

15700 S. MILITARY TRAIL, DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484

P:561.496.2480

F:561.496.5755



ONE MIGHTIER
 THAN I IS
COMING.

LUKE 3:16

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOTABLES:

We need your assistance in refreshing the fading images of the Stations of the Cross in our Rosary Walk. Read the full announcement in **PAGE 14** of this bulletin to see how you can help.

Check out **PAGE 12 and 13** for Religious Education updates and relevant messages.

Our parish financial statements are on PAGE 5.

The numbers for our offering counts for **Dec 8** will be posted in the next issue as the printers requested an early submission of this issue's proofs.



2024 Emmanuel Diocesan Services Appeal

DSA Emmanuel Parish Goal : \$169,000.00

DSA Emmanuel Parish PLedged : \$121,381.98

Balance Due \$47,618.02.00



**"No One Has Ever
 Become Poor
 By Giving."
 Anne Frank**

How will we achieve our goal? By all of us doing our share!

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

religionseducation@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, Clanaven Baldonado & Men's Choir

Altar Flowers

Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community

Altar & Clergy Vestments

Maryann DiBiase, Carol Chapman, Nancy McDonald,

Homebound / Hospital Ministry

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

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Gift Shop

Josephine Joan | Ext. 1009

Blood Drive

Patti Gomez | 561-293-9761

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Guild

President Nancy McDonald

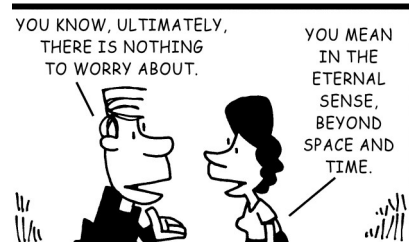
Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight Bob Budd

Legion of Mary

President Maude Cassagnol

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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?

Do you want to make sure there have been no sudden time changes to any event or activity you want to join this week? Call the parish office during business hours.

561.496.2480



PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 14

9:00A..... Confession
9:00A.....Lay Cistercians Meeting
6:30P.....Christmas Concert by Dinggin

Sunday, Dec. 15

1:00P.....OCIA Class

Monday, Dec. 16

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

Tuesday, Dec. 17

06:30P.....Adoration
10:00A..... Faith Sharing

Wednesday, Dec. 18

6:30A.....Adoration
4:00P.....SoulCore

Thursday, Dec. 19

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

Friday, Dec. 20

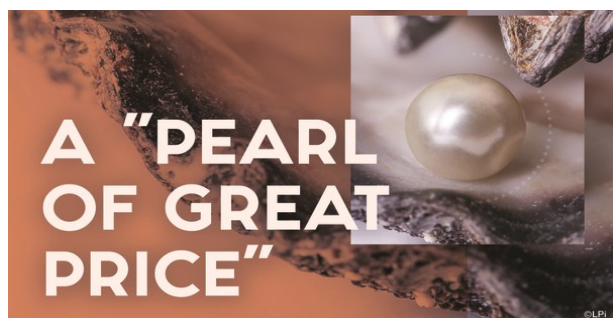
6:30A.....Adoration
6:30P..... Taize

Saturday, Dec. 21

9:00A..... Confession

Sunday, Dec. 22

1:00P.....OCIA Class



WHAT SHALL WE DO

Perhaps, we are also like the people in our gospel who asked St. John: "What shall we do? What are we to do to welcome Christ?"

The prophet must have answered: As the windings shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth, your lives should be fixed rightly and your responsibilities exercised faithfully.

It is not the kind of job that makes us disciples of Christ but the manner in which we do it. Our Lord is inspiring us to practice our professions and endeavors in accordance with the gospel, that is, to use them to glorify God and serve our fellow human's; to dispense our duties with charity, honesty and justice.

One of the sad things in our Christianity is not that it has failed, but that it has not been seriously lived

and applied in our daily lives. There is a perceived dichotomy between faith and practice, between freedom and truth. There are already many believers. But the challenge is not only to add more believers, but to have more Christian witnesses among the existing believers. We may ask: How? It is too difficult. I know for a fact that many people have tried and failed, and these are the people who are really trying to be good and holy. To them, I say: "Do not despair. Do not be discouraged."

