

Faith Loops

This month we resume our presentation of Faith Loops, PowerPoint shows with images and information that are intended to **inform** us of Church teachings and **form** us in our Catholic faith. To learn more about your faith while waiting for Mass to begin, come a few minutes early. Each Faith Loop takes 12 – 15 minutes to view.



The more we know and understand about our faith, the more confident we are in passing it onto others, especially our children.

Saint of the Week:

St. Andrew Kim

In the mid-1800s, Catholicism was slowly taking root in Korea. It was also a time of great Christian persecution in the country.

Still, there were many men and women who spent their lives teaching others about Jesus and Christianity. During that time, over 10 000 Korean Christians were killed for their faith. One of these martyrs was Saint Andrew Kim Taegon. His parents were converts to Christianity; his father was eventually martyred.





Saint of the Week:

St. Andrew Kim

Baptized at the age of 15 and ordained in Shanghai when he was 24, Andrew Kim was the first Korean-born Catholic priest.

Upon his arrest, he was asked, “Are you a Catholic?” Andrew Kim replied that he was. Subsequently, on September 16, 1846, at the age of 25, St. Andrew Kim was tortured and then beheaded.

Saint of the Week:

St. Andrew Kim

Andrew Kim and his companions were canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1984.

His feast day is September 20.

Let us ask St. Andrew Kim and his companions to pray that we may boldly share our faith with others and tell them about our friendship with Jesus.



Word of the Week: **Dogma**

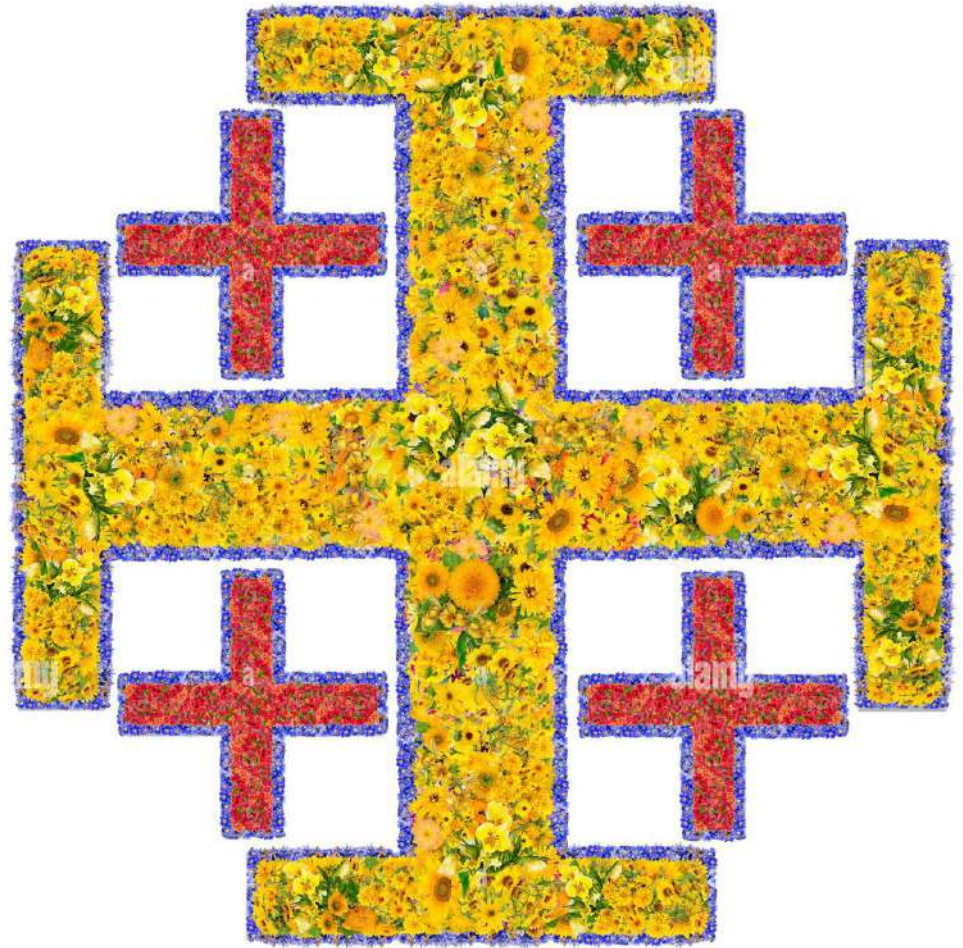
Teachings that are recognized as central to Church teaching, defined by the Magisterium, and given the greatest weight and authority are **dogma**. The most recent dogma declared by the Church was the Assumption of Mary in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The Catholic Church teaches us that the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." The Feast of the Assumption is celebrated each year on August 15.



The Jerusalem Cross

There are different variations to the cross. The Jerusalem cross, composed of four small Greek crosses and one large one, has existed for many centuries.

Also known as the Crusader's Cross, it was depicted on the papal banner and worn by soldiers during the Crusades of the Middle Ages.



