



Church of the LITTLE FLOWER



BULLETIN/BOLETIN

DECEMBER 22ND
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22 DE DICIEMBRE
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO



PASTOR

REV. MANUEL F. ALVAREZ

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REV. LUIS A. FLORES

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE PERMANENT DEACONS

REV. JUAN ESCAMEZ
REV. STEPHEN SAAWUAN
REV. FIDELIS UKO

DEACON JORGE ALVAREZ
DEACON ROBERTO FLEITAS
DEACON MIGUEL PARLADE

Together, Worshipping the Lord, Forming Disciples, Serving in the Name of Jesus
Juntos, Adorando al Señor, Formando Discípulos, Sirviendo en Nombre de Jesús

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday

Time	Language
6:15 am	English
8:00 am	English
5:30 pm	Español

Saturday, December 28th

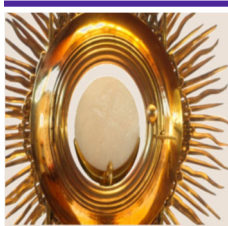
Time	Language	
8:00 am	English	Fr. Angulo
5:00 pm	English	Fr. Uko

Sunday, December 29th

Time	Language	Presider
7:30 am	English	Fr. Stephen
9:00 am	English	Fr. Flores
10:30 am	English	Fr. Manny
12:30 pm	Español	Fr. Flores
5:30 pm	English	Fr. Uko

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays, 8:30 am - 10:00 am in the Church
or by appointment at the Reilly Parish Center



The Blessed Sacrament
is exposed every
weekday morning from
9:00 am to 12 Noon
in the
Parish Office Chapel.



CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER - REILLY PARISH CENTER

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Address

2711 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

(305) 446-9950
www.cotlf.org



OFFICE STAFF

Mrs. Irma Aguilar - Ext 314
Business Manager

Mrs. Maria Elena Chialastri - Ext 306
Administrative Assistant to the Pastor
Office Manager

Mr. Luis Cuza - Ext 308
Associate Director of Music
Parish Resource Officer

Mr. Juan del Sol - Ext 311
Weddings Coordinator

Dr. Dawn Fontana - Ext 305
Director of Liturgical Music

Mr. Jorge Perez - Ext 318
Director of Advancement & Stewardship

Ms. Jessica Rodriguez - Ext 300
Receptionist
COTLF Charities Coordinator

Mr. Jorge Santibañez - Ext 307
Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry
Parish Ministries Coordinator
Bulletin Editor

Mrs. Annette Perez - Ext 302
Curator of Records
Virtus Training Coordinator

Maintenance/Custodial - Ext 309
Mr. Rene Denis
Mrs. Nubia Vivas
Mr. Jose Zuniga



SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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2701 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

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www.stscg.org

Administered by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of LA - Sr. Rosalie, Principal

SACRED STEPS | SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS AT COTLF



Welcome to the Catholic Church!
Congratulations to our Newly
Baptized:

- Due to Early Bulletin Production
Deadlines, Baptisms from the
weekend of December 14-15 will
appear in next week's bulletin.



Congratulations and God's
Blessings to those Joined in
Holy Matrimony:

- Due to Early Bulletin Production
Deadlines, Weddings from the
weekend of December 14-15 will
appear in next week's bulletin.



Rest in Peace. We Pray for those
who have Entered Eternity:

- Due to Early Bulletin Production
Deadlines, Funerals from this
past week will appear in next
week's bulletin.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- Private on Saturdays or Group on Sundays at 2:00pm. Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least two (2) months in advance.
- Privados los sábados o en grupo los domingos a las 2:00 pm. Arreglos se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con dos (2) meses de anticipación.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance.
- Arreglos de bodas se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con seis (6) meses de anticipación.

COTLF Charities

DO YOU KNOW WE HAVE A POOR BOX?

