

EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

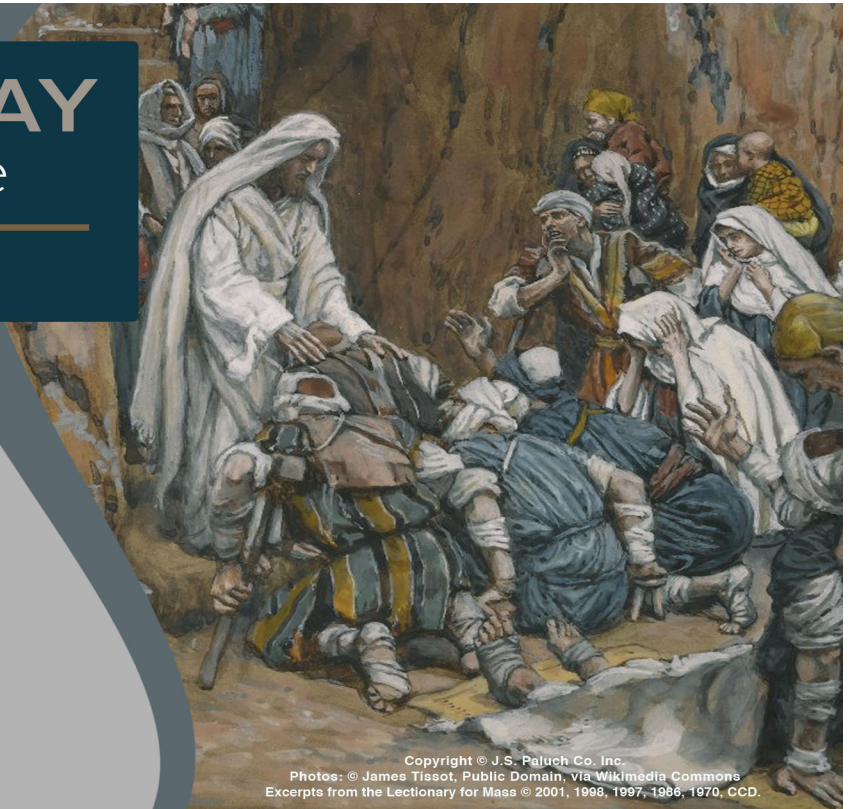
15700 S Military Trail, Delray Beach, FL 33484 • www.emmanuelcatholic.church • (561) 496-2480

FIFTH SUNDAY in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2021

JESUS CURED
MANY WHO WERE
SICK WITH
VARIOUS DISEASES,
AND HE DROVE OUT
MANY DEMONS.

MARK 1:34



OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday
8:00am - 4:00pm

DAILY MASSES

Monday - Thursday 7:30am & 8:30am
Friday: 7:30am, 8:30am & 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

TAIZÉ PRAYER

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

WEDDINGS

Contact Deacon Tony at least 6 months in advance

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick every Thursday following
the 8:30am Mass, or call the parish office

BAPTISMS

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

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

5:00pm Vigil Mass
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

GIFT SHOP

Monday & Wednesday 8am-2pm
Tuesday Closed
Thursday & Friday 8am-1pm
Saturday 3:30pm-6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am-1:30pm

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday at 2:30pm with Benediction

ROSARY GROUP

Monday—Friday after the 7:30am Daily Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: Following the 8:30am Mass,
3:15-3:45pm & 5:00-5:20pm, 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

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

Staff

Bookkeeper: Simi Sahu

Secretary: Stella Sadolfo

Receptionist: Maria Steger

Property Manager: Edward Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Finance Council

Parish Ministries

RCIA & Sacramental Preparation: Dcn. Tony Cuseo

Religious Education: Jean Krokus

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, Bill Stafford,

Clanaven Baldonado & Mens Choir

Altar Flowers: Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community

Altar & Clergy Vestments:

Maryann DiBiase, Carol Chapman & Nancy McDonald

Homebound: Joan J. Saccio

Hospital Ministry: Fr. Theo

Youth Group:

