

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Church starts here

Pentecost is like falling in love: It hits you like a ton of bricks. You become totally devoted to someone else, only in this case someone else isn't that special guy or gal, it's everybody. And just like two people in love have an almost mystical ability to communicate their hearts to each other, the gift of the Spirit gives you the language of love that speaks to all kinds of people, no matter how different they might be. And just like love comes to those who wait for it, the Spirit of God comes to those who desire it with all their hearts.

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23 (63).

"He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

Monday, May 25, 2026

A Mother to all

In 2018, Pope Francis added a memorial to celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as "Mother of the Church" every year on the Monday after Pentecost as a way to foster Marian piety and the "maternal sense of the church." The Marian title of "Mother of the Church," was given to the Blessed Mother by Blessed Pope Paul VI at the Second Vatican Council. With its addition to the General Roman Calendar, it's now celebrated by the whole Roman Catholic Church. Ponder how your own faith has been nurtured within the church community, and take a moment to thank Mary for serving as mother of us all.

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; John 19:25-34 (572A).

"Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala."

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

A man of good cheer

After an intense period of study, Saint Philip Neri saw in a vision that his mission was in the streets of Rome. So he planted himself amid the bustle of public squares and drew people out of their apathy with friendly humor and discourse. Once engaged he would eventually ask: "Well, brothers, when shall we begin to do good?" And then he'd lead the crowd to service among the sick and poor of Rome. Despite great demands on his time by the thousands who sought his counsel over the years, Neri was known to be ever cordial and welcoming. "Cheerfulness," he said, "strengthens the heart and makes us persevere in a good life. Therefore, the servant of God ought always to be in good spirits." Keep smiling!

MEMORIAL OF PHILIP NERI, PRIEST

1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31 (348). *"Be holy because I am holy."*

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

In the service of truth

All throughout history there have been truths that, once discovered and accepted, have changed everything. Discovering that the Earth is round and that the sun is the center of our solar system, for example, brought on a revolution in thought that is hard to overstate. The same applies to spiritual truths: Once they are known and accepted, the unwieldy, disconnected pieces of our

lives tend to fall into place and everything changes for the better. Jesus' statement, "I came not to be served, but to serve," is one such radical spiritual truth. If we lived our lives from this perspective, wisdom and compassion would prevail. Just for today, approach every task and every person with this attitude in mind.

1 Peter 1:18-25; Mark 10:32-45 (349). *"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve."*

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Dedicated to the one we love

Saint Teresa of Calcutta had a way of packing a lot of insight into statements that on the surface seemed pretty elementary. Take for example the way she described the Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded to care for the destitute dying and other "unwanted" persons: "Many people mistake our work for our vocation," she said. "Our vocation is the love of Jesus." Her words apply to all Christians. Whatever you do, put love for Jesus at the center. Your true calling and life's work will flow from there.

1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12; Mark 10:46-52 (350). *"So they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.'"*

Friday, May 29, 2026

Forgive as we are forgiven

Mark's gospel does not include Jesus teaching the Lord's Prayer, as he does in the other gospels. Like Matthew and Luke, however, Mark does show Jesus linking our own forgiveness to our willingness to forgive others. The Lord's Prayer asks that God forgive us as we forgive others; those who seek forgiveness must be "forgivers" themselves. In Mark, Jesus says: "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." Jesus characterizes his own mission as handing himself over "so that sins may be forgiven." We need and desire forgiveness. See how quickly it comes when you start by forgiving others.

1 Peter 4:7-13; Mark 11:11-26 (351). *"All that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours."*

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Keep it simple

Jesus asks both everything and almost nothing of his disciples. Everything: that we give our whole lives to following him. And almost nothing: that we trust him and the Father, love as we are loved, forgive as we are forgiven, and show the mercy we ourselves have received. Though it asks much—everything, really—being a Christian is actually pretty simple: love God with your whole self, and that love will overflow to others. As Saint Augustine put it: "Love, and do what you will."

Jude 17, 20b-25; Mark 11:27-33 (352). *"Keep yourselves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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