



Celebrating our 100th Parish Anniversary 1926 - 2026



St. Anthony

OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

700 W. Maumee Street, Angola IN 46703 www.stanthonyangola.com 260-665-2259

&

St. Paul

CATHOLIC CHAPEL

8780 E. 700 N., Fremont, IN 46737 www.stpaulcatholicchapel.org 260-665-2259



Franciscans
of Mary



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend Winter Mass Times

Saturday 5:00 p.m. - St. Anthony

Sunday 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. - St. Anthony (English)
9:00 a.m. - St. Paul Chapel
12:30 p.m. - St. Anthony (En Español)

Adoration

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. - St. Anthony

Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 p.m. - St. Anthony

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - St. Paul Chapel

Office Hours (closed for lunch 12:00-1:15pm)

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday Closed Friday

Weekday Mass Times

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. - St. Anthony (English)

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony (En Español)

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - St. Paul Chapel

OPEN FOR PRAYER MONDAY-THURSDAY DURING OFFICE HOURS

1st Monday of the Month - Votive Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. Anthony

1st Wednesday of the Month - Mass with Anointing of the Sick at 8:30 a.m. at St. Anthony & 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul Chapel

1st Friday of the Month - Sacred Heart of Jesus Votive Mass at St. Anthony at 8:30 a.m.

4th Monday of the Month - Newman Student Mass at 6:00 p.m. (August through April)

Confessions

Monday - 9:00 a.m. until last penitent - St. Anthony

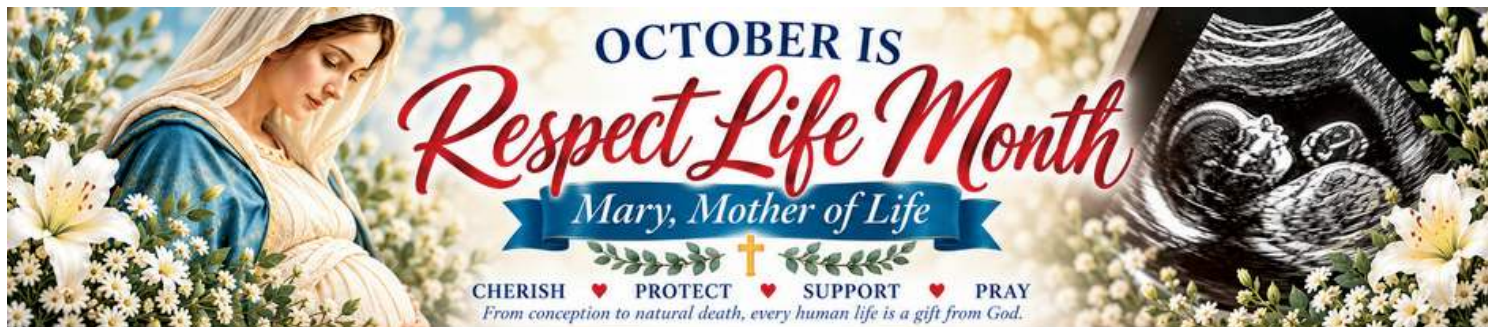
Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. until last penitent & 5:00-6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony

Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. until last penitent - St. Anthony & 9:30 a.m. - St. Paul Chapel

Thursday - 9:00 a.m. until last penitent - St. Anthony

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 p.m. - St. Anthony

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - St. Paul Chapel & 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - St. Anthony



OCTOBER IS Respect Life Month

Mary, Mother of Life

CHERISH ♥ PROTECT ♥ SUPPORT ♥ PRAY

From conception to natural death, every human life is a gift from God.

**Join us each Sunday
at 9:30 a.m.**
to pray the Rosary
to end abortion
at St. Anthony Church.



Crib Drive
for Pregnancy Centers
All month
at St. Anthony.
See the crib in the
gathering area for
more information.



