



SAINT MARY MOTHER OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI (THE LAW OF PRAYER, THE LAW OF BELIEF, THE LAW OF LIVING)

OUR PRAYER LIFE SHAPES OUR BELIEFS, AND THESE BELIEFS SHAPED BY PRAYER INFLUENCE HOW WE LIVE

SEPTEMBER 14 ✓ THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

NUMBERS 21:4B-9 ✓ PSALM 78:1BC-2,34-35,36-37,38 ✓ PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11 ✓ JOHN 3:13-17

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IN THE CHURCH IS DEDICATED TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS!

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

“Let us not then be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Be the Cross our seal made with boldness by our fingers on our brow, and on everything; over the bread we eat, and the cups we drink; in our comings in, and goings out; before our sleep, when we lie down and when we rise up; when we are in the way, and when we are still. Great is that preservative; it is without price, for the sake of the poor; without toil, for the sick; since also its grace is from God. It is the Sign of the faithful, and the dread of devils: for He triumphed over them in it, having made a show of them openly; for when they see the Cross they are reminded of the Crucified; they are afraid of Him, who bruised the heads of the dragon” (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Catechetical Lecture XIII, 36).

Commemorated on September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates the discovery, recovery, and above all, the saving meaning of Christ’s Cross — His sacrifice turned into the ultimate sign of life and glory. It is not just a historical memory, it also has a strong anti-heresy role in Christian tradition. It became a proclamation that the Cross is central to salvation—against distortions that either deny the Cross, reduce its meaning, or replace it with human wisdom or power. Here are the main heresies it directly or implicitly resists:

Gnosticism: The Gnostics despised the material world and denied that the Son of God truly suffered in the flesh. For them, the Cross was scandalous—God could not be humiliated. **Feast’s Response:** The Exaltation affirms that God truly became man, truly suffered, and truly died on the Cross. The same Cross is exalted because it is the instrument of our redemption.

Docetism: Jesus only “appeared” (Greek dokein, to seem) to have a body and suffer; His passion was an illusion. **Feast’s Response:** The veneration of the Cross insists that the Passion was real and that salvation came through actual suffering and death, not appearances *(Continued on the last page).*



The flowers this week are donated by Bonnie and Jim Palleschi. Donations for altar flowers are requested and 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!!

MINIMUM NEEDED PER WEEK \$ 4,000.00 ↓

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY COLLECTION

IN CHURCH \$ 2,158.00 & ONLINE \$ 375.00

\$ 2,533.00



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

RAISED SO FAR \$ 646,272.00

LAST WEEK: IN CHURCH \$1,310.00 & ONLINE \$30.00

SS BALANCE TO BE RAISED \$ 852,388.00

✚. **RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY:** Contact: Trudy Hudson (904) 614-5125 trudyhudson7@gmail.com or Michelle White (904) 504-0459 mlwhite722@gmail.com ✓. <https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-guides>

✚. **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:** Abby Keller, Angelo Tauro, Mary Roberts, Debbie Strickland, Rose Johnson, John Payne, Monte Willey, Julie, Jim & Bonnie Palleschi, Mary Baeb, Theresa Taylor, Kathy Johnson, Joan Fiore, Joanie McCarthy, Victor Crawford, Stacie Adams, Karen & Richard Dolan, Daniel Harrigan, Allan Lahoski, Ann Smith, Bob Rozumek, Christy Long, Cindy Schillig, Carol O'Neil, 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, Michelle Wolfe, Mifuk Huh, Nago Nguyen, Pat Doyle, Paul Boehnke, Sandra Schwarz, Xavier Smith, Schaidy Parme, Diane Arwine, Vicki Griffin, James Nelson, Sal Carrasquillo, Mary Pregler.

✚. **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. For more information, please contact Mr. Steve Hudson

✓. **INTERESTED IN PRISON MINISTRY?** Please contact John Chick at jchick@dosafl.com

POPE'S SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: INSPIRED BY SAINT FRANCIS, WE MIGHT EXPERIENCE OUR INTERDEPENDENCE WITH ALL CREATURES WHO ARE LOVED BY GOD AND WORTHY OF LOVE AND RESPECT.