In our failures, we realize that we cannot still be good by our own efforts even if we try to, and how we try to. This is the reason why the Messiah's coming is Good News to us. For it is only through him and in him that real goodness and holiness can be possible.

—Fr. Zamora

Saint of the Week - Saint Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 - December 21, 1597)

The energetic life of Peter Canisius should demolish any stereotypes we may have of the life of a saint as dull or routine. Peter lived his 76 years at a pace which must be considered heroic, even in our time of rapid change. A man blessed with many talents, Peter is an excellent example of the scriptural man who develops his talents for the sake of the Lord's work. Peter was one of the most important figures in the Catholic Reformation in Germany. He played such a key role that he has often been called the "second apostle of Germany," in that his life parallels the earlier work of Boniface. Although Peter once accused himself of idleness in his youth, he could not have been idle too long, for at the age of 19 he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards he met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced Peter so much that he joined the recently formed Society of Jesus.

At this early age Peter had already taken up a practice he continued throughout his life—a process of study, reflection, prayer, and writing. After his ordination in 1546, he became widely known for his editions of the writings of St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great. Besides this reflective literary bent, Peter had a zeal for the apostolate. He could often be found visiting the sick or impris-

oned, even when his assigned duties in other areas were more than enough to keep most people fully occupied.

In 1547, Peter attended several sessions of the Council of Trent, whose decrees he was later assigned to implement. After a brief teaching assignment at the Jesuit college at Messina, Peter was entrusted with the mission to Germany—from that point on his life's work. He taught in several universities and was instrumental in establishing many colleges and seminaries. He wrote a catechism that explained the Catholic faith in a way that common people could understand—a great need of that age. At 70, Peter suffered a paralytic seizure, but he continued to preach and write with the aid of a secretary, until his death in his hometown of Nijmegen, Netherlands, on December 21, 1597.

Reflection. Peter's untiring efforts are an apt example for those involved in the renewal of the Church or the growth of moral consciousness in business or government. He is regarded as one of the creators of the Catholic press, and can easily be a model for the Christian author or journalist. Teachers can see in his life a passion for the transmission of truth. Whether we have much to give, as Peter Canisius did, or whether we have only a little to give, as did the poor widow in the Gospel of Luke (see Luke 21:1-4), the important thing is to give our all. It is in this way that Peter is so exemplary for Christians in an age of rapid change when we are called to be in the world but not of the world.

CLERGY & MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 14

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

Sunday, Dec. 15

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

Monday, Dec. 16

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

Tuesday, Dec. 17

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

Wednesday, Dec. 18

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

Thursday, Dec. 19

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

Friday, Dec. 20

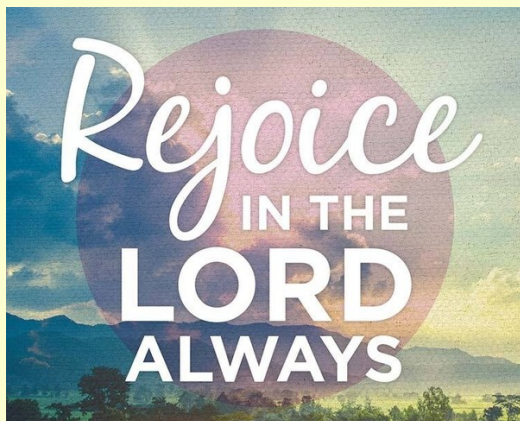
7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Carr
6:00P Fr. Zamora

Saturday, Dec. 21

8:30A Fr. Zamora
4:00P Fr. Papes 5:30P Fr. Theo

Sunday, Dec. 22

7:30A Fr. Carr 9:00A Fr. Leone
10:00A N/A 10:30A Fr. Zamora
12:00P Fr. Timothy 6:00P Fr. Zamora



