

Spring Newsletter

We continue to celebrate the Easter Season with “Alleluia” on our lips! There is much to look forward to in the life of our parish and throughout our country.

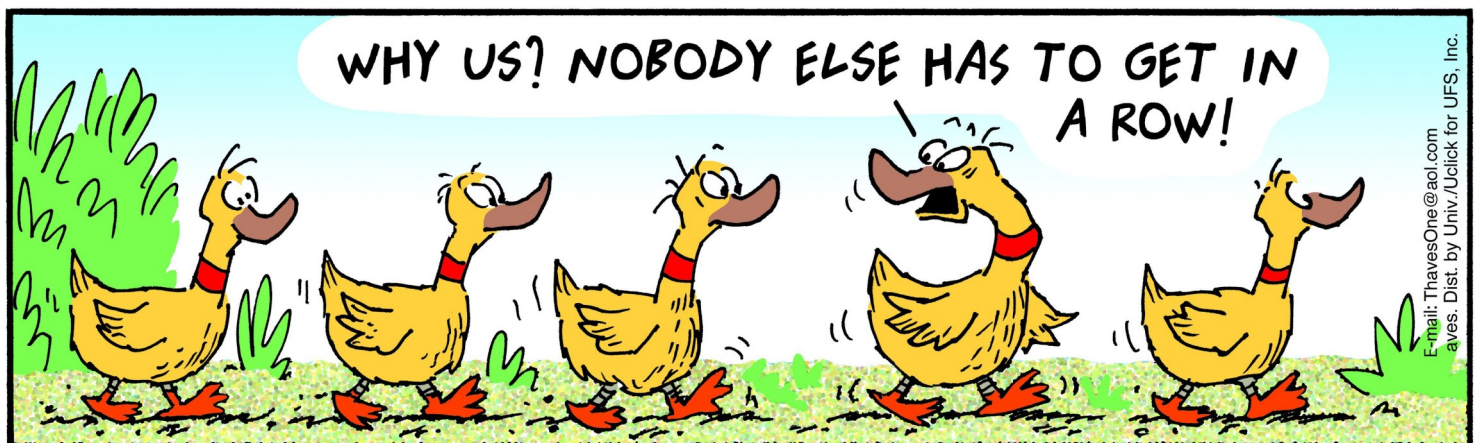
A major highlight this year is the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As the United States commemorates this milestone in 2026, the U.S. bishops will consecrate our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All Catholics are invited to join in prayer for the unity and healing of our country.

One way parishes and individuals can participate is by contributing to a collective effort of 250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy. We are excited for our parish to take part in this meaningful initiative.

In addition, there will be another National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, traveling along the eastern states from St. Augustine, Florida, to Philadelphia.

As we prepare for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart on Friday, June 12, our parish will hold a novena for priests. On the day of the Solemnity, we will celebrate with Mass, followed by a parish dinner and a talent show.

Check out all the spiritual and fun events
we have planned in our parish and mark your calendars!



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**WE ARE PRAYING
FOR YOU!**

FRASSATI PRAYER CIRCLE

Everyone is invited to attend our "Frassati Prayer Circle" which is regularly held on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 9 a.m.

This prayer circle is named for St. Pier Giorgio because he recognized the need for support in following the teachings of Jesus so he set up groups among his friends to pray for one another. In our "Frassati Prayer Circle" we will be praying for you!

Because of various special events in the coming months, we will have changes to this regular schedule.

**A few of our upcoming prayer circles are schedule on
Saturday, May 2, Saturday, May 16, & Saturday, June 20**

What happens at the prayer circles? We have a few moments of quiet, reflective prayer. We offer our prayer intentions. We pray the Rosary. It is a very peaceful, prayerful time!



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The feast day of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati is celebrated annually on **July 4th**, marking the date of his death (entering eternal life) in 1925. Known as the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes" and a patron of youth and mountaineers, he is remembered for his joy, devotion to the poor, and intense spiritual life



**PRAY FOR TWO NUNS
WHO ARE
CELEBRATING SPECIAL
EVENTS!**

DOMINICAN MONASTERY NEWS

Please pray for Sister Mary of Jesus who will be celebrating her Golden Jubilee on May 9. May God bless her! May her heart continue to be as compassionate as that of our Lord, whom she has strived to imitate. Grant her continued health and renewed strength, that she may walk with courage and joy in these days of celebration and into the future, as a living testimony to your love.

