



# Church of the LITTLE FLOWER

TV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The  
Light

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

TV DOMINGO EN EL  
TIEMPO ORDINARIO



2026 + + ABCD  
ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITIES & DEVELOPMENT DRIVE



**PASTOR**

Rev. Manuel F. Alvarez

**PAROCHIAL VICAR**

Rev. David Zalocco

**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  
Deacon Gustavo Roversi

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 ( <i>Saturday Vigil</i> ) |

### SUNDAY

| Time     | Language   |
|----------|--|
| 7:30 am  | English  |
| 9:00 am  | English  |
| 10:30 am | English  |
| 12:30 pm | Español  |
| 5:30 pm  | English  |
| 7:00 pm  | Italiano ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, Montefi</i> ) |

### WEEKLY CONFESSIONS

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



## CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER - REILLY PARISH CENTER

**Parish Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm  
12:30 pm - 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

**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

**Charlotte Ushela - Ext 304**  
Parish Secretary / Virtus Coordinator

**Nubia Vivas**  
Custodian

**Rene Denis**  
Maintenance - Commodore Prop. Mgmt



## ST. JOSEPH PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Visit [www.cotlf.org/adoration](http://www.cotlf.org/adoration) for more details



## 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](http://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:

- Sebastian Sutherland
- Maximiliano Cristobal Zuriarrain
- Luke Alexander Mederos



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

- Stephen Alexis Ortiz & Adriana Maria Obeso
- Oscar Aguilar & Madeleine Pollack
- Andrew Brown & Diana Rodriguez



Rest in Peace. Let us pray for our recently deceased:

- Caridad Guanche

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least two (2) months in advance. Visit [cotlf.org/baptism](http://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](http://cotlf.org/baptism) para mas información.

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

- Arrangements must be made with the Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance. Visit [cotlf.org/weddings](http://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](http://cotlf.org/weddings) para mas información.

## SIGNS OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Attendance:                | 2,247     |
| In-Church Collection:      | \$ 11,114 |
| Online Giving Offertory:   | \$ 16,725 |
| Drop-off/Mail-in Offering: | \$ 593    |
| Children's Collection:     | \$ 789    |
| Devotional Candles:        | \$ 685    |
| Poor Box/Charities:        | \$ 375    |

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*¡Gracias por su generosidad!*

Grand Total: \$ 30,281

*No Envelopes? No Cash? No Problem!*  
Give Online Now at [OSVHub.com/COTLF](http://OSVHub.com/COTLF)



# MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

# OUR PARISH MINISTRIES

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

IV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 pm (Vigil) + For Those Who Passed Away this Month

7:30 am For the Holy Father's Intention

9:00 am For the Health of Olivia Aguiar

10:30 am *Missa Pro Populō* - For All Members of Our Parish Family

12:30 pm Alberto M. Manso

5:30 pm Living and Deceased Members of the Nino Alzate Family

7:00 pm (Italian) + Manlio Vallejo

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

6:15 am Intentions of the Murdock Family

8:00 am + Maria Uria Bernardo

5:30 pm *Misa Comunitaria*

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

Tuesday of Week IV in Ordinary Time / Memorial of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

6:15 am Steffy Pearson's Birthday

8:00 am + Migdalia Diaz

5:30 pm *Misa Comunitaria*

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>

Wednesday of Week IV in Ordinary Time

6:15 am + Michael Mulleady

8:00 am Votive Mass to Saint Joseph

5:30 pm (Vigil) *Misa Comunitaria*

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

Memorial of St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

6:15 am Mitzy Aguilar

8:00 am + Bruna Ballarati Cepollina

5:30 pm *Misa Comunitaria*

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

Memorial of St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs / First Friday

6:15 am + Martha y Manuel Gonzalez

8:00 am For All Parish Benefactors

5:30 pm *Misa Comunitaria*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>

Saturday of Week IV in Ordinary Time / First Saturday

8:00 am + Enrique and Eloisa Artze

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>

V SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 pm (Vigil) + Alverto y Virtudes Torres de Alba

