



15700 S. MILITARY TRAIL, DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484

P:561.496.2480

F:561.496.5755

RICH IN WHAT MATTERS TO GOD.

— LUKE 12:21 —

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center PRAYER IS THE ANSWER A Season of Psalms and More

Join us for a transformative experience designed to deepen your spiritual journey. All the women of the Parish are invited to attend a Retreat focused on Prayer.

September 12 - 14, 2025.

Retreat begins with registration at 5PM and ends after Sunday mass at 11AM. The cost is **\$275.00 per person** and includes lodging and meals.

(New AC has been installed at the Retreat Center).

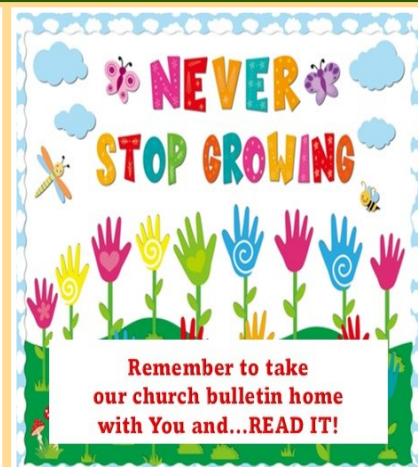
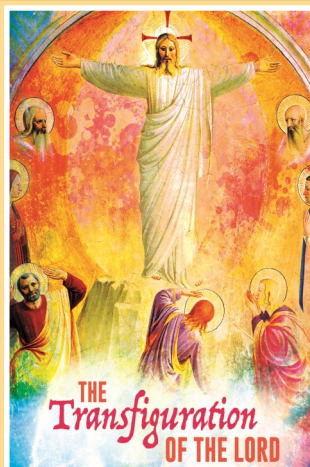
Private room with a shared bathroom.

Contacts:

Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center
1300 US Highway One, North Palm Beach,
FL 33408

561.626.1300

Use the QR to register or call for reservation sooner than later. If a ride is needed, please email 1951nlmcdonald@gmail.com



PARISH INFORMATION

02 | PARISH FAMILY | GOD IS WITH US



OUR MISSION

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 a 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.

CLERGY

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Gaudioso Zamora

Parish Vicar

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ihedoro

In Residence

Rev. Fr. Joseph Papes

Weekday/Weekend Associates

Rev. Fr. Timothy Canaan

Rev. Fr. David Carr

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

PARISH MINISTRIES

OCIA & Sacramental Preparation

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

Religious Education

Jean Krokus | Ext. 1005

religiouseducation@emmanuelcatholic.church

Sandra Gallegos sgallegos@emmanuelcatholic.church

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Lectors

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Hospitality / Ushers

Bob Bonney & Chuck Dolce

Music

Linda Coz, Ree Joy Baldonado, Men's Choir

Altar Flowers

Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community

Altar & Clergy Vestments

Carol Chapman, Nancy McDonald,

Homebound / Hospital Ministry

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

PARISH STAFF

Director of Finance

Tanya Kuppmala Ext. 1001 tkuppmala@emmanuelcatholic.church

Secretary

Stella Sadolfo Ext. 1007 secretary@emmanuelcatholic.church

Property Manager

Edward Shannon Ext. 1006 maintenance@emmanuelcatholic.church

Receptionist

Rose Marie Baldonado Ext. 1000 receptionist@emmanuelcatholic.church

Gift Shop

Josephine Joan | Ext. 1009

Blood Drive

Patti Gomez | 561-293-9761

Finance Council

Parish Council

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Guild

President Nancy McDonald

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight Luke Van Hove

Legion of Mary

President Maude Cassagnol

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



PARISH REGULAR SCHEDULE

TAIZÉ PRAYER

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

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Every Thursday after the 8:30am mass
or call the parish office

BAPTISMS

Sundays at 1:00pm. Schedule one month in advance.
Contact Parish Office.

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–1:00pm**

Tuesday Closed

Thursday & Friday **8am–1pm**

Saturday Closed

4th Sunday of the Month **10:00AM– 1:30PM**

NOTE: Gift shop will be closed when the parish office is closed

ROSARY GROUP

Monday–Friday after the 7:30am Daily Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after the 8:30am Mass

SCHEDULE CHANGES?

