



Church of the LITTLE FLOWER



The
Light

December 8th, 2024

*II SUNDAY OF ADVENT
II DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO*



Pastor

REV. MANUEL F. ALVAREZ

Parochial Vicar

REV. DAVID ZALLOCCO

Priests in Residence

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

Permanent Deacons

DEACON ROBERTO FLEITAS
DEACON MIGUEL PARLADE
DEACON SRINATH PERERA

*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

Time	Language
8:00 am	English
5:00 pm	English Vigil

Sunday

Time	Language
7:30 am	English
9:00 am	English
10:30 am	English
12:30 pm	Español
5:30 pm	English

CONFESSIONS

Priests are available to hear Confessions every Saturday morning, from 8:30am to 10:00am.



ST. JOSEPH PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Visit www.cotlf.org/adoration for more details



CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER - REILLY PARISH CENTER

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Address

2711 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

P. (305) 446-9950
F. (305) 482-6183
www.cotlf.org



OFFICE STAFF

Maria Anduiza - Ext. 314
Finance Manager

Luis Cuza - Ext 308
Director of Music Ministries

Ivonne Davila - Ext 302
Admin. Asst. to the Pastor
Sacramental Records Coordinator

Juan del Sol - Ext 310
Weddings Coordinator

Ashley Dominguez - Ext 309
Director of Development

Jorge Santibáñez - Ext 307
Parish Manager
Director of Religious Education

Ariadna Schanz - Ext 300
Receptionist

Rene Denis and Roberto Campohernoso
Maintenance — *Commodore Prop. Mgmt.*

Nubia Vivas
Custodian



SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7:15 am - 3:15 pm

Address

2701 Indian Mound Trail
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Contact

(305) 446-1738
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.

- + Lucia Angela Castaneda
- + Carlos G. Hechavarria III
- + Ava Elizabeth Ghezzi
- + Emilia Athena Cina
- + Lucca Sebastian Sanmartin Lujan
- + Lucas Alexander Lopez



Congratulations and God's blessings to our newly married couples.

- + Carlos San Jose & Jayleen Diaz
- + Leonel Garcia & Victoria Leal
- + Miguel Sarmiento & Nathalie Ayes



Rest in Peace.
We pray for our recently deceased.

- + Laide Suquet
- + Roberto Alvarez
- + Cecilia Lucas
- + Norma Talavera

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least two (2) months in advance. Visit cotlf.org/baptism for more information.
- Arreglos de bautizos se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con dos (2) meses de anticipación. Visitar cotlf.org/baptism para mas información.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance. Visit cotlf.org/weddings for more information.
- Arreglos de bodas se deben hacer en la oficina por lo menos con seis (6) meses de anticipación. Visitar cotlf.org/weddings para mas información.

SIGNS OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

NOV 17TH & NOV 24TH

November 17th

Attendance: 2,254

In-Church Collection:	\$13,963
Online Giving Offertory:	\$15,634
Drop-off/Mail-in Offering:	\$405
Children's Collection:	\$598
Devotional Candles:	\$743
Poor Box/Charities:	\$315

November 24th

Attendance: 2,737

In-Church Collection:	\$13,357
Online Giving Offertory:	\$15,020
Drop-off/Mail-in Offering:	\$50
Children's Collection:	\$792
Devotional Candles:	\$1,091
Poor Box/Charities:	\$425

Thank you for your generosity!
¡Gracias por su generosidad!

Nov 17th Total: \$31,659
Nov 24th Total: \$30,736

Grand Total: \$62,395

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MINISTRIES @ COTLF

Sunday, December 8th

II SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 pm (Vigil)	Elia Limonte
7:30 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
9:00 am	Intentions of the Sardinias Family
10:30 am	Missa Pro Populo - For All Members of Our Parish Family
12:30 pm	+ Antero Macias
5:30 pm	+ Alicia Miranda & Family

Monday, December 9th

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

6:15 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
8:00 am	+ Rosa Casuso Martinez
5:30 pm	Misa Comunitaria
7:00 pm	Missa Pro Populo - For All Members of Our Parish Family

Tuesday, December 10th

Tuesday of Week II of Advent / Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto

6:15 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
8:00 am	+ Augusta Franco de Ramirez
5:30 pm	Misa Comunitaria

Wednesday, December 11th

Wednesday of Week II of Advent / Memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope

