is through serving others. This can be through volunteering, helping those in need, or simply being kind and compassionate in our daily interactions. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and by doing so, we bring a piece of God's kingdom to Earth.
- ✚ **Advocacy for Justice:** Building God's kingdom also involves standing up for justice and righteousness. This means advocating for the marginalized, fighting against injustice, and working towards a society that reflects God's values of equality and fairness. Active hope drives us to be voices for the voiceless and to work towards systemic change.
- ✚ **Spreading the Gospel:** Sharing the message of Jesus and the hope of the Gospel is another crucial aspect of building God's kingdom. This doesn't necessarily mean preaching on street corners but can be as simple as living out our faith authentically and being ready to share our beliefs when opportunities arise.
- ✚ **Personal Growth and Discipleship:** Building God's kingdom starts with ourselves. By growing in our faith, studying the Bible, and seeking to become more like Christ, we prepare ourselves to be effective workers in God's kingdom. Personal transformation leads to broader societal change as we influence those around us.
- ✚ **Community Building:** Creating and nurturing communities of faith is essential. These communities provide support, encouragement, and accountability as we work

together towards common goals. They are also a testament to the power of collective action and the strength found in unity.

The question "Why are you standing there looking up to heaven?" challenges us to move from passive faith to active engagement. Building God's kingdom with active hope means serving others, advocating for justice, spreading the Gospel, growing personally, and fostering community. By doing so, we not only anticipate the fullness of God's kingdom but also bring glimpses of it into our present reality. This active hope transforms our faith into tangible actions that reflect God's love and purpose for the world.

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!

## **Motherhood**

The Catholic concept of motherhood is deeply rooted in the teachings of the Church and the example of the Virgin Mary, who is revered as the ultimate model of maternal love, sacrifice, and faith. Motherhood in Catholicism is seen not only as a biological role but also as a spiritual vocation that encompasses nurturing, guiding, and instilling faith in one's children. This profound understanding of motherhood is intertwined with the idea of active hope, which calls for a dynamic and engaged approach to living out one's faith.

Motherhood in Catholicism is celebrated as a sacred and noble calling. The Virgin Mary, as the Mother of God, embodies the virtues of humility, obedience, and unconditional love. Her acceptance of God's will, as seen in her response to the Annunciation ("Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" - Luke 1:38), serves as a powerful example for all mothers. Mary's life was marked by profound faith and trust in God, even in the face of immense challenges, such as witnessing the crucifixion of her son, Jesus.

Catholic mothers are encouraged to emulate Mary's virtues by nurturing their children with love, patience, and faith. This involves not only providing for their physical needs but also fostering their spiritual growth. Mothers play a crucial role in teaching their children about God, guiding them in prayer, and instilling moral values. The Rite of Baptism in the Reformed Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of parents in the spiritual formation of their children. The celebrant of the sacrament asks the parents: 'You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?'

Active hope is a concept that complements the Catholic understanding of motherhood. It is the belief that hope is not passive but requires action and engagement. Active hope involves trusting in God's promises while actively working towards a better future. For mothers, this means not only hoping for the well-being and faithfulness of their children but also taking concrete steps to nurture and guide them.

Active hope in motherhood can be seen in the daily sacrifices and efforts mothers make to support their children. This includes providing a loving and stable home, encouraging

their educational and personal development, and being a constant source of support and guidance. Mothers with active hope also engage in prayer and seek God's guidance in their parenting, trusting that their efforts, combined with divine grace, will bear fruit.

Moreover, active hope extends beyond the family to the broader community. Catholic mothers are called to be witnesses of faith and hope in their interactions with others. This can involve participating in parish activities, volunteering, and supporting other families in their faith journeys. By living out their faith actively, mothers contribute to building God's kingdom on Earth.

The Catholic concept of motherhood is a profound and multifaceted vocation that encompasses nurturing, guiding, and instilling faith in one's children. Inspired by the example of the Virgin Mary, Catholic mothers are called to embody virtues of love, patience, and faith. Active hope complements this understanding by emphasizing the importance of dynamic and engaged faith. Through their daily efforts and sacrifices, mothers with active hope work towards the well-being and spiritual growth of their children, trusting in God's promises and contributing to the building of God's kingdom.

