

Pastor:
Rev. Rahab Isidor
rahabisidor69@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education:
Sr. M. Socorro Lozoya,
MCM
sisterlozoya@yahoo.com

Admin Assistant
Suzanna Curry
stlawrence1892@gmail.com



Youth Director:
Jay Jastal
SLyouthdirector@gmail.com

School Principal:
Mark Keaton
mkeaton@stlawrencecatholic
school.com

**MASS SCHEDULE
HORARIO DE MISAS**

Saturday/Sábado
5:30 pm English

Sunday/Domingo
10:00 am English
12:30 pm Español

Tuesday-Thursday / Martes-Jueves
8:15 am English

First Friday/Primer Viernes
10:00 am English

CONFESSION/CONFESIÓN:
Saturday/Sábado
4:30-5:15 pm or by appointment. *O con cita*

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY/
SACRAMENTO DEL MATRIMONIO**
Please call the Parish Office for appointment (6 months of marriage preparation required).
Favor de hablar a la oficina para una cita (6 meses de preparacion requerida).

BAPTISM/BAUTISMOS
Please call the parish office. *Favor de hablar a la oficina.*

MASS INTENTIONS/INTENCIONES PARA LAS MISAS
Please visit the parish office. *Favor de hablar a la oficina.*

CONFIRMATION/CONFIRMACIÓN
The Bishop visits our parish for Confirmation every two years. *El Obispo visita nuestra parroquia cada 2 años.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA
Grades K-6/Grados K-6:
Sundays/Domingo 11:00 am -12:15 pm
Grades 7-12/Grados 7-12:
Wednesdays/Miércoles 7:00 pm

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION/PRIMERA RECONCILIACIÓN Y PRIMERA COMUNIÓN
Children in first grade must be enrolled in the Parish School/Parish School of Religion (PSR) to receive the sacrament in second grade. *Los niños en primer grado deben estar inscritos en la Escuela Parroquial/Escuela Parroquial de Religión (PSR) para recibir el sacramento en segundo grado.*

EMAUS: Invites you to pray the Holy Rosary every Saturday at 7:50 am. *Se les invita a rezar el Santo Rosario cada sábado a las*

Welcome to the Catholic Community of

Founded
1892

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

*Diocese of
Springfield-Cape
Girardeau*

Parish Office 417-235-3286 Parish School 417-235-3721 405 7th Street, Monett, MO 65708

Digital bulletins available at www.stlawrencemonett.com

Office Hours/Horas de Oficina: Monday-Friday/Lunes-Viernes 12:30pm-4:00pm

Please remember St. Lawrence Church and School in your will.

Parish Mission Statement/ Misión Parroquial

"We children of God and the Catholic community of St. Lawrence parish are committed to the worship of God and the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through education and our living example of love and concern for all the people of our area."

"Los hijos de Dios y la comunidad Católica de la parroquia de San Lorenzo estamos comprometidos con la adoración a Dios y la difusión del Evangelio de Jesucristo a través de la educación y nuestro ejemplo vivo de amor y preocupación por todas las personas de nuestra área".

WELCOME

Welcome to St. Lawrence Catholic Church. Our Parish has helped to bring Jesus Christ to the city of Monett since 1892. We seek to foster the spiritual growth of our parishioners through the celebration of the Sacraments, Catechists, community life, and personal prayer.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

May 26, 2024

Envelopes/Loose Checks	\$4,186.00
Loose Bills/Change	\$1,197.65
Lenten Project Donation	\$350.00
Votive Candles	\$21.00
Mass Offerings	\$45.00
School Support	\$1,030.00
Prayer Group Mass Collection	\$154.00
Knights of Columbus Donation	\$700.00
Religious Store	\$3.00
Sacred Heart Reimbursement	\$2,085.94
Cemetery	\$30.00
DDF	\$4,650.00
Fiesta (Cinco de Mayo)	\$5,445.00
The Mirror	\$29.00
Total	\$19,926.59

Fr. Rahab would like to thank everyone for your generous contributions to our Parish.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

June 9th—Catholic Communications Campaign

ADULT CATECHISM MEETING

- Adult Catechism Meeting held every Tuesday at 6:00pm in the Conference Room
- We will begin a study on the Book of Revelation, beginning 6/11 at 6pm. There is a video and workbook for this study.
- We will begin the Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 1 at 7pm on 6/11.
- Please call 760-250-4143 for more information.

FLOCKNOTE-SIGN UP TODAY!

