



Our Lady of Sorrows Church
April 30, 2017

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Father Grochell always said, "There are no accidents. It is all in the providence and will of God."

So, it was this past Sunday when the topic for Adult Ed. was indulgences, and that same Sunday was MERCY SUNDAY. It put the emphasis on the same wonderful providence of God that we know about His mercy, trust in His mercy, celebrate His mercy, and ask God for it.

Secondly, it was no accident that there was a much better crowd at Adult Ed. than usual. The reason: The topic was **BYPASS PURGATORY AND GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN.**

Diane Penny, the presenter, did a great job explaining her own relatively recent interest in going straight to heaven and convincing others to think the same way. Purgatory is a place of purgation after the sins are forgiven. Like Johnny, who broke the kitchen window in his disobedience by playing ball too close to the window. He came inside, regretful and in tears, was forgiven, but told he had to help his mother clean the house for two hours.

The Church is firm on the existence of purgatory, but not on the type of "purgation" that God has designed for the "remains" of sin. It looks like justice demands that we do something else to make it up to God after the sins are forgiven.

The early Church was so strict as regards the forgiveness of sins. She demanded PUBLIC PENANCE (dressed in sack cloth and ashes, one would stand in front of the Church and ask for prayers). This could be a carry-over from the Old Testament from which the First Century Jewish Christians came. Very soon,

in seeing the mercy of God, the Church prescribed certain prayers and good works to be done in place of the public penances. Some prayers would "indulge" the sinner for the equivalent of 300 days of public penances. Other indulgence prayers would take the place of 3 years or 7 years of public penance. The Church did this indulging on the authority of the popes, the first pope being told by Jesus:

"...whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven...whatever you loose on earth is loosed in heaven..."

My parents INDULGED me, SPOILED me, and the Church uses God's commission to "spoil" us with indulgences.

The following are nine facts on purgatory and indulgences:

1. The purgation process remains a mystery to us, with theories all the way from the pain of fire to the extreme desire to be with God in happiness of heaven, to which one is given knowledge, but not yet the experience;
2. Church teaching is that the souls in purgation cannot help themselves, but they can pray for us;
3. Our prayers can help the souls in purgatory, especially the prayer of the Mass;
4. We cannot gain indulgences for anyone else still here on earth;
5. All gifted "works" must be accompanied by prayer and an aversion for even venial sin;
6. 2nd Maccabees (O.T.) states in Chapter 12: "It is a good and wholesome thought to pray for the dead", and we know there is, in the end, only heaven and hell and prayers really don't help anyone in hell nor anyone in heaven, when one contemplates the eternity of hell, one can easily believe in purgatory. Even though we know from the above quote our prayers can help the dead, the

Church no longer has the jurisdiction over the people in the next world and, so, we leave "HOW MUCH HELP" the prayers can do for the deceased up to God;

7. In 1968 Pope Paul had the Enchiridion revised. Before 1968, a quantitative time was assigned to any prayer with an indulgence. Since 1968, there are no "300 days, or 7 years" assigned to indulgence prayers. Now, indulgence prayers are either Partial (part) or Plenary (the whole) indulgence;
8. To gain a plenary indulgence, along with the assigned prayer one must receive a) sacramental confession; b) Communion, and; c) prayers for the intention of the pope (one *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, *Glory Be to the Father*, *the Son and the Holy Spirit...*);
9. Indulgences are not a "permission" or "excuse" to sin, since to gain the indulgence, one must, by its very nature, have an aversion for all sins.

There are 70 different conditions or prayers in the 1968 official book of indulgences, with all kinds of breakdowns. For example, renewing the baptismal promises in general is a partial indulgence, and renewing them on the anniversary of one's baptism is a plenary indulgence; visiting the Blessed Sacrament for under ½ hour, partial indulgence, over ½ hour, plenary indulgence.

