

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter

May 14 - May 28, 2025*

(now bi-monthly for the "summer" months)



Congratulations to our 2025 First Communicants

Beau Etienne Auzenne

Penelope Jane Bachert

Isabel Blanca Catanzaro

Lila Mackenzie Cooper

Scarlett Elizabeth Doyle

George Chris Ugochukwu Duruji

*Camila Cecilia Fernandez
Mason Fedrico Goodrich
Viviana Celeste Henao
Noah Hunter Thomas Herndon
Clare Margaret Hurley
Micah Savannah Jean
Elsbeth-Marie Therese Johnston
Thomas James Keenan
Sabrina Jane Kelly
Elizabeth Adom Ken-Kwofie
Olivia Nhriya Ken-Kwofie
Faith Kissiwaa Theresa Ken-Kwofie
Julia Langle
Henley Elizabeth Lantz
Ryan James Loffredo*

*Josefine Frances Maldonado Heaps
Giovanni Robert Malfitano
Davin Guanlao McCaughey
June Louise McGeehin
Christian Jean-Michel Mompremier
Carter Shea Gabriella Murillo
Waverly James Murphy
Quinn James Murray
Sophia Eilis Nguyen
Nimaya Elle Magdalene Nwokah
Carter Austin Paul
Lia Kaur Sandhu
Bohdan Anthony Sidwa
Miranda Ruth Sturman
Julia Ann Swanson-Lowry
Sailor Grace Ugarow
Aibhlinn Brynn McGrath Vaccaro
Isabela Zahran Warehime
Pearson Joseph Watkins
Philip James Watkins
Greta Hadley Wittleder*

Fr. Brian's Bulletin Message from May 11th

"Do you remember the day of your First Communion? I do and still have the Rosary I received that day as a gift from my parents. I love that Rosary, but I love even more the gift of the Eucharist that I receive every time I celebrate Mass. This weekend, 42 young people of our parish received their First Holy Communion. We pray that they will fall completely in love with Jesus, whom they received for the very first time in the Eucharist, and that they will desire to be fed by Him in Holy Communion every single week at Mass. May every time they receive the Eucharist remind them of their First Communion and how much God loves them."

Amen, Fr. Brian! These 42 kids were an absolute joy to work with. Thank you to all of the OLS parish catechists, school teachers and family members who helped to prepare these amazing kids to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.



Mother's Day May Crowning

It was wonderful to see so many of our First Communicants return to help our parish crown Mary. Participating in a May crowning is a great way to help kids recognize Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. (The next time you're in the church, be sure to show your kids the large window over the choir loft depicting the Coronation of Mary.)

Do you have a statue of Mary in your home? Why not assemble a crown and do your own May crowning? It can be super simple - or as elaborate as you want. Looking for some great Marian hymns to play at your crowning? Try [*Bring Flowers of the Rarest \(Queen of May\)*](#) or [*Tis the Month of Our Mother*](#). Some other classic favorites include [*Hail Holy Queen, Immaculate Mary \(Ave Maria\)*](#), or [*Hail Mary \(Gentle Woman\)*](#).



Homeschooling Connection

If you've been keeping up with your child's assigned work, congratulations! You're all done! If you have not been quite as diligent, please use the next few weeks to finish up the homeschooling year. Our-end-of-the-year discussion schedule will be published shortly.



Next Coffee and Donuts

Sunday, May 25th

After 10:00 am and 11:30 Masses

OLS' next Coffee and Donuts will be held the final Sunday of the month: May 25th. If you haven't attended a Coffee and Donuts yet this year, it's not too late! Socializing after Mass is a great way for your kids to further the friendships they've made during CCD - and, honestly, who doesn't like donuts!?!

