



# Adult Faith Formation

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To deepen our understanding  
of our Faith and increase our  
Love for God

May 2009

## May Focus



The merry month of May, oh how beautiful a month! The smell of nature's freshness and new growth — and no **mosquitoes** yet! The Easter season continues this month, but Marian devotions help us get closer to Jesus through Mary. The month is filled with the sacraments of First Communion, Confirmation, Matrimony, and Ordination for many Catholics throughout the Archdiocese and the world. Although St. Albert's young parishioners received First Communion on the last Sunday of April, the saint of the month for May is a wonderful example for all of us to have a more fervent desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Enjoy the month!

*"On this day we sing your praises, Purest Maid of all the earth,  
While the beauty of the springtime tells your joy at Jesus' birth."*

*verse text — Holy Mary, Now We Crown You, verse 1*

## Upcoming Events

- > *May Crowning—Wednesday, May 6th. Watch the Bulletin for more details.*
- > *Men's Gathering—Friday, May 8th. See backside for more info.*
- > *Caravan to the Grasshopper Chapel—Saturday, May 30th. See the box below. Sign-up sheet in back of Church.*

## Dictionary for the Laity

**Doctrine/Dogma**—The revealed teachings of Christ which are proclaimed by the fullest extent of the exercise of the authority of the Church's Magisterium. The faithful are obliged to believe the truths or dogmas contained in divine Revelation and defined by the Magisterium. CCC Glossary

**Marian Doctrine**— Refers to the 4 doctrines concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- ◆ **Mary, the Mother of God:** Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus," Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord." In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God" (*Theotokos*). CCC 495
- ◆ **Mary, Ever Virgin:** The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. In fact, Christ's birth "did not diminish his mother's virginal integrity but sanctified it." And so the liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as *Aeiparthenos*, the "Ever-virgin." CCC 499
- ◆ **Mary, Immaculate Conception:** "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." Pope Pius IX *Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854 CCC 491
- ◆ **Mary, Assumed into Heaven, Body and Soul:** "Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death." Pope Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus*, 1950.  
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians. CCC 966

Source—Catechism of the Catholic Church

## Parenting Tip of the Month

*Every young child loves singing "Happy Birthday" and blowing out candles on a cake. In honor of Pentecost—which is known as the birth of the Catholic Church—bake a cake and celebrate with your family. Use the number candles 2-0-0-9 for your children to have the chance to blow out the lit candles.*

*Dress your children in red for Mass on Pentecost Sunday which is May 31st. Remind them that the priest will be wearing red also. The color red signifies the tongues of fire which the Apostles received on Pentecost.*

## Caravan to the Grasshopper Chapel

Spring is a great time to discover the new or rediscover the old. It is for this reason we are offering a mini pilgrimage to a little known site in Minnesota. The Grasshopper Chapel in Cold Spring was built in dedication to God's intervention during a plague of grasshoppers that Minnesota experienced in 1876 and 1877. Come join us on a one-day excursion to the Chapel and its surrounding grounds.



The date is set for Saturday, May 30th. We will meet in the St. Albert Church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. and travel to Cold Spring and visit the Chapel, where a rosary will be recited. You will also have time to walk around the grounds and learn about the chapel and its history. Wear comfortable shoes and bring along a picnic lunch. We'll stop at the local bakery for people to purchase a sweet treat and then travel back to St. Albert's. Approximate return time is 3 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the back of church. If the turn out and interest is good we might annually search out and explore other mini pilgrimage sites.

## Pope Benedict XVI May Prayer Intentions

**General:** That the laity and the Christian communities may be responsible promoters of priestly and religious vocations.

**Mission:** That the recently founded Catholic Churches, grateful to the Lord for the gift of faith, may be ready to share in the universal mission of the Church, offering their availability to preach the Gospel throughout the world.

## Friendly Defenders

### Mary - Rosary

**Question #8:** The rosary is against the Bible. In Matthew's Gospel it says, "When you pray do not use vain repetition."

**Catholic Response:** Jesus was against "vain" or insincere repetition, not *all* repetition. Even Jesus used repetition.

**Bible Verse:** "He prayed a third time, saying the same words." *Matthew 26:44*

**Description:** Jesus also tells us in Matthew's Gospel to pray in secret, but that doesn't mean we can't pray together in church. These two admonitions are against *superficial* prayer.

**Related Verses:** *Matthew 6:6, 15:8-9; Revelation 4:8*

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Below is a copy of a prayer card from the St. Paul Seminary. The ordination date for transitional deacons will be May 2nd and the date for ordination of priests will be May 30th.

Let us do our part and pray for all seminarians, priests, and deacons.



My Mother, My Confidence!

### A Seminarian's Prayer

O Holy Virgin, Mary Immaculate, the precious name of Mother of Confidence with which we honor you fills our hearts to overflowing with joyful consolation and moves us to hope for every blessing from you. If such a title has been given you, it is a sign that no one has recourse to you in vain. Accept, then, with a mother's love our devout homage as we beg you to be gracious to us in our every need. Above all, we pray to you that we may live in constant union with you and your divine son, Jesus. With you as our guide, we are certain that we shall ever walk in the right way that it will be our happy lot to hear you say on the last day of our life those words of comfort: "Come, then, my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord." Amen.

### Please pray for more priests

The Saint Paul Seminary  
School of Divinity  
Saint Paul, Minnesota



Men's Gathering  
Friday, May 8th  
7:00 PM at Church

Come listen to Fr. Richards give a short pep talk. After the talk join Father and others for an evening of fellowship

Any questions call  
Mike Welter at 497-2082.

**L**ord Jesus Christ, you received into heaven Blessed Imelda who loved you in the Eucharistic banquet. By her prayers may we learn to approach your holy table with that same fervent love, and so fulfill our longing to be with you, who live and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### Blessed Imelda Lambertini—May 12th

The patroness of fervent first communion, Blessed Imelda, was born in 1322 and came from one of the oldest families in Bologna; her father was Count Igano Lambertini and her mother was Castora Galuzzi. Even as a tiny child she showed unusual piety, taking delight in prayer and slipping off to a quiet corner of the house, which she adorned with flowers and pictures to make it a little oratory. When she was nine, she was placed, at her own wish, in the Dominican convent in Val di Pietra, to be trained there by the nuns. Her disposition soon endeared her to all, while the zeal with which she entered all the religious life of the house greatly edified the nuns. Her special devotion was to the Eucharistic presence of Our Lord at Mass and in the tabernacle. To receive Our Lord in Holy Communion became the consuming desire of her heart, but the custom of the place and time had fixed twelve as the earliest age for a first communion. She would sometimes exclaim: "Tell me, can anyone receive Jesus into his heart and not die?"

When she was eleven years old she was present with the rest of the community at the Ascension Day Mass. All the others had received their communion: only Imelda was left unsatisfied. The nuns were preparing to leave the church when some of them were startled to see what appeared to be a Sacred Host hovering in the air above Imelda, as she knelt before the closed Tabernacle absorbed in prayer. Quickly they attracted the attention of the priest who hurried forward with a paten on which to receive It. In the face of such a miracle he could not do otherwise than give to Imelda her first communion, which was also her last. For the rapture with which she received her Lord was so great that it broke her heart: she sank unconscious to the ground, and when loving hands upraised her, it was found that she was dead.

Source—[www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)



To hear an audio version on Imelda go to <http://saints.sqpn.com/sainti10.htm>—click on SaintCast and hear her story. Begin listening at the 12 minute mark for a 7 minute presentation.