

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249
May 2026 Volume 4 Issue 6



Mother's Day 2026



Hail, Mary. Blessed art Thou and
Blessed is the Fruit of Thy Womb, Jesus.

The purpose of the secular Mother's Day was to recognize the vital role of mothers contributing to society. Within a few years, the observance spread across the United States, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday, to be celebrated on the second Sunday in May.



Headlines of Interest
to Catholics

The Holy Spirit is moving in Manhattan.

Catholic Renewal is rising in surprising Places.

There is a Catholic chapel beneath Dodger Stadium.

Sifting Sin: Lessons From a sandbox and a 4-year-old.

Irish Childhood Shaped Father Flanagan's Lifelong Work With Youth.

Pope Leo XIV: Every Vocation Is a 'Path of Beauty'.

A Bronx Morning Reveals God's Glory.

Strong Surge of New Catholics in France.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Rocco Totino

Brothers: the month of May is an important month for our council. During the weekend Mother's Day mass (May 9 and 10) the knights will be presenting long-stem Rrd roses to mothers and grandmothers. When you are attending Mass wear your council shirt and look for our brother Kevin Manning. our Life Director. He will be needing our help to make sure all mothers receive a red rose. Later in the month, during our general meeting on May 13, we will be holding the council officers' elections for the next fraternal year. Chosing your next set of officers is always an important event. Please plan to attend to make your vote count.

On May 22 to 24, GK and FS will be attending Florida State Convention in Orlando. On May 27, 6:30 pm Live 3rd degree exemplification at Fr. Lopez Hall. Welcome our four new bother Knights. Names will be announced at our May general meeting.

From May 1 to early October the Parish Center will be under renovation. All ministries are working with the Parish Office to secure space in other areas of the Parish facilities. Our officers' meeting will continue to be held at the Parish Center meeting room; The general meeting will be held at the Education Building. Please attend our meetings to receive updates.

On the first week of May we are planning to move bingo equipment to Msgr .Muldoon Building. Our PGK Pete McCabe and PDGK Bill Banon are organizing the move and will provide th details. We need volunteers for this move. Summer bingo will be held at ECC building. We estimate the room can hold 60 players.

We have several brothers recovering from surgery or injuries. Pray for their speedy recovery.

Pray for our new officers to guide our council to perform God's work at St. Jerome Catholic Church.

Vivat Jesus

Rocco



LAUGHTER is the best MEDICINE

My Dad's dying wish was to have his family around him. I can't help thinking he would have been better off with more oxygen.

Most people are afraid of heights; me, widths.

I'm sick of following my dreams. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up with them later.

I'm sorry and I apologize' mean the same thing, except when you're at a funeral.

My girlfriend makes me want to be a better person...so I can get a better girlfriend.

I'm good friends with 25 letters of the alphabet, but I don't know Y.

That show-The amazing race-is that about white people?

I put a skylight in my apartment ceil[ng. The people in the apartment above me are really upset..

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way, so I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

"What if I get kidnapped, and they don't like me?"

I got into a fight with 3,5,7, and 9. The odds were against me.

To err is human; to point it out is delightful.

Surgery in just stabbing someone to life.

The first time I sang in the church choir, two hundred people changed their religion.

I got into a fight with 3,5,7, and 9. The odds were against me.

Around The Parsh



Fr Mike and Janet Oviatt having a good time at bingo

Knight of the Month



GK Rocco Totino and Rich Pettit

7 Church Habits That Quietly Push People Away from Christian Faith

1. Treating people like spectators instead of participants.
2. Sounding judgmental without sounding hopeful.
3. Ignoring the small signals that make people feel unwelcome.
4. Letting gossip and indirect conflict become normal.
5. Turning secondary issues into constant battles.
6. Projecting hypocrisy instead of repentance.
7. Making ideology, power, or tribe more visible than Christ.