Pope Leo XIV



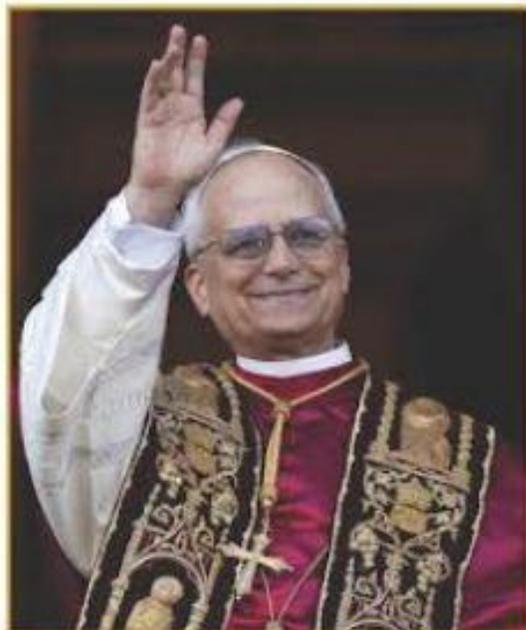
Pope Leo XIV is the first pope from the United States of America. Robert Francis Prevost was born in 1955 in Chicago, Illinois. In 1977, he graduated from Villanova University with a degree in mathematics. He joined the Order of Saint Augustine and was ordained a priest in June of 1982. He has spent most his life outside of the United States. He has served in Peru as a missionary, a parish priest, and a bishop. He has also served in Rome as the Superior General of the Order of Saint Augustine. In 2023, he returned to Rome to serve as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, which is responsible for evaluating and recommending potential bishops. On May 8, 2025, Prevost was elected pope and took the name Leo XIV.

Highlights

- 1955: Born in Chicago, Illinois
- 1977: Graduated from Villanova University
- 1982: Ordained a priest of the Order of Saint Augustine
- 1985-1999: Served in various roles in Peru including as a parish priest and as a teacher at the diocesan seminary
- 2001-2013: served in Rome as Superior General of the Order of Saint Augustine
- 2014-2023: served as bishop of Suva, Peru
- 2023-2025: served as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America
- May 8, 2025: Pope Leo XIV elected head of the Catholic Church

Fun Facts

- He is the first pope from North America and the first pope from the Order of Saint Augustine.
- He is a dual citizen of the United States and Peru.
- He is fluent in English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese, and can read Latin and German.



Quotes

"We are often preoccupied with teaching doctrine, the way of living our faith, but we risk forgetting that our first task is to teach what it means to know Jesus Christ and to bear witness to our closeness to the Lord. This comes first: to communicate the beauty of the faith, the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus." (Vatican News, 2023)

"We are all in the hands of God. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and with each other we move forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ precedes us. The world needs his light." (First Blessing of the Holy Father Leo XIV, May 8, 2025)



Habemus Papm!

Pope Leo XIV

We might not all speak fluent Latin, but fear not, you can still read a transcript of Pope Leo XIV's first address as our new Vicar of Christ: [READ](#)

You can also read Pope Leo XIV's first homily as Bishop of Rome, which he starts in English! [READ](#)

Made in America! Pope Leo XIV hails from the Windy City and claims the title of the first pope from the United States: [READ](#)

Pope Leo XIV will inaugurate his papacy on May 18 and the calendar is all set: [READ](#)

On the day of his election, Pope Leo XIV wore a pectoral cross containing relics of saints linked to the Augustinian order: those of Saint Augustine and the saint's mother, Saint Monica: [READ](#)

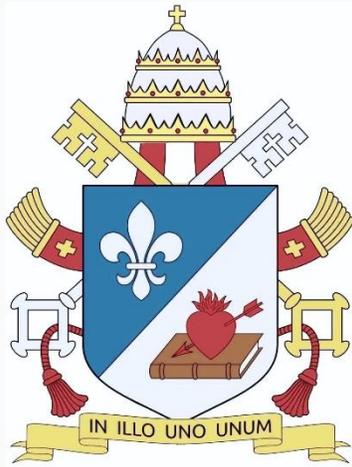
Yes, even future popes get nervous when the big game is on the line for their favorite sports team. Pope Leo XIV is a White Sox fan and was captured on air during their World Series Appearance in 2005: [WATCH](#)