Indulgences, with all its validity, are not greatly popular today because, admittedly, it reflects the "legalism" of the Old Covenant, which Jesus condemned. Let us simply know that almost any prayer and devotion takes care of the temporal punishment due to sin. I, personally, do not think we have to make the intention to gain "indulgences" for all the prayers we say and good works we do in order to gain the indulgence. My practice is to say the prayer before the crucifix after Communion, with usual conditions to gain a plenary indulgence, and, most importantly, have a priest when dying. EVERY PRIEST CAN GIVE THE POPE'S PERSONAL BLESSING TO A DYING PERSON and it

carries with it a plenary indulgence. And, if a priest is not available, the Church gives the plenary indulgence anyway, if the person is devoid of venial sin and accustomed to saying prayers during one's lifetime. Now that's MERCY!

Jesus told St. Faustina, in asking her to spread devotion to His mercy, that He has endless mercy available, but people don't ask for it, so they don't get it. WHAT A LESSON. There is another memorable statement of these apparitions to St. Faustina pertaining to being merciful to others:

"If a soul does not exercise mercy every day in some way, in word, deed or prayer, it will not obtain my mercy on Judgement Day. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse yourself from it." (Diary 742)

I don't think it was an accident that Mrs. Penny's talk on Indulgences was scheduled by Mrs. Frances Smith, Coordinator of Adult Education, on MERCY SUNDAY. Mercy and indulgences are all one and the same and so essential for our heaven.

"Lord, have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord, have mercy."

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

Monday at 9 AM (With Partner)

Tuesday at 4:00 PM (With Partner)

Saturday at 11:00 AM (With Partner)

Saturday at 5:00 PM (With Partner)

Sunday at 11:00 PM

Our goal is to have at least 2 people on each hour. These are the hours needed, but do select an hour that best fits your schedule.

Please call Mary Claire Brouillette at 871-2909 or Trudy Carpri at 643-0248.

ATTENTION COMMITTED ADORERS:

Fr. Michael Doody from the United Kingdom is hoping to start Perpetual Adoration in his diocese. Please provide him with testimonies, miracles, and blessings you have received from committing to a Holy Hour once a week in Our Lord's Eucharistic Presence. You may leave your testimonies and the graces you have received in a designated box in the Chapel kitchen. God bless you.



Mass Intentions

Monday, May 1	Special Intention Joe David Marie Dirgo
Tuesday, May 2	Sam McDavid Rose Maggio Walter Cooney
Wednesday, May 3	Special Intention Louise Battaglia Kenneth Huie
Thursday, May 4	Special Intention Norman Naccari Sp. Int. Rose Antonio J. Huber O'Donnell
Friday, May 5	Louise Battaglia Sp. Int. Ricky Herald
Saturday, May 6	Donors to OLS School Foundation William J. Stephens Bernard Busuttill
Sunday, May 7	People of the Parish Kenneth Huie Zee Antoon



Pray
FOR THE
SICK

Jerry Noto, Vivian Bonamy,
Vita D'Amico, Mary Ann Huie,
Melanie Gilchrist, Charlie Kai
Wadsworth

Everyone is welcome to attend *Adult Education: Encounter and Evangelize* on Sunday May 7. Our speaker will be Laney Gagnon. Her topic *Grace in My Life*. The gathering begins in the **Assembly Hall of the Family Life Center at 9:45 a.m. with**

fellowship and light refreshments. The class begins at 10 a.m.

V.I.P. will be held on Tuesday, May 2. Come join your friends and neighbors for Mass at 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Lunch and bingo will follow.



The Knights of Columbus will be holding a **BLOOD DRIVE** next Sunday in the **Family Life Center**. They

will have breakfast for all donors and their families. We want to thank all donors who gave at the last drive and helped us achieve another OLS donation record. The American Red Cross continues to face shortages of the most needed blood types. We hope to see you there.

Our Lady of Peace Guild will meet in the Sodality Room at 12 noon on Monday, May 1. Lunch will be provided.

St. Ann's Guild will hold its end of year luncheon on Thursday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP with Paula Gasser at 807-6072. All are welcome!