**October 15
at 5:00 p.m.**
Baby Shower & Dinner
hosted by the Women's Group
at St. Paul Chapel.



October 22-30
Nationwide special novena
for the protection of human life
from conception to
natural death.



October 24 & 25
Celebrate the lives of our
Spiritually Adopted babies
at St. Anthony Church.



Sponsored by the Walking with Moms in Need Ministry at St. Anthony Church & St. Paul Chapel.
This ministry has been a profound blessing reminding us that when we serve others in His name, we receive the greatest rewards. We have volunteers, but NEED MORE to help spread the word.
Please contact Shelley Pulver (260-205-7649 or pulvershelley@gmail.com) for more information.

A MESSAGE TO OUR PARISHIONERS

UN MENSAJE A NUESTROS FELIGRESES

Dear parishioners,
 I hope all of you are well.

Due to the health effects and breathing difficulties experienced by some members of the choir, I have decided to eliminate the use of incense during Masses at which the choir will be singing.

This change is being made out of care and consideration for the well-being of our choir members while still preserving the use of incense in other liturgical celebrations.

Incense will continue to be used during Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration, Solemn Spanish Masses, Masses celebrated by the Bishop, and other Masses at which the choir or any member of the choir is not scheduled to sing.

I thank the members of St. Anthony Choir for their continued dedication to the music ministry.

May God bless you all!
 Fr. Osman Ramos, Pastor

Estimados feligreses,
 Espero que todos se encuentren muy bien.

Debido a las dificultades de salud y problemas respiratorios que han experimentado algunos miembros del coro en inglés, he decidido suspender el uso de incienso durante las Misas en las que participe el coro.

Esta decisión se toma con cariño, cuidado y consideración por el bienestar de nuestros miembros del coro, procurando al mismo tiempo conservar el uso del incienso en otras celebraciones litúrgicas.

El incienso continuará utilizándose durante la Adoración Eucarística de los martes, las Misas solemnes en español, las Misas celebradas por el Obispo y otras celebraciones en las que el coro no esté programado para cantar.

Agradezco sinceramente a todos los miembros del Coro de San Antonio por su continua dedicación y servicio al ministerio de música.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos.
 P. Osman Ramos, Parroco



Fr. Osman Ramos, FM
Pastor



St. Anthony Church & St. Paul Staff



Mailing Address:
 700 W. Maumee Street, Angola, IN 46703

Office Phone: 260-665-2259

Email: office@stanthonyangola.com

Websites: www.stanthonyangola.com
 www.stpaulcatholicchapel.org

Pastor	Fr. Osman Ramos, FM	frosman@stanthonyangola.com
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Raul Marroquin, FM	frraul@stanthonyangola.com
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Jorge Sis, FM	frjorge@stanthonyangola.com
Business Manager	Katie Waltke	katie@stanthonyangola.com
Secretary & Bilingual Assist.	Karina Gonzalez	karina@stanthonyangola.com
CRE for St. Paul	Brett Kerspilo	religiouseducation@stpaulcatholicchapel.org
DRE for St. Anthony	Cathy Bryan	cathy@stanthonyangola.com
Pastoral Assistant / YM Coord.	Jessica Jones	jessica@stanthonyangola.com
St. Anthony Music Director	Diana Miller	music@stanthonyangola.com
St. Paul Chapel Pianist	Ava-Marie Papillon	apapillon13@gmail.com

Monday, October 5, 2026 - Saint Faustina Kowalska, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

8:30 a.m. Mass + Fleurette Koehler	8:00 a.m.	Rosary (St. Anthony)
	9:00 a.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)
	9:15 a.m.	Gospel Encounters (St. Anthony)
	10:30 a.m.	Cameron Woods Senior Living Mass
	12:00 p.m.	American Red Cross Blood Drive (St. Anthony)
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Ministry Game Night (Cameron Woods)
	6:30 p.m.	Spanish Charismatic Prayer Group (St. Anthony)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 - Saint Bruno

