

Established  
July 5, 1840

# St. Michael the Archangel Parish

*We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.*

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u  
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

**Email Address:** [stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org](mailto:stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org) / **Office Hours:** Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

**WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES:** 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

**WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES:** 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

**Adoration:** Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / **Confessions:** Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

**WEEKEND MASSES:** Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 12noon

**Gift Shop Hours:** Sun 7:30am - 11:00am Wed 9:00am - 1:00pm

**Website:** [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) **May 24, 2026 | 24 de mayo de 2026**

## Pentecost Sunday

Reading I - Acts 2:1-11 | Psalm - 104:1,24,29-30,31,34 | Reading II - 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13 | Gospel - John 20:19-23  
Primera Lectura - Hechos 2:1-11 | Salmo - 103:1,24,29-30,31,34 | Segunda Lectura - 1 Corintios 12:3-7,12-13 | Evangelio - Juan 20:19-23

### SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT

Last week we heard that, following the Ascension, the disciples, Mary, and other followers of the Lord retreated to the upper room in prayer. This week we hear that, while praying in that room, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Jesus' post-Resurrection promise, recounted in today's Gospel, is fulfilled: the power of the Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus' followers. Saint Paul tells us that all of us, in some way, are given gifts of the Holy Spirit, gifts that can be used to spread the Good News. Today is one of the Church's greatest festivals. Let us carry the refrain of the responsorial psalm with us throughout the coming week: "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!" (Psalm 104:30). *- Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*



## Pentecost Sunday

### PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

### Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Rdg/Primera Lectura: Exodus(Exodo) 34,4-6,8-9

Psalm/Salmo: Daniel (Daniel) 3,52.53.54.55.56

2nd Rdg/Segundo Lectura: 2 Corinthians 13,11-13

Gospel/Evangelio: John (Juan) 3,16-18

**Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish** - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org). To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

May 24, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11 | 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 | Jn 20:19-23

## **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The Solemnity of Pentecost is about the gift of the Spirit in our lives. St. Paul reminds us that despite the variety of gifts we have received, we are one Body. To make sense of this, consider that on a human level, some of us are introverts, while others are extroverts. Each personality type has particular gifts and struggles. Sometimes, our differing personality types can grate on each other, causing tension. And yet, how often do others who are our “opposites” remind us of truths we often forget? (Speaking as an extrovert, I need introverts to remind me that you can often learn more from quiet listening than talking out loud.) So, too, with spiritual gifts! As we consider the ways God has gifted each of us, let us remember that the differences between us have a specific purpose: to equip all of us to grow and experience the fullness of life in Christ.

## **GO EVANGELIZE**

### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In our first reading, we see that the Holy Spirit enables the disciples to speak in languages they did not know. While they were given an extraordinary spiritual gift to do so, today’s missionaries serving in foreign lands must learn the local language to effectively minister among the people they serve. No matter where we find ourselves, perhaps we, too, can learn a new “language,” or find new ways to live our faith and share the Gospel. Effective evangelization happens when we can look to the “signs of the times” and propose, “in language intelligible to each generation,” that Jesus Christ is the answer to the “perennial questions” which arise in each human heart.

*(Gaudium et spes 4)*

## **INVITATION**

The word Catholic comes from a Greek word meaning, “according to the whole” or “universal.” As we see in today’s first reading, from the beginning of our Church, the Spirit’s desire was to gather people of every nation, tribe, and tongue into the one Body of the Church. The Catholic Church is a global communion, consisting of the Latin Church and 23 Eastern Churches that worship according to their particular rite, customs, and language. Each of these Churches has unique spiritual gifts that enrich the wider Church. Plan to visit another Catholic Church in your area that worships in a different language or rite than your own to experience the manifold gifts of the Spirit that exist in every place where the Church is.



# Life of Stewardship

Throughout our readings today for Pentecost Sunday, we see the powerful truth that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts and guidance in a deeply personal way. We are meant to use these gifts to build up the Body of Christ - each in our own unique way.

In our first reading from Acts, we hear of the dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. A strong driving wind filled the house, and tongues of fire came to rest on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues.

Notice how personal this moment is. The Spirit came upon each individual, equipping them in a unique way to share the Gospel. The same is true for us today. Embracing the stewardship way of life means allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in using the unique gifts He has given to each of us for the mission entrusted to us.

