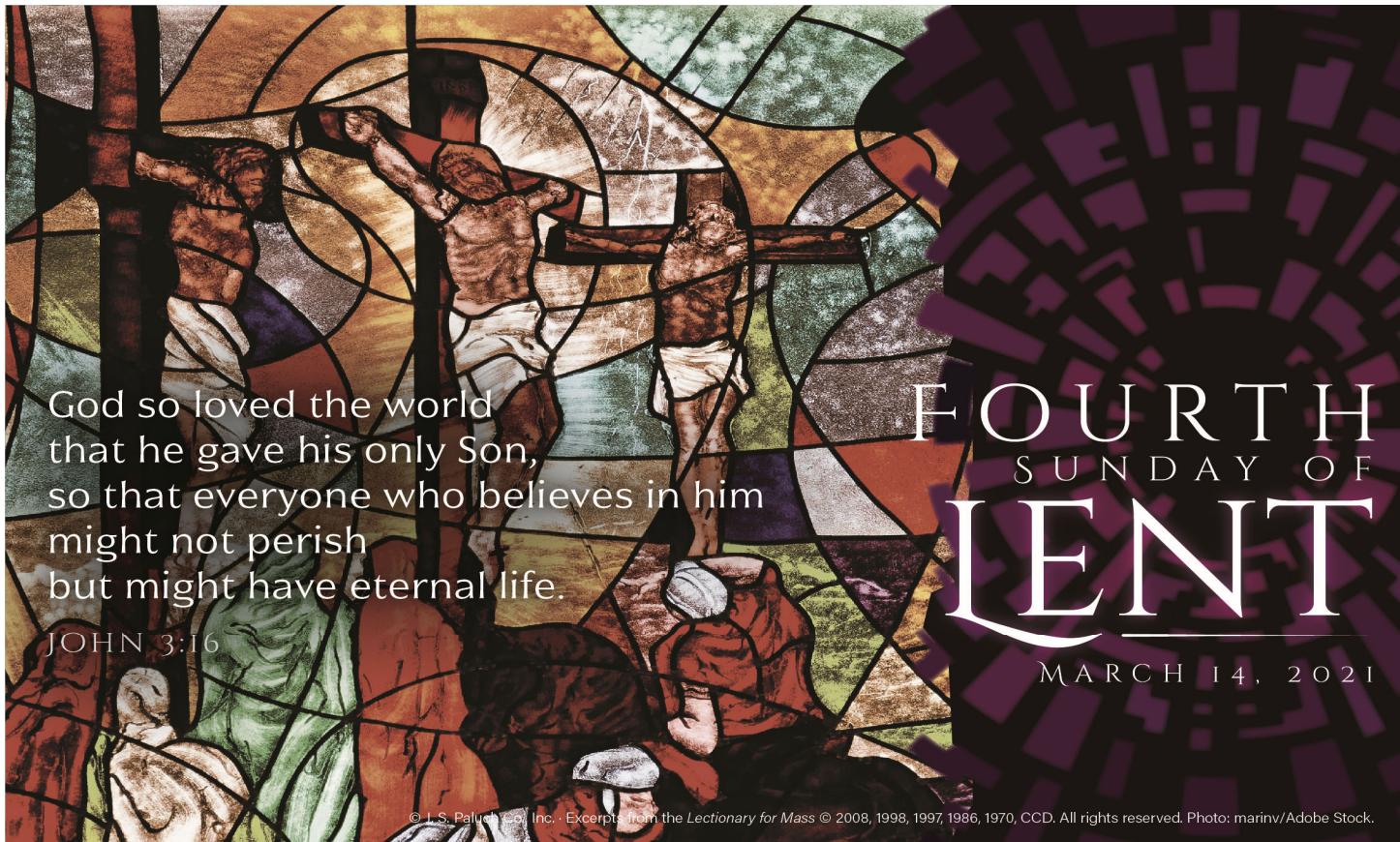


# EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday  
9:00am - 3:00pm

## DAILY MASSES (DURING LENT)

Monday - Friday 7:30am, 8:30am, & 12noon  
Friday: 6:00pm Evening Mass  
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

