

EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

15700 S Military Trail, Delray Beach, FL 33484 • www.emmanuelcatholic.church • (561) 496-2480

Palm Sunday

of the Passion of the Lord

“Blessed is the
king who comes
in the name
of the Lord.”

Luke 19:38



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April 10, 2022

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday
8:00am - 4:00pm

DAILY MASSES— Season of Lent

Monday - Thursday 7:30am, 8:30am, 12 noon
Friday: 7:30am, 8:30am, 12 noon, 6:00pm
Saturday: 8:30am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES

4:00pm
5:30pm

SUNDAY MASSES

7:30am
9:00am
10:30am
12:00pm
6:00pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every first Friday from 9:00am - 5:55pm
Followed by the 6:00pm Mass
Morning Adoration 6:30am - 7:30am (Monday - Friday)

TAIZÉ PRAYER

Every Friday at 6:30pm—7:30pm
(after 6:00pm Mass) except for First Fridays.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Call the parish office

BAPTISMS

3rd Sunday of the month 1:00pm. Schedule one month in
Advance. Contact Deacon Tony

WEDDINGS

Contact Deacon Tony at least 6 months in advance

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

5:00pm Vigil Mass
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

GIFT SHOP

Monday & Wednesday 8am-1:30pm
Tuesday Closed
Thursday & Friday 8am-1pm
Saturday Closed

First two Sundays of the Month 11am– 1pm
Second two Sundays of the Month 10am– 1:30pm

ROSARY GROUP

Monday—Friday after the 7:30am Daily Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: Following the 8:30am Mass, or by appointment

*Welcome to Emmanuel Catholic Church
Parish Family
God is with us*

Parish Mission Statement

Emmanuel Catholic Church which means, God is with us, is a faithful community of believers dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Roman Catholic Church through word, sacrament, and service. As one parish family of God, we live by faith, truth, and love as we value the sanctity of life in all its stages and make the Holy Eucharist the center of our lives. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the consultation with our parish ministries, we desire to be witnesses of God's presence as we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with God's Family.

Parish Organizational Chart

Most Reverend Gerald M Barbarito

Bishop of Palm Beach

Rev. Gaudioso Zamora

Pastor

Clergy

Staff

Parish Vicar Rev: Theodore Ihedoro

Deacon: Deacon Anthony Cuseo

In Resident: Rev. Joseph Papes

Weekday & Weekend Associates:

Msgr. Leonard Badia & Rev. Timothy Canaan

Weekend Associate: Rev. David Carr

Bookkeeper: Tanya Kuppamala

Secretary: Stella Sadolfo

Receptionist: Michelle Pullorkunnel

Property Manager: Edward Shannon

Pastoral Programs: Joella Anastasi

ext: 1001

ext: 1007

ext: 1000

ext: 1006

ext: 1002

Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Finance Council

Parish Ministries

RCIA & Sacramental Preparation: Dcn. Tony Cuseo

Religious Education: Jean Krokus ext:1005

Children of Divine Mercy: Melissa & Annette

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Fr. Theo

Lectors: Fr. Theo

Hospitality/ Ushers: Bob Bonney & Chuck Dolce

Altar Servers:

Music: Linda Coz, Ree Joy Baldonado,

Clanaven Baldonado & Men's Choir

Altar Flowers: Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community

Altar & Clergy Vestments:

Maryann DiBiase, Carol Chapman & Nancy McDonald

Homebound: Fr. Theo

ext: 1004

Hospital Ministry: Fr. Theo

ext: 1004

Youth Group:

Gift Shop: Josephine Joan

ext: 1009

Blood Drive: Patti Gomez

561-293-9761

Parish Organizations

Ladies Guild: President Patti Gomez

Knights of Columbus: Grand Knight Russell R. Sylvestre

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 10th, 2022

Is 50: 4-7 / Ps 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 / Phil 2: 6-11 / Lk 22: 14-23:36 or 23: 1-49

This is a true story of a man named John Griffith. He worked in Missouri, at the edge of the Mississippi River, tending one of the great railroad bridges that spanned the massive river. John's job was to control the gears of the bridge. He would rise the bridge when barges and ships cross underneath, glide under it, and lower it when locomotive pass and roll by over it.