8:30 a.m. Mass + Lisa Daler 6:30 p.m. Misa en Español For the Good of All the People	8:00 a.m.	Rosary (St. Anthony)
	9:00 a.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)
	9:00 a.m.	St. Martin's Healthcare Mobile Unit (St. Anthony)
	9:15 a.m.	Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament (St. Anthony)
	3:00 p.m.	Divine Mercy Chaplet (St. Anthony)
	5:00 p.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Group Bible Study (St. Anthony)
	5:30 p.m.	Spanish Rosary (St. Anthony)
	6:15 p.m.	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (St. Anthony)
	6:30 p.m.	Celebration of 800 th Anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi in Spanish with appetizers following (St. Anthony)

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 - Our Lady of the Rosary

8:30 a.m. Mass <i>with Anointing of the Sick</i> + Lainey Scroggs 9:00 a.m. Mass (St. Paul) <i>with Anointing of the Sick</i> + Edna Anstead	8:00 a.m.	Rosary (St. Anthony)
	8:30 a.m.	Rosary (St. Paul)
	9:00 a.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)
	9:30 a.m.	Confessions (St. Paul)
	9:30 a.m.	Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament (St. Paul)
	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Group (St. Paul)
	5:30 p.m.	Impact ELL Spanish Class (St. Anthony)
	6:00 p.m.	Spanish Bible Study (St. Anthony)

Thursday, October 8, 2026

8:30 a.m. Mass + Tom Duff	8:00 a.m.	Rosary (St. Anthony)
	9:00 a.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)
	9:00 a.m.	Scripture Sisters (St. Anthony)
	5:00 p.m.	Spanish Charismatic Choir Practice (St. Anthony)
	7:00 p.m.	OCIA Class (St. Anthony)

Friday, October 9, 2026 - Saint Denis & companions, Saint John Leonardi

		Parish Office Closed (St. Anthony)
		Parish Office Open 8:30-11:30 a.m. (St. Paul)
	6:00 p.m.	Spanish Choir Practice (St. Anthony)

Saturday, October 10, 2026

5:00 p.m. Mass The Johnson Family (Living)		Newman Catholic Fellowship Bake Sale following all Masses (St. Anthony)
	9:00 a.m.	Mexican Food Fundraiser (St. Anthony)
	4:00 p.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)

Sunday, October 11, 2026 - Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Mass + Floyd Koehler 9:00 a.m. Mass (St. Paul) + Claudia Thibodeau 10:00 a.m. Mass + Frank Swenson 12:30 p.m. Misa en Español + Jorge Luis Cabanillas Jr.		Newman Catholic Fellowship Bake Sale following all Masses (St. Anthony)
	8:30 a.m.	Rosary (St. Paul)
	9:30 a.m.	Rosary (St. Anthony)
	10:00 a.m.	Confessions (St. Paul)
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Spanish OCIA Classes (St. Anthony)
	10:00 a.m.	Religious Education Class (St. Paul)
	11:45 a.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)
	12:00 p.m.	Spanish Rosary (St. Anthony)
	12:15 p.m.	Confessions (St. Anthony)

Liturgical Ministry Schedule for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

	Saturday, October 10 5:00 p.m.	Sunday, October 11 7:30 a.m.	Sunday, October 11 10:00 a.m.
<i>Sacristan</i>	Liz Ickes	Lisa Aldrich	Therese Murphy
<i>Mass Coordinator</i>	Volunteer	Rose Nelson	Volunteer
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Dan Vitek Volunteer	Levi Zimmerman Volunteer	Volunteer Volunteer
<i>Lector 1</i>	Jean Derheimer	Volunteer	James Lingo
<i>Lector 2</i>	Anne Ferguson	Tamera Wise	Ken Schneider
<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	Kathy Vrana Jack Vrana Zander Atwood Dan Lepley	Susie Boggan Bonnie Groosbeck Mike Howe Jim Miller	Carolyn Harpenau John Lingo Judy Lingo Tom Wiegand
<i>Ushers</i>	Jane Gates Gene Burd Jim Zimmerman Bill SanGiacomo	Maurie Hartman Kurt Kampman Tim Glasper Joe Tons	Stan Fisher Dan Caruso Glen Fischer Abel Reyna
<i>Greeters</i>	Volunteer Volunteer	Carol Bond Volunteer	Carolyn Fisher Roy Harpenau