The Jerusalem Cross

Its meaning has been explained in various ways:

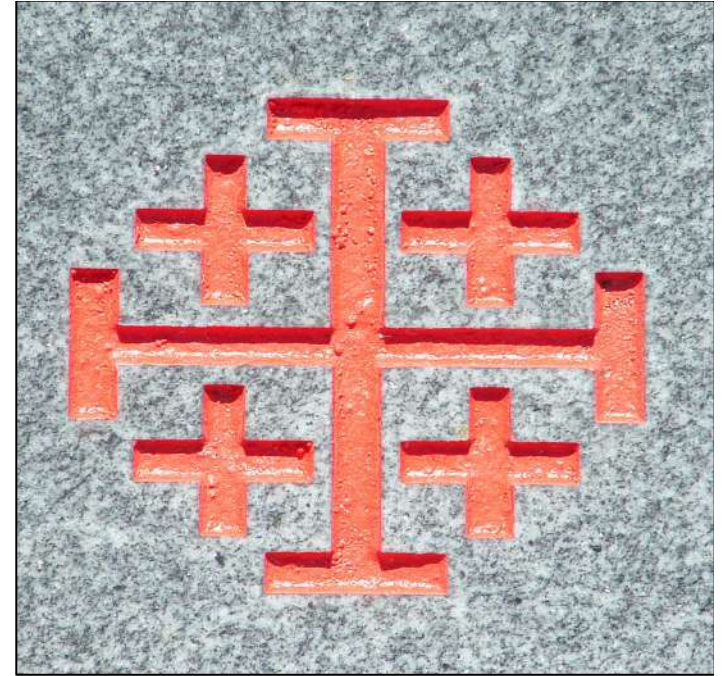
It represents the four evangelists or gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

The five crosses symbolize the five wounds of Christ; the four smaller crosses represent the wounds in his hands and feet, while the large one is for the wound in his side, left by the soldier's spear.



The Jerusalem Cross

Sometimes referred to as the Pilgrim's Cross, the large cross represents the pilgrim, and the other four crosses are those who pray for and support the pilgrim on their faith journey.



It is also understood to represent Christianity being transmitted to the four corners of the world. The central cross symbolizes both Jerusalem, where Christianity began, and, of course, Christ. Therefore, the Jerusalem cross represents Christ's command to spread the Gospel around the world.



Who Were the Pharisees?

The Pharisees formed one of at least four major schools of thought within the Jewish religion around the first century. They were a well-educated and influential class among the Jews. Their name derives from a Hebrew word that means 'set apart or separated'.

The Pharisees studied the Torah and strongly upheld the 613 Mosaic laws.

Who Were the Pharisees?

The Pharisees are mentioned often in the gospels and are usually depicted as legalistic and strict in their interpretation of the Law. They felt threatened by Jesus of Nazareth, who preached the love of the



Father, forgave sins, exorcised demons, and healed on the Sabbath.

You Were Wondering ...

On September 26, Canadian Catholics celebrate the Feast of the North American Martyrs. Who were they?

There are eight North American martyrs, all of them missionaries from France who died between 1642 and 1649. Known as the **Blackrobes**, these men were members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order of priests) who dedicated themselves to the evangelization of the indigenous peoples, and particularly the Hurons, in New France.



You Were Wondering ... **Canadian Martyrs**

Perhaps the two most familiar to us are Jean de Brebeuf (depicted in this stained glass window) and Isaac Joques. The others



were René Goupil, Anthony Daniel, Jean de Lalande, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, and Noel Chabanel. These eight men dedicated their lives to their missionary work, enduring great hardship and sacrificing safety, comfort, and eventually their lives. They were brutally killed by Iroquois and Mohawk tribes, who resisted Christianity.

2025 is a Jubilee Year!



Every twenty-five years the Catholic Church celebrates a Jubilee, or Holy Year. It is a great religious event in the life of the Church. It is a year dedicated to forgiveness, reconciliation, conversion, mercy, and re-commitment to our mission to serve God through the Church.

In the Book of Leviticus, a jubilee year is mentioned to occur every 50 years, during which slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven, and the mercies of God would be particularly apparent. A jubilee year was a year of God's favor.

Jubilee Year 2025

This is the logo for Jubilee 2025.

The **figures** represent humanity from the four corners of the earth, embracing in the solidarity that unites people.

The **Cross** is the sign of faith that embraces and a sign of hope that can never be abandoned.



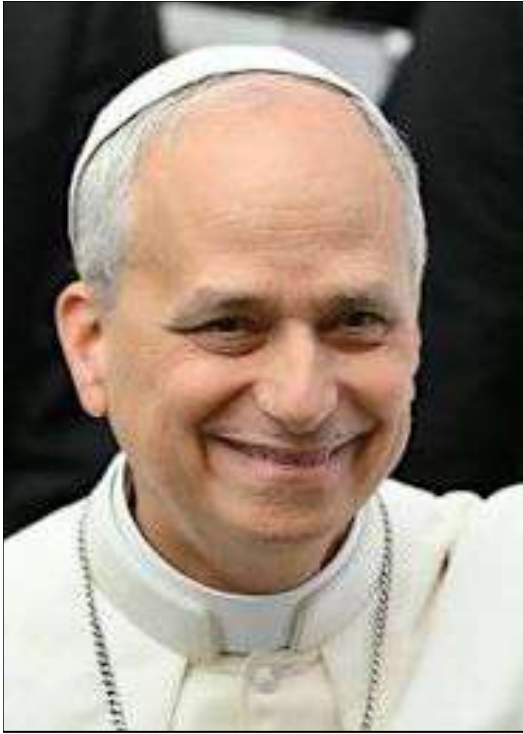
Jubilee Year 2025

The **waves** remind us that the pilgrimage of life does not always move in calm waters.

