

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 Fourth Sunday after Easter	4 Catechumen Class 7 p.m.	5	6	7	8 Pro-life Vigil	9 Young Roses of Mary
10 Fifth Sunday after Easter Mother's Day Brunch	11 Catechumen Class 7 p.m.	12	13	14 Ascension of the Lord	15	16 First Confessions St. Benedict Altar Guild
17 Sunday after Ascension First Communion	18 Catechumen Class 7 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday	25 NO Catechumen Class	26 Confirmations 6 p.m.	27 Ember Wednesday	28	29 Ember Friday All-Night Adoration	30 Ember Saturday
31 Trinity Sunday	1	2	3	4	5 First Friday	6 First Saturday

CONTACT US:

Sacramental Emergency:

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Parish Registration, Records, Inquiries:
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Bulletin:
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St. Benedict Altar Guild:
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Take-Them-a-Meal/Sunday Brunch:
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Young Roses of Mary Girls' Group:
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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Rest of the Souls of:

Lamar Cole
Nicholas Esser

Parishioners in the Military:

1st Lt. David Bentley, U.S. Air Force
Spec. 2 Victor Follis, U.S. Space Force
Petty Officer 1st Class Paula Gennitti, U.S. Navy
Command Sgt. Major Chad Keirns, U.S. Army
1st Lt. Andrew Rodgers, U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. Marc Snyder,
U.S. Marine Corps
Spec. 3 Patryk Stepien, U.S. Space Force
Sr. Airman Joseph Tuttle, U.S. Air Force
Spec. 3 Noah Velasco, U.S. Space Force
2nd Lt. Jacob Vore, U.S. Space Force
Sgt. Daniel Walsh, U.S. Army
Sr. Airman Thomas Walsh,
U.S. Air Force
Lt. Col. Nathan Wike, U.S. Army

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION + CATHOLIC CHURCH +

Sunday after the Ascension ~ May 17, 2026



"O Mary, through thine Immaculate Conception make my body pure and my soul holy."

Sunday Schedule:

Low Mass: 7 a.m.
9 a.m.
Sung Mass: 11 a.m.

Confessions:

One-half hour before Mass,
Saturdays at 4 p.m.

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday: 8 a.m.
Thursday: 6 p.m.
Friday, Saturday: 8 a.m.

Holy Hour, Benediction:

Thursday: 7 p.m.

Pastor: FR. JAMES J. GORDON, F.S.S.P.

Granting Gentleness towards Ourselves

Introduction to the Devout Life, by St. Francis de Sales

One of the forms in which we should practice gentleness regards ourselves, in never growing irritable with ourselves on our imperfections; for, although in reason we must be vexed and angry with ourselves when we commit faults, yet we ought to guard against a bitter, fretful displeasure, or spiteful anger with ourselves. Some make a great mistake in being angry because they have been angry, hurt because they have been hurt, and vexed because they have been vexed. Thus, whilst they fancy that they are

ridding their breast of anger, and that their second passion remedies the first, in truth they are preparing the way for fresh anger on the first occasion. Besides this, all this indignation and vexation and irritation with ourselves tends to foster pride and springs entirely from self-love, which is displeased at finding that we are not perfect. We should endeavor then to look upon our faults with a calm, collected, firm displeasure. A judge who passes sentence thoughtfully and calmly, punishes vice more effectually

than if he is impetuous and hasty, for in the latter case, he does not punish so much according to the crime committed, as according to his own feeling; and so we correct ourselves more effectually by a quiet persevering repentance than by an irritated, hasty passionate repentance; for such as these are not according to the magnitude of our faults, but according to our impulse. For instance, a man who especially aims at purity, will be overwhelmed with angry self-reproach for some slight offense against it, whilst he will only laugh at some grievous slander of which he has been guilty. On the contrary, one who specially abhors slander will torment himself in consequence of some slight murmuring, whilst he passed unnoticed a gross act of impurity; and so with other sins: and all this is the consequence of judging conscience by passion instead of by reason.