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHAPEL

	Sunday, October 11 9:00 a.m.
<i>Sacristan/Mass Coordinator</i>	Chris Pierson
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Alexis Headley Parker Headley
<i>Lector 1</i>	Valeria Carmona
<i>Lector 2</i>	Joe Strittmatter
<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	Diane McArdle
<i>Ushers</i>	Ron Carlson Chad Hook
<i>Rosary Leader</i>	Volunteer



United in Mission

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

SUPPORT OUR PARISH • STRENGTHEN OUR DIOCESE

The Annual Bishop's Appeal is a yearly fundraising campaign that helps meet the fiscal and spiritual needs of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, funding roughly half the central diocesan operations budget. The diocesan-wide goal is divided among parishes, with each parish goal set from a formula considering the past year's offertory income and the past three years of appeal donations. All donations above a parish goal are returned to that parish.

St. Anthony's Goal: \$62,720
Pledges to Date: \$30,443
Participation: 75 out of 1,279

St. Paul's Goal: \$16,701
Pledges to Date: \$4,140
Participation: 12 out of 229

Donations due by
November 13
Scan QR code to
donate.



Regular Collection - St. Anthony	\$9,295	Franciscans of Mary	\$97	Reimbursements	\$2,794
Online Giving - St. Anthony	\$1,944	Spanish Mass	\$520	Donations	\$100
Regular Collection - St. Paul Chapel	\$2,259	Maintenance	\$175	Votive Candles	\$256
Online Giving - St. Paul Chapel	\$375	Children's Collection	\$4	-	-
Special Collections	\$215	RE Tuition	\$1,460	-	-

American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE
Give More Life
DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

Be the reason someone keeps smiling.

GIVE BLOOD. GIVE HOPE. GIVE LIFE.

Monday, October 5, 2026
12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Located in the social hall at St. Anthony Church.

Come to give blood by Oct. 18 and we'll send you a \$15 e-gift card to the merchant of your choice.*

www.redcrossblood.org

Games, laughter, connection, and making a difference!

YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTS
GAME Night!

Students in grades 6-12 are invited!

Join us each month for playing games at local nursing home centers.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

LAKELAND NURSING HOME

Come enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship, and service to our local seniors!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact:

Jessica Jones
260-319-5453

youthministry@stanthonyangola.com

Hispanic Ministry's MEXICAN FOOD FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 10
from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Located in the southeast parking lot at St. Anthony Church.

The Newman Catholic Fellowship
Bake Sale

Saturday & Sunday, October 10 & 11
following all Masses
at St. Anthony Church

Fundraiser to help offset travel expenses to the SEEK Conference in January.

SEEK 2027

SEEK is a five-day experience where thousands of Catholics come together to encounter Christ through prayer, Adoration, the sacraments, and inspiring speakers. It's a chance to focus on what matters most, grow in authentic community, and be transformed in your faith.

ALTAR SERVER ENCOUNTER

All Altar Servers of St. Anthony, St. Paul and St. Joseph are invited to come together for a special Encounter Retreat!

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Saturday, October 17th
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 1ST!

For more information, please contact Jed Zimmerman, jzim77@yahoo.com

SCAN TO REGISTER

St. Paul Chapel
Booster Committee ELECTIONS

Sunday, October 18th
Following Mass during coffee & donuts in the community room.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please let one of the current committee members know and we'll be sure to include you on the ballot.

Franciscans of Mary
Missionaries of Gratitude

OCTOBER IS Pastor Appreciation MONTH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
IS PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY.

