





PARISH LIFE

MAY 18, 2025 ~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MISSION STATEMENT: Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Stewardship Community recognizes Jesus is Lord. We believe that our Time, Talent and Treasure are gifts from God to be used for the spiritual, educational and social needs of our community, the Diocese and the world at large, especially the poor.

Parish Staff		629.8092
Sr. Juliet Ateenyi	Ministry to Sick	x3211
Katherine Baker	JNakalema@blessedtrinity.org	x3218
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	Parish Bookkeeper	
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Melinda Gunn	cnajjemba@yahoo.com	x3201
	Parish Secretary	
Colleen Rabe	mgunn@blessedtrinity.org	x3202
	Director of Music & Liturgy	
Scott Bolton	crabe@blessedtrinity.org	622.6167
	Angels in Arms	
Lydia Ross	sbolton@btaia.org	x 3222
	Youth Ministry	
Ana Vanegas	lross@blessedtrinity.org	x3221
	Faith Formation	
Trinity Catholic High School		622.9025
Lou Pereira	President	
Tammie Vassou	Principal	

NEW PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME to stop by the Church Office to register Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm or online at [www.blessedtrinity.org](http://www.blessedtrinity.org), click on join us.

**BAPTISM:** We are pleased to help your family prepare for the special event of your child's entrance into our faith community. To help parents and godparents prepare, a class (English) is held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Community Center and in Spanish the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00am at Guadalupana. Parents and Godparents must attend this class prior to scheduling baptism.

**MARRIAGES:** If you are planning to be married at Blessed Trinity, your preparation process should begin at least four (4) months prior to desired date. We look forward to helping you during your time of engagement and preparation for the vocation of Christian marriage. Call the Church Office for an appointment with one of our priests.

**SICK CALLS AND HOSPITAL VISITS:** If you or a family member are in a local hospital or homebound and would like to receive Communion or Sacrament of the Sick, please call the Church Office at 629.8092 or Sister Juliet at x3211. When registering at the hospital, put your name on the Catholic List.

**PARISH APP:** Download at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's app store for myParish

STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples—and us—a new commandment: “Love one another.” Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.

LIVESTREAMING

Please be advised that the Mass is being filmed, broadcast, and/or videotaped, including audio recording. Your attendance at Mass constitutes your consent to these recordings, and to the use of the recordings by the church for public communications, social media, evangelization, and other business or religious purposes. God bless and thank you for attending Mass at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church.



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# STEWARDSHIP

## THE GREAT

### A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's Gospel Jesus makes a bold and clear statement to his disciples. "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." We are called to love others as a sign of our discipleship in Jesus Christ. That includes even those "others" we might prefer to forget. We are so often tempted to draw lines between those who we will love and those who we consider not worthy of our love. This week take time to reflect on Jesus' love command. How often do we heed Jesus' love command? What change in our lives must take place in order for us to obey this command?

### STEWARDS OF THE WEEK

#### Wanted!

Please send your Stewards of the Week to Melinda Gunn at [mgunn@blessedtrinity.org](mailto:mgunn@blessedtrinity.org). We have so many amazing people, doing so many amazing things in our parish—tell me about them!

### New Parishioners:

Therese Schultz  
Deanna, Jack & Charles Postregna  
Ursula Santoro  
Marco, Maria, Marco, Juan & Lucas  
Yoris-Urdaneta  
Quervy, Yohanna, Diego & Matias Vega-Mora

### Baptisms:

Vincenzo Matteo Ramos

Today's readings on this fifth Sunday of Easter contain inspiring but challenging messages for us Christian stewards.

The Gospel from John includes this well-known verse: "My children...I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

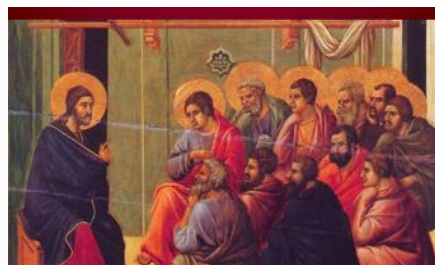
What a succinct description of a stewardship way of life. It sounds so simple. But simple does not necessarily mean easy.

How exactly is Jesus Calling us to love? As He, Himself loved. Jesus loved (and loves) by serving us and by making a sacrifice of His very life for us. That is a tall order.

Living a life of service and self-sacrifice is not easy because it requires us to continuously fight against our selfish inclinations. But the more we empty ourselves of "self" by serving others, the more room we make in our hearts for God to pour His grace into us. Amazingly, the more we give our lives away to others, the more He fills us up with Himself who is love itself.