In our Gospel, Jesus sends His disciples forth: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." This is our mission as well. But we are not sent alone. Jesus gives us His peace - "Peace be with you."

As this Easter season comes to a close, let us be at peace and resolve to rely more fully on the Holy Spirit as our guide through the stewardship way of life.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

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## Parish News

### ASAP (Assistance and Support After Pregnancy)

The Knights of Columbus will be distributing Baby Bottles after our weekend Masses for their annual ASAP fundraiser. All monies collected will go to support mothers & children in need through Family Support Services Hawaii. Please assist by putting your daily change in the bottle. We will collect the bottles on Fathers Day, June 21st. If you prefer, **please make checks out to St. Michael's Church and note for ASAP.**

### Fr. John Akau

Fr. John Akau was ordained to the **Sacred Order of Priesthood** on **Friday, May 22**, by Bishop Larry Silva at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa in Honolulu. We are blessed to welcome Fr. John as he celebrates his **First Sunday Mass** with us at **9:00 AM on Sunday, May 31**. Join us as we offer our prayers, support, and gratitude for his ministry to the Church.

### Monthly Food Pantry & Diaper Ministry Drive

The monthly parish food & diaper drive will be held on **Monday, May 25th from 9-10am at our Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot**. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed ministry. We depend on your contributions and are grateful for any donations you may have. Items most needed are Soup, Canned Vegetables, and Pasta Sauce. Please know that you are helping to feed over 1000 people every month. Diaper sizes needed are sizes 5 and 6 and Pull-Ups 4T-5T Boys and Girls.

You are welcome to leave food & diaper donations in the baskets at the Church entrance when you come to Mass.

### St. Michael Statue Brick Garden

While we anxiously await our Phase 2 delivery, we are now taking orders for the final phase. Information and order forms are available after Mass at the coffee station, at the kiosk, or

from the Parish Office during the week. Three brick sizes are offered, each with your choice of engraving. Together, let's build something beautiful for generations to come.

### Neo Catechumenal Way Catechesis (Mon, Wed, Fri)

**An Announcement of Joy!** What was it that the apostles and the early Church Fathers did that made such a marvelous and revolutionary change in the lives of so many people who were immersed and lived in such a corrupt and pagan society? St. Paul called it "*The stupidity of preaching the Good News!*" This *Kerygma* or Proclamation of the Good News converted and changed the lives of thousands, so much so, that those who preached with such faith were willing to give their lives for the sake of the Gospel and to cry out "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!" They were not recounting a system of morality of laws, nor some new ideology, but a Good News that, for those who listened and believed it, were able to experience a change in their lives which freed them from the slavery of vices, and offered them a new life filled with joy even if faced with persecution and death. This Good News was not just that Jesus Christ had died and rose from the dead, but that they experienced this same resurrection from the death of their former life of hell. This joyful announcement is forever new and still has the power to change and convert us. You are invited to our Catechesis Series every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until June 10. We meet at 6pm in the Grace Parish Center. All are welcome!

### Hawaii Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

The **Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal** invites you to share your blessings and strengthen the ministries that nurture faith and serve those in need throughout our state. Your support of the CMAA is more than a donation - it is an act of hope, compassion and faith in action. Through your prayerful gift, you are forming children, youth and adults in faith through Catholic education and ministry, supporting seminarian and deacon formation and caring for our retired priests, providing outreach to families and individuals in need and fostering spiritual growth and sharing the Good News through the Hawaii Catholic Herald. With your generosity, we can *Share God's Gifts* and bring His love to those who need it most. Please consider making your gift online using the QR code or use the envelopes provided in the kiosks. Thank you for your faith, your support, and for making a difference in the life and mission of our Catholic Church.

### Akamai Aging - A Free Speaker Series on Zoom

Come and listen to a variety of speakers to learn helpful strategies and resources to support healthy aging in your own home. We are blessed with the opportunity to join in on this series via zoom in the Grace Parish Center.