One day, in 1937, John brought his eight-year old son Greg with him at this worksite. Greg was amazed at how his father could single-handedly press down the gigantic lever that raised and lowered the huge bridge. At noontime, father and son went down into the observation deck for lunch. As they were eating, they were startled by the shrieking whistle of a distant train. John looked at his watch and saw it was already 1:07 p.m. Suddenly he remembered that the bridge was still raised and the Memphis Express train would be passing by in just a few minutes.

Not wanting to show panic, he instructed his son to stay put as he ran back to the control room. Once in, he made sure there were no ships below. But as he was about to lower the bridge, his heart froze. For there, below him in the massive gear box that housed the gears which moved the bridge, was his beloved son. Greg must have tried to follow his dad but had fallen off the catwalk; and he was wedged between the teeth of two revolving main cogs in the gearbox. Although he appeared to be conscious, his leg was bleeding a lot. John knew that lowering the bridge meant crushing to death his beloved son.

He thought of solutions, but he knew he wouldn't have much time. The train with its 400 passengers was fast approaching. What would happen to the 400 people if he did not lower the bridge? But how about Greg... his son... his only son... his pride... his joy? (I don't know what we would do if we were in his place.) But for him, there was one thing he should do and had to do. Covering his eyes under his left arm, he plunged down the lever lowering the bridge. The cries of his dying son were quickly drowned out by the sound of a roaring train. [taken from Christianity in Crisis by Hawk Haneygraaf, Oregon: Harvest House, 1992.]

John Griffith sacrificed his son for the sake of the lives of 400 passengers. But without taking away the merits of his heroism, he wouldn't have done that if he had other choices.

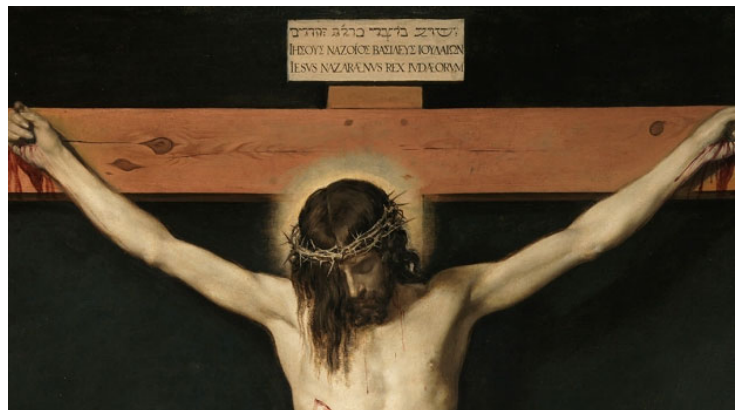
But there is a father who sacrificed his only son even if he had other choices. It is God our Father who willed... who loved... who has sacrificed his only beloved Son that we may not die but live.

Greg, the son, may have been a victim of circumstance. Jesus was not. By obedience, he willingly offered his life on the cross for our sake.

The 400 passengers didn't notice because they didn't know. Can we also say the same thing with the love of God and the sufferings of Christ?

Holy week is here not only as a commemoration, but as an opportunity for us to appreciate God's great love who "sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10)... those sins that brought about the death of Christ.

In everything we do this Holy Week, let us bear in mind the anguish of John Griffith which might as well be what God is telling us: "Don't you know that I've sacrificed my Son for you? Don't you care?" Let us express our gratitude to the Father and to Christ by making this week specially holy. Hopefully, we can answer, "We do care."