6:15 am	+ Rafaela M. Rodriguez
8:00 am	+ Jose I. Suarez and Maria E. Liebold
5:30 pm	Misa Comunitaria

Thursday, December 12th

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:15 am	+ Oscar Rangel y Tomas Humberto Mont
8:00 am	Carlos Alejandro Chialastri's Birthday
5:30 pm	Misa Comunitaria

Friday, December 13th

Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

6:15 am	Intentions of the Murdock Family
8:00 am	+ Mary Hopkins
5:30 pm	Misa Comunitaria

Saturday, December 14th

Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am	Alida Dalia Pollo Peters' Birthday
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Sunday, December 15th

III SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

5:00 pm (Vigil)	+ Aristides Rivera
7:30 am	+ Esperanza Nuñez
9:00 am	Intentions of the Centurion Family
10:30 am	Missa Pro Populo - For All Members of Our Parish Family
12:30 pm	+ Jesus Rosales
5:30 pm	+ Fernando Rey

THIS WEEK'S READINGS / LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

December 8th – II Sunday of Advent – Year C, Pg. 698/699

Sunday	Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
Monday	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jud 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Friday	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

SUNDAYS

1:30 pm Homeless Ministry Service Days
Date Varies Monthly – homelessministrycotlf@gmail.com

MONDAYS

10:00 am **Seekers Bible Study** (Morras Conference Room AND Via Zoom)
Every other Monday, Mercy Gonzalez, drmom92@gmail.com

7:00 pm **Adult Bible Study Group** (Zoom)
Julie Otero, JOtero@vistacolor.com

7:30 pm **Ejercicios Espirituales de San Ignacio** (Morras Conference Room)
Marcia Iglesias, marcia@amprex.net

7:30 pm **Emaus de Hombres** (Reilly Conference Room)
Juan Guillermo Garcia, jgarciat@msn.com, 786-474-0758

TUESDAYS

7:00 am **That Man Is You Men's Group** (Comber Hall)
Rob Lasa, [305-934-7840](tel:305-934-7840), rob@lasalinks.com

9:00 am **Holy Face Devotion** (Chapel Conference Room)
Yamila Sardiñas, ymsard@aol.com

7:00 pm **OCIA Classes** (Cafeteria)
www.cotlf.org/ocia

7:00 pm **Legion of Mary** (Legion of Mary House)
Maria Lopez, [786-247-3872](tel:786-247-3872)

8:00 pm **English Charismatic Prayer Group** (Chapel Conference Room)
Felipe Vizcarrondo, fevmd@bellsouth.net

WEDNESDAYS

4p & 6:30p **Religious Education Classes** (St. Theresa School)
www.cotlfreligioused.org

7:30 pm **Women's Emmaus** (Reilly Conference Room)
Marifer Ordoñez, mfordonez@earthlink.net

8:00 pm **Communion & Liberation** (Chapel Conference Room)

8:00 pm **Grupo de Oracion Carismatico** (Morras Conference Room)
Maru de Castro

THURSDAYS

7:45 am **Walking With Purpose Women's Bible Study** (Comber Hall)
Core Team, STSwalkingwithpurpose@gmail.com

6:00 pm **Young Adults Praise & Worship Holy Hour** (St. Joseph Chapel)

7:00 pm **Choir Rehearsal** (STS Music Room)
Luis Cuza, LCuza@cotlf.org

7:00 pm **Scouts** (Cafeteria)
St Theresa Pack 16, stspack16@gmail.com

7:30 pm **Men's English Emmaus** (Reilly Conference Room)
Core Team, contact@littlefloweremmaus.org

FRIDAYS

10:00 am **Prayer Shawl Ministry** (Morras Conference Room)
3rd Fridays, Monthly, Katy Dunn, [305-443-5947](tel:305-443-5947)

6:00 pm **American Heritage Girls** (Cafeteria) - *2nd & 4th Friday Monthly*

6:30 pm **COTLF Singles Ministry** (Cafeteria) - *3rd Friday Monthly*
Alexandra Figueredo, MiamiCatholicSingles@gmail.com

8:00 pm **English Marriage Covenant** (Zoom)
Janetsy Christensen, JanetsyC@bellsouth.net

SATURDAYS

7:00 am **First Saturday Devotion Rosary** (Church)
1st Saturday, Monthly, Mercy Gonzalez, drmom92@gmail.com

9:00 am **Baptism Preparation Classes** (Reilly Conference Room)
Please see schedule at www.cotlf.org/baptism



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Friends:

