



Church of the LITTLE FLOWER

The
Light

December 15th, 2024

*III SUNDAY OF ADVENT
III 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.

- † Aubrey Victoria Perez
- † Alessia Rose Martinez
- † Sofia Katerina Simeonov
- † Leonardo Manuel Bernardez



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

- † Ryan O'Connell & Erica Steinmiller Perdomo



Rest in Peace.
We pray for our recently deceased.

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

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Attendance:	2,016
In-Church Collection:	\$8,966
Online Giving Offertory:	\$16,316
Drop-off/Mail-in Offering:	\$988
Children's Collection:	\$458
Devotional Candles:	\$818
Poor Box/Charities:	\$424

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

Grand Total: \$27,971

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$5,690

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MINISTRIES @ COTLF

Sunday, December 15th

III SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

- 5:00 pm (Vigil) + Aristides Rivera
- 7:30 am + Esperanza Nunez
- 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

Monday, December 16th

Monday of Week III of Advent

- 6:15 am + Deceased Members of the Fernandes de Oliveira Family
- 8:00 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
- 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Tuesday, December 17th

Tuesday of Week III of Advent

- 6:15 am + Oscar Rangel and Thomas Humberto Monteagudo
- 8:00 am + Gustavo Alfonso
- 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Wednesday, December 18th

Wednesday of Week III of Advent

- 6:15 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
- 8:00 am + Bernardina Abreu
- 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Thursday, December 19th

Thursday of Week III of Advent

- 6:15 am Intentions of the Murdock Family
- 8:00 am + Francisco Alberto Mora
- 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Friday, December 20th

Friday of Week III of Advent

- 6:15 am + Jorge Cosme Rodriguez
- 8:00 am + James Brennan
- 5:30 pm **Misa Comunitaria**

Saturday, December 21st

Saturday of Week III of Advent / Memorial of St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

- 8:00 am + Roshana Gossoff

Sunday, December 22nd

IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 5:00 pm (Vigil) + Julian Morales
- 7:30 am + Roshana Gossoff
- 9:00 am Nubia Vivas' Birthday
- 10:30 am **Missa Pro Populo - For All Members of Our Parish Family**
- 12:30 pm Cumpleaños de Nubia Vivas
- 5:30 pm + Lilian E. Cabrera

THIS WEEK'S READINGS / LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

December 15th — III Sunday of Advent — Year C, Pg. 704/705

- Sunday** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
- Monday** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
- Wednesday** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
- Thursday** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
- Friday** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
- Sunday** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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, jgarcia@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:

The other night I walked into Comber Hall to visit our school alumni and school children who are putting on a production of "The Sound of Music" in February. As they were rehearsing, they sang "My Favorite Things." That song often comes up in Christmas albums. Our young people did a magnificent job singing the tune (I highly, highly recommend taking in this show in February, but I digress).

In keeping with the column that I wrote last month for Thanksgiving about counting our blessings, Advent and Christmas are seasons in which we surround ourselves with our favorite things. Although, all too often we get bogged down with the superfluous and the mundane this season instead on focusing on the eternal. The complaint I hear most during the month of December is: "Father, I feel overwhelmed! There's too much going on!" Well, that's true. Too many parties, commitments, Christmas cards to be written, gifts to be bought and exchanged, and much like "Las Posadas" that begin this week, we don't have any room in the inn for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

One of your fellow parishioners told me last week that they started their Advent with a good confession and have kept the Carmelites daily Advent meditations close by and a daily devotional that is now filled with notes and highlights. This parishioner truly has cherished this Advent and kept the spirit of "My Favorite Things." When you eliminate the superfluous, you can start enjoying the joy of this blessed season.

