



NEWSLETTER MAY 2017



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEDIA CENTER
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Principals and DREs: Please alert your teachers of these Newsletters on the Media Center homepage at www.mediacenter@scdiocese.org Perhaps share a hard copy of this letter. Thank you

This issues includes: 1) Roman Calendar for May and June; 2) Looking Ahead 3) Dr. Ryan Leaving; 4) Past Due Materials; 5) Media Resources for Mary and the Rosary; 6) Items for Pentecost; 7) "Summer Time"; 8) Online Resources.

MAY ROMAN CALENDAR NOTES

01 Joseph The Worker. St. Joseph is the patron of all those who work to feed and care for others. In Catholic tradition, work is not a burden, but a means to holiness. Work is a way of supporting our family, realizing our dignity, promoting the common good and participating in God's creation. Honor all workers with a reflection on Psalm 90.

02 Saint Athanasius, bishop, doctor of the Church, 373; 45 years as bishop of Alexandria; champion of Nicea (325), prolific polemicist against the Arians who exiled him five times; one of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church, known as "Doctor of the Incarnation".

03 Sts. Philip and James, Apostles: St. Philip was among the first disciples called by Jesus, surnamed "the Less" for his piety; leader of the church at Jerusalem and has an epistle ascribed to him. Both men were martyred. Familiarize children with the names of the twelve Apostles because they form the foundation of the Church with Jesus as the cornerstone. They were the first to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and among the first to reach mature faith and martyrdom. The Apostles enfleshed the missionary mandate of Christ.

07 Fourth Sunday of Easter - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

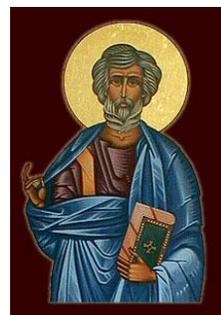
10 St. Damien Joseph de Veuster of Molokai, 15 April 1889 at age forty-nine; Belgian who joined the Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. In 1873 he began his work on Molokai, known as "Devil's Island," used as a colony for over 800 lepers. He was a man of intense interior life and deep simplicity. Died in 1885 of leprosy and beatified in 1995.

12 Saints Nereus and Achilleus, end of 1st c; Pope St. Damasus I (384) states that they were Praetorian soldiers who converted to Christianity; they were beheaded during the reign of Trajan (98-117) on the island Terravina. **Saint Pancras,** c 304; his "acts" state that he was a Syrian orphan who came to Rome where he was converted to Christianity; he was beheaded under Diocletian in his 14th year; buried on the Via Aurelia.

13 Our Lady of Fatima is venerated under this title following apparitions to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance from sin, and prayer, especially the rosary.

14 Fifth Sunday of Easter - Today is Mother's Day: Pictures of mothers, grandmothers and godmothers can be displayed with a picture or a statue of the Blessed Mother. Today has also been designated as "World Day of Prayer for Vocations"





MAY ROMAN CALENDAR NOTES (Continued)

- 14 Saint Matthias, Apostle:** According to Acts of the Apostles 1:15-26 Matthias was selected to take the place of Judas, the betrayer; Matthias, who had been an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry and resurrection, suffered martyrdom.
- 15 Saint Isadore, 1130;** Layman; farm laborer associated with miracles; patron saint of Madrid, of farmers, and rural communities.
- 18 Saint John I ,** Pope, martyr, 526, his epitaph salutes him "a victim for Christ".
- 20 Saint Bernadine of Siena, O.F.M. 1444,** A priest – a famous reformer and eloquent preacher who travelled throughout Italy. Encouraged devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, known for his use of the monogram, IHS (an abbreviation for the Greek name for Jesus).
- 21 Sixth Sunday of Easter -**
Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor of the Church. 1619 Capuchin, linguist, chaplain.
- 22 Saint Rita of Cascia,** religious, Born in 1381 in Umbria, She lived with a brutal husband and had two sons. Becoming an Augustinian nun, she spent some 40 years in prayer, contemplation, and service to the sick. She is the patron of desperate situations.
- 25 Ascension Thursday The Ascension of the Lord.** Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in his name, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. Jesus ascended to his Father in heaven.
Saint Bede the Venerable, 735, authored *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* and Scriptural expositions, commentaries, and homilies; known as the "Father of English History."
Saint Gregory VII, 1085; OSB; Championed reform of the clergy against simony, clerical marriage, and lay investiture, leading to the excommunication of Henry VIII.
Saint Mary Madeline de Piazzì, 1607, Carmelite mystic of Florence who led a hidden life of prayer and self-denial; instrumental in the reform of her order.
- 26 Saint Philip Neri, priest, 1595; Founded (1575) the Congregation of Priests of the oratory, to promote holiness of priestly life and foster effective preaching; noted for his joyful and simple spirit.**
Memorial Day celebrated in the USA. Remember and pray for all those who has gone before us, especially our relatives, friends, and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.
- 27 Saint Augustine of Canterbury 604,** bishop, monk.
- 28 Seventh Sunday of Easter. The Ascension of the Lord.**
- 29 Memorial Day**
- 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