Please pray for Sister Cecilia Marie Oculien of the Holy Trinity who will be making her Solemn Profession on May 30. May God Bless her! Prepare the heart of Your servant for consecration to Your service. By the grace of the Holy Spirit purify her from all sin and set her on fire with Your love.

Don't forget to come by the Garage Sale
on
Friday, April 24
from 4–7 p.m.
and
Saturday, April 25
from 8 a.m. to Noon

LADIES SOCIETY GARAGE SALE!

FRI & SAT
APR
24 & 25



The purpose of
World Day of Prayer
for Vocations (which
falls on “Good
Shepherd Sunday”)
is to publicly fulfill
the Lord's

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

SUN
APR
26

instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity, secular institutes), and to the missionary life.

We will have a special bulletin insert that weekend as well as a prayer for vocations before Mass.



250 HOURS OF ADORATION FOR OUR COUNTRY BEGINS & CONTINUES UNTIL JULY 1

WED
APR
29

Wait...250 Hours of Adoration?

As described at the beginning of this newsletter, the United States Bishops are inviting parishes to participate in 250 Hours of Adoration for our country in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

While 250 hours seems like a lot, each person present constitutes an hour prayed...and this 250 Hours will take place over the next 10 weeks at our usual Wednesday Adoration (concluding on Wednesday, July 1).

Even if you aren't a regular adorer, you are invited to stop in to the church anytime on Wednesdays—even if it is only for ten minutes. Jesus would love to see you!

We will have a booklet that will have a different prayer for each Wednesday.



**LAST CCD CLASS
CROWNING OF MARY
COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS**

**SUN
MAY
3**

LAST CCD CLASS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!

Thank you to all our catechists for their help this past year. Thank you to all who have assisted the children in their faith journey!

CROWNING OF MARY BEFORE MASS

Before Mass on Sunday, May 3, the parish children will be bringing flowers and a crown forward for our Blessed Mother.

All children of the parish are invited to participate in this tradition. Please gather at the back of the church and in the peace room before Mass.

WHY DO WE CROWN MARY IN MAY?

May is the month when we honor our Blessed Mother.

Bring flow'rs of the fairest, Bring flowers of the rarest...

We crown thee with blossoms today,

Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.

This old hymn reminds us that the crowning of Mary with flowers is symbolic of Mary as Queen of Heaven and of our lives. We entrust all our intentions to her, and she takes them to her Son, who is the King. We honor and love our Blessed Mother!

O Holy and Blessed Mother, Pray for us!

**COFFEE & DOUGHTNUTS
AFTER MASS!**



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:
PRAYER SERVICE AT
NOON ON THE VIRDEN SQUARE**

**THU
MAY
7**

GLORIFY GOD AMONG THE NATIONS - SEEKING HIM IN ALL GENERATIONS



All widows, widowers, and senior singles are invited to attend the next "Senior Singles Luncheon"

on Thursday, May 14 at

Noon in the Church Hall. A main dish

will be served—bring a side dish or dessert to share! Join us for support and friendship!

**"SENIOR SINGLES LUNCHEON"
AT NOON IN THE
CHURCH HALL**

**WED
MAY
14**



Cor

The men of the Knights of Columbus Council #2321 invite **ALL MEN** to attend the upcoming "Cor" Meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. in the church hall.

**COR MEETING FOR MEN
AT 7 P.M.
IN THE CHURCH HALL**

**WED
MAY
20**

Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. You do not have to be a member of the Knights of Columbus to attend!



GRADUATE BLESSING: On Sunday, May 24, Father James will be blessing all graduates at the end of Mass.

All graduates are invited to come forward for a blessing and a little gift from the parish. Congratulations!

**BLESSING OF GRADUATES
&
ENROLLMENT IN THE SCAPULAR**

**SUN
MAY
24**



ENROLLMENT IN THE BROWN SCAPULAR AFTER MASS: Enrollment in the Brown Scapular is a one-time, simple ceremony performed by a priest to officially invest a Catholic in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Scapular is a silent prayer that shows one's complete consecration and dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Scapular is a devotion whereby we venerate Her, love Her, and trust in Her protection, and we tell Her these things every moment of the day by simply wearing the Brown Scapular.