16 Fun Facts About Pope Leo XIV

1. Pope Leo is the first American pope.
2. Pope Leo likes to play Wordle!
3. He is also the first Peruvian pope.
4. Pope Leo watched "Conclave" right before his very own Conclave!
5. He has a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics.
6. Pope Leo met Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis!
7. Pope Leo XIV's birthday is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
8. Pope Leo's favorite sport is tennis!
9. His native language is English, but he speaks and reads several languages.
10. Pope Leo is the youngest of 3 boys.
11. Pope Leo's parents: his dad was a Navy Lieutenant, his mom ran the parish and worked in the library.
12. Pope Leo is a Chicago White Sox fan!
13. He grew up surrounded by priests.
14. Young Robert Prevost was the smartest boy in his class.
15. Pope Leo's seminary formation began in high school.
16. Pope Leo XIV was an editor-in-chief for his school yearbook.

To read the complete article from Ascension Press which includes some great archival images to go along with these facts, click [HERE](#).



Pope Leo's Papal Coat of Arms

- The upper half of Pope Leo XIV's coat of arms features a blue background with a white lily or fleur-de-lis, symbolizing the Virgin Mary and also his French heritage.
- The lower half of the shield displays the book of Scripture and a pierced heart, referring to the conversion experience of St. Augustine who wrote, "You have pierced my heart with your Word."
- The motto of Pope Leo XIV, *In Illo uno unum*, which means "In the One, we are one," is from St. Augustine, who writes about the church's unity: "Although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one." We are many and we are one - because we are united to Him, and if our Head is in heaven, the members will follow.

Upcoming Verso Cristo Young Adult Activities

Verso Cristo Young Adults

AGES 21-35

DAY TRIP TO THE SHRINE OF MOTHER CABRINI

IN NORTHERN NYC ON SATURDAY, MAY 31ST

JOIN US!

8:30am: Morning Mass at OLS South Orange, then walk to train into NYC & take subway to the Shrine!

11am-5pm: Time at the Shrine (includes tour of the Shrine, quiet time for prayer, Mass, museum, and more!)

5-7:30pm: Transport back with time for dinner together

Email Priscilla C. to
RSVP by May 26th:
priscillacastro@lourdeswestorange.org

**"God has done it all:
I have only been a spectator of God's work."**

— St. Frances X. Cabrini

American Saint and servant of immigrants





Young Adult Barbecue

Save the Date

June 14th

Join us for our third annual *Verso Cristo* Young Adult BBQ at OLS.

We've enjoyed this annual summer kick-off as a way to connect and unplug in past years, and we hope you'll join us this year! More information to follow.