## **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.*

## **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.

## IMMIGRATION A MORAL ISSUE

The Reformed Catholic Church views immigration as a moral imperative, emphasizing the need for compassionate and just action. This perspective is deeply rooted in their interpretation of Catholic social teaching, which highlights the dignity of every human being and the necessity to protect the vulnerable.

The Reformed Catholic Church asserts that every person is created in the image of God and thus possesses inherent dignity and rights. This principle underpins their stance on immigration, advocating for policies that respect and protect the dignity of migrants and refugees. The Church calls for humane treatment of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, and opposes measures that dehumanize or vilify noncitizens 1.

While the Church acknowledges the right of nations to manage their borders and regulate immigration, it insists that this must be done in a manner that upholds human dignity. The late Benedict XVI, Patriarch of the West, articulated this balance, stating that nations have the right to control migration flows but must do so while guaranteeing respect for the dignity of every person. This means that enforcement efforts should be targeted, proportional, and humane, focusing on genuine risks to society while avoiding unnecessary detention and expulsion.

The Reformed Catholic Church advocates for robust humanitarian protections within immigration policies. This includes refugee resettlement, asylum, and temporary



protected status for those fleeing persecution or violence. The Church emphasizes the importance of due process in immigration proceedings and opposes policies that raise barriers to asylum or other forms of relief.

A key concern for the Church is the impact of immigration policies on family unity. The Reformed Catholic Church consistently calls for reforms that keep families together and avoid separating loved ones through detention or deportation. The Church believes that family unity is essential for the well-being of individuals and communities and should be a priority in immigration policy.

The Reformed Catholic Church urges its members and all people of goodwill to advocate for just and compassionate immigration policies. This includes supporting comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the complexities and injustices of the current system. The Church calls for policies that protect human life, respect dignity, and promote the common good, while also ensuring the security and sovereignty of nations.

The Reformed Catholic Church views immigration as a moral imperative that requires action grounded in respect for human dignity and rights. It calls for balanced policies that protect the vulnerable, uphold family unity, and ensure humane treatment of all individuals. The Church encourages advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform that aligns with these principles.

Beginning June 1 there will be opportunities for individual and group prayer and action in learning about immigration issues as they relate to the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. More information will be included with the June newsletter.

2013



Bishop Cavins and Gene Thompson at A rally outside Congressman Mica's Office organized by Hope CommUnity Center's Sister Ann Kendrick.



Bishop Cavins with members of Immigrants are Welcome Here at We Are Florida Day at the Capitol in Tallahassee, advocating for fair treatment of immigrants in Florida.



Immigrants Are Welcome Here Retreat



Bishop Cavins addressed the Orlando City Council on the possible interruption of church Service with the City's involvement with 287g Task Force Model.



Immigrants Are Welcome Here met with Commissioner Tony Ortiz. Bishop Cavins Presented him with a Blue Immigration Triangle.



Bishop Cavins interviewed by Fox 35 Reporter Randi Hildreth on the Florida Attorney threat to remove Mayor Dyer from office





Bishop William Cavins washes the feet of Sister Ann Rowland during a Holy Thursday prayer service presented by the Faith Leader Network of the Immigrants Are Welcomed Here.



Immigrants are Welcome Here Coalition addressed the Orange County Commission showing support for the Commissions efforts to ensure due process at the Orange County Jail For ICE detainees.

## **Horoscopes, Tarot Cards, and More**

In response to a recent question about living one's life according to these practices, the Reformed Catholic Church has no statement within its Canons which address the issue. We offer the following perspective for your information. The Roman Catholic Church firmly opposes consulting horoscopes, tarot cards, and similar practices. This stance is rooted in the belief that such activities contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear owed to God alone.

The Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church explicitly addresses these practices in paragraphs 2115 and 2116. It states that all forms of divination, including horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens, and recourse to mediums, are to be rejected. These practices are seen as attempts to unveil the future, which is considered a desire for power over time, history, and other human beings. This desire contradicts the trust and faith that should be placed solely in God.