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

## WEDDINGS

Contact Deacon Tony at least 6 months in advance

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

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

## GIFT SHOP

Monday & Wednesday 8am-1:30pm  
Tuesday Closed  
Thursday & Friday 8am-1pm  
Saturday 3:30pm-6:00pm  
Sunday 11:00am - 1:00pm

## 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.

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## 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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 14th, 2021**  
**2 Chr 36: 14-16, 19-3 / Ps 137: 1-6 / Eph 2: 4-10 / Jn 3: 14-21**

We are living in a world where rewards are valued. Students vie for honors in school; athletes train hard for the gold medal. In the workplace, people strive to excel in their performance to merit promotion and salary increases. Success in life is seen as a result of one's efforts. One is able to get something because one has worked for it.

If we are not careful, we may transfer this work ethic to our spiritual life—we are able to reach holiness or attain salvation by means of our efforts. I made it to heaven!

This is not so! Salvation is, first of all, God's work. It is grace! Paul reminds us: "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast" (Eph 2:8-9). The Gospel declares: "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (v 17).

This was not just a one-time decision of God. It has been God's way all the while since Old Testament times. We are reminded in the First Reading: "Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place" (v 15). God has not been remiss in working out our salvation all through human history. And the reason? Because God loves us—nothing else but God's overflowing love for us! God wants to share his life with us.

The Gospel makes this clear: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (v 16). St. Athanasius the Great, a Church Father (ca. 295-373), paraphrases this passage thus: "He became what we are, so that he might make us what he is."

Eternal life is a gift, not a reward. It comes because of what God has done for us and to us, first of all. It is not the result of our effort or of our goodness. What we do is accept God's offer of salvation, that is, allow God to love us and enter into his dynamics of love. This is faith—full acceptance of God's offer.

The offer is good, so good in fact that it is utterly unexpected. We do not deserve it. Sadly though, instead of wholeheartedly and gratefully accepting it, we can reject this offer. It happened in the past among the Israelites: "But they [people] mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets" (First Reading v 16). John writes: The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil" (v 19).

However, the story of God's dealing with us is not decided by our rejection. God's will to save is not frustrated. "Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] brought us to life with Christ" (Second Reading v 5). It is indeed only with a humble and humbled heart that we can accept God. We do not deserve God. Salvation is pure grace!

Some scholars say that Jn 3:16 is perhaps the most popular verse in the New Testament, if not in the whole Bible. And why not? For it summarizes who we are to God and how God sees and deals with us. God so loved the world—so loved us—he did not spare his own Son so that those who believe in him may not die but have eternal life. God did not spare his Son from the cross and death to show us to what extent God's love goes for us.

But this extraordinary love of God has to be received by embracing his Son in faith. For the path of eternal life is through believing in his Son, Jesus Christ. Believing in Jesus also means escaping condemnation or judgment. God has not sent his Son into the world to condemn it, but that it might be saved through him. Unfortunately, many prefer to reject him, the light, and choose darkness, fearing that their evil deeds might be exposed. Indeed, evildoers hate the light, for to be in the light means to live in the truth, and evildoers prefer lies and falsehood.

God has created the human being imbued with freedom. One can choose to believe or not believe in God, in Jesus. One can decide to live in truth or in falsehood, to do good or to do evil. But why would one choose something that one knows would lead to destruction?

Let us pray, then, that we may realize the great love God has for us that he gave us his only Son so that we may not perish but may have eternal life.

# March 14th, 2021 - Directory & Weekly Mass Schedule

## 14 SUNDAY

- 7:30am** Vera & Frank Andrich by A.M & †Margaret & George Plunkett by Son  
**9:00am** †Stan Moeshl by Sylvia Wilcox & †David Dillon by Tony & Margie Prendergast  
**10:00am** †The Deceased Members of the DiCaprio Family by Bob & Paulin  
**10:30am** Parishioners & Benefactors  
**12:00pm** †James Marcou by Eva Marcou & †Eleonora Pace by Maria Carnevale  
**6:00pm** †Ann Yosca by Samia Farah & Bill Luther & †Ted Ogorodnik by Ogorodnik Family

