



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

January 17, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Several years ago I preached a sermon on death and mentioned that the average life expectancy in this parish is 78. The next day a lady came to me and said that she was changing parishes. I asked, "Any reason why?" Then she said, "Well, you said the average age for death at OLS is 78 and I am 77!"

This past week I told this episode in a weekday sermon. Kent Graeve served Mass for me. When we came into the Sacristy, I said to Kent, "Why are you looking that way about my sermon?" He said, "Well, I am 77 years old...do you think I need another parish?" So, I then told him the following Arabian legend:

There once was a man who was fleeing from Mecca, because he heard that the Angel of Death was looking for him there. He was on his way to Medina when he met a friend, who told him that he heard that the Angel of Death was on his way to Medina. Jesus told us we cannot escape death and that it remains hidden to us, knowing neither the day nor the hour.

The Angel of Death seems to be hovering over OLS, because we had four funerals this past week.

On Monday we parted with Thomas Sizemore. The Angel of Death delivered him to the Almighty, and the Church, with the Holy Sacrifice, offered him back to his Creator. Tom and Mary Jo, his wife, married young, and were married for 60 years. They had six children. After ten years of his marriage, he followed the religion of Mary Jo and converted to Catholicism. He insisted on putting all six children through OLS School and, also, through John Carroll. He was a model

convert with Mass attendance and prayers every morning and reading the Scriptures at night.

On Tuesday, with the Holy Sacrifice, we offered Donna Arnsen to the Almighty. Donna had two children and a world of faith in the Lord, with a great devotion to the Mass and other devotions, such as to the Divine Face of Jesus. She had a committed Holy Hour and asked several times to bring this man from Scotland to have a healing service at OLS, since he, himself, was miraculously cured after being electrocuted. Donna had a spiritual narrative to anyone who would be willing to listen. A veritable saint.

On Wednesday we celebrated the entry into God's next world of Vincent Lucia. His face would be recognized as one who had a devotion to Sunday Mass and his family. He was a Committed Adorer in the Chapel of Our Savior. While his wife, Lena, was alive, he bought her fresh flowers every week. After she died, he took flowers to the Columbarium every week to show her and then left them in the Chapel.

On Thursday, we gave the Angel of Death the day off. We needed the Church for the children's liturgy.

On Friday we had the funeral of Kaye Boatwright, another veritable saint. She was an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, who reached out to help people in every way. Kaye was a hard worker for the Knights of Columbus 4th of July Festival, which is the reason why the Knights asked to furnish a Court of Honor at her remains during the Mass.

Most of us do not fear death, with the confidence that Mary, the mother of Jesus, will be praying for us at that precious hour and trying to avoid venial sin. We keep saying that prayer to Jesus for mercy, so that when the process of dying, more than dying itself, will not be so painful to cause us to despair or become despondent. So, we keep praying the Chaplet, asking for mercy, and

the Rosary, asking Mary to intercede for us at that precious hour when we meet Jesus face to face.

Jesus repeats several times that we do not know the day nor the hour, and it is so true. We also count our blessings that in many cases, if there is pain, we have what we call palliative care, sedation to ease the pain of the separation of the body from the soul. The more we contemplate the issue, the more we realize that all of life is a preparation for that sacred hour of transfer from this life to the eternal life.

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, March 14, the 4th Sunday of Lent. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.



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| Monday, Jan. 18 | Special Intention Frank Diergo Michael Renda |
| Tuesday, Jan. 19 | Special Intention Sp. Int. Joe Rumore Michael Renda |
| Wednesday, Jan. 20 | Special Intention Sp. Int. Milazzo/Brooklere Families Bill Bishop |
| Thursday, Jan. 21 | Special Intention Sp. Int. Joe Rumore For World Peace |
| Friday, Jan. 22 | Special Intention Lorraine Von Hagel Michael Kelliher |
| Saturday, Jan. 23 | Donors to OLS School Foundation Jude Tombrello Michael Renda |
| Sunday, Jan. 24 | People of Parish Floyd & Cecilia Stephens For World Peace |



Joyce Cunningham, Carmela Yeakle, Ronnie Williams, Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tim Carlisle, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

LifeTeen High School

Sunday, January 17: No meetings today. Have a blessed MLK weekend.

Wednesday, January 13: Co-ed "Unleashed" small group and dinner at 7 p.m. in the youth room. This 6-week study focuses on HOPE.

EDGE Middle School

Sunday, January 17: Edge Core Team wants to bless your house! Ever seen the following on someone's doorframe: 20+C+M+B+21? That is a traditional house blessing for the new year! If you would like us to come chalk your door, sign up at olsyouth.com under the Edge tab! We will be cruising around in the OLS Youth Bus between 6-9 p.m. See you then!

Edge is in need of a **parishioner with some carpentry skills** who would be willing to donate their time to construct some special equipment for our youth this semester. Contact Carol Wiget at msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com if you can help.

For complete calendars, check out www.olsyouth.com.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Through your baptism you are God's servant and a light to others. With whom will you share your light? Consider a vocation to the consecrated life or priesthood. (Isaiah 49:3, 5-6)

For those who desire to share their light of faith and serve the Church.

OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!

If you have struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021. Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to **three scripture readings**
- a **reflection** from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- **guided prayer** to help you **hear God's voice in his Word.**

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure *Bible Timeline*® learning system, **a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History** developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

Food for Our Journey update:

We are serving almost 700 meals a day, seven days a week. The OLS food drive every Wednesday is vital to our ability to serve the homeless and food insecure in our community. We are handing out close to 700 bottles of water a day, so **we really need water**. Also, we are getting constant requests for socks and masks. If you have clean, gently used, or new socks, we need them. If anyone has access to masks of any kind, we would love to have them. We thank all of you who have donated so far and look forward to seeing all of you who can donate every

Wednesday (drop offs accepted from 9 -10:30 a.m.) in the parish parking lot.

Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director

Prayer for our Nation

God our Father, giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people.

Send your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 18, for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 19.