April 10, 2022 - Weekly Mass Schedule

10 SUNDAY

7:30am *Anastasia Family by A.M., & †Pedro Julio Mancevo by Estebania Brea
9:00am †Ann S. Bambace by Tom Bambace, & †Angela, John, and Walter Dajczak by Jennifer
10:00am No Intention
10:30am Parishioners & Benefactors
12:00pm †Anthony Facciuto by —, & †Elenora Pace by Mario Pace
6:00pm *Aaram, Zaven, Naman Barsoom by Mom, & *Emmanuel Catholic Church by Dorothy

11 MONDAY

7:30am †Frances Franco by Patricia Ryan, & †Kazimir and Margaret Rogus by Sharon
8:30am †Connie Sinobio by Catherine and Sons, & *Melissa and Joseph Raygada by Elsa Caraballo
12:00pm †Enrique Cassineli by Cannon Family, & *Mentally Ill and Caregivers by —

12 TUESDAY

7:30am †Agnes and Nazzareno Bord by Evelyn Walter, & *Love of our enemies by —
8:30am †Bernard Suppa by Angela and Mark, & †Yolanda Vale Lopez by Elsa Caraballo
12:00pm †Jeff Hocking by A.M, & *In honor of Padre Pio by Fr. James DeVita

13 WEDNESDAY

7:30am *Iris DeBoise by Martina DeBoise, & †Souls in Purgatory by Martina DeBoise
8:30am †Julianne Roebuck by Mom and Dad, & *Thanksgiving for blessings seen and unseen by —
12:00pm †Angela Frank by JoAnn Frank, & †Steven Umpierre by Merida Umpierre

14 THURSDAY

7:00pm *Victor Gabriel Caraballo by Elsa Caraballo, & †Souls in Purgatory by A Parishioner

15 FRIDAY

NO MASSES

16 SATURDAY

7:00pm †Souls in Purgatory by A Parishioner, & *Peggy Hutto by A Friend

17 SUNDAY

6:00am †Pappalardo and Manuele Families by Rose, & †Michael Canazaro and James Clancy by Dorothy
7:30am †John, Angela and Walter Dajczak by Jennifer, & †Rudy and Frances Biola by Angela and Mark
9:00am †Rose Buerkert by Carol, & †Joseph Reno by Yolanda Reno
10:00am No Intention
10:30am Parishioners & Benefactors
12:00pm †Pacienza Rosato and Wilkens Families by Christine and John, & †Theodore Fred Norwak by Vira Liberatore

Unscheduled Mass Intentions

†Lucia Cortina	by Liana Semenitilli
†Doris Pino	by Ron & Stella Mandolfi
†Anthony Marmorale	by James Donovan & Ritza Bulnes
†Michael Gama	by Beverly & Vanessa
†Beverly Blakeslee & Family	by Hermoine D’Cruz & Family
†Dennis Natale	by John and Maureen

Prayer List

Jamel Charles	Samuel Ezeilo
Dupe Charles	Maggie Dolan
George Leutz	Margaret Hilferty
Mary Carton	Janette Waller-Woudenberg
Connie Panepinto	Virginia Laut
Frank Perticone	Lauren
José Martinez	T.J Genzale
Christine Leach	Michael Manuele
†Anthony Marone	Rosemary Anne Perkins
Marguerite Dawson	Joel Bartoshy
Crystal B	Cindy Long

Weekly Updates

Our Weekly Offertory

Weekend Collection

Offertory Collection:
Second Collection:
Online:
Children's Mass:

TOTAL:

April 3, 2022

No Amount Due
to Early Bulletin
Deadline

DSA

Goal = \$150,000
Amount Made = \$84,642
Remaining = \$65,358



Flowers & Lights For The Altar

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the Intentions of Emmanuel Parish

VIGIL LIGHTS

For †James DiGiovanni by A.M

SHRINE FLOWERS

For the Intentions of Emmanuel Parish

Thank you for your support for our poor box every week as we continue to feed our sisters and brothers/ poor families every Wednesday.