Advent is a season of great expectations. From the moment Thanksgiving ends, sometimes sooner, we start making all these grand plans for Christmas that we cannot possibly accomplish. Of course, these plans are material or secular and will not lead us any closer to Christ. This is why we began a spiritual journey last Sunday when Advent began to concentrate on what is truly important during this blessed season. I once read a quote from priest I befriended on social media that read: "Our beloved Church "shocks" us with the scandal of the color violet while the rest of the world clothes itself in red and gold so that, on the final day, we will not be shocked to find ourselves dressed in something less glorious than God's own light and love." We spend way too much time worried about the material aspects of this season to the point that it stresses most people out. I see so many frustrated faces during what should be the most joyous time of year. The "hustle and bustle" of this season should bring joy and not stress.

So how should we approach this season of Advent? I was exchanging texts with a priest friend of mine and he sent me another great quote: "If we do not pray with the graces which Advent offers in the experiences of emptiness, then, I am afraid, Christmas will be a celebration of disappointing emptiness." And that's why so many people stress out during these holy days. Their eyes are fixed on what is not important. Today we have the opportunity to empty our hearts of all things that are not of Christ; to fix our eyes on him and not get distracted by all the secular trappings of this

season. Look at our altar. All you see is a purple cloth on the altar and then the Advent wreath. That's it! (Someone did ask me last week why our altar was so bare compared with everything being decorated outside these walls.) We begin this journey towards Christmas with our altar reflecting where our hearts should be at: preparing to be filled by Christ. Slowly but surely the Advent wreath will get brighter and the altar will get more festive as we approach the coming of our Lord. But we must begin with empty hearts, humble hearts, contrite hearts that will be receptive to the light of Christ. If our hearts are already filled with unnecessary distractions then we will feel emptiness this Christmas much like a child who didn't get everything he or she wanted for Christmas.

So with expectant hearts we approach this altar as we implore our God to fill our hearts with the joy of this season. Let us adopt the attitude of our Blessed Mother whose Immaculate Conception we celebrate tomorrow: an attitude of joy-filled anticipation and docility to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May our eyes be fixed on what is essential: the coming of the Christ child. Only then will we be able to truly rejoice this Christmas and celebrate with hearts full of light and love.

God Bless You All!



DEL ESCRITORIO DEL PÁRROCO

Mis queridos amigos,

El Adviento es una temporada de grandes expectativas, desde el momento en que termina el Día de Acción de Gracias, a veces antes, comenzamos a hacer todos estos grandes planes para Navidad que no podemos lograr. Por supuesto, estos planes son materiales o seculares y no nos acercarán más a Cristo. Es por eso que comenzamos un viaje espiritual el domingo pasado cuando el Adviento comenzó a concentrarse en lo que es verdaderamente importante durante este bendito tiempo. Una vez leí una cita de un sacerdote con el que me hice amigo en las redes sociales que decía: "Nuestra amada Iglesia nos "sorprende" con el escándalo del color violeta mientras el resto del mundo se viste de rojo y dorado para que, en el último día, no nos sorprendamos al encontrarnos vestidos con algo menos glorioso que la propia luz y amor de Dios". Pasamos demasiado tiempo preocupándonos por los aspectos materiales de esta temporada hasta el punto de que estresa a la mayoría de la gente. Veo tantas caras frustradas durante lo que debería ser la época más alegre del año. El "ajetreo y el bullicio" de esta temporada deben traer alegría y no estrés.

Entonces, ¿cómo debemos abordar este tiempo de Adviento? Estaba intercambiando mensajes de texto con un sacerdote amigo mío y me envió otra gran cita: "Si no rezamos con las gracias que ofrece el Adviento en las experiencias de la vacuidad, entonces, me temo, la Navidad será una celebración de la vacuidad decepcionante". Y es por eso que muchas personas se estresan durante estos días santos. Sus ojos están fijos en lo que no es importante. Hoy tenemos la oportunidad de vaciar nuestros corazones de todas las cosas que no son de Cristo; Fijar nuestros ojos en él y no distraernos

con todos los adornos seculares de esta temporada. Mira nuestro altar, todo lo que ves es un paño púrpura en el altar y luego la corona de Adviento. (Alguien me preguntó la semana pasada por qué nuestro altar estaba tan desnudo en comparación con todo lo que se decoraba fuera de estas paredes). Comenzamos este viaje hacia la Navidad con nuestro altar reflejando dónde debería estar nuestro corazón: preparándonos para ser llenos por Cristo. Poco a poco, la corona de Adviento se volverá más brillante, y el altar se volverá más festivo a medida que nos acerquemos a la venida de nuestro Señor. Pero debemos comenzar con corazones vacíos, corazones humildes, corazones contritos que serán receptivos a la luz de Cristo. Si nuestros corazones ya están llenos de distracciones innecesarias, entonces sentiremos vacío esta Navidad como un niño que no obtuvo todo lo que quería para Navidad.