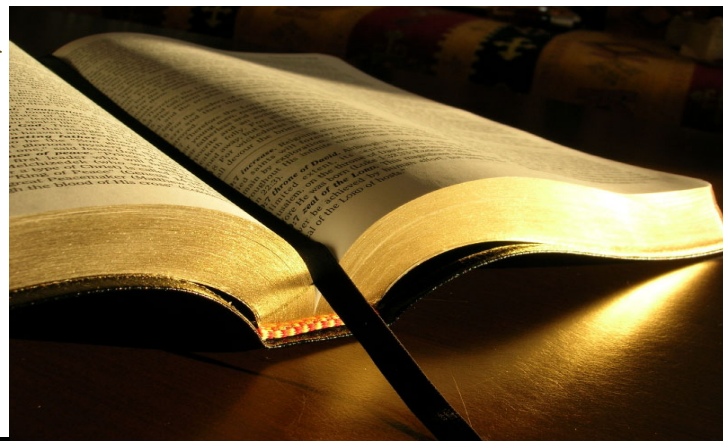
Though sometimes hard to find, our Poor Box is located in the vestibule/entrance of the church,
inside the back wall, near the Saint Anthony statue.

100% of the gifts and donations placed in the Poor Box are utilized to assist the poor, the needy,
and those in emergency circumstances of our parish and within our parish territory,
through the good work of our "COTLF Charities" Ministry.

Thank you for considering providing a gift of support to assist the most vulnerable.

READINGS OF THE WEEK / LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Sunday/Domingo: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24
Monday/Lunes: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday/Martes: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday/Miercoles:
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday/Jueves: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Friday/Viernes: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday/Sabado: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
Sunday/Domingo: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 am Christopher Guerrero
 9:00 am Perlita Dominguez
 10:30 am **Missa Pro Populo - For All Members of the Parish Family**
 12:30 pm † Lillian E. Cabrera
 5:30 pm † Perfecto R. Arango

Monday, December 23rd

Memorial of St. John of Kanty, Priest

6:15 am † Francisco Guerra
 8:00 am † Frank Parrella
 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Tuesday, December 24th

Tuesday of Week IV of Advent

8:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 5:00 pm † Domenica D'angelo De Giffuni
 7:00 pm **Missa Pro Populo - For All Members of the Parish Family**

Wednesday, December 25th

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

12:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 9:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 10:30 am † Jesus Rosales
 12:30 pm † Rogelio Herrera & Alfredo Pelaez and Family
 5:30 pm Living & Deceased Members of the Prieto, Perez & Suarez Family

Thursday, December 26th

Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr

6:15 am Gilberto Villasmil
 8:00 am † Luis Espino
 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Friday, December 27th

Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

6:15 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
 8:00 am † Jose I. Suarez, Jr.
 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Saturday, December 28th

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00 am Alexa Villasmil's Birthday
 5:00 pm † Armando Calo

Sunday, December 29th

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

7:30 am † Dora Mendoza
 9:00 am † Elena Leon Santibáñez
 10:30 am **Missa Pro Populo - For All Members of the Parish Family**
 12:30 pm † Eduardo Rodriguez Arias
 5:30 pm † Norberto Carbon and Family

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22nd

2:00 pm Baptisms - C

Monday, December 23rd

7:00 pm Bible Study - RPC
 7:00 pm Cristo en Cuba - CH
 7:30 pm Emaus de Hombres - RPC

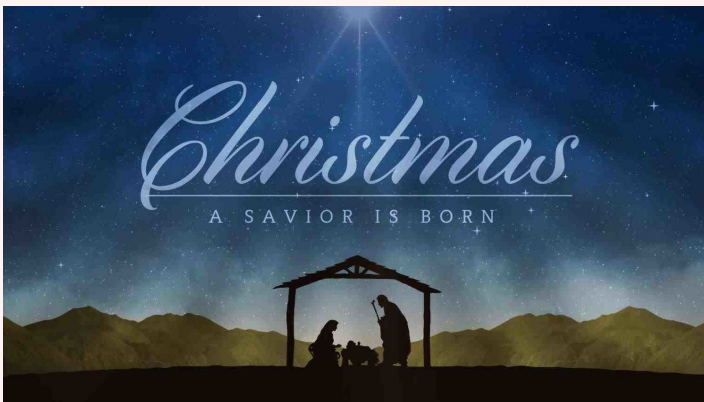
Tuesday, December 24th

Parish Office Closed Today

4:30 pm Children's Christmas Program
 11:30 pm Christmas Cantata

Wednesday, December 25th

Parish Office Closed Today - Merry Christmas!