The late Patriarch Francis has also spoken out against these practices. He emphasized that true faith means abandoning oneself to God, who reveals Himself through love and revelation, not through occult practices. He questioned how one could believe in Jesus Christ and simultaneously seek guidance from sorcerers or fortunetellers. According to Francis, magic and occult practices are not Christian and should be avoided.

The Bible also warns against seeking knowledge of the future through occult means. In Deuteronomy 18:10-12, it is stated that anyone who practices divination, interprets omens, or engages in witchcraft is detestable to the Lord. This biblical perspective reinforces the Church's teachings that such practices are incompatible with Christian faith.

Engaging in these practices can open individuals to spiritual risks. The Church teaches that seeking guidance from tarot cards, Ouija boards, or fortunetellers can lead to demonic influence. Even if done out of curiosity or for fun, these activities are considered dangerous and can negatively impact one's spiritual well-being.

The Church encourages believers to trust in God's divine providence for the future. It teaches that God may reveal the future to prophets or saints, but this is done on His initiative and for the good of His people. Christians are advised to place their confidence in God's plan and avoid unhealthy curiosity about the future.

The Roman Catholic Church's teachings are clear: consulting horoscopes, tarot cards, and similar practices are forbidden. These activities contradict the trust and faith that should be placed in God alone and can lead to spiritual harm. Believers are encouraged to rely on God's divine providence and seek guidance through prayer and faith.

If you have any more questions or need further clarification, feel free to ask!

## **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 was participation in the Annual CommUNITY Rainbow Run and Festival in support of the Survivors and Families from the PULSE Nightclub Shooting.

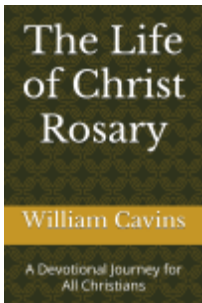
The annual CommUNITY Rainbow Run is a celebration of how following the Pulse tragedy, our community came together in love and how we continue to be Orlando United. At the CommUNITY Rainbow Run we unite to honor the 49 angels, their families, the survivors, first responders and all those impacted.

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.

## A New Book by Bishop Cavins



### 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.

# **A Call to Love Our Neighbors: Florida Sign On Letter**

**A Christian call in solidarity with the immigrant community. Let us join our voices together in this sign-on letter! We must unite as a moral voice for justice and compassion & stand in solidarity with immigrant families in our state & country.**



**FAITH IN ACTION**



# Family Faith Activities

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

**May 4, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

## Questions

- ◆ With older and younger children, recall the first reading where the apostles say, “Better for us to obey God than people.” Then ask, “Can you think of any person, long ago or recently, who made that decision to obey God, even if people thought they were wrong?” You can start them off with a well-known martyr, such as Joan of Arc, then perhaps suggest modern figures like Archbishop Oscar Romero or Martin Luther King Jr. Accept all answers—the people need not have perished and need not have been famous.
- ◆ The refrain from today’s responsorial psalm is “I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.” Ask your child if she has ever needed to be rescued. If not, think of situations that might call for rescue. How would you call out to God for rescue? The psalmist says, “O Lord, be my helper,” and then says, “You changed my mourning into dancing.”
- ◆ At Sunday dinner, tell your children the story of Jesus’ interrogation of Peter in John 21:1–19, when Jesus repeats the question, “Do you love me?” three times. Then ask, “When Jesus says, ‘Feed my sheep,’ what do you think he means?” Encourage all children (and adults!) present to consider this question. Who are sheep or lambs? What has love got to do with it?

## Activities

- ◆ In today’s reading from Revelation 5:11–14, we hear all creatures praising God. They live in four places: heaven, earth, under the earth, and in the sea. With your child, make a list of creatures in each of these categories, including each one the child can think of. Then make a drawing of one from each category, all praising God together, each in his own way. How might a mole praise God? A spider or a bat? An angel or an octopus?
- ◆ With a group of children, act out the great catch of fish in John 21:1–19, letting the children improvise their lines. Assign locations for the boat in the water and Jesus on the shore. Help the actors feel the exhaustion of a night fishing without success, the weight of the full net, confusion about what happened and who is on the shore, recognition of Jesus, and the experience of eating with him.
- ◆ Is April bringing signs of new life in nature where you live? Take a walk with your child on a spring afternoon in your neighborhood or to a park or woods. Can the child spot any green shoots pushing up, wildflowers, or bulbs? Perhaps count or list the sightings, evidence of nature’s collaboration in the resurrection.