Parish Events This Week

11 Monday

6:30am Adoration

12 Tuesday

6:30am Adoration

13 Wednesday

6:30am Adoration

14 Thursday

8:30am Morning Prayer

15 Friday

8:30am Morning Prayer
9:00am Stations of the Cross

16 Saturday

8:30am Morning Prayer
12:00pm Blessing of Easter Baskets

Clergy Schedule

11 Monday

7:30am Fr. Zamora
8:30am Fr. Carr
12:00pm Fr. Canaan

12 Tuesday

7:30am Fr. Theo
8:30am Fr. Canaan
12:00pm Fr. Leone

13 Wednesday

7:30am Fr. Theo
8:30am Fr. Canaan
12:00pm Fr. Carr

14 Thursday

8:30am Morning Prayer - Led by Deacon Tony
7:00pm Fr. Zamora

15 Friday

8:30am Morning Prayer - Led by Deacon Tony
9:00am Stations of the Cross - Fr. Theo
3:00pm Fr. Carr

16 Saturday

8:30am Morning Prayer - Led by Deacon Tony
12:00pm Blessing of the Easter Baskets - Deacon Tony
7:00pm Fr. Zamora

17 Sunday

6:00am Fr. Theo
7:30am Fr. Horn
9:00am Fr. Canaan
10:30am Fr. Carr
12:00pm Msgr. Badia

Announcements

Parishioner Registration Forms

Registering as an Official Parishioner of Emmanuel is very important to us and you! Attending Mass on a regular basis does not technically mean you are registered. You must fill out a form, which will be entered into our records. Please pick up a form at the back of the church and return it to the parish office. You may also call the office to verify if you are already registered or not. Thank you!



Prayer Before Communion

O Lord, I believe and profess that you are truly Christ, Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Accept me this day as a partaker of your mystical supper O Son of God. May the partaking of your holy mysteries, O Lord, be not for judgement or condemnation, but for the healing of body and soul. I also believe and profess that this, which I am about to receive, is truly your most precious Body & Blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer For The Pavilion Project

Loving Father, creator of all things, we come to you asking your blessing on the construction of our pavilion. We pray for all involved in this project from donors to those who will bring it to completion. We dedicate this endeavor through the intercession of St. Joseph the worker. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Prayer to Saint Jude for Hope

God the Father, give me hope. Help me to know that your hope is alive in me as I offer kindness, forgiveness, and tenderness to others. I seek the calm that comes from trusting in your hope and your healing presence.
I trust that your servant St. Jude walks with me and in all the blessings and challenges of my life, and intercedes on behalf of my petitions.
St. Jude, fill my heart with hope.
Amen.

Gift Shop

Get your First Holy Communion Gifts at the Gift Shop now. On Special while supplies last.

Young ladies 6 piece

First Communion purse & accessory's... including !

1. A beautiful White satin purse covered with delicate beaded pearls

2. White satin rosary pouch to match the purse

3. pearl rosary beads

4. prayer book

5. White scapular

6. Gold tone cross pin

All for \$24.99

A Variety of lovely veils

Boy or girl Picture frames

Cards

Candles

Rosary bead holders

2 piece "My First Communion"

cross and matching rosary holder. \$14.99.

Variety of boys white satin ties

Ceramic glazed boy statue \$4.99

Boys pocket lockets with small rosary beads

And much more!

*We're also accepting a gift of your choice to a child receiving their First Communion at Emmanuel!

Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come follow Me! Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice. Support our bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labor.

Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to your service.

Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness.