And amid the inevitable challenging moments this way of life entails we can be assured that the Lord who loves us so much that He died for us and established the Eucharist to be our strength and nourishment, is right here with us every step of the way.

As we face the hardships that come with living as Christian stewards, we can continue to rejoice in the wonder of the Resurrection this Easter season, finding great joy in following in our Lord's footsteps and in loving as He loves.



### Pope Leo XIV

The Holy Spirit has clearly spoken again. Cardinal Robert F. Prevost was chosen over 130 Cardinals from over 70 countries of the world under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the 267th Pope of the church founded by Jesus Christ.

Our new Pope was born in Chicago, educated in Chicago and went to Villanova University where he got a bachelors degree in mathematics. He joined the Augustinian order and made his solemn vows to priesthood in 1981. He holds a degree in Theology from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a doctorate from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

He worked in Peru from 1985 to 1999 as a missionary priest. In 1999 he was elected head of the Augustinian Chicago based province. Then from 2001 to 2013 he served as prior general of the world wide Augustinian order.

In 2014 Pope Francis named him a Bishop of Chiclayo Peru, in Northern Peru till 2023 when he was named by Pope Francis as prefect of the dicastery for bishops. Over the last two years, in that position, he met hundreds of bishops from all over the world in their required visits to Rome.

Our new Pope chose the name "Leo XIV". You might want to read a famous encyclical Rerum Novarum written by Pope Leo XIII. Our new Pope will continue the churches great outreach to the poor, unity in the church, peace in the world, care of the "garden" (the world) and highlighting the eucharist as the sacrament promoting unity in God's family worldwide. He speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese and can read Latin and German.

As Catholics we pray for Pope XIV every day. As Pope, guided by the Holy Spirit, we owe him our obedience and support and our prayers.

## WORSHIP

MAY 18, 2025 ~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Please Join us to Celebrate Our African Saints  
"The 24 Martyrs of Uganda"  
St. Charles Lwanga and Companions



Friday May 30th 2025 6.00pm.

At Blessed Trinity Catholic Church  
5, SE 17th Street Ocala, Florida 34471.

A special Liturgical Mass will be Celebrated to Honor the 24 Martyrs of Uganda  
On Friday May 30th in the Church

The Celebrant will be

Rev. Fr. Peter Okojie  
Chaplain for African and Black Catholic Community,  
Diocese of St. Petersburg FL.

The Dinner will follow immediately after Mass in the King of Kings Building.  
We will share food from different cultures. Come with family and friends.  
We look forward to your company on this day.

By Sisters Concepta, Theodozia, Juliet and the Uganda Mission Team.





**Sunday, May 18th**—If you are a Life Teen senior, please join us for this special night where we celebrate YOU and all the great memories we've had together over the years with dinner. We hope this is a time of fun and prayer that launches the senior class into their last summer with us at Life Teen as students.

### Joyful Again, Orlando!

Retreat for Widows & Widowers  
(6 months or more after loss of spouse)  
May 24-25, 2025  
San Pedro Spiritual Center, Winter Park  
Please contact Sharon at 386-717-4452 to Register

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

#### Grades K-3, June 9-13

Registration is now OPEN for the 2025 Blessed Trinity Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year is "The Good Samaritan." It will be held at Blessed Trinity from 8:30am to Noon, June 9-13 in English and Spanish.

VBS will also be held in Spanish at La Guadalupana on Friday afternoons in June from 6:30pm-8:00pm and at Christ the King, June 16-19 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Adult volunteers as well as teenagers are invited to help at all three locations.

For more information and to register as a volunteer, please contact Ms. Ana Vanegas at 352.629.8092 or [avanegas@blessedtrinity.org](mailto:avanegas@blessedtrinity.org). Registration forms will be available in church and the church office.

### BLESSED TRINITY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Ladies of the Parish are invited to join us on

**Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00**

**King of Kings**

**"Life's a Picnic"**



Potluck- bring a covered dish to share.

Characterization by Dee Collier



### Blessed Trinity Catholic Church



Blood Drive  
Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
8 am – 3 pm



Colors may vary. While supplies last.

**Whole blood donors  
receive a free t-shirt!**  
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May 8, 2025

Dear Fr. Pat and the Blessed Trinity Parish Family, Ocala,

Warmest greetings to you all in the love and peace of Christ.

It is with a heart full of joy, humility, and deep gratitude that I write to you today. I pray that this message finds each of you well and surrounded by God's abundant blessings.

With great excitement, I share the wonderful news that on May 5th, 2025, I officially graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. This has been my lifelong dream, and through the grace of God and your loving support, it has become a reality.

