

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND SCHOOL

AUGUST 3, 2025
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME



UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

I. BEGINNING AUGUST 8TH - Friday morning daily Mass time is changing to 8:30am

RECONCILIATION

Wed. 12:00-12:30pm Sat. 3:00-3:45pm
& after 8:30am Mass

Also available by appointment.

Call: 919-861-4600

MASS TIMES

Sat. 8:30am, Sun. 9:00am, 11:30am,
5:00pm 1:30pm (Español), 5:00pm

Mon-Fri. 8:30am 1st Fri. 6:00pm
Jueves. 6:30pm (Español)

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7

For Baptism, Matrimony and
Anointing, please call the
parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Patrick A. Keane, Pastor
(919) 861-4604

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Oguzie, C.S.Sp.
Parochial Vicar
(919) 861-4608

Jannine LeBlanc, Principal
(919) 861-4618, jleblanc@olls.org

Deacon Byron Champagne
Adult Faith Formation/Stewardship & Engagement Coordinator
(919) 861-4614, bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Deacon Brad Magill
Business & Facilities Manager
(919) 861-4607, bmagill@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Deacon Myles Charlesworth
mcharlesworth@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Deacon Tom Mack
tmack@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Maria House, Receptionist
(919) 861-4600, mhouse@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Melody Gerald, Receptionist
(919) 861-4600, mgerald@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Adrienne Magill, Communications Director
(919) 861-4631, amagill@olls.org

Austin Faur, Director of Youth Apostolate
(919) 861-4600, afaur@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Candace Sperati, Children's Faith Formation
(919) 861-4634, csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Monica Del Rio, Parish Book Keeper
(919) 861-4609, finance@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Bernadett Horvath, Director of Music
(919) 861-4611, bhorvath@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Linda Champagne
Marriage Preparation & Wedding Coordinator
(919) 861-4600, marriages@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Robin Biggie, Maintenance
(919) 861-4606, rbiggie@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Bulletin Editor
bulletin@ourladyoflourdescc.org

OLL Invitations Editor
invitations@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Parish Council

Chair: **Darren Sessler**

Nick Chiodo
Kelli Cross
Jason Lemansky
Jeff Lineberry
Kenya Reynard
Rachel Vann
Beth Murphy
Chris Fleming
Jason Pedone
Darren Sessler
Terry Bogan

Finance Council

Chair: **Jason Sandner**

Ellen Crowley
Ed Fritsch
Tricia Patrick
Mike Thelen
Curt Williams
Michael Cross

School Advisory

Chair: **Reed Murphy**

(919) 624-0298

Amy Dever
Austin Faur
Jannine LeBlanc
Chris Morse
Player Murray
Jennifer Paciarello

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Active members of our parish are identified by their generosity of time, talent and treasure.

UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

I. BEGINNING AUGUST 8TH - Friday morning daily
Mass time is changing to 8:30am

CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

FIRST SATURDAY

8:30am - † **Nellie Arruda**

5:00pm - † **Paula Long**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

9:00am - **Michelle Blanton**

& † **Tom Seymour**

11:30am - † **Lawrence Bowman Haynes**

(Español) 1:30pm - † **Clara Luz Morales Velazquez**

5:00pm - **Pro Populo**

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

8:30am - **Linda & Jim Taylor**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

8:30am - † **Marguerite &**

Donald Luther

& † **Holy Souls in Purgatory**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

8:30am - † **Michael Messerly**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

8:30am - **Annette Lefevbre**

(Español) 6:30pm - **Dalis Navarro Frias**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

8:30am - † **Patricia Mann**

& † **Dixon Thomas**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

8:30am - **Hrideep Family**

5:00pm - † **Roddy Jones**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

9:00am - † **Theresa Klein**

& † **Mary Doran**

11:30am - † **Mr. & Mrs. Phat Trinh**

& **Thanh Khong**

(Español) 1:30pm - **Pro Populo**

5:00pm - † **Dr. Jim Parker**

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4pm

Website

ourladyoflourdescc.org

Adoration Chapel
oll.weadorehim.com

OLL Flocknote

ollraleigh.flocknote.com

THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH
is to invite and lead all people to know and love Jesus Christ and to live their Catholic faith through word, sacrament, community, evangelization and service.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Oficina Parroquial: 919-861-4600

La Misión de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes es invitar y dirigir a todas las personas a conocer y amar a Jesucristo a vivir su fe católica a través de la palabra, los sacramentos, la comunidad, la evangelización y el servicio.

