


Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter April 30 - May 7, 2025



Next Week is Our Final Class!

Monday

May 5th

Catechist Flex Day - Suggested Lesson: *Pentecost*

Tuesday

May 6th

Catechist Flex Day - Suggested Lesson: *Pentecost*



Homeschooling Connection Week of May 4th

Chapter 27: Pentecost

If you have followed the CCD calendar faithfully, this is your child's final week of homeschooling for CCD. It's a fun chapter - consider getting some cake and turning dessert time into a Pentecost "birthday party" for the Church.

If your family has fallen behind, please use the coming weeks to finish up. We will be scheduling the first end-of-the-year discussions beginning the week after Memorial Day. Please work with your child to complete all remaining chapters prior to the "exit interviews".



Gospel Reflection Sticker

This week we had to postpone our celebration of the life of Carlo Acutis for that of another member of the Church Triumphant: Pope Francis. Carlo Acutis' canonization has been postponed until sometime after the election of a new pope, so we switched gears to discuss how the faith that Jesus talks about in the "Doubting Thomas" Gospel gets transferred to those of us who believe without having seen Christ in person. One of the many ways is through the workings of the Holy Spirit who guides the Church headed by Christ's representative here on earth: the pope. To aid in our discussion, we read We Have a Pope by Katherine Bogner and handed out stickers with the Vatican City flag printed on them.



First Communion Information

OLS' celebrations of First Eucharist are nearly upon us! Our **First Communion Masses** are scheduled for: **10:30 am and 2:30 pm on Saturday, May 10th.**

Mandatory **practice** for the 10:30 am Mass is **Wednesday, May 7th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.**

Mandatory **practice** for the 2:30 pm Mass is **Wednesday, May 8th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.**



2025 OLS Egg Hunt

Thank you Easter Bunny for taking time out of your very busy schedule to lay 1,300 eggs for the annual OLS Easter Egg Hunt. The kids were able to get them all collected in about 4 minutes! Thanks too for coming inside to take pictures with our families who stayed for snacks and activities. It was so good to see everyone on such a beautiful morning. We're already looking forward to next year when I hear that you'll have even MORE eggs for us!



Pope Francis Roundup

Looking for a comprehensive biography of Pope Francis? Click [HERE](#) for the Catholic World Report document Pope Francis 1936-2025.

Did you sleep through Pope Francis' Funeral Mass on Saturday morning and still want to watch (or fast forward through)? Click [HERE](#) for the 3-hour Vatican News recording.

Want to know more about electing the papal conclave? Click [HERE](#) for a Loyola Press article called "10 Things to Know About Electing a New Pope".

"Francis: the Pope From the New World" unveils the personality, passion and extraordinary faith of the late pope. Shot on location in Buenos Aires, and featuring interviews with close friends, collaborators and his official biographer — this documentary paints an indelible portrait of a towering figure of our time. Watch [HERE](#).



Great Pope Videos

This quick video from Fr. Mike Schmitz goes all the way back to Genesis to explain why the Catholic Church has a Pope. The papacy can at times be a divisive topic, but God clearly gave His Church a pope as a way to unify the new kingdom that Christ established. This is a great watch/listen for anyone who ever asks you why we need a pope!

Watch [HERE](#).

As a follow up to the events of the past week, Fr. Mike put out an additional video in recent days called, [What the Death of the Pope Teaches Us](#). In the wake of Pope Francis's passing, Fr. Mike Schmitz shares a powerful reflection on loss, legacy, and the enduring mission of the Church. He reminds us that while every soul is uniquely irreplaceable, the roles we hold can be entrusted to others because our identity is rooted not in what we do, but in who we are.

Want even more information about the papacy? Try this 10-minute, [Why do Catholics Have a Pope?](#), video from the Augustine Institute featuring Chris Stefanick.