Saint / Feast of the Week

St. Rita of Cascia

Feast Day: May 22nd

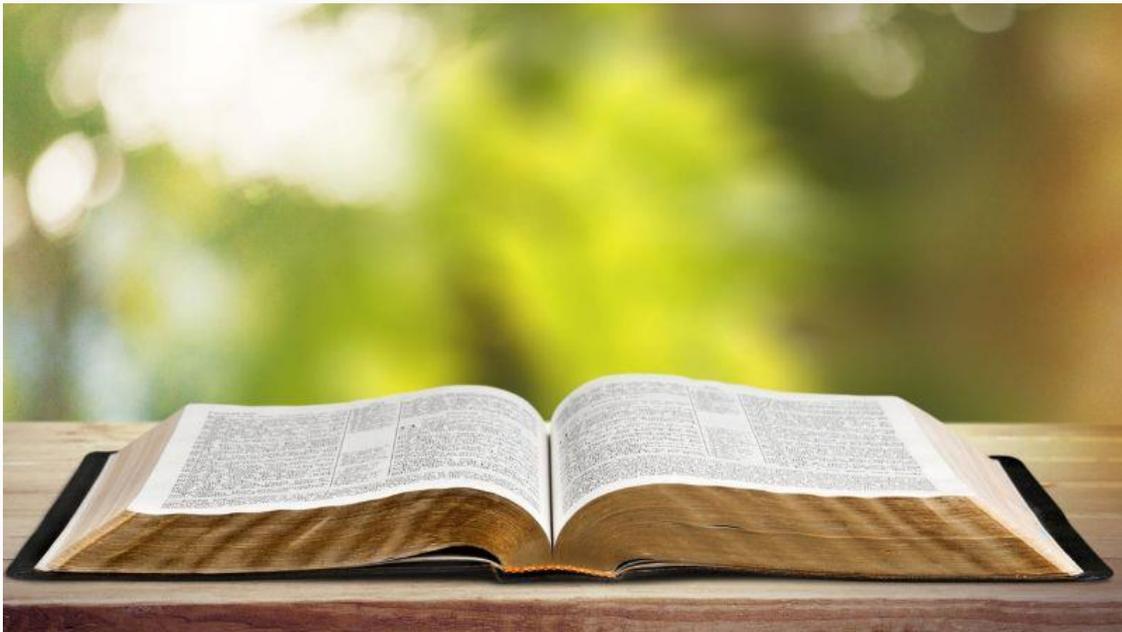
Patron of: Difficult Marriages, Impossible Causes,
Infertility, Parenthood

Like Elizabeth Ann Seton, Rita of Cascia was a wife, mother, widow, and member of a religious community. Her holiness was reflected in each phase of her life.

Born at Roccaporena in central Italy, Rita wanted to become a nun but was pressured at a young age into marrying a harsh and cruel man. During her 18-year marriage, she bore and raised two sons. After her husband was killed in a brawl and her sons had died, Rita tried to join the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. Unsuccessful at first because she was a widow, Rita eventually succeeded.

Over the years, her austerity, prayerfulness, and charity became legendary. When she developed wounds on her forehead, people quickly associated them with the wounds from Christ's crown of thorns. She meditated frequently on Christ's passion. Her care for the sick nuns was especially loving. She also counseled lay people who came to her monastery.

Beatified in 1626, Rita was not canonized until 1900. She has acquired the reputation, together with Saint Jude, as a saint of impossible cases. Many people visit her tomb each year.



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:

[Fifth Sunday of Easter](#)

[MaryKnoll Brothers 5th Sunday Resource: Do We Really Have to Love Everyone?](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

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

[Sixth Sunday of Easter](#)



Mark Ten Mission Video

5th Sunday of Easter

"Love One Another as I Have Loved You"

I love this video series! Give them a try! They are similar to what we do in our CCD Opening Service, so they are a nice way to bridge the time between CCD.

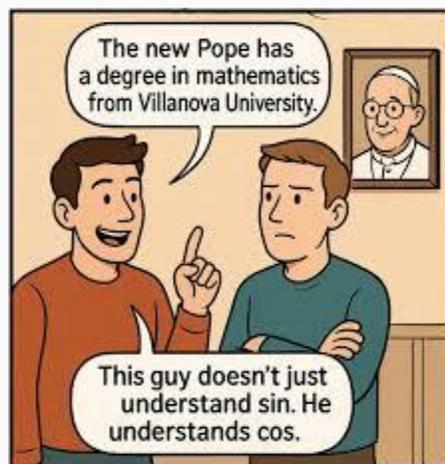
[Little Liturgy for Ages 4-8](#)

[Little Liturgy for Ages 8-12](#)

Answer: A

On May 20, the Christian world will commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the opening of the first ecumenical council, held in Nicea in 325, which has gone down in history primarily on account of the Creed, which brings together, defines, and proclaims the faith in salvation in Jesus Christ and in the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Later completed by the Council of Constantinople in 381, the Nicene Creed became in practice the identity card of the professed faith of the Church.

Joke of the Week



Jen Noll
Catechetical Coordinator
jennollols@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald
Religious Education Assistant
sorrowschurch@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x285

[**Our Lady of Sorrows Website**](#)