Let us honor Fr. Osman, Fr. Raul and Fr. Jorge for their spiritual guidance and leadership.

Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

The St. Paul Boosters are hosting a
FALL FEST Chili & Soup LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 25
following Mass

Everyone is welcome to attend!

We want to invite you to bring your favorite soup or chili dish, to share - but it is certainly not necessary.

The Boosters will provide hotdogs, drinks, and snacks.

Upcoming Events

October

- Respect Life Month

October 3

- Celebration of 800th Anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi - Solemn Eucharistic Adoration in English (St. Anthony)

October 6

- Celebration of 800th Anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi - Holy Mass in Spanish (St. Anthony)

October 10 & 11

- Newman Ministry's Bake Sale (St. Anthony)

October 12

- St. Carlo Acutis Feast with Blessing of Relic (St. Anthony)

October 13

- Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00 a.m. (St. Anthony)
- No Spanish Mass this day (St. Anthony)

October 14 & 15

- No Religious Services these days (St. Anthony & St. Paul)

October 17

- Altar Servers Encounter for St. Anthony & St. Paul (St. Anthony)

October 25

- Fall Fest Chili & Soup Luncheon (St. Paul)

October 28

- 46 Rosaries of Our Lady of Guadalupe begin (St. Anthony)

November 7

- 100th Anniversary Agape Dinner (St. Anthony)



St. Carlo Acutis Feast
Monday, October 12
 at St. Anthony

†
 Blessing with relic
 following 8:30 a.m. Mass
 in the Main Church



Important Information

October 13 - 15, 2026

Tuesday, October 13

8:30 a.m. Mass
 9:00 a.m. Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00 a.m.
No Spanish Mass this day.

Wednesday & Thursday, October 14 & 15

No Religious Services at St. Anthony Church or St. Paul Chapel.

Our priests will be away for Continuing Education Days - a mandatory meeting for all priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Church will be open for prayer during office hours.



Knights of Columbus®
Weekly Raffle Winner
 September 27, 2026
Mark Stoops

Sacrament of Baptism

Contact Cathy Bryan, DRE - cathy@stanthonyangola.com

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact Fr. Osman - frosman@stanthonyangola.com

Sacrament of the Sick

Mass with Anointing of the Sick takes place every first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at St. Anthony and 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul Chapel. Any member of the faithful can receive this sacrament as soon as he or she begins to be dangerously ill or has reached old age. You can ask for the Sacrament after any Mass or by appointment with a priest. You may also call the parish office at 260-665-2259

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Contact Zander Atwood - ocia@stanthonyangola.com

Vocations

Contact Fr. Osman - frosman@stanthonyangola.com

Newman Catholic Fellowship at Trine University

Contact the leadership group at trinewman@gmail.com
 Trine Newman Advisor: Dr. Molyet, molyetk@trine.edu
 President: Violet Appel, vmappel24@my.trine.edu
 Spiritual Director: Fr. Raul, frraul@stanthonyangola.com
 Trine Newman Fellowship Mass:
 Every 4th Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. August-April

Altar and Rosary Society

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday following morning Mass.
 President: Kathy Vrana

Knights of Columbus #7053

Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday at 6:45 p.m.
 Grand Knight: Kelly Rough, 260-446-5699

Boosters of St. Paul Chapel

President: Chad Hook, 260-668-4112

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Need assistance with rent/utilities?
 Call 260-667-3269
 Email SVDP-Steuben@SVDPSFW.org
 Donations accepted:
 Poor Boxes located in the narthex at St. Anthony and Community Room at St. Paul Chapel
 Mail to PO Box 874, Angola, Indiana 46703
 Online Giving
<https://www.osvhub.com/stanthonyangola/giving/funds>

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Social Media

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 Instagram: www.instagram.com/stanthonyangola

Flocknote

We send weekly e-bulletins and other important current information by email and/or text messages. If you would like to receive these group messages, please send a message to office@stanthonyangola.com

myParish App

Our parish app helps improve parish communication & outreach! Download on your Apple or Android device today.

