

# Dear Padre,

*I am a senior Catholic woman. All my life, I have waited for the Church to welcome women as priests. I have volunteered with numerous faiths over the years and have worked with pastors and rabbis who are women. Why does the Catholic Church not recognize that women have callings to the priesthood?*



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

My answer will probably not be acceptable to you, and it might even make you a little more frustrated and perhaps even discouraged. The understanding of the Church is that the call to priesthood is not based on merit. If it were based on merit, and that was the single important criterion, your question might be phrased in a different way. I will let you imagine what that might be!

The tradition, practice, and discipline of the Church continues to insist that the call to ordained priesthood requires the respondent to be male. Any explanation beyond this simple statement would be strained and of little use. We are aware of the traditions that are practiced in other Christian denominations. We are probably aware of the Roman Catholic theology of priesthood that is offered in support of the practice. We can probably offer example after example in support or in disagreement of the practice. None of it matters when it comes up against the hard truth of the tradition, practice, and discipline: the priesthood requires a baptized male for validity. ●

*Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org*

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*At Pentecost, the apostles spoke the languages of those they met, and the confusion of Babel was finally resolved by the harmony brought about by the Spirit. Whenever God's "breath" unites our hearts and makes us view others as our brothers and sisters, differences no longer become an occasion for division and conflict.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### Monday

**May 25**  
*The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church*

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or  
Acts 1:12-14  
Jn 19:25-34

### Tuesday

**May 26**  
*St. Philip Neri, Priest*  
1 Pt 1:10-16  
Mk 10:28-31

### Wednesday

**May 27**  
*Weekday*  
1 Pt 1:18-25  
Mk 10:32-45

### Thursday

**May 28**  
*Weekday*  
1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12  
Mk 10:46-52

### Friday

**May 29**  
*Weekday*  
1 Pt 4:7-13  
Mk 11:11-26

### Saturday

**May 30**  
*Weekday*  
Jude 17, 20b-25  
Mk 11:27-33

### Sunday

**May 31**  
*The Most Holy Trinity*  
Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9  
2 Cor 13:11-13  
Jn 3:16-18

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 24, 2026

**Pentecost Sunday (A)**

Acts 2:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 / John 20:19-23



## A Gift for All People of All Times

ANN M. GARRIDO

**W**hen reading aloud today's passage from Acts of the Apostles, do you stumble over the names of the peoples gathered as I do? "Parthians, Medes, and Elamites." Where is "Cappadocia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia"? And why were all these peoples in Jerusalem in the first place?

It might help to know that Pentecost did not originate as a Christian feast. There are three pilgrimage festivals that drew Jews from across the Mediterranean region to Jerusalem. Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and God's protection during the exodus from Egypt. Two are in the spring: Passover, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, recalling the night the Jews were freed from enslavement in Egypt; and Shavuot, or *Pentecost* in Greek, remembering the giving of God's law on Mount Sinai.

The scene described in Acts echoes the story at Mount Sinai. The peoples who gathered outside the house in Jerusalem represent the breadth and diversity of peoples known at that time, and not just at that time. Some of the civilizations mentioned had not existed for hundreds of years. The book of Acts wants us to know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was an event of such significance that somehow *all* were mysteriously present—not just those of times gone by, but even we who live in such far-away, hard-to-pronounce places as Islamabad or Albuquerque. Today, we celebrate a gift that transcends time and geography. A gift that continues to draw all of us together in wonder and awe. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

## Reflect

*Do I often remember that the Church encompasses people of every nation: those gone before us and those to come?*



[The Jews] were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?"

ACTS 2:7-8

VEITRE / SHUTTERSTOCK



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# St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET  
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

Pentecost Sunday  
May 23 & 24, 2026



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## Parish Announcements

### Memorial Day

There will be no daily Mass on Monday, May 25 due to the Memorial Day holiday. The office will also be closed.