Así que, con corazones expectantes, nos acercamos a este altar mientras imploramos a nuestro Dios que llene nuestros corazones con la alegría de esta temporada. Adoptemos la actitud de nuestra Santísima Madre, cuya Inmaculada Concepción celebramos mañana: una actitud de anticipación llena de alegría y docilidad a los impulsos del Espíritu Santo. Que nuestros ojos estén fijos en lo esencial: la venida del Niño Jesús. Solo entonces podremos alegrarnos verdaderamente en esta Navidad y celebrar con el corazón lleno de luz y amor.

Dios los bendiga,

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is normally celebrated on December 8, exactly nine months before the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8). However, when that date falls on a Sunday, the feast is transferred to Monday, December 9th.

Earlier this year, the Vatican clarified, *"The feast must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred."* Therefore, Monday, December 9th is a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Masses for the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th at 6:15am, 8:00am, and 7:00pm (English) and at 5:30pm (Español).

There will be no vigil as the Sunday evening Mass is celebrated as the II Sunday of Advent, not the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception.



2nd Collection This Weekend—Retirement Fund for Religious

Of 476 communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), only 27 are adequately funded for retirement. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—known collectively as women and men religious—received very little pay. Any surplus funds were reinvested in ministry and the education of younger members. As a result, hundreds of US religious communities lack adequate retirement savings.

Please help support the 2024 Retirement Fund for Religious through the in-pew collection this weekend or give online now. Thank you!



2024 PARISH FAIR

proudly presented by Casa Smiles!

LAST CALL FOR THE PARISH FAIR RAFFLE

Last year's Parish Fair Raffle generated \$62,500 and we're on a mission to top that again with another lineup of amazing prize packages and the return of our STS Grade Level ticket sales competition.

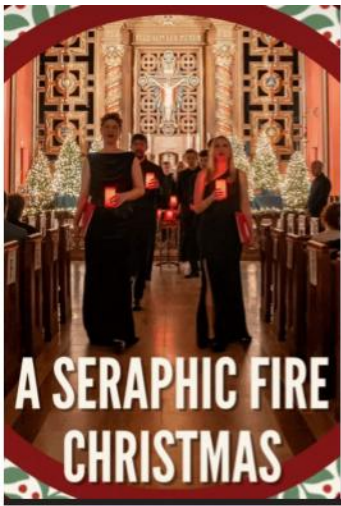
The top-selling STS grade levels will get to celebrate their victories with Kona Ice (1st Place), Pizza (2nd Place) and our famous My Kids' Chef Cookies (3rd Place)!
Kindergarten sold \$11,865 last year. Who's going to top that this year?

Don't have a child at STS or in the COTLF Religious Ed program but still want a shot at winning? Purchase your tickets using the general "Parish Raffle Tickets" link or pitch in and help one of our grade levels in the bonus contest! Winner does NOT have to be present to win.

Come by the Parish Fair this weekend!

Friday, 6:00 pm—11:00 pm
Saturday, 3:00 pm—11:00 pm
Sunday, 12:00 pm—8:00 pm





LITTLE FLOWER
CONCERT SERIES

A SERAPHIC FIRE CHRISTMAS

A cappella voices in a candlelit setting mark the Christmas season in South Florida. Popular guest conductor Anthony Trecek-King returns to lead our Billboard-chart-topping Christmas program. Enjoy fresh yuletide tunes like Taylor Scott Davis' *Solstice* and, as always, celebrate the season with fan favorites like *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH — 8:00PM