Keep in touch with us via email and text! Mass times, weather cancellations, ministry updates, and more delivered to your phone.



To sign up, text SAINTL To 84576 Sign up online at: Stlawrencecatholicchurc2.flocknote.com



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS & LADIES AUXILLARY



- ◆ Meetings held every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00p.m in the church basement.
- ◆ Join us in praying the rosary, every Saturday before Mass at 5:00pm and before Mass on the 5th Sunday at 9:30am.

FORMED

Formed brings beautiful and faithful Catholic content to parishes, families, and individuals. There is something for everyone here: award-winning studies and parish programs, inspiring audio content, movies, e books, and family friendly kid’s programming. Led by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press.

Registering for Formed

1. Go to formed.org/signup
2. Select your parish by entering name, city and/or zip code
3. Enter your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using Formed It is completely free for our St. Lawrence Parishioners!

Volunteer Corner

Volunteers needed to share Time and Talents:

- Prepare for our Parish Picnic (August 11,2024)
- Coordinate support efforts of new Catholic immigrants

If you have any interest in these opportunities, please contact the church office or Sandy Jastal 417-489-0980.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please let us know of any parishioners who are sick/home bound and would like visitors. If you know of anyone please call the parish office at (417) 235-3286.

Parishioners requesting prayers:

Barbara Alvarez; Jane Ellen Saunders; Sarah Sylvain Isidor (Father’s Mom); Maria Padilla; Juan Cecenas; Maria Rueda; Father Peter Morciniec; Parker Laning; Rosemary Schmidt; Al Fiffe; Pat Monto; Jess and Syble Losack

DIOCESAN NEWS

Meet Me at the Grotto This May

May is traditionally dedicated to honoring and seeking the intercession of Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. As Bishop Rice has done for the past several years, he will be stopping at parishes to pray the Rosary at many of our grottos. The Meet me at the Grotto schedule:

- Sunday, June 2—Cape Girardeau—St. Vincent de Paul—6pm

Please invite parishioners and let them know that they are welcome to bring lawn chairs and Meet Bishop Rice at the Grotto.

Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for June

Deanery II—

St. Joseph Parish, Billings—Wednesday Evenings
 St. Susanne Parish, Mt. Vernon—Friday Evenings
 Holy Family Parish, Shell Knob—Thurs., June 6, 2024

Eucharistic Revival News

Save the Date! Encounter the Eucharist Parish Retreat 7/20/24

Jesus is Calling Us Deeper: He promises to restore and renew His people!

Keynote Speaker: Bishop John Leibrecht
 English and Spanish sessions available

Full Schedule and Registration coming soon!

Book Club

Our next book will be: ‘Jesus I Trust in You—A 30-day Personal Retreat with the Litany of Trust’
 We were made for love, and love requires trust.

Sr. Faustina Maria Pia Bianchi, S.V. helps us learn what it means to place our trust in Jesus—no matter the circumstances. In this powerful invitation to a loving trusting relationship with our

Lord, you will pray with the Litany of Trust overcome every obstacle to find peace.

Start date is 6/16; book is available for purchase on Amazon

Watch for sign-up on Facebook or contact Sara Schad for details 417-737-2899

If you have a prayer request please call Joan McNerney (417-235-3836) or Marlene Hayes (417-235-5524) to make the request.

If you wish to place a name in the parish bulletin please call the parish office at 417-235-3286.

Bulletin Deadline

If you would like to have something in the bulletin, please send it via email

stlawrence1892@gmail.com to the parish office no later than Tuesday.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

June 9, 2024

1st Read: Gn 3:9-15; **Psalm:** Ps 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8; **2nd Read:** 2 Cor 4:13; **Gospel:** Mk 3:20-35

June 10, 2024

1st Read: 1 Kgs 17:1-6; **Psalm:** Ps 121:1bc-2,3-4,5-6,7-8; **Gospel:** Mt 5:1-12

June 11, 2024

1st Read: Acts 11:21B-26; **Psalm:** Ps 98:1,2-3AB,3CD-4,5-6; **Gospel:** Mt 5:13-16

June 12, 2024

1st Read: 1 Kgs 18:20-39; **Psalm:** Ps 16:1b-2ab,4,ab and 8,11; **Gospel:** Mt 5:17-19