- *Balance and Mobility* - May 29: 1 - 2pm
- *Q and A with a Financial Advisor* - June 5: 11- 12Noon
- *Sleep and Mental Health* - June 19: 10:30 -11:30am
- *Meaning and Purpose as We Age* - July 17: 10:30 -11:30am
- *Palliative Care and Hospice* - July 24:10 -11am
- *When You Can't Go It Alone* - July 31:11 - 12Noon

# Stewardship of Treasure

May 11th - 17th, 2026

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 2,970.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 12,511.00
BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 9,716.20

We are grateful that our construction debt for the Grace Parish Center has been paid off. Our weekly second collection will be for our Building Repairs & Maintenance. *Mahalo* for your continued generosity!

**Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or use our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.**

## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2026 MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$14,082.75

The Diocesan Assessment covers shared staff and administrative resources from the Diocese supporting every parish. The new "Annual Appeal" assessment starting in January provides funds for collaborative Catholic ministries and services that extend beyond the capacity of any single parish.

## Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

## Faith Formation

### Kids' Bulletin

For families with children, please take a copy of the "Kids' Bulletin" home with you. The Kids' Bulletin is created by a mom in Canada who is happy to share them with anyone who can use them to help learn or teach about the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith. It is a great resource for kids who would like to have some fun while learning about the readings from the Sunday Mass each week. Bulletins are available in English and Spanish and can also be found online at [www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com).

### Pentecost Sunday

*"He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (John 20:22-23)*

For those of us who go to confession regularly, there is often a familiar frustration: "Why do I keep confessing the same sins?" It can feel like a loop, cleansed but unchanged.

Pentecost reveals a hopeful perspective. When the Risen Jesus breathes on his ashamed and fearful disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit, he echoes Genesis, when God breathes life into Adam. This is not just primarily the removal of guilt, but new creation.

In confession, we receive more than forgiveness. We receive a fresh outpouring, the breath of the Spirit, and a renewed mission. Jesus does not say to us, "You're forgiven, now go back to your old life." He says, so to speak, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21)

That is why penance is not just saying a few prayers. It is reorientation. It is the Spirit summoning us to live differently: with mercy and healing.

Just as Adam was sent into the world, and the Apostles

were sent out after Pentecost, so too we are sent from the confessional - not just clean, but consecrated.

**Pentecost Challenge:** After your next confession, ask the Holy Spirit for one way you can participate in Christ's healing will for you. Then take one small, concrete step, and do not look back. - *Father John Muir, ©LPi*

## Treasures From Our Tradition

Today, the languages of the whole world arise to God in a Pentecost of praise. In some American dioceses, the Mass is offered every Sunday in more than thirty different languages, including the silent praise of American Sign Language. Fifty years ago, the landscape of liturgy was very different. It was grounded firmly in Latin, which is to the present day still the official language of the Roman Rite. Very few people were fluent in Latin, even though in those days Latin was far more widely studied in school. Nevertheless, almost every Catholic was competent in the responses and chants of Latin since it is not difficult to pronounce. The clergy were normally minimally competent in Latin, since much of seminary education was conducted in that language.

When the Second Vatican Council was convened, all of the debate and daily work of the council was to be in Latin. In the first session in 1962, Boston's Cardinal Richard Cushing continually complained about it, and threatened not to return in 1963 if something wasn't done. He convinced the fathers when he rose to speak in fairly fluent Latin in an unforgettable Boston twang. The next year, he returned, but with a simultaneous translation system funded by the people of Boston. The ordinary everyday language of the people, the vernacular, had arrived at the Vatican via Boston!

- *Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

## Everyday Stewardship-Spread the Word of God

There are some things I miss now that my children are older. Fewer snuggles, fewer moments of awe and wonder, and fewer crazy questions that make me laugh. However, if I'm honest, there are some things I do not miss, especially the birthday party. I loved the aspect of celebrating my child's birth, but most years the party cost too much, involved too much stress, and resulted in a lot of presents that ended up in my garage. Today, nice dinners with family and friends sharing time together have taken the place of the "birthday party" and that is fine with me.