**May 11, 2025**

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

### **Questions**

- ◆ In today's reading from Acts, Paul quotes Jesus: "I have made you a light to the nations." Ask your child, "Whom do you suppose he means by 'nations'?" Encourage your child to think of people or groups whose appearance is different from yours. They could be ethnic groups ("nations" is a translation of *ethnoi*), economic groups (like the homeless), or children in another grade or from another school. Jesus is a light for each and all of these.
- ◆ Today is often called Good Shepherd Sunday. Ask your child, "What does it mean to say 'The Lord is my shepherd'? After all, you are not a sheep. What does a shepherd do for a sheep?" Encourage the child to imagine a shepherd protecting flocks at night, keeping them together, leading them to water, and finding good pasture. Then help the child find analogies in her life.
- ◆ Today's reading from Revelation says, "He will lead them to springs of life-giving water." If you have plants and are watering them with your child, this would be a good time to ask, "What's so important about water?" Help your child to enumerate all the roles water plays in his life and think about where the water comes from. Why is water such a good symbol for God's care for us?

### **Activities**

- ◆ If your parish has a project that helps refugees, perhaps from Iraq or a South or Central American country, see if you and your child can participate, perhaps by collecting clothing and donating or preparing food. Take the child with you and let her make the donation and meet the refugees.
- ◆ If you have a pet, give your child a specific, manageable task in pet care, such as feeding, watering, or cage cleaning. If not, consider feeding birds or taking a trip to a zoo where feeding is allowed. Point out the analogy between the child's care of animals and God's care for us.
- ◆ Water is a scarce resource in many parts of this country and the world. Consider with your child how water can be conserved and make conservation a household practice. Learn about issues surrounding water use, reuse, and distribution, and share as much as possible with your child. This is one way we can be stewards of God's creation.

**May 18, 2025**

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### **Questions**

- ◆ Today's reading from Revelation speaks of God dwelling among us. Sometime on a quiet walk, ask your child, "Do you ever sense God living right here with us, helping us or loving

us?” Be prepared for both positive and negative answers, opening a door for the child to talk about spiritual experience. If he says something positive, ask, “When did it happen? What was it like?”

◆ Today’s Gospel commands us to love one another as God has loved us. Ask your child, “How can we love each other when we get angry, impatient, or bored?” Give the child time to think about this and respond, and then perhaps raise the possibility of different kinds of love, that even anger can be loving—witness Jesus in the temple, overturning the tables of the money lenders.

◆ The question above refers mainly to family and friends, and intimates of the child. On another day, ask, “How can we love people we don’t yet know, strangers?” These could be people on the street, refugees, homeless people, children at another school, or people of a different faith.

### **Activities**

◆ If your child has come up with a way of showing love to strangers, put this into practice with a plan and action. It could be participation in an ongoing project of your parish or other community group, such as a food pantry or clothing donation program, or it could be a private initiative you undertake with your child.

◆ Keep the spirit of Easter alive by refreshing your Easter centerpiece and making Sunday dinner especially festive. Let your child suggest a special food she could help prepare and serve and help the child make this contribution to the table. Point out that every Sunday is a “little Easter” and include thanks to God for your child’s dish in your mealtime prayer.

◆ With your child, continue to keep track of the progress of spring, watching the earth renew itself as Pentecost approaches. List, photograph, or draw the signs of spring you and your child observe. As you walk and work, help your child to imagine life in the earliest church, when groups of followers gathered in homes for the breaking of bread and prayers, holding all their property in common.