Many scapulars are embroidered with the original promise of the Holy Virgin to St. Simon Stock: "Whosoever dies clothed with this scapular shall not suffer eternal fire." While this is the most well-known promise associated with the brown scapular, it is not the only benefit of the devotion! Here are all the privileges connected to the scapular devotion: As a sacramental, the brown scapular confers extra grace and disposes us to cooperate with it. The Blessed Virgin Mary promises special protection in life and death. Final perseverance "at the hour of death". Assistance after death and an early release from Purgatory

It is customary to enroll children in the Scapular following their First Holy Communion.

We invite those children who have recently received this Sacrament to be enrolled.

We also invite any parishioners who have not yet been enrolled to join us after Mass for the enrollment.



Please pray for Seminarian Padrick Mulligan who will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate in May. Next year he will be ordained to the priesthood.

**PRAY FOR
PADRICK MULLIGAN**

**IN
MAY**



NATIONAL
EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE
ST. FRANCES XAVIER
CABRINI ROUTE

MAY
24
to
JUL
5

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE 2026

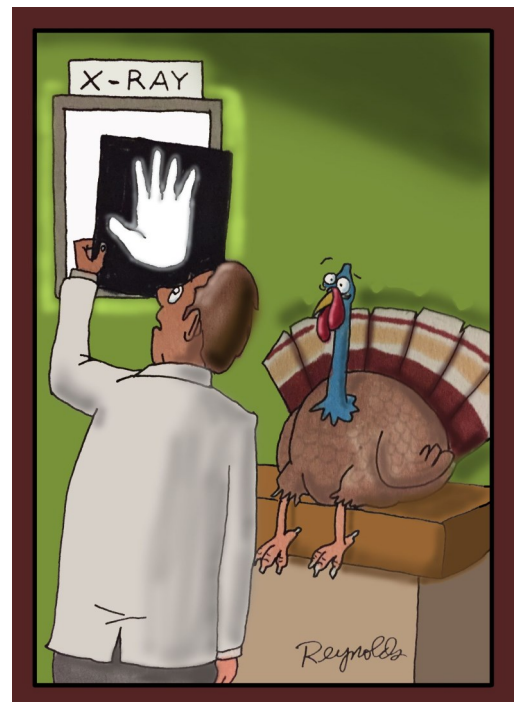
WALK WITH JESUS. PRAY FOR THE NATION. FOLLOW THE JOURNEY.

In honor of America's 250th year, the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will carry the theme One Nation Under God. One Nation Under God is not a slogan—it's an invitation to realign our lives, communities, and country under the sovereignty of Christ. It's a call to build unity through prayer, and to let Jesus, present in the Eucharist, renew and heal the heart of our country, one soul at a time. As pilgrims on this route, we walk with Christ so that His love might draw our nation back to Him. You're invited to join us, in person or in spirit, and offer prayers and sacrifices for the renewal of America.

This pilgrimage will begin on Sunday, May 24 in St. Augustine, Florida.
Pilgrims will travel along the eastern states, stopping at locations along the way.
The pilgrimage will conclude on Sunday, July 5 in Philadelphia.



We may be between
St. Patrick's Day
and Thanksgiving...
but we always
need a laugh!





SWEETS
& THE
SACRED
HEART

SUN
MAY
31

Everyone is invited to join us after Mass for a French Dessert Celebration! St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a nun in France in the 1600s, had visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We will be showing a short video of the meaning behind the image of the Sacred Heart and enjoying some French Desserts!

We will have an activity for the kids as well!

Join us for some treats and fellowship!



The Sacred Heart Novena is a nine-day devotion that deepens personal intimacy with Jesus, fosters trust in His mercy, and transforms hearts to love as He does.

As we prepare for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 12, please join us as we offer this Novena for the Sanctification of Priests.

SACRED HEART NOVENA
BEGINS & CONTINUES
UNTIL JUNE 11

WED
JUN
3

Novena Schedule:

Wednesday, June 3–Friday, June 6: Prayers at 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 6 & Sunday, June 7: Prayers at 10:00 a.m.
Monday, June 8–Thursday, June 12: Prayers at 5:00 p.m.

The novena prayers will last about 15 minutes each day.

What prayers will be part of this Novena to the Sacred Heart?

We will begin with the Novena Prayer by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (*Padre Pio recited this novena every day for all those who requested his prayers*). We will also pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

In all these prayers, we focus on the Love and Mercy of Jesus as we place our trust in Him.