Gift Shop: Gail Sullivan

Parish Organizations

Ladies Guild: President Patti Gomez

Knights of Columbus: Grand Knight Bob Albertson

Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time (B)
February 7th, 2021
Jb 7: 1-4, 6-7 / Ps 147: 1-6 / 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23 / Mk 1: 29-39

In Jesus' time, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law constitutes both a religious and a social offense. Jesus crosses the boundaries of socially acceptable behavior by grasping the hand of Peter's mother-in-law and helping her up as he heals her. One is not supposed to do that, especially if the woman is not a family member or a relative. Moreover, Peter's mother-in-law is sick with fever, an illness that is considered a divine punishment for violating the covenant (cf Lv 26:16; Dt 28:22). As such, Peter's mother-in-law is considered unclean. By touching her, Jesus is also rendered unclean. In addition, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law is performed on a Sabbath, an infraction of the Sabbath prohibition to work.

Jesus carries out his healing ministry whether on a Sabbath or not. He is even prepared to risk violating the social and religious norms of his times. For him, the life of a human person is too precious to be left unprotected by the scourge of any sickness. Jesus is keen to defend and stand for life whenever it is threatened.

After these healings in Capernaum, Jesus rises up very early in the morning and retreats from the public eye to a deserted place to pray. He needs that sacred space to commune and get in touch with the heavenly Father. And so we see a pattern. First, Jesus prays; then he acts by curing the sick; then he prays again; and, after that, once again, heals the sick. According to Mark, then, Jesus was very busy healing people. However, this was merely the manifestation of the power he received in prayer. Prayer and contact with his Father, we might say, was the focal point of his life, the source of his strength and wisdom.

Simon and his companions, however, disrupt his moment of prayerful communion with God to inform him, "Everyone is looking for you." Instead of capitalizing on his newfound fame and prominence, as his disciples want, Jesus decides to move on: "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." He will not be distracted by the adulation of the crowd from fulfilling his commitment to proclaim the Good News. He presses on and carries out his mission in the other villages and cities, in the whole of Galilee and elsewhere. He stands for life not only whenever but also wherever it is in danger of being destroyed.

God has created us to be instruments of God's healing in the world. God has created us to carry on with the mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life and love. Let us be God's mouth and hands, standing for life and standing against anything that destroys or diminishes it—whenever and wherever.



February 7th, 2021 - Directory & Weekly Mass Schedule

7 SUNDAY

7:30am †Nora Brassil Mahoney by 5 Sons & Daughter & *Souls in Purgatory by Martina DeBoise
9:00am †Lucy D'Itri Panzera by Phil Panzera & †Julie & Henery Martini by Bob & Paulin
10:00am †Pearl & Joseph Budd by Son & †Charles King by Wife
10:30am Parishioners & Benefactors
12:00pm †Rosemarie DiNoto by Frank DiNoto & †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family
6:00pm Theresa Pavin by A.M & *Mary Therese & Jack Leib by A.M

8 MONDAY

7:30am John Furmanski by David & Marcia White & †Leigh & John Slowiak by James Slowiak
8:30am †Nancy Distefano by Joseph & Marie Distefano & †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family

9 TUESDAY

7:30am †Juliann Brassil by Maureen & John & *Lourdes Cannon (Birthday) by Cannon Family
8:30am †Nancy Gingerelli by Daughter, Anne Marie Messenger & †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family

10 WEDNESDAY

7:30am †Laura & Oscar Martin by Hermoine D'Cruz & †Margaret & Peter D'Cruz by Hermoine D'Cruz
8:30am †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family & †George Sanko by Wife, Barbara

11 THURSDAY

7:30am †Anna Luisa Garcia Calderon by Cannon Family & *Woodrow Francois by Mother, Farah Francois
8:30am †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family & †Gabriella Gonzalez by Miriam Hernandez

12 FRIDAY

7:30am †Ramon Ignacio Palmero by Son & †John Slowiak by James Slowiak
8:30am †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family & †Josefa Verna by Vera Marie
6:00pm For Priests