And joy is what this Sunday is all about. Today we light the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath and the priests and deacons wear the rose vestments to proclaim the joy the Church is feeling as Christmas rapidly approaches. The nearness of this holy day should not fill us

with dread because there are not enough days left but should fill us with joy. Gaudete Sunday should be a reminder to all of us that if we are feeling overwhelmed right now as you read this, then it's time we do a fast "reset" of Advent to eliminate the obstacles that are hindering us from properly preparing for the coming of the Messiah. That's what our focus should be on. Of course, parents want to give their kids a nice Christmas morning, and the endless parade of parties are fun, but not at the expense of our sanity to say nothing of our souls.

So, ten days left. This is the week we get Advent right and start focusing on what should be our favorite things starting with the Christ child who needs room (posada) in our hearts. On Monday, Father David will offer an Advent Night of Reflection (Wednesday in Spanish). And on Wednesday night, we offer our customary Advent Night of Reconciliation with individual confessions. Come on Wednesday. Do a good examination of conscience and make a good confession this Advent. Keep reading the Carmelite Sisters' Advent book of daily meditations. Come to a daily Mass perhaps. Don't have time? Wake up early and come at 6:15am. You'll meet 50-75 new friends who come every day. There's always time for our favorite things, and if our faith isn't at the top of that list, then this is the week that we set things right!

Don't delay! The light from the Advent wreath is getting brighter. The Advent calendar is getting shorter. It's time to right the ship and make room for the joy and light of Christ this Christmas.

God Bless You All!



DEL ESCRITORIO DEL PÁRROCO

Mis queridos amigos,

La otra noche entré en Comber Hall para visitar a nuestros exalumnos y niños de la escuela que están montando una producción de "The Sound of Music" en febrero. Mientras ensayaban, cantaron "My Favorite Things." Esa canción aparece a menudo en los álbumes de Navidad. Nuestros jóvenes hicieron un magnífico trabajo cantando la melodía (recomiendo encarecidamente asistir a este espectáculo en febrero, pero estoy divagando).

De acuerdo con la columna que escribí el mes pasado para el Día de Acción de Gracias sobre contar nuestras bendiciones, el Adviento y la Navidad son temporadas en las que nos rodeamos de nuestras cosas favoritas. Aunque, con demasiada frecuencia, nos quedamos atascados con lo superfluo y lo mundano esta temporada en lugar de centrarnos en lo eterno. La queja que más escucho durante el mes de diciembre es: "¡Padre, me siento abrumado! ¡Están pasando demasiadas cosas!" Bueno, eso es cierto. Demasiadas fiestas, compromisos, tarjetas de Navidad por escribir, regalos por comprar e intercambiar, y al igual que "Las Posadas" que comienzan esta semana, no tenemos espacio en la posada para Jesús, María y José.

Uno de sus compañeros feligreses me dijo la semana pasada que comenzaron su Adviento con una buena confesión y han mantenido cerca las meditaciones diarias de Adviento de los carmelitas y un devocional diario que ahora está lleno de notas y momentos destacados. Este feligrés realmente ha apreciado este Adviento y ha mantenido el espíritu de "Mis cosas favoritas". Cuando elimines lo superfluo, podrás empezar a disfrutar de la alegría de esta bendita temporada.

Y la alegría es de lo que se trata este domingo. Hoy encendemos la vela de color rosa en la corona de Adviento y los sacerdotes y diáconos usan las vestiduras de rosas para proclamar la alegría que siente la Iglesia a medida que se acerca la Navidad. La proximidad de este día santo no debe llenarnos

de temor porque no quedan suficientes días, sino que debe llenarnos de alegría. El Domingo de Gaudete debería ser un recordatorio para todos nosotros de que si nos sentimos abrumados en este momento mientras lees esto, entonces es hora de que hagamos un rápido "reinicio" del Adviento para eliminar los obstáculos que nos impiden prepararnos adecuadamente para la venida del Mesías. En eso es en lo que deberíamos centrarnos. Por supuesto, los padres quieren darles a sus hijos una agradable mañana de Navidad, y el interminable desfile de fiestas es divertido, pero no a expensas de nuestra cordura, por no hablar de nuestras almas.