Inquiries regarding possible adjustments (to date or time) of scheduled parish events or activities this week should be addressed to the parish office during business hours. Call us at **561.496.2480**.

The Blessed Mother instructed us to
"SAY THE ROSARY"
We invite you to join us
every Saturday at 6:15 pm
(after the 5:30 pm vigil mass) as we pray
THE ROSARY FOR PEACE
In our Families, In our Hearts and
In the Whole World.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, August 03

9:00A.....Knights of Columbus Mass
1:00P.....Rosary Prayer by Legion of Mary

Monday, August 04

6:30A.....Adoration
1:00P.....Movie Mondays
6:00P.....Legion of Mary

Tuesday, August 05

6:30A.....Adoration
10:00A.....Faith Shari

Wednesday, August 06

6:30A.....Adoration
4:00P.....SoulCore–stretch & pray
www.soulcore.com

Thursday, August 07

6:30A.....Adoration
9:00A.....Anointing of the sick
3:00P.....Holy Hour
6:30P.....AA Meeting

Friday, August 08

6:30A.....Adoration
6:30P.....Taize
7:00P.....Young Adult Group

Saturday, August 09

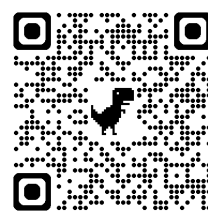
9:00A.....Confession
9:00A.....Lay Cistercians Meeting

Sunday, August 10

9:00A.....Ladies Guild Mass
1:00P.....Pre-Baptism Class

WHAT IS SOULCORE?

(See Wednesday
schedule above)



CLERGY & MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 03

7:30A Fr. Carr 9:00A Fr. Carr
10:30A Fr. Theo 12:00P Fr. Carr
6:00P Fr. Theo

Monday, August 04

7:30A Fr. Carr 8:30A Fr. Carr

Tuesday, August 05

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Theo

Wednesday, August 06

7:30A Fr. Carr 8:30A Fr. Theo

Thursday, August 07

7:30A Fr. Carr 8:30A Fr. Theo

Friday, August 08

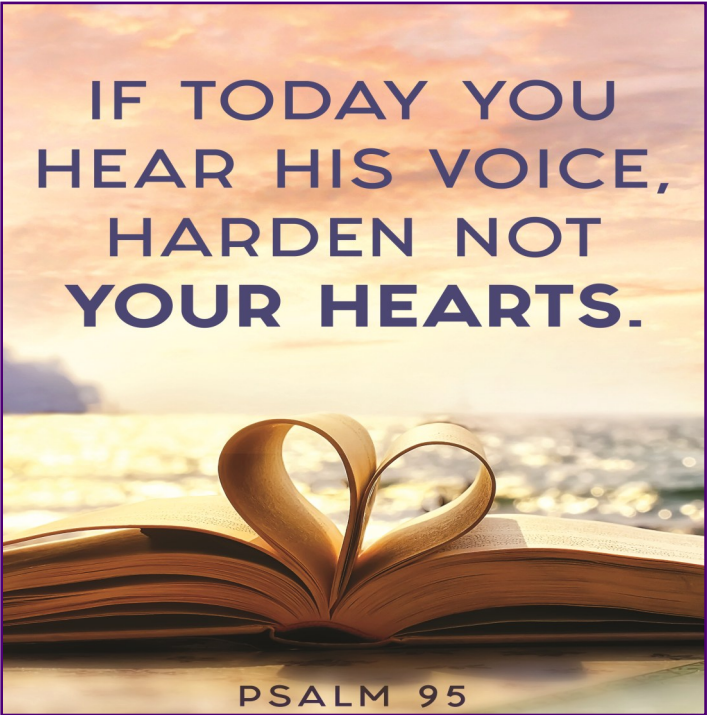
7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Carr
6:00P Fr. Theo

Saturday, August 09

8:30A Fr. Carr 4:00P Fr. Carr
5:30P Fr. Theo

Sunday, August 10

7:30A Fr. Theo 9:00A Fr. Carr
10:30A Fr. Timothy 12:00P Fr. Timothy
6:00P Fr. Theo