Enlace Misas en Vivo por Youtube: (Youtube Live stream)

Para unirse en cualquier momento con las misas celebradas en Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en directo por nuestro canal de Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OurLadyofLourdesCCRaleigh>

Comité Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Committee

Orlando Morales: (919) 338-4384

Paquito123morales@gmail.com

Juan Gómez: 919-896-0849

Laura Apale Rosas

Irrael Roblero

Darinel Morales

Aura Pérez

Guillermina Velásquez

Guadalupe Lino

Alirio Borraye

Coordinadores Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Coordinators

Bautismo (clases):	Hortencia Velásquez	919-592-3872
Coros:	Rafael Pérez	919-454-7622
Eventos:	Lucrecia López	919-434-9946
Formación Adultos:	Filomeno Méndez	919-559-8314
Formación Niños	Edilmar López	919-349-5036
Grupo Juvenil:	Edilmar López	919-349-5036
Grupo de Mujeres:	Uberlinda V.	919-756-4485
Grupo de Oración:	Reymundo V.	919-298-1587
Jóvenes Adultos	José Velásquez	843-492-8103
Lectores:	Irma Bonilla	919-539-2236
M. Extraordinarios:	Estanislao Chablé	919-757-6285
Monaguillos:	Dominica Díaz	919-822-4224
Santo Rosario:	Azucena Ramirez	919-454-5251
Sacristanes:	Orlando Morales	919-338-4384
Ujieres:	Lucila Urióstegui	984-683-1120

HORARIO MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

Jueves 6:30 pm

Domingos 1:30 pm

HORARIO MISAS EN INGLES

Lunes, Martes, Jueves y Viernes 8:30 am

Miércoles 9:00 am Sábados 5:00 pm

Domingos 9:00 am, 11:30 am y 5:00 pm

CONFESIONES

Miércoles (Inglés): 12:00 pm, hasta las 12:30 p.m.

Jueves (Español): Después de la misa de las 6:30 pm.

Sábados: (Inglés/Español) 3:00 p.m.

BAUTISMOS PARA NIÑOS MENORES DE 7 AÑOS

Requisitos:

- Papás tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia.
- Presentar copia del acta de nacimiento del niño(a)
- Llenar la forma pre-bautismal.
- Papás y padrinos asistir a la plática pre-bautismal y a la misa.
- Los padrinos no pueden estar viviendo en unión libre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Hortencia Velásquez al: 919-592-3872

VISITANDO Y LLEVANDO
LA COMUNIÓN A LOS ENFERMOS

Pastoral Care

Si usted tiene algún familiar o conocido de la comunidad que se encuentre enfermo y desea que se le visite, bien sea en la casa donde éste reside u hospital, o se le lleve la Santa Comunión, puede comunicarse con **Darinel Morales** al 919-428-8691.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

Hispanic Prayer Group

Todos los viernes a las 7:15 p.m. en el Salón Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Oración tiene como objetivo fortalecer la fe de sus miembros y acercarlos más a Dios a través de Oración, predicas y alabanzas.

Para más información comunicarse con:
Reymundo Velásquez al: 919-298-1587

GRUPO JUVENIL 12 a 17 años

Hispanic Youth Group

El Grupo Juvenil se reúnen todos los viernes a las 7:15 pm en la cafetería de la escuela.

El Grupo Juvenil se reúne para tratar temas diversos que les ayuda en su crecimiento Espiritual, Emocional y desarrollo de liderazgo.