Thursday, December 26th

7:00 pm Cursillos - RPC
 7:30 pm Men's Emmaus - RPC

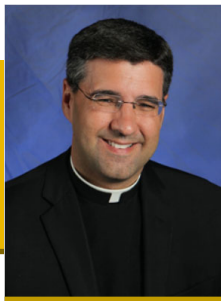
Friday, December 27th

7:30 pm Grupo de Oración Carismático - RPC

Saturday, December 28th

8:30 am Confessions - C
 10:30 am Baptisms - C
 3:00 pm Wedding: **Stephen Oliva & Alexandra Gentile**
 6:45 pm Wedding: **Patrick Creegan & Agatha Morazzani**

Sunday, December 29th



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

My dear friends,

Welcome to the Church of the Little Flower as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! If you are visiting us from out of town or from another part of town, we warmly greet you and thank you for joining our faith community for our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. I am so thankful to be sharing it this year with my new parish family as your pastor. Christmas indeed is a joyous time because in the center of it all was the love of family and at the center of the love of family is Jesus Christ. On that holiest of nights centuries ago, the warmth of the family is what kept our Lord warm, and we feel that warmth here in church as we gather to celebrate more than a birthday. We are gathered to celebrate God's marvelous gift to us in his Son and to hear the ancient Christmas story told again.

We are struck by the simplicity and the depth of Luke's account of the events surrounding Christ's birth, of God's coming into the world. If you really want to go deep into the meaning and spirit of Christmas, I highly recommend reading the Midnight Mass homilies of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI that he preached during his pontificate. They are sublime meditations on the Incarnation. During his 2012 Midnight Mass homily, he reflected on the ancient Christmas story we hear in St. Luke's second chapter:

"Again and again the beauty of this Gospel touches our hearts: a beauty that is the splendor of truth. Again and again it astonishes us that God makes himself a child so that we may love him, so that we may dare to love him, and as a child trustingly lets himself be taken into our arms. It is as if God were saying: I know that my glory frightens you, and that you are trying to assert yourself in the face of my grandeur. So now I am coming to you as a child, so that you can accept me and love me."

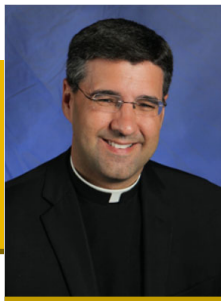
What struck me from that paragraph is that God became a child who "trustingly lets himself be taken into our arms." Imagine that? God trusts us! He loves us so much that he humbled himself to the point of becoming a vulnerable little infant totally dependent on humanity. God dependent on humanity: this is love! Totally surrendering himself to us so that we might love or might "dare" to love him.

Sadly, the true celebration of Christmas and grasping this deep meaning sometimes takes a backseat to all the events and parties and "stuff" we must do during this season. Yes, the question of God is no longer urgent because we simply do not have time for him. I'm always dismayed during Christmas Eve and Christmas of how people try to "squeeze" Mass in between their plans of unwrapping presents or dining as if Jesus is somehow an afterthought on his own birthday! If you are celebrating someone's birthday, wouldn't it be tops on your list to see the guest of honor? But do we have room at the inn? Do we have room in our hearts, in our homes, and in our lives for Jesus? Not just on this day but everyday. Benedict touches upon the irony that we surround ourselves with so many time saving gadgets yet there is less and less time for God in our lives. Mary and Joseph needed to make more and more room for God because they basically surrendered their entire lives for Jesus and placed him at the center of their lives. As Christians, we are called to do the same. We are called to be like the shepherds, who upon hearing the joyous news from the angel went in haste to see the Lord with what the Pope Emeritus called "holy curiosity."