## 15 MONDAY

- 7:30am** †Esther Shortlidge by Bob & Sue Halon  
**8:30am** †Bob Krokus by Wife & †Juan Peraza by Wife  
**12:00pm** †Elizabeth J. Anterni by Deb & Andy Phelan & †Arthur Obligin by Walter Wilczar

## 16 TUESDAY

- 7:30am** †Caryll V. Hall by Family & \*Holy Souls in Purgatory by Monica & Martha  
**8:30am** Brett Renwick by Simone Renwick & †Josefita Liguore by Simone Renwick  
**12:00pm** Agnes & Francis by Hermoine D'Cruz & †Joseph Anderson by David & Marcia White

## 17 WEDNESDAY

- 7:30am** Julie Cannon by Jennifer & †Lillian DeVivio by Andrew & Sundra Wentzler  
**8:30am** Terra McDonnell by McDonnell Family & †Ida Femiano by Frank & Donna Femiano  
**12:00pm** †Kathleen Murphy by Anne & Gerry Gerhard & †Michael Moran & Joseph Poletsky by Peggy Moran Doepper

## 18 THURSDAY

- 7:30am** Percy Cannon Sr., Carlos & Angela Henriod by Cannon Family & \*Betty O'Connor by Dennis & Judy Smith  
**8:30am** †Joseph Santangelo by Wife, Susan & †Philip Carlo by Family  
**12:00pm** †Robert "Bobby" Farina by Wife, Mary & †Joseph & Josephine Ssammartano by Daughters

## 19 FRIDAY

- 7:30am** †Tony Donnino by Carmella & †Jose Chipa by Daughter  
**8:30am** †Vincent J. Facciuto by —— & \*Cate Luria by Poppi & Pam  
**12:00pm** †Lui Bambace by Tom Bambace & †Josephine Marino (Birthday) by Granddaughter Joan Josephine Saccio  
**6:00pm** For Priests

## 20 SATURDAY

- 8:30am** †Cresenzo & Cristina Rosato Family by Granddaughter & \*Sam & Regina Plummer Family by ——  
**4:00pm** Intentions of the Book of the Dead  
**5:30pm** †Edward Moore by DiNoto Family & †Albert Sak by Maryanne Hoover

## 21 SUNDAY

- 7:30am** \*Vera & Frank Andrich by A.M & †Joanne Trotta by Vincent Gonzalez  
**9:00am** For Prayers by —— & \*Confirmation Class of 2021 by ——  
**10:00am** †Padro Paras by Neptali Paras  
**10:30am** Parishioners & Benefactors  
**12:00pm** †Rita O'Neill by Butch O'Neill & †Eleonora Pace by Iliana Airo  
**6:00pm** †Fr. Paul Palmiotto by Mr. & Mrs. Cutrone & †George Horwege by Michael & Lora Demetriou

## Unscheduled Mass Intentions

- Annette Pappalardo (Birthday) by Rose  
†Marie Grieco by Jeffery & Karen Rosenbeerg  
†Frank J. Grieco by Jeffery & Karen Rosenbeerg  
†Joanne E. Loch by Cannon Family  
†Eileen Black by Mary McGovern  
†Steven Spencer by Maryanne Hoover  
†Henry Jorin by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Belice

## Prayer List

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Doady Formasari        | Beth            |
| Raymond Birkbeck       | Pam Fernandes   |
| Rosemary Anne Perkins  | T.J. Genzale    |
| Mrs. Irene D'Annucci   | Susan Manuele   |
| James Borello (Age 10) | Michael Manuele |
| Chad Brisson           | Betty O'Connor  |
| Anne Eitelman          |                 |
| Ken Eitelman           |                 |

## Weekly Updates

### Our Weekly Offertory

Weekend Collection	March 7, 2020
Offertory Collection:	11,256
Second Collection:	1,264
Online:	903.73
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>13,423.73</b>
Children's Mass:	90.00