Lord, send your workers to your harvest and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

Amen

Announcements

Holy Week Schedule 2022

Monday of Holy Week

Masses: 7:30am, 8:30am & 12 noon

Tuesday of Holy Week

Masses: 7:30am, 8:30am & 12 noon

*Chrism Mass at the
Cathedral of St. Ignatius 11:00am

Wednesday of Holy Week

Masses: 7:30am, 8:30am & 12 noon

Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)

Morning Prayer at 8:30am

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration right after the mass in Columbus Hall,
the place of reposition until 11:00pm (no confession)

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Stations of the Cross at 9:00am (around the Lake)

Celebration of the Lords Passion:

The Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the Holy Cross
& Holy Communion at 3:00pm (No Confession)

Easter Schedule

Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer at 8:30am

Blessing of Easter Baskets at 12:00pm

Easter Vigil Mass

7:00pm

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Masses:

6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am and 12:00pm

Overflow mass outside by the Shrine of Our Lady
(if necessary)



Announcements

Holy Week

“Holy week is ordered to the commemoration of Christ’s passion, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem” (Universal norms, 31). It is the highest point of the Lenten Season. It opens with the blessing of Palms and the reading of the Passion of our Lord. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem ended on Calvary, but we know that Good Friday led to Easter Sunday.

The days of Holy week, from Monday to Thursday inclusive, have precedence over all other celebrations. It is not fitting, except in the danger of death, that baptisms or confirmations be celebrated on these days since they have their natural place in Easter Vigil. On Palm Sunday the church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

What really do the liturgies of the triduum celebrate? Most all of us believe we know the answer. We assume that Thursday commemorates the day Jesus instituted the eucharist; Friday commemorates the day he was executed on the cross; and the vigil commemorates his emergence from the tomb.

They celebrate not what once happened to Jesus but what is now happening among us as a people called to conversion, gathered in faith, and gifted with the Spirit of holiness. They celebrate God's taking possession of our hearts at their deepest core, recreating us as a new human community broken like bread for the world's life - a community rich in compassion, steadfast in hope, and fearless in the search for justice and peace.

Taken from “The Three Days of Pascha,” Nathan Mitchell, in Assembly, Volume 18:1 Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame, IN

We Encourage you to spend time and attend all out liturgical activities this Holy Week and Easter to thank and meditate on Jesus’ act of love for us.

Fr. Zamora



Announcements



Diocese of Palm Beach

9995 North Military Trail • P.O. Box 109650
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410-9650

Office of
THE BISHOP

(561) 775-9595 Fax (561) 775-7035

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope Francis has asked parishes to support the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection, to be held on April 15, 2022. This annual second collection is taken in Catholic churches throughout the world to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Specifically, the collection, funds Catholic schools, offers religious education, and helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

Last year's Pontifical Good Friday Collection supported numerous initiatives, including 23 parishes and three academic institutions, provided a home for 30 children from homes facing domestic violence, offered 400 scholarships for high school and university education, helped keep schools open for more than 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students, supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers, restored and maintained more than 1,000 houses/apartments for Christian families, offered assistance at senior care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth, created 1,200 jobs in the Holy Land for Christians, and preserved 65 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets.

Thank you for supporting the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, as encouraged by Pope Francis. By supporting this cause, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land, and you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land.

With gratitude for your continued generosity and every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito
Bishop of Palm Beach

Religious Education

Hello CCD families,

Our schedule for the remainder of the school year is:

Kindergarten-5th grade: April 24th. May 1st, May 8th

First Holy Communion Saturday May 7th. 9:30am.

6th-7th Grade: May 8th. These classes will meet with Ms. Julie from 10:30-11:30am

8th Grade: May 8th. Class will be from 11:30-1:00pm in the large classroom

No class or children's 10:00am mass on Easter Sunday April 17th. Please attend the 9:00am family mass for Easter Service with fun activity immediately following mass.

Announcements

Marian Festival

Our Lady of Good Health, also known as **Our Lady of Vailankanni**, is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary by devotees. She is said to have appeared twice in the town of Velankanni, Tamil Nadu, India, in the 16th to 17th centuries. Though there is no historical document or record about the apparitions of Mary at Velankanni, passed down through oral tradition from the 16th century. Also, the rescue of the Portuguese in Goa and Bombay-Bassein, who were who were sailing through a deadly storm, off the coast of the Coromandel region in the 17th century.