Centuries ago, God moved in such a profound way and sent his Holy Spirit upon us, imparting to the Church gifts that remain with us today. That first Pentecost was a first birthday party of sorts, with people gathered to celebrate their common faith in Jesus Christ. Of course, that party had none of the trappings of a child's event at Chuck E. Cheese's, but instead presented us all with generous gifts that could be used for the glory of God instead of the stuff children discard after a few weeks. Every year I think it is important to really celebrate what God has given to us, the Church, on the feast of Pentecost. The generosity of God knows no limits and the Holy Spirit is alive. It's just that the gifts from this celebration need to be used or the celebration will be hollow. The gifts are free to us even though they are

# YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

## MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm  
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

## TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:00-7:30pm

## WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Hula Ministry Practice 5:30-6:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm
- Neocatechumenal Way 6:00-7:00pm  
(Last Wed. of each month) 7:00-8:00pm

## THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm  
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm  
(First & Third Thursday)

## FRIDAY

- Women of the Word 12:00-1:00pm

## SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

## SUNDAY

- Gift Shop Open 7:30am-11am
- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass  
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm  
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm  
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

## Baptism

Baptism Classes are held monthly.  
Parents and Godparents must attend class.

To register, please email [baptism.stmichaekona@rcchawaii.org](mailto:baptism.stmichaekona@rcchawaii.org)

## Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation.

priceless. It would be poor steward-ship to toss them in the garage with all those toys that time forgot. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

## Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Signs of Life

If you're asthmatic, you know the phrase "as natural as breathing" doesn't always make a lot of sense. Maybe that's because breathing isn't always natural. Sometimes, it's super-natural. I come from a family of asthmatics. In my earliest childhood memories, my sister's nose and mouth are covered with a bulbous plastic mask connected by clear tubes to her trans-portable nebulizer. The machine whirs loudly as it vaporizes the medication that will open her lungs. In these memories, I watch my sister - her little eyes wide, her chest contracting and constricting with great difficulty - and wonder what it feels like.

Because I don't have asthma, and I don't think about breathing, unless I'm climbing a flight of stairs or chasing down one of my kids. It's such a utilitarian thing, breathing. It's unimpressive, unremarkable. Literally anyone can do it.

Until they can't. Dead men don't breathe. That's what I think as I read the words of John's Gospel: "He breathed on them." (John 20:22) So much of what Jesus does in his resurrected Body is extraordinary and super-human, making it unmistakable that here is a Body no longer playing by the rules of the physical world. He's passing through locked doors. He's in two places at once.

But today, he's just breathing. So we have to ask ourselves: why? His Blood no longer requires oxygen. If he were asthmatic, neither bonfire nor damp night air could cause his lungs to constrict. His Flesh has been perfected.

But here we see a reality that is as spiritual as it is physical: where there is breath, there is life.

In Genesis, God breathes into dust and creates man. In today's Gospel, He breathes His Spirit onto man, and creates a Church.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman © LPI

## LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Today, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the Advocate." The Latin for lawyer is "advocatus." Like a lawyer, the Holy Spirit defends us. The Holy Spirit guides us. So, when you're in trouble, don't forget: ask for your lawyer, and do what he tells you. - ©LPI



As Catholics, let us witness the beautiful gift of life with civility and love, and with our peaceful prayers and our compassionate service to all those in need. - USCCB 5/10/22

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, MAY 23RD

- 4pm - Richard Asakura & Zola Ingram, Rest in Peace

### SUNDAY, MAY 24TH

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY

- 7am - John Kauhahao, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Helen & Joseph McKinney, May they Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Elaine Webb, Rest in Peace

### MONDAY, MAY 25TH

- 7am - Gerald Juffer, Velda Juffer, Fr. Daniel Clark, Dennis Juffer, Valerie Wrieden, Fr. Albino Ponchione, Surin Kailuanam, Roy Peloquin, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Rudy A. Garcia, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

### TUESDAY, MAY 26TH

- 7am - Brandon Renault, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Doris Masutomi, Rest in Peace

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

### THURSDAY, MAY 28TH

- 7am - Jerrilynn Sabog & Socorro Romero, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Sean, Lorraine and David Wilkinson, May they Rest in Peace

### FRIDAY, MAY 29TH

- 7am - Susan Marie Oates, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Mike Matthews, Rest in Peace

### SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

- 7am - In Memory of Shelby Kuwaya, Rest in Peace

## Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

**Mass cards are available.**

**"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."**

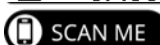
—Matthew 25:35

## The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am** at **Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot**.