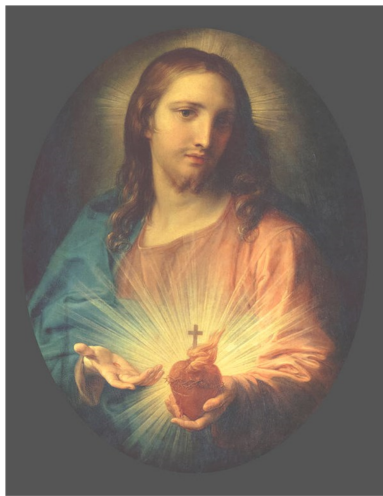
EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION AFTER MASS

SUN
JUN
7

Sunday, June 7 is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (commonly called "Corpus Christi"). It is on this day that we show our love and devotion for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament by holding an outdoor Eucharistic Procession after Mass. Through this procession, we become public witness of our Catholic faith. We experience the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Everyone is invited to join us!

In the event of inclement weather, we will hold Eucharistic Adoration after Mass until Noon.



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS ADORATION AT 3:00 P.M. & MASS AT 5:30 P.M.

FRI
JUN
12

Please join us in Celebrating
the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
on Friday, June 12

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: EXPOSITION AT 3:00 P.M.

We will be praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Litany of the Sacred Heart
Adoration will close around 5:15 p.m. as we prepare for Mass.

HOLY MASS: 5:30 P.M.

(Fr. Daniel McGrath, celebrant)

PARISH DINNER FOLLOWING THE MASS.



PARISH DINNER
& TALENT SHOW AT
6:30 P.M.

FRI
JUN
12

Parish Dinner

After the Mass for the Sacred Heart (at 5:30 p.m.)

WE WILL BE HOLDING A PARISH DINNER IN OUR HALL TO CELEBRATE

We will be taking reservations for the dinner before and after
Sunday Masses beginning May 24.

To help offset the cost of the dinner,
we are asking for a donation of \$5 per adult (18 years and older);
children (17 years and under) are free.



Door Prizes

We will have a drawing for gift card door prizes! Yay!



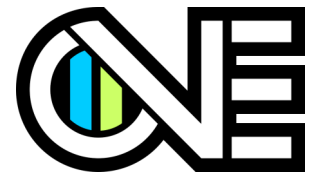
Talent Show

AT THE DINNER, WE WILL BE HOLDING A TALENT SHOW
FEATURING TALENT FROM OUR PARISH!

We have already secured the talented
Eli Travis, Taekwondo Black Belt,
Michael and Nicholas Pitchford, of the band ONE-11,
to give performances!



And YOU are invited to perform as well!
Can you sing, play an instrument, dance, juggle, or recite poetry?
Or maybe you have another hidden talent?



We will also be displaying artwork!
Can you paint, draw, cross-stitch, knit, or sculpt?
We would love to display your artwork!



All ages are welcome to perform or display their art!
Contact Marcella at the Parish Office if you want to participate in the talent show!

Sacred Heart Display

We invite you to bring your statues or pictures
of the Sacred Heart to display at the dinner.

You may bring in your
statues or pictures before the dinner.





KIDS ACTIVITY

DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

Hey, Kids! This one is for you!

During the Month of June, children of all ages are invited to color a picture of the Sacred Heart for display on the vestibule bulletin board.

When they turn in their picture, they will receive a Sacred Heart Badge.



The Sacred Heart Badge is a very old devotion which began through revelations to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who promoted wearing and venerating the image of Christ's Sacred Heart. It spread widely after the 1720 plague in Marseille, when the city was consecrated to the Sacred Heart and the badge was worn by the people.

In 1870, Pope Pius IX approved the devotion, granted it a blessing, and attached an indulgence for those who wear the badge and pray daily.



PRAYER RESOURCES

DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

During the month of June, we will have a number of different prayer resources available—including a booklet with prayers for each day of the month of June.

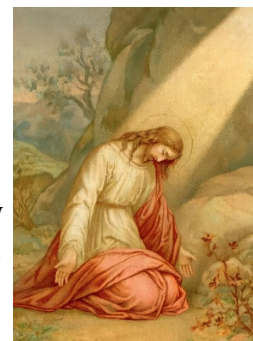
We will also have information about the Chaplet of the Sacred Heart of Jesus—a prayer with which you may not be familiar!