Please join the Madonna and Child Guild for our May meeting and *Favorite Things Social* on Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. If you would like to participate in the Favorite Things Social, please pick one item or product that you love (\$5 range) and bring three of the same item, ready to exchange. You will leave the party with three new favorite things. Ladies with the last name A-J bring a dessert and K-Z bring a savory appetizer. Contact Amanda Robbins with any questions at aacrobbins@gmail.com or 404-316-8544.

Children's Eucharistic Adoration

The Children's Eucharistic Adoration ministry is coming to an end. The last children's adoration will be Wednesday, May 10. It has been a wonderful 10 years with the children of our diocese; may God bless all of your children with a fruitful prayer life that includes devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this ministry over the years. Please keep taking your young children to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Whether it is for a few minutes in the OLS Adoration Chapel or in the church with Jesus in the tabernacle, they should be with Him often in addition to Mass. Please continue to make prayer time in Jesus' presence available to your children.

What's Goin on In High School Youth Group?

Sunday, April 30: Faith Formation at 10 a.m., focusing on the Eucharist with Matthew Kelly's Decision Point series (pg. 124-129). 7 p.m. dinner and Movie Night - *Fishers of Men* (about the priesthood) and *For Love Alone* (religious life).

Our "Senior Send Off" is May 7th! Parents, send us a childhood photo of your teen to be in the slideshow and a graduation photo!

Find our summer schedule on olsyouth.com.

Here's the Scoop on MID Youth Group!

Sunday, April 30: This Edge night will help us understand why suffering and evil exist in the world and are allowed by God, who is good and loving. Core Team member Charles Ferlisi is speaking! Meet in the Assembly Hall at 7 p.m. for dinner!

The Elementary Children's Ministry invites all 1st – 5th graders to the UAB vs. Auburn baseball game on Tuesday, May 9. The game begins at 6:30 p.m. You **MUST** RSVP your family tickets for this event by noon on Monday, May 8. **ONLY** families that RSVP will be issued tickets. Please include your participating 1st-5th graders, parents and siblings in your ticket count. RSVP with Chi Ranieri at ecm@ourladyofsorrows.com.

Trash and Treasure News

Now is the time to start gathering your donations for TNT, as June will be here before you know it! If you have furniture items you would like picked up and CANNOT keep until June, call Melanie Falconer at 281-9695 or Mike Montenegro at 335-9046. Also, TNT will host a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. on April 27, for anyone interested in volunteering. For more information, contact Melanie Falconer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for TNT Set-Up in OLS Gym:

Thur. May 25	11 a.m.- 4 p.m. & 4 - 8 p.m.
Fri. May 26	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sat. May 27	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information contact Jack Fagan at 979-3187.

Inviting All Catholic Men in the Parish!

Please join us this Wednesday night for our annual Knights of Columbus Open House/Cinco de Mayo meeting and dinner. The fun and fellowship kicks off at 6 p.m. on the upper parking deck. We hope to see you there!

Register now for Vacation Bible School
www.ourladyofsorrowsspr.com



The best week of the summer!

June 12-16th, 2017

9 am- 12 pm Monday-Friday

Rising 4K-4th grade

We need volunteers too! Register www.ourladyofsorrowsspr.com

April Bridge Winners:

- 1st Dodie Madden
 - 2nd Kathleen Kuehn (tie)
 - 2nd Sally Stephens (tie)
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Camp St. Bernard is a day and overnight camp for boys and girls ages 6-14 held at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman. The camp offers traditional summer camp activities in a unique atmosphere of a monastery. Counselors are students and alumni of St. Bernard Prep School, further enhancing the family atmosphere of summer camp. For more information and to register for this summer, visit www.campstbernard.com.



May Crowning

Sunday, May 7th

*Join us in the Procession
preceding the 8:30 A.M. Mass.*

*All families are invited to
participate
in this devotion to Mary.*

*We will meet outside the front doors
of the church between 8:15 and 8:30.*

*All you need are flowers to carry
(those from your garden are great).*

*We will process into the church
together. When you pass before
Mary's altar, place your flowers in
the vases and go to any pew with
your family. Please remain standing
for the Crowning and the beginning
of Mass.*
