

**LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK OF
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
AND THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 27 – May 3, 2026

Monday, 4/27 † Easter Weekday

6pm: SS. C & M – Finley

**Tuesday, 4/28 † Easter Weekday, Saint Peter
Chanel, Priest & Martyr; Saint Louis
Grignon de Montfort, Priest**

9am: A. S. – †† Mary Smolek by Larry & Sharon
Richie

**Wednesday, 4/29 † Saint Catherine of Siena,
Virgin & Doctor of the Church**

6pm: SS. C & M – †† Bob Patterson by Wife, Barb

**Thursday, 4/30 † Easter Weekday, Saint Pius V,
Pope**

9am; A.S. †† Mary Smolek by Larry and Sharon
Richie

**First Friday, 5/1 † Easter Weekday, Saint Joseph
the Worker**

9am; A.S. †† Donnelly, Welsh & Brennan Families

First Saturday, 5/2 † Saint Mark, Evangelist

8:30am: †† Julie Labuda by Christian Ladies

Saturday, 5/2 † Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:30pm -. †† Sharon Pfof by Donna Rowe

Sunday, 5/3 † Fifth Sunday of Easter

9am: A. S. †† Chester Potempa by Joe & Ruth
Smolek

11am: †† Joe Vanek, Sr. by Wife, Pat

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Mon., April 27 – 6:30pm – SVDP, Parlor

Thurs., Apr. 30 – 2:15pm -Legion of Mary

Thurs., Apr. 30 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sun., May 3 – 9:30am – Religious Education

Starke County Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter, pancake mix & syrup, canned fruit,
laundry soap, dish soap, toilet tissue, salt, pepper,
small packages sugar & flour, sanitary pads, fresh
fruits & vegetables, canned meat, canned pasta with
meat.

Prayer for a Child's First Communion

On Sunday, May 10, 2026, at the 11am Mass, three of our Religious Education Students will receive their First Communion. Please help us to pray for each of them as they continue their faith journey thru life.

Lord Jesus, Bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May this day be an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to You for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. Thank you for their innocence and goodness. May their eagerness to receive Your Body and Blood inspire all of us to cherish this Sacred Sacrament. Amen.

Upcoming event

The St. Benedict Hospitality Team for the Diocese of Gary is preparing for the Night of Dedication of the Diocese of Gary to the Sacred Heart of Jesus planned for Friday, June 12. The event begins with a procession from St. Matthias in Crown Point to Bulldog Park downtown for a service led by Bishop McClory, followed by fellowship. Games and food vendors will be available, and the team is working out parking and busing logistics.

More information will follow as we get closer to the date.

Today, we celebrate “Good Shepherd Sunday” where we reflect on Jesus’ care and love of us and hear his words, “I came so that they may have life and have it more abundantly.”

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you will reveal the love of the “Good Shepherd” to your suffering brothers and sisters.

Dear Padre

May 3, 2026

I have one daughter and a grandchild who say they are bisexual and very much into the LGBTQ lifestyle, where they feel like they belong. I do not know how to handle all of this. They left the Catholic faith years ago. I do not believe they are atheists. Please help.

You are not alone in your struggle to know how to “handle all of this.” It’s hard for parents when their children choose a different lifestyle.

Try not to confuse gender expression with faith. Try not to confuse sexual orientation with faith. Just because a person is attracted to someone of the same sex does not mean they are not a person of faith. They may believe in God and even worship God in their own way. It sounds like your daughter and grandchild are honest with you. If they are willing, perhaps talking with them about how they experience God in their lives would be a fruitful conversation.

Whatever you do, the best practice is to love. Love your daughter and grandchild. When they express to you what they believe to be true about themselves, they are not asking for your permission. They are entrusting you with what they believe they have learned about themselves. Perhaps that very openness with you is a lesson that you taught them and a sign that they want to share with you what is important to them. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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Jesus says, “I came that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

Good News!

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 6:1–7 / 1 Peter 2:4–9 / John 14:1–12

ANN M. GARRIDO

When I was a child, my parents taught me to pray with my hands pressed together, fingers pointed upward toward God. But somewhere along the way, I learned a different posture for prayer: seated, with my palms facing upward on my lap. It’s a gesture of openness—an acknowledgment that I come before God in humble need, ready to receive whatever he wants to give.

In today’s gospel, Philip approaches Jesus in a similar stance of openness. “Show us the Father,” he says, “and that will be enough for us” (John 14:8). Jesus responds that Philip has already seen the Father because Jesus’ words and actions are the Father’s words and actions. Philip needs no more—he has already received “enough.”

Sometimes, I need this reminder myself. I long for a new insight into God that perhaps one more book or one more lecture will give me. Don’t get me wrong: lifelong learning is a wonderful thing, and there is always more of God to discover! But it is important to acknowledge that, like Philip, I have already come to know the Father through Jesus, and everything I need to live the Christian life is already in place. Rather than more knowledge, it is a question of putting into action what I’ve been taught.

Of late, when I pray, I have embraced a new prayer posture: turning my hands downward, resting my palms on my knees. It helps me remember that with Jesus as my shepherd, I “shall not want.” I already have all I need. ●

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Month of Mary

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the *Month of May*, no. 1).

This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

The practice became especially popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it took hold among their students at the Roman College and a bit later it was publicly practiced in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the whole Church.

The practice was granted a partial indulgence by Pius VII in 1815 and a plenary indulgence by Pius IX in 1859. With the complete revision of indulgences in 1966 and the decreased emphasis on specific indulgences, it no longer carries an indulgence; however it certainly falls within the category of the First General Grant of Indulgences. (A *partial indulgence* is granted to the faithful who, in the performance of their duties and in bearing the trials of life, raise their mind with humble confidence to God, adding — even if only mentally — some pious invocation.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church and therefore the example, as well as the guide and inspiration, of everyone who, in and through the Church, seeks to be the servant of God and man and the obedient agent of the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, as Pope Leo XIII reminded us, is the soul of the Church: All the activity and service of the members of the Church, beginning with the supreme participation of the Blessed Mother in the work of the Church, is vivified by the Holy Spirit as the body, in all its activities, is vivified by its soul. The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete, Advocate, and Comforter which Christ Himself sent to be our consolation in the sorrowful mysteries of life, our source of moderation in the joyful mysteries of life, our added principle of exaltation in the glorious mysteries of life. So He was for the Blessed Mother; so also He is for the least of us; so also He is for the rest of the Church, even for those who are its unconscious but conscientious members.

Wherever there is faith there is the example of Mary, because she lived by faith as the Scriptures remind us....

If, then, piety is the virtue which binds us to the sources of all life, to God, to our parents, to the Church, to Christ, certainly Christian piety binds us, in grateful love, to Mary — or our acceptance of Christ and of the mystery of our kinship with Him is imperfect, partial, and unfulfilled. — *Cardinal John Wright*

An Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Virgin, I choose thee this day for my queen, patron, and advocate, and firmly resolve and purpose never to abandon thee, never to say or do anything against thee, nor to permit that aught be done by others to dishonor thee. Receive me, then, I conjure thee, as thy perpetual servant; assist me in all my actions, and do not abandon me at the hour of my death. Amen. — *St. John Berchmans*

A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

by Helen Steiner Rice.