13 SATURDAY

8:30am Joseph & Pam Plummer Family by ——— & *Sam & Regina Plummer Family by ———
4:00pm Intentions of the Book of the Dead
5:30pm †Stephen Lessard by Carol Calise & †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family

14 SUNDAY

7:30am Theresa Pavin by A.M & †Genaro Chaves by Chaves Family
9:00am Poor Souls in Purgatory by ——— & *For Prayers by ———
10:00am †Alan Warren by Fran Ferrara & *For Living & Deceased 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Council 2003
10:30am Parishioners & Benefactors
12:00pm †Victor & Angelina Pacienza by Christine & John & †Raymond Maragni by Jean McGrath
6:00pm Thomas Eich & Dorothy by Bob Budd & *Discepola Family by Angela

Unscheduled Mass Intentions

Sarah Kennedy	by Madeline
Pasquale Vacco	by Rose Manuele
†Mrs. Irma Coppola	by Donna Weber
†Peter & Frances Davey	by M. Davey
Christopher Davey	by M. Davey
Jean Espinosa	by M. Davey
†Glenn Davey	by M. Davey
†Frank & Louise Davey	by M. Davey
Glacken Family	by M. Davey
†Harold Dalton	by Son
†Margaret Dalton	by Son

Prayer List

Maria Puente	Carol Venezia
Angelina Costa	Sal Venezia
Homebound/Assisted Living	Sarah
Candace Ritacco	Anna
Joseph Stanck	Doady Formasari
Carol Groccia	Raymond Birkbeck
Susan Manuele	Rosemary Anne Perkins
Michael Manuele	Mrs. Irene D'Annucci
Patrick Corish	James Borello (Age 10)
Irene Saraceni	Chad Brisson
Helen Martesian	Anne Eitelman
Jennifer Johnson	Ken Eitelman

Weekly Updates

Our Weekly Offertory

<u>Weekend Collection</u>	<u>January 31, 2020</u>
Offertory Collection:	\$11,152
Second Collection:	\$1,118
Online Giving:	\$687.79
TOTAL:	\$12,957.70
Children's Mass:	\$118

Gift Shop

Gift shop now open during the week days!
 Facial coverings or masks are required. We ask that
 only 2 parishioners come in at a time.
 Monday's and Wednesdays from 8am-2pm

Tuesdays closed
 Thursday and Fridays
 8am-1pm
 Saturday 3:30pm-6:00pm
 Sunday 10:00am-1:30pm



Flowers & Lights For The Altar

ALTAR FLOWERS

For the Intentions of Theresa Pavin by A.M

VIGIL LIGHTS

For the Intentions of Theresa Pavin by A.M

SHRINE FLOWERS

For the Intentions of Emmanuel Parish

Parish Events This Week

8 Monday

6:20am Adoration

9 Tuesday

6:20am Adoration
 10:00am Faith Sharing

10 Wednesday

6:20am Adoration

11 Thursday

6:20am Adoration
 10:00am Bible Study

12 Friday

6:20am Adoration

13 Saturday

9:00am Confession

Weekly Readings & Saints of the Day

8 Monday

St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita;
 International Day of Prayer and Awareness
 Against Human Trafficking
 Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6,10,12,24,35c;
 Mk 6:53-56

9 Tuesday

Gn 1:20 – 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13

10 Wednesday

St. Scholastica
 Gn 2:4b-9,15-17;Ps 104:1-2a,27-28, 29bc-30;
 Mk 7:14-23

11 Thursday

Our Lady of Lourdes; World Day of the Sick
 Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30

12 Friday

Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37

13 Saturday

Blessed Virgin Mary
 Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10

Announcements

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 a 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.

St. Michael Prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen."



Flea Market

Flea Market drop off will be on the Tuesday the 16th and Tuesday the 23rd only from 9am - 12noon.

Drop off the items at the driveway next to Columbus Hall.

We will not be taking any large items.