There are moments in life that can only be explained by God's divine power, and my journey is one of them. You opened doors for me that once seemed impossible. You gave me the chance to come to the United States, to study, to grow, and to dream. Coming from a family where no one had ever stepped on a plane, I became the first, and to study in the USA, something few Ugandans experience, I count it all as a precious gift.

You changed the direction of my story. And now, when people in my community see me, they say with conviction, "God is able." Because only God, working through faithful people like you, could have brought me this far.

Having now graduated as a medical doctor, I am deeply aware that many responsibilities rest upon me. My community looks up to me, and I know I am called not just to succeed, but to serve. I may not have all the answers, but I believe that with God on my side, I will walk faithfully in my calling, live a life of stewardship, and pour back into others just as you have poured into me. What you are doing for us, the people of Nalweyo, is leaving a mark that will echo through generations. You are not only transforming lives, you are building legacies of faith, love, and hope. We have seen you walk the walk of Christ, and we are inspired to follow.

I leave you with a verse that captures the heart of my journey and your impact:

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory." Ephesians 3:20-21

May the Lord bless you richly and continue to use you as vessels of His love.

With all my love and deepest gratitude,  
Kyosaba Fortunate





Monday, May 19	7:10am 5:30pm	Ed Hamilton † Homer Rothfusz †
Tuesday, May 20	7:10am 5:30pm	Ed Hamilton † John Terrone †
Wed, May 21	7:10am  8:15am 5:30pm	Helen & Fred Wisneski † Judy Edwards † Rose Rozanski †
Thursday, May 22	7:10am 5:30pm	Sisters of IHMR L/D Rose Rozanski †
Friday, May 23	7:10am 5:30pm	Sister Mary Joreilia † Steven & Christopher Browne †
Saturday, May 24	8:00am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Franklin Carman † Frank Hildner † Banner Family †
Sunday, May 25	7:10am 8:45am 11:00am 1:00pm 5:00pm	Ed Hamilton † Mario Lipari (L) Bill Grogan † Spanish Community Tony & Isabell Lachermeier †

Please pray for Ronald (Joe) Lanctot and Julia Henry who have recently passed away.

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Thank you for your donation!



Perpetual Adoration

The following hours need to be filled:

**Sundays: 2:00am - 3:00am**

**Sundays: Midnight - Mondays 1:00am**

**Wednesdays: 1:00am - 2:00am**

**Also in need of substitutes, especially between  
Midnight and 5:00am**

Our stewardship way of life here at BT encourages each family to commit one hour a week to the adoration chapel; please prayerfully consider this ministry's needs and if you are unable to serve, please pray that God will send individuals to sustain this core ministry, here at Blessed Trinity.

**The Lord looks forward to your visit!**

**Please see the list of hours, which is in the Vestibule,  
on the counter near the staircase, that need one more  
adorer.**

For your special hour of praise before the Blessed Sacrament call or email: Carol Blackstock 352-622-7348 or 352-425-8638, carolblackstock@gmail.com.

"People ask me: 'What will convert America and save the world?' My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer." - St. Mother Teresa



ADS OF THE WEEK

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Celebrate with the parish the

**60th Anniversary**

of the

**Ordination of the Priesthood**

of

**Father Patrick J. Sheedy**

on

**Friday, June 13, 2025**

at

**Five-Thirty in the evening**

**Blessed Trinity Catholic Church**

Dinner to follow in the Parish Hall

We will have free tickets available after the Masses **this**  
weekend, May 17/18 or you can pick one up in the church  
office.



Medugorje

On Easter Sunday evening, 14 of us went on a one week pilgrimage to Medugorje, which is located in the country of Bosnia—Herzegovina. Our Lady started appearing there to 6 teenagers in 1981 on a hill called Povedro a half mile from Medugorje.

While on my usual visit home to Ireland in 1989 I joined with an Irish group, that included my mother and sister, for my 1st visit to Medugorje. I was really impressed by what I experienced in the lived Catholic faith by pilgrims from all over the world. Two years later in 1991, I led a group from Ocala to Medugorje.

Then the war that broke up former Yugoslavia into six countries prevented most pilgrims from visiting Medugorje. I had the golden opportunity to help a young Croation couple that I met in 1991 build their own home. In the spring of 2004 I travelled on my own to spend a week in that house while I spent each day visiting all the pilgrims sites in Medugorje.

The number of pilgrims now coming each year has exceeded 1,000,000. When Pope Francis (RIP) two years ago publicly approved Medugorje as a place for pilgrimages, then all dioceses and parishes around the world were free to advertise Medugorje.