May we pray for this "holy curiosity" so we may grow more in our faith this coming year and in the joy of knowing that the manger scene symbolizes how much God truly loves us. So on this Christmas, I leave you with two questions to ponder during this holy season: What space does Jesus Christ occupy in our lives? And when was the last time we went "in haste" to encounter God? If the world only knew what those shepherds discovered on that holy night in Bethlehem. If the world only knew the joy that comes from placing Jesus Christ in the center of our lives.

Merry Christmas, my dear Little Flower family. May the newborn Christ reign in your homes and in your hearts.

God bless you all,



DEL ESCRITORIO DE NUESTRO PARROCO

*"Lo envolvió en pañales y lo acostó en un pesebre,
porque no había lugar para ellos en el albergue." (Lc 2:7)*

Mis Queridos Amigos,

¡Bienvenidos a la Iglesia de Santa Teresita para celebrar el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador! Si nos visitan desde fuera de la ciudad o desde otra parte de la ciudad, los saludamos calurosamente y le agradecemos por unirse a nuestra comunidad de fe para nuestra celebración de la Natividad de nuestro Señor. Estoy muy agradecido de compartirlo este año con mi nueva familia parroquial como su párroco. De hecho, la Navidad es un tiempo de alegría porque en el centro de todo está el amor de la familia y en el centro del amor de la familia está Jesucristo. En la noche más sagrada de hace siglos, el calor de la familia fue lo que mantuvo a nuestro Señor cálido, y sentimos ese calor aquí en la iglesia mientras nos reunimos para celebrar más que un cumpleaños. Estamos reunidos para celebrar el maravilloso regalo de Dios para nosotros en su Hijo y para escuchar la antigua historia de Navidad contada nuevamente.

Nos sorprende la simplicidad y la profundidad del relato de Lucas de los eventos que rodearon el nacimiento de Cristo, de la venida de Dios al mundo. Si realmente quieren profundizar en el significado y el espíritu de la Navidad, les recomiendo leer las homilias de la misa de medianoche del Papa Emérito Benedicto XVI que predicó durante su pontificado. Son meditaciones sublimes sobre la Encarnación. Durante su homilía de la Misa de medianoche del 2012, reflexionó sobre la antigua historia de Navidad que escuchamos en el segundo capítulo de San Lucas:

"Una vez más, como siempre, la belleza de este Evangelio nos llega al corazón: una belleza que es esplendor de la verdad. Nuevamente nos conmueve que Dios se haya hecho niño, para que podamos amarlo, para que nos atrevamos a amarlo, y, como niño, se pone confiadamente en nuestras manos. Dice algo así: Sé que mi esplendor te asusta, que ante mi grandeza tratas de afianzarte tú mismo. Pues bien, vengo por tanto a ti como niño, para que puedas acogerme y amarme."

Lo que me llamó la atención de ese párrafo es que Dios se convirtió en un niño que "confiadamente se deja llevar a nuestros brazos". ¿Imaginen eso? ¡Dios confía en nosotros! Nos ama tanto que se humilló hasta el punto de convertirse en un pequeño bebé vulnerable totalmente dependiente de la humanidad. Dios dependiendo de la humanidad:

¡esto es amor! Entregándose totalmente a nosotros para que podamos amarlo o "atrevernos" a amarlo.