Nursing Home Schedule - All Welcome

Cameron Woods Senior Living - 1st Monday Mass at 10:30 a.m. & 3rd Monday Communion Service at 10:30 a.m.
 Lakeland Nursing Home - 2nd Monday Communion Service at 10:30 a.m.
 Northern Lakes Nursing Home - 2nd & 4th Tuesday Communion Service at 10:15 a.m.





October 5	Sandy Cordero, Joyce Dominique, Stanislaus Januszka, Leo Kinast, James Miller, Sandy Murrallles, Cheryl Pedersen, Cristina Ramirez, Dutton Smart
October 6	Paulina Bone
October 7	Laurie McArdle, Daniel Brown, Kylie Caswell, Tadeo Esparza, Ivan Esparza, Kristina Gaona, Rubi Luna-Munoz, Kim Murphy, Atlas Purkey, Loretta Simmons
October 8	Marsha Akers, Barbara Crotty, Bridget Frey, Angel Juarez, Shaun Murphy, Emilyn Reardon, Mike Wyss
October 9	Courtney Williams, Liz Ickes, Dayjah Mendez, Jack Preston, Edmundo Soto
October 10	Mark Jarmus, Andrea Fenstermaker, Samuel Figueroa, Vicki Foster, Edgar Santoyo, Jeffery Sine, Aimee Smith, Wendy Zent
October 11	Vanessa Brandt, Rodrigo Cabrera, Julia Domire, Patricia Geise, Jacob Loveland, Santiago Mendoza, Carlos Perez Mendez, Citlally Tirador



Thomas Giver Mary Mosher Marna Cimbale Tom Karpinski Bill Cranston Maureen Stronczek Carissa Glasgow Susan Coonan Eric Reynolds Bob Osterholt Edmund Moring David Singleton Erin Cleary Cory Elwell Tonya Thomas John LeBlanc Juan Ortega Viviana Carreon Paula Chandler Alan Wiegand J. Slagle Macy Schott Isaac Kirkham	Mitchell Johnson George Ickes Jim Merck Aiden Lingo Joyce Marcher Harvey Lechleider Shepherd Floyd George Knotek Dennis Jones Joan Butler Leo Osterholt Margaret Kerins Wanda Shively Norma Weihl Mike Stucky Sister Julia Mel Siler Frank Okonski Barb Cain Leo Kuhn Fr. Bernie Zajdel Jordan G.	Valerie Rodgers Charlie Schenkel Linda Brewster Trisha St. Claire Sue Tobias Dr. John Hudak Diana Hartman Tom Hartman Karen Raszka Marilyn Karpinski Fran VanWagner Emma Fritsch Pat Harter Patty Sue Guckien Craig Schlosser Rich Cain Omar Ramirez Jeff T Lorna Lytle Barbara Dale Sue Foos Scott Charters Patrick Lothamer Kayla Bowden Steve Cameron Margaret Adomaitis Michael Dirr Holly Amber
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Mary, Mother of Life



When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, “May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). Mary conceives Christ in her womb, becoming the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. Jesus himself tells us that he is “the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6). In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the *mother of life*. Mary’s acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices.

Eve was called the “mother of all the living” (Gen 3:20). Unfortunately, her disobedience brought sin into the world. In contrast Mary, through her obedience to God, gives birth to our Salvation. Mary becomes the New Eve—the new mother of all the living. Her fiat gives us an example of perfect docility and cooperation with the will of God.

At the Annunciation, when Mary learns that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is six months pregnant, she travels in haste to visit Elizabeth, spending the next three months at her side, even while pregnant herself. In her selfless service to Elizabeth, the Blessed Mother perfectly models how we are called to accompany expectant mothers as they prepare to welcome new life into the world.

Mary’s role as the Mother of Life extends from the Annunciation all the way to the Crucifixion. On

Oh Mary, “Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life.”