Timeless Teachings Everyone Can Relate to

Love your neighbor
 (Even when it's annoying).
 Forgive,
 Before Resentment Eats You Alive.
 Choose Humility over Ego.
 Help the Poor
 (And Actually Mean It).
 Stop Worrying About Everything You
 Have No Control Over.
 Judge Less;
 You Are Not Perfect.
 People Matter More Than Possessions.
 Speak the Truth, But Don't Be Cruel.
 Choose Love Over Lust.

Words of Wisdom

Whatever you are, be a good one.
 Every single day you live you have an opportunity to make the world better.
 The fastest road to meaning and success is to choose one thing and go all in
 Impossible is for the unwilling.
 Inspiration is perishable; act on it immediately.
 Take the risk or lose the chance. Inspiration lights the fire. Discipline keeps it burning.
 Power isn't doing something terrible to someone who's weaker; it's having the strength to do something terrible and choosing not to.
 Nothing brings more happiness than trying to help vulnerable people.
 If a care is too small to be turned into a prayer, it is too small to be made into a burden.
 There are only two things in life to worry about: either you are well or you are sick.
 If you are well, you have nothing to worry about. If you are sick, you have two things to worry about.
 Either you will get well or you die. If you die, you have two things to worry about.
 Either you will go to heaven or you will go to hell. If you go to heaven, you have nothing to worry about. If you go to hell, you will be so damned busy shaking hands with your friends so you will not have time to worry.

Most Catholics Skip Confession

Many are open to returning to the sacrament or have said they would like to go more often.

A study found that 68% said they have not gone to Confession within the past year.

Nearly 8 in 10 Catholics said the desire to experience God's forgiveness could draw them back to Confession.

An in-depth national research on this sacrament has been surprisingly limited. One study points out not just how often Catholics go, but why they go, why they don't, and what they experience when they do.

Some Catholics avoid the confessional for personal reasons, which sounds

more like an excuse than a reason.

Many respondents said they can simply ask God for forgiveness through prayer rather than going to Confession, a view held by about 70% of those who have not been in a while or who went only as children. The church, however, affirms the importance of sincere prayer while teaching that the sacrament of reconciliation is necessary for the forgiveness of sins.

While there is no 'silver bullet' to foster a return to confession, our Father, who is rich in mercy, does in fact draw many people back to the sacrament of Confession.



Javier Fuentes Cabrera, who was ordained to the Catholic priesthood two years ago was a former NASA scientist who left his career to become a priest.

Thoughts to Ponder

We are pronounced dead when our heart stops beating, so why aren't we pronounced alive when it starts beating?

Every effect has a cause. Nothing can exist without something causing it to exist. For example, a universe cannot exist without a force (God) causing it to exist.

If there is a Heaven and you believe in God, you have won the jackpot!
If there is no God, you have still won the jackpot, because there's nothing to lose.

Editor's note: My brain is starting to hurt because of all this thinking. Wait a minute. That's cause and effect! See you in the next newsletter.

**When you run alone,
it's called a
RACE.
When God runs with
you, it's called
GRACE.**

What Do Angels actually look like?

Some passages describe angels as as powerful, majestic entities who are frightening to see, while other passages describe them in human form, so it makes it difficult to determine how they exist or exactly what they are. Numerous passages suggest that angels may change forms based on what task they are performing. The Bible gives hints regarding angelic forms but does not present one definitive view.

Angels are mentioned very often in the Bible, implying there are many. No exact number is given. The thought of such an enormous spiritual army creates wonder and intrigue about angels. Nonetheless, the Bible never gives an exact number.

Another mystery surrounds angelic hierarchy. Angels can serve as messengers and warriors. While the Bible suggests there is an organization among angels, there are very few details to support this idea.

People believe angels may protect you or keep you safe. Some Bible verses truly support this belief. This idea sounds good and is powerful; however, many details about it are unknown.

Many different stories from the Bible talk about angels coming to people and being seen as merely 'ordinary' people. Frequently, when someone is speaking to an angel, they have no idea that they're doing so until they find out later. Can angels freely come and go among us as if they were ordinary people? Are there actually many more angels appearing to people than we will ever know?