Please no furniture.



Lectors, E.M's, Hospitality & Outreach

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ministry of Hospitality, and all Volunteers of the outreach and homebound ministry, will have meetings with Father Theo. All meetings will be held in Columbus Hall.

Lectors - February 6th 10:00am

Outreach and Homebound - February 9th at 11:00am

Eucharistic Ministers - February 13th at 10:00am

Note: We shall take all the appropriate measures to keep all safe during these meetings. Please come wearing a mask and social distance. Thank you!



National Marriage Week USA
MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14



to have, to hold, to honor

The Knights of Columbus

To all the men of our parish. The Knights of Columbus will conduct it's annual membership drive on the weekend of February 13th & 14th, after all the Masses.

If you are considering joining our council at Emmanuel Catholic Church, please speak to the brother Knights in the blue shirts. They will be covering all the doors during Masses on the weekends.

For more information please contact Scotty Cassidy at scottytrvl@aol.com

Announcements

Safe Environments

Diocese of Palm Beach's Dedication to Prevention of Abuse through Training and Education of Children

The Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of minors and vulnerable adults in its care. The prevention of child abuse is challenging and requires more than adult awareness, education, and training about the nature and scope of the problem. The "VIRTUS Teaching Safety - Empowering God's Children" program enables the parents, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers to give minors the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them. All children in the Diocese of Palm Beach parishes and schools are instructed biannually with tools that empower them in personal safety. To learn more, visit www.diocesepb.org/education-and-training-of-adults-children-and-youth.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The catechism of the catholic church is a source book of what the church officially believes and teaches. During lent we hope to begin a series of practical topics covered in the catechism.

The Catechism is arranged in four principal parts:

- The Profession of Faith (the Apostles' Creed)
- The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (the Sacred Liturgy, and especially the sacraments)
- Life in Christ (including the Ten Commandments)
- Christian Prayer (including the Lord's Prayer)

It is available online on the Vatican website for free <https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM>

From Your Pastors Desk

Simi Sahu our parish bookkeeper will be consecrated to a life of consecrated virginity "Ecclesiae Imago Sponsae" (The image of the church as the bride of Christ on Thursday, February 11th, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes at 5:00pm at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Diocese of Palm Beach by Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach.

Because of Covid-19 the number of people to attend the Mass and consecration are limited. So please pray for Simi as she enters the life of Consecrated Virginity.

Congratulations Simi

-Fr. Zamora, Clergy, Parish Staff, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council and the Parish Family of Emmanuel

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting Dates: 1st Tuesday of the month
March 2, 2021
April 6, 2021
May 4, 2021

Rosary @ 6:30 Business @ 7:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85627711921?pwd=Rmp2T3ZFZ1NHTVhJR3NCY1BBMXhuQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 2771 1921

Passcode: 635275

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,85627711921#,,,,,0#,,635275# US
(New York)

+13017158592,,85627711921#,,,,,0#,,635275# US
(Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 856 2771 1921

Passcode: 635275

Find your local number: [Video Conferencing, Web Conferencing, Webinars, Screen Sharing](#)

Religious Education

Important Note Please Read

For all students receiving First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation please ensure you bring a copy of your Baptismal Certificate to your next class. This is required in order to receive the sacraments. If you were baptized in Emmanuel Catholic Church, you only need to provide the date of your Baptism.

2021 Confirmation Details

For all Confirmation Candidates including those students who deferred receiving their confirmation in 2020.

Saturday March 6th Confirmation Retreat
arrival time 8:20-1:00pm

The retreat will begin with **8:30am mass** (Parents Please have your children to mass on time or early). The students will then meet in Columbus Hall for their retreat. A snack will be provided after mass, as well as lunch. The parents can pick up their children at 1:00 pm. Please be on time

Tuesday March 9th, arrival time 6:00pm
Confirmation Practice in the church

6:00pm-7:30pm. Sponsors and students must attend

Saturday March 13th, 2021 arrival time 5:00pm
Confirmation with Most Reverend Barbarito 5:30pm
Mass. All students must arrive at 5:00pm
These dates are mandatory for all Confirmation students.