MONTH OF MAY

May is the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the rosary. Students should become familiar with the rosary and how to say it. The mysteries of the rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and especially the new Mysteries of the Light should be explained. The Rosary, Pope John Paul II reminded us, "has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety" and it "fosters a commitment to the contemplation of the Christian mystery." In presenting his rationale for the addition of the five mysteries to the Rosary, his Holiness noted that the Mysteries of Light give more emphasis to the "mysteries of Christ's public ministry between his baptism and his passion than the other mysteries." The Mysteries of Light are: 1. The Baptism in the Jordan. 2. The Wedding at Cana and Christ's self-revelation in his first miracle 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God – Jesus preaches the Gospel in Galilee with the invitation to conversion and emphasis on forgiveness. 4. The Transfiguration – On Mt Tabor, the Apostles see the glory of God shining forth in the face of Jesus. 5. The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper as the sacramental expression of the paschal mystery.

MAY ALTAR

Preparation of a May Altar is also appropriate in a special place in the room where a statue or picture of Mary is placed on a cloth with a candle, rosary, flowers, etc. to venerate our Blessed Mother. Prayers for the dead and prayers for peace throughout the world should also be part of the preparation for Memorial Day.

JUNE ROMAN CALENDAR NOTES

- 01 Justin, Martyr:** He wrote many books in defense of religion. He was martyred with several companions during the reign of Marcus Aurelius around the year 165. Layman and apologist who gives one of the earliest descriptions of the Mass. (Week 9 in Ordinary Time)
- 02 Saints Marcellinus and Peter,** martyrs, Marcellinus, presbyter, and Peter, exorcist, c. 303; beheaded under Diocletian; both mentioned in the Roman canon.
- 03 Saint Charles Lwanga** and 21 Ugandan companions, martyrs 1887, over 100 killed in this period. Charles is the patron saint of African Catholic Youth Action.
- 04 Pentecost Sunday (50 days after Easter Sunday):** Pentecost is the last day of the Easter season - it ends with the conclusion of vespers. It is 50 days after Easter and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and is considered the birthday of the Church. Children should be led in reflection on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Red is the color associated with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Ordinary Time begins Monday after Pentecost, or June 5th, with the 9th week. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, was given as a gift to the disciples to remind them of all that Jesus said and did, and to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord: "To renew the face of the earth." Today it's fitting for the sprinkling rite and infant baptism. The Easter candle is then placed near the baptismal font.
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- 05 Ordinary Time** resumes Monday following Pentecost with the 9th week. Ordinary Time continues until evening prayer I of the first Sunday of Advent, 02 December 2017.
- St. Boniface,** bishop, martyr, 754, Anglo Saxon O.S.B.; founded abbey of Fulda; Bishop of Mainz, martyred along with 30 companions; known as the "Apostle" of Germany.
- 06 Norbert,** bishop 1134, strong supporter of Church reform and evangelization; devoted to the Holy Eucharist.
- 09 Saint Ephrem,** deacon, doctor of the church; 373; Syrian theologian and poet who authorized biblical commentaries, homilies, and composed hymns; founded a theological school at Nisibis.
- 11 The Most Holy Trinity**
- Barnabas, Apostle,** martyred Born in Cyprus, 1st c. Barnabas is numbered among the first of the faithful at Jerusalem. He preached the Gospel at Antioch and, as a companion of Saint Paul, accompanied him on his first journey. He was also present at the Council of Jerusalem; martyred on, and patron of, the island of his birth, Cyprus
- 13 Anthony of Padua,** Priest and Doctor: 1231 Anthony was born in Portugal. After ordination, he transferred to the Friars Minor to devote himself to spreading the faith among African peoples. His greatest success was preaching in France and converting heretics. First friar to teach theology to his fellow friars. He died at age 36.
- 18 Sunday - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) USA**
- Melchizedek, priest of God Most High offers bread and wine as a blessing on Abram. Jesus fulfills this offering; giving us his own Body and Blood under the forms of bread and wine. Thus is our hunger satisfied in abundance as we make our pilgrim way to the heavenly banquet feast.
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- Father's Day in USA**
- 19 Saint Romuald,** abbot, 1027, founded the Camaldolese hermits, today numbering about 100 religious; urged contemplative prayer through solitude, silence, and fasting.
- 21 Saint Aloysius Gonzaga,** religious, Jesuit scholastic. 1591 Robert Bellarmine was his spiritual director; strongly devoted to the Eucharist; patron of youth and of students of Jesuit colleges and universities.
- 22 Saint Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Saints John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas Moore, Martyrs.**
- 23 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

