

## **Week of May 25: What Is Pentecost? The Birthday of the Church**

Pentecost, celebrated 50 days after Easter, marks the day when the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles with power and courage (Acts 2:1–4). This event is often called the **birthday of the Church**.

Before Pentecost, the apostles were frightened and uncertain. After receiving the Spirit, they boldly preached the Gospel and baptized thousands. The Spirit unites believers, empowers them for mission, and makes the Church a living, breathing community.

Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not just a human institution but God's work in the world.

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Dear St. Patrick Catholic School Families,

As we enter the second to last week of the school year, we take time to reflect with gratitude on the many blessings God has given our school community throughout the year. We continue to be proud of the faith, kindness, hard work, and spirit shown by our students, faculty, staff, and families each day.

This coming Monday, our nation will observe Memorial Day. As a school community, we remember and honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Their sacrifice reminds us of the true cost of freedom and the importance of living lives rooted in gratitude, service, and peace. We especially keep in prayer the military families within our St. Patrick Catholic School family and thank them for their sacrifices and dedication.

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the great feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and filled them with courage, wisdom, and faith. Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and strengthen each of us today. As we approach the end of the school year, may we continue to open our hearts to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and use them to serve others with love and compassion.

Sunday is also the Feast of Mary Help of Christians, a day that holds special meaning within the Salesian tradition. St. John Bosco had a deep devotion to Mary under this title and believed strongly that Mary's guidance and protection helped lead young people closer to Christ. The Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians continue this mission throughout the world by educating and caring for young people with joy, faith, and kindness. We ask Mary Help of Christians to continue watching over our students, families, and school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, prayers, and partnership throughout this school year. May God bless your family with peace, joy, and a safe Memorial Day weekend.

In Christ's peace,  
Mr. Meyer, School Principal

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### General Information

1. The school will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on **Monday, May 25**. School will resume on **Tuesday, May 26**.

2. If you have not purchased your yearbook, you will have to purchase it through the school office. The cost of a yearbook is \$35. There is a limited amount and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

3. Please remember that the last day of school for this school year is **June 5, 2026**. This will be an early dismissal day without aftercare.

4. Eighth grade final exams will begin on **Wednesday, May 27**. On the days that 8th graders have their exams, they will be dismissed immediately afterwards (12:00pm). Please make arrangements for your students to be picked up after exams each day. The exam schedule is as follows:

- **Wednesday, May 27:** Social Studies (8:00-10:00am), Literature (10:00-12:00pm)
- **Thursday, May 28:** English Grammar (8:00-10:00am), Math (10:00-12:00pm)
- **Friday, May 29:** Religion (8:00-10:00am), Science (10:00-12:00pm)
- **Monday, June 1:** Make-Up Day

5. Sixth and Seventh Grade final exams will begin on **Tuesday, June 2**. On the days that 6th and 7th graders have their exams, they will be in school the full day. Please make sure that students have lunch and are dressed in school uniforms (no PE uniforms on these days). The exam schedule will be as follows:

- **Tuesday, June 2:** 6th grade History and Literature/Vocabulary, 7th grade Literature/Vocabulary and History
- **Wednesday, June 3:** 6th grade English Grammar and Math, 7th grade Math and English Grammar
- **Thursday, June 4:** 6th grade Religion and Science, 7th grade Science and Religion
- **Friday, June 5:** Make-Up Day

6. The schedule for graduation and moving up ceremonies is as follows:

- **Tuesday, June 2:** 8th Grade Mass and Clap-Off 8am, Graduation Ceremony 6:00pm
- **Wednesday, June 3:** PreK Awards 8:00am, VPK-B Moving Up 9:00am, VPK-A Moving Up 10:00am, VPK-C and D Moving Up 11:00am
- **Thursday, June 4:** Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony 9:00am
- **Friday, June 5:** First Friday Mass and Adoration at 8:00am, followed by Sending Forth Ceremony (in Parish Hall) at 9:00am

7. The Diocese of St. Augustine will host events for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage from **May 22–25** beginning at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine. Families are invited to participate in Masses, Eucharistic adoration, prayer devotions, concerts, service projects, and a Eucharistic Procession through historic St. Augustine. A full schedule of events is available, join us for one event or several throughout the weekend.

8. SAVE THE DATE: St. Vincent Outreach will be on campus on **Monday, June 22**, for school and sports physicals.

9. For those families planning ahead, here are some dates for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Back to School Bonanza--Aug. 6
- First Day of School (Early Dismissal) NO AFTERCARE--Aug. 11
- Labor Day (No School)--Sept. 7
- Early Dismissal Day--Sept. 25
- Professional Development Day (No School)--Oct. 9
- Columbus Day (No School)--Oct. 12
- Early Dismissal Day--Oct. 23
- Veterans' Day--Nov. 11
- Early Dismissal Day (Grandparents Day) NO AFTERCARE--Nov. 20
- Thanksgiving Break Nov. 23-27
- Middle School Exams Dec. 17-22
- Early Dismissal Day NO AFTERCARE--Dec. 22
- Christmas Break--Dec. 23-Jan. 1
- Professional Development Day (No School)--Jan. 4
- Early Dismissal Day--Jan. 15
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)--Jan. 18
- Early Dismissal Day--Feb. 12
- Presidents Day (No School)--Feb. 15
- Professional Development Day (No School)--Mar. 12
- Early Dismissal Day/Field Day NO AFTERCARE--Mar. 24
- Easter Break--Mar. 25-April 2
- Early Dismissal Day--April 29
- Discretionary Day (No School)--April 30
- 8th Grade Final Exams--May 20-24
- 8th Grade Graduation--May 25
- 6th-7th Grade Final Exams--May 25-28
- Last Day of School (Early Dismissal) NO AFTERCARE--May 28

10. The School Advisory Board is looking to add a few new members. If you are interested in joining the board, please fill out the application found on the school website and send it into the school office. The website address is: <https://www.stpatrickjacksonville.org/school/school-advisory-board/>

#### Home School Association (HSA) Happenings

1. If you are interested in joining the HSA Board for 2026-2027, please fill out the application found on the school website and send it into the school office. The website address is: <https://www.stpatrickjacksonville.org/school/hsa-board/>



#### Week at a Glance

##### Monday, May 25

- No School in observance of Memorial Day

**Tuesday, May 26**

- Classes Resume
- Orchestra Rehearsal
- Art Class with Ms. AJ (TBD)

**Wednesday, May 27**

- 8th Grade Exams and noon dismissal--Social Studies (8:00-10:00am), Literature (10:00-12:00pm)

**Thursday, May 28**

- 8th Grade Exams and noon dismissal--English Grammar (8:00-10:00am), Math (10:00-12:00pm)
- Orchestra Rehearsal

**Friday, May 29**

- 8th Grade Exams and noon dismissal--Religion (8:00-10:00am), Science (10:00-12:00pm)

***The mission of St. Patrick Catholic School is to lay the foundation for success in students, through Catholic traditions, rooted in the Eucharist and Gospel teachings of Christ, with high standards of education in a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment.***

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Mr. Christopher Meyer, Principal

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