

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 / CATHOLIC

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 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

When 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



St. Bernard Catholic Church

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Fr. Tim Kozak: Pastor

Love God. Love neighbor. Make disciples.

Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026

Sat.	23	7:00pm	The Living & Deceased of the James Coleman Family by James & Mary Brooker
Sun.	24	7:30am	Herman Huck ☩ by Fr. Tim Kozak
		9:30am	Neal Alloway ☩ by Paul & Theresa Warren
Mon.	25	8:00am	Terry Ellis ☩ by Doug & Chris Schweikert
Wed.	27	6:30pm	Chrissy King ☩ by Yvonne Huck
Thurs.	28	8:00am	Ralph Tornes, Jr. ☩ by Lynn Pierce
Fri.	29	8:00am	The People of St. Bernard & St. James Parishes by Fr. Tim Kozak
Sat.	30	7:00pm	Diane Arnold ☩ by Gary & Cathy Crock
Sun.	31	7:30am	Mary Campbell ☩ by Bill & Rita Harra
		9:30am	David Conrath ☩ by Sue Hart

Liturgical Ministries

	This Saturday, 7:00pm	This Sunday, 7:30am	This Sunday, 9:30am
Servers	Bo Schaad	TBA	Colby Roberts & Layton Coleman
Lector	Lucy Klintworth	Steve Littler	Teresa Coleman
EMHC	Brenda Duffy, Janice Schaad (Cup) & Lois Ellis (Cup)	Melissa Hesson & Randy Schilling	Kim Smrek, Bill Smrek (Cup) & Eric Cooper (Cup)
Gifts	TBA	Steve & Freda Neill	Jeff & JoAnn Welch
Ushers	TBA	Ed Huck & Jeff Bauerbach	Joe Schott & Mitch Schott
	Next Saturday 7:00pm	Next Sunday, 7:30am	Next Sunday, 9:30am
Servers	Bo Schaad	TBA	Ella S. & Kayla S.
Lector	Brenda Duffy	Roger Huck	Jocelyn Gale
EMHC	Carolyn Miller, Brenda Duffy (Cup) & Janice Schaad (Cup)	Kathy Huck & Lisa Campbell	Cris Baker, Tyler Antill (Cup) & JoAnn Welch (Cup)
Gifts	TBA	Todd & Monica Hilverding	Dean & Paula Lang
Ushers	TBA	Matt Brooker & Bill Dunn	Cody Coleman & Dean Lang

Remember Them in your Prayers

Please Call Lillian Schilling: 740.984.2958

(RS)-Repose of Soul, (SI)-Special Intention, Else Health

1st Week	Bryan A. (SI), Patrick Baldwin (RS), Alicia Dalton & Baby, Terry Ellis (RS), Elaine Fisher (RS), Herman & Alice Huck (RS), D. Minton (SI), Seneca Sadler (RS), Dean & Alice Sherbourne (RS), Jayce Smith, B. & S. Strickler
2nd Week	Charles C. (RS), Diane H., Joseph H. (RS), Jeff Headlee C. Hinton (SI), Philomena Pottmeyer, Debbie Fox Rourke, Debbie Rutter, Abbie S., May Lou Thieman, John Walter, David Watts, Jerry Wilson
3rd Week	Theresa Ballengee (RS), Charles C. (RS), Shirley Lang, Tom Minton (RS), R. Weckbacher

St. Joan of Arc

She was born a peasant in 1412 near Paris. When she was 12 she had visions and heard the voices of saints. During the Hundred Years War she led the French troops against the English. She was captured by the English and placed on trial for heresy and witchcraft. At 19 she was burned at the stake and her ashes were scattered on the Seine River. She had a great love for the Sacraments and was devoted to the poor. She is the patron saint of France and people in the military. Her feast day is May 30th.

Pentecost: This Sunday, May 24th, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning "fiftieth". It is based on the Jewish *Feast of Weeks* celebrated 50 days after the feast of *First Fruits*. But in the Christian tradition it is the feast 50 days after Easter when the Lord, who arose to heaven on the feast of Ascension, sends the Holy Spirit to descend on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire. This gives the disciples to courage to break free of their fears and boldly proclaim the Gospel to all people. *Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

Youth Group Yard Sale: The St. Bernard Youth Group is having a Yard Sale **Friday, May 29th & Saturday, May 30th**, in the Parish Hall. Items can be **dropped off starting this Sunday, May 24th**. Proceeds help pay for the trip to the Youth Conference. We need volunteers to help set up all week and work on Friday and Saturday. Contact Yvonne at 740.516.0737.

Chicken BBQ and Square Dance: St. Michael in Carlisle is having a chicken BBQ **this Sunday, May 24th from 11:00am until 1:30pm**. It is dine-in or carryout. There is bingo in the afternoon. The square dance is from 7:00pm until 10:00pm with music by Little Creek Band.

Priestly Ordinations in Marietta: The Diocese of Steubenville is very pleased to announce that both **Deacon Ryan Budd and Deacon Peter Stetson** will be ordained priests on **Saturday, May 30th, at 11:00am at St. Mary in Marietta.**

Diocesan CWC Convention: The Convention will be in Steubenville on **Wednesday, June 3rd**. If any women of the parish are interested in attending they can contact Carmel Hendershot at 740.350.3339.

New Parish Council Member: Fr. Tim would like to thank **Jeff Bauerbach** for accepting a position on Parish Council for a three year term.

Altar Wine: Fr. Tim has recently received some comments about the altar wine. We have a case of wine that is still fermenting for some reason. This causes it to have a bad taste. It won't harm you. We have ordered more wine.

Consecration of the US to the Sacred Heart: In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our great country, the US Bishops will consecrate the country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on **Thursday, June 11th**. The Mass that day will focus on the consecration. We also ask that everybody do a **rosary novena for our country starting on Wednesday, June 3rd**. You can find more info at usccb.org/weholdthesetruths.

Franciscan Youth Conference: The Youth Conference is **June 19th-21st**. If you are going into 8th grade through being a current senior in high school and are interested in attending **there are a few spots open and already paid for**. You can contact Yvonne Huck at 740.516.0737.

June Social Signup Sheet: The CWC needs your help. The signup sheet is in the back of the church. People are needed to prepare, serve, work the games and country store and to clean up. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Donations for June Social: The Social is Wednesday, June 24th, and you can do your part now to make this a big success. The CWC is looking for items, services and cash donations. **Please contact Pat Brooker at 740.984.4083.**

VBS Registration: VBS starts on **Sunday, July 19th, and runs through Thursday, July 23rd**. Each night it runs from 6:00pm to 8:40pm. It's free but you need to register. **We need helpers for Crew Leaders, please contact Yvonne Huck at 740.516.0737 if you can help.**

Scholarship: St. Bernard is offering two \$750 scholarships to parishioners who are attending a post-secondary institution. This scholarship may be awarded to you only one time during your post-secondary schooling. **Please turn in the form no later than July 1st**. You can download the form on the parish Facebook page or pick one up near the church entrance.

Pray for Our Seminarians: Please remember in your prayers all eight of our seminarians. They have just finished up another year of seminary and will spend time in the parish for the summer. And especially pray for our own seminarian Caleb Baker is hoping to attend St. Vincent in Latrobe, PA in the fall.