### DSA

Goal = \$158,000  
 Amount Made = \$77,554  
 Remaining = \$80,446



### Flowers & Lights For The Altar

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

For the Intentions of Vera & Frank Andrich  
 by A.M

#### VIGIL LIGHTS

For the Intentions of Vera & Frank Andrich  
 by A.M

#### SHRINE FLOWERS

For the Intentions of Emmanuel Parish



### Parish Events This Week

#### 15 Monday

6:30am Adoration

#### 16 Tuesday

6:30am Adoration  
 10:00am Faith Sharing

#### 17 Wednesday

6:30am Adoration

#### 18 Thursday

6:30am Adoration  
 10:00am Bible Study

#### 19 Friday

6:30am Adoration  
 6:30pm Taizé

#### 20 Saturday

9:00am Confession

### Weekly Readings & Saints of the Day

#### 15 Monday

Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

#### 16 Tuesday

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

#### 17 Wednesday

St. Patrick  
 Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

#### 18 Thursday

St. Cyril of Jerusalem  
 Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

#### 19 Friday

St. Joseph; Abstinence  
 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
 Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or  
 Lk 2:41-51a

#### 20 Saturday

Spring begins  
 Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

## Announcements

### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross  
Every Friday of Lent  
9:00am and 5:30pm inside the Church



### Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday of Lent from 4:30-6:30 we will have a fish fry.

Tickets are \$10 at the door and the meals includes baked or fried fish, coleslaw, & French fries

TAKE OUT ONLY



### 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 8am-1:30pm

Tuesdays closed

Thursday and Fridays 8am-1pm  
Saturday 3:30pm-6:00pm  
Sunday 11:00am - 1:00pm  
Now in the Gift Shop...

#1- "The consecration of Saint Joseph" book.  
#2- 2021 The Year of Saint Joseph "Candles."  
#3- Get your own "Station's of the cross" booklet

### 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.

### Lenten Penitential Service

The Parish Lenten Penitential Service will take place on Friday March 26th, at 6:30pm. Please mark your calendars as there may not be any other scheduled confessions before Easter.

[The Catechism of the Catholic Church on Confession](#)

- “You shall confess your sins (to a Priest) at least once a year” (2042).
- “Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance [confession] for all sinful members of His Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification. The Father of the Church present this sacrament as ‘the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace.’” (1446)
- “All mortal sins of which penitents after a diligent self-examination are conscious must be recounted by them in confession, even if they are most secret and have been committed against the last two precepts of the Decalogue; for these sins sometimes wound the soul more grievously and are more dangerous than those which are committed openly” (1456; Council of Trent, DS 1680.)

## Announcements

## **Kindergarten-5th & 6th-9th Grade**

## Religious Education Schedule

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

## **Children's Mass**

The children's Mass will start promptly at 10am so it does not effect the starting time of the 10:30am Mass.

## **Class Schedule for 2021**

## Class Schedule

March:

21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

April:

11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

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

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

## Sacrament Dates:

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

## **Jesus Day Retreat:**

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

## First Holy Communion:

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

## **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

Periods of renewal in the Church are also intense moments of catechesis. In the great era of the Fathers of the Church, saintly bishops devoted an important part of their ministry to catechesis. St. Cyril of Jerusalem and St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose and St. Augustine, and many other Fathers wrote catechetical works that remain models for us. 11

"The ministry of catechesis draws ever fresh energy from the councils. The Council of Trent is a noteworthy example of this. It gave catechesis priority in its constitutions and decrees. It lies at the origin of the Roman Catechism, which is also known by the name of that council and which is a work of the first rank as a summary of Christian teaching. . . ." 12 The Council of Trent initiated a remarkable organization of the Church's catechesis. Thanks to the work of holy bishops and theologians such as St. Peter Canisius, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Turibius of Mongrovejo, or St. Robert Bellarmine, it occasioned the publication of numerous catechisms.

It is therefore no surprise that catechesis in the Church has again attracted attention in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, which Pope Paul VI considered the great catechism of modern times. The General Catechetical Directory (1971), the sessions of the Synod of Bishops devoted to evangelization (1974) and catechesis (1977), the apostolic exhortations *Evangelii nuntiandi* (1975) and *Catechesi tradendae* (1979) attest to this. The Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in 1985 asked "that a catechism or compendium of all Catholic doctrine regarding both faith and morals be composed."<sup>13</sup> The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, made the Synod's wish his own, acknowledging that "this desire wholly corresponds to a real need of the universal Church and of the particular Churches."<sup>14</sup> He set in motion everything needed to carry out the Synod Fathers' wish.