Evangelium vitae

Calvary, Mary stands at the foot of the Cross with Saint John. The Gospel tells us: “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home” (Jn 19:26-27).

With his final breaths on the Cross, Jesus entrusts Mary and the Beloved Disciple to one another, and by extension establishes a maternal relationship between Mary and the Church. Jesus’ words are addressed not only to Saint John, but to each one of us. In this moment, the physical mother of Jesus becomes the spiritual mother of the Church and all the faithful. Saint John goes on to take Mary into his home and cares for her as she advances in age, demonstrating our responsibility to continue our care for human life, from conception to natural death. Mary, who taught us how to nurture human life, becomes the recipient of that same honor and care.

The life of the Blessed Mother teaches us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance. Mary is our model for upholding the sanctity of all human life. O Mary, “Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life.”¹

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 105.

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María, madre de la vida



Cuando el ángel Gabriel se apareció a María para decirle que concebiría y daría a luz un hijo, María respondió con su *fiat*: “que se cumpla en mí lo que has dicho” (Lc 1, 38). María concibe a Cristo en su seno, y se convierte en la madre de Dios, la madre de Jesús. Jesús mismo nos dice que Él es “el Camino, la Verdad y la Vida” (Jn 14, 6). Al convertirse en la madre de Jesús, María se convierte en la *madre de la vida*. La aceptación de María en este momento imprevisto demuestra cómo cada uno de nosotros debe acoger el don de una nueva vida humana, incluso cuando ese don es inesperado o nos exige sacrificios.

Eva fue llamada “la madre de todos los vivientes” (Gn 3, 20). Lamentablemente, su desobediencia trajo el pecado al mundo. En cambio, María, por su obediencia a Dios, da a luz a nuestra Salvación. María se convierte en la Nueva Eva: la nueva madre de todos los vivientes. Su *fiat* nos da un ejemplo de perfecta docilidad y cooperación con la voluntad de Dios.

En la Anunciación, cuando María se entera de que su prima anciana Isabel tiene seis meses de embarazo, se pone en camino de prisa para visitar a Isabel, y pasa los tres meses siguientes a su lado, aun estando ella misma embarazada. En su servicio abnegado a Isabel, la Santísima Virgen es modelo perfecto de cómo estamos llamados a acompañar a las madres gestantes mientras se preparan para acoger una nueva vida en el mundo.

La función de María como madre de la vida se despliega desde la Anunciación hasta la Crucifixión.

Oh, María, “Madre de los vivientes, a Ti confiamos la causa de la vida”.

Evangelium vitae

En el Calvario, María permanece al pie de la Cruz junto a san Juan. El Evangelio nos dice: “Al ver a la madre y cerca de ella al discípulo a quien él amaba, Jesús le dijo: ‘Mujer, aquí tienes a tu hijo’. Luego dijo al discípulo: ‘Aquí tienes a tu madre’. Y desde aquel momento, el discípulo la recibió en su casa” (Jn 19, 26-27).

Con sus últimos alientos en la Cruz, Jesús confía a María y al Discípulo Amado el uno al otro y, por extensión, establece una relación materna entre María y la Iglesia. Las palabras de Jesús se dirigen no solo a san Juan, sino a cada uno de nosotros. En este momento, la madre física de Jesús se convierte en la madre espiritual de la Iglesia y de todos los fieles. San Juan procede a recibir a María en su casa y cuida de ella a medida que avanza en edad, lo cual demuestra nuestra responsabilidad de continuar nuestro cuidado de la vida humana, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural. María, quien nos enseñó cómo alimentar la vida humana, se convierte en la receptora de ese mismo honor y cuidado.

La vida de la Santísima Virgen nos enseña a respetar cada vida humana en cada etapa y circunstancia. María es nuestro modelo para defender la santidad de toda vida humana. Oh, María, “Madre de los vivientes, a Ti confiamos la causa de la vida”.¹

¹ Papa Juan Pablo II, *Evangelium vitae*, 105.

