



## *Our Lady of Sorrows Church*

February 28, 2021

*From the Pastor's Desk*

My Dear People:

St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that there is faith, hope and charity and the greatest of these is charity. We are told in Lent there is prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Allow me to say, the greatest of these is prayer.

There is no substitute for prayer. This is the communication with God. On one occasion, the apostles struggled with prayer and asked Jesus to teach them to pray. From this request Jesus gave us the perfect prayer, starting with addressing God as our Father. He gave us more than the content; He also gave His followers that relationship with God. God is our heavenly Father, One who loves, cares for us, protects us, and forgives us when we sin.

The prayer states "Hallowed be Thy name." What a reminder not to use God's name in vain! We are then told to pray for the fulfillment of God's kingdom on this earth, and we pray that His will be done rather than our own will. We are also to ask for our daily food, acknowledging how much we depend on Him. Then this phrase, which is the kicker: We are to ask to be forgiven the same way we forgive others. He meant it literally, and so after the prayer Jesus said:

"If you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."

What a reminder to forgive others! We are also to pray to be delivered from evil. This is the perfect formal prayer.

We need vocal prayer and silent prayer. We need formal prayer and, also, personal prayer. Personal prayer is sometimes called

existential prayer; prayer that relates to our existence in a certain set of circumstances.

In the book of Esther in the Old Testament, the King of Persia had Jews as slaves and was planning to kill them. He was married to Esther, a beautiful Jewish girl who kept her heritage hidden. When she learned of the plot to kill her people, she resolved to beg the King for her people and admit her own Jewish faith. Before she went in to see the King, she knew she was supposed to be called in and not walk in without invitation, and she knew she needed God's help. She prayed, laying prostrate on the ground from morning till evening and prayed over her circumstances:

"God, help me, who am alone and have no one to help me but You. I am taking my life in my hands... Put into my mouth persuasive words in the presence of the lion and turn his heart around to those who hate my people...and save us from the hand of our enemies. Turn our mourning into happiness; turn our sorrow into gladness."

Esther's prayer pertained to the danger she was facing, seeing the king without an invitation, admitting she was Jewish, and asking that the king spare her life and the lives of her people.

We also pray asking for our personal needs, mentioning these specifically to God. We pray for the forgiveness of our sins, mentioning our own personal sin or predominant passions of being jealous or possessive, giving in to temptations of doubting our faith, and failing to take time to pray. We beg help for our relatives and friends by name and for specific needs of our country. We need to compose prayers according to our existence in a particular aspect of life.

Imagine Esther, prostrate from morning till night, repeating over and over to God to save her, stating that God alone could save her

from her enemies. What a lesson in repeating our requests and perseverance in prayer. It is also a lesson of humility, as she said how only God could help her.

The older I get, the more I like to pray existentially, realizing the circumstances of my age. I pray for the most important day of my life, the day I pass through the doors of death and meet Jesus face to face. I pray for the grace of a happy death.

Lent means fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, and the greatest of these is prayer.

With prayers and blessings,  
Father Muller

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**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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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**First Friday Devotions** will be held on Friday, March 5, at 6:00 a.m.

**First Saturday Devotions** will be held on Saturday, March 6, at 7:15 a.m.

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**The Lenten Penance Service** will be held on Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m. We will have several priests hearing confessions. **The confessionals will be set up for social distancing and we ask that everyone wear a mask.** Please join us!



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, March 1	Special Intention Mary Dirgo Michael Kelliher
Tuesday, March 2	Sp. Int. Diane Zicarelli Duke Rumore Theresa Bruno Spann
Wednesday, March 3	Special Intention David Caprara Tony Falletta
Thursday, March 4	Special Intention Sp. Int. Milazzo/Angelo Family Sp. Int. Ann LaRussa
Friday, March 5	Special Intention Sp. Int. Carolyn Wright Tony Lamoureux
Saturday, March 6	Donors to OLS School Foundation Dr. Bill & Mildred Stephens David Mottel
Sunday, March 7	People of Parish Phillip Mottel Tony Falletta

### **CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR**

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

**Tuesday at 1 PM (Not Filled)**  
**Tuesday at 2 PM (Share with Partner)**  
**Wednesday at 7 AM (Share with Partner)**  
**Saturday at 4 AM (Not Filled)**  
**Saturday at 11 PM (Share with Partner)**  
**Sunday at 11 AM (Not Filled)**  
**Sunday at 12 PM (Not Filled)**

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 Bo Lovell at 205-965-3041 or email us at [olschapel@gmail.com](mailto:olschapel@gmail.com).

## ***What's Going on in Youth Ministry?***

Please consider signing up to provide dinner or serve as a Prayer Warrior during Youth Group! We need you! Go to [olsyouth.com](http://olsyouth.com) to pick a night that fits your schedule.

### ***LifeTeen High School***

**Sunday, February 28:** Join us tonight at 7 p.m. for an Intro Night to our brand-new series "Keep It Together and Other Lies We Tell Ourselves: A Life Night Series on Gen Z Issues." Come grow in faith and enjoy time together with your peers! The next four Sundays will focus on the struggles we are facing and how to overcome them with faith and perseverance. Our team is excited to journey with you through this series!

**Wednesday, March 3:** Co-ed "Unleashed" small group at 7 p.m. in the youth room. We finished our six-week study on HOPE, which brought powerful conversation and growth for each of us. Tonight starts our new series about what the Church teaches on Mental Health. All 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome! Dinner will be provided.

Save the date for our Day of Service on March 6<sup>th</sup>! Make sure to register. Go to [www.olsyouth.com/lifeteen](http://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!

**OLS Mother's Day Out** will have an online registration for our 2021 Summer Session and for the 2021/22 school year. Registration will open at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 4, and go through Friday, March 5. Registration forms will be accepted in the order received, with members of OLS Parish having first priority. You may register at

[www.ourladyofsorrows.com/mothersdayout](http://www.ourladyofsorrows.com/mothersdayout).

Please call Angie at 205-871-3253 for more information or email [mdo@ourladyofsorrows.com](mailto:mdo@ourladyofsorrows.com).

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**Food for Our Journey** really needs **gloves, hand warmers, scarves, blankets, and hats at this time.** 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



## **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**

1720 Oxmoor Road, Homewood AL •  
[www.olsschool.com](http://www.olsschool.com)

Private tours given upon request.

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**JCCHS Basketball** will be hosting a Spring Break Camp March 22-25 (Monday-Thursday). The camp is open to boys and girls grades K-6. K-3rd grades will be from 9 a.m.- noon each day and 4th-6th will be from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. The cost is \$75 per player and there is a discount for Catholic Schools Faculty and Staff using discount code: Cavs21. There will be a maximum of 24 participants per session, masks will be required, and kids will be physically distanced among 7 basketball goals. Online registration is available at [www.jcchsathletics.org](http://www.jcchsathletics.org). Go Cavs!

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