



EMMANUEL

God With Us



15700 S. MILITARY TRAIL, DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484 | MARCH 22, 2026 ISSUE | P:561.496.2480 F:561.496.5755

Holy Week Schedule



MONDAY MARCH 30

7:30, 8:30 & 12 NOON

TUESDAY

7:30, 8:30, & 12 NOON

*Christ Mass at the Cathedral
11A

WEDNESDAY

7:30, 8:30 & 12 NOON
CONFESSION 5:00PM

THURSDAY

Morning Prayer 8:30A
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7P
Eucharistic Adoration &
Reposition in CH until 11P
*No Confessions

FRIDAY

Morning Prayer 8:30A
Stations of the Cross 9A
*Around the lake
Liturgy of the Word,
Adoration of the Holy Cross &
Holy Communion 3P
*No Confessions

SATURDAY

Morning Prayer 8:30A
Blessing of Easter Baskets
12P

Easter Vigil Mass 7P

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5

Sunrise Mass 6A
7:30, 9:00, 10:30 & 12 Noon

*Overflow Masses
in the pavilion
9:00, 10:30 & 12 Noon

THREE EVENINGS OF REFLECTION AND
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL THIS LENT.

PARISH *Lenten* MISSION

WALKING WITH THE LORD

PRESENTER: FR. TIMOTHY CANAAN



MARCH 23, 24, 25



6:30-7:30 PM



IN CHURCH



First Night

WALKING WITH THE LORD
WITH A PERFECT HEART

FOCUS

(Micah 6:8) He has showed you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.

PRE-TALK REFLECTION

What does it mean to walk with the Lord while embodying justice, tenderness, and humility?

Second Night

WALKING WITH THE LORD TO THE CROSS

FOCUS

Meditate on a particular Station of the Cross that resonates with you and how it relates to your personal experiences of suffering or injustice.

PRE-TALK REFLECTION

How can the journey of the Cross inspire us to endure our own trials with grace and compassion?

Third Night

WALKING WITH THE LORD AND THE VIRGIN MARY

FOCUS

Consider the rosary as not just a prayer; it is a journey that allows us to walk with Mary as we meditate on the life of Christ.

PRE-TALK REFLECTION

In what ways can Mary's example deepen our discipleship and relationship with Christ?

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

“WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY AND FULLNESS OF REDEMPTION...”

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.

BISHOP OF PALM BEACH

Most Reverend Manuel de Jesús Rodríguez, J.C.D.

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 Rev. Fr. James Leone

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

PARISH STAFF

Director of Finance

Tanya Kuppamala Ext. 1001 tkuppamala@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

PARISH MINISTRIES

OCIA & Sacramental Preparation

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

Religious Education

Jean Krokus | Ext. 1005

religiouseducation@emmanuelcatholic.church

Sandra Gallegos Ext 1005

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

Gift Shop

Josephine Joan | Ext. 1009

Blood Drive

Patti Gomez | 561-293-9761

Ladies Guild

President Nancy McDonald

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight Luke VanHove

Legion of Mary

Maude Cassagnol

Men's & Women's Emmaus

Joe & Kathy de Santo (954)732-4479

Thanks to Vanessa Gallegos for contributing her time, graphic skills and social media support to the parish family!

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–1:30pm

Tuesday Closed

Thursday & Friday 8am–1pm

Saturday Closed

Fourth Sunday of the Month 10am–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

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

MARCH 15, 2026

First Collection	\$ 16,572.00
Second Collection	3,421.00
Online (3/14).....	2,511.53
TOTAL	\$ 22,504.53

MARCH 08, 2026

First Collection	\$ 18,613.00
Second Collection	1,754.00
Children's Mass	477.00
Online (02/21).....	3,571.56
TOTAL	\$ 24,415.56

Thanks to our Parish Family for your constant prayers
and generous support for our church ministry!