The Bible does not close the door on either possibility, adding to the mystery of encountering an angel.



Philadelphia Abortionist Dies

Kermit Gosnell, the Philadelphia abortionist convicted of murdering three infants born alive at his illegal late-term abortion clinic, has died at age 85 at a Pennsylvania prison. His cause of death was not released.

Gosnell was convicted in 2013 of three counts of first-degree murder for killing infants identified in court as Baby A, Baby C, and Baby D — who survived his abortion attempts and were born alive. He killed them by severing their spinal cords with scissors.



Kermit Gosnell

5 Bible Verses That Prove God's Love Is Endless

1. Zephaniah 3:17

This verse tells us, "God takes great delight in you and will rejoice over you with singing."

How incredible is that? The God who rules the heavens delights in us!

2. Isaiah 43:1

In this verse, God reminds us of our identity: "... Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

It's a beautiful reminder that God personally created us and called us by name.

3. Isaiah 54:10

Isaiah 54:10 offers a comforting promise: "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed."

4. Hosea 11:1

In Hosea 11:1, God reflects on His deep love for Israel: "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."

This verse reminds us of the long history of God's love. He never forgets about His people.

5. Hosea 11:3-4

This verse paints a beautiful picture of how God cares for us.

It says: "I myself taught Israel how to walk, leading him along by the hand. I led Israel along with my ropes of kindness and love. I lifted the yoke from his neck, and I myself stooped to feed him."

It shows how tender and compassionate God is.

To change the world,
we must be kind
to those
who cannot
repay us.

Today make time
for the people you love.
That will make this day
unforgettable.

For Your Information

There are more empty houses in the world than there are homeless people.

A dead body might still move a little even after dying.

You can't read or tell time in a dream.

People with mental problems often say that their favorite color is blue.

Only two days of your life aren't 24 hours long: your birth day and the day that you die.

Your brain can make up fake memories that feel real.

People will forget what you said and what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

There are only two things to worry about: either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well, you have nothing to worry about. If you are sick, you have two things to worry about.

Either you will get well or you die. If you die, you have two things to worry about.

Either you will go to heaven or you will go to hell. If you go to heaven, you have nothing to worry about. If you go to hell, you will be so damned busy shaking hands with your friends you won't have time to worry.

A fortune teller studied the hand of a young man and said, "You will be poor and very unhappy until you are 37 years old."

And he asked, "What will happen then?"

"After that," said the fortune teller, "you'll be used to it."

BITS AND PIECES

Planned Parenthood reports highest number of abortions

A record number of young men discern the call to be catholic military chaplains.

The Vatican has announced Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's upcoming beatification.

Poll: 45% of Americans listen to religious programs.

A North Carolina abortion facility will soon be closing.

A bomb threat was called in to Pope Leo's brother's home.

VA offers no crucifix options for veterans' headstones.

POPE Leo says no to blessing homosexual partners.

Pope Leo XIV has declared the Ireland-born Father Edward Joseph Flanagan, who founded Boys' Town in the 1920s, a servant of God, advancing his path toward sainthood.

Many Catholic dioceses throughout America are about to receive a record number of new converts.

President Donald Trump said that no nation should be allowed to use nuclear weapons.

The Shroud of Turin might be the single most explosive piece of evidence for the Resurrection, and scientists still can't explain it.

Meet Saint Julie Billiart

Paralyzed and bedridden for 22 years, St Julie Billiart lived through revolution, exile, physical suffering, and institutional betrayal — yet became known for her unshakable joy and trust in God.

At age 23, Julie was paralyzed after a traumatic event and remained confined to bed for 22 years. During that time, she memorized vast portions of Scripture and catechism, becoming a sought-after spiritual guide despite her immobility. The French Revolution intensified her suffering, forcing her into hiding and endangering her life.

Miraculously healed in 1804, Julie immediately devoted herself to

founding the Sisters of Notre Dame, focused on education and catechesis, especially for the poor. Internal conflicts and episcopal opposition eventually forced her into exile once again, this time to Belgium.