Use this QR Code for our Amazon Wishlist. Items purchased can be mailed directly to the Parish Office.



Mahalo for your support!

# The Holy Spirit Comes

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

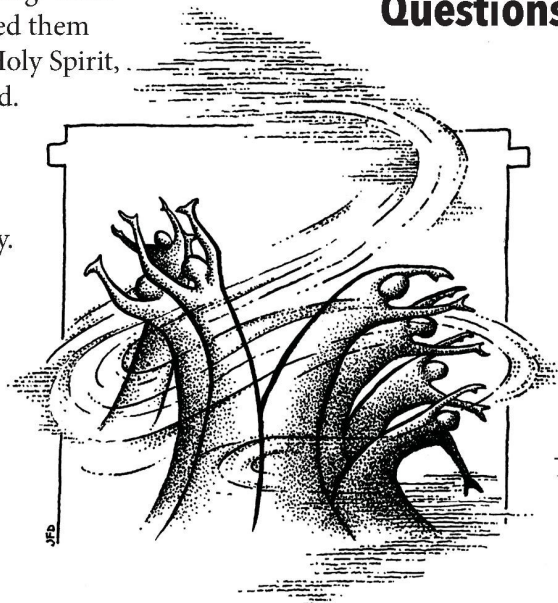
- ▶ Acts 2:1-11 • Apostles receive the gift of tongues
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 • One body in Christ
- ▶ John 20:19-23 • "Receive the Holy Spirit"

If you ask a group of people how the apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit, some will say through tongues of fire while others will say that Jesus breathed on them. We get the first image from today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. The second image comes from John's Gospel. How the apostles historically received the gift of the Spirit is less important than what resulted when the Spirit filled them. In both stories, the apostles changed from a group in hiding, fearful for their lives, to bold and confident proclaimers of God's great works through Jesus.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus breathed on the apostles just as God breathed life into the first human. Like the readings from John's Gospel that we've heard the last few weeks, Jesus is showing his friends that he is one and the same as God. Just as the first human came alive with God's breath, so the apostles come alive in a new way when they receive the Holy Spirit.

Before the coming of the Spirit, they were a fearful, closed group, hiding out, paralyzed to continue Jesus' ministry of healing and teaching. Once Jesus came to them and offered them his peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, they immediately transformed. Rejoicing replaced fear, and the willingness to move outward to minister to others replaced their desire for safety.

After Jesus breathed on the disciples, he tells them, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." This verse is often interpreted as the origin of priests' authority to forgive



"To each individual the manifestation of the spirit is given for some benefit."

**Sheepish Question:**  
When, lately, have I felt the Spirit prompting me in a way that serves others.

sins, but it applies to all of us. Jesus is pointing out the power we all have in choosing how we respond to hurt. When we forgive others, we not only free them from our anger and resentment, we free ourselves from carrying those emotions. On the other hand, if we retain someone's sins by refusing to forgive them, we are holding ourselves bound by anger, resentment, blame, and hurt. We are just as much the prisoner in the relationship. Our refusal to forgive affects not only the offending person, but us, as well.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 When have you had the privileged experience of watching someone else move from fear to courage? How did God/the Holy Spirit play a role in that?
- 2 When have you experienced freedom by being forgiven by someone? When have you been able to free someone else by offering forgiveness?

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# Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.

## III. Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

### 1. *The liturgy in the mystery of the Church*.

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!*

Today we are beginning a new series of catecheses on the first Document issued by the Second Vatican Council: the Constitution on the sacred liturgy, [\*Sacrosanctum Concilium\*](#) ([SC](#)).

In drafting [this Constitution](#), the Council Fathers sought not only to undertake a reform of the rites, but to lead the Church to contemplate and deepen that living bond which constitutes and unites her: the mystery of Christ. Indeed, the liturgy touches the very heart of this mystery: it is at once the space, the time and the context in which the Church receives her very life from Christ. For in the liturgy, “the work of our redemption is accomplished” ([SC](#), 2), which makes us a chosen lineage, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people whom God has acquired for Himself (cf. *1 Pet* 2:9).