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 23

6:30A..... Adoration
1:00P..... Movie Mondays
6:30P–7:30P..... Parish Lenten Mission
7:00P..... Young Adult Group

Tuesday, March 24

6:30A..... Adoration
9:00A..... Legion of Mary Meeting
10:00A..... Faith Sharing
6:30P–7:30P..... Parish Lenten Mission
7:00P..... KoC General Meeting

Wednesday, March 25

6:30A..... Adoration
2:00P..... School of Christian Formation
4:00P..... SoulCore
6:30P–7:30P..... Parish Lenten Mission

Thursday, March 26

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

Friday, March 27

6:30A..... Adoration
9:00A..... Stations of the Cross (around the lake)
4:30P–6:30P..... Fish Fry
5:30P..... Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 28

9:00A..... Confession
6:15P..... Rosary for World Peace

Sunday, March 29

1:00P..... OCIA



SCHEDULED INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 22

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 7:30am | †Ramon & Francisca Tavarez by Estebania Brea | †Patricia Baker by Barbara Blakey |
| | †Loretta Gallo by Cookie Anastasi | |
| 9:00am | †Tony Donnino by Carmella | †Robert Albertson by Carmella |
| 10:30am | PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS | PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS |
| 12:00pm | †Sally Myers by Margie Prendergast | †Rafael Bellber by Margarita & Leonard Handel |
| 6:00pm | †Ronnie Celestial by Sister | †Victor & Elena Ron by Granddaughter |

Monday, March 23

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 7:30am | *Joey & Michael Manarina by Lee Family | *Evelyn & Pedro Santiesteban & Family by Ricarda Vargas |
| 8:30am | †Beatrice Lau-Kee by Carol & German Sandoval | †Carol Faubert by Stephanie Acra |
| 12:00pm | †James Gilbert by Tom Comparato | †Cecilia Diaz by Sandoval Family |

Tuesday, March 24

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 7:30am | *Marily Martinez by Alex Lee | *Elsa & Victor Caraballo & Family by Ricarda Vargas |
| 8:30am | *Ruth Lee by Son in-law | †Carol Faubert by Stephanie Acra |
| 12:00pm | *Carmella Donnino/Healing by Ladies Guild | †Comparato Family by Tom Comparato |

Wednesday, March 25

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 7:30am | †Joseph Anastasi by Cookie Anastasi | *Mary Lee by Family |
| 8:30am | *Olga & Joe Galarza & Family by Ricarda Vargas | *Rebeca Garcia/Healing by Tom & Clara Depko |
| 12:00pm | †Frank Contorno by Mr. & Mrs. Contorno | †Pearl & Joseph Budd by Son |

Thursday, March 26

- | | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 7:30am | *Antonio Capobianco/Healing by Alex Lee | †Delia Cabrera Lazo by Emil Lazo |
| 8:30am | †Mary Louise Ondrako by Richard | *Ted & Lisa Vargas by Ricarda Vargas |
| 12:00pm | †Maria Quiannan by Family | †Margaret & Gustave Jarvis by Grandson |

Friday, March 27

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 7:30am | †Maria Jesus Lopez by Heri | †Haydee Luisa Varona by Emil Lazo |
| 8:30am | *Dorothy Deedy by Carol & German Sandoval | †Adrienne Laurino by Augusta Colonna |
| 12:00pm | †Jimmy Osborne by Dad, Mom & Joey | †John Nelson by Family |
| 6:00pm | FOR PRIESTS | FOR PRIESTS |

Saturday, March 28

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 8:30am | *Edward Sikora by Jennifer | †Kevin Flynn by ----- |
| 4:00pm | BOOK OF THE DEAD | BOOK OF THE DEAD |
| 5:30pm | †Anthony Diprima by Eric & Cathy Siegel | †Pasquale Catenacci by Eric & Cathy Siegel |