I try to lead a group there every 2nd year. We stay in the same “motel” about a six minute walk for the now famous St. James church. The cost per night for bed, breakfast and dinner is just \$45 per night.

Every hour of the day from early morning to 7pm St. James is crowded for Mass—English, Italian, German, Polish, Spanish, Indian, Dutch, Croatian, etc. Outside all around the church there are pews set up for overflow. The overflow crowd for the Croatian Mass at 6pm can have as many as a few thousand people.

There is a row of 28 confession boxes outside the church. Those are full and up to 10 more priests sit outside with signs that indicate what language is spoken by the priest. Confessions are available daily from 5pm to 8pm. I usually hear confessions five of the six evenings I am on pilgrimage. This year that added up to 16 hours. While most of the confessions I hear are from Ireland, I still had confessions from people from at least 20 countries.

There are now two famous mountains (hills) within a half mile of St. James. The highest, Krizevac, has the stations of the cross on the way up—each one about 150 to 200 yards from the next one. It is a rocky climb. Yet some people climb on their bare feet. It takes 3 to 4 hours for this prayerful journey. The other hill called Podbrdo, is where many of the early apparitions between Our Lady and the six teenagers took place. On the way up you pray the joyful mysteries on the rosary. On the way around the top (slightly above the site of the apparitions) you pray the sorrowful mysteries. Most people stop then around the large statue of Our Lady at the apparition site praying, meditating and also praying the five luminous mysteries of the rosary. Then you complete your journey by praying the five glorious mysteries on the way down at the far side. That takes approximately 2 1/2 hours for an old man like me.

Even if you cannot climb the hill for the stations of the cross with a 30 foot statue of the resurrection are on ground level close to St. James, like we have here at our prayer garden. Also the luminous mysteries of the rosary are on ground level.

One of the great spiritual highlights of the pilgrimage is that a very large consecrated host is placed for public adoration on a big altar at an outdoor arena that can seat up to 10,000 people. Close to 5,000 were there when we visited. During the summer months the numbers increase to 10,000.

There are all kinds of miracles associated with Medugorje with dozens of books being published about it.

Our Lady’s message is always the same—do penance, pray, restore the full Catholic faith in our family homes, get back to the full message and life of her son Jesus.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29  
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23  
Jn 14:23-29



“Draw Closer To God...  
And He Will Draw Closer To You”  
(James 4:8)

Who would not want to take God up on this promise! For five decades now, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been unleashing the power of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the faithful -bringing to life the Mass, Sacraments, Scripture & our daily Faith -all in extraordinary ways. This outpouring of grace has drawn millions closer to God.

The heart of this Renewal is nestled in the parish Prayer Group which provides an environment for song, praise, quiet listening, scripture sharing, prayer & Christian friendship. We meet every Thursday, 7- 8:30pm in the Adult Day Care. Call Richard for details, 352-342-2982 or email [i2bxtn@gmail.com](mailto:i2bxtn@gmail.com).

Fountains of Living WaterPrayer Group

May 17 / 18:  
May 24 / 25: In memory of Marc Mercer  
by Ann Mercer

Please call the Church Office at 629.8092 x3201 if you would like more information on placing flowers on the altar.



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OCALA YOUNG ADULT CATHOLICS  
Wednesday, May 21st  
6:00 PM

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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE ~ WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Weekly Offering		May 11, 2025	
Weekend Total:	430	\$ 25,987.25	Year to date collection: \$ 3,610,951.90
Electronic Offering Total:	457	\$ 46,299.01	
Loose Cash / Votives Total:		\$ 2,158.23	Year to date budget: \$ 3,702,204.00
School Mass Offering:		\$ 303.00	Year to date deficit: (\$91,252.10)
Non Sunday:	81	\$ 9,263.04	
Grand Total for Week:		\$ 84,010.53	Mother’s Day: \$2,597.00
Amount needed for Operating Expenses:		\$ 84,141.00	
Difference		(\$130.47)	

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**Uganda Martyr Mass**  
Friday, May 30  
6:00pm, dinner following  
Blessed Trinity Church/ King of  
Kings

**Vacation Bible School**  
Mon-Fri, June 9-13  
8:30am-Noon  
King of Kings Building

**Fr. Pat's 60th Anniversary**  
Friday, June 13

5:30pm Mass, dinner following  
Blessed Trinity Church/ Parish Hall

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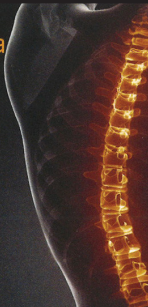
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