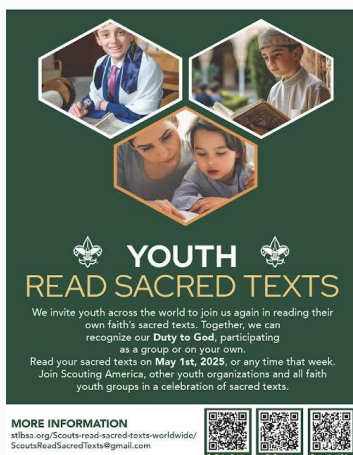


The Pope for Kids

Now is a very exciting time to be a Catholic kid. Every time you turn on the news you're likely to hear something about the selection of a new pope. That means it's also a very teachable moment in time. You can help your kids learn about the pope through some of the great crafts, activities and worksheets on the kid-friendly websites below. (I made papal miter caps with a few of the 1st graders when I subbed last year and they were amazingly cute.)

[Catholic Icing - Pope Activities](#)

[Look to Him and Be Radiant - Pope Resources](#)



Join the Scouts This Week

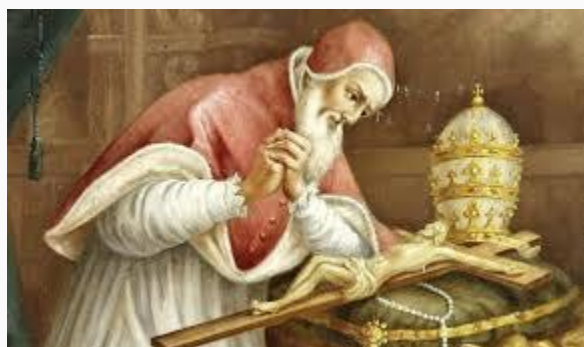
This week Scouting America (we have a troop here at OLS) is conducting a celebration of sacred texts. You can join them by pulling that Bible down off your shelf and reading some sacred scripture with your child. Want to read a few passages of particular relevance to this particular week? Why not try the following passages about St. Peter and the role of the pope in scripture? See the chart below for a few places to start.

Citation

Matthew 4:18-20
 Matthew 15:15-19
 Luke 22:31-32
 John 10:14-16
 John 21:15-19
 Acts 2:14-43

Topic

Jesus calls Peter
 Peter gets the keys
 Jesus prays for Peter's faith
 One shepherd to lead the flock
 Jesus tells Peter to feed his sheep
 Peter leads the early Church