Sunday, March 29

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 7:30am | †Bonnie Buriel by Heri | †Joseph Sessa by Cookie Anastasi & Girls |
| 9:00am | †Henry Martini Sr. by Daughters | †Bob Kosineski by Wife |
| 10:30am | PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS | PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS |
| 12:00pm | †Celedonio del Prado by Granddaughter | *The Lee Family by Lee Family |
| 6:00pm | †Mary Kidder by Anne & Gerry Gerhard | *Rosanne V. & Miguel Conty by Ricarda |

UNSCHEDULED

- | | |
|---|--|
| *Cynthia Lipsky by Marie & Mike Proto | †Myrna & Pura Feraren by Arlene & Grace |
| †Asuncion, Caridad & Adelaida de Vera by Arlene & Grace | †Trinidad & Gerardo Bersamin by Arlene & Grace |
| †Isabelo & Rufina Feraren & Children by Arlene & Grace | †Rosario, Victoria & Natividad Feraren by Arlene & Grace |
| †Sr. Natividad de Jesus by Arlene & Grace | †Estanislao & Ines Feraren by Arlene & Grace |
| †Gloria, Milagros & Geraldine Feraren by Arlene & Grace | |

Altar Flowers

Vigil Light

Shrine Flowers

PRAYER LIST

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 FOR:

Maggie Dolan	Thomas Land	Olga Galarza	Raphael Roman
Amelita Coz-Zarraga	Agatha Saccio	The Taffe Family	Gwen Dambra
Heather Martin	Rafael Botero	Alexander Barone	Maria Lauria
Ronald Griffiths	Albert F. Romano	Joanne Liantonio	Sophia Etapour
Cynthia Martin	Britney Closson	John Petrich	Janet Shea
Francis Martin	Janette Gallegos	Mary Karten	Joanne Colacchio
Hermoine D'Cruz	Adriana Elejalde	Luca Diomampo	Kathy Brothers
Brigitte Knops	Oswaldo C. Monasterio	Michael Manuele	Liliana Grace Krauss
Toni Kreamer	Michael Cecere	Robert Wiczowski	Kelly Brea
Gerry Gerhard	Jahaziel Roldan	Debbie Boburka	Bill Lingafelter
Euclides Cerutti	Abigail Chin-Lenn	Mady and Ruth Petersen	Kelvin Greenleaf
Samuel Gonzales	Merrill Tucker	Ann Carro	Irving Corkette Carmella
Victorio Ray Wolff	Gertrudis R. Martinez	Ricarda Vargas	Donnino Mark Walsh
Josette Weber	Maggie Dazzo	William Sheldon	Kathleen DeSanto
Ann Cavaseno	Martha Gutzman	Steve Valtri	Christian Fulco
Charles C. Tufano	Noah Altherios	Bernadette & Bucky McGann	Mumtaz Begum
Angela Discepola	Anthony Spirito	Steve F. Raymond Perez	Jim Krager
Anna Halford	Rhea Reacher	Jochi Castellui	
Sal Yanello	Doug Rodgers	Sean Zahul	
William Lindner	Doris Vourinen	Jeanne G. Tania R.	
Lisa Della Femina	Sr Veronique DCSO	Espinoza Anne Noel	
Victor Rivera	Eleanor Hemmer	Lisette Woodward	
Maria E. Quiñones	Joseph Lauria	Juan Silva	
Mercado Diane Daniels	Judy Lew	Rocco & Susan Marcone	
Carmen Jones	Ernie Skelton	Maria A. Carmen Marie Victorin	
Bill Hamilton	Carlotta Josefa & Dolores Echavarrria	Philip Charles Avangaline	
Ralph Senese	Annie Lee Amparo Longalong	Ezeilo Sal Chersch	
Ramona Ash Gaballah	Eugene Langel	Jennifer Nicholas	
Karen Ramey	Delma Langel	Antonia Hyde	
Mary Ann	William Ward	Keith Melville	
Lisa Payne	Alexis Thompson	Mark Sinobio	
Marilyn Green	Griffin Bates	Joselito Bengua	
Joseph Salamone	Miriam Texeira	Michele Sambuco	
Maria Amaro	Kevin Marshall	Gregg Dollinger	
Aniela Ignaczak	Andrea Anastasi	Fred Hoffman	
Lillian Campayno	John & Alma Gardner	Bonnie Artman	
Terry Schwinge	Elaine Garofano	Carole Liantonio	
Tom D'Amico	Julia Lea Buddendorf	Rosemary Perez	
Gabriel Zamora	Albertina Hughes	Mary Aloise	
Vincent Blum	Kamm Trumble	Michelle Duffy	
Ricardo Blum	Linda Beamish	Rose Borsella	
Gina Marie B. Cohen	Quinn Morris	Catherine Shannon	
David Strompf	Henry Morris	Kelly Keyser	
Sal Hanono	Marcia Riopol	Freddy Bellise	
Heather Smith	Mumtaz Begum	Astrid Castañeda	
Jason Smith	Lance Joseph	Jo-ann Suffield	
Ronald Merhige	John Wilmere	Walsh & Joseph Bonomo	
Roshan	Keith Johnson	Nancy Kelley	
Karen Jensen	Betty Lou Johnson	TJ Genzale	
Cynthia Martin	Christine Thurman	Ronnie Falcone	
Garry Solomon	Connie Panepinto	Michael Amalfi	
Ilda Sosa Botero	Edwin Villarosa	Jr	
Carlos Tobon	Brian Sullivan	Patti Shannon	
Jill Forshey	Dominic Canazaro		
Gerry Santilli	Kyle Buenconsejo		