### Anointing Mass

Anointing of the Sick will be on Tuesday, June 2 at the 12:00 PM Mass. Anyone in need of this sacrament is welcome to receive.

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be June 23-25 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for Pre-K-5th grade at St. Michael. Volunteers are needed. For more information contact Mimi Mitchell. [Mimi.mitchell@vicksburgcatholic.org](mailto:Mimi.mitchell@vicksburgcatholic.org).

### St. Paul Celebration

There will be a luncheon in honor of our patron, St. Paul, on Sunday, June 28, after the 10:30 AM Mass. Be sure to save the date and watch for our mealtrain sign up link coming in the near future.

### Symphony at Sunset

You are invited to the 14th annual Memorial Day weekend concert *Symphony at Sunset*, Saturday, May 23 at 7:00 PM at the Vicksburg Military Park featuring the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Sponsored by Friends of Vicksburg National Park, Four Seasons of the Arts, and Vicksburg National Park. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and friends for an evening of patriotic music. Free and open to the public.

### Baby Bottles

The baby bottles for The Center for Pregnancy Choices' annual "Every Penny Counts" fundraiser are due by June 4. You may return your filled bottle to the basket in the back of the church or drop it by the church office.

### Hallow

Our new Hallow program has started. During the month of May, we will be participating in "To Jesus Through Mary." This is a 33-day reflection to find the path to Jesus, guided by his mother. Everyone will have access to the program on the app through our parish subscription.

## Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget.....\$7,700

### Online Giving

May 4- May 10 ..... \$1,740

### Weekend Offertory

May 2 & 3.....\$12,278

May 9 & 10 .....\$6,424

May 16 & 17.....\$4,767

May 23 & 24.....\$ , \_\_\_\_

May 30 & 31.....\$ , \_\_\_\_

## Special Collections

May 17: Catholic Communications .....\$285



Sign up for automatic online giving at [www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church](http://www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church)

## Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

[www.ms-kofc.com/898](http://www.ms-kofc.com/898)

Become a KNIGHT. Scan this QR code to join the Knights today!



MAY 26 | Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment & Retention Social

MAY 27 | K of C Bible study after 5:30 PM Mass @ St. Michael

JUN 2 | Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Council Meeting

## Weekend Mass Schedule†

### Saturday

#Confession 2:30-3:30 PM

Mass 4:00 PM

### Sunday

#Confession 9:30-10:00 AM

Mass 10:30 AM

## Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM

Tuesday 12:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 AM

Thursday 12:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

## Mass Intentions

MAY 25, MON | No Daily Mass

MAY 26, TUES | Thomas Kelly, Deceased

MAY 27, WED | Special Intentions

MAY 28, THUR | Dan Fordice, Deceased

MAY 29, FRI | Joseph & Thelma Williams, Deceased

MAY 30, SAT | Dan Fordice, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. \*Sunday Mass is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.



Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.

## Today's Readings

Visit [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org) or scan this QR code to find the readings



## Check out our Social Media!



St. Paul Catholic Church

## Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in memory of Peggy Lorince

## Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext. 106

## Parish Calendar

MAY 24, SUN | Children's Church will not meet

MAY 25, MON | No Daily Mass. Memorial Day

MAY 26, TUES | Offertory Counters: Renee Turner & Bruce Ebersole

JUNE 2, TUES | Anointing Mass 12 PM

JUNE 6, SAT | Meals on Wheels

JUNE 14, SUN | Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM

## St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent | Office Manager Ashley Roesch | Office Assistant Janis Koestler

Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly | Maintenance Charles Hahn | Organist Karen Harrison

## Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President Travis Thornell | Finance Council Chair Bill Fulcher

Bereavement Story Ebersole | RCIA Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole | Meals On Wheels Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry

Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano | Homebound Janis Koestler | Children's Church Ashley Lawrence

Baptism Prep Barbara Hill | Confirmation Jordan Amborn