Saint / Feast of the Week

St. Pius V, Pope

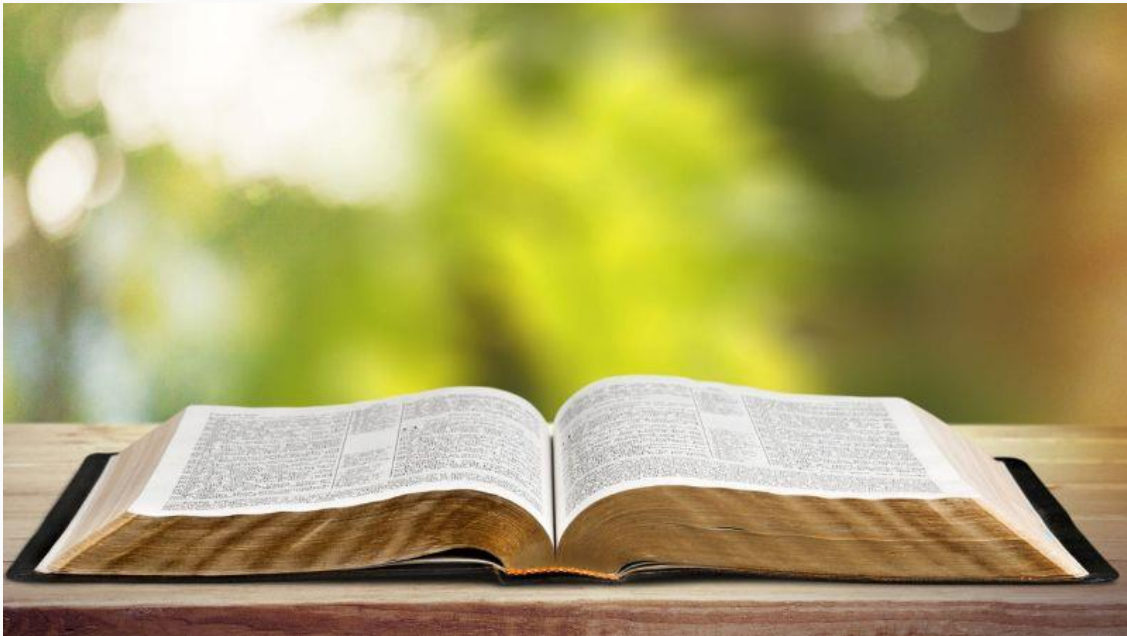
Feast Day: April 30th

Patron of: Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith

As we reflect upon the life of the 266th pope, it's a good time to look at the life of another Pope who was elected to the papacy during a tumultuous time in Church history. Pope Pius V was from a poor Italian family and had entered the Dominican order at age 14. A teacher, a master of novices, a bishop, and finally a cardinal, he was a strict and honest man, as well as a zealous reformer. He wept when he was told in 1566 that he had been elected pope. The 18-year-long Council of Trent had ended 3 years before, and he, as Holy Father, had the task of implementing it.

The previous pope had been easygoing, but Pius V made immediate changes. At first, the people complained that the atmosphere of Rome became like that of a monastery. But soon the pope's personal character changed their minds. He ordered that the gifts given at his coronation be sent to hospitals and to those in need. The Church finances were examined, the army was reduced, and the lifestyles of the cardinals and bishops were simplified. Seminaries were established, synods were held, dioceses were organized, and parish priests were called to regular meetings. A new catechism was completed. Parish priests were made responsible for Catholic education. The Roman Missal became the sole Mass book for the Western Church (with a few minor exceptions) for four centuries.

Pius V had difficulty in international affairs. He was unable to restore England to Catholic unity. Pius V's excommunication of Queen Elizabeth I opened new persecutions against the Catholics in England. The pope was more successful in checking the Turks, who threatened to overrun Europe. At the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, Christian forces successfully defeated the Turkish fleet. After only six years as pope, Pius V died of a painful disease of which he had never complained.



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass is then a bit like looking over the menu before you get to a restaurant: you have a better idea of what you can expect so that you can enter into the experience more fully prepared. And like a good discussion during a meal, discussing the readings and how they can be applied to your family's daily life helps your family to truly go out and proclaim the gospel after leaving the church.

Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the Liturgy of the Word:

[Third Sunday of Easter](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)

[MaryKnoll Brothers 3rd Sunday Resource: The Breakfast Club](#)

Living Faith Kids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

APRIL 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Q What did Jesus tell the woman to do? (SEE APRIL 9) John 8:1-11 6	 SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE, PRIEST 7	SAINT FRANCIS OF PAOLA, HERMIT 1	2	3	SAINT ISIDORE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 4	SAINT VINCENT FERRER, PRIEST 5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Q Who helped Jesus carry the cross? (SEE APRIL 15) Luke 22:14-23:56 13	MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK 14	TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK A Simon, a Cyrenian 15	WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 16	HOLY THURSDAY 17	FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD 18	HOLY SATURDAY 19
 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Q Who came to the tomb early in the morning? (SEE APRIL 25) John 20:1-9 20	MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER 21	TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER 22	WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER 23	THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER 24	FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER A Mary of Magdala 25	26
 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY Q What did Jesus say three times? (SEE APRIL 26) John 20:19-31 27	A "Peace be with you." 28	 SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 29	SAINT PIUS V, POPE 30	Word of the month: RESURRECTION Jesus' rising from the dead.		

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[Click Here to Download the April Calendar from Catechist Magazine](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question:

How many cardinals will be eligible to vote for the next pope at the conclave set to convene on May 7th?

- A) 108
- B) 135
- C) 252
- D) 435



Answer: B

The Catholic Church has 135* eligible cardinals under the age of 80 who are authorized to vote in the upcoming conclave. The current Pope, Pope Francis, appointed 108 of the 135 cardinals eligible to vote. The College of Cardinals, which includes all cardinals, currently has 252 members. Of the 135 cardinals currently eligible to vote, 53 come from Europe (16 of them are from Italy). Asia accounts for 23 voters, Latin America (including Mexico) 21, Africa 18, North America 16 and Oceania 4.

**While there are 135 cardinals eligible to vote, 2 cardinals, Italy's Angelo Beccio and Spain's Antonio Canizares, have said that they will not be traveling to Rome and thus will NOT vote even though they are technically eligible. Thus the number of actual electors will be 133.*

Joke of the Week



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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)