JUNE ROMAN CALENDAR NOTES (Continued)

24 The Nativity (Birth) of John the Baptist: Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, gave birth to John who prepared the way of the Lord. Called from birth by God as a prophet to the nations, John proclaimed a divine favor in which we now share. This feast, dating from the 4th century in both the East and West, came to be celebrated, in accord with Lk 1:36, six months before the Lord's birth; quoting Jn 3:30, Augustine found the date (near the summer solstice) appropriate for, after the birth of John, daylight begins to grow shorter, whereas after Jesus' birth, it begins to increase.

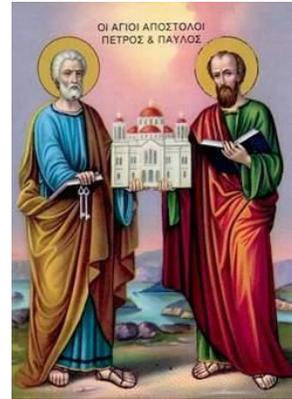
25 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 Saint Cyril, 444, defended Mary as "God Bearer" at the Council of Ephesus (431) against the Nestorians.

28 Saint Irenaeus, c. 202 bishop, martyr; disciple of Polycarp; wrote against the Gnostics.

29 Sunday Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles: Peter, once called Simon, the fisherman, accepted Jesus' call to be a "fisher of men." He, in his weakness, denied Christ three times, yet his great faith would have Jesus proclaim him to become our first pope. Paul, who once persecuted Christians, would accept Christ's call to preach the good news to the Gentiles and become one of the greatest missionaries of the Church.

30 The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church Those many Christians who were tortured, crucified, and burned alive in c. 64 in Nero's gardens on the Vatican hill are honored today.



Looking Ahead: July

03 Saint Thomas, Apostle

04 Independence Day celebrated today (USA)

27 Saint James, Apostle



Dr. Dan Ryan Leaving

With sadness at his leaving, we say "Thank you" for all you have done for Catholic Education in the Diocese of Sioux City. Our Diocesan Religious Education Media Center benefited greatly from Dan's guidance, including his idea of adding the Online Resources to our center and now available on the World Wide Web. Personally, I thank him for his leadership and assistance in keeping our Media Center up to the challenges and high standards of modern technology. Finally, we ask God's continued blessings on Dan and his family as he continues his ministry in Catholic education at Dowling Catholic High School.



PAST DUE MATERIALS

We would appreciate everyone's cooperation in making sure all materials borrowed through the Media Center are returned before you "shut off the lights and lock the door" for another year. It has been our privilege to serve you and look forward to assisting you again in the fall. Please feel free to request items for preview during this summer respite. May the weeks ahead refresh you, body and soul, and may you have a safe summer.
Dcn. Larry Sitzman



MAY - THE MONTH OF HONORING MARY AND THE ROSARY

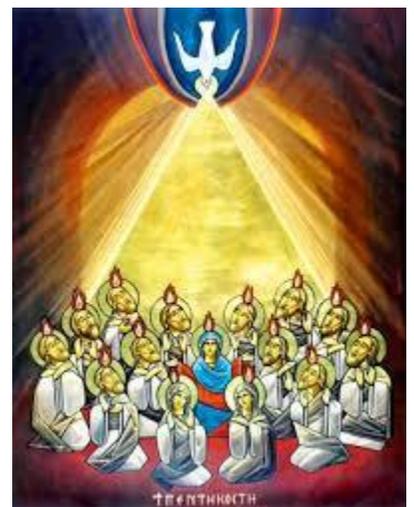
As we are still embracing the joys of the Easter season, we realize that it is already time to prepare the May altar in honor of the Blessed Mother. A number of videos are available that honor Mary. For more information about these titles please check the catalog.