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2023-2024		
	2023-2024	2022-2023
INCOME		
OFFERTORY	\$ 812,913.09	\$ 742,748.87
PARISH DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	124,394.00	126,646.55
DIocese COLLECTIONS	32,563.00	30,842.00
LITURGY	21,302.00	23,693.00
DONATIONS	366,754.10	182,408.98
FESTIVALS	64,336.38	61,604.16
OUTREACH	30,088.10	27,004.98
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & YOUTH	1,560.00	2,083.00
RENT	7,225.00	6,895.00
INTEREST INCOME	9,458.78	28,800.18
STOLE FEES	10,000.00	9,705.00
OTHER INCOME	3,827.35	3,665.90
TOTAL INCOME	1,484,421.80	1,246,097.62
EXPENSES		
SALARIES & BENEFITS	730,436.95	697,165.66
RECTORY EXPENSES	58,408.86	57,097.31
LITURGICAL EXPENSES	22,454.89	26,628.32
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	278,298.88	227,926.61
OFFICE EXPENSES	45,704.43	46,315.60
FESTIVAL EXPENSES	29,684.77	29,202.20
DIocese COLLECTIONS	31,281.49	37,852.10
OUTREACH	40,525.88	34,557.44
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & YOUTH	20,174.73	14,541.94
SCHOOL SUBSIDY	5,490.00	25,910.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,262,460.88	1,197,197.18
NET INCOME	221,960.92	48,900.44

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2023-2024		
ASSETS	YEAR END 6/30/2024	YEAR END 6/30/2023
CASH-SFT	\$ 400,931.12	\$ 372,542.69
CASH-OPERATING	\$ 236,661.14	\$ 379,488.83
CASH-MASS	\$ 10,716.00	\$ 40,455.32
CASH-LADIES GUILD	\$ 1,401.79	\$ 1,583.76
PRIOPERTY & EQUIPMENT	\$ 6,746,019.50	\$ 6,498,680.14
Total Assets	\$ 7,395,729.55	\$ 7,292,750.74
LIABILITIES		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$ 34.00
OTHER NOTES PAYABLE		\$ 88,118.79
MASS INTENSION LIABILITY	\$ 9,940.00	\$ 54,340.54
Total Liabilities	\$ 9,940.00	\$ 142,493.33
CAPITAL		
SURPLUS - NET WORTH	\$ 7,150,257.41	\$ 7,101,356.97
NET INCOME	\$ 221,960.92	\$ 48,900.44
PRIOR PERIOD	\$ 13,571.22	
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$ 7,385,789.55	\$ 7,150,257.41
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$ 7,395,729.55	\$ 7,292,750.74

FYE 2024 budget is available to view in the office upon request

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

DEC 8–DEC 15, 2024 | 06

SCHEDULED INTENTIONS

Monday, Dec. 16

7:30am †Nancy Dell 'Isola by Victor Dell 'Isola †Diana Espaldon by Pedro & Charito Estrada
8:30am †Mary Beth Melillo by Anne & Gerry Gerhard †Sabina Taylor by David & Marcia White

Tuesday, Dec. 17

7:30am †Christian Krist/1st death anniversary by Sister †Edward Shinn by Phyllis Rizzi
8:30am *Victor Gerard Caraballo by Caraballo Family †Mark Vlasek by Linda Aldrich

Wednesday, Dec. 18

7:30am †Carlos & Angela Henriod & Percy Cannon Sr. †John Dinoto by Mary Moore
by cannon Family
8:30am †Marguerite Dawson by Elizabeth Shannon †Mark Vlasek by Carol

Thursday, Dec. 19

7:30am *Richard Parrelo & Family by A. M. †John Dinoto by Kevin & Mary Ellen Bady
8:30am †Mark Vlasek by Sr. Barbara †Chuck Fiore by Frank & Deb DeFrancesco

