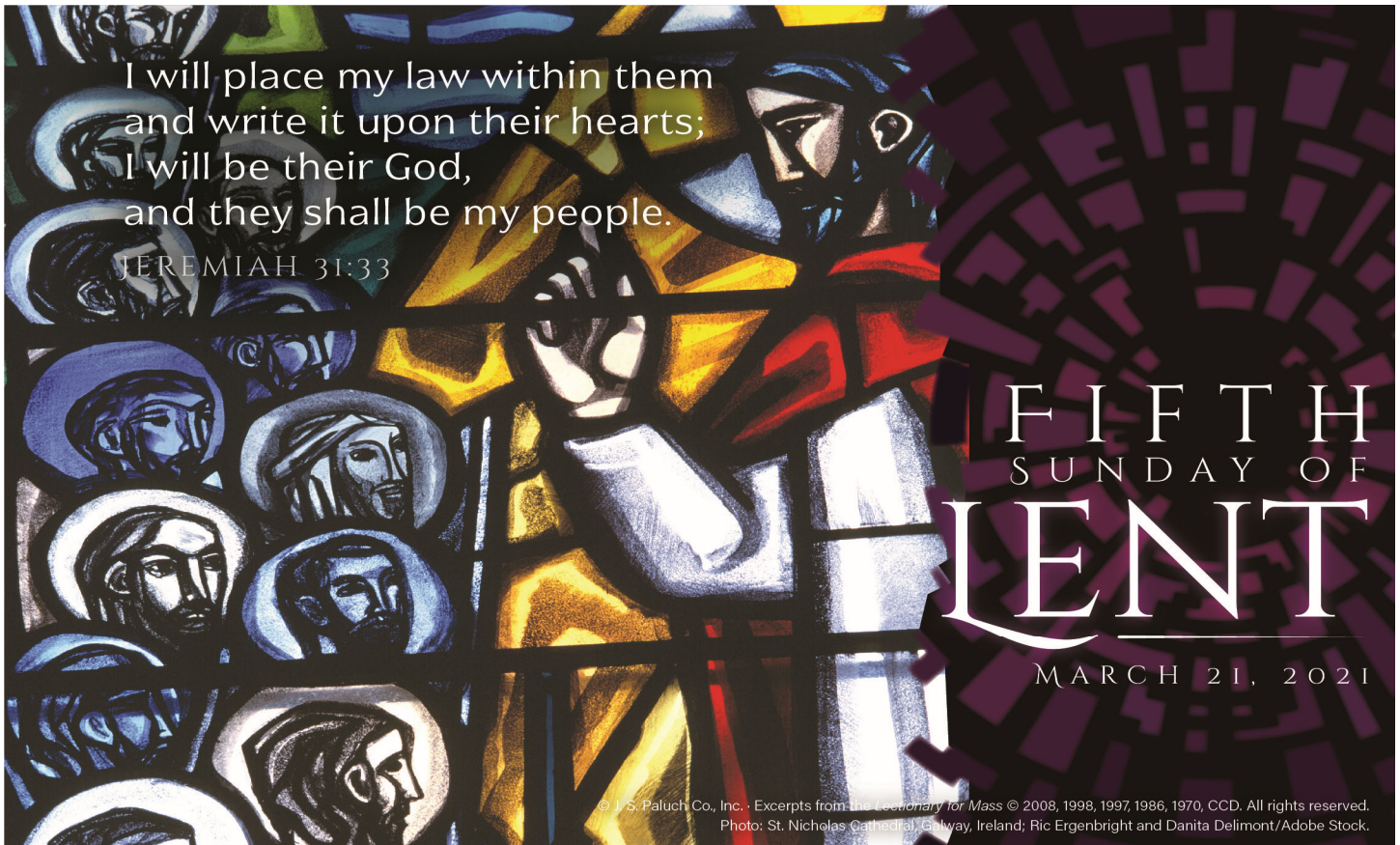


# EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 Closed  
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

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<h3><b>Parish Pastoral Council</b></h3>	<h3><b>Parish Finance Council</b></h3>
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## **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 of Lent (B)**  
**March 21st, 2021**  
**Jer 31: 31-34 / Ps 51: 3-4, 12-15 / Heb 5: 7-9 / Jn 12: 20-33**

