



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

February 21, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Our Lady of Sorrows church building was built in 1960, and the outside of the church received some criticism – no Gothic roof points upward and no church tower. My predecessor thought stained glass windows would make the outside more church-like, and it did.

The inside of the church, especially the massive Altar and Sanctuary, always looked very much like a place of worship.

The seasonal liturgical banners in the vestibule (artistically created by Dr. Frances Andrews) immediately make the building “churchy.”

The stained-glass windows made the building more like a place of worship. The Sanctuary especially bespeaks WORSHIP, with the massive marble Altar. The gold image of the LAMB is the constant reminder of the offering on the huge altar of sacrifice, for the lamb was the typical offering to God for the sins of His people. The space in front of the Lamb is often decorated according to the season of the year.

At the beginning of Lent, the two talented decorating artists, John Tombrello and Dr. Frances Andrews, have portrayed Lent with a picture of the Crucified Christ, offered to the Father, originally painted by John's nephew, Steve Ardivino. It is in front of the Lamb, for Jesus is the Lamb of sacrifice of the New Testament. This year the decorating artists added to the scene the two other crosses, representing the two criminals crucified, one on each side of Jesus. The cross on the left has the golden cloth to remind us of the Kingdom of Heaven and Kingship of Jesus.

This reminds us of the never to be forgotten words of the thief, who expressed his faith in Jesus' Kingdom. In dying words, he prayed to Jesus, Who, Himself, was dying: “LORD, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU ENTER INTO YOUR KINGDOM.”

Can we ever forget the moment of canonization and the giving of a plenary indulgence by Jesus to this thief: “THIS DAY YOU WILL BE WITH E IN PARADISE.”

That great picture of Jesus offered to the Father at His crucifixion should be the center of our Lenten life. Lent is suffering with Christ, so that we can rise with Him. Those are not flowers at the scene, but desert plants, for we are like the people of old, wandering in the desert to the promised land.

The three keynotes of Lent are prayer, fasting, and giving alms, spoken of in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday. That Gospel also says to us: Do these things between you and God, and do not “show off” one's spirituality.

Let us, briefly, reflect on the three principles of Lenten penance:

1. Prayer: Extra understanding and commitment to the Holy Sacrifice, whether there in person or Zoomed into your homes. Never forget the Morning Offering and a frequent Stations of the Cross.
2. Fasting: From too much television, gossip, and from too much food and alcoholic drink.
3. Almsgiving: Know that much of the offering on Sundays is given to the needy. We pledge so much to Catholic Charities, and we, as a parish commitment, give an additional \$6000 to the Catholic Center of Concern every month. There are the grocery containers in the vestibule. We cook with Food for Our Journey the second, fourth and fifth weeks of the month, serving 200 hot meals, which are delivered to the homeless. There is

also the giving of encouragement to those starving for this extra mental food.

Ash Wednesday was very well attended, with the Holy Sacrifice. The numbers were just about perfect. Right up to the point of barely keeping the social distancing.

The Liturgy Committee offered “drive-thru” ashes on Ash Wednesday evening. The number receiving the ashes was over 400, with at least two in each car and almost 200 cars counted. OLS School principal and faculty were a great help in keeping the cars moving. Remembering that the ashes are not sacraments and do not “give grace,” but remind us of holy thoughts and seasons. It was good that so many, in addition to the very many who came to Mass, received the reminders of the beginning of this holy season.

Have a Holy Lent preparing for a joyful Easter!

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.



Stephanie Murdock, Carmela Yeakle, Ronnie Williams, Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie



Monday, Feb. 22	Special Intention Barbara Mills Walter & Frances Mahon
Tuesday, Feb. 23	Todd Sloan Pat McNamee Josephine Sicola
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Special Intention Barbara Mills Michael Kelliher
Thursday, Feb. 25	Special Intention David Caprara Sp. Int. Anthony & Charlotte Rumore
Friday, Feb. 26	Jeanne Wright Barbara Mills Michael Kelliher
Saturday, Feb. 27	Donors to OLS School Foundation Chancey Wingo Walter Comeaux
Sunday, Feb. 28	People of Parish Joseph Alfano Michael Kelliher



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

During this time of fasting, we may be tempted to go astray. Pray for the grace to follow the way that leads to life. (Matthew 4:1-11)

For those who have dedicated their lives to God in marriage, through ordination, or profession, that they may be faithful to their commitment.

OLS Mother’s Day Out is accepting applications for part-time employment. If you enjoy working with young children; are creative, energetic, kind, and patient, please email Angie Dunston at mdo@ourladyofsorrows.com.

The Parish School of Religion is collecting plastic grocery bags for a Confirmation service project. We will be working with an organization called Mat Makers, who make sleep mats for the homeless. We need a lot of bags. Please bring them by the church office or leave them in the collection baskets that will be in the vestibule.

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

ChristLife – Discovering Christ: Parents! Looking for something special to do this Lent? Are you interested in learning about the meaning of life? Do you have a desire to deepen your relationship with Christ? Email msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com to get more information on a 7-week virtual program starting February 23 and running through April 6. The course will be offered via Zoom on Tuesdays from 8-9:30 p.m.

LifeTeen High School

Wednesday, February 24: Co-ed “Unleashed” small group at 7 p.m. in the youth room. Dinner will be provided. This 6-week study focuses on HOPE. All are welcome!

Sunday, February 28: Join us at 7 p.m. for dinner in the Assembly Hall. Tonight is a Social Night! Come play pool, air hockey, corn hole, and enjoy time together with your peers.

Save the date for our Day of Service on March 6th! Make sure to register. Go to www.olsyouth.com/lifeteen for details.

EDGE Middle School

Sunday, Feb. 28: Is it reasonable to believe that God exists? Join us for “Museum,” an Edge Night to explore how scientific realities of the created world bring us to the intellectual conclusion that God exists and creates with purpose and a plan. Dinner starts at 7 p.m., pick-up is at 8:30 p.m. Masks required!

We are so humbled and grateful for all the support our OLS family has given to our friends on the street. As the seasons change, our needs change. You have helped us stock up on water and socks. **At this time, we really need gloves, hand warmers, scarves, blankets, and hats.** Everything that is donated each week is immediately given out that same day. We continue to need fruit, sandwiches, and snacks. We have a few projects coming up that will use much of what we have in storage. We are blown away weekly by the giving heart of OLS parish and look forward to seeing you on Wednesday mornings from 9-10:30.

-Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director
Food for Our Journey



Educating Young Minds in Grades 3K- 8th

To learn how you can empower your child's future with an affordable Catholic education, call (205) 879-3237.

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School

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