Además de organizar diversas actividades que motive a los jóvenes a participar de la vida y misión de la parroquia.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Edilmar López al: 919-349-5036

GRUPO DE MUJERES

Hispanic Women Group

El Grupo de Mujeres se reúne sábados cada quince días de 8:30 am a 10:00 am en el salón 202 del Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Mujeres tiene como objetivo ayudar a las Mujeres a descubrir y fortalecer su identidad, así mismo incrementar y empoderar su autoestima y por supuesto mejorar su relación con Dios y su relación matrimonial y su rol como madre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Uberlinda Velásquez al: 919-756-4485

BODAS / MATRIMONIOS

Wedding

¿Está pensando en casarse por la Iglesia?

El primer paso, es hacer una cita con el Padre Patrick Keane (el habla español). 919-861-4600

Para más información, sobre el proceso para contraer matrimonio, por favor comunicarse con:
Roderico Roblero: 919-986-5294

Clases de Catecismo Para Adultos

Faith Formation Claeses for Adults

Este programa es para personas mayores de 17 años que no estén bautizadas y para personas que solamente les hace falta la Primera Comunión y la Confirmación.

Este programa de formación de adultos es también para personas que deseen convertirse al catolicismo y para aquellos bautizados que deseen aprender un poco más de su fe católica.

Requisitos:

- Llenar la forma de registro.
- Para los que no están bautizados, presentar el acta de nacimiento.
- Para los que le hace falta la primera comunión y confirmación, presentar el certificado de bautismo.

Para más información, comunicarse con:
Filomeno Méndez al: 919-559-8314

ADORACIÓN PERPETUA ANTE
JESÚS SACRAMENTADO

Nuestra Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes tiene una Capilla para la Adoración Perpetua las 24 Horas.

Todos estamos invitados a pasar unos momentos orando en silencio ante la presencia de nuestro Señor Jesús Sacramentado.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

SANCTUARY CANDLES

A 14-day
CHURCH SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
for the priests of the
Diocese of Raleigh

A 14-day
CHAPEL SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
for the priests of the
Diocese of Raleigh

Pro-Life Corner

“Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they are, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Join the Adventure:

Volunteer and Make a Difference!

OLL is looking for parishioners to assist with wedding rehearsals and weddings at our parish. Volunteering for the Wedding Committee at Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL) is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the joyful celebration of matrimony within our parish community.

We are seeking dedicated parishioners to join our teams, working in pairs to assist the wedding coordinator, Maria House, in ensuring the smooth execution of wedding rehearsals and ceremonies. Your role will be crucial in handling various details, from organizing the bridal procession to managing any last-minute changes.

This is not only a chance to support couples on one of the most important days of their lives but also an opportunity to be part of a warm and welcoming team. Whether you have experience or are eager to learn, your help will be invaluable. If you have a keen eye for detail and a heart for service, we would love to have you on board!

Contact Maria House in the parish office

919.861.4600
mhouse@ourladyoflourdescc.org



SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING NEW VOLUNTEERS

INITIAL SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

REMEMBER - INITIAL SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING IS ONLY 1 OF THE 4 STEPS TO BE A LEVEL C VOLUNTEER. THE FOUR STEPS FOR A VOLUNTEER TO BE LEVEL C ARE:

1. COMPLETE SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING.
 - THE LINK FOR THE DIOCESAN CALENDAR FOR INITIAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (ONLINE & IN-PERSON) IS:
[HTTPS://DIOCESEOFRALEIGH.ORG/EVENTS/SAFE%20ENVIRONMENT%20TRAINING](https://dioceseofraleigh.org/events/safe%20environment%20training)
2. SUBMIT 3 REFERENCES TO YOUR MINISTRY SITE. THE FORMS ARE AVAILBLE IN BOTH ENGLISH & SPANISH HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.OURLADYOFLOURDESCC.ORG/SAFE-ENVIRONMENT-TRAINING-DOCUMENTS-FOR-NEW-VOLUNTEERS](https://www.ourladyoflourdescc.org/safe-environment-training-documents-for-new-volunteers)
3. COMPLETE A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING (WHEN YOU ENTER YOUR DATA INTO COMPASS, PLEASE USE ACCESS CODE 4DORBGCHECK34) *HERE IS THE LINK TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT: [HTTPS://DIOCESEOFRALEIGH.SAFEENVIRONMENT.ORG/LOGIN/INDEX.PHP](https://dioceseofraleigh.org/safeenvironment.org/login/index.php)
4. THE COMPASS SYSTEM WILL ASK YOU TO VERIFY THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE CODE OF CONDUCT. THESE CAN BE FOUND IN BOTH ENGLISH & SPANISH HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.OURLADYOFLOURDESCC.ORG/SAFE-ENVIRONMENT-TRAINING-DOCUMENTS-FOR-NEW-VOLUNTEERS](https://www.ourladyoflourdescc.org/safe-environment-training-documents-for-new-volunteers)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DEACON BRAD MAGILL - 919-861-4600