Purchase your tickets today at www.LFConcerts.org

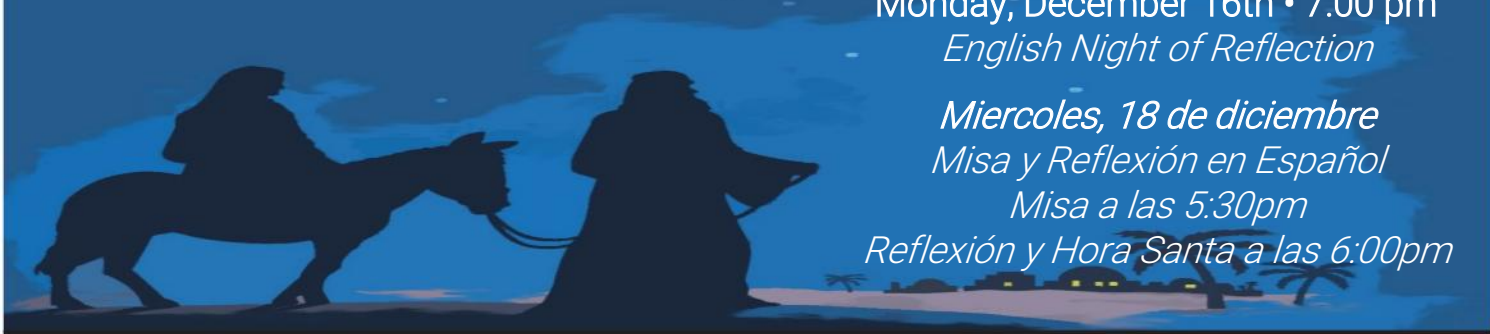


Advent Night of Reflection / Noche de Reflexión de Adviento

Monday, December 16th • 7:00 pm
English Night of Reflection

Miercoles, 18 de diciembre
Misa y Reflexión en Español
Misa a las 5:30pm

Reflexión y Hora Santa a las 6:00pm



ADVENT EVENTING OF CONFESSIONS

On Wednesday, December 18th, all our house priests will be available to hear confessions, beginning at 7:00pm, until all penitents have had the opportunity to go to confession. This will be the final opportunity to go to Confession prior to the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

DONATE GIFTS TO THE COTLF GIVING TREE

Later this week, the COTLF Giving Tree will be placed in the vestibule/entrance of the church. Last year, over 300 gifts were collected and delivered to the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, who distribute them to children and families in need from throughout our local community. An additional batch of donated gifts were also taken down to Peru where they were distributed to the neediest of families as part of the service project of one of our STS alums. Over the next few weeks, we invite you to bring a wrapped gift, labelled "Boy/Girl and Age Range" to the Giving Tree to be distributed this Christmas! Thank you all for your generosity!



Mass Music & Readings

Visit www.cotlf.org/mass or scan the QR code



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"Queda" en Dios, con Dios, dentro de Dios
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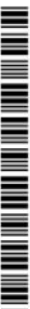
Little Flower Catholic Church (Cafetería de la escuela)

Hora: 8:00 AM hasta las 5:00 PM - culminando con la misa

CONTACTANOS:

Arminda Báez 305-927-3191

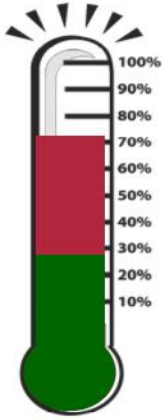
Bessy Pantoja 786-200-4212





Building on Our Legacy

www.cotlf.org/centennial



Thank you for your continued support of the Centennial Campaign!
Please contact Ashley Dominguez (Sacks) at (305) 446-9950, Ext 309
or at adominguez@cotlf.org for more information.

Campaign Progress

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$13,000,000

TOTAL PLEDGED: \$9,329,102.23 (71.76%)

TOTAL COLLECTED: \$3,552,607.21 (27.33%)

Updated as of December 4th



MARRIAGE COVENANT RETREAT

February 7–9, 2025 • Comber Hall

The Marriage Covenant a weekend retreat where you and your spouse can pause from daily life and reflect upon the importance of marriage.

How we can make life happier for ourselves and for our families; and what role God plays in our everyday lives. Guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience!

The retreat registration fee is \$150 per couple and is considered a non-refundable donation. All meals, materials, and the use of parish facilities are included in the fee. Scholarships are available for those who may have difficulty paying.

Please let us know if assistance is needed.

For more information, please contact



2025 Catholic Classic Art Calendars

The 2025 Catholic Classic Art Calendars have arrived and will be distributed at all Masses the weekend of December 21st and 22nd.

We thank our longtime calendar sponsors, *Pilar Hopkins & Associates Realty Inc.*, *The Law Office of Patricia Bango Diaz*, and *SeaChange Solutions, Inc.* for their continued support and we hope you enjoy the beautiful 2025 Calendars!