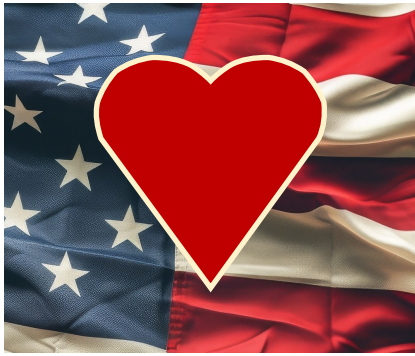
Holy cards will be available—including one of the original

Sacred Heart Image as drawn by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

And, as we ponder the great love of Christ and our response of surrender to His Holy Will, we will have a card with a prayer in time of sadness. This prayer was written by Fr. Walter Ciszek who was an American Jesuit priest. He authored several books, and was arrested

by the Soviets during World War II. The communists tortured him and kept him in solitary confinement for 5 years. After the war, they didn't kill him, but kept him as a prisoner until the 1960s. While he was a prisoner, he spent much time evangelizing. He was eventually released and returned to the United States. He is currently a Servant of God.





250 WORKS OF MERCY

DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE



250 Works of Mercy?

As described at the beginning of this newsletter, the United States Bishops are inviting parishes to participate in 250 Works of Mercy in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As a parish, we will be “collecting” your works of mercy as an act of love for Jesus!

Everyone can participate—even the kids!

How to participate:

1. Complete a corporal or spiritual work of mercy
2. Fill out the card & place it in the designated basket
3. Each card = one puzzle piece

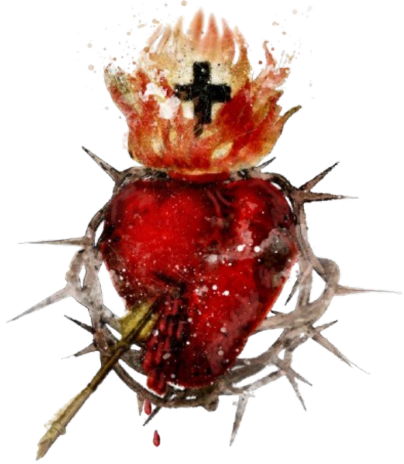
Help us complete our 250 piece puzzle before July 4th!

SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY:

1. **Feed the hungry:** Provide food to those in need.
2. **Give drink to the thirsty:** Offer water to those in need.
3. **Clothe the naked:** Donate clothes.
4. **Shelter the homeless:** Offer a place to stay.
5. **Visit the imprisoned:** Spend time with those in prison.
6. **Care for the sick:** Attend to those who are ill.
7. **Bury the dead:** Ensure the deceased are laid to rest.

SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:

1. **Instruct the ignorant:** Teach those who lack knowledge.
2. **Counsel the doubtful:** Offer guidance to the uncertain.
3. **Admonish the sinner:** Encourage repentance gently.
4. **Bear wrongs patiently:** Endure wrongs without retaliation.
5. **Forgive willingly:** Let go of grudges.
6. **Comfort the afflicted:** Support those who are suffering.
7. **Pray for the living and the dead:** Intercede through prayer.



FAMILY CONSECRATIONS TO THE SACRED HEART

DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

As we approach the great Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us take some time to reflect on ways we can better incorporate this devotion into our life. May this moment in the life of the Catholic Church also be significant in our own life as well. May we respond with a willingness to allow Jesus into our life as our King, Lord, Savior and Friend of our heart, home and invite Him to set up His Kingdom into our dwelling place.

We are inviting everyone to consecrate their family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the month of June.

We will have resources available—including booklets and certificates.

SACRED HEART ENTHRONEMENT BRING HIS SACRED HEART INTO YOUR HOME

Welcome Jesus

The Lord, in His mercy and love, seeks to liberate each one of us from chains that bind us in our day-to-day lives. Welcoming Jesus into your home as King, Savior, and Friend, through Enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is a conscious decision to place Jesus at the center of your life and home.

- **CHOOSE A SUNDAY** for the enthronement ceremony and attend Mass together.
- **SELECT A SACRED HEART IMAGE** and invite your priest to bless the image.
- **ESTABLISH A PROMINENT PLACE** in your home where you will display the image. Consider placing pictures of family members and friends near the image.
- **PREPARE YOUR HEARTS** beginning three days prior to the enthronement. Recite the prayers in the booklet.
- **ENTHRONEMENT SUNDAY** Gather together and place Jesus on the throne of authority in your home.

Throughout the month of June, if you have an image of the Sacred Heart that you would like to have blessed, please bring it to the church.

On Sunday, June 28, any families or individuals who have made a consecration to the Sacred Heart will be blessed at Mass.