Please Pray
for our Sick,
Suffering &
Deployed

GARY ADLER
DONNA BEHR
KATHLEEN CHARLESWORTH
MYLES CHARLESWORTH
DANA CASH
ELEANORA CEFALU
GARY DEININGER
ANDREW DILILLO

BARBARA GRANT
LOUISE GUYTON
CAPTAIN ZACHARY KOUSENS
JOHN LEAVY
ANNETTE LEFEBVRE
LIZ LORSCHIEDER
BOB & JAN JOYCE
NORMA KLEITSCH

DEACON TOM MACK
EILEEN MACKO
JULIA MEYERS
TOM MITCHELL
DON MONROE
KATIE NOWAK
MARY REDMOND
DAN & KAREN RITCHIE

JOELLE ROEHL
JOHNNY GARCIA ROJAS
ALLISEN SCHULT
ANN SULLIVAN
NANCY URBEN
HARRY VINCENT

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY JULY 27 2025	NEEDED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
YTD OFFERTORY (7/1/25-7/27/25)	\$ 140,000	\$ 130,355	- \$9,645

SECOND COLLECTION

DIOCESE OF SONSONATE	\$ 9,125
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MASS ATTENDANCE JULY 27

SATURDAY	5:00pm: 243
SUNDAY	9:00am: 579 11:30am: 322 1:30pm: 462 5:00pm: 278

TOTAL: 1,884



HOLY FACE DEVOTION

You are invited to join your fellow parishioners in the **Fallon Center Lounge** each **Tuesday evening** promptly at **6:15** to pray for 30 minutes the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.



SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

ALL CURRENTLY TRAINED INDIVIDUALS

- You should have received an email on Wednesday July 16th with directions for the annual renewal of your safe environment training from: "[dioceseofraleigh.safeenvironment.org](https://dioceseofraleigh.org/safeenvironment.org)"
- EXTRA Reminders will be sent weekly via email
- If you did not get an email, then ONE of the following is true;
 - You have already taken a safe environment training in 2025
 - You have been suspended for not renewing last year
- If you have an invalid email address in the system, Please contact Deacon Brad Magill in the parish office to correct this - Not the Diocese

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT DEACON BRAD MAGILL

919-861-4600

Pilgrimages with Fr. Pat Keane

<https://www.206tours.com/cms/frkeane/>



Medjugorje & Dubrovnik - \$3,014 October 27 - November 6, 2025

Spend eleven (11) days on a Catholic Pilgrimage to Medjugorje & Dubrovnik. Begin with eight (8) days in the peaceful village of Medjugorje, located in Bosnia & Herzegovina. This is the site of the 1981 Marian Apparitions. On June 24, 1981, six children witnessed the Blessed Virgin Mary on what is now known as Apparition Hill. Our Lady came with a message of peace for the world, as well as a call to conversion, prayer and fasting. Medjugorje was the inspiration for the foundation of 206 Tours and we have been sending Pilgrims there since 1985. In 2018, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Henryk Hoser the “Apostolic Visitor” to Medjugorje and on May 13, 2019 the Holy See officially announced that Dioceses and Parishes throughout the world are now authorized to organize Pilgrimages to Medjugorje. To date, over 40 million people have visited this now popular Pilgrimage site. Complete your Pilgrimage with two (2) days in the stunning “Pearl of the Adriatic”, Dubrovnik.

The Vatican has issued a decree stating that a Plenary Indulgence will be granted under the usual conditions for those who travel on a Pilgrimage to the Church of St. James in Medjugorje, and devoutly participate in the Jubilee rites and / or pious prayers. This decree is valid until the conclusion of the Jubilee Year on Jan. 6, 2026.