June 13, 2024

1st Read: 1 Kgs 18:41-16; **Psalm:** Ps 65:10,11,12-13; **Gospel:** Mt 5:20-26

June 14, 2024

1st Read: 1 Kgs 19:9a,11-16; **Psalm:** Ps 27:7-8a,8b-9abc,13-14; **Gospel:** Mt 5:27-32

June 15, 2024

1st Read: 1 Kgs 19:19-21; **Psalm:** Psalm 16:1b-2a and 5,7-8,9-10; **Gospel:** Mt 5:33-37

June 16, 2024

1st Read: Ez 17:22-24; **Psalm:** 92:2-3,13-14,15-16; **2nd Read:** 2 Cor 5:6-10; **Gospel:** Mk 4:26-34



From Michelle Tebow, David and Margo Mettlach will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 11, 2024. If you would like to send them a card their address is:
535 W College Aurora Mo 65605

DDF (DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND)

To date our parish has \$19,535 towards our \$26,022 goal. Thank you! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount you can give.

ENGLISH LECTORS

Saturday 5:30pm

- June 1st.....Thomas Kump
- June 8th.....Nikki Pierce
- June 15th.....Patricia Randall
- June 22nd.....Al Dohmen
- June 29th.....Thomas Kump

Sunday 10:00am

- June 2nd.....Angie Madison
- June 9th.....Youth (Jayden Apostol)
- June 16th.....Sonie Probstfield
- June 23rd.....Lynda Velten
- June 30th.....Sandy Jastal

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturdays

June 1st—Al Dohmen, Geri Carey, Nikki Pierce, Katelyn Conley, Agnes Bruner

June 8th—Jim Haston, Marilyn Ceselski, Jason Ceselski, Ashley Ceselski, Geri Carey

June 15th—Jim Haston, Teresa Verhoff, Aaron Holmes, Al Dohmen, Kirk Verhoff

June 22nd—Jim Haston, Nikki Pierce, Katelyn Conley, Agnes Bruner, Marilyn Ceselski

Sundays

June 2nd—Sara Schad, Gary Schad, Randy Schad, Charles Wilke, Bailey Flynt

June 9th—Youth Group

June 16th—Jay Jastal, Sandy Jastal, Jerry Hudson, Judy Hudson, Ann Saunders

June 23rd—Ed Velten, Lynda Velten, John Velten, Cathy Velten, Sonie Probstfield

SERVERS 10AM MASS

June 2nd—Hudson Kramer, Joseph Velten, Isaac Saunders

June 9th—Youth Group

June 16th—Gabe Romo, Alex Apostol, Francisco Salas

June 23rd—Fernando Salas, Hudson Kramer, Joseph Velten

June 30th—Isaac Saunders, Gabe Romo, Alex Apostol

SAVE THE DATE—JUNE 2, 2024

St. Mary's Old Fashioned Picnic

Plans are underway for the 2024 Old Fashioned Church Picnic at St. Mary's Church in Pierce City, which will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2024. We would be honored for you to visit us for a day of fun and delicious food. Roast beef or fried chicken dinner starting at 11am and going until 1pm. Hamburgers, polish sausage and all fix ins through the day. We will also have bingo, county store, cake walk, trash and treasures, face painting, ring toss, spiral potatoes, funnel cakes, and raffle for wonderful prizes.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR/
CALENDARIO SEMANAL**

SAT. JUNE 1ST: ST. JUSTIN

SABADO: SAN JUSTINO

10:30am 1st Communion Mass—Nikki's Class

4:30 pm Confessions

5:30 pm Monett Mass — All Confirmation Students

SUN. JUNE 2ND: THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

Domingo: El Santisimo Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo (Corpus Christi)

8:00 am Verona Mass

10:00 am Monett Mass— All Confirmation Students

12:30 pm Monett Misa de Domingo - Spanish Mass

5:00 pm Verona Misa de Domingo- Spanish Mass

MON. JUNE 3RD: ST. CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS; 9TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

LUNES: SAN CARLOS LWANGA Y COMPANEROS;

NOVENA SEMANA DE TIEMPO ORDINARIO

6:00 pm Prayer Group

TUE. JUNE 4TH

8:15am Monett Weekday Mass + Leonard Bauer

6:00 pm Adult Catechism Meeting in the Conference Room

WED. JUNE 5TH: ST. BONIFACE

MIERCOLES: SANTA BONIFACIO

8:00am Verona Weekday Mass

THUR. JUNE 6TH: ST. NORBERT

JUEVES: SAN NORBERTO

8:15am Monett Weekday Mass + Wilmer and Kathleen Younker

FRI. JUNE 7TH: THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS; FIRST FRIDAY

