



## *Our Lady of Sorrows Church*

March 7, 2021

*From the Pastor's Desk*

My Dear People:

To indulge someone is to spoil a person. My parents certainly "indulged me!" Indulgences were so badly preached in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century that we tend to forget the whole concept of indulgences, which is truly important, because this is the epitome of God's mercy.

Jesus gave to Peter and his successors great authority when He said to Peter:

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

St. Peter's successors have that same authority.

There must be a thousand different degrees of punishment due to sin. The Church, with the mercy and indulgence of God, can do away with this punishment, especially when we are dying, and we are **IN THE RIGHT DISPOSITION**. When we arrive in the Lord's paradise, we will know how much forgiveness of the punishment due to sin we have received by an indulgence from God through the Church's intercession.

When we are dying, the Church "knocks herself out" on our behalf. With the authority given by Christ, she pronounces a complete "indulgence" of any temporal punishment due to sin. Here are three statements from the Church's official *Manual of Indulgences*.

- 1) A priest who administers the sacraments to someone in danger of death should not fail to impart the Apostolic Blessing (Pope's own blessing), to which is attached a complete "indulgence" of all temporal punishment due to sin.
- 2) If a priest is not available, it says that Holy Mother the Church most

generously grants to the faithful close to death, who are duly disposed (detached from every sin), a plenary (complete) forgiveness, provided they have kept praying during their lifetime. In such a case, the Church supplies for the three conditions ordinarily necessary for this indulgence (confession, Communion, and prayers for the intention of the pope).

- 3) If the dying person is conscious, the person needs to ask for this indulgence, using a crucifix if possible, and offering up one's suffering, resignedly, in reparation for sins.

Christ on the Cross gave a plenary indulgence to that thief, who professed his faith in Jesus, and reprimanded the other thief who did not speak prayerfully to Jesus. Jesus gave that plenary indulgence to that thief at the time of his death:

"This day you will be with me in paradise."

How could people object to the Church granting a plenary indulgence to the dying if that person truly loves Christ and is devoid of venial sin, with a disposition of resignation of the suffering (as the good thief was resigned)? The Church is to reflect the mercy of Christ and is the mediator of that mercy. John Paul insisted on the belief of God's great mercy.

To those who think God has favorites and does not treat us equally, let me say they are right. We are not treated equally, but no one is treated unjustly. Jesus gave us a whole parable to teach us this:

The owner of vineyard hired people for a just wage at 6 a.m., again at 9, then at noon, and at 3. Even at 5 p.m. He paid them all the same. Those who worked all day complained. The owner of the vineyard said:

"Friend, I did you no injustice. You received that just wage. Are you jealous because I am generous?"

Am I not free to do what I want with what is mine?"

There are endless people in the Old and New Testament who are ostensibly God's favorites.

I have no difficulty with God having favorites, directly or through His Church, for a dying Catholic. I have a large number of funerals, and seeing the goodness of people and the Church's Apostolic (Papal) Blessing, am convinced they are in heaven.

I am convinced there are many devoid of any attachment to sin in their dying hour and, with the Full Indulgence, go straight to heaven. Such is the mercy of God and His indulging love for us. How many Masses are offered for the deceased, in their honor, since they never saw purgatory? What a blessing to know a few hours or days ahead that death is soon approaching so we can prepare. Let us pray:

"Lord, save us from a sudden and unprovided death. Give us the grace of a happy death."

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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**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!

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*Mass Intentions*

Monday, March 8	Special Intention Donald David Mary Ferguson
Tuesday, March 9	Special Intention Rev. Robert O'Sullivan James T. Holt
Wednesday, March 10	Special Intention Dale Merriss Sp. Int. Joseph Rumore
Thursday, March 11	Lena Carruba Diana Cusimano Fontana Sarah Carney
Friday, March 12	Special Intention David Caprara Tony Faletta
Saturday, March 13	Lee Maniscalco Mary George Holt Josephine Sicola
Sunday, March 14	People of Parish Barbara Mills Mary Laurie Bracken/Sp. Int. Martha Masucci

**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).



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

## ***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, March 7:** Join us at 7 p.m. for dinner in the Assembly Hall. Tonight is the start of a new series called "Keeping It Together." The focus is Gen Z issues, the struggles teens are facing today, and how God is here to help. We will have Todd Carlson (former FOCUS missionary now working as a Licensed Counselor here in Birmingham) speaking with us. Your teens will benefit a lot from this!

**Wednesday, March 10:** Co-ed "Unleashed" small group at 7 p.m. in the youth room. This new series focuses on mental health. All 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome! Dinner will be provided.

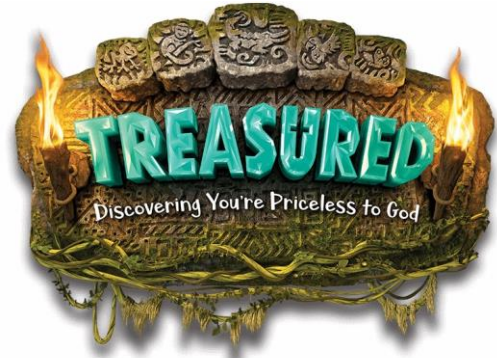
### ***EDGE Middle School***

**Sunday, March 7:** Does God care about me? Join us for "The Artist," an Edge night to see how our desires to be known, loved, and cared for reflects God, who loves us and fulfills all of our longings. Dinner starts at 7 p.m., pick-up is at 8:30 p.m. Masks required!



**DON'T FORGET:** March 14, is Daylight Savings. Set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour!

*Our Lady of Sorrows presents*



**Vacation Bible School**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> - June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9 am – 12 pm**

**K4 (4yrs by June 1<sup>st</sup>) – 4<sup>th</sup>  
grade (in coming school year)**

Early Registration for OLS Parishioners only opens on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Open Registration for All opens on March 29<sup>th</sup>. **Deadline to register is April 25<sup>th</sup>. We have limited capacity, so please register early.**

**We need volunteers! Rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders to adults.** Please visit our website for more details including our COVID Guidelines [www.olspsr.com](http://www.olspsr.com).

## **Night of Healing**

Feeling disconnected, overwhelmed, or hurting? Set aside some time to seek the Lord and be refreshed and healed in His presence! Join us for a Night of Healing on March 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be music ministry, Eucharistic adoration benediction, confessions, and intercessory prayer teams. Our speakers this month are Ray and Charlene Makofsky. "The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength." We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. All are welcome!