May our hearts experience the love of Jesus Christ in a new way.



MASS AT THE CEMETERY
AT 9:00 A.M.

SAT
JUL
4

Everyone is invited to attend Mass at the Virden Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. Please bring your lawn chairs. If it rains—the Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Church.



PARISH PICTURE
AFTER MASS

SUN
JUL
5

Do you remember this picture taken for our Centennial Celebration in 2014?

We are going to do another one—this time for the 250th Anniversary of our Country and for the Sacred Heart!

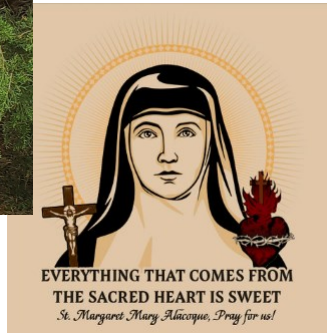
**Wear your red, white, and blue!
...or wear any of your Sacred Heart church “merch”!
We will have American flags for everyone to hold!**





CELEBRATE THE SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART IN STYLE!

SACRED HEART T-SHIRTS



Catholic to the Max



Totally Catholic Tees



The Little Rose Shop



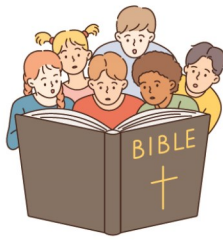
Grow Like Saints— on Etsy



CHECK OUT THESE VARIOUS COLLECTABLES!

CELEBRATE WITH MOMENTOS





Catholic Trivia

For Teens & Adults



Circle the correct answer.

1. Where does the Pope live?
a) Rome b) Vatican City c) Assisi
2. What do Catholics call a special prayer that lasts for nine days?
a) Rosary b) Novena c) Litany
3. Which miracle of Jesus fed more than 5,000 people?
a) Walking on Water b) Multiplying Loaves and Fish c) Raising Lazarus
4. Which of the following is NOT a sacrament of the Catholic Church?
a) Baptism b) Marriage c) Rosary
5. When we say “Amen” at the end of prayers, what does it mean?
a) I believe / It is true b) Thanks be to God c) Lord, have mercy
6. Who is the patron saint of lost items?
a) St. Jude b) St. Anthony of Padua c) St. Joseph
7. Who is NOT part of the Holy Trinity?
a) Father b) Son c) Mary
8. What was Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana?
a) Walking on Water b) Healing the Blind Man c) Changing Water into Wine
9. How many mysteries of the Rosary are there?
a) 3 b) 4 c) 5
10. Who was the first Christian martyr?
a) Paul b) Stephen c) Peter
11. How many days does Lent last?
a) 30 b) 40 c) 50
12. Which saint is known as the patron of desperate or hopeless causes?
a) St. Jude b) St. Joseph c) St. Peter

13. Who is known as the “Little Flower,” patron Saint of missions?
a) St. Teresa of Ávila b) St. Thérèse of Lisieux c) St. Catherine of Siena
14. Which prayer devotion uses beads to meditate on the life of Jesus and Mary?
a) Divine Mercy b) Rosary c) Angelus
15. Which apostle was a tax collector before following Jesus?
a) Peter b) Matthew c) Andrew
16. What feast celebrates Mary being taken body and soul into Heaven?
a) Immaculate Conception b) Assumption c) Annunciation
17. Which sacrament forgives sins after Baptism?
a) Baptism b) Eucharist c) Reconciliation
18. Which miracle of Jesus showed His power over nature by calming a storm?
a) Walking on Water b) Healing the Paralytic c) Calming the Sea
19. Which prophet was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot?
a) Elijah b) Elisha c) Isaiah
20. What prayer do Catholics pray at the start of confession?
a) Hail Mary b) Act of Contrition c) The Lord’s Prayer
21. Who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River?
a) John the Baptist b) Peter c) Paul
22. What did Jesus teach us to call God in the Lord’s Prayer?
a) Father b) King c) Teacher
23. Which feast celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to the Apostles?
a) Pentecost b) Christmas c) Epiphany
24. Who was visited by an angel in a lion’s den?
a) Daniel b) Joseph c) David

5. a	11. b	17. c	23. a
4. c	10. b	16. b	22. a
3. b	9. b	15. b	21. a
2. b	8. c	14. b	20. b
1. b	7. c	13. b	19. a
Answer Key:	6. b	12. a	18. c