VIERNES: EL SANTISIMO CORAZON DE JESUS; PRIMER VIERNES

8:00am Verona Weekday Mass

1:00 pm Card Party in the Church Basement

SAT. JUNE 8TH: THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

SABADO: EL CORAZON INMACULADO DE LA SANTISIMO VIRGEN MARIA

4:30 pm Confessions

5:30 pm Saturday Mass Monett - + Gary L Fowler

SUN. JUNE 9TH: 10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DOMINGO: DECIMO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

8:00 am Verona Sunday Mass

10:00 am Monett Sunday Mass —+ Jerry Monto

12:30 pm Misa de Domingo Monett - Spanish Mass

5:00 pm Misa de Domingo Verona - Spanish Mass

INFROMACION EN ESPAÑOL



¡Mantente en contacto con nosotros a través de correo electrónico y mensajes de texto! Horarios de misa, cancelaciones por mal tiempo, actualizaciones de ministerios y más directamente a tu teléfono. Para registrarte, envía un mensaje de texto con la palabra **SAINTL** al **202-765-3441**. También puedes inscribirte en línea en: **Stlawrencecatholic-churc2.flocknote.com**

DDF (FONDO DE DESARROLLO DIOCESANO)

Hasta la fecha, nuestra parroquia tiene \$19,535 para nuestra meta de \$26,022. ¡Gracias! Si aun no has hecho tu compromiso, anade tu donacion, sea cual sea la cantidad que puedas donar.

**NOTICIAS DIOCESANAS****Encuentrame en la Gruta**

Mayo se dedica tradicionalmente a honrar y buscar la intercession de Mayo como Madre de Dios y Madre de la Iglesia. Como lo ha hecho el obispo Rice durante los ultimos anos, se detendra en las parroquias para rezar el Rosario en muchas de nuestras grutas. El horario de Encuentrame en la Gruta:

- Domingo 2 de Junio— Cabo Girardeau— San Vincente de Paul—6pm

Invite a los feligreses y hagales saber que pueden traer sillas de jardin y conocer al obispo Rice en la Gruta.

Exposicion Solemne del Santisimo Sacramento de Junio

Decanato II—

Parroquia de Saint Joseph, Billings—Miercoles por la noche

Parroquia de Saint Susanne, Mount Vernon—Viernes por la noche

Parroquia de la Sagrada Familia, Shell Knob—Jueves 6 de Junio de 2024

Noticias de Avivamiento Eucaristico

¡Reserva! Retiro Parroquial Encuentro de la Eucaristia 20 de julio de 2024

Jesús nos esta llamando mas profundamente:

¡Promete restaurar y renovar a Su pueblo!

Orador principal: Obispo John Leibrecht

Sesiones en ingles y espanol disponibles

Calendario completo e inscripcion proximamente!

9 de Junio de 2024

Primera: Gen 3:9-15; **Salmo:** Salmo 129:1-2,3-4ab,4c-6,7-8; **Segunda:** 2 Cor 4:13; **Evangelio:** Mc 3:20-35

10 de Junio de 2024

Primera: 1 Reyes 17:1-6; **Salmo:** Salmo 120:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8; **Evangelio:** Mt 5:1-12

11 de Junio de 2024

Primera: Hch 11:21-26; **Salmo:** Salmo 97:1,2ab,3cd-4,5-6; **Evangelio:** Mt 5:13-16

12 de Junio de 2024

Primera: 1 Reyes 18:20-39; **Salmo:** Salmo 15:1-2a,4,5y 8,11; **Evangelio:** Mt 5:17-19

13 de Junio de 2024

Primera: 1 Reyes 18:41-46; **Salmo:** Salmo 64:10abcd,10e-11,12-13; **Evangelio:** Mt 5:20-26

14 de Junio de 2024

Primera: 1 Reyes 19:9,11-16; **Salmo:** Salmo 67:7-8a,8b-9abc,13-14; **Evangelio:** Mt 5:27-32

15 de Junio de 2024

Primera: 1 Reyes 9:19-21; **Salmo:** Salmo 15:1-2a y 5, 7-8,9-10; **Evangelio:** Mt 5:33-37

16 de Junio de 2024

Primera: Ez 17:22-24; **Salmo:** Salmo 91:2-3,13-14,15-16; **Segunda:** 2 Cor 5:6-10; **Evangelio:** Mc 4:26-34

**Congratulations to all of you!
On your Confirmation Day!**

Gabriella Apostol

Natalie Arreola Salas

Sebastián Barbosa

Zytlari Barbosa

Marlen Barrientos

Isabella Grace Batson

Omar Canales Ramos

Jazmín Ceceñas

Miguel Ángel Con González

Jorge Contreras

Omar Joel Gaona Jr.