## Announcements

### From Your Pastors Desk

My Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank you for all your support to our annual raffle and flea market the only two activities, that we have for our annual parish festival 2021, because of Covid-19. Special thank you to all the sponsors of our raffle, for those who donated items for our flea market, to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly, and to Lorne and Sons funeral home for sponsoring the raffle tickets. Congratulations to our winners.

<b>2021 Parish Festival Income</b>		
Raffle Tickets	\$	28,040.00
Festival Sponsors	\$	9,500.00
Flea Market	\$	2,396.50
Plant Sale	\$	235.00
Donations	\$	11,748.13
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>51,919.63</b>
Expenses		
Raffle Winners	\$	(9,500.00)
Tickets	\$	(948.13)
Other items	\$	(61.00)
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(10,509.13)</b>
<b>Net Festival Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41,410.50</b>

Our Clergy including those who are helping us in our Masses agreed to have one penitential service and confession for Holy Week and Easter and that is on Friday March 26th right after the 6:00pm Mass. We encourage all of you who want to go for confession to come. This is the only confession that we have for Easter. We will have 6 priests available so please make use of this opportunity.

Fr. Zamora

## Announcements



# MEMORIALIZE

Your Loved One

Only "Five" Stain Glass Openings Remain

1. Door "B" \$2,000
2. Door "D" \$5,000
3. Door "F" \$5,000
4. West lobby \$3,000
5. East Lobby \$3,000

- 26x" x 65" Deluxe Medallion 21 Jesus on the Throne  
26x" x 65" Deluxe Medallion 13 Pentecost  
26x" x 65" Deluxe Medallion 14 Saving Peter  
42" x 79" Pope John Paul II  
42" x 79" Mother Teresa



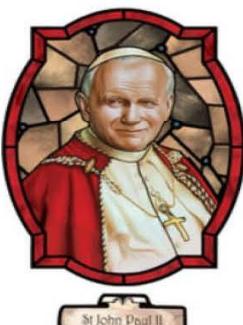
**Deluxe Medallion 21**  
**Jesus on the Throne**



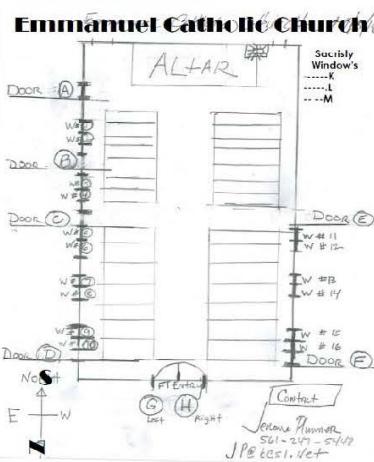
**Deluxe Medallion 13**  
**Pentecost**



**Deluxe Medallion 14**  
**Saving Peter**



**Saint 14: John Paul II**



**Saint 13: Mother Theresa**

CONTACT: JEROME PLUMMER PHONE | FAX | TEXT | 561-247-5448

**Project Goal \$1,320,000.00 | Ground Breaking | Q4 2021 Completion Q4 2022**

## Why Build a Pavilion?

To accommodate most major outside gatherings. Masses, Festival, Classes, Donuts /Coffee, Special event Providing Safe environment, especially for children in our CCD. This is a Lifetime structure.

## What does Project include?

Covered space accommodating 200+/- People. Outside event *regardless of Heat and rain*. Our Pavilion will be 100% covered, and Fan cooled. Secure Covered Storage area for tables and chairs included.