OUR GIFTS TO GOD

July 27, 2025

First Collection	\$ 8,421.00
Second Collection	\$ 2,237.00
Online (07/26)	\$ 1,339.33
TOTAL	\$ 11,997.33

July 20, 2025

First Collection	\$ 12,118.00
Second Collection	\$ 2,579.00
Online (07/19)	\$ 1,898.66
TOTAL	\$ 16,595.66

DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

July 17, 2025

Goal Amount for Emmanuel	\$185,000.00
Current	\$138,484.09
Remaining Balance	\$46,515.91

Thank you all for your continued support
and generosity!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

AUG 03– AUG 10, 2025 | 05

SCHEDULED INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 03

7:30am	*Priests & Religious by Dorothy Canazaro	†Henry & Isabel Mazurkiewicz by Daughter
9:00am	*Knights of Columbus by Blessed Mother Council 1333A	†Mary & Nicholas Marinelli by Robert Gizzarelli
10:30am	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS
12:00pm	†Mary & Bill Walsh by Children	*Liberation of Haiti by Cassagnol Family
6:00pm	†Bukowski-Urbanowicz Families by Family	†Fr. Wacław Hlond by Bukowski Family

Monday, August 04

7:30am	*Carisema Saint Jean & Family by Carisema Saint Jean	*Rita Onderick/Healing by Christine Shento
8:30am	†Erik Depko by Tom & Clara Depko	†Bob Albertson by Evelyn Baroni

Tuesday, August 05

7:30am	†Bob Stott by Fe Stott	†Robert Albertson by C. Clarke Family
8:30am	*Cedric Cassagnol by Mom & Dad	†Bob Albertson by Carol

Wednesday, August 06

7:30am	*Joe Defelice/Healing by Tom & Clara Depko	*Ann Carro by Tom & Clara Depko
8:30am	†Karen Wittmeier by Ben & Jennifer Caronna	*Evelyn Baroni by Clara Depko

Thursday, August 07

7:30am	*Ted Vargas by Elsa Caraballo	†Jonanna Cole by Dennis & Judy Smith
8:30am	*Theodore Vargas/Birthday by Evelyn Santiesteban	*Rich Grosso/Healing by Tom & Clara Depko

Friday, August 08

7:30am	†Michele Mcphee by Ray & Maud Cassagnol	†Valentine Cassagnol by Ray & Maud Cassagnol
8:30am	†Valentine Cassagnol by Cassagnol Family	†Esmeralda "Emmy" Pe Dee by Didi Gidseg
6:00pm	FOR PRIESTS	FOR PRIESTS

Saturday, August 09

8:30am	†Jaqueline Robinson by Lay Cistercians of South Florida	†Frank Mazurkiewicz by Sister
4:00pm	BOOK OF THE DEAD	BOOK OF THE DEAD
5:30pm	†Carmen Tripo by Linda & Ed DiMarco	†Donald Shea by David & Marcia White

Sunday, August 10

7:30am	†Ramon & Pedro J. Tavarez by Estebania Brea	†Curt Creasy & parents by Wife
9:00am	*Ladies Guild by Ladies Guild	†Robert Albertson by Rose Manuele
10:30am	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS	PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS
12:00pm	†Donna Petricone by Husband	†Alice Claire Sorrelli by Joseph Sorrelli
6:00pm	*Janet Ramos by Mari Fernandes	†Martha Harrel by Mari Fernandes

UNSCHEDULED

†Santa (Tina) Basilico by Linda & Ed DiMarco	*Evelyn Baroni by Dorothy Deedy	*Carlitos Devem by Mercedes Cepeda
*Brielle Eva by Mercedes Cepeda	*Marco Cepeda by Mercedes Cepeda	*Daniella Cepeda by Mercedes Cepeda
*Lancito Cepeda by Mercedes Cepeda	*Mateo Goodwin by Mercedes Cepeda	*Evelyn Baroni by Barbara Rossi
*Evelyn Baroni by Ladies Guild	*Nora & Paul Manuele by Rose	*Maria Manuele by Rose
†May, George & Aida Elissa by Handal Family	*Nadia Elissa/Healing by Handal Family	†Sr. Ellen Murphy by Handal Family
†Fr. Joe Quin by Handal Family	*Fr. Wester Hilaire/Healing by Handal Family	*Dr. John Sauce/Healing by Handal Family