TRIPS INCLUDE...

- † Round-trip airfare
- † Airport taxes & fuel surcharges
- † Centrally located first class hotel
- † Transfers as per itinerary
- † Tour escort throughout
- † Breakfast & Dinner daily
- † Wine with dinners
- † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- † Daily Mass & spiritual activities

...and more; see individual trip listings



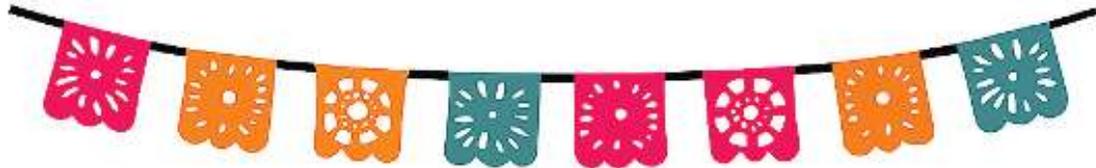


LET'S



TACO ABOUT CLOW

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



A Night to Connect, Plan & Grow

Thursday, September 11th

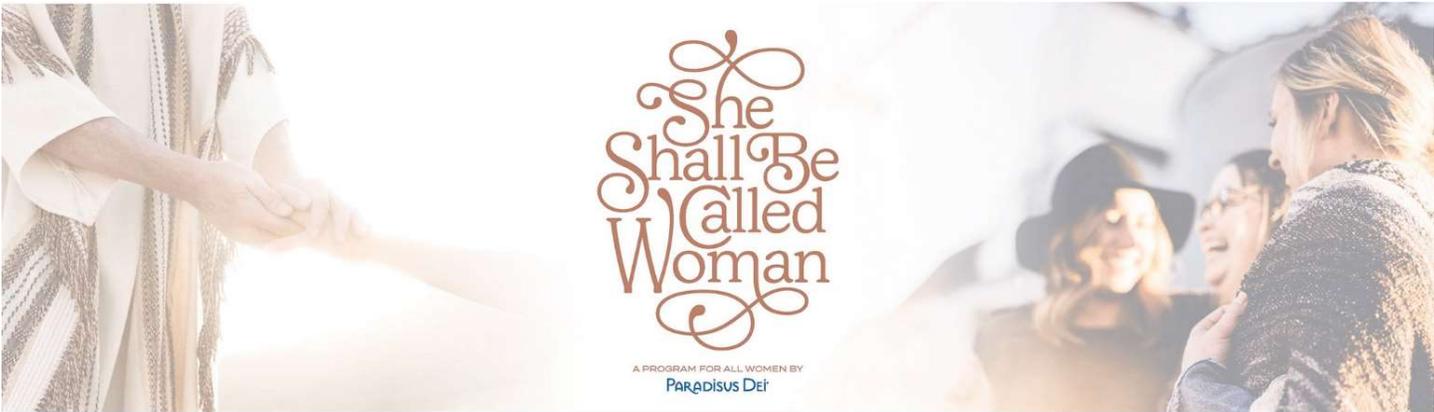
6:30–8:30 PM

Fallon Center



All are welcome! Current volunteers,
or anyone interested in learning more
about CLOW, we'd love to see you there!

**Please scan the QR code to sign up for
the potluck!**



She Shall Be Called Woman

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY PARADISUS DEI

SEASON THREE LOVE UNVEILED

In this season, we will explore what it means for us, as women, to represent the identity of Christ's bride to the world. This relationship is marked by joy and intimacy, but also, like any relationship, it includes moments of failure, heartbreak, and the need for restoration. As we journey together, we will delve into the depths of Christ's love for His Bride, discovering the beauty of reconciliation and the grace that heals and strengthens us. Prepare your heart to be pursued by the Lord in a way that deepens your love for Him, invites your soul to heal, and fortifies your relationship with Christ.