Julie responded not with resentment but forgiveness. Her spirituality centered on a single conviction: "How good is the good God." She died worn by hardship but radiant with peace.



Nine Things That Jesus Didn't Say That People Think He Did

1. "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves."
2. "Everything Happens For A Reason."
3. "Follow Your Heart."
4. "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle."
5. "Money Is The Root Of All Evil."
6. "Cleanliness Is Next To Godliness."
7. "Hate the Sin, Love the Sinner."
8. "Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child."
9. "God Works In Mysterious ways."

Things from Church That Shoud Be Avoided

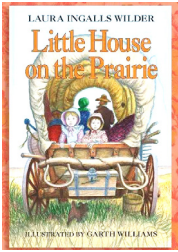
- Asking guests to stand and wave.
- Too many bulletin notices in microscopic print.
- Judging what you don't like.
- Giving VIP treatment to wealthy parishioners.
- Turning studying the bible into gossip sessions.
- Having too many announcements.
- Uncomfortable wooden pews.
- Charging Entry Fees for "Free" Events.
- Bringing politics into the church.
- Grape Juice and cardboard wafers for Communion.
- Leaving your faith behind as you exit the church.

Weak people want revenge.
Strong people know how to forgive.
Intelligent people know how to ignore foolishness.

Decide to make small acts of kindness throughout the day to make it a blessed day for the people in your life.

A strong friendship doesn't need daily conversation. As long as the relationship lives in the heart, true friends will never part.

Four Novels Young Catholic Girls Might Enjoy Reading.



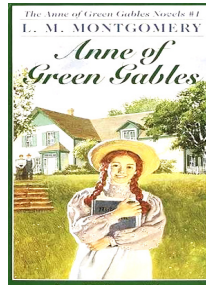
The Little House on the Prairie

This beloved classic follows Mary Lennox, a lonely and disagreeable orphan whose discovery of a hidden garden becomes a story of healing, friendship, and the quiet transformation of the heart.



The Secret Garden

The Little House series tells the story of Laura Ingalls Wilder, whose father was a pioneer who built several different homes in the American West. It explores classic American virtues like independence and resilience.



Anne of Green Gables

This beloved novel tells the story of four sisters, all with different temperaments and talents, and the struggles they faced growing up during and in the aftermath of the Civil War. Tomboys especially will resonate with protagonist Jo.



Little Women

The iconic orphan girl teaches modern girls important lessons about forgiveness and healing from the past. And the books later in the series have a beautiful romance.

Catholic Model with Down syndrome Shares Story of Faith and Forgiveness

Grace Strobel is a 29-year-old speaker, advocate, and model who travels around the country raising awareness for those with disabilities.

Before World Down Syndrome Day, a news outlet had the opportunity to interview Grace and her mother Linda about the incredible story of faith and forgiveness behind her advocacy work and modeling career.

Grace and Linda were working in a high school cafeteria when a group of students called Grace over and asked her to open their milk cartons. "Having Down syndrome, I really have to work hard at my dexterity," Grace wrote. "Those kinds of tasks are harder for me, but I can do them."

Linda also approached and asked the group if she could help, but Grace

she couldn't do it."

As she realized the students were mocking her, Grace began to feel ill. "I started to feel sick, like I was going to throw up," she wrote. "I felt dizzy. My face went white. The lunchroom was always a loud place, but now all of the sounds seemed to mix together into a roar. I ran back to the kitchen. The world blurred, I felt the tears well up inside me and I burst out crying."

Though it was just a brief interaction, it cut her deeply. Grace had faced ostracism before, but for the first time in her life, she felt hated. "When you make fun of someone, it only takes a few seconds," she said. "For the kids laughing at me, it was over. For me, it wasn't over." Grace added that her mom helped her try

to work through her pain.

"She told me sometimes people are afraid of what they don't understand and maybe I could help them understand. I had made presentations before. Maybe I could make one about Down syndrome. I wanted to make a difference."



A tongue has no bones, but it
is strong enough to break a
heart

"Don't forget to give thanks
for all of the blessings you
receive each day."