Lamentablemente, la verdadera celebración de la Navidad y la comprensión de este significado profundo a veces ocupan un lugar secundario en todos los eventos y fiestas y "cosas" que debemos hacer durante esta temporada. Sí, la pregunta de Dios ya no es urgente porque simplemente no tenemos tiempo para Él. Siempre estoy consternado durante la víspera de la Navidad y la Navidad de cómo la gente trata de "encajar" la misa entre sus planes de abrir regalos o cenar como si Jesús fuese una idea de último momento en su propio cumpleaños. Si estamos celebrando el cumpleaños de alguien, ¿no sería lo primero en la lista ver al invitado de honor? ¿Pero tenemos espacio en la posada? ¿Tenemos espacio en nuestros corazones, en nuestros hogares y en nuestras vidas para Jesús? No solo en este día sino todos los días. Benedicto habla sobre la ironía de que nos rodeamos con tantos artículos que ahorran tiempo, pero cada vez hay menos tiempo para Dios en nuestras vidas. María y José necesitaban hacer más y más espacio para Dios porque básicamente entregaron toda su vida por Jesús y lo colocaron en el centro de sus vidas. Como cristianos, estamos llamados a hacer lo mismo. Estamos llamados a ser como los pastores que al escuchar las noticias alegres del ángel se apresuraron a ver al Señor con lo que el Papa Emérito llamó "curiosidad santa".

Oremos por esta "curiosidad santa" para que podamos crecer más en nuestra fe este año que viene y en la alegría de saber que la escena del pesebre simboliza cuánto Dios realmente nos ama. Entonces, en esta Navidad, los dejo con dos preguntas para reflexionar durante esta temporada santa: ¿Qué espacio ocupa Jesucristo en nuestras vidas? ¿Y cuándo fue la última vez que fuimos "a toda prisa" para encontrarnos con Dios? Si el mundo solamente supiera lo que esos pastores descubrieron en esa noche sagrada en Belén. Si el mundo supiera la alegría que proviene de colocar a Jesucristo en el centro de nuestras vidas.

Feliz Navidad, mi querida familia de Little Flower. Que el Cristo recién nacido reine en sus hogares y en sus corazones.

Que Dios los bendiga a todos,

Fr. Manny

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July 20 - 30, 2020 - Under the Spiritual Direction of Fr. Manny Alvarez.

This wonderful experience is selling fast!

An Information Meeting for all interested travelers will be held on Thursday, January 9th, 2020 at 6pm in Comber Hall. For more details, please contact Irma Aguilar at the Parish Office - (305) 446-9950, Ext 314.



2020
Religious Art Calendar



The 2020 Church Calendars will be distributed beginning at the Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 31st and at all Masses on Wednesday, January 1st, the Holy Day of Obligation for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Any remaining calendars will be brought to the Parish Office to be distributed first-come, first-served until they run out beginning Thursday, January 2nd.

We extend a special words of thanks to **Pilar Hopkins & Associates Realty, Inc,** the **Law Office of Patricia Bango Diaz,** and **SeaChange Solutions, Inc** for once again sponsoring the annual COTLF Calendars!

COTLF PARISH PRAYER LIST

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ♦ Luz Angela Gallo | ♦ Michele Luciano | ♦ Rene Monteagudo | ♦ Pat Ayala |
| ♦ Robert Sanchez | ♦ Dean Carr | ♦ Alex Lacca | ♦ Eddy Sanchez |
| ♦ Cristina Sierra | ♦ Ana Isabel Herrera | ♦ Gilda de Armas | ♦ Porfirio Ponce |
| ♦ Jennifer Yudice | ♦ Maria de Cardenas | ♦ Sean Stockhausen | ♦ Barbara Fernandez |
| ♦ Elisa and Enrique Massens | ♦ Juan Carbonell | ♦ Hugo Guilarte | ♦ Nicholas Cirillo |
| ♦ Ofelia Sotomayor | ♦ Manny Nuñez | ♦ Maria Guilarte | ♦ Jose "Ricky" Suarez |
| ♦ Gloria L.V. Keigans | ♦ Elena Garcia | ♦ Aristides Rivera | ♦ Riley Valentina |
| ♦ Crystal Martin | ♦ Bob Needham | ♦ Lee Ramirez | ♦ Jake Duque |
| ♦ Frances Shaheen | ♦ Augustus Riley | ♦ Lillian Maribona | ♦ Daniel Martin |
| | ♦ Yolanda Martos | ♦ Otto Crombet | |

Need to add a name to our parish prayer list?
Please contact
Jorge Santibáñez
at the Parish Office.



