



SAINT MARY MOTHER OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi ✨ The law of prayer is the law of belief is the law of life!

THE CHURCH DEDICATES THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS

SEPTEMBER 13 ✓ 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A): READINGS ARE FOUND IN THE HYMNAL AT #1017

SIRACH 27:30—28:7 ✨ PSALM 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 ✨ ROMANS 14:7-9 ✨ MATTHEW 18:21-35

Kindly maintain *prayerful silence* before, during, and after Holy Mass!

THE ROOTS OF THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (*SEPTEMBER 14*)

1. The Discovery of the True Cross (326 AD): In 326 AD, St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, traveled to Jerusalem to find holy sites of our LORD. The Romans had buried the site of the crucifixion under an earthen mound and built a temple to Venus over it. Helena ordered the pagan temple torn down and the ground excavated. Workers found three crosses buried near a cave. According to early church historians, Bishop Macarius of Jerusalem brought a dying woman to touch the wood. When she touched the third cross, she recovered instantly.

2. The Dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (335 AD): Emperor Constantine ordered a magnificent church built over the site of the crucifixion and empty tomb. This became the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The grand basilica was finished and dedicated in a massive ceremony on September 13, 335 AD, attended by bishops from all over the Roman Empire. On the following day, September 14, the remaining portion of the True Cross was brought out and raised high above the crowd by Bishop Macarius so that all the faithful could see and venerate it. This public elevation—or "exaltation"—created the annual memorial date.

3. The Persian Capture and Heraclius's Restoration (614-628 AD): In 614 AD the Sasanian Persian King Khosrow II invaded and captured Jerusalem, plundered and destroyed churches, and took the True Cross to their capital of Ctesiphon. In 628 AD, the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius won a decisive war against the Persians and negotiated a peace treaty that returned the *holy relic*. Heraclius carried the cross back to Jerusalem himself. However, when he reached the gates of the city wearing his royal crown and fine robes, an invisible force stopped him from entering until he removed his crown and shoes. So, dressed in simple rags, he carried the *relic of the true cross* the rest of the way into the city on *September 14, 628 AD*.

BASIC MINIMUM NEEDED PER WEEK \$ 4,000.00

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY

IN CHURCH \$ 2,966 & ONLINE \$ 195

TOTAL: \$ 3,161 .00



HALL RENOVATION (REQUIRED) \$ 1,500,000

RAISED SO FAR \$ 716,782

IN CHURCH \$ 1,050 & ONLINE \$ 130

BALANCE TO BE RAISED \$ 782,038

BINGO: 6 PM ☛ IN THE PARISH HALL ☛ FRIDAYS! WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RUN IT. KINDLY HELP

☛. **HAVE YOU A PRAYER REQUEST?** Contact Ms. Susie Taylor, 9049454327. Your request will be added to the prayer-request-text-line, and our prayer team will pray for your requests!

☛. **PRAY FOR:** Kenneth Baier, Geraldine Lombard, Brendan Bonner, Nancy Carrasquillo, Beth Spreitzer, Trish Thorpe, Asia Paige, Abby Keller, Angelo Tauro, Mary Roberts, Rose Johnson, John Payne, Monte Willey, Julie, Jim & Bonnie Palleschi, Mary Baeb, Theresa Taylor, Kathy Johnson, Joan Fiore, Joanie McCarthy, Stacie Adams, Karen & Richard Dolan, Daniel Harrigan, Allan Lahoski, Ann Smith, Bob Rozumek, Christy Long, Cindy Schillig, Dawn Phillips, Diana Rumpt, Sarah Zarrella, Edward Robinson, Gladys Page, Janis Price, Jeannie Hendrix, Joanne Hodges, John Singleton, Judy Gentile, M. Akridge, Marge Keller, Marianne Glass, Mary Ford, Mary Knoche, Mifuk Huh, Pat Doyle, Paul Boehnke, Sandra Schwarz, Xavier Smith, Schaidy Parme, James Nelson, Mary Pregler, John Norton, Alex Robinson.

☛. **JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM:** CONTACT MS. KAREN DOUGHERTY AT K.DOUGHERTY200@COMCAST.NET

✓. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Meet on the first Sunday of the month. We encourage all men of the parish to attend. Contact: STEVE HUDSON ON 9049932512 AND SKHUDSON7@GMAIL.COM

✓. **INTERESTED IN PRISON MINISTRY?** PLEASE CONTACT JOHN CHICK AT JCHICK@DOSAFI.COM

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES (CCD) FOR CHILDREN

CLASSES ARE HELD ON SUNDAYS BEFORE HOLY MASS FROM 8:45 AM TO 9:45 AM IN THE LEARNING CENTER

CONTACT: PEG DECURTINS (PEGDECURTINS@NEFCOM.NET) or MICHAEL MCKENDREE (904) 400-9250

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

CLASSES ARE HELD ON SUNDAYS AFTER HOLY MASS FROM 11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM IN THE LEARNING CENTER

CONTACT: PEG DECURTINS (PEGDECURTINS@NEFCOM.NET)

AD JESUM PER MARIAM : TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

ORATORY: A MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN

WEDNESDAYS 5:15 PM-7.45 PM) HOLY MASS 5.30 PM;