According to tradition, the first apparition is said to have occurred to a young boy delivering buttermilk to a man who lived far away. During his travels, the boy stopped to rest beside a lake that was shaded by a Banyan tree. A beautiful woman, carrying a child, is said to have appeared, and asked the boy for some milk to feed her child, which he gave. When he reached the home for his milk delivery, he apologised for the delay and that there would be less milk in his pot. But when they opened the lid of the milk pot, the container was brimming with milk.

The second apparition is alleged to have occurred a few years later. A lame boy would sell buttermilk to passing travellers, who would pause in the shade of a large Banyan tree, to escape the heat of the day. However, he had no customers. According to the account, suddenly, an ethereal woman, holding a child appeared before him, and asked for a cup of buttermilk. He gave her a cup, which she fed to her child. The woman asked the boy to go to Nagapattinam, and find a certain Catholic man in the town, and tell him to build a chapel at Vailankanni in her honour. Apparently cured, the boy ran to Nagapattinam, where he found the man and told him his story. The Catholic men of Nagapattinam subsequently built a thatched chapel at Vailankanni, dedicated to Mary under the title of "Our Lady of Good Health".

In the 17th century, a Portuguese merchant vessel sailing from Macau to Ceylon was caught in a severe storm in the Bay of Bengal. The sailors prayed fervently for Mary, Star of the Sea to save them, and promised to build a church in her honor wherever they could land. The sea became calm, and their ship landed near Vailankanni on 8 September, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary. To honor their promise, the Portuguese rebuilt the thatched chapel into a stone church. The church was later renovated twice in the early 20th century.

Although these alleged apparitions have been formally approved by the Holy See, they were implicitly approved by Pope John XXIII's 1962 elevation of the Vailankanni church to minor basilica status. The Pope's apostolic brief noted that pilgrims in large numbers had been visiting the shrine for a long period of time, and that it was hailed as the "Lourdes of the East"

A Gothic-styled basilica stands in Velankanni in memory of the apparitions. The basilica erected by the Portuguese and the Indians stands at the site where the buttermilk seller saw Mary and Jesus. The iconic depiction of the Madonna is unique in that it is one of two only icons where Mary is portrayed wearing an Indian Sari, while the other statue is said to have been buried with Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor. The basilica is known as a site for pilgrims from all over India and its assembly of multilingual prayers every Christmas.

8 September, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, is also commemorated as the feast of Our Lady of Good Health. The celebration starts on 29 August and ends on the day of the feast. The feast day prayers are said in Tamil, Marathi, East Indian, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Konkani, Hindi and English.



DIOCESAN MARIAN FESTIVAL 2022



We are happy to inform you that the Diocesan Marian Festival will take place this year.

Date: Sunday May 1. 2022

Time: 2:30pm

Place: Emmanuel Catholic Church Grounds

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito will lead us in this great event. Procession around our beautiful lake with the different statues and images of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Recitation of the Holy Rosary in different languages, Bishop's message and Eucharistic Benediction.

As one Diocesan Family, I encourage you all my dear parishioners to spend time in this great event as we honor the Blessed Mother who always protects and intercedes for us. May Our Lady of Good Health guide and protect us always.

P.S If your Marian Group to participate in this event, please call Stella Sadolfo our parish secretary through the parish office.

In Christ,
Fr. Gaudioso Zamora
Pastor

Saint Bernadette Soubirous's Story

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. Bernadette, 14 years old, was known as a virtuous girl though a dull student who had not even made her first Holy Communion. In poor health, she had suffered from asthma from an early age.

There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked skepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

According to Bernadette, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on March 25 she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realize who the Lady was.

Few visions have ever undergone the scrutiny that these appearances of the Immaculate Virgin were subject to. Lourdes became one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, attracting millions of visitors. Miracles were reported at the shrine and in the waters of the spring. After thorough investigation, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862.

During her life, Bernadette suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until at last she was protected in a convent of nuns. Five years later, she petitioned to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers. After a period of illness she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmarian and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized in 1933.

Reflection

Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there. Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand—as we all must do from time to time.





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