Rodrigo Javier García

Rolando Joel García

Anayeli Yamileth González Pérez

Juan Jesús Guadarrama

Celeste Hernández

Valeria Hernández

Keegan Paul Kutz

Cesar Morales

Gregorio Moreno Jr.

Sebastián Pérez Salas

Aiden Jorge Rivera

Viridiana Rodríguez

Emelia Marrin Rosebaugh

Marisol Romero Muñoz

Gema Olivia Romero Rodríguez

Yvette Romero Muñoz

Héctor Jacobo Rueda

Yandel Rueda

Edmundo Salas

Daisy Salas Serrano

Ian Shrum

Jaqueline Vargas Salas

Alexa Velázquez

Dariela Ibarra

Please keep in your prayers these Young Students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this past Wednesday, May 29th, 2024. They need all our prayers to fight against the evil; because now, Satan and all his demons are going to try to make a deal with them to take away all the graces that they receive in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Por favor mantengan a estos jóvenes estudiantes que recibieron el Sacramento de la confirmación este pasado miércoles 29 de mayo 2024. Ellos/as necesitan toda nuestra oración para luchar en contra del mal porque ahora; Satanás y todos sus demonios van a tratar de hacer un trato para quitarles todas las gracias que ellos/as recibieron en el Sacramento de la confirmación.

At this time, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Campos for the altar flower arrangements for the First Communion and Confirmation. Thank you so much to Campos Family, May God fill them with abundant blessings specially with good health.

También quiero agradecer a la familia Campos por los arreglos florales para las celebraciones de las Primeras Comuniones y confirmaciones. Muchísimas gracias a la familia Campos, que Dios los llene de abundantes bendiciones y especialmente con buena salud.



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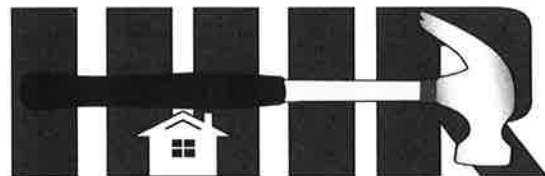
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**Let us thank, support, and pray for all of our advertisers in our bulletin
and their continued support.**

Why are you a Catholic? Fr. William Saunders Each Catholic should be able to provide a solid, well-thought answer to the question, "Why are you a Catholic?" Granted, for each individual the answer is very personal and may be somewhat different from other people's answers. Hopefully, none of us who are adults and confirmed would simply state, "Well, my parents baptized me Catholic," or "I was raised Catholic," or "My family has always been Catholic." No, for each of us, the answer must be personal, heart-felt and full of conviction. Therefore, I will give you my answer to this question. First, I would say I am a Catholic because this is the Church that Jesus Christ founded. Any good historian worth his salt must admit that the first Christian Church existing since the time of Christ is the Roman Catholic Church. The second reason I am a Catholic is because of apostolic succession. Jesus entrusted His authority to His apostles. He gave a special authority to Peter, whom He called "rock" and to whom He entrusted the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Since the time of the apostles, this authority has been handed down through the sacrament of holy orders from bishop to bishop, and then extended to priests and deacons. The third reason I am a Catholic is because we believe in truth, an absolute, God-given truth. Christ identified Himself as "the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). He gave us the Holy Spirit, whom He called the Spirit of truth (Jn 14:17), who would instruct us in everything and remind us of all that He taught (Jn 14:26). The truth of Christ has been preserved in sacred Scripture — the Bible. Another reason I am a Catholic is because of our sacraments. We believe in seven sacraments which Jesus gave to the Church. Each sacrament captures an important element of Christ's life, and by the power of the Holy Spirit gives us a share in the divine life of God. For example, just think what a precious gift we have to receive the holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of our Lord, or to know that our sins truly are forgiven and our soul is healed each time we receive absolution in the sacrament of penance. Finally, I am a Catholic because of the people who make up the Church. I think back to so many saints: Sts. Peter and Paul kept the gospel alive in the earliest times. During the Roman persecution, the early martyrs of the Church — like Sts. Anastasia, Lucy, Justin or Ignatius, who in the year 100 called the Church "Catholic" — defended the faith and suffered torturous deaths for it. In the Dark Ages, when many things were truly "dark," there were the great lights of Sts. Francis, Dominic and Catherine of Siena. During the Protestant movement, when heresy was ripping the Church apart, the Church was defended by Sts. Robert Bellarmine or Ignatius Loyola, genuine reformers. I think of living saints like Mother Teresa or Pope John Paul II, who day in and day out did God's holy work. There are so many saints that inspire each of us to be good members of the Church. In a nutshell, these are the reasons I am a Catholic and a member of the Roman Catholic Church. I hope that each Catholic can proudly provide a solid, clear answer to the question, "Why are you a Catholic?"

