



SAINT MARY MOTHER OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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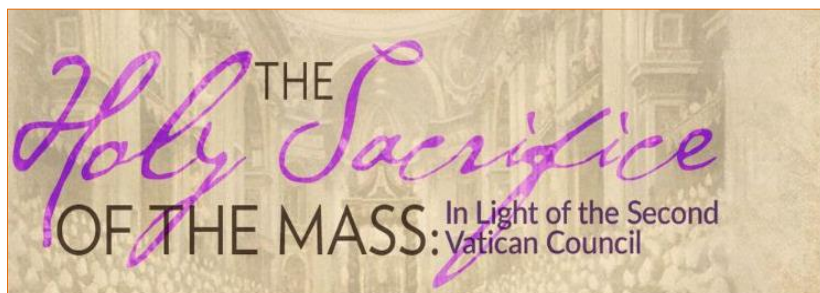
Lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi ✉ The law of prayer is the law of belief is the law of life!

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

FIND THE READING FOR THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY (YEAR A) IN YOUR HYMNAL ON # 1011

AUGUST 30 ✓ 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: JER 20:7-9 ✉ PS. 63:2-6,8-9 ✉ RM 12:1-2 ✉ MT. 16:21-27

Reverence and Respect in our Church: Kindly maintain prayerful silence and quiet before, during, and after Holy Mass. Take all cell phone use and all conversations outside to the vestibule or parking lot. Let us keep our hearts and minds fixed on our Lord God, *Jesus Christ!*



Speaker: Most Rev. Erik Pohlmeier

Saturday, August 22
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Holy Faith Catholic Church, Gainesville

Saturday, September 19
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Orange Park



2026 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Knights of Columbus are blessed to announce the recipients of the 2026 Scholarships!

Claire Nickles, a graduate of Bishop Snyder Catholic High School, received a \$1,000 scholarship. Claire is working toward moving to Pensacola this spring to attend the University of West Florida, where she hopes to major in Finance.

Robert Chick, a home school graduate, received a \$500 scholarship. Robert is currently attending J-Tech in Jacksonville, where he is pursuing a degree in welding.

Let us thank God for these young people and wish them the absolute best, and pray that they will use their talents to serve God and their neighbors others in their future!

BASIC MINIMUM NEEDED PER WEEK \$ 4,000.00

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY

IN CHURCH \$ 2,058 & ONLINE \$ 735

TOTAL: \$ 2,793 .00



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

RAISED SO FAR \$ 715,667

IN CHURCH \$ 130 & ONLINE \$ 50

BALANCE TO BE RAISED \$ 782,977

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

ANONING OF THE SICK & HOLY COMMUNION: ANYTIME UPON REQUEST

CONFESSION ☞ 45 MINUTES BEFORE HOLY MASS & BY APPOINTMENT

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

AUG.29	22 ND SUNDAY	✠. ANTHONY MCCAWLEY ✠. LUIS HERRERA ✠. MIRIAM LLORENS
AUG.30	IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH (<i>PRO POPULO</i>)
AUG.31	MON. OF 22 ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH (<i>PRO POPULO</i>)
SEP.01	TUE. OF 22 ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. MICHAEL CORRIGAN
SEP.02	WED. OF 22 ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. SAGE EDWARD
SEP.03	THU. POPE ST. GREGORY, <i>Memorial</i>	✠. JOEL AND JULIA (THANKSGIVING AND INTENTIONS)
SEP.04	FRI. OF 22 ND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. EUGENIO ARBOLERAS



Thank you very much to Sheila McCawley 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

H. WILLIAMS, M. STECK & J. MACKEY

SAT: AUG.29

H. WILLIAMS

K. WHITE, J. JOHNSON & M. WILLEY

SUN: AUG.30

JAMES SMITH, A. WHITE & A. CATES

SAT: SEP.05

B. LANCHO

SUN: SEP.06

D. CHICK, M. MCKENDREE & K. HORKAN

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



WHAT "TAKE MY YOKE" REALLY MEANS IN MATTHEW 11:29

In Matthew 11:29, Jesus's use of the word "yoke" was a profound cultural metaphor that shifted the focus of faith from a rigorous code of rules into a deep relationship with a person. To a first-century Jewish audience, a yoke was far more than an ordinary agricultural tool used to bind oxen; it carried deep spiritual, rabbinic, and historical meanings that transformed his invitation into something unexpected. The true meaning of Jesus's invitation can be understood through its historical and cultural context:

1. BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF A MASTER: In the ancient Jewish world, rabbis frequently used the term "yoke" to describe a student's commitment to their teacher. To "take a teacher's yoke" meant to bind yourself to that rabbi, accept their specific interpretation of scripture, and become their disciple. Jesus was using this familiar phrasing to tell the crowd to stop following other teachers and instead let his instruction shape their lives.

2. THE RABBINIC TRADITION OF LAW AND WISDOM: The Jewish community was intimately familiar with phrases like the "yoke of the Torah," the "yoke of the commandments," and the "yoke of the kingdom of heaven." Taking on these yokes meant accepting God's instruction and sovereignty as the governing authority over your life. Furthermore, in contemporary Jewish wisdom writings (such as the Wisdom of Sirach), wisdom itself invites people to put their neck under her yoke to receive instruction. By saying "take my yoke," Jesus was directly echoing this well-known wisdom language and unmistakably claiming to be the *personification of Wisdom* itself standing right in front of them.

3. A YOKE THAT "FITS" THE SOUL: The apparent contradiction of finding "rest" by taking on a "yoke" dissolves when looking at the original Greek language. The Greek word translated as "easy" actually carries the sense of useful, beneficial, and perfectly fitting. Just as a well-crafted wooden yoke was custom-carved to fit an animal's shoulders without chafing, Jesus is promising that his way of life is the right yoke—the one custom-made for the human soul to live out its true purpose.

4. A SHARED BURDEN WITH A GENTLE MASTER: In agriculture, a yoke was often built for two animals to pull a heavy load side by side so the weight could be shared. (16:27) Jesus isn't offering a life of drift or a total removal of responsibilities; he is offering a different yoke where he gets into the harness beside you. His burden is light because he is a master characterized by gentleness and humility, rather than harsh demands, and he supplies the strength to steady the load when you stumble.