Así que, quedan diez días. Esta es la semana en la que tenemos el Adviento bien y comenzamos a enfocarnos en lo que deberían ser nuestras cosas favoritas, comenzando con el niño Jesús que necesita espacio (posada) en nuestros corazones. El lunes, el Padre David ofrecerá una Noche de Reflexión de Adviento. Y el miércoles por la noche, ofrecemos nuestra acostumbrada Noche de Adviento de la Reconciliación con confesiones individuales. Ven el miércoles. Haz un buen examen de conciencia y haz una buena confesión en este Adviento. Sigue leyendo el libro de Adviento de las Hermanas Carmelitas de las meditaciones diarias. Ven a una misa diaria tal vez. ¿No tienes tiempo? Levántate temprano y llega a las 6:15 am. Conocerás a entre 50 y 75 nuevos amigos que vienen todos los días. Siempre hay tiempo para nuestras cosas favoritas, y si nuestra fe no está en la parte superior de esa lista, ¡entonces esta es la semana en la que arreglamos las cosas!

¡No te demores! La luz de la corona de Adviento es cada vez más brillante. El calendario de Adviento es cada vez más corto. Es hora de enderezar el barco y hacer espacio para el gozo y la luz de Cristo esta Navidad.

Dios los bendiga,

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!



Advent Nights of Reflection with Father David

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.

2024 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 pm — Children's Christmas Vigil Mass

11:30 pm — Christmas Musical Prelude

12:00 am — Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25th

9:00 am — English

10:30 am — English

12:30 pm — Español

5:30 pm — English

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

Tuesday, December 31st

5:30 pm - Español (Vigilia)

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025

9:00 am - English

10:30 am - English

12:30 pm - Español

5:30 pm - English



Building on Our Legacy

www.cotlf.org/centennial

Thank you, Donors!

With the 2024 calendar year winding to a close, we thank all of our generous Centennial Campaign donors who have helped push us close to the \$9.5 Million Pledge Mark in just under 15 months! As we continue our steady climb to our campaign goal, and with almost 30% of the funds already contributed, we encourage **all** our families, friends, parishioners and alumni to consider making a sacrificial pledge/gift so that we can continue building on our legacy as a parish and school.

As we turn our attention to 2025, we'll soon start to see the fruits of our labor as many of our dreams and projects move from concept art to reality ahead of the 2026 Centennial celebration. In the coming months, we'll be sharing more details about the work that will be taking place in the church as well as the progress of the STS Multi-Purpose Center plans.

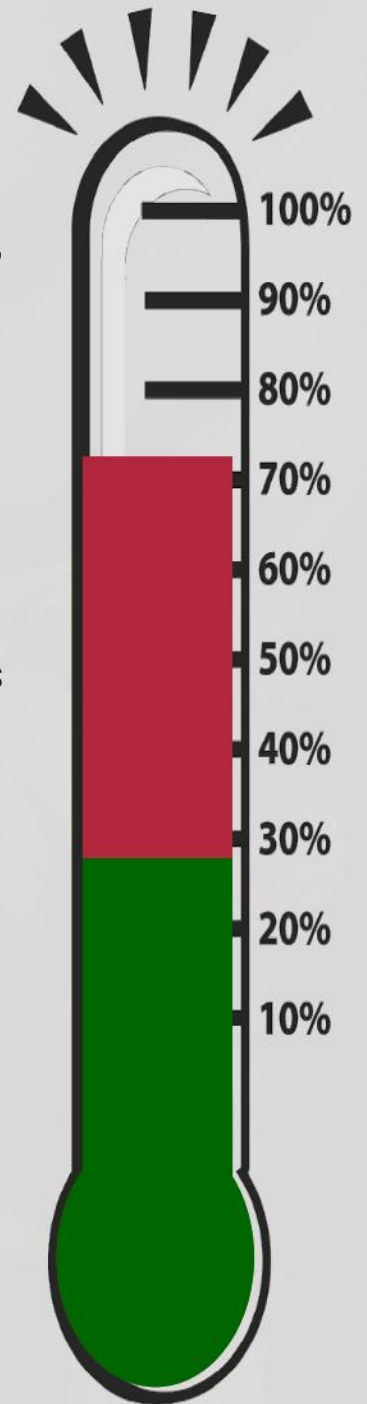
End-of-Year Giving Benefits

There are only 2.5 weeks left to take advantage of charitable giving deductions for your 2024 taxes! Any **gifts** made to the parish by December 31st will be reflected on your 2024 Giving Statement, which will be available in late January.