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

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 & PRAYERS 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

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE EUCHARIST

SEP 13 *Vigil* **FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** ✠. MARGARET GESVALDI | ✠ GABRIELLA & DOMINIC

SEP 14 **FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** ✠. SONNY MARCUM ✠. CHARLES JAMES KIRK
✠ SAL CARRASQUILLO (*HEALING*)

SEP 15 **MON. OUR LADY OF SORROWS, MEMORIAL** ✠. JAMES ✠. CLARINE ✠. SYDNEY TIMMONS

SEP 16 **TUE. ST. CORNELIUS & ST. CYPRIAN, MEMORIAL** ✠. JOSEPH STANLEY ✠. JOSEPH BELLOCK III

SEP 17 **WED. ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE, MEMORIAL** ✠. FATHER RICHARD

SEP 18 **THU. TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME** ✠. DARCIE ADAMS | ✠ KATHY JOHNSON (*HEALING*)

SEP 19 **FRI. ST JANUARIUS, MEMORIAL** ✠. ANNA BOLDUC

LECTORS MAY GOD BLESS US ALL EVERYONE! ALTAR SERVERS

B. LANCHO, P. DECURTINS & C. CRAWFORD SAT. SEP 13 B.LANCHO

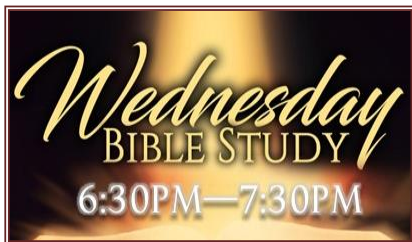
J. CHICK SR., C.CHICK & M. WILLEY SAT. SEP 14 D. CHICK, A. MCKENDREE & M. MCKENDREE

K. DOUGHERTY, M. DOUGHERTY & P. DECURTINS SAT. SEP 20 B. LANCHO

J. MACKEY, M. MCKENDREE & K. WHITE SUN. SEP 21 J. CHICK & L. CHICK

A JESUM PER MARIAM TO JESUS THROUGH MARY
ORATORY: CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
ON WEDNESDAYS 5:15 PM-8 PM
HOLY MASS 5:30 PM; CONSCIENCE-CHARACTER 6.15 PM;
FUN ACTIVITY 6.45-7:30 PM; DINNER/REFRESHMENTS 7:35 PM
CONTACT: MRS. CATHERINE CHICK (904) 293-3827 ☞ CHICKCA@GMAIL.COM

A STUDY OF SACRED SCRIPTURE ROOTED IN CATHOLIC TRADITION
FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND RECENTLY GRADUATED STUDENTS
SUNDAYS AT 6 PM IN THE LEARNING CENTER
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
MR. MIKE MCKENDREE (904) 400-9250



THE DIOCESE OF SAINT AUGUSTINE TREATS all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals 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@dosaf.com. To report abuse by a bishop, call (800) 276-1562 or visit www.reportbishopabuse.org

✓. **CCD:** Sundays before Holy Mass 8:45-9:45 am. ✓. **OCIA & OCIC:** Weekly classes are held on Sundays after Holy Mass from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Learning Center. Contact: Peg Alt Miller ☎ judy40plus@icloud.com and Michelle White ☎ mlwhite722@gmail.com ☎ 9045040459 DeCurtins at pegdecurtins@nefcom.net

CCD TEACHERS NEEDED! Do you love your faith, have a servant heart, a love for sharing God's word and enjoy working with children? We're looking for volunteers to help teach CCD this year! Not sure if it's for you? Contact Michelle White 904-504-0459, mlwhite722@gmail.com

(Continuing from the first page) **Arianism:** Christ was not fully God but a created being; therefore, His death had no infinite saving power. **Feast's Response:** By exalting the Cross, the Church proclaims that the one who died upon it was the eternal Son of God, and His sacrifice has absolute saving value.

Manichaeism: A radical dualism – matter is evil, spirit alone is good. The Cross (a physical death in a body) is meaningless or even evil in this system. **Feast's Response:** The feast proclaims that matter itself is redeemed through the Cross, and the body, far from being evil, becomes the temple of resurrection.

Talmudic-Rabbinic polemic (anti-Cross stance): "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" (Deut. 21:23, cited against Christians). Rabbinic Judaism mocked the idea of a crucified Messiah. **Feast's Response:** The Church glories in the Cross (Gal. 6:14) and reinterprets the curse: Christ became a curse for us so that we might be freed (Gal. 3:13). The very "scandal" of the Cross becomes its glory.

Islam (emerging later): The Quran denies that Jesus was crucified ("they did not kill him, nor crucify him, but it appeared so to them" – 4:157). **Feast's Response:** The liturgy proclaims year after year: the Cross is not illusion, not substitution, but the real and saving death of Christ.

Modern Echoes: Rationalism / Liberal Christianity: The Cross is reduced to a moral example of sacrifice, not an objective act of redemption. **Feast's Response:** It insists the Cross is not just symbol but sacramental reality – through it the world is redeemed.