In the Gospel, Jesus declares: “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” spoken in a time of distress, this is the Johannine equivalent of the “agony in the garden,” which is not recorded in the Fourth Gospel. Jesus is greatly “troubled” at the coming of the “hour” that will culminate in his death on the cross. But he is determined to go through it because this is how he will glorify the Father. Moreover, his *paromia* (a figure of speech akin to the Synoptic “parables”) points out that it is by dying that he will give life - much life (“much fruit”) as his death and resurrection will draw all peoples (Jews and Gentiles) to him in faith and, “through this belief,” will have life in his name” (Jn 20:31). The coming of the Greeks to Jesus does not just show the curiosity of the Greeks over the Rabbi of Nazareth, for the evangelist, it anticipates and fulfills the very words of Jesus: “when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” the “lifting up” is the glorification of Jesus that entails his dying on the cross; it is his return to the Father from whom he came. The Son, however, will not return alone. He will bring along many other children. In his death and resurrection, the Father of the Son becomes the Father of the disciples; his God is their God (cf Jn 20:17).

Like a seed planted in the ground, he had to die to what he was in order to live in a new way. He had to die (to this life so he could fill the whole world with his presence and his grace.

This is the new covenant Jeremiah tells us about in today's first reading, a covenant written in our hearts. The covenant becomes a part of us because he becomes a part of us through his Holy Spirit and we become a part of him. That union is deepened each time we pray, each time we love unselfishly, each time we are faithful to our mission in life, each time we celebrate the Eucharist and participate in the blood of the new and eternal covenant.

Jesus had the option of taking what appeared to be the easy way out. Even then, his decision to stand by what he did and taught was hard. He warns us that sometimes it's hard for us, too, to do what we have to do. We just heard him say in the gospel: "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." This was literally true for many of Christ's followers. Many people had to give up their lives to remain faithful to Christ. Gratefully in this land today, we do not have to sacrifice our life for our faith, but to be faithful is not always the easiest path. Coming to Mass on Sunday, staying chaste, being honest, doing for others, forgiving injuries, loving our neighbor, especially the obnoxious ones, is not always easy.

Today's gospel is essentially a theological reflection on the cross, Jesus' cross and ours. Let us ask our Lord to help us remain faithful and know that all crosses are temporary, while the glory of union with Christ and following his lead is eternal.



## March 21st, 2021 - Directory & Weekly Mass Schedule

### **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

### **22 MONDAY**

- 7:30am** †Maria Esperanza, Servant of God (For her beatification) by Cannon Family & \*Secular Franciscans by Martina DeBoise  
**8:30am** †Vincent J. Facciuto by \_\_\_\_\_ & †Sgt. William A. Shepard by Peggy Bailey  
**12:00pm** †Lillian DeVivio by Mark & Gail Vlasek & \*Katherine Hobark by Jan Durmer

### **23 TUESDAY**

- 7:30am** †Caryll V. Hall by Family & †Christine Langan by Martina DeBoise  
**8:30am** †Meryl Kaplan by Mark & Gail Vlasek & †Joseph & Mary Civitano by Michele & Rick  
**12:00pm** \*Carol Nameck Santangelo by Susan Santangelo & †Leon Caouette by Cousin

### **24 WEDNESDAY**

- 7:30am** †Jennifer Corey Smith by Mom & Dad & \*Franciscan Friars of St. Mark Church by Matina DeBoise  
**8:30am** \*Dorothy Deedy by Dennis & Judy Smith & †Joan Graham by Don & Joan Terracciano  
**12:00pm** †Pearl & Joseph Budd by Son

### **25 THURSDAY**

- 7:30am** †Joseph Anastasi by Cookie Anastasi & \* Alvaro Arango (Birthday) by Rice-Motta Family  
**8:30am** †Loretta B. Flordeliza by Linnie Palad  
**12:00pm** No Intention

### **26 FRIDAY**

- 7:30am** Veronica Ruiz by Martina DeBoise & †Lillian DeVivio by Dennis & Judy Smith  
**8:30am** †Mary Ondrako by Son, Richard Ondrako  
**12:00pm** No Intention  
**6:00pm** For Priests