Campaign Progress

CAMPAIGN GOAL:	\$13,000,000
TOTAL PLEDGED:	\$9,365,343.35 (72.04%)
TOTAL COLLECTED:	\$3,671,590.88 (28.24%)

Updated as of December 11th





**ST. THERESA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Let's Talk about
Future Plans to
Our Community**

Open House Community Meeting

**AT COMBER HALL
1251 PALERMO AVE,
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134**

**Thursday
DEC. 19th at 7:00pm**

**Review & Discuss
the details of the
proposed plan of
the multi-purpose
center.**

**Free & Open
to our
friends &
neighbors**



Mass Music & Readings

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



JUBILEE 2025



Archbishop Thomas Wenski, in communion with the universal Church and Pope Francis, invites you to join him for a special

OPENING MASS OF JUBILEE YEAR

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 28, 2024

5:30 p.m.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY
7525 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida

Please RSVP at
www.adomdevelopment.org/jubilee



Seating is offered on a first come, first serve basis. Be sure to arrive early. For more information, please email events@theadom.org.

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
Vanessa and Ricky Laviña at 305-793-9770.



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.

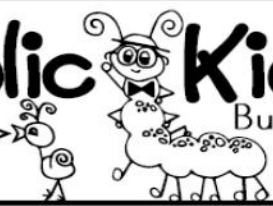




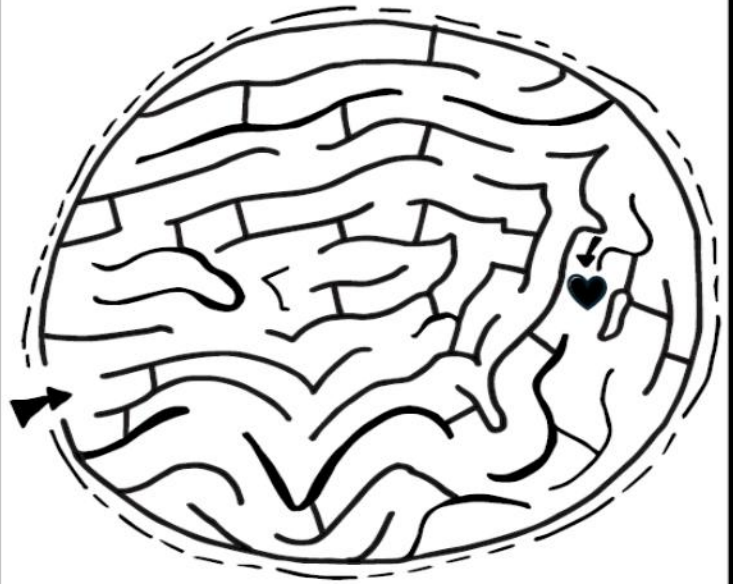
Catholic Kids

Bulletin

December 15, 2024
Advent
Color: Rose



Saint Francis Xavier



Saint Francis Xavier traveled all over the world, taking care of the poor and teaching about Jesus. He is the patron saint of missionaries.

ASCRIEWOUTVWWITHJOYANDO

HOLYXONEBOFISRAEL

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

GLADNESSWPFORKC

IAMONGYOUISTHEGREATOAND



Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "to rejoice." The pink candle reminds us to rejoice because Jesus is coming.



Countdown to Jesus' Birthday...

2

Sundays!



John the Baptist was a great man, and people thought he might be God. He told them that a greater man was coming. They were waiting for Jesus!





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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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