7:30 am + Ana Hughes

9:00 am + Eneleida Alfonso

10:30 am *Missa Pro Populō* - For All Members of Our Parish Family

12:30 pm Por Las Intenciones de la Familia Walton

5:30 pm + Gaby de Barbieri

7:00 pm (Italian) Celebrated only on First Sundays, Monthly

## SUNDAYS

11:30 am Carmel of Elijah (Cafeteria) - *Once Monthly*

1:30 pm Homeless Ministry Service Outing (Varies) - *Once Monthly*

## MONDAYS

10:00 am Seekers Bible Study (Morras Conf. Room & Zoom) - *Biweekly*

7:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

7:00 pm Talleres de Oracion y Vida (Chapel Conf. Room)

7:30 pm Ejercicios Espirituales de San Ignacio (Morras Conf. Room)

7:30 pm Emaus de Hombres (Reilly Conf. Room)

## TUESDAYS

7:45 am That Man is You Men's Group (Comber Hall)

8:30 am Holy Face Devotion (Church)

7:00 pm OCIA Adult Formation Classes (STS Cafeteria)

7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Legion of Mary House)

8:00 pm English Charismatic Prayer (Chapel Conf. Room)

## WEDNESDAYS

4:00 & 6:30 pm Religious Education Classes (St. Theresa School)

7:30 pm Women's Emmaus (Reilly Conf. Room)

8:00 pm Communion & Liberation (Chapel Conf. Room)

8:00 pm Oración Carismática en Español (Morras Conf. Room)

## THURSDAYS

7:45 am Walking with Purpose Women's Group (Comber Hall)

6:00 pm Amor en Accion (Morras Conf. Room) - *Biweekly*

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus (Comber Hall) - *Once Monthly*

7:00 pm Schola Cantorum / Parish Choir (STS Music Room)

7:00 pm Scouts (Cafeteria)

7:30 pm Men's English Emmaus (Reilly Conf. Room)

## FRIDAYS

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Reilly Conf. Room) - *3<sup>rd</sup> Friday*

6:00 pm American Heritage Girls (STS Cafeteria) - *2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday*

6:30 pm Singles Ministry (STS Cafeteria)

8:00 pm Marriage Covenant (Zoom)

## SATURDAYS

7:00 am First Saturday Devotion / Rosary (Church)

9:00 am Baptism Preparation Classes (Reilly Parish Center)

## OTHER MINISTRIES

Grieving with Great Hope Bereavement Ministry

Liturgical Ministries (Altar Servers, EMHCs, Lectors, Ushers)

Greyed out ministries are not currently meeting.

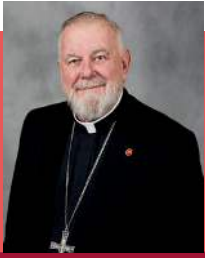
Visit [www.cotlf.org/ministries](http://www.cotlf.org/ministries) for more details about each group.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

*IV Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Year A, Missal Pages 300 - 303*

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Sunday    | Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 10-11; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a  |
| Monday    | Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32     |
| Tuesday   | 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30; 19:3; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 5:21-43 |
| Wednesday | 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 6:1-6                        |
| Thursday  | 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mk 6:7-13   |
| Friday    | Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29                     |
| Saturday  | 1 Kings 3:4-13; Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mk 6:30-34             |
| Sunday    | Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16            |



# ARCHBISHOP'S ABCD LETTER CARTA DEL ABCD DEL ARZOBISPO

*My dear Brothers and Sisters,*

Life can be noisy and, at times, overwhelming. Yet in the quiet moments of prayer, a still, gentle voice speaks to us—a deep conviction that stirs within and calls us to look beyond ourselves. Each day, we're surrounded by the clamor of the world—its demands, its distractions, its pressures—but even in the midst of it all, God calls us to pause, to listen, and to respond to the quiet prompting within us: to see and serve the needs of others.

Let us come together to bring light where there is darkness, peace where there is conflict, and love where there is need. There is great strength in unity—and when we are united in Christ, we become a powerful force for good in a world longing for hope and healing.

Together, we must do good and seek peace. Together starts with you.

By giving to the Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive, the ABCD, you bring hope to those in greatest need. This is our Church, our mission—to serve with heart and compassion.