PRAYER BEFORE HOLY 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 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 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.

OFFER
YOUR
SUFFERING
TO GOD

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of March 22, 2026

Sunday:

Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,
33b-45

Monday:

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-
62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday:

Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday:

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday:

Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday:

Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday:

Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/
Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday:

Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-
24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or
27:11-54

CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 22

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

Monday, March 23

7:30A Fr. Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Fr. Carr
12:00P Fr. Leone

Tuesday, March 24

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Theo
12:00P Fr. Carr

Wednesday, March 25

7:30A Fr. Carr 8:30A Fr. Leone
12:00P Fr. Carr

Thursday, March 26

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Zamora
12:00P Fr. Timothy

Friday, March 27

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Zamora
12:00P Fr. Timothy 6:00P Fr. Theo

Saturday, March 28

8:30A Fr. Zamora 4:00P Fr. Leone
5:30P Fr. Carr

Sunday, March 29

7:30A Fr. Carr 9:00A Fr. Theo
10:00A Fr. Zamora (Children's Mass)
10:30A Fr. Timothy 12:00P Fr. Timothy
6:00P Fr. Zamora

**Exclusive to kids and their families



DSA UPDATE
March 12, 2026
2026 Goal Amount \$205K
Raised \$ 70,391.00
Balance \$134,609.00



Weekly Prayer *Take-offs*

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,
and I will settle you upon your land;
thus you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ez 37:14)

Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. (Ps 130)

Second Reading:

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
the one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also,
through his Spirit dwelling in you. (Rom 8:11)

Gospel:

"I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."
(Jn 11:25-26)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Lazarus, come out!" Jesus calls into the tomb.
These same words he cries into the depths
of our hearts. "Come out!" God is calling you.
Come out from the sleep of your indifference.
Easter is near. Now is the time. Come out!

Observances for the week of March 22, 2026

Sunday:	5th Sunday of Lent
Monday:	St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Wednesday:	The Annunciation of the Lord
Next Sunday:	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins

GUIDE TO THE EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

These questions can help guide your reflection during the **Examination of Conscience**, leading to a deeper understanding of your relationship with God and others.

