



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 06 ✓ 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A): READINGS ARE FOUND IN THE HYMNAL AT #1014

EZEKIEL 33:7-9 ✦ PSALM 95:1-2, 6-9 ✦ ROMANS 13:8-10 ✦ MATTHEW 18:15-20

Reverence and Respect in Church: Kindly maintain *prayerful silence* before, during, and after Holy Mass. Take all conversations outside. Let us keep our hearts on our Lord *Jesus Christ!*

IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS (PSALM 95:8)

The biblical warning “*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts*” serves as an urgent historical wake-up call that the historical Church intentionally chose as its daily anchor by making Psalm 95 (the *Venite*) the foundational Invitatory Psalm at the start of every Morning Prayer (*Matins*) service.

In its original Old Testament context, the psalm served as a temple liturgy that abruptly shifted from soaring praise to a stern reminder of Massah (*testing*) and Meribah (*quarreling*), the desert locations where the Israelites panicked over a lack of water, rebelled against Moses, and doubted God's presence despite having just witnessed the miraculous parting of the Red Sea—a stubbornness that ultimately barred that entire generation from entering the physical Promised Land. Centuries later, the author of the *Letter to the Hebrews* applied this exact history to 1st-century Christians facing intense social persecution, declaring that “*Today*” represents an immediate, vital window of grace where believers must choose quick, faithful submission to God's truth over the gradual, blinding deceptions of sin.

Weaving this profound history into a daily morning ritual, the Church established a spiritual rhythm for the believer: It first awakens the soul to joyful gratitude for the Creator, and then immediately delivers a protective warning before they step out into the stresses, exhaustion, and temptations of their own personal ‘wilderness.’ This daily discipline keeps Christians grounded in the present. It acts as an antidote to hardheartedness and apathy, scraping away spiritual calluses and ensuring that each morning begins with a soft, yielded heart.

BASIC MINIMUM NEEDED PER WEEK \$ 4,000.00

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY

IN CHURCH \$ 2,127 & ONLINE \$ 1,335

TOTAL: \$ 3,462 .00



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

RAISED SO FAR \$ 715,847

IN CHURCH \$ 590 & ONLINE \$ 345

BALANCE TO BE RAISED \$ 783,218

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.05	23 RD SUNDAY	✠. JAMES SHILLOW
SEP.06	IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH (PRO POPULO)
SEP.07 MON.	AMERICAN LABOR DAY	✠. KING THOELKE
SEP.08 TUE.	NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED MOTHER	✠. AARON SAUTTER ✠. ELIZA BOLDT ✠. DAWN SAUTTER
SEP.09 WED.	ST. PETER CLAVER, Memorial	✠. KEN GIDDENS JR
SEP.10 THU.	OF 23 RD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. ALAN HELLAM ✠. JOSEPHINE KAWING
SEP.11 FRI.	OF 23 RD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✠. LINDA WILLEY ✠. ANNA BOLDUC ✠. BERT KRAMER



Thank you very much to Edgar and Yissett Quintana 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, B. PALLESCHI & J. MACKEY	SAT: SEP.05	B. LANCHO
P. DECURTINS, M. MCKENDREE & J. JOHNSON	SUN: SEP.06	D. CHICK, M. MCKENDREE & K. HORKAN
B. LANCHO, M. STECK & P. DECURTINS	SAT: SEP.12	H. WILLIAMS
J. CHICK SR, C. CHICK & M. MCKENDREE	SUN: SEP.13	L. CHICK & JAMES SMITH

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

MAKING A LIVING, MAKING A LIFE

A SUMMARY OF BISHOP ERIK POHLMEIER'S 2026 LABOR DAY MESSAGE

The American *Labor Day* honors the vital contributions of American workers, and it invites us to reflect deeply on the purpose of work in our lives.

Families face overwhelming financial pressures. Despite working hard, the rising costs of groceries, housing, transportation, and healthcare make it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Parents work extra hours, and young adults worry about their future security.

The toll is deeply human indeed when the struggle to make a living crowds out actual living. Parents lose time with their children, spouses have less time together, and caring for aging relatives becomes harder. Proper and needed rest is postponed, and time with God is often squeezed into whatever moments remain.

Our Catholic faith offers a crucial perspective: work is good and enhances our dignity, but it does not create it. Our fundamental dignity comes from God alone, and our worth cannot be measured by a paycheck, title, or productivity level. This remains true regardless of our employment status, age, or ability. Work is meant to serve the human person; it must provide more than just a paycheck. It should offer the financial stability families need to flourish and plan for the future.

Beyond material needs, we also need to protect something increasingly rare: time. We need time for family dinners, friendship, community, and service to others.

Most importantly, we need time for God. Sunday rest reminds us that we were not created for constant production. While many perform essential weekend work—such as healthcare workers and first responders—the core principle remains: work is meant to serve life, not consume it.

This Labor Day, let us give thanks for all workers and pray especially for those searching for employment or struggling to provide for their loved ones. May we remember to see the person behind the work and ensure our choices support a life rooted in faith, family, and community.

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