



 **The Catholic Center**
Serving the Athens and University of Georgia
Communities Since 1952.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Mass Intentions

Saturday
5PM - David Dwinell †
& Frank Dylan †

Sunday
8AM - Vincent Dooley †
10:30AM - Dolores
Rebellion †

Monday
5:30PM - Vera Van
Heeswyk †

Tuesday
5:30PM - Mackenzie
Bramblett †

Wednesday
5:30PM - Laura Provost

Thursday
5:30PM - No Mass

Friday
8:00AM - No Mass

Memorial Day Mass and Brunch

On Monday, May 25, the Catholic Center will have a Memorial Day Mass and brunch at 9AM. All are welcome to join us to honor those who lost their lives while defending our country. If you are able, we welcome you to bring a dish to share at the brunch after the Mass but it is not necessary.



Office

Hours:
Monday – Thursday:
10AM-4PM

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706-543-2541

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1344 South Lumpkin St.
Athens, GA 30605

Phone:
706-543-2293

Connect:
www.ugacatholic.org
CC at UGA
@CatholicDawgs

 

Liturgical Schedule

Mass:
Saturday: 5PM
Sunday: 8AM & 10:30AM
Monday- Wednesday
5:30 PM
Thursday & Friday
No Mass

Adoration:
Friday:
8:30AM–9:30AM

Confession:
Wednesdays: 4PM–5PM
Saturday: 3:30PM-4:30PM

*Please note all confessions will be held in the office.

May 17, 2026 • The Ascension of the Lord

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 5/17
8:00AM Mass
10:30AM Mass
3:00PM KoC Hybrid Council Meeting

Monday 5/18
10:00AM Men’s Bible Study
11:30AM Golf Tournament Meeting
5:30PM Mass

Tuesday 5/19
4:00PM Grief & Bereavement Group
5:30PM Mass

Wednesday 5/20
10:00AM Tot Time
4:00PM Reconciliation
5:30PM Mass

Thursday 5/21
10:00AM Women’s Bible Study
NO Mass

Friday 5/22
NO Mass
5:00PM Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday 5/23
11:00AM Rodriguez/Pena Wedding
3:30PM Reconciliation
5:00PM Mass
6:30PM Korean Mass & Potluck

A Message from Fr. Michael

Jesus enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father. - Acts 1

I used to be afraid of heights - flying, being on a ladder, etc. It's ironic for someone who is tall. In fact, when I was on pilgrimage in the Holy Land, on the very mountain referenced in today's Gospel, I got a mild case of vertigo looking off the side of the mountain. So, today's Solemnity of the Ascension has a fun play on words for someone who used to be afraid of heights, since it has to deal with Jesus ascending - feet on perfectly fine ground - from this world into the sky. But the wonderful part about this story is the word 'used to': used to be afraid - not anymore.

In college, my friends and I would go to an amusement park, in which one of the rides was titled "acrophobia," which is an intense fear of heights: the ride was simply strapping into a seat, then a very slow ascension up, the platform began to spin slowly - and without any warning, a drop. At first terrifying, but once it is gotten used to, exhilarating. Ultimately though, the place of healing for me from a fear of heights was on airplanes. This for a portion of my life began to be the place where the rubber hit the road (or where the airplane hit the turbulence, as they say), where prayer really began to be an abandonment to God and growth of trust. Then, slowly but surely, on one flight realized I didn't get scared being on it. Healing: when prayer actually changed my heart to be at peace in a place that used to frighten me.

The Solemnity we celebrate today is Jesus' Ascension to Heaven. At face value, terrifying for those of us afraid of heights. But more deeply, as Jesus takes His scarred humanity with Him to present Himself before the Father it becomes a fear of a different sort. Jesus a Divine Person with both a divine nature and human nature ascends to the highest heaven, the fear that gets provoked here is accepting goodness. Oftentimes I meet people who have labeled and defined their life by their mistakes, imperfections, or weaknesses. And sometimes in that obstinacy of them not knowing anything different or believing that life could get better, I wonder if some people will make it to Heaven, see how much God sees their belovedness, and won't be able to accept it.

When Jesus enters with His humanity into Heaven, I wonder if it reveals a fear in our hearts of accepting the good. Fears of disappointment, disillusionment, breaking the nice things we receive - all have a way of being contextualized by a symbolic fear of heights: I'm afraid of being too good, or getting my hopes up too high, or being brought to a place where there are no more tears and my identity is unconditionally good. In a word, I'm afraid Heaven, which is a state where God is fully revealed, I am fully revealed, and the relationship that binds us is revealed - is all too good to be true.

The Ascension continues a theme that might help ease our hearts to receive nothing less than the Infinite God. Before Jesus' Death and Resurrection, humanity was bound by the wall called the limit of death. When Jesus entered into it, it's as if He put a door in this wall (rolled the stone away, if you will), and paved the way to something new. This is also the case in the Ascension, Jesus paves the way, gives us permission to be in Heaven. One simple detail I'll invite you to pray with: His scarred Body. When He enters Heaven, He brings His scars with Him: the Father sees these. Initially, it might garner the anticipation that God would reject humanity for being rejected by humanity; however, the opposite happens, it confirms God's desire to Love without limit, and therefore declaring humanity worth living in an unceasing Heaven with Him.