Friday, Dec. 20

7:30am †Warren Shortlidge by Bob & Sue Halon †John Dinoto by Jim & Katie Moore
8:30am *German Sandoval by German Sandoval *Cynthia Martin by Marie & Darren Guzman
6:00pm **FOR PRIESTS** **FOR PRIESTS**

Saturday, Dec. 21

8:30am †Concetta Distefano by Cookie Anastasi *Paulina Rudzinska by Mother
4:00pm BOOK OF THE DEAD BOOK OF THE DEAD
5:30pm †Mary Menequale by Robert Menequale †Arthur Messenger by Mr. & Mrs. Sylvestre

Sunday, Dec. 22

7:30am †Nathan & Margaret Villanova by Family †Angelina Maria Gidseg by Didi Gidseg
9:00am †Pietra & Francesco Spallino by Daughter Maria †Giuseppe Spallino by Sister Maria
10:30am PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS
12:00pm *Facciuto Family by Terry Facciuto *Lee Family & Mom by Lee Family
6:00pm †Daniel Zieminski by Zieminski Family †Manus & Anita Clancy by Clancy Family

UNSCHEDULED

*Sallum Family by Sallum Family *Picinich Family by Sallum Family *Picinich Family by Sallum Family
*McCormick Family by Picinich Family *McCormick Family by McCormick Family †Priests & Nuns by Picinich Family
†Priests & Nuns by Picinich Family †Priests & Nuns by Picinich Family

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ALTAR FLOWERS

VIGIL LIGHTS

SHRINE FLOWERS

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| David & John
Helen Cruz
Lenore Curatolo
Marilyn Boyle
Andrea Anastasi
Shelly Fiorini
Ed Bush
Bob Oberholzer
John Wilkens
Scott Ellison
<i>Evangeline Ezeilo</i>
Michael Gehres
Karen Sullivan
Sean Zahul
Darren Guzman
Mary Lou
<i>Connie Panepinto</i>
Amalia Mazzolin
Leon Martin
Joe Delagami
<i>Rose Marie Regner</i>
Michael Manuele
Carla Ruiz
Benjamin Robelo
Karen McCarty
T.J. Genzale
Dave Ruiz
Victoria Robelo
Ms. S.
Rose Borsella
Lexie Helgerson
David Smeraldo
Janette Cole
<i>Steven Martin Sikes</i>
Gianna Pagan
Suzanne Puleo
Sr. Frances Vass
<i>OSC</i>
Mary Loveland
Sam Falcone
Patricia Golstein
Taylor Dosh
Marilyn Martino
Gulshan Modena
Maggie Dolan
<i>Amelita Coz-Zarraga</i>
Heather Martin
Tailor McGee
Ronald Griffiths
Margie Giaquinto
Maria Fernandez
Raphael Roman
James Ezeilo | Brenda Ezeilo
Cynthia Martin
Francis Martin
Hermoine D'Cruz
Brigitte Knops
Toni Kreamer
Gerry Gerhard
Euclides Cerutti
Grace Cassagnol
Samuel Gonzales
Victorio
Ray Wolff
<i>Patricia Tripi Giraldo</i>
Ida Giannettina
Tom Hickey
Josette Weber
Vincent Rizzo
Louis Perticone
Ann Cavaseno
Charles C. Tufano
Angela Discepola
Anna Halford
Sal Yanello
Victor Rivera
William Lindner
Lisa Della
Femina
<i>Maria E. Quiñones-Mercado</i>
Diane Daniels
Carmen Jones
Bill Hamilton
Ralph Senese
Ramona
Ash Gaballah
Karen Ramey
Tom Tripi
Mary Ann
Lisa Payne
Marilyn Green
<i>Joseph Salamone Slayder</i>
Salamone
Phyllis Lomitola
Maria Amaro
Aniela Ignaczak
Lillian Campayno
Terry Schwinge
Tom D'Amico
Gabriel Zamora
Vincent Blum
Ricardo Blum
<i>Gina Marie B. Cohen</i>
David Strompf | Sal Hanono
Chris Angotti
Heather Smith
Jason Smith
Ronald Merhige
Roshan
Karen Jensen
Cynthia Martin
Garry Solomon
Ilda Sosa Botero
Carlos Tobon
Jill Forshey
Gerry Santilli
Gail Hill
Chrissie Budrick
Frank Dazzo
Dina Quelch
Stewart Librizzi
Thomas Land
Dorinda Johansson
Agatha Saccio
Robert Albertson
Rafael Botero
Albert Fernandes
Doreen Romano
Britney Closson
Jeanette Gallegos
Adriana Elejalde
<i>Oswaldo Cesar Monasterio</i>
Michael Cecere
Jahaziel Roldan
Abigail Chin-Lenn
<i>Gertrudis Rivera Martinez</i>
Merrill Tucker
Debra Tucker
Maggie Dazzo
Nicholas Cerino
Daisey Gutzman
Noah Altherios
Debra Serritella
Harvey Shackman
Joseph Reategui
Anthony Spirito
Rhea
Raecher
Doug Rodgers
Doris Vourinen
Sister Veronique
DCSO
Noah Lauria |
|--|--|---|