13th Day: The True Story of Fatima, The – dv 61562 – JH-A
Bernadette, The Princess Of Lourdes – vc 11374 OR dv 61058 PS-I
Bernadette: Her Vision Became a Vision – dv 61057 – I-A
Celebrating The Church Year For Children: Days Of Mary – vc 11460 P-I
Cloak Of Juan Diego: Our Lady Of Guadalupe – vc 11186 PS-I
Close Encounter With Mary & The Rosary dv 61077 I-JH
Day the Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima, The dv 61086 EC-I
Day The Sun Danced, The – vc 1314 PS-I
Fatima, Hope For The World – vc 1191 JH-SH
Footprints of God: Mary – The Mother of God dv 61302 SH-A
Guadalupe: A Living Image / Iluna Imagen Viva – dv 61943 – JH-A
Immaculate Conception: Exploring the Mystery – dv 61131 – JH-A
Juggler of Notre Dame (E & SP) dv 61136 JH-A
Juan Diego: Messenger Of Guadalupe – vc 2511 or dv 61135 (E & SP) - PS-I
Lourdes: Pilgrimage and Healing dv 61150 JH-A
Miracles of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, and Knock - dv 61325 P-A
Mary: Introduction: We Learn From Mary, We Pray With Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe dv 61323 P-A
Once On A Barren Hill – vc 1190 I-A
Our Lady Of Guadalupe Storyscape – vc 1645 I-A
Passion of Bernadette, The dv 61015 JH-A
Praying The Rosary – vc 2458 JH-A
Rosary For Little Children, The – vc 1879 PS-P
Sacred Heart Kids' Club: Mary – vc 1118
Saint Bernadette of Lourdes – dv 61973 – JH-A
We Are Catholic: Our Lady – dv 61986 - P-I
What Catholics Believe About Mary And The Saints – vc 1620 JH-A
We Learn About Mary – vc 2220 P-I
We Pray With Mary: The Cloak Of Many Colors – vc 2500 P-I
Woman Named Mary: The Miracle of Lourdes – dv 62005 – JH-A



PENTECOST MEDIA IDEAS – JUNE 4TH

Bedbug Bible Gang: Pentecost Party, The vc 12825 OR dv 61055 EC-P
Celebrating the Church Year For Children: Pentecost vc 11463 P-I
Following Jesus Through The Church Year: Pentecost Passage vc 11408 P-I
Life of Jesus: Jesus Promises, The vc 12262 EC-P
Saints Alive: Pentecost vc 12442 P-I





SUGGESTIONS UNDER THEMES:

Check out **Catholic Word of the Day: Episodes 1-26**

Check out **Catholicism Pivotal Players - 7 (Trailers)**

Check out “**Encountering The Word**”, a weekly look at the Liturgy of the Word by Jeff Cavins. Series of 52

Check out **God’s Story** series. It is a history of God’s love for mankind through Scripture, a series of 45

Check out **Saint of the Day**, a series of 61

Check out **Lent**

Check out **Life Teen** - 136

Check out **Animated Bible Stories** - a series of 83

Check out **Beginner’s Bible** - a series of 17

Check out **Catholic Word** (dictionary) - a series of 26

Check out **Barron, Bishop Robert** - a series of 142

Check out **Sunday Bible Reflections with Scott Hahn** - 12

Check out **VCAT Volume 1-4**

Check out **Outside da Box Productions**.

If you come across an Online Resource that could be of value to others, please send this information to the Media Center via larrys@scdiocese.org

OR

Share with us what you found good or helpful in our Online Resource Center.

If so, please share:

Email: larrys@scdiocese.org

TO CREATE A SHORTCUT TO MEDIA CENTER WEB SITE

- 1) Go to Media Center web site at <http://mediacenter.scdiocese.org/> then right click on the web site address and Click on **Copy**
- 2) Minimize to Desktop.
- 3) Right click: **New**, then **Shortcut**.
- 4) Right click under **Type the location of the item** to paste address, then click on **next**
- 5) Under “**Type a name for this short**” type: Media Center Web Site, then click **Finish**

SUMMER TIME

DREs and catechists are preparing for one or two final classes before they begin vacation bible school or enjoy their summer time off. Teachers as well as students are likewise counting the days before they begin “those lazy days of summer.” We hope the Media Center has been a help in your ministry of teaching the young in your parish and school. We will be open during the summer if you wish to order materials for preview. Please call before coming because I will be in and out of the office. Our next Newsletter will be September 2017. It seems far off but will be here before we know it. Thank you for your great support of the Center and have a restful and grace-filled summer.

Dea. Larry Sitzman