COTLF PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please visit www.cotlf.org/Adoration to view the names of all those added to the Parish Prayer List and keep them in prayer today or during your next visit to the Adoration Chapel. To add or remove the name of a parishioner, relative, or friend to our Parish Prayer List please contact us at the Parish Office.



Saint Lucia

To celebrate Saint Lucia, girls around the world wear wreaths with candles on their heads. They wake up their families with special treats and sweets to celebrate the Christmas season. What nice thing can you do to help your family get excited for Christmas?

WJOTHEWALORDPHASPDONE

WAPWITHJOYPCIW

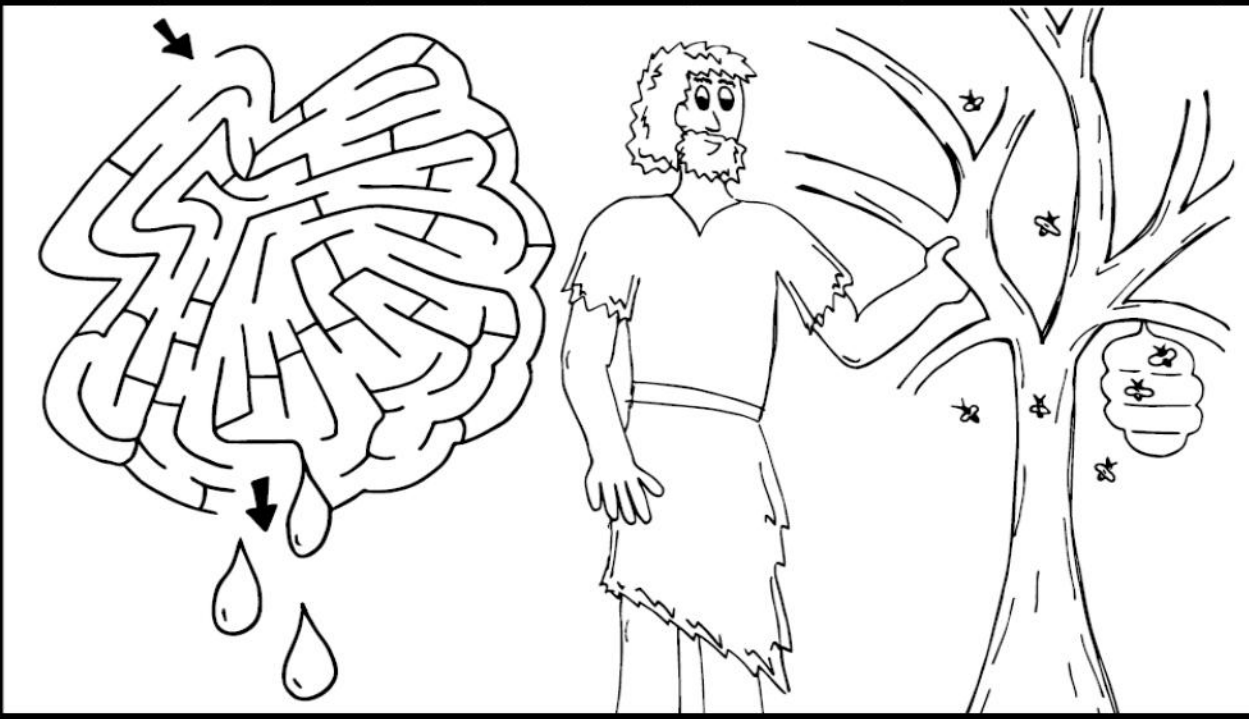
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

BOGREATPHINGSIOF



PAFORPUSOWEPAREJFILLEDA

Find the Advent wreath in your church. Which candles are lit today? Color the wreath and the candles.



Countdown to Jesus' Birthday...
3
 Sundays!

Gospel

John the Baptist baptized people so they would be ready to see God. He said, "Prepare the Way of the Lord."





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TUNE IN

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Please join us for our Fall Admissions Season
SHOWCASES
Montessori (Ages 3,4 & 5), Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 9:00 am
Grades 1-5, Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 9:00 am
Grades 6-11, Saturday, Nov. 2 at 9:00 am
All Grades, Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 9:00 am
VIRTUAL FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION SESSION
Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm
WALKING WEDNESDAY TOURS at 9:00 am
September 11, 18, 25 • October 2, 23 • November 6, 13, 20
December 11, 18 • January 8, 15, 22
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