### **27 SATURDAY**

- 8:30am** Maria Jesus Lopez by Herb & \*John and Annie Plummer Family by \_\_\_\_\_  
**4:00pm** Intentions of the Book of the Dead  
**5:30pm** †Michael Carnevale by Maria Carnevale & \*Souls in Purgatory by Friend

### **28 SUNDAY**

- 7:30am** \*Vera & Frank Andrich by A.M & \*Edward Sikora by Mom  
**9:00am** Emmanuel Pavillion Donors & Benefactors by \_\_\_\_\_ & \*Sister An Magdlane of the Blessed Sacrament Family by \_\_\_\_\_  
**10:00am** †Jeffery Havens by Patrina Havens & †Lee Janow by Samia Farah & Bill Luther  
**10:30am** Parishioners & Benefactors  
**12:00pm** †Lorry Light by Barbara Rossi & †Vincent J. Facciuto by Barbara Rossi  
**6:00pm** †Ted Ogrodnik by Ogrodnik Family & †Jose Coz by \_\_\_\_\_

#### Unscheduled Mass Intentions

†Thomas Sperling	by Phyllis Deangelis
Simi Sahu	by Martha Rice
†Maurice Ahem	by Linda & John Kaelblein
†Mr. & Mrs. John Cook	by Donna
†Mr. Mcdonough	by Gerri & Dough Kozlike
†Glen Davey	by Michael Davey
†Richard Countryman	by Butch O'Neill

#### 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	Linda Volz
Ken Eitelman	

## Weekly Updates

### Our Weekly Offertory

Weekend Collection	March 14, 2020
Offertory Collection:	\$10,446
Second Collection:	\$368
Online:	\$610.28
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$11,424.28</b>
Seminarians:	\$992
Children's Mass:	

### DSA

Goal = \$158,000  
Amount Made = \$89,919  
Remaining = \$68,081



### 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

#### 22 Monday

6:30am Adoration

#### 23 Tuesday

6:30am Adoration  
10:00am Faith Sharing

#### 24 Wednesday

6:30am Adoration

#### 25 Thursday

6:30am Adoration  
10:00am Bible Study

#### 26 Friday

6:30am Adoration  
6:30pm Taizé

#### 27 Saturday

9:00am Confession

### Weekly Readings & Saints of the Day

#### 22 Monday

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];  
Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

#### 23 Tuesday

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo  
Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

#### 24 Wednesday

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

#### 25 Thursday

The Annunciation of the Lord  
Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10;  
Lk 1:26-38

#### 26 Friday

Abstinence  
Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

#### 27 Saturday

Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

## Announcements

### Stations of the Cross

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



### 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 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



### 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.)

### Mass Intention vs Memorial Mass

A daily Mass may be offered for the living or deceased or special intention and may be arranged by contacting our receptionist.

A Funeral or Memorial Mass with the presence of the body or Cremains may be arranged by contacting Deacon Tony through the parish office

## Announcements

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

Religious Education Schedule

**Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade:** April 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>  
**6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> grade** April 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

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:

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 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 Lesson

## Chapter One Man's Capacity For God I. The Desire for God

27 The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for:

The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator.

28 In many ways, throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behavior: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, and so forth. These forms of religious expression, despite the ambiguities they often bring with them, are so universal that one may well call man a religious being: From one ancestor (God) made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "in him we live and move and have our being."

## To Be Continued...

# Announcements

## Congratulations to our 2021

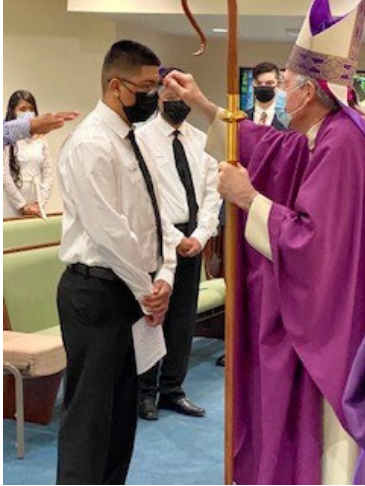
### Confirmation Class:

Fernando Arzate-Reyes  
Rolando Arzate-Reyes  
Nicholas Boden  
Branden Bylow  
Jocelyne Garcia  
Natanael Garcia  
Juan Lazarte  
Jayden Lux  
Julia Massarella  
Servando Pineda  
Edgar Sandoval  
Jose Sotelo  
Jaime Sotelo  
Edgar Villatoro





# Announcements



*Congratulations*

## Announcements

### Emmanuel Catholic Church Schedule of Masses & Services for Lent, Holy Week & Easter

**Friday, March 26th, 2021**

**Penitential Service and Confession**

6:30pm - Penitential Service and  
Confession, in the church

(Six Priests will be available for confession)

Note: this is the only confession that we have  
for Holy Week and Easter.