The ABCD lives out this mission every day: feeding the hungry, consoling the suffering, embracing the stranger, advocating for justice, and upholding the dignity of the poor with love. The work of our Church in South Florida, through the ABCD, is not merely charitable—it is profoundly sacramental, a visible expression of Christ's love in the world.

As Pope Leo XIV said, "United hand in hand with God... let us go forward. The world needs His light." Let us seek peace, do good, and stand in the light of Christ. Now is the time to come together. Your gift to the ABCD supports a mission that reflects the very heart of the Gospel. Thank you for uniting with me to be One in Faith, One in Hope, and One in Charity. Your faith and generosity bring the Gospel to life. May God bless you and keep you in His peace.

*With hope and gratitude,*

*+ Thomas Wenski*

*Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas:*

La vida puede ser ruidosa y, en ocasiones, abrumadora. Sin embargo, en los momentos silenciosos de oración, una voz suave y serena nos habla: una profunda convicción que se despierta en nuestro interior y nos llama a mirar más allá de nosotros mismos. Cada día estamos rodeados por el bullicio del mundo sus exigencias, sus distracciones, sus presiones, pero incluso en medio de todo eso, Dios nos llama a hacer una pausa, a escuchar y a responder al suave impulso que sentimos dentro: a ver y servir las necesidades de los demás.

Unámonos para llevar luz donde hay oscuridad, paz donde hay conflicto y amor donde hay necesidad. Hay una gran fortaleza en la unidad y cuando estamos unidos en Cristo, nos convertimos en una poderosa fuerza del bien en un mundo sediento de esperanza y sanación.

Juntos, debemos hacer el bien y buscar la paz. Juntos comienza contigo.

Al contribuir a la Campaña de Caridades y Desarrollo del Arzobispo, el ABCD, llevas esperanza a quienes más lo necesitan. Esta es nuestra Iglesia, nuestra misión: servir con corazón y compasión.

El ABCD vive esta misión cada día: alimentando al hambriento, consolando al que sufre, acogiendo al forastero, abogando por la justicia y defendiendo con amor la dignidad de los pobres. La labor de nuestra Iglesia en el sur de la Florida, a través del ABCD, no es simplemente caritativa es profundamente sacramental, una expresión visible del amor de Cristo en el mundo.

Como dijo el Papa León XIV: "Unidos de la mano de Dios... vamos a seguir adelante. El mundo necesita Su luz." Busquemos la paz, hagamos el bien y permanezcamos en la luz de Cristo.

Ahora es el momento de unirnos. Tu donación al ABCD apoya una misión que refleja el corazón mismo del Evangelio.

Gracias por unirse a mí para ser Uno en la Fe, Uno en la Esperanza y Uno en la Caridad. Tu fe y generosidad dan vida al Evangelio. Que Dios te bendiga y te mantenga en Su paz.

*Con esperanza y gratitud,*

*+ Thomas Wenski*

# TOGETHER

Do good, seek peace (Psalm 34:15)

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. (Matthew 5:9)*

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

TOTAL \$12,500,000

DISCIPLES IN FAITH

EDUCATION AND FORMATION OF SEMINARIANS, CLERGY, DEACONS & RELIGIOUS

**25%**

\$3,078,961

MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

MINISTRIES, EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION

**36%**

\$4,512,212

SERVANTS FOR CHARITY

SOCIAL MINISTRIES & ASSISTING PARISHES AND PEOPLE IN POOR COMMUNITIES

**39%**

\$4,908,827



ONE IN FAITH

ONE IN HOPE

ONE IN CHARITY

2026 ††† ABCD

ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITIES & DEVELOPMENT DRIVE



[www.isupportabcd.org](http://www.isupportabcd.org) • #GIVECATHOLIC • PLEASE MAKE A GIFT NOW

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTION • (786) 796-2366

# LET US COME TOGETHER TO BRING ...

UNAMOS NUESTRAS FUERZAS PARA TRAER... • SE POU NOU REYINI ANSANM...