HEATHER KHYM
Co-Founder of Life Restoration Ministries &
Co-Host of *Abiding Together* Podcast



KATIE HARTFIEL
Content Coordinator
She Shall Be Called Woman



MARY BIELSKI
Speaker, Evangelist, &
Life Coach



DEBBIE HERBECK
Founder of *Be Loved Revolution*
Pine Hills Girls Camp



STEPHANIE REGITZ
Founder of *Saint Gianna's*
Hope Ministry



EMILY STIMPSON CHAPMAN
Best Selling Author



ALI HOFFMAN
Catholic Evangelist & Artist



RACHEL BULMAN
Author & Speaker

DISCOVER CHRIST'S LOVE

EACH SESSION OFFERS:

- ENCOUNTER:** "SHE inspires me for the week ahead and helps to keep me on track with my faith and daily prayer time."
- MESSAGE:** "I appreciate that a personal relationship with Jesus is central to each video presenter. This series is excellent!"
- FELLOWSHIP:** "I really felt heard and listened to by the other ladies in my small group, and I enjoyed growing spiritually with other women."

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Monday evenings starting
September 8
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Fallon Center, Raleigh, NC

SCHEDULE:

7:00 pm Fellowship
7:30 pm Video Presentation
8:00 pm Small Group
8:30 pm Dismissal



REGISTRATION:

Scan the QR code to register!
or Contact Lulu Miranda
919-341-7848
mirandlo@gmail.com

SEASON FOUR
RESTORED to RADIANCE
COMING THIS SPRING



THAT MAN IS YOU!

is an interactive men's program combining the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive. By honestly addressing the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, That Man is You! seeks to form men who will be capable of transforming homes and society.



WORTHY OF THE CALL

FEATURING A POWERFUL TEAM OF PRESENTERS

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION AS YOU:

- Discover and embrace the call to live a life worthy of the call you have received.
- Discover how to stay awake in a woke culture.
- Experience a breathtakingly beautiful journey through The Joyful Mysteries from the Holy Land this Advent.
- Identify the internal and external struggle with the power of evil and create a pathway to overcome it.
- Lift up your heart and mind to Christ with powerful Lenten Reflections.
- Enter into Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday through Jewish eyes and experience the Triduum like never before.
- Embrace the call to lay down your life in loving sacrifice, bring joy into your home and manifest the merciful love of God the Father.
- Remain grafted to the vine to bear a hundred-fold fruitfulness.
- Experience the holy grit of the Saints while relying upon the holy grace of God.



FR. JOHN BURNS
CATHOLIC PRIEST AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR



DR. JOHN BERGSMA
PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY



DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS
THE DYNAMIC DEACON



SAM BLAIR
FORMER NAVY SEAL



JOHN SABLAN
FOUNDER, WORLD ABLAZE



PAUL GEORGE
FOUNDER, ART OF LIVING MINISTRIES



BRIAN TOPPING
TMIY CORE TEAM LEADER



JASON ANGELETTE
DIRECTOR OF FAITH & MARRIAGE, WILLWOODS



MICHAEL GORMLEY
MISSION EVANGELIST, PARADISUS DEI



MIKE DICOSOLA
MISSION ENGAGEMENT, PARADISUS DEI



MARK HARTFIEL
VICE PRESIDENT, PARADISUS DEI

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Friday mornings in the Fallon Center
Fall program starts September 5

SCHEDULE:

6:00am Fellowship & breakfast
6:30am Video
7:00am Small group discussion
7:30am End



REGISTRATION:

Scan the QR code to register or contact Domenic Coletti
919-389-9913
domenic.coletti6@gmail.com

AUGUST 4

ST. JOHN VIANNEY, THE CURÉ OF ARS

During the French Revolution a small band of Ursuline nuns was imprisoned in the Bastille. To cheer her disconsolate companions, one of the group passed wheaten discs of bread, cut from the loaf of the daily rations, to memorialize the happy days when they were free and could receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. At that time all religious schools and churches were closed, and those who harbored priests were imprisoned.

At the Vianney farmhouse near Dardilly, France, fugitive priests were offered a refuge. Here their son was prepared in his tenth year for the reception of Holy Communion by a hunted priest.

While tending his father's sheep, John Vianney fashioned a small statue of Our Lady out of clay. He hid it in the hollow of an old tree with this petition: "Dear Lady Mary, I love you very much; you must bring Jesus back to His tabernacles very soon!"