As manifested by the threefold renewal – biblical, patristic and liturgical – that the Church underwent through the course of the twentieth century, the Mystery in question does not designate an obscure reality, but God’s salvific plan, hidden from all eternity and revealed in Christ, according to Saint Paul’s affirmation (cf. *Eph* 3:2-6). Here, then, is the Christian Mystery: the Paschal event, that is to say, the passion, death, resurrection and glorification of Christ, which is made sacramentally present to us precisely in the liturgy, so that every time we take part in the assembly gathered “in his name” (cf. *Mt* 18:20) we are immersed in this Mystery.

Christ Himself is the inner source of the mystery of the Church, the holy people of God, born from His side pierced on the cross. In the holy liturgy, through the power of His Spirit, He continues to act. He sanctifies and unites the Church, His bride, to His offering to the Father. He exercises His utterly unique priesthood, He who is present in the proclaimed Word, in the sacraments, in the ministers who celebrate, in the gathered community and, in the highest degree, in the Eucharist (cf. [SC](#), 7). Thus, according to Saint Augustine (cf. *Sermon*, 272), in celebrating the Eucharist the Church receives the Body of the Lord and becomes what she receives: she becomes the Body of Christ, “a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” (*Eph* 2:22). This is the “work of our redemption”, which conforms us to Christ and builds us up in communion.

In the holy liturgy, this communion is achieved through “rites and prayers” ([SC](#), 48). The rituality of the Church expresses her faith – in accordance with the familiar saying *lex orandi, lex credendi* – and at the same time shapes ecclesial identity: the proclaimed Word, the celebration of the Sacrament, the gestures, the silences, the space – all this represents and gives form to the people gathered by the Father, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Every celebration thus becomes a true epiphany of the Church in prayer, as [Saint John Paul II](#) recalled (Apostolic Letter [Vicesimus quintus annus](#), 9).

If the liturgy is at the service of the mystery of Christ, one understands why it has been defined as “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed ... the font from which all her power flows” ([SC](#), 10). It is true that the action of the Church is not limited to the liturgy alone; however, all her activity (preaching, service to the poor, the accompaniment of human realities) converges towards this “summit”). Conversely, the liturgy sustains the faithful by immersing them ever and anew in the Pasch of the Lord and, thus, through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments and communal prayer, they are refreshed, encouraged and renewed in their commitment to faith and in their mission. In other words, the participation of the faithful in the liturgical action is at once “internal” and “external”.

This also means that it is called to unfold in a tangible way throughout daily life, in an ethical and spiritual dynamic, so that the liturgy celebrated is translated into life and demands a faithful existence,

POPE  
LEO XIV



capable of making concrete what has been experienced in the celebration: it is in this way that our life becomes a “living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God”, fulfilling our “spiritual worship (Rom 12:1).

In this way, “the liturgy daily builds up those who are within into a holy temple of the Lord” ([SC](#), 2), and forms an open community, welcoming to all. Indeed, it is inhabited by the Holy Spirit, it introduces us into the life of Christ, it makes us His Body and, in all its dimensions, it represents a sign of the unity of the entire human race in Christ. As [Pope Francis](#) said, “the world still does not know it, but everyone is invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb (Rev 19:9)” (Apostolic Letter [Desiderio desideravi](#), 5).

Dear friends, let us allow ourselves to be shaped inwardly by the rites, symbols, gestures and above all the living presence of Christ in the liturgy, which we will have the opportunity to explore in the coming Catecheses.

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### Special greetings:

I greet this morning all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s Audience, particularly the groups from England, Ireland, Tanzania, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Canada and the United States of America, as well as the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums from Canada. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of the risen Jesus! God bless you!

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### Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as we continue our series of catecheses on the Second Vatican Council, today we consider the Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. This document teaches that the liturgy immerses us in the mystery of Christ’s passion, death, resurrection and glorification. Through liturgical rites and prayers, and by the power of the Spirit, Jesus exercises his priesthood and sanctifies the Church, his spouse, uniting her to his own oblation to the Father. Indeed, Christ is present in the word that is proclaimed, in the sacraments, in the ministers, in the community, and most of all in the Eucharist. Let us allow ourselves to be shaped from within by the rites, symbols, gestures and above all by the living presence of Christ in the liturgy, which we will have further opportunity to explore.

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<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260520-udienza-generale.html>



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