- 1. Faith:** Have I doubted or denied my faith in God?
- 2. Worship:** Have I neglected my prayer life or missed Mass on Sundays and holy days?
- 3. Love:** Have I loved God with my whole heart, mind, and soul?
- 4. Neighbors:** Have I treated others with respect and compassion, or have I engaged in gossip or judgment?
- 5. Honesty:** Have I been truthful in my words and actions, avoiding lies or deceit?
- 6. Actions:** Have I committed any serious sins, and have I sought forgiveness?
- 7. Temptations:** Have I given in to temptation or allowed sinful habits to take hold in my life?
- 8. Gratitude:** Have I expressed gratitude for God's blessings, or taken them for granted?
- 9. Forgiveness:** Am I holding onto grudges or refusing to forgive others?
- 10. Service:** Have I served those in need and been generous with my time and resources?

**Lenten confession is on
Wednesday, April First.
Starts at 5:00 PM with a
short penitential service
before confession
outside with the priest
you want to be with.**





SPRING



FLING

🌸 SCAN QR CODE FOR SPRING FLING RECAP 🌸

OUR PARISH FAMILY CAME TOGETHER FOR AN EVENING FILLED WITH DELICIOUS FOOD, JOYFUL FELLOWSHIP, AND GREAT COMMUNITY SPIRIT. SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH A SHORT VIDEO RECAP AND RELIVE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS BEAUTIFUL PARISH CELEBRATION.



WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU NEXT FRIDAY AT

Lenten Fish Fry



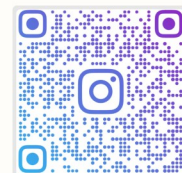
THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND PARISH FAMILY FOR MAKING OUR FISH FRY A SUCCESS!

STAY CONNECTED

 Instagram

 YouTube



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EMMANUELCATHOLIC.CHURCH

SCAN THE QR CODES TO FOLLOW AND SUBSCRIBE!

From Darkness to Light: *Embracing Resurrection in Christ*

Today, as we gather to reflect on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we are invited to contemplate profound themes of life, death, resurrection, and hope through the rich readings that our Church offers. The passages from Ezekiel, Psalm 130, Romans, and the Gospel of John paint a vivid picture of God's promise to breathe new life into His people, even in the darkest of circumstances.

In the reading from Ezekiel, we hear God's powerful words to the Israelites, who felt hopeless and cut off from their homeland—a people living in despair, in exile. God promises, "I will open your graves and bring you up from them." This imagery speaks to the depths of our struggles and the times when we feel lifeless, burdened by sin, anxiety, or loss. God invites us to trust in His ability to restore us, to bring us back to life.

Psalm 130 echoes this sentiment, presenting a heartfelt cry for mercy and forgiveness. It reminds us that from the depths of despair, we can reach out to God, who is abundant in love. It is in recognizing our need for God that we can begin to experience true healing. When we, too, acknowledge our own graves—real or metaphorical, we can encounter the grace that is offered through Christ.

The Annunciation of the Lord

The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25th each year, marking the occasion when the Angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive the Son of God, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. This event represents a pivotal moment in Christian theology, as it signifies the Incarnation—the moment God became man. The feast underlines both Mary's acceptance of God's will and her role in the salvation history. It invites the faithful to reflect on themes of obedience, faith, and the divine plan. This feast emphasizes the importance of Mary's "yes" to God, showcasing her as a model of faith and commitment.

Reflection: The Annunciation invites us to ponder the power of accepting God's call in our own lives. Just as Mary faced uncertainty and the weight of a monumental task, we too encounter moments that require courage to embrace the unknown. Her willingness to say "yes" serves as a profound example of trust and openness to God's will.

In our fast-paced, often chaotic lives, allow the message of the Annunciation to resonate within you. What is God

asking of you? Is there a challenge or opportunity you are hesitant to embrace because of fear or doubt?

In Romans, St. Paul speaks to us about the power of the Spirit that dwells within believers, affirming that this Spirit gives life to our mortal bodies through Christ. This notion of transformation is central to our understanding of the Lenten journey. We are called not just to mourn our sinfulness but to allow the Holy Spirit to empower us, to act in ways that reflect God's love and mercy.