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.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;
he will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zep 3:17)

Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

Second Reading:

The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:5-6)

Gospel:

The crowds asked John the Baptist,
"What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

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International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Give. Love. Act with justice. This, says John, is how to live out your repentance. As Christmas approaches, be "baptized" by these words of God's greatest prophet. Let them fill you with new life as you await the coming of Christ.

Observances for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent



REGISTER FOR THE EMMANUEL

OCIA PROGRAM

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a year-long process of prayer, learning, and reflection designed for those seeking to become Catholic, those seeking the sacrament of Confirmation, and for those simply exploring the Catholic faith. It is open to all adults ages 18+.

Classes are held on Sunday
afternoons and starts at 1:00
PM

Registration information will
be provided through the parish
office: P561.496.2480

Answers to specific questions will be given
once we have your contact info.

Deacon Anthony Cuseo is the OCIA Program
Director - P561.496.2480.

Emmanuel Catholic Church
15700 S. Military Trail, Delray Beach, FL 33484
P561.496.2480 F561.496.5755

Prayer with St. John the Baptist

Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the least fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community.

Amen.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Asking the Question

I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” that his reply was not going to be: “Keep doing exactly what you’re doing.”

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That’s a hard thing to do, and I don’t do it enough. Too often, I’m afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it’s easy to stray.

Answer:

Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord’s coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday:

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and
7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/
Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/
Mt 1:18-25

Thursday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,
16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Friday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
Lk 1:26-38

Saturday:

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday:

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



Gospel Meditation

Seek a deeper understanding of Scripture

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, “What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?” The Saint responded, “I’d keep hoeing this row of beans.” Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus’ glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize **“with the Holy Spirit and fire”** (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus’ coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It’s so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don’t know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That’s what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: “Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming.” Then make the appropriate changes.

— Father John Muir

PRACTICING CHRISTIAN

FIND GOD IN ORDINARY MOMENTS

THE WELL THAT NEVER DRIES UP

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

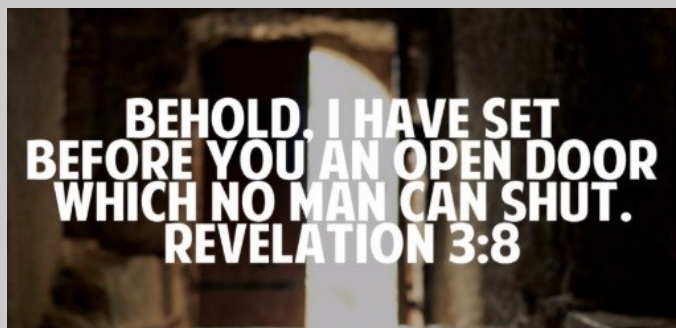
When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water – living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment – so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Congratulations to the officers and members of the Legion of Mary!

Officers of the Legion of Mary in Emmanuel Parish were formally installed by Fr. Zamora. Members were also recognized.