Please take some time this week to remember the following in your prayers: For all in our parish family who are suffering serious or terminal illness:

For men and women in the Armed Forces, and their families: AND FOR ALL LISTED BELOW

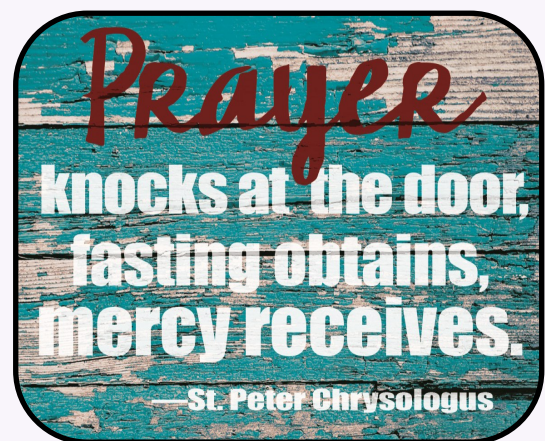
Victoria Robelo Ms. S.	Salamone Maria Amaro	Josefa & Dolores Echavarria
Rose Borsella	Aniela Ignaczak	Amparo Longalong
David Smeraldo	Lillian Campayno	Annie Lee
Janette Cole	Terry Schwinge	Eugene Langel
Steven Martin	Tom D'Amico	Delma Langel
Sikes	Gabriel Zamora	William Ward
Gianna Pagan	Vincent Blum	Gaetano Sansone
Mary Loveland	Ricardo Blum	Alexis Thompson
Sam Falcone	Gina Marie B. Cohen	Griffin Bates
Patricia Golstein	David Strompf	Miriam Texeira
Taylor Dosh	Sal Hanono	Kevin Marshall
Marilyn Martino	Heather Smith	Andrea Anastasi
Gulshan Modena	Jason Smith	John & Alma Gardner
Maggie Dolan	Ronald Merhige	Elaine Garofano
Amelita Coz- Zarraga	Roshan	Julia Lea
Heather Martin	Karen Jensen	Buddendorf
Ronald Griffiths	Cynthia Martin	Albertina Hughes
Margie Giaquinto	Garry Solomon	Kamm Trumble
Maria Fernandez	Ilda Sosa Botero	Linda Beamish
Raphael Roman	Carlos Tobon	Quinn Morris
James Ezeilo	Jill Forshey	Henry Morris
Brenda Ezeilo	Gerry Santilli	Marcia Riopol
Cynthia Martin	Gail Hill	Mumtaz Begum
Francis Martin	Chrissie Budrick	Lance Joseph
Hermoine D'Cruz	Frank Dazzo	Michelle Pierno
Brigitte Knops	Dina Quelch	John Wilmere
Toni Kreamer	Stewart Librizzi	Keith Johnson
Gerry Gerhard	Thomas Land	Betty Lou Johnson
Euclides Cerutti	Agatha Saccio	Christine Thurman
Samuel Gonzales	Rafael Botero	Connie Panepinto
Victorio	Albert Fernandes	Edwin Villarosa
Ray Wolff	Romano Britney	Brian Sullivan
Ida Giannettina	Closson Jeanette	Dominic Canzano
Josette Weber	Gallegos Adriana	Kyle Buenconsejo
Ann Cavaseno	Elejalde Oswaldo	Evelyn Baroni
Charles C. Tufano	Cesar Monasterio	Olga Galarza
Angela Discepolo	Michael Cecere	The Taffe Family
Anna Halford	Jahaziel Roldan	Alexander Barone
Sal Yanello	Abigail Chin-Lenn	Joanne Liantonio
Victor Rivera	Gertrudis Rivera Martinez	John Petrich
William Lindner	Merrill Tucker	Mary Karten
Lisa Della Femina	Maggie Dazzo	Luca Diomampo
Maria E. Quiñones	Martha Gutzman	Michael Manuele
Mercado	Noah Altherios	Robert Wiczowski
Diane Daniels	Anthony Spirito	Mady and Ruth Petersen
Carmen Jones	Rhea Reacher	Ann Carro
Bill Hamilton	Doug Rodgers	Debbie Boburka
Ralph Senese	Doris Vourinen	Ricarda Vargas
Ramona	SrVeronique DCSO	William Sheldon
Ash Gaballah	Danny Berciles	Steve Valtri
Karen Ramey	Eleanor Hemmer	Bernadette & Bucky McGann
Mary Ann	Joseph Lauria	Raymond Perez Sr
Lisa Payne	Judy Lew	Jochi Castellui .
Marilyn Green	Ernie Skelton	
Joseph	Carlotta	

