May 2026

The Gardens at Calvary

Assisted Living & Memory Care

(706) 653-2000 www.thegardensatcalvary.com

Celebrating May

Arthritis Awareness Month

Cinco de Mayo
May 5

Mother's Day
May 10

National Flower Day
May 20

Memorial Day
May 25

Life at Turtle Speed

Turtles have been moving through Earth's waters and landscapes for more than 200 million years, quietly outlasting dinosaurs, ice ages, and continents in motion. Each May, World Turtle Day (May 23) invites us to pause and consider what these remarkable animals can teach us about conservation, resilience, and how to live well in a fast-paced world.

Today, turtles need our attention more than ever. Of the world's roughly 360 turtle and tortoise species, more than half are threatened or endangered. Habitat loss, plastic pollution, climate change, and road traffic all take a toll. Sea turtles often mistake floating plastic for food, while freshwater turtles lose nesting areas to development. Even small actions matter: Slowing down in known crossing areas, reducing plastic use, and supporting conservation organizations can help ensure turtles remain part of our shared future.

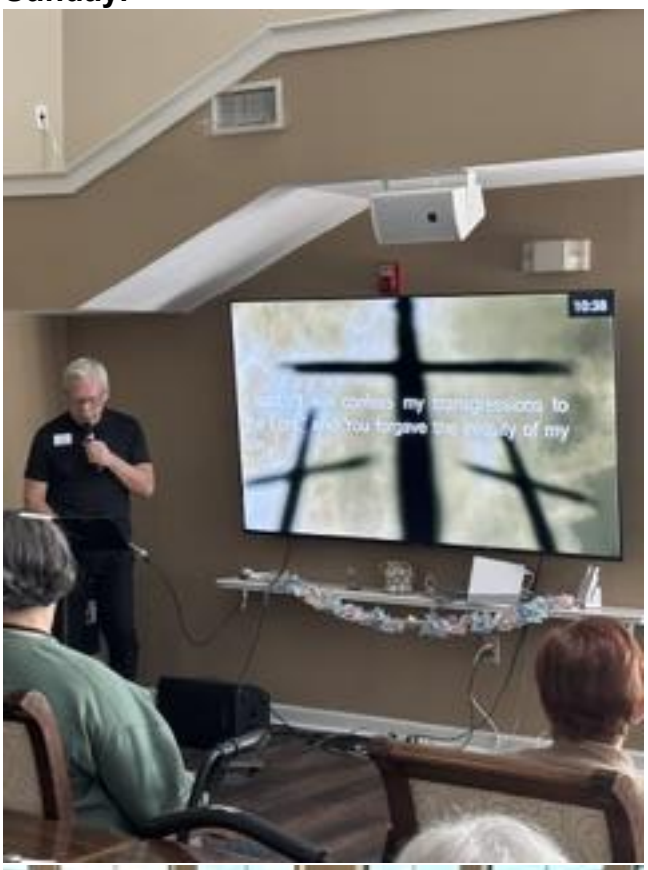
Beyond their ecological importance, turtles have long held symbolic meaning across cultures. They are often associated with wisdom, patience, and protection. In many traditions, the turtle carries the world on its back or represents the steady foundation of life itself. Their shells symbolize shelter and perseverance—moving forward while carrying one's home, history, and strength along the way.

Perhaps the most enduring lesson turtles offer is the familiar phrase "slow and steady." Turtles remind us that progress doesn't have to be rushed to be meaningful. In a world that often prizes speed, multitasking, and constant productivity, turtles model a different approach—one rooted in persistence, awareness, and balance. They move at a pace that suits them, conserving energy and paying attention to their surroundings.

As World Turtle Day approaches, it's a good moment to reflect on both action and attitude. Protecting turtles means caring for the environments we all depend on. Learning from turtles means remembering that steady effort, patience, and respect for natural rhythms can carry us far. Sometimes, slowing down isn't falling behind—it's choosing a wiser way forward.

On the first day of Spring, we enjoyed ice cream at Dairy Queen.

We had a wonderful experience at The Gardens at Calvary on Holy Thursday. The Easter celebration, led by Neil, was fantastic. Our activities included decorating eggs and participating in an egg hunt, followed by an exceptional church service on Easter Sunday.



Sound Sense

Many of us might not like to admit that we are constantly turning up the TV volume. However, over a lifetime of listening, our hearing begins to deteriorate. As we age, the tiny hairs in our inner ears that pick up sound vibrations begin to break down. The louder the noise, the more violent the assault on these hair cells and the more severe the degradation. On May 31, turn down the television, radio, or headphones playing music from your smartphone—it is Save Your Hearing Day.

How loud is too loud? The World Health Organization says that listening to sounds around 80 decibels can be safe if your total exposure stays below about 40 hours a week, but as levels go above that, safe listening time drops quickly. For example, at 90 decibels, the recommended weekly listening time falls to roughly four hours, and at 100 decibels, it's only about 20 minutes per week. So you can still enjoy loud music or TV, but the louder it is, the shorter the safe listening time to protect your hearing.

Experts think that one of the best ways to save our hearing is to protect our ears. Professions that require the use of loud equipment often require the use of earplugs or earmuffs. The same advice applies to those engaging in loud recreational activities, such as riding a motorcycle or hunting. For those who find themselves in loud places, such as an airplane or crowded train, noise-cancelling headphones often help make the loud environment more comfortable and tolerable.

It turns out that the best medicine for our ears is to give them a rest. Hearing experts recommend limiting exposure to very loud sounds, such as a 100-decibel rock concert, and following them with extended periods of quiet to reduce strain on the ears. Perhaps the best way to celebrate Save Your Hearing Day is simply to hit the mute button.

May Birthdays

In astrology, those born May 1–20 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls show a steady persistence in endeavors both professional and personal, and after working hard, they are not shy about rewarding themselves for a job well done. Those born May 21–31 are Gemini's Twins. The Twins represent energetic communication and interaction. Curious Geminis love to collect and share information. Witty and intellectual, they attract many friends, mentors, and colleagues.

Frankie Valli (singer) – May 3, 1934
Willie Mays (ballplayer) – May 6, 1931
Florence Nightingale (nurse) – May 12, 1820
Cher (singer and actress) – May 20, 1946
Bill Robinson (tap dancer) – May 25, 1878
Sally Ride (astronaut) – May 26, 1951
Gladys Knight (singer) – May 28, 1944
Clint Eastwood (actor) – May 31, 1930
Brooke Shields – May 31, 1965

1. Gwendolyn W.- May 2
2. Carolyn D.- May 9
3. Wally R.- May 11
4. Jerry C.- May 15
5. Judith P.- May 18
6. Staci W.- May 24
7. Neil S.- May 28
8. Elizabeth K.-May 30