Kindergarten-5th & 6th-9th Grade

Religious Education Schedule

Kindergarten-5 th grade:	6 th -9 th grade
February 14 th , 21 st , 28 th	February 14 th 21 st
April 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	March 21 st
	April 11 th & 18 th

Please note this schedule is subject to change. We will provide updates based on changes due to Covid.

Class Schedule for 2021

Class Schedule

February:
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
March:
7th, 21st, 28th
April:
11th, 18th, 25th

Last day of classes are scheduled for April 25th. This date is subject to change in connection to mandated changes that arise due to COVID 19

There will be no classes on March 14th due to spring break and April 3rd due to Easter.

Sacrament Dates:

These dates and times are mandatory for all those receiving the sacraments.

First Reconciliation Students:

Good Shepherd Retreat Saturday February 20th, 2021
8:00am-12:00pm in large classroom

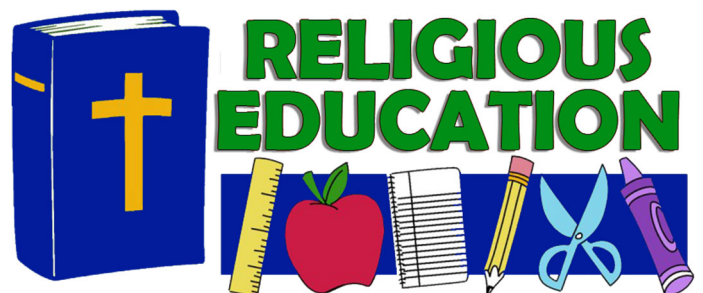
First Reconciliation Saturday February 27th, 2021 at 10:00am in the church students and families attend.

Jesus Day Retreat:

Saturday April 24th, 2021 8:00am - 12:00pm in the classroom

First Holy Communion:

Saturday May 1st at 10:00am in the church. Students to report directly to Columbus Hall by 9:30am.



Announcements

2021 Emmanuel Parish Raffle Sponsorship

Prize	Dollar Amount	Sponsor	Complimentary Tickets
First Prize	\$4,000		96
Second Prize	\$2,000	Anonymous: Thank you!	48
Third Prize	\$1,000	Msgr. Leonard Badia	24
Fourth Prize	\$500	Deacon Tony & Fr. Zamora	12
Consolation Prize #1	\$200	Barbara Rossi	6
Consolation Prize #2	\$200	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Brogan	6
Consolation Prize #3	\$200	PA Snow Angel: Thank you!	6
Consolation Prize #4	\$200	Anonymous: Thank you!	6
Consolation Prize #5	\$200	Anonymous: Thank you!	6
Consolation Prize #6	\$200		6
Consolation Prize #7	\$200		6
Consolation Prize #8	\$200		6
Consolation Prize #9	\$200		6
Consolation Prize #10	\$200		6

Prayer for God's Protection in the face of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Loving and gracious God, as in all times, we turn to You and implore Your protection and healing as we face a new threat to our health and peaceful well-being in the coronavirus pandemic before us. Help us to be united with each other and with all of our brothers and sisters around the world affected by this illness. We pray for all those in the medical field who are assisting patients and in the field of science who are discerning a cure, as well as for all government leaders. Remember those who, through this virus, have passed from this life as well as their families in their loss.

At this time of fragile uncertainty, we also humbly implore You to grant us prudence, hope, courage and patience. Dispel from us fear, panic and distrust which disrupt us in spirit to the detriment of our well-being.

We make our prayer in the name of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who always cured those who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. Our Lady, Patroness of our Diocese, Queen of the Apostles and Comforter of the Afflicted, pray for us, Amen.

Vigil for Light

"Vigil for Light"

Every Saturday during Lent:
Feb. 20,27, & March 6,13,20,27
8:00am-2:00pm

Please join us in a prayerful presence outside the
abortion center at :

Presidential Women's Center
100 Northpoint Parkway
West Palm Beach

(Please Park at Miracle House)

If you haven't seen an unborn baby saved from abortion join us and at some point, you will!