The first cordless phone was cre-
ated by God. He named it prayer.
It never loses its signal, you never
have to recharge it, and you can
use it anywhere.

Former College Football Star Marks Second Year Serving Men Healing from Abortion

Nyles Pinckney, a former defensive tackle at Clemson University, was still in college when his girlfriend became pregnant. Years after they both experienced the pain of an abortion, he now works to help men find healing after similar experiences.

Pinckney and his girlfriend weren't considering an abortion until they were told that if she took a pill, all she would experience at the end of the unexpected pregnancy was a little bleeding.

They decided to have the chemical abortion. After one of Pinckney's football games, his girlfriend was bleeding and cramping so badly that he carried her to the car. While his friends complimented him for his strength, only he knew what she was suffering.

A week later, Pinkney's girlfriend

texted him a photo while he was out of town for a game. They never again discussed the abortion, and a year later, they broke up.

About six years later, Pinkney started working as the men's healing coordinator for Support After Abortion, a national nonprofit that helps both men and women heal after abortion.

"Nationally, one in five men will be impacted by abortion by age 45," Pinckney said. "And in our research, 71 percent of men have seen changes in themselves. I'm a part of that 71 percent. Only 18 percent know where to go to for help."

He said he meets men with compassion, and every person's story is different.

"Some may have more grief. Some may have more anger. Some may not know what they're dealing with," Pinkney added.



Nyles Pinckney

7 Lesser-Known Bible Verses

1. Mark 7:14-23

"Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

2. 1 Corinthians 4:4

"My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me."

3. Song of Solomon 8:6

"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame."

4. 1 Corinthians 4:4

"My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me."

5. Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

6. Luke 12:25

"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"

7. Sirach 13:19

"Do not reject a friend in your heart; for one who is close can become an enemy."

Is prayer
your steering wheel
or your spare tire?

"Don't forget
to give thanks
for all of the blessings
you receive each day."

Grief is
nothing more
than love
looking
for a place to go.

Flower in the crannied wall,
 I pluck you out of the cran-
 nies,
 I hold you here, root and all,
 in my hand,
 Little flower, if I could under-
 stand
 What you are, root and all,
 and all in all,
 I should know what God and
 man is.

Words of Wisdom

Whatever you are, be a good one.
 Every single day you live you have an
 opportunity to make the world bet-
 ter.
 The fastest road to meaning and
 success is to choose one thing and go
 all in
 Impossible is for the unwilling.
 Inspiration is perishable; act on it
 immediately.

Take the risk or lose the chance. In-
 spiration lights the fire. Discipline
 keeps it burning.
 You can if you think you can.
 The important thing is to do charity,
 not just talk about charity.
 Power isn't doing something terrible
 to someone who's weaker; it's having
 the strength to do something terri-
 ble and choosing not to.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2025-2026

Officers for fraternal year. 2025/2026

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Chaplain: | Fr Mike O'Brien |
| Grand Knight: | Rocco Totino |
| Deputy Grand Knight: | Rick Hendrickson |
| Chancellor: | Joe Coyne |
| Recorder: | Bob Jodal |
| Financial Secretary: | Fred Belzel |
| Treasurer: | Rich Pettit |
| Advocate: | Pete Nunes |
| Warden: | Joe Ghezzi |
| Inside Guard: | Wayne Nunez |
| | Clint Walker |
| Outside Guard: | Joe Moore |
| 1- Year Trustee: | Jerry Kleber |
| 2- Year Trustee: | Bill Bannon PDGK |
| 3- Year Trustee: | Pete McCabe PGK |
| Lecturer: | Tim Kunish |
| Program Director: | Rick Hendrickson |
| Membership Director: | Jim Cullinan |
| Faith Director: | Pete Nunes |
| Family Director: | Mike Keeser |
| Community Director: | Pete Ganio |
| Life Director: | Kevin Manning |
| District Deputy: | Bill McClelland PGK |
| Field Agent | Tony Crevello |
| Newsletter Editor | Jim Hand |