



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thanks be to God for His love and mercy which endures forever. Amen. May we never forget Him, and may He listen and answer our prayers. Amen.

As we approach the big celebration of our faith - the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ - let us be more attentive to what we are doing: physically (performing works of charity, being ready to forgive those who have wronged us, having good behavior wherever we go, committing our time to follow Jesus, particularly on His last days - the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday)...and spiritually (reconciling with God and others, attending Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross, to our best ability avoiding any occasions that may lead to sin, being humble and obedient to God and His true Church,...)in preparation for this great celebration.

With all these physical and spiritual works, we will truly "enter" into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. Prayerfully we will feel and understand how joyful the Mother Church is when she celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord.

By practicing these physical and spiritual exercises, we are like the grain of wheat that died and then produced much fruit. We will die to sin for the love of Christ, for our salvation, for the sake of others.

However, pride, disobedience, quick judgment or criticism, anger, resentment and many vices are ready to jump into our life to prevent us from coming closer to God. We somehow are very easily letting/allowing these to overshadow our actions. Then, we fall into the trap of the devil, who will do whatever in his power to take us away from the path to eternal life with God - the devil wants us to be with them for eternity as well.

We have to let the "grain of wheat" die! We have to enter the battlefield to fight Satan! We have to sacrifice! We have to go to the root of sin and pluck it out: the Seven Deadly Sins, and the first one on the list is PRIDE.

Again, I invite you come to Church for the **Triduum**:

+**Holy Thursday**: Celebrating the Mass of the Last Supper, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church, when Jesus instituted the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders. Adoration downstairs until midnight.

+**Good Friday**: Stations of the Cross inside at noon. Commemorating the Passion of our Lord at 3:00 p.m.

+**Holy Saturday**: Waiting for the Resurrection of our Lord with the Easter Vigil at 5:00 p.m., which is the most profound and joyful celebration of our faith. On this "Holy Night," the Church everywhere in the world will baptize and welcome new members of the Church: they will "cross the Red Sea and enter the Promised Land."

Peace, Fr. Tien

Looking Ahead: Holy Week and Easter Triduum

Palm Sunday - Saturday Mass Vigil - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday Mass - 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (En Español)
Chrism Mass - Tuesday - March 26 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
Holy Thursday - March 28 - Mass of the Last Supper - 7:00 p.m.
(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 12:00 Midnight)
Good Friday - March 29 - Stations of the Cross (Inside) - 12:00 Noon
Good Friday of the Lord's Passion - 3:00 p.m., Living Stations En Español - 6:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday - March 30 - Easter Vigil - 8:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday - March 31 - Masses - 9:00 a.m. in English and 11:30 (En Español)





Confessions will be available this week on
March 20th after our 5:30 p.m. Mass and on
March 21st and 22nd from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

RAFFLE TICKETS

The Knights of Columbus will be selling State Raffle Tickets this weekend. There are some great Prizes! Our Council gets to keep half of the ticket sales which we plan to share with the Youth Group and donate to other worthy causes here at St. Francis.



Our Food Pantry is in need of 3 to 8 pound hams for our Easter distribution. If you prefer to make a monetary donation instead, please drop it off at our Parish Office. Thank you!

Envelopes are available at the entrances of the church for those wishing to donate towards our Easter flowers.



OCIA - RCIA - Adult Education on Monday night March 18th at 7:00 p.m. is *The Scrutinies - Raising Lazarus*. Scrutinies-profound Gospel passages. Come share the reading of this Gospel with our RCIA candidates. Video from the Movie *Jesus of Nazareth*.

Deacon David and the Education team

There are Pro Life bumper stickers for your car or pins to wear in our Parish Office. If you would like one, stop by during office hours.



Pray for healing: Shirley Allegretti, Donna Barbaro, Robert Barnable, Ray Behr, Chad Cook, William Crunkleton, Susan Darby, Lillianne Duong Davis, Tony Frede, Carter Hellerer, Dariel Hellerer, Wayne Hirsch, Bill Holten, Guyla Ivers, Sandra Kanter,

Georgette Lee, Dee & Germaine Moffitt, Delphine Moss, Monica Moya, Benjamin Nemeth, John Ontiveros, Doris Price, Freeman Robinson, Josette Roisin, Kathleen Rogers, Mike Scarborough, Bill Shaw, Roxanne Lumia Smith, Wanda Stamey, Irene Tisdale, Alan Tucker, Ruby Christina Tucker, Joe and Charlene Youdell

Please pray for our parishioners and all men and women in the armed forces:

Stephen Fox, Lauren Richards, Christopher Richards, Jesus Rodriguez, Elizabeth Scoon



Rosary is prayed ½ hour before every Mass.

Adoration every Friday after our 9:00 a.m. Mass with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 11:30 a.m. and benediction till noon.

Reconciliation ½ hour before Vigil Mass; Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, March 16

5:00 P.M. John and Joyce Mielnik by Stan Michalik
Germaine Moffitt by Dee Moffitt
† Joseph P. Hoefeyzers by Rosalie Perreault
† Ann Patton by Cheryl Vasky

Sunday, March 17

Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 A.M. Felipe and Angelina Rios Ortiz and
† Holy Souls in Purgatory
by Angelina Rios Ortiz
† Justina Gonzalez Cortes
† Culletana Cortez Lopez
11:30 A.M. † Alcasia Lopez Valencia,
† Rosenda Valencia
† Holy Souls in Purgatory
† David Ruiz Ordaz
† Manuel Ramos by Felipe Diaz

Monday, March 18

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9:00 A.M. Abigail de los Angeles Ortiz-Ruiz

Tuesday, March 19

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 A.M. Brendan, Stacy and Josette Roisin

Wednesday, March 20

5:30 P.M. Ortiz-Ruiz family and
† Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia
† Ethel Grant by Allene Ramsey

Thursday, March 21

9:00 A.M. † David Ortiz-Ruiz
† William and Ann Grabeck
by Doris and Joanne

Friday, March 22

9:00 A.M. † James R. Swanson
Erin, Amber and Matthew by Allene Ramsey
Adelle Bishop by Ella Jellison

Saturday, March 23

5:00 P.M. John and Joyce Mielnik by Stan Michalik

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:00 A.M. † John Turner by Nikki Turner
† Justina Gonzalez Cortes
† Calletana Cortez Lopez
11:30 A.M. † Holy Souls in Purgatory and
† David Ruiz Ordaz by Basilia
† Manuel Ramos by Felipe Diaz