CONSCIENCE-CHARACTER 6.15 PM; FUN ACTIVITY 6.45—7:30 PM; DINNER/REFRESHMENTS 7:35 PM

CONTACT: CATHERINE CHICK (904) 293-3827 (CHICKCA@GMAIL.COM)

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY (WWW.RESPECTLIFE.ORG)

CONTACT: TRUDY HUDSON (904) 614-5125 (TRUDYHUDSON7@GMAIL.COM)

ADORATION ★ CHAPLET ★ ROSARY

4:30 PM SATURDAY & 9:30 AM SUNDAY

4:30 PM MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM TUESDAY & THURSDAY

**HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE EUCHARIST**

5:00 PM SATURDAY & 10 AM SUNDAY

5:30 PM MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM TUESDAY & THURSDAY

FRIDAYS: ADORATION 9 AM TO 5:25 PM ☞ HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE EUCHARIST 5:30 PM

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION ☞ ADORATION 5:00 TO 5.45 PM & HOLY MASS 6 PM

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & HOLY COMMUNION: ANYTIME UPON REQUEST

CONFESSION ☞ 45 MINUTES BEFORE HOLY MASS & BY APPOINTMENT

THE POPE'S SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: PRAY FOR THE CARE AND JUST USE OF WATER

SEP.12

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠. ERNIE BOLDUC ✠. BARBARA BULLETT

SEP.13

✠. FOR THE PEOPLE (*PRO POPULO*)

SEP.14 MON.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

✠. JAMIE SMITH

SEP.15 TUE.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, MEMORIAL

✠. TONY & DONNA DECURTINS

SEP.16 WED.

SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN, MEMORIAL

✠. FR. RICHARD ✠. FR. FRED ✠. DEACON KEN

SEP.17 THU.

SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE, MEMORIAL

✠. JONATHAN ROJAS

SEP.18 FRI.

SAINT JANUARIUS, MEMORIAL

✠. LOURDES CUELLO ✠. RONALD CUELLO



Thank you very much to Sandy Umphress for flowers this weekend! Donations for flowers are greatly appreciated! Kindly sign up for any available weekend you want in the note book in the hallway, and give \$70-75 (cash), in the envelope provided, to Linda Voeltz shortly before your designated dates. Thank you!!

LECTORS**MAY GOD BLESS US ALL EVERYONE!****ALTAR SERVERS**

B. LANCHO, M. STECK & P. DECURTINS

SAT: SEP.12

B. LANCHO

J. CHICK SR, C. CHICK & M. MCKENDREE

SUN: SEP.13

L. CHICK & JAMES SMITH

K. & M. DOUGHERTY & J. MACKEY

SAT: SEP.19

B. LANCHO

M. WILLEY, P. DECURTINS & K. WHITE

SUN: SEP.20

M. CHICK, D. CHICK & A. GATES

The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deal with all allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner. TO REPORT ABUSE, call the police or the Department of Children and Families at (800) 962-2873 or call the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 208-6979 or email inquiries@dosafl.com. To report abuse by a bishop, call (800) 276-1562 or visit www.reportbishopabuse.org

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS (SEPTEMBER 15)

The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows grew out of medieval monastic devotions in the 11th and 12th centuries, but it was heavily popularized in 1233 by the *Servite Order*, a group of seven Italian noblemen who dedicated their lives to meditating on Mary's grief. The first official liturgical feast was established in 1423 by the Synod of Cologne to counteract religious iconoclasm, and by 1482, it entered the Roman Missal under the title "Our Lady of Compassion." For centuries, the devotion was celebrated regionally or within specific religious orders until Pope Benedict XIII extended it to the universal Church in 1727, placing it on the Friday before Palm Sunday to align with the penitential nature of Lent.

The feast underwent a second major expansion directly shaped by the Napoleonic captivity. In 1809, after Napoleon Bonaparte annexed the Papal States and arrested Pope Pius VII, the pontiff spent nearly five years in isolation and house arrest. During this grueling exile, Pius VII heavily reflected on Mary at the foot of Christ's cross—even writing the famous Litany of the Seven Sorrows while in captivity.

Upon his liberation and return to Rome in 1814, the Pope established a second universal feast on the third Sunday of September as an act of thanksgiving for her protection. This dual celebration remained in place until Pope Pius X reformed the liturgical calendar in 1913, permanently merging them and fixing the singular celebration to September 15. By placing it exactly one day after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Church structurally unified the calendar to highlight Mary's intimate, shared connection to Christ's sacrifice on Calvary.

SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: HELP SPREAD THE FAITH

Next weekend, September 19-20, the Diocese invites all parishes to participate in a special collection for the *Help Spread the Faith Catholic Communications Appeal*. If you are in a position to contribute after supporting our own parish, please consider giving generously. This appeal directly impacts our local church by funding vital media platforms, including the St. Augustine Catholic magazine and diocesan websites. Appeal envelopes will be available in the pews next weekend.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and your critical, ongoing support of our parish!

SOUP AND SESSION: EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH IN THE LEARNING CENTER @ 6:15 PM