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION . 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 I partake of your mystical supper, O Son of God. May the partaking of your holy mysteries, O Lord be not for judgment 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 and Blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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.

PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY. Almighty God We stand before you in supplication, Asking Your Divine mercy and protection, To envelop with Your invincible armor, Our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength Against all enemies, Both spiritual and physical, And hasten their safe journey, Back to their homes and families. If it be Your Holy Will That they be gathered to Your bosom, With the eternal vanguard of the saints, Let their journey to Your everlasting arms Be swift and painless, Where they may stand in honor and glory, Praising You for all eternity. Amen



THE TRUE MEASURE OF WEALTH

Today, we gather to reflect on the profound wisdom found in Ecclesiastes 2:22, where the author laments, "What do we gain by all our hard work?" This question reverberates through the ages, lifting our eyes from the relentless pursuit of worldly gain to a more eternal perspective. As we delve into our scripture readings today, we are reminded that our true wealth lies not in material possessions but in the relationships we cultivate and the love we share.

Psalm 90 echoes this theme by calling us to reflect on the fleeting nature of life. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." The psalmist urges us to consider how we spend our precious time on earth. Are we accumulating riches that will end when we do, or are we investing in experiences, kindness, and faith that will bear fruit for eternity?

In Colossians 3:1, St. Paul reminds us that if we have been raised with Christ, we should seek the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. This admonition to focus on heavenly values shifts our priorities. It calls us to look beyond our earthly labors and to seek spiritual fulfillment and growth.

In Luke 12:21, Jesus presents the parable of the rich fool, who hoarded his wealth without considering the

value of his soul. "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Here, we see a stark warning: life isn't measured by what we own but by how we live and love.

Let me share an anecdote from my own experience. A dear friend of mine was a successful businessman, admired for his impressive wealth and lifestyle. However, when diagnosed with a terminal illness, he transitioned from focusing on expanding his empire to cherishing relationships with his family and friends. In his remaining days, he gathered everyone for Sunday dinners, sharing stories and laughter, leaving behind a legacy of love rather than riches.

Reflecting on the words of Pope Francis, he once said, "Wealth does not belong to us; it is a gift from God meant for all." When we adopt this mindset, our relationship with our possessions changes. We become stewards, sharing what we have for the betterment of our community.

Today, I encourage each of us to ask: Are we reaching for what truly matters? Our wealth is found in faith, love, and service. Let us strive to be rich toward God, investing in what lasts beyond our short time on earth, and supporting others in their journeys. May we live with the wisdom that teaches us to count our days, so we can truly make those days count in the love of Christ. Amen.

Saint of the Week - St. John Vianney

St. John Vianney, known as the Curé of Ars, was born on May 8, 1786, in Dardilly, France. He grew up in a devout Catholic family, and from an early age, he felt a calling to the priesthood. Despite facing numerous challenges in his studies, including a struggle with Latin, he persevered and was ordained a priest in 1815.

Assigned to the small village of Ars, Vianney devoted himself to his parishioners, earning a reputation for his deep spiritual insight, love for confessional work, and dedication to pastoral care. He spent long hours in the confessional, guiding the faithful, often being able to discern their worries and sins before they even spoke. His profound commitment to his vocation led to incredible spiritual transformations in his parish, drawing people from far and wide to seek his counsel and hear his sermons.