**May 25, 2025**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

### **Questions**

◆ In today’s Gospel, Jesus says goodbye to his friends. Ask your child to tell you about the goodbyes he or she has said. Some will be casual, like goodbyes to schoolmates after school or siblings in the morning. Some may be serious and sad, if an animal, friend, or relative has died. What does “goodbye” really mean? It’s a prayer and a blessing: “God be with you.” With your child, pray this prayer for anyone absent.

◆ When Jesus says goodbye, he promises to send the Spirit as a teacher and reminder of everything Jesus taught. Ask your child, “Do you ever feel filled with God’s Spirit?” If the child is responsive to the question, you can help him or her think of times of enthusiastic

energy or quiet calm. What did it feel like? If not, you can mention Spirit-filled times in your own life.

◆ Explain to your child how the early Church had to decide if all people could be Christians or only Jews, like Jesus. Then ask, “How do you think it is today? Can everyone be Christian? What about people of different colors? Different customs? People in prison? The bully at school?” Yes, all of them, even the bully. If he becomes a Christian, maybe he will change.

### **Activities**

◆ Is there disagreement about rules or actions to take at your parish, your child’s school, or in your family? Tell your child (and others involved, if appropriate) the story of the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1–29). How did the early Church resolve the debate about Jewish and pagan customs? They decided on reasonable compromise and adaptation to circumstances. Could these principles be applied in your situation?

◆ Days will be getting longer and warmer in many places now. If it’s warm enough, plan an outdoor picnic with your child. Encourage him to notice any budding leaves on trees or other growth and thank God for the return of the summer sun. In the spirit of the ancient maypole, do a little outdoor dance.

◆ Since May is a special month devoted to Mary, Mother of God, pray the Rosary as a family and make up a tune for these words and sing them together: “O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the angels and Queen of the May.”

**June 1, 2025**

## **The Ascension of the Lord**

### **Questions**

◆ Ask your child, “Have you ever felt happy and sad about something at the same time?” The child might mention the end of an anticipated event, such as a vacation, birthday, or holiday. When Jesus left the apostles for the last time, they were “filled with joy” (Luke 24:46–59). Ask, “How do you think this was possible? What were they so happy about?”

◆ When Jesus leaves, he promises that the apostles will be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1–11). This is partly like baptism with water and partly different. The Holy Spirit is sometimes shown as a dove, sometimes as fire or wind. Ask, “What do you think baptism with the Spirit might be like? What other images from nature might represent the Spirit? What might a person baptized by the Spirit go out and do?”

◆ Jesus tells the apostles to be his witnesses, here in Jerusalem and “to the ends of the earth.” Ask your child, “Can you be a witness? Can I? What does it mean to be a witness at home, in church, at school, here in our town or city?” Perhaps think of a good witness the child knows or knows of and talk about that person. How do they witness to the Gospel?

## Activities

- ◆ Collect images of the Holy Spirit from a picture Bible, reproductions of paintings, or the internet. Let your child see the number and variety of images that are possible. Encourage her to think of and draw her own, perhaps illustrating a familiar Bible story such as the Spirit descending on Jesus when John baptizes him.
- ◆ Today's psalm says, "All people, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy." With your child, make up a song and gesture prayer using these words and clapping. Offer to teach it to your child's Sunday school or religious-education class.
- ◆ At bedtime prayer, count up the ways that Jesus is present to the child, even though he has ascended to heaven. Let the child think of the way he experiences Jesus, perhaps in the love of parents, relatives, or friends, perhaps in his own life, gifts, and abilities. Often, in this way, parents may learn from children.

## Marvelous May Saints

May 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:

**May 1 - St. Joseph the Worker:** Patron of fathers, workers, and the dying, honored for his role as the earthly father of Jesus.

**May 2 - St. Athanasius:** A Doctor of the Church, known for his defense of orthodoxy against Arianism.

**May 3 - St. Philip and St. James the Lesser:** Apostles who spread the Gospel; Philip is the patron of pastry chefs, and James is the patron of pharmacists.