Our prayers save lives!

For more information and to sign-up

Email Carol at carolbal624@yahoo.com

Festival Letter

Dear Parishioner:

Once again it is time to turn our attention to our Annual Parish Festival and Raffle. Despite the uncertainties the pandemic has ushered into our lives, we remain ever more certain of rejoicing in the Lord, always, and our love for one another as a Parish Family. The dates for the 2021 Annual Parish Festival are Saturday, March 6 & Sunday, March 7. Given the precautions suggested by the CDC we will be having a flea market in Columbus Hall on March 6 from 8am to 1pm, and on March 7 we will have a bake sale and coffee until the raffle drawing which will also be livestreamed to our Facebook page.

Our Festival and Raffle is the *single biggest fundraising effort* we make each year. I am writing to ask you for your continued support and participation in the upcoming raffle. We hope each of your families will purchase or sell one book of raffle tickets. The cost of each ticket is \$10.00 or \$50.00 for a book of 6 tickets. I have enclosed one sheet (two books) of tickets with this letter.

This year, we have chosen again to have cash prizes:

1st Prize: \$4,000

2nd Prize: \$2,000

3rd Prize: \$1,000

4th Prize: \$500

10 Consolation Prizes of: \$200 each

Please return the tickets with your donation. Additional tickets are available at the parish office. The drawing will take place on Sunday, March 7th at 10:00am.

I thank you with all my heart for your continued support to our Parish and I look forward to sharing the good times with you at the Festival!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Gaudioso Zamora
Pastor

Note: If you cannot afford to buy all the tickets that we sent you, you can still help us by selling it to your friends, co-workers and neighbors.

-Thank you!



Simi Sahu Vocation Story

Simi was born in Chandigarh, India to a Hindu father, Rasgovinda and a Catholic mother, Meena. On Sundays she went to Hindu temples in the mornings and Mass later in the evenings until she was baptized at the age of 6. After she moved to the United States at the age of 13 she attended a retreat for teens by Jesus Youth where she experienced the love of Jesus Christ and a deep conviction about the Catholic Church. She was active in the Catholic Campus Ministry in The College of New Jersey where she received her Bachelors in Accountancy. She then took a year for missionary work in Haiti along with the Scalabrinian Fathers who were ministering to the country after the 2010 earthquakes. Spending this year with priests and religious sisters while serving the community helped her to recognize that she was drawn to celibacy for the Kingdom as Jesus described in Mathew 19:12. She then moved to Chicago to work for a big four firm and became Certified Public Accountant in the state of Illinois. In the meantime, she was also discerning religious life with some communities but felt called elsewhere.

In 2016 she moved to Florida to pursue her Masters in Arts in Theological Studies at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in order to grow in her faith, share it with others and continue discerning her vocation and began working at Emmanuel as the bookkeeper. Although she knew about the vocation to Consecrated Virginitiy it took her time to understand and see the beauty of the unique nature of the vocation to be consecrated yet remaining “in the world.” In 2018 when the Vatican released norms for Consecrated Virginitiy called “Ecclesiae Sponsae Imago” (The Image of the Church as the Bride of Christ) all her doubts were removed and she applied to the Diocese and was accepted, the Consecration will take place on Thursday, Feb 11, 2021 at 5PM in the Cathedral of St. Ignatius of Loyola at the hands of Bishop Gerald Barbarito. Apart from working as a bookkeeper at Emmanuel, Simi also teaches Theology classes for the School of Christian Formation and the Amoris Christi Institute and continues being connected with Jesus Youth’s Haiti missions.



Our Lady of Lourdes

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: “O Mary conceived without sin.”

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was “something white in the shape of a girl.” She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning “this thing.” It was “a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm.” Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Reflection

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus’ healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters.

There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film *The Song of Bernadette*: “For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.”

