

Cluster Announcements

Devotions Explained! *The Rosary*

Christians have used beads to mark the recitation of prayers since ancient times. In the 12th century, the Rosary emerged as a meditative devotion centering on significant moments in the lives of Jesus and Mary. In the words of St. Leo XIII, "there is no more excellent way of praying."

The Rosary is traditionally attributed to a Marian vision received by St. Dominic de Guzman (1170-1221). Though scholarship on this point is uncertain, the Dominican Order was undoubtedly crucial in establishing and evangelizing the Rosary as a devotional prayer.

Over the centuries, the formula of the devotion eventually took the shape of 50 Hail Marys divided into five "decades," with each decade focused on a different mystery. The Church has defined the Joyful Mysteries (to be recited on Saturdays and Mondays), the Glorious Mysteries (Sundays and Wednesdays), the Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesdays and Fridays), and most recently the Luminous Mysteries (to be recited on Thursdays).

May is the Month of Mary

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day *in* May, but the entire month. Throughout the month of May, the Rosary will be prayed 25 minutes before every weekend Mass at all three churches. Come a little early, quiet your heart, and join together honoring our Blessed Mother through this beautiful prayer.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

I am struck by how Jesus addresses the disciples in the 21st chapter of John. They have been fishing all night, and when the dawn comes, Jesus asks, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They hadn't caught a thing, so he tells them what to do to finally fill their nets. These children thought they knew best, but they couldn't get the job done until they listened to Jesus. Like a child who needs a parent, these early followers of Jesus were learning that real maturity of faith requires trusting in and listening to the Teacher.

The stewardship way of life demands of us a certain maturity of discipleship. Just as a child is not yet ready to be a parent, an immature disciple may not yet be ready to sacrifice regardless of the cost or understand the true value of his generosity. So every day, we are challenged and called to respond, sometimes even with little cost to ourselves. But each step, no matter how small, brings with it growth. We are growing not only in maturity, but in the ability to trust in God and how to listen for the call as well.

How mature are you in your faith? How much trust do you have in Jesus Christ? How often do you pause to listen to the instructions of your Teacher? The night is now over, and the dawn is upon you. Reflect on the visible fruit of your stewardship, and then listen for the words of Jesus.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LPI

Faith Formation

Another year of Faith Formation has come to an end. **THANK YOU** to our catechists: Trudy DeLawyer, Loree & Al Nauertz, Kirby Dernovsek, Sandi Johnson, Jill Matthys, Dorothy Schwochert & Jena Smith for the time, effort and sacrifice you all made to share your Catholic Faith with our children. **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped prepare and serve Wednesday night supper to our youth. It was a wonderful to see them all sharing a meal.

Cluster Evangelization News !

Your Input is Needed !

Our cluster Evangelization Team is interested in knowing how they can serve you better and help you grow in your faith and love for Jesus.

All cluster families are asked to fill out a survey. It can be completed on line or a copy can be picked up as you leave church.

Please see enclosed insert.

we are
called to
transform
& change



We have a new option for online giving. We will still continue with the regular online giving that many of you have signed up for and participate in. Thank you for your generosity.

Many have asked for another option that would allow them to give at their discretion without having to sign up for a regular donation.

The company that we used for the Celebration for Education online ticket sales & silent auction payments is called BetterWorld. We have had a great experience with them so far, and will be using them to facilitate this new method of collecting offerings.

<https://stfrancisdesales.betterworld.org/donation-pages/offerings>



You will be asked to select an amount, a donation frequency option & make a designation for where you would like your funds to go (specific parish or the school).

Please call or email the church office with any questions.

Responding to God

I can't explain it. I feel a nudge from God to something out of the ordinary. How do I respond?

You're in good company! Abraham was asked to leave all he knew and loved for a strange land, with only abstract divine assurance that such a sacrifice would be worth it. Plenty of prophets protested against God's call, whether it was claiming they were too young (Jeremiah) or running away entirely, only to end up in a whale's belly (Jonah). St. Joseph was asked to do something very strange. He was asked to believe — on the word of an angelic appearance in a dream — that his betrothed was pregnant not from another man, but by a miraculous intervention of God. Then he was called to marry her.

Author Flannery O'Connor once wrote, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." Sometimes God's invitation might seem strange or challenging. It might require sacrifices we never expected to make. Our life might look different than we had always imagined. But as we all know, life throws its own curveballs, regardless of whether or not we're listening for God's will. Better, one would think, to be open to the promptings of God and to follow along the strange trails that they lead. We have the assurance that, eventually, we will find green pastures.

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Parish & Finance Council Meeting Schedule

St. Catherine of Alexandria

Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 pm

St. Joseph

Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 pm

St. Francis de Sales

Finance Council, Thursday May 15 at 6 pm
Pastoral Council, Thursday May 15 at 7 pm

Saint Catherine of Alexandria

St. Catherine CCW will meet on **Monday, May 5th at 6:00pm**. All ladies are invited to attend. If you have agenda items or any questions, please call Gail Librande at 715-354-7291 or text her cell at 715-416-8334.

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer of Belief

Lord,

Help me to see You and to recognize what I see.

Help me to hear Your invitation and to respond.

Help me to join You where and when You call.

Amen.

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025



BR: Noah Saulys, Sullivan Halvorson, Alexander Villella, Nicholas Petrangelo

FR: Landon Kellso, Madeline Maki, Ella Horton

CONGRATULATIONS