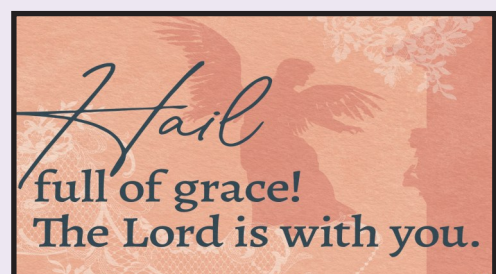
Lastly, in the Gospel of John, we witness the miraculous raising of Lazarus. Jesus' deep compassion for Mary and Martha amid their grief teaches us that even in moments of profound sorrow, God is present, ready to weep with us and lead us toward resurrection. Jesus commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb, and in doing so, He invites each of us to step out of the darkness of our personal tombs into the light of His love.

As we prepare for the joy of Easter, let us reflect on what it means to be resurrected in Christ. What are the areas in our lives that need God's renewing touch? As we approach the final days of Lent, may we have the courage to invite God into our tombs, allowing His Spirit to breathe new life within us. May we become instruments of that resurrection for others, bringing hope into a world longing for healing and restoration. Amen.

Let us take inspiration from Mary's example and approach each day with an open heart, ready to say "yes" to the opportunities that God places before us. In embracing our unique calls, we continue the legacy of faith that transforms lives and communities.

asking of you? Is there a challenge or opportunity you are hesitant to embrace because of fear or doubt?

This week, take a moment to reflect on how you can respond to divine invitations in your life—whether through acts of service, reaching out to someone in need, or simply taking time for personal growth. By exercising faith and trust in God's plan, we not only grow personally but can also inspire those around us to do the same.



Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Jesus could have raised any random person from the dead on this, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. So if it could have been anyone, why was it Lazarus?

What Lazarus Wanted

“It must be so crazy, being God,” one of my friends said in high school. “Does it feel like playing The Sims all day? Just making people do stuff because you want to see what happens?”

I think we all sometimes fall into this warped manner of thinking about God’s omnipotence. It’s understandable, to a degree. The flimsiness of our own agency in this world, our real ability to impact or change anything ... well, it all feels especially puny when you put it next to the power of the Creator. “Oh God, thy sea is so great,” goes the old fisherman’s prayer. “And my boat is so small.”

But today, in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, we are reminded that God is all about giving us agency.

Jesus could have raised any random person from the dead on this, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. His intention was clear: to foreshadow his own passion, death and resurrection, and to exhibit the closeness of God to those who mourn. “This illness is not to end in death,” he tells his companions. “But is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” (John 11:4)

So if it could have been anyone, why was it Lazarus?

I think the answer has to be that this was something Lazarus agreed to. Perhaps not in an explicit way, for he didn’t know the mind or the plans of God. But in his friendship with Jesus, in the strength of his faith and the depth of his devotion to God, in every prayer he ever uttered — “Lord, let your will be done” — he was agreeing to it. Over and over, in what he said and what he did, Lazarus, beloved friend of Christ, said, “Lord, I love you. Lord, use me.”

In this last full week of Lent, let us say it with him: “Lord, I love you. Lord, use me.”

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why is the Vatican sometimes called the “Holy See?”

Answer:

A little background in ecclesiology will help explain why we call the Vatican the Holy See. The Church is very structured and organized in its hierarchy. A diocese is a geographic area governed by a bishop appointed by the Pope. Each diocese is further broken down into parishes, which have pastors who represent the bishop in his teaching authority.

The diocese of Rome has a particular role in the Church because of its importance and antiquity. The Pope is head of the Church because he is the Bishop of Rome. Every bishop has a seat or throne, which is the symbol of his teaching authority and is located in the cathedral of each diocese. The Latin word for seat is “sedes.” So each diocese can be referred to as a “see.” Most people think that St. Peter’s is the cathedral of Rome, but St. John Lateran Basilica is actually the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Rome. This is where the Pope’s seat or throne as Bishop of Rome is found. So, the Holy See is a reference to the chair of Peter, the Pope’s Chair.



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