WORSHIPPING THE LORD | ADORANDO AL SEÑOR

Parish Christmas Schedule 2019

Tuesday, December 24th

4:30pm - Children's Program

5:00pm - English Family Mass

7:00pm - English Mass

11:30pm - Christmas Cantata

Wednesday, December 25th

12:00am - Bilingual Midnight Mass

9:00am, 10:30am, and 5:30pm - English

12:30pm - Spanish

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



Tuesday, December 31st

Vigil of Mary, Mother of God; New Year's Eve

5:30pm Bilingual Mass

Wednesday, January 1st

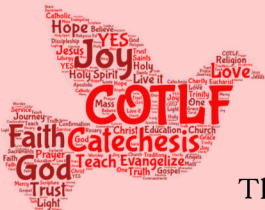
Mary, Mother of God; New Year's Day Masses

9:00am, 10:30am, 5:30pm

Misa, Día de Maria, Madre de Dios; Año Nuevo

12:30pm

HOW LONG IS CHRISTMAS?



Though it won't be too surprising to see many Christmas trees dumped on the side of the road by next weekend, our celebration of Christmas is only just getting started!

The Christmas season itself lasts until Sunday, January 12th - the Baptism of the Lord.

The popular Christmas Carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," reminds us of the 12 days between Christmas and January 6th, traditionally the Epiphany of the Lord, though its now a moveable Feast to a Sunday. But the principal celebration is what we know as the "Octave of Christmas," which runs from Christmas Day to the "Octave Day," January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Christmas (and Easter, too!) is so important that we don't just celebrate it for one day, we celebrate it liturgically for 8 days! The Liturgy gives the clues that every day within the octave is treated the same as the original feast day of the Nativity of our Lord and the Gloria is sung every day. So keep those trees and decorations up a little bit longer this year, because Christmas is more than just one day a year, and we're just getting this celebration started! Merry Christmas!



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Merry Christmas from

Church of the Little Flower - Coral Gables, FL

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THE COTLF GIVING TREE

Throughout this season of Advent, parishioners are invited to bring **new** and **wrapped** gifts to the COTLF Giving Tree, which is located in the vestibule/entrance of the Church, by the Ushers' closet. Please be sure to mark donated gifts with a tag identifying the appropriate age range of the recipient and whether the gift would be suitable for a boy or for a girl.

All donated gifts are collected by Sr. Eva and the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. Your generosity in support of those on the margins of our local community is greatly appreciated!



HOLY LAND 2020 PILGRIMAGE UPDATES

The pre-departure meeting for the **January/February 2020** Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Michael Davis will be held on Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30pm in Comber Hall. Get your itinerary schedules, airline tickets, name tags, insurance certificates, and Holy Land book.

Only a few seats remain for the **March 2020** Holy Land Pilgrimage with Father Flores. Contact Irma Aguilar at (305) 446-9950, Ext 314 for more information or to place a deposit and guarantee your spot!



COMING SOON: ST. AUGUSTINE BUS TRIP

Join us on our next Parish Bus Pilgrimage to Historic St. Augustine on March 18th and 19th, 2020! Visit, tour and celebrate Mass at the Shrine of our Lady of the Leche/Mission Nombre de Dios, where the first Catholic Mass in what is known as North America was celebrated. Visit the Fountain of Youth Archeological Park, enjoy a delicious dinner at the world renowned Columbia Restaurant founded in 1905 and still run by the same Hernandez Family for the past 114 years, and close with a tour of and Mass at the Basilica of St. Augustine.

Trip pricing will include all meals, transportation, entrance fees, hotel and tips. Private room is \$340. Double occupancy is \$285 per person. To reserve a spot, a \$100 nonrefundable deposit is required. The balance will not be due until February 14, 2020.

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