## LIGHT

WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS



### DISCIPLES IN FAITH

DISCIPULOS EN LA FE  
DISIP NAN LAFWA

LUZ DONDE  
HAY OSCURIDAD

LIMYÈ KOTE  
KI GEN FÈNWA

## PEACE

WHERE THERE IS CONFLICT



### MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

MISIONEROS DE LA ESPERANZA  
MISYONÈ NAN ESPWA

PAZ DONDE  
HAY CONFLICTO

LAPÈ KOTE  
KI GEN KONFLI

## LOVE

WHERE THERE IS NEED



### SERVANTS FOR CHARITY

SIERVOS POR LA CARIDAD  
SÈVITÈ POU CHARITÈ

AMOR DONDE  
HAY NECESIDAD

LANMOU KOTE  
KI GEN BEZWEN

Thank You **FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

### ONE IN FAITH

UNO EN LA FE • YON SEL NAN LAFWA

61 seminarians studying to become priests with 8 being ordained this year, 214 priests, 251 religious sisters & brothers, and 138 permanent deacons serving in the Archdiocese 109 parishes and missions & 65 Catholic schools  
2 priests completed their canon law degrees to begin service in Tribunal

61 seminaristas que estudian para ser sacerdotes con 8 siendo ordenados este año, 214 sacerdotes, 251 hermanas y hermanos religiosos y 138 diáconos sirviendo permanentemente en la Archidiócesis 109 parroquias y misiones & 65 escuelas Católicas  
2 sacerdotes completaron sus estudios de derecho canónico para servir en el Tribunal

61 seminaris k ap etidye pou yo vin prèt 8 ap òdone ane sa a, 214 prèt, 251 sè relijye ak frè, ak 138 dyak pèmanan k ap sèvi nan Archidyosèz la 109 pawas ak misyon & 65 lekòl Katolik  
2 prèt te fini etid yo nan dwa kanonik pou yo te ka sèvi nan Tribunal la

### ONE IN HOPE

UNO EN LA ESPERANZA • YON SEL NAN LESPWA

9,496 baptisms and 9,113 first communions  
50,329 children in our Catholic schools and religious education programs, 8,986 persons served by programs of Catholic Charities and 7,138 visits provided to pregnant moms and dads at Respect Life Pregnancy help centers

9,496 bautizos y 9,113 primeras comuniones  
50,329 niños en nuestras escuelas Catholicas y programas de educación religiosa,  
8,986 personas servidas a través de programas de Caridades Católicas y  
7,138 visitas a mamás embarazadas y papás en los centros de Respeto a la Vida

9,496 batèm ak 9,113 premye kominyon  
50,329 ttimoun nan lekòl Katolik ak pwogram edikasyon relijye nou yo,  
8,986 moun ki sèvi pa pwogram òganizasyon Charitab Katolik yo ak  
7,138 vizit yo bay manman ansent ak papa yo nan sant èd pou gowosès Respè Lavi Yo

### ONE IN CHARITY

UNO EN LA CARIDAD • YON SEL NAN LACHARITE

2,946 low-income seniors served by housing programs  
42,169 visits were provided by Catholic Legal Services  
6,536 persons assisted by Catholic Health Services facilities and 7,762 patients received end of life care from Catholic Hospice

2,946 personas de la tercera edad de bajos recursos se beneficiaron de los programas de vivienda  
42,169 visitas fueron proporcionadas  
6,536 personas se beneficiaron con los Servicios Católicos de Salud  
7,762 pacientes recibieron cuidados paliativos del Hospicio Católico

2,946 elèv ki gen revni fèb ki sèvi nan pwogram lojman  
42,169 sèvis legal katolik te bay vizit pou  
6,536 moun ki te ede pa sèvis sante katolikque  
7,762 Pasyan yo te resevwa swen paliatif nan men Ospis Katolik la

# WOMEN'S EMMAUS RETREAT

February 20 - 22, 2026

The Women's Emmaus Ministry warmly invites you to join us for our next retreat. Enjoy a weekend brimming with joy, hope, and renewal. Connect with new friends and deepen your relationship with God in a serene and loving environment. You will be pampered, cherished, and surrounded by love every step of the way. Don't miss this opportunity to rejuvenate your spirit and experience a beautiful transformation. Come to our Emmaus retreat and find a renewed sense of purpose and peace.

Scan the QR Code to Register!

Registration is \$200.00 per person and includes room, meals and program.