Used with permission of the author.

¿Por qué eres católico? P. William Saunders Cada católico debería poder dar una respuesta sólida y bien pensada a la pregunta: "¿Por qué eres católico?" Por supuesto, para cada individuo la respuesta es muy personal y puede ser algo diferente de las respuestas de otras personas. Con suerte, ninguno de nosotros, que somos adultos y estamos confirmados, diría simplemente: "Bueno, mis padres me bautizaron como católico", o "Fui criado como católico" o "Mi familia siempre ha sido católica". No, para cada uno de nosotros la respuesta debe ser personal, sentida y llena de convicción. Por eso te daré mi respuesta a esta pregunta. Primero, diría que soy católico porque esta es la Iglesia que fundó Jesucristo. Cualquier buen historiador que se precie debe admitir que la primera Iglesia cristiana que existe desde los tiempos de Cristo es la Iglesia Católica Romana. La segunda razón por la que soy católico es por la sucesión apostólica. Jesús confió su autoridad a sus apóstoles. Dio una autoridad especial a Pedro, a quien llamó "roca" y a quien confió las llaves del Reino de los Cielos. Desde la época de los apóstoles, esta autoridad se ha transmitido mediante el sacramento del orden sagrado de obispo a obispo, y luego se ha extendido a los sacerdotes y diáconos. La tercera razón por la que soy católico es porque creemos en la verdad, una verdad absoluta dada por Dios. Cristo se identificó a sí mismo como "el camino, la verdad y la vida" (Jn 14,6). Nos dio el Espíritu Santo, al que llamó Espíritu de verdad (Jn 14,17), que nos instruiría en todo y nos recordaría todo lo que Él enseñaba (Jn 14,26). La verdad de Cristo ha sido preservada en las Sagradas Escrituras: la Biblia.

Otra razón por la que soy católico es por nuestros sacramentos. Creemos en siete sacramentos que Jesús dio a la Iglesia.

Cada sacramento captura un elemento importante de la vida de Cristo y, por el poder del Espíritu Santo, nos da participación en la vida divina de Dios. Por ejemplo, piensen en el don tan precioso que tenemos al recibir la sagrada Eucaristía, el Cuerpo y la Sangre de nuestro Señor, o saber que nuestros pecados verdaderamente son perdonados y nuestra alma sana cada vez que recibimos la absolución en el sacramento de la penitencia. Finalmente, soy católico por las personas que componen la Iglesia. Pienso en tantos santos: los Santos. Pedro y Pablo mantuvieron vivo el evangelio en los primeros tiempos. Durante la persecución romana, los primeros mártires de la Iglesia, como los Santos. Anastasia, Lucía, Justino o Ignacio, que en el año 100 llamó a la Iglesia "católica", defendieron la fe y sufrieron muertes tortuosas por ella.

En la Edad Media, cuando muchas cosas eran verdaderamente "oscuras", estaban las grandes luces de los Santos. Francisco, Domingo y Catalina de Siena. Durante el movimiento protestante, cuando la herejía estaba desgarrando a la Iglesia, la Iglesia fue defendida por los Santos. Roberto Belarmino o Ignacio de Loyola, auténticos reformadores. Pienso en santos vivos como la Madre Teresa o el Papa Juan Pablo II, quienes día tras día realizaron la santa obra de Dios. Hay tantos santos que nos inspiran a cada uno de nosotros a ser buenos miembros de la Iglesia. En pocas palabras, estas son las razones por las que soy católico y miembro de la Iglesia Católica Romana. Espero que cada católico pueda brindar con orgullo una respuesta sólida y clara a la pregunta: "¿Por qué eres católico?" Usado con permiso del autor.