**Saturday, March 27th, 2021**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

4:00pm Vigil - 4:00pm Vigil (Overflow)

5:30pm Vigil

**Sunday, March 28th, 2021**

7:30am - 7:30am (Overflow)

9:00am - 9:00am (Overflow)

10:00am Children's Mass

10:30am - 10:30am (Overflow)

12:00noon - 12:00noon (Overflow)

6:00pm - 6:00pm (Overflow)

***Monday of Holy Week***

***March 29th, 2021***

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

***Tuesday of Holy Week***

***March 30th, 2021***

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

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius

11:00am (Open to all Priests in the Diocese)

***Wednesday of Holy Week***

***March 31st, 2021***

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

***Holy Thursday***

***April 1st, 2021***

8:30am - Morning Prayer

7:00pm - (Mass of the Lord's Supper  
(Overflow Mass in Columbus Hall if needed))

Note: No altar repose, procession and  
confession. You can stay in the Church for  
Adoration until 11:00pm.

***Good Friday***

***April 2nd, 2021***

8:30am - Morning Prayer

9:00am - Stations of the Cross, in the Church

3:00pm - Celebration of the Lords Passion:

The Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the  
Holy Cross & Holy Communion

(Overflow Service in Columbus Hall if needed)

No Confession

***Holy Saturday***

***April 3rd, 2021***

8:30am - Morning Prayer

(No Blessing of Easter Baskets)

***Easter Vigil Mass***

7:00pm

(Overflow Mass in Columbus Hall if needed)

***Easter Sunday - April 4th, 2021***

***Resurrection of the Lord***

6:00am Sunrise Mass

7:30am - 7:30am (Overflow)

9:00am - 9:00am (Overflow)

10:00am Children's Mass

10:30am - 10:30am (Overflow)

12:00noon - 12:00noon

Note: All overflow Masses will be held outside by the  
Shrine of Our Lady, if the weather permits.

# Announcements



## MEMORIALIZE

Your Loved One

Only "Five" Stain Glass Openings Remain

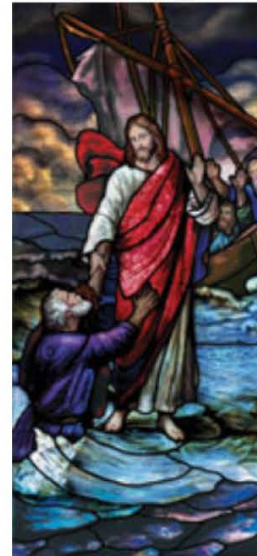
- ~~1. Door "B" \$2,000 26x" x 65" Deluxe Medallion 21 Jesus on the Throne~~
- ~~2. Door "D" \$4,000 26x" x 65" In-30 Show with Cross~~
- ~~3. Door "F" \$4,000 26x" x 65" Deluxe Medallion 14 Saving Peter~~
- ~~4. West lobby \$2,000 42" x 79" Pope John Paul II~~
- ~~5. East Lobby \$3,000 42" x 79" Mother Teresa~~



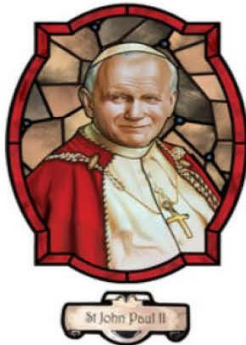
**Deluxe Medallion 21  
Jesus on the Throne**