President - Maud Cassagnol

Vice President - Kathy Weber

Treasurer - Kadia Pierre

Weekly meeting date for the Legion of Mary is Monday, 6PM. Call the parish office for the exact venue.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Rise & Shine! The Lord is coming!	2 <i>The King of Glory is coming!</i> Read Psalm 24:7-10	3 Mary and Joseph traveled many miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Draw a picture of them and their donkey as they journey to Bethlehem.	4 Bake Christmas cookies today and share with your neighbors.	5 Volunteer today with your family to serve the poor or feed the hungry.	6 <i>The Feast of Saint Nicholas</i> Saint Nicholas lived a long time ago near Turkey. He would drop bags of gold coins down chimneys to help the poor. Put some coins in the poor box today!	7 Have your parents take you to church today so you can visit Jesus, or find a quiet place to speak to Him in your heart. Thank Him for giving you life!
8 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Prepare the Way of the Lord!	9 <i>The Angel visits Mary</i> The Annunciation Read Luke 1:26-38	10 <i>The Jesse Tree</i> Jesse, the father of King David, was the ancestor of Jesus. Make a Jesse tree out of paper, cardboard, or a real tree branch. Each day of Advent, cut out one symbol of Jesus' ancestors and hang it on the tree with glue, tape, or string. On Christmas day put the symbol for Christ on the top of the tree. Here are some ideas: Adam: an apple Noah: the ark Jacob: a ladder	11	12 Make a card for someone who is sick or elderly, and send it to them or go visit them.	13 <i>Kris Kringle!</i> Have everyone in your family write their names on slips of paper and put in a hat. Everyone pulls out a name and becomes a Kris Kringle-Christ Child-for their secret friend. Pray for them, give them cards or little gifts, but keep it secret until Christmas Day! Shhhhh!	14
15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Rejoice in the Lord!	16 Make Christmas placemats for the family today. Get some 11" x 17" white paper. Write each person's name in the center and decorate the letters. Draw Christmas scenes like Mary and Joseph, Baby Jesus or angels around the name.	17 <i>The First Nativity Scene</i> A long time ago, Saint Francis of Assisi and some friends brought an ox, a donkey, a manger, and some straw to a cave to help people remember that Jesus was born in a stable. Today, set up your Nativity scene, with an empty crib. If possible, Jesus wants us to prepare a place for Him, not only in the manger, but also in our hearts. We do this when we pray, when we are obedient and kind, and when we love one another.	18	19 <i>The Candy Cane</i> The Candy Cane... • Is hard to show Jesus is our Rock • Is white for His purity • Is red for His Blood • Is shaped like a shepherd's crook to show His care for us.	20	21 Light the Advent candles tonight (ask your parents first) and sing "O Come O Come Emmanuel."
22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Be not afraid!	23 The Prophet Micah said, "From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." -Micah 5:2	24 Tonight, Mary will give birth to her firstborn Son. Read the story in Luke 2:1-20	25 <i>Happy Birthday Jesus!</i>			

ADVENT 2024
Activity Calendar



Wishing everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! We hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday break. We'll see **all grades** back on **January 12th**. Family fun day including food, games and our Knights of Columbus soccer and basketball challenge will follow class times. We hope everyone will join us for this family event.

The Meaning of the Candy Cane

Hard Candy: Reminds us that Jesus is like a "rock," dependable.

Peppermint flavor: Is like the gift of spices from the wise men.

White Candy: Stands for Jesus as the holy, sinless Son of God.

The letter "J": Is for the Name of Jesus, our Savior.

Cane: Is like the staff used by the shepherds in caring for sheep. Jesus is our "Good Shepherd."

The Color Red: Is for God's love that sent Jesus to give his life for us on the cross.

The Stripes: Remind us of Jesus' suffering-his crown of thorns, the wounds in his hands and feet; and the cross on which he died.