Believe me, that as the remonstrances of a father will have much greater effect upon his child if they are offered kindly and gently than if they are hot and angry; so when we have erred, if we reprove our heart gently and calmly, rather pitying than reproaching it, and encouraging it to amendment, its repentance will be much deeper and sounder than if we were angry, stormy, and irritable.

For instance, if I particularly desired not to yield to the sin of vanity, and, nevertheless, I fell grievously into it, I would not begin to say to my heart "Art thou not wretched and

abominable, to be carried away by vanity after so many good resolutions? Well mayst thou die of shame, and not presume to lift up thine eyes, blind, insolent, faithless traitor, to thy God," or so forth. I would rather seek to correct it by reasoning and compassion thus, "My poor heart, here we are fallen into the snare, from which we had so often resolved to escape! Come, let us rise up once more and forsake it forever, let us call for God's mercy, and put our trust in it, for it will assist us in standing firmer for the future, so will we return to the path of humility. Let us not be discouraged, but be well on our guard from this time. God will help us and guide us." And by such reproof I would establish a firmly rooted resolution not to fall again into the same fault, taking such steps as seem advisable, and as my director may point out to prevent it.

If any one does not find that he can sufficiently touch his heart by this gentle correction, he can make use of a harsher, sharper reprehension, in order to bring it to utter confusion. But after using severity and reproach he still should conclude his anger and indignation with a calm, holy confidence in God, imitating that great penitent, who, when his soul was prostrate in affliction, consoled it by saying, "Why art thou sad, O my soul and why dost thou disquiet me? Hope in God for I will still give praise to Him, the salvation of my countenance and my God" (*Psalms* 42). Therefore when your heart has fallen raise it gently, hum-

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, May 18 ~ St. Venantius

8 a.m. — George & Gail Johnson, by Jill Demian

Tuesday, May 19 ~ St. Peter Celestine

8 a.m. — + Joe TeGrotenhuis, by John TeGrotenhuis

Wednesday, May 20 ~ St. Bernardine of Siena

8 a.m. — + Frances Kwitek, by Sarah Kwitek

Thursday, May 21 ~ Feria after Ascension

6 p.m. — Private Intention

Friday, May 22 ~ St. Rita

8 a.m. — In Honor of St. Rita

Saturday, May 23 ~ Vigil of Pentecost

8 a.m. — Special Intention, by Beatriz Rubio

Sunday, May 24 ~ Pentecost Sunday

7 a.m. — Private Intention

9 a.m. — Private Intention

11 a.m. — *Pro Populo*

Fr. Gordon may accept Mass intentions

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

May 18 ~ Catechumen Class

Class for adults preparing to enter the Catholic Church will meet 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

May 24 ~ Confirmation Class Final Exam

Exam begins half an hour after the 11 a.m. Mass in the upstairs classroom.

May 26 ~ 2026 Confirmations

Mass and Confirmations at 6 p.m. with Fr. James Gordon officiating. Potluck reception to follow in the Parish Hall. For more information about the reception or to help set up, contact Marcella Guilez, dmjmfamilyleve@aol.com.

May 29-30 ~ All-Night Adoration

Sign up in the vestibule to spend an hour in meditation, prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament; times available from 7 p.m. on Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday.

bling yourself greatly before God, and acknowledging your fault, but without marveling at your fall; since it is no marvel that infirmity should be infirm, weakness weak, and frailty frail. But nevertheless heartily detest the offense of which you have been guilty in God's sight, and with hearty courage and confidence in His mercy begin once more to seek that virtue from which you have fallen away.

The diligence and care with which we ought to attend to our affairs is very different from solicitude, anxiety, and worry. The angels are careful of our salvation, and seek it with dili-

gence but they are not subject to anxiety and eager solicitude, for though care and diligence are a part of their charity, nevertheless, solicitude and anxiety would be wholly opposed to their bliss; since though care and diligence are compatible with tranquility and peace of mind, anxiety and over-carefulness are not so, and much less agitation and eagerness.

Be very careful and diligent in all such business as falls to your share, for God who has allotted it to you would have you do it well.

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