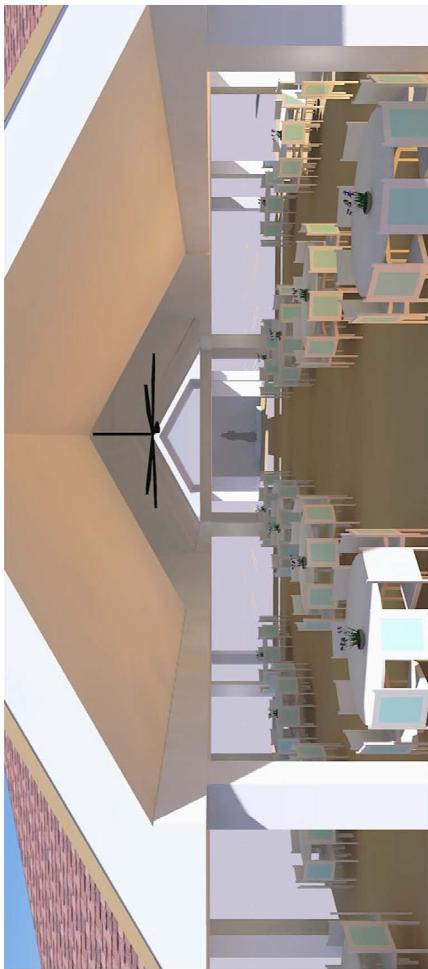
Nearly 40-year-old parking lot, very Tired.

Refresh our entire parking lot including, Root abatement, New curb and irrigation repair, fresh sod, and beautiful Spectacular landscaping.

For the greater Glory of God

Life size covered, shrine, including statue of the Infant Jesus. Lush landscaping accented by beautiful accent walls.

**Jerome Plummer Finance Committee**  
15700 South Military Trail • Delray Beach, Florida 33484  
Phone | Fax | Text | 561-247-5448



church  
PAVILION  
CONCEPTS

church  
PAVILION  
CONCEPTS

**Colomé & Associates, Inc.**  ARCHITECTURE PLANNING INTERIORS  
COLOMÉ & ASSOCIATES INC. 1000 K Street, Suite 1000 • Washington, D.C. 20004 • (202) 293-1000 • FAX (202) 293-1001

We need everyone's prayers and financial commitment. Some can do more than others, but all of us must do our share!

## Announcements



**Colomé & Associates, Inc.**  
Architecture □ Planning □ Interiors  
500 24th Street □ West Palm Beach, Florida 33401 □ Telephone: (843) 833-4147 □ Facsimile: (843) 833-4154 □ E-mail: [colomeassociates@juno.com](mailto:colomeassociates@juno.com)

**Emmanuel Catholic Church**  
NEW PAVILION  
CONCEPTS

### Giving Opportunities

- **\$250,000.00 "Naming Privileges" - including Lettering on the Pavilion**
- **\$150,000.00 Infant Jesus Statue and niche, including Your Dedication on the wall of giving**
- **\$100,000.00 Landscaping, Irrigation and Sod entire Campus, including Your Dedication on the wall of giving or granite Monument on the grounds.**
- **\$100,000.00 Entire Parking Lot, stripping Curbing including Your Dedication on the wall of giving or granite Monument on the grounds**
- **\$50,000.00 (1) Large Decorative Columns Including Plaque, with your dedication to the one you love at eye level**
- **\$25,000.00 (1) Your Private parking spot. Including Sign with your name on it. Good for one Mass at the time of your choice, on the weekend and all holidays!**
- **10,000.00 Table and Chairs combination including Your Dedication on the wall of giving**
- **\$5,000.00 Cooling the entire Pavilion with exceptional large fan. including Your Dedication on the wall of giving \$1,000.00 Your Dedication on the wall of giving**

#

Jerome Plummer Finance Committee Phone | Fax | Text | 561-247-54448

### Saint of the Week

# Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary

#### Saint Joseph's Story

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “just” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts.

When the Bible speaks of God “justifying” someone, it means that God, the all-holy or “righteous” one, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God’s own holiness, and hence it is really “right” for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.

By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction of Joseph’s manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this “quietly” because he was “a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame” (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

#### Reflection

The Bible tells us nothing of Joseph in the years after the return to Nazareth except the incident of finding Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–51). Perhaps this can be taken to mean that God wants us to realize that the holiest family was like every other family, that the circumstances of life for the holiest family were like those of every family, so that when Jesus’ mysterious nature began to appear, people couldn’t believe that he came from such humble beginnings: “Is he not the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother named Mary...?” (Matthew 13:55a). It was almost as indignant as “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (John 1:46b).