St. John Vianney became known for performing miracles and spending hours in prayer, cultivating a gift for spiritual direction. His unwavering faith and love for God inspired many, and he became a model for priests

worldwide. He passed away on August 4, 1859, and was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1925. He is now the patron saint of parish priests.

Motivational Reflection

St. John Vianney's life exemplifies the importance of perseverance and humility in our spiritual journey. Despite his initial struggles, he answered God's call, showing us that our weaknesses can become strengths when we trust in divine grace. His unwavering dedication to serving others reminds us that holiness is found not in extraordinary achievements, but in the everyday acts of love and service. As we reflect on his life, let us consider how we can emulate his spirit in our own lives. May we provide guidance, compassion, and spiritual support to those around us, understanding that every small act of kindness contributes to the greater good. Let St. John Vianney inspire us to become bearers of light in our communities, echoing his words: "The priest is not a priest for himself, he is a priest for you." In doing so, we not only grow in our faith but also enrich the lives of others, leading them closer to God.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

For what profit comes to man from all the toil
and anxiety of heart
with which he has labored under the sun? (Eccl 2:22)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

Gospel:

Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves
but are not rich in what matters to God." (Lk 12:21)

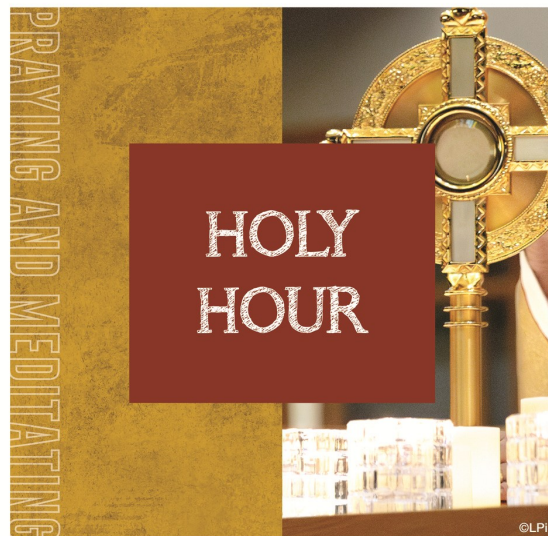
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus warns us that at any moment we can
be called before God to face judgment. When
we are, our life will be measured not in dollars
or accomplishments, but in what matters to
God. What do we have to show for our time
spent on earth?

Observances for the week of August 3, 2025

Sunday:	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. John Vianney, Priest
Tuesday:	The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Wednesday:	The Transfiguration of the Lord
Thursday:	St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest
Friday:	St. Dominic, Priest
Saturday:	St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday:	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

A holy hour is the practice of
spending one hour's time in
the presence of the Blessed
Sacrament, praying and
meditating on the agony of
Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Open Hands

Lord, I do not know what any day
holds,
I cannot take for granted any of
the gifts You have given.
Help me to use them, then, as You
would have me.
Help me to live according to Your
invitations.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 3, 2025

Sunday:

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1)/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

Monday:

Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday:

Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday:

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36

Thursday:

Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 16:13-23

Friday:

Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday:

Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51/Mt 17:14-20

Next Sunday:

Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 (12b)/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Recent studies suggest that millennials will be the first generation in America to be worse off than their parents in terms of financial earnings and job status. Many lament this. I propose that this week's Gospel provides a hopeful way to see the trend as good news.

The Lord Jesus says, **“Take care to guard against greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist in possessions” (Luke 12:15).** Greed damages us with the deception that we are what we possess. But to Jesus, this is simply not true. What makes us happy is who we are, who we become.

Does not the expectation that every generation should do better than their parents subtly mask the poison of greed? A similar attitude is mirrored in the man who demands that Jesus justly arrange his share of the family inheritance. Despite the injustice, Jesus will not play that game. In fact, he seems to prefer that the man have less than his parents. What good would having more be to this man if he becomes enslaved and miserable by greed? What good would it be for us to have more if it means we become much less?