On a visit to his aunt at Ecully, John listened to her praises of Father Balley, the parish priest, and he sought the Father's advice regarding his vocation to the priesthood. The pastor appraised the overgrown, awkward youth of faltering speech and devoid of general education.

Though John was unable to answer the questions pertaining to earthly science which Father asked him, yet, when the priest put to him the questions of the catechism, his face became luminous with lively interest. He answered every question correctly, and in a manner beyond his years. The amazed pastor took this evidence as a sign from heaven, prophesying, "You will become a priest!"

The ensuing years brought many trials to John. He was conscripted; his mother died; he failed often in his studies. Ordained as a Mass priest, August 12, 1815, he remarked to Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy: "Here is your priest, O Blessed Mother! Stay close to me. Help me to be a good priest!"

As a curate and as a pastor, St. John Vianney's daily instruction on the catechism found an inspired audience, among whom were noted orators such as Père Lacordaire, O.P., the famed preacher of Notre Dame. The saintly pastor performed many miracles, but the greatest was his own manner of Eucharistic living. It was his Lord, living in Father Vianney, who made him "spend and be spent" in ceaseless service for both sinner and saint in the sacred tribunal of penance.



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

On the Gospel of this day; *St. Luke 12:13-21*

Jesus was surrounded by a large crowd to whom he was giving his message of salvation. Some men in the crowd asked him to arbitrate in a family dispute over property. This Jesus refused to do. This interest in property gave him the occasion to teach his hearers, and all of us, in a very effective parable, the relative value of this world's goods.

The lesson of this parable is obvious to all, and it is perhaps as difficult to put into practice as it is obvious. To be in this world and not of it, to collect the necessary goods of this world by honest labor and yet remain detached from them, to possess but not be possessed by worldly riches, is an ideal to which our weak human nature responds very reluctantly.

A large percentage of Christians, however, do respond to the challenge manfully and loyally. They earn and use the goods of this world, while at the same time they keep God's laws and earn wealth for heaven. Some renounce even the right, which is theirs, to possess the necessary things of this world, by taking on themselves the vows of religion. Thus they set themselves free to devote their whole time and energy to the service of God and neighbor. Others, and they are of necessity the more numerous, have to own the world's goods in order to provide for themselves and their dependants, but, while so doing, they never let their temporal possessions come between them and their God. To do this is not easy, but God's helping grace is always available to the willing heart.

There is still a third group—those who resemble the foolish man described in the parable. Like him they are so enmeshed and ensnared in their desire to collect good things for their earthly life, that they forget that at any moment they may have to leave this earth and all they possess in it. They may not have large barns or grain-bins bursting at the seams with the fruits of their fields or their market dealings, but they have allowed their possessions, large or small, to become the prison-houses of their hearts and thoughts. In their mad rush for earthly treasure they give themselves no time to stop and think of the really important thing in life, namely, that soon they must leave this world and all it holds dear to them. But it is not the departure from this world that is to be feared. Rather, it is the arrival at another for which they have made no preparation. That other world of which they have often heard, but which they shrugged off as something fit for the weak-minded, will not open before them in all its awe-inspiring immensity. They will have a momentary glimpse of the eternal beauty and happiness that they lost for a "mess of pottage," before they enter the unending valley of sorrow which they elected for themselves when, during their period of trial, they chose earthly baubles instead of God.

This has been the fate of foolish men and women in the past. It will, also, be the fate of many more in the future. It could be my fate, too, unless I remain ever on the alert to keep myself free from the snare of worldly wealth. I must remember that it is not the quantity of this world's goods which I possess that will be my undoing, but the quality of the hold which they have on me. There are and will be millionaires in heaven, while many in the lower income-brackets will find themselves excluded.

No man will be excluded from heaven because he lawfully possessed some of this world's wealth. But a man will exclude himself from eternal happiness if he lets this world's wealth possess him to the exclusion of God.

The fate of the rich man in the parable need not, and should not, be mine. I still have time to stop building larger grain-bins and barns, and to turn my attention instead to collecting some treasure for heaven.