

From the Desk of the Pastor - May 2026

Dear friends,

May is a month of new life. Flowers bloom, the earth awakens, and everything seems renewed. It is fitting, then, that we honor Mary during this time, because she is the one through whom new life came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ. Just as spring brings life to nature, Mary brought life to humanity by giving birth to our Savior. The month of May has long been cherished in the Catholic tradition as a time specially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary — a season filled with tenderness, devotion, and gratitude for the one who said “yes” to God.

One of the most beautiful traditions during this month is the May Crowning, where we place a crown of flowers on a statue of Mary. Our children preparing to receive their First Communion will take part in the procession led by the women of CCW during the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 3. This simple yet beautifully poignant gesture reminds us that Mary is our Queen — not one of power and dominance but, rather, one of humility, love, and quiet strength. Her greatness lies in her trust in God.

To honor our Mother this month, we will pray the Rosary daily at 6:30 p.m. We will also celebrate the following Masses at the Grotto: Friday, 1 May at 6:30 p.m., and Monday, 25 May, the Feast of the Mother of the Church, at 7 p.m.

As part of our Silver Jubilee year, we have planned a one-day pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe in Orlando on Saturday, 16 May. We will leave by bus from the church parking lot at 8 a.m. Anjanette is coordinating this event, and one bus is already sold out. If interested in joining us, please secure your seats soon. You don't want to miss the newly-completed Gospel Gardens designed by world-renowned sculptor Timothy Schmalz.

Mark your calendars now for our Mass of Thanksgiving which will be celebrated with great joy at 11a.m. on Sunday, 24 May, the Feast of Pentecost. Not coincidentally, we planned our celebration to coincide with this iconic feast, the birth of the Church, to commemorate our 25 years as a thriving parish community. Let us join together in giving thanks as we celebrate this momentous occasion.

I am blessed with an amazing team that has worked with such dedication for over a year to plan the variety of events so thoughtfully designed to commemorate our Silver Jubilee. This month, however, we do need to make a few accommodations.

Our Confirmation Mass will be held on Saturday, 23 May, at the 4.30 p.m. Mass. Most Reverend Jorge E. Izaguirre, C.S.C., Bishop of the Diocese of Chuquibamba, Peru, will be the celebrant. Approximately 50 teens and several adults will be confirmed this year. What a blessing!

Concerned about the logistics involved with our grand celebration during the 11 a.m. Mass on the 24th, the jubilee committee has strongly suggested that we have only one Mass at 8 a.m. that day — NO MASS at 7:15 or 9 a.m. — in order to give sufficient time to accommodate parking needs. Hence, the rearranged schedule for Pentecost Sunday, 24 May:

**Mass at 8 a.m.**

**Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m.**

**Mass at 4:30 p.m.**

During the 11 a.m. Mass, we will have two bishops and many other guests. This is also when we will have the BIG REVEAL of the mosaic work representing the scene of the Crucifixion of Jesus. It is going to transform our sacred space into a living encounter with the mystery of Christ's love. We have arranged for overflow and a simulcast Mass in the HALL. Following the Mass and felicitations, we will celebrate with a parish PICNIC. There will be a bounce house and games for the kids, so please plan to attend.

In addition to the changes noted above, First Communion has been moved to Saturday, 30 May, at 10 a.m. We have approximately 70 children receiving the sacrament this year. What a blessing!

Get ready for an exhilarating ride during the month of May!

Love,

**Fr. John**

**Let us look at some important dates on the calendar for May 2026:**

**Find details on these events & more online at <https://www.stjohnviera.org/calendar>**

**Daily Rosary at the Grotto @ 6:30pm, every day in May**

**Friday, May 1:** Mass at the Grotto @ 6:30pm

**Sunday, May 3: May Crowning @ 11am** Mass with CCW & First Communion Children

**Tuesday, May 5:** GriefShare 2.0 Gathering of Life Celebration @ 2:30pm

**Friday, May 8 & 15:** W.I.N.G.S. Meeting @ 6:30pm

**Saturday, May 9:** Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7pm

**Tuesday, May 12:** Seedlings of Hope @ 4pm

**Saturday, May 16:** Basilica Pilgrimage Day Trip, 8am – 3:15pm

**Sunday, May 17:** Baptism Prep Class @ Noon | Sensory Friendly Mass @ 1pm | Baccalaureate Mass @ 4:30pm

**Monday, May 18:** Men's Discipleship Evening, 6:30-8:30pm

**Wednesday, May 20:** CCW Installation Luncheon @ 11am

**Friday, May 22:** St. Monica Ministry Meeting @ 7pm

**Sat. & Sun., May 23-24: Feast of Pentecost REVISED SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND**

Sat. May 23: Confirmation Mass @ 4:30pm Vigil

Sun. May 24: *NO 7:15 AM Mass & NO 9:00 AM Mass* | 8:00 Mass | 11:00 Silver Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving & Mosaic reveal, followed by Parish Picnic celebration

**Monday, May 25: Feast of the Mother of the Church** Mass at the Grotto @ 7pm

**Saturday, May 30:** First Communion Mass @ 10am | Gratia Plena Mother Daughter Tea @ Noon