Announcements

Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Have you made your commitment for this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal? Thank you to all of you who have returned a pledge. We are very grateful for your generosity. To date, we are at 77% of our Parish's goal, which is \$88,900! Our goal this year is to have 100% participation by everyone, no matter the amount pledged! Any funds raised more than the goal shall be returned right here to The Catholic Center! If you have not yet returned your commitment card, or pledged online, we prayerfully ask you to do so. Pledge envelopes can be dropped in the offertory basket at any Mass or brought into the office. Pledges can also be made securely online at <https://lifeofthechurch.com/donate/>. Please select "Annual Appeal" and remember also to select The Catholic Center!

Catholic Inquiry Nights

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or baptized Catholic and desiring to complete your sacraments of Christian initiation? Learn about the process of sacramental preparation, meet other people interested, and ask any questions you have about the Catholic faith. Future inquiry nights will be June 11, July 9, and Aug 27 at 6:30 pm. Email Suzie at sacraments@ccatuga.org with any questions!

Gianna's Hope May Meeting

Have you or someone close to you experienced a miscarriage or infant loss? We are here to support you and your family. Gianna's Hope is a ministry dedicated to walking with moms who have experienced a loss at any point in their pregnancy or after birth. Please join us at St. Joseph's in the Guadalupe room, upstairs near the water fountain, Tuesday May 19th from 7-8PM. All are welcome! Email us at: GHopeAthens@gmail.com

Foster Care Awareness Month

This is the last weekend for the Foster Care and Adoption Ministry drive. New socks and underwear can be dropped off in the Center Hall.

Questions? Contact Amanda Wilson: amandaandkevin@msn.com

Scan the QR code to donate or go to chosenforlifeminisries.org to learn about other ways you can support local foster families.



Grief & Bereavement Group

The Grief and Bereavement Group will meet Tuesday, May 19th at 4PM. Everyone, including students and resident members, are welcome. No matter where you are in your journey you are invited to join us.

2026-2027 Religious Education Online Registration Now Open

As was announced in previous bulletins, there are some important registration changes this year that families will need to know before registering. Please see Fr. Brian's letter and new registration information at <https://ugacatholic.org/ministries/religious-education-re/>.

Endowment Sunday

The [Catholic Foundation of North Georgia](https://catholicfoundation.org) manages four separate endowments that benefit [The Catholic Center at UGA](https://catholiccenter.org)?

These are:

- **Catholic Center at the University of Georgia Endowment Fund**
- **Gries Family Endowment Fund**
- **UGA Catholic Center Dei Gratia Fund**
- **UGA Catholic Center Building & Maintenance Fund**

One important aspect of our Catholic stewardship is providing for future generations. An endowment fund accomplishes exactly that mission. Unlike our offertory collection or annual appeal—which are used for immediate needs—an endowment is held in an investment fund set aside for the long-term support of the Catholic Center.

Our endowment funds **were** created to ensure that the Catholic Center is able to financially sustain our mission long into the future. Our endowment funds **are** intended to last forever. Gifts to our endowment funds **are** protected and never spent. As the market grows over time, the value of the gifts to our funds **grows** and **produces** earnings that can be used to meet current needs.

We encourage you to consider whether a gift to any of the Catholic Center endowment funds may be right for you. We will share more information about these opportunities later this year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Fr. Brian** or **Rachel Lichtenwalner** at The Catholic Center.

We Lift Up in Prayer

Charlotte & Joel Alesi
Timothy A. Almy
Judy Balcomb
Megan Barton
Erin Benbry
Pam Bickley
Peter Bryan
Grace Burger
Grace Byrne
Joanne Cabrera
Jeanette Campbell
Judy Balcomb
Lucille Carberry
Elizabeth Bertrand Carlson
Mollie Carow
Deana Dietzler Chiusano
Lora Bernstein Cooley
Patti D'Avella
Joy Davis

Barton Elizabeth Dooling
Carol Douglas
Claire Fetch
Pam Forker
Luke Frankson
Hersina Gomes
Jean Griffith
Cheri Griggs
John Hamby
Mike Hamby
Bob Henry
Albert Hromalik, Sr.
Ryan Hughes
Ann Hunt
Daniel Inman
Kelly Jordan
Milton Jordan
Peter Kalla
Victor Kalla

Sarah Kurtz
Dan Lackey
Gene Larkin
Lynn Langston
Patti Law
Tom Long
Elena Lyons
Rick Madera
Gina Maherka
Carol Mazurek
Amy McConnell
Marlynn McCullough
John McMillan
Scott Melina
Bénédicte Milward
Michael Olmert
Dan Perrine
Mary Pinto
Ed Powell

Noah Quintanilla
David & Maura Randol
Annette Richt
Bryan Rieken
Sophia Rodriguez
Aeriel Ross
Amy Scobey
Suzette Scobey
Deborah Scott
Cindy Shapland
Derek Smith
Eileen Speight
Mike Teofilo
Alyssa Thomas
Nile Thomson
Natalie Vaughn
Patsy Vickery
Julie T. Wallace

With deepest sympathy, our community prays for the souls of the faithful departed and for their loved ones.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for May

That everyone might have food: Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Financial Giving Updates

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to our offertory throughout the year. Your support of the Catholic Center and our ministries is heartwarming. Thank you for sharing your time, treasure, and talent.

May 3, 2026
\$19,643.70 - Offertory
\$3,266.00 - Donation
\$1,154.80 - Alms

May 10, 2026
\$14,465.89 - Offertory
\$3,034.40 - Donation
\$156.00 - Alms

Clergy & Staff

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