**May 4 - St. Florian:** Patron of firefighters, remembered for his refusal to persecute Christians.

**May 5 - St. Hilary of Arles:** A bishop who sold all he had to help the poor.

**May 6 - St. François de Laval:** The first bishop of Canada, dedicated to prayer and missionary work.

**May 7 - St. John of Beverley:** A holy bishop known for his piety and miracles.

**May 8 - Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine:** A missionary and Augustinian in Canada.

**May 9 - St. Pachomius:** Founder of communal monasticism.

**May 10 - St. Damien of Molokai:** Patron of AIDS/HIV patients and lepers, known for his work in Molokai.

**May 10 - St. Antonius of Florence:** Patron against fevers, known for his humility and grace.

**May 12 - St. Pancras:** A martyr and patron against headaches and cramps.

**May 13 - Blessed Imelda Lambertini:** Died at age 11, known for her deep yearning for the Eucharist.

**May 14 - St. Matthias:** Apostle and patron of alcoholics and carpenters.

**May 15 - St. Isidore the Farmer:** Patron of farmers, known for his miracles.

**May 15 - St. Dymphna:** Virgin and martyr, patron of mental illness and incest victims.

**May 16 - St. Simon Stock:** Carmelite who promoted the Brown Scapular.

**May 16 - St. Margaret of Cortona:** Patron of homeless, insanity, orphans, and prostitutes.

**May 16 - St. John Nepomuk:** Martyr to the secrecy of the confessional.

**May 17 - St. Paschal Baylon:** Patron of Eucharistic associations.

**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>

## May Recipes

### *St. Joseph Salad*

(makes 6 servings)

#### Ingredients

- **Salad**
  - 1/2 pound baby spinach
  - 1 small head radicchio, shredded
  - 18 cherry tomatoes
  - 6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and cut into wedges
  - 2 shallots, finely chopped
- **Vinaigrette**
  - 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
  - 2 Tablespoons tarragon vinegar
  - 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
  - Salt and pepper to taste



## Instructions

1. To assemble the salads, in a large salad bowl, toss together the spinach and radicchio until well combined and divide equally among 6 salad plates. Arrange the cherry tomatoes and egg wedges attractively on top. Sprinkle the shallots over everywhere.
2. Whisk the vinaigrette ingredients together in a measuring cup or small bowl until thickened and pour evenly over each of the salads. Serve immediately.

## *Guisseppi's Minestrone*

(Serves 10)

### Ingredients:

- 1 ½ pounds Ground Beef – pre-cooked
- 1 can Kidney Beans
- 1 can Black Beans
- 1 can Garbanzo Beans
- 1 can Pinto Beans
- 1 can Diced Tomatoes
- 1 can Stewed Tomatoes
- ¼ cup Dry Lentils
- 2 cloves Pressed Garlic
- 1 Onion, diced
- 2 Tablespoons Italian seasoning
- 8 cups Vegetable or Beef Broth
- ¾ cup Barley
- 1 cup celery diced
- 1 cup carrots, diced
- 8 oz small pasta shells

### Directions:

1. Combine everything but pasta. Simmer on stove for 1 hour. Add Pasta and continue simmering till cooked. Top with grated cheese and croutons.
2. The last time I made it served it with rolls since I was out of croutons. However, for the feast of St. Joseph, you could top the Minestrone with crushed croutons. The crotons (breadcrumbs) symbolize the sawdust that would have covered St. Joseph's floor.

## ***Our Lady of Fatima Carne Vinho de Alhos***

### **Ingredients**

- We use country style pork spare ribs but lean pork chops can be used.
- 1 part red wine vinegar to 2 parts water is the liquid base.
- For 2 1/2 pounds of meat we have used 1 cup vinegar & 2 cups water.
- lots of garlic crushed
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- salt & pepper to taste

### **Directions:**

1. Add spices to vinegar/water mixture. Mix liquid and add meat.
2. The meat in the marinade should ideally set in the refrigerator for 2 days before cooking to soak up seasonings. This is optimal but could be marinated shorter time.
3. Bake at 375 degrees until cooked through - time will vary by quantity.
4. Pour off drippings and grease at least once during cooking.
5. The finished meat should be without liquid, but not dry.
6. For larger quantities of meat increase water, vinegar, and spices.