In allowing the man to have less, Jesus opens a space for him to become more: a man free to love. In that much more meaningful sense, perhaps he was better off than his parents. Maybe the millennials will be, too.

— Father John Muir

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn't take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

The Barn

It's 9:08 on a Saturday morning, and I am too darn busy for confession.

I've probably written before about how hard I find it to get to confession — I say 'probably' because I really can't remember. I whine about it so frequently that it's hard to tell if I've made it the subject of a written piece or if it is simply an oft-recited refrain from the Litany of Colleen's Perpetual Complaints.

During the week, it's tough to get to confession because I have little kids who are attached to me like Velcro, and I don't need them listening in on (and eventually repeating to everyone) my sins. On the weekend it's a little easier, but our parish doesn't offer it before or after Sunday Mass, just on Saturdays. Saturday is when I get most of my work done, so getting absolution usually comes at the expense of productivity.

And that, friends, right here, is my barn. Productivity. That's the proverbial storehouse of my earthly harvest. For the rich man in the parable, it's a literal barn, filled to bursting with sellable crops. For you it might be money or your job title or what your life looks like to other people on social media. For me, it's Getting Things Done. That's my barn, the repository that holds the whole of my worldly preoccupations.

And it's so full I want to tear it down and build a new one. A bigger one. One that can hold more worry, more time for work, more focus on output and crossing things off a to-do list. Vanity of vanities, indeed.

If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn't take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

I have to burn the barn, friends. I don't want to, but I have to. I'm closing my laptop and going to church.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Does watching Mass on TV fulfill my Sunday obligation?

Answer:

In the age of instant communication, email, voice mail and teleconferencing, many people wonder if these media of communication can be used for sacraments. Many priests, I am sure, have had people ask about going to confession on the phone. While it may seem like a convenient way to do things, there are many reasons why we don't.

Watching the Mass on television can be a good thing, especially for those who are shut-in. But it really doesn't fulfill our obligation. The obligation to attend Mass is more than just simply listening to the Mass or following the prayers and the readings. Gathering together as a community of faith is important. Sacraments are community events where we encounter God and one another. When we gather together, we are most visibly the Church, the Body of Christ. Besides, television is a one-way medium. It allows us to watch without really being able to give a response. In faith, our response is as important as anything that we hear. We need to take an active part in the religious expression of our community.



PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM STORMS.

God our Father, Creator of the Universe and Lord over all creation, we humbly stand before you as your children in thanksgiving for your loving care and protection. We ask that you keep us safe from all hurricanes and illness which may threaten us in the coming seasons. Protect us from all fear and anxiety and give us an ardent trust and hope in Your love and mercy. You alone have the power to command the sea, the wind, and the rain. You alone bring peace, calm, and safety. Father, we thank you in advance, for you are our only Refuge. We ask this through Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and Patroness of our Diocese, pray for us.

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED

A few months back, my wife and I helped move my oldest son into his first real apartment. He was moving to start his first real job and was excited and cautious at the same time. Moving him in reminded me of when his mother and I were first starting out. We received an old couch from her aunt, some kitchen supplies from my mom, and many other things from friends and relatives so we could begin this new journey in our lives. We didn't have much. But we had one another, and we had love. Looking back, those were great times.

Sometimes, we think material possessions give evidence of a life lived well. Artifacts from our travels, collections that take time to amass and provide clues to our interests, and various pictures and prints that adorn our walls. However, those who have lived lives of hardship

and pain have many of the same items. Not only doesn't all our stuff amount to real evidence of what our life has really been like, but it doesn't make our lives better either.

What makes a life well lived will be the love and compassion that we have experienced, primarily with God who loves us so deeply. Due to that love, God gives to us what we need, not always what we want. More stuff will never amount to anything in comparison to what God provides to us. If we reflected on that truth more, perhaps we would spend less time accumulating things and more time simply loving.

On that moving day, I wanted to give my son more material things than was possible. However, what he really needs then, now, and always is my love.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



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730am to 130pm

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** Walk-ons welcome- appointments appreciated! Questions or to schedule, call **Patti @ #561-293-9761**

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