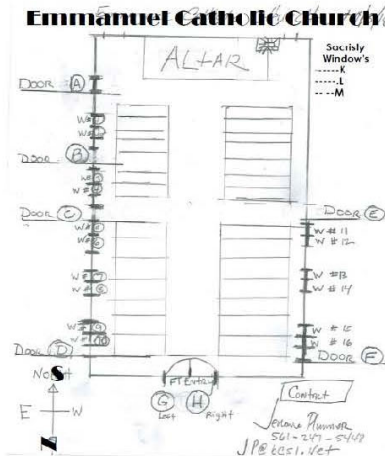
**IN-30 shown with cross**



**Deluxe Medallion 14  
Saving Peter**



**Saint 14: John Paul II**



**Saint 13: Mother Teresa**

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

# Announcements

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



Colomé & Associates, Inc.  
Architecture • Planning • Interiors  
1000 N. Central Expressway, Suite 1000, Orlando, FL 32801

Emmanuel Catholic Church  
NEW PAVILION  
CONCEPTS

## We need everyone's Prayers and financial commitment.

*Some can do more than others, but all of us must do our share!*

### 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 Phone | Fax | Text | 561-247-5448

## Announcements



Emmanuel Catholic Church  
NEW PAVILION  
CONCEPTS

### Giving Opportunities

- ~~\$250,000.00 "Naming Privileges" - including Lettering on the Pavilion~~ **GONE**
- \$150,000.00 Infant Jesus Statue /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 for our guest and your Dedication on the wall of giving
- \$5,000.00 Provide a Giant Cooling Fan. Provide a "Cool Breeze" for all and You can place your dedication on the wall of giving
- \$1,000.00 -You and up to 9 others can put together \$1K and honor your loved ones by Dedicating up to 5 leaves on the tree of giving
- \$500.00 You and up to 4 others put together \$500.00 and honor your loved ones by Dedicating up to 5 leaves on the tree of giving

Jerome Plummer Finance Committee Phone | Fax | Text | 561-247-5448

## Announcements

### Saint of the Week

# Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero Saint of the Day for March 24

#### Saint Oscar Romero's Story

The night before he was murdered while celebrating Mass, Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador said on the radio: "I would like to appeal in a special way to the men of the army, and in particular to the troops of the National Guard, the police, and the garrisons. Brothers, you belong to our own people. You kill your own brother peasants; and in the face of an order to kill that is given by a man, the law of God that says 'Do not kill!' should prevail.

"No soldier is obliged to obey an order counter to the law of God. No one has to comply with an immoral law. It is the time now that you recover your conscience and obey its dictates rather than the command of sin. . . . Therefore, in the name of God, and in the name of this long-suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven every day more tumultuous, I beseech you, I beg you, I command you! In the name of God: 'Cease the repression!'"

Simultaneously, Romero had eloquently upheld the gospel and effectively signed his own death warrant.

When he was appointed archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, Bishop Romero was considered a very "safe" choice. He had served as auxiliary bishop there for four years before his three years as bishop of Santiago de Maria.

Oscar's father wanted him to be a carpenter—a trade for which he demonstrated some talent. Seminary classes in El Salvador preceded his studies at Rome's Gregorian University and his ordination in 1942. After earning a doctorate in ascetical theology, he returned home and became a parish priest and later rector of an interdiocesan seminary.

Three weeks after his appointment as archbishop, Romero was shaken by the murder of his good friend Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, a vigorous defender of the rights of the poor. Five more priests were assassinated in the Archdiocese of San Salvador during Romero's years as its shepherd.

When a military junta seized control of the national government in 1979, Archbishop Romero publicly criticized the US government for backing the junta. His weekly radio sermons, broadcast throughout the country, were regarded by many as the most trustworthy source of news available.

Romero's funeral was celebrated in the plaza outside the cathedral and drew an estimated 250,000 mourners.

His tomb in the cathedral crypt soon drew thousands of visitors each year. On February 3, 2015, Pope Francis authorized a decree recognizing Oscar Romero as a martyr for the faith. His beatification took place in San Salvador on May 23, 2015. He was canonized on October 14, 2018.

#### Reflection

Oscar Romero and many other Latin American martyrs for the faith were falsely accused of advocating a Marxist-inspired "theology of liberation." Following Jesus always requires choices. Romero's fiercest critics conveniently dismissed his choices as politically inspired. An incarnational faith must be expressed publicly.