



Habemus Papam



From his very first public appearance May 8th, Pope Leo XIV — the first U.S.-born pontiff in history — has articulated a vision for his pontificate and the Catholic Church: one of peace and unity, centered in Jesus Christ. Before his election, Pope Leo XIV was known as Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, a native of Chicago and a member of the Order of St. Augustine. A former missionary in Peru, where he served as bishop of Chiclayo, he most recently served as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops since April 2023.

The following are selections of Pope Leo XIV initial comments to the world:

“Peace be with you all. Dear brothers and sisters, these are the first words spoken by the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for God’s flock. I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world. Peace be with you. “It is the peace of the Risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally.”

“God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail. We are all in God’s hands, Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and each other — let us go forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us.”

“The world needs His light. Humanity needs Him as the bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us also, and then help each other to build bridges, with dialogue, with encounter, uniting us all to be one people always as peace.”

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Deacon Tom Dwyer

We use the word "UP" to describe when we feel good, when it's our turn to play, or when our team is winning. It's a word that can be a noun, a verb, an adverb, a preposition, or an adjective. "UP" in American English almost universally connotes something "GOOD".

"Ascension" is defined as the act of going upward, as in "a balloon ascension". In astronomy, ascension refers to the rising of a heavenly body above the horizon. It can also refer to moving up to improve one's rank or position. We celebrate the passing of Jesus from earth to heaven as His "Ascension". One can apply all of the previously given definitions of "UP" to this salvific event!



Although celebration of Christ's Ascension, (traditionally the 40th day after Easter), falls on May 29th, the feast has been transferred to June 1st, the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Acts of the Apostles tells of Jesus being "lifted up" into the sky. As the God man, Jesus is certainly a "heavenly body" and by His Ascension reclaimed His position at the right hand of the Father.

Both the first reading from Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel for the feast day are authored by St. Luke. Significantly, both reference the Apostles receiving the Holy Spirit to witness to all nations. The Church has lasted over 2,000 years, and shows no signs of imploding or becoming irrelevant. The latest papal convocation and selection of Pope Leo XIV is ample evidence that the Holy Spirit still resides in and sustains the Church and us!

Upcoming Events

May 29	Executive Board at Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m.
June 5	Council Meeting at Bluewater Community Church, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
June 7	Habitat for Humanity in Crestview 8 a.m.—2 p.m.
Jun 7-8	Knights Led Rosary before all Masses
Jun 17-23	SACRED HEART ICON at COR (details forthcoming)
June 19	Assembly Meeting at HNJ, 7 p.m. (Dinner and Social at 6:15 p.m.)
June 20	Bingo at HNJ 6 p.m. (COR Team)
June 22	Knights at the Ballpark, Pensacola Blue Wahoos , 4:05 p.m.

March Knight of the Month

Lenny Smales

Our Knight of the Month has a long history of supporting our Assembly, our Council, our Parish, and his fellow man. He serves as an usher at Mass and as a trainer for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. He puts his financial prowess to use serving as the Comptroller for our Assembly and as Financial Secretary for our Council. Additionally, he leads our Council's annual support for the Sunland Christmas party, helping bring the Christmas spirit to people with developmental disabilities. More recently, he helped make our annual St Patrick's Day fund-raiser a big success by getting food ready for the cooks to prepare. For his generous heart, we are pleased to announce Sir Knight Lenny Smales as our March 2025 Knight of the Month.



April Knight of the Month

Joe Gettis



Our Knight of the Month has shown the great volunteer spirit known in our Council. He recently served on the Color Guard for the March for Life in Pensacola and volunteered at the Alaqua Animal Refuge. This Knight helped to prepare the Christ Our Redeemer Parish Hall for its much-needed renovation, served food at our recent St Patrick's Day fund-raiser at 3rd Planet, and he volunteered to help build a home with our Council's recent Habitat for Humanity venture. For his enthusiastic start in our Council, we are pleased to announce Brother

Joseph Gettis as our April 2025 Knight of the Month.

Knights at the Ballpark

Join your brother Knights and their families for an afternoon of baseball in Pensacola on Sunday, June 22, 2025. Pensacola's Blue Wahoos will host the Montgomery Biscuits.. The game starts at 4:05 p.m. and seats are only \$16.50 per person, so bring the whole family. Contact Joe Purka at 850-974-1491 or email jwpurka@gmail.com with the number of seats you wish to reserve.



March Family of the Month

Tom & Maria Means

Our March Family of the Month truly embodies the spirit of service. Their long-standing commitment over 13 years showcases their dedication to the Knights, their parish and their community. Whether it's helping elderly parish members with their medication or household chores, or visiting those in need at the Manor, they demonstrate a deep sense of care and compassion. Tom's role as an usher at the Saturday evening Mass shows his steady presence and devotion to the church. Maria's leadership role as co-chair of the Niceville Pavilion Ministry highlights her skills and commitment to providing for others, especially as she organizes the monthly special meals. Together, Tom and Maria's work with fundraising events like the St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, cooking and supporting the bingo team, further highlights their involvement in building community spirit. Their service is a perfect example of the Knights of Columbus mission—strengthening families and communities through charitable actions. For these and many more activities, we honor Tom and Maria Means as our March Family of the Month.



April Family of the Month

Dave & Anita Halupowski

This family is very active in our Council and community. Dave serves as our Life Director, updating us on Pro-Life activities and legal issues. He serves on our Assembly's Honor Guard, and led the Color Guard during a recent Walk for Life March in Pensacola. A member of the Bingo team, he also cooks for our Spaghetti Dinners. Last December, he led our Council's entry in the Niceville Christmas Parade, providing the only Nativity Scene floats in the parade. This Knight also helped



secure a meeting place for our Council while the Parish Hall is being renovated. He and his wife, Anita, are members of the Northwest Florida Astronomy Association and the Playground Gym and Mineral Society. Dave goes through mines and collects various stones that Anita then turns into jewelry. He has also collected over 27 pounds of Uranium. Dave also volunteers at the Twin Cities Hospital front desk. Anita serves as the building manager and treasurer for Bluewater Community Church, arranging for facility repairs and scheduling various groups (Scouting, AIAnon, etc.) to meet at the church. She also facilitated

the use of the church for a variety of Christ Our Redeemer organizations, including our Council. She also collects food for Sharing and Caring. For these and many more efforts, we honor Sir Knight Dave and Anita Halupowski as our April 2025 Family of the Month

Council Support to Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, April 26th, a team of eleven men from our Council raised all four of the exterior walls on a new Habitat for Humanity house in Crestview. Working like a well-oiled machine, we went from a slab to the frame of a house in less than six hours. Because we worked so well, they've asked us to come back on June 7th to put up another house.

If you're interested in joining the team, contact Jim Yurack at 703-498-9303 or yurack@hotmail.com



Grand Knight	Peter Blaise	Advocate	Dan Rooney	Trustee (3 Year)	Steve Wolfrom
Chaplain	Fr. Bob Johnson	Lecturer	Ken Rodriguez	Faith Director	Dcn Tom Dwyer
Deputy GK	(Vacant)	Warden	Jim Thennes	Vocation Dir.	Mark Haddorff
Chancellor	Dave Carter	Inside Guard	Art Jean	Community Director	Kevin Knebl
Recorder	Ralph McDonald	Outside Guard	Ryan Wehmeyer	Family Director	Mic Wehmeyer
Financial Secretary	Lenny Smales	Trustee (1 Year)	Jim Yurack	Life Director	Dave Halupowski
Treasurer	John Wohleber	Trustee (2 Year)	Stuart Lewis	Public Relations	Joe Purka