My First Christmas in Heaven



I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below with tiny lights like Heaven's stars reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here. I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring for it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart, But I am not so far away. We really aren't apart. So, be happy for me, dear ones. You know I hold you dear and be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "LOVE" is the gift, more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

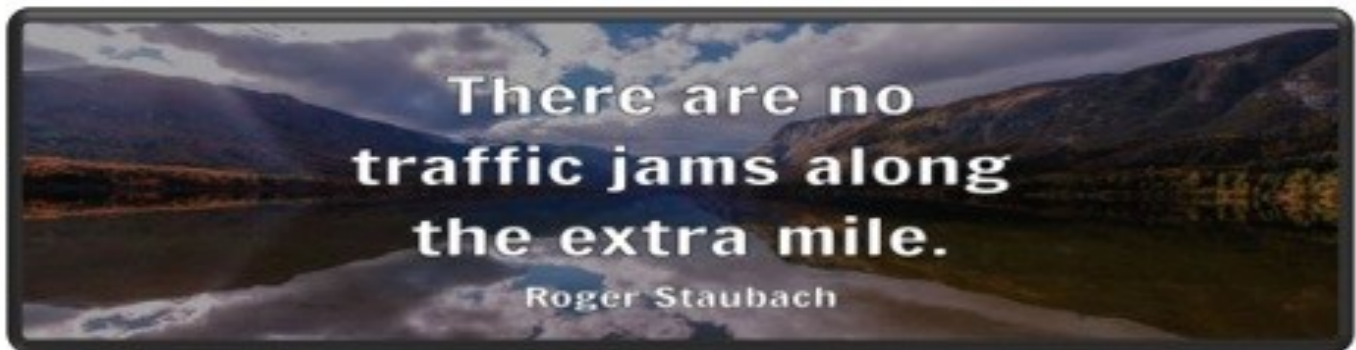
Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings of love He has for each of you. So, have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear.

Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

"By His blood, we are freed from sin to serve the living God, to glorify Him, and to enjoy Him forever." Red cardinals represent life, hope, and restoration and have a symbolic meaning especially at Christmas time. The cardinal's red color and vitality represent everlasting life, similar to the blood of Jesus. The cardinal serves as a gentle reminder that we are never alone for God's love surrounds us always. Cardinals are non-migratory birds, staying visible year-round, even in winter. This constancy makes them a symbol of steadfast faith and the joy of divine love, especially during challenging or "barren" seasons of life. It has been said, "Cardinals appear when angels are near." Many people believe that a visit from a cardinal is a sign or heavenly message from a departed loved one. So, during their season, may their presence bring you peace, warmth, and comfort, reminding you that your loved ones are always near in spirit.

A big **THANK YOU** to all of our volunteers, including the members of our youth group, for their hard work in making our Thanksgiving Dinner a success. Your efforts ensured everything ran smoothly, and thanks to you, everyone who attended was able to enjoy a delicious meal, delightful desserts, and an amazing show. We encourage all youth group members to continue participating in parish events – it's a great way to make new friends and earn community service hours, while making a positive impact in your parish and community!





Our Rosary path is a great place for us to pray, and with the passing of time comes the need to Refresh or replace the elements that have become tired or end of life.

With your donations We are going to Refresh the fading images of the stations of cross with Brass images that will stand up to the brutal Florida sun

**Donation \$1,000.00 Per station
(14 Available)**

***Includes a Leaf on our Tree**

Our existing Wooden Benchs have served us well , but are now so deteriorated they must be replaced.

We will be installing 6' **Aluminium Benches**. Constructed entirely with lightweight, corrosion resistant aluminum materials and protected in a resilient powder-coating finish, these popular imported benches are long lasting and tough as nails

**Donation \$2,000.00 Per Bench
(18 Available)**

***Includes a Leaf on our Tree**



Sometimes when things are falling apart, they may actually be falling into place.
Stay positive.

Get both the Bench & Station of the cross for a \$2,500.00 Donation.
Donations received before the new year will enable work to be complete for Lent 2025

Contact Jerome Plummer 561-247-5448 or email at jp@bcs1.net