The lower part of the Cross extends into an **anchor**, a universal symbol of hope.

The pilgrim's journey is not individual, but rather a **communal** one.





From the Suggestion Box ...

How old was the youngest Pope?

Pope Leo XIV, who turned 70 on September 14, is the 267th pope to lead the Catholic Church, so there were many that came before him.

Perhaps the youngest pope in the history of the Church lived one thousand years ago. His name was Theophylactus but, when elected pope, he took the name *Benedict IX*. It is believed that he was about 20 years old (but some sources say he may have been as young as 12) when he was first elected. He was also the only person to be elected pope more than once.

From the Suggestion Box ... **Youngest Pope**

Apparently, Benedict IX was a terrible pope and was accused of dreadfully sinful behavior. He first served as pope from 1032 – January 1045, when he was removed from office because of his behavior. He pushed himself back into the papacy in March 1045 but resigned two months later. His final term was from November 1047 – July 1048.



Clergy Vestments – the **Stole**



Over top of their white robe – called an alb – priests and deacons wear a strip of material, like a long scarf, around their neck. This is called a **stole**.

For the deacon, it is worn over the left shoulder and drawn diagonally across his chest and fastened at his right hip, signifying his diaconal office. The stole is over nine feet in length.

Clergy Vestments – the Stole

Priests also wear stoles but they wear them differently. The stole is worn around the priest's neck and hangs straight down in front on both sides. It signifies the authority and the responsibility that a priest has. It is like a yoke of service.

When a priest wears his stole, you know that he is on duty. He may be hearing confessions, baptizing a baby, anointing a sick person with oil, or, as is the case today, presiding at Mass.



Clergy Vestments – the **Stole**

Stoles come in each liturgical color. The colors help us remember the spiritual theme or the focus of each liturgical season. The colors include:

- **Green** is worn during Ordinary Time, the time in between liturgical seasons. Green represents growth and hope. Most of the year is spent in Ordinary Time.
- **Violet** is worn for Advent and Lent, both of them being serious seasons of penance and preparation.
- **White** is for the festive seasons of Christmas and Easter. White symbolizes purity and joy.

Clergy Vestments – the Stole

- **Red** is worn on the feasts of martyrs, on Passion or Palm Sunday, on Good Friday and at Pentecost. Red represents the blood of martyrs as well as the fire of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, at a Confirmation mass, the clergy will wear red vestments.
- There are a couple of occasions when **rose-colored** vestments can be worn. One of them is the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. The other is the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is known as Laetare Sunday. In both cases, the rose color symbolizes the joy that we anticipate with the approach of Christmas and of Easter.

Prayer Before Mass

Dear God, help me to be open to all that you want to give me at Mass today.

My heart is open. I come in hope.

I come empty and unsure and troubled.

I come in need to be loved by you,
united with this faith community,
strengthened by your word,
and nourished by the Bread of Life.

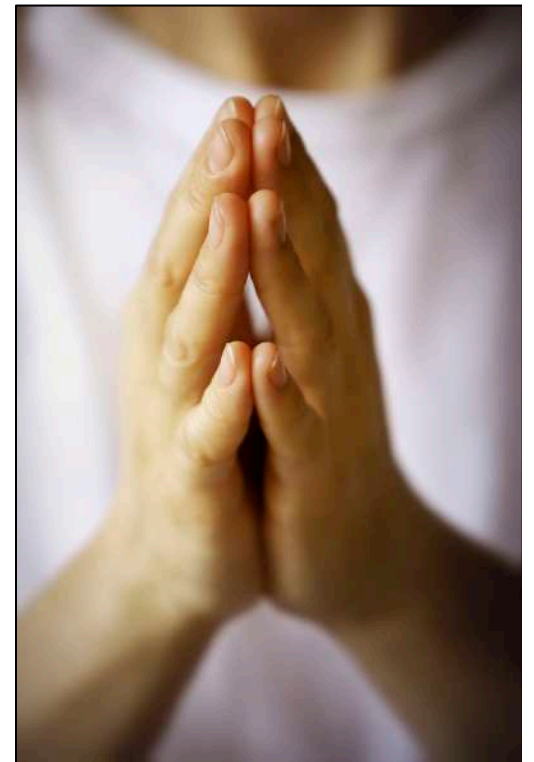
Cleanse me. Refresh me.

Strengthen me for the journey ahead.

Lead me to heaven.

Thank you, God, for this time together.

Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



Questions???

Do you have a question about the Catholic faith or about the celebration of the Mass? If so, write it on a piece of paper and drop it into the marked shoebox on the table at the back of the church. We will try to answer it in a Faith Loop at a later date.

Thank you.