For more information, please contact:

Estibaliz Diez, Estibalizdiez@hotmail.com, (786) 973-4250  
Lizzeett Sobalvarro at lizzeetts@bellsouth.net, 305-726-7650



## MARRIAGE COVENANT RETREAT

March 13 - 15, 2026 • 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?  
What role does God play in our everyday lives? The retreat weekend is 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:

Jorge & Lissette Riera  
drlissetteriera@gmail.com , 786-258-2037



## TALLERES DE ORACION Y VIDA - UNA NUEVA EVANGELIZACION

¿Quieres sanar esas angustias, temores, sufrimientos, ansiedades?

¿Como esta verdaderamente tu relación con Dios?

Te invitamos a participar en un Taller de Oracion y Vida, a traves del cual vivirás un encuentro profundo con Dios, en la Meditación de la Palabra y en el arte de Orar con un caracter experimental y practico.

*Es gratuito!*

Ven a vivir esta experiencia transformadora que te ayudara a sentir y vivir en el Amor, el Perdon, la Paz, y la Felicidad.

**Inicio:** Lunes, 9 de Febrero 2026

**Horario:** 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

**Duración:** 15 Semanas Consecutivas (1 vez por semana)

**Lugar:** Oficina Parroquial, Salon de Conferencia de la Capilla

El Taller sera impartido en Español. Trae tu Biblia y un cuaderno de notas.

Información para inscribirse: Yadilka 786-210-9024



**TMIY**  
THAT MAN IS YOU!

**Register Today!**  
TMIY Starts Soon

**THE FIGHT OF FAITH**

## THAT MAN IS YOU!

Join us for the Spring Semester of THAT MAN IS YOU!, as we continue our journey with this year's theme, The Fight of Faith.

*The Fight of Faith* equips and enables men to engage in the cosmic, spiritual battle raging in our day. Biblical identities will emerge to inspire heroic lives of service to a calling greater than ourselves. Uncover the ultimate truth that sheds light on all things: God's own identity. Fight the good fight of faith to win an imperishable crown of glory. All men are invited to join us for food, fellowship and faith starting on Tuesday, Jan 20th at 7:30am in Comber Hall.

For more information, please contact John St. George at (803) 237-1002 or [jhn.st.george@gmail.com](mailto:jhn.st.george@gmail.com)



## COTLF IS HIRING!



Church of the Little Flower is seeking to hire both a full-time Parish Finance Manager and a full-time Receptionist.

Candidates will perform all duties and responsibilities in alignment with the mission, vision, and values of the Archdiocese of Miami and COTLF.

Scan to view Job Description and to apply:



**cork & fork**

ST THERESA FOOD AND WINE FEST  
a centennial culinary celebration

Proudly Presented by **JOHN BELL** CONSTRUCTION

Raise a glass to our parish centennial at the 2026 Cork & Fork – A Centennial Culinary Celebration on Friday, February 6th from 7:00pm – Midnight.

Support the event and the Centennial Campaign by purchasing individual tickets, securing an event sponsorship, placing bids on our silent auction, or by making a general donation. Participants must be 21 or older to attend.

Learn more about Cork & Fork and buy tickets now at <https://go.rallyup.com/corkandfork>







## HOMELESS MINISTRY JAN/FEB COLLECTION

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in our ministry's January/February 2026 Parish Collection & Donation Drive benefiting the Missionaries of Charity shelter in Miami.

We will be collecting the following items:

**Canned & Dry Non-Perishable Foods:** Large canned items ideally from Gordon Food Service that could be used to stock up the Missionaries of Charity's kitchen pantry. They feed hundreds of homeless a day through their kitchen located in the shelter. Desired donations include large cans of tomato sauces, pastas, rice bags, green beans, corn and other canned vegetables.

They also need iced tea powder, small sugar packets and instant coffee.

**Cleaning Supplies:** kitchen dish soap, degreaser, Clorox/bleach, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer.

All items can be dropped off ONLY during the following masses at the COTLF Homeless Ministry Donation Collection Area that will be set up at the entrance of the church:

Saturday, Jan 31 (Evening Mass)      Sunday, Feb 1 (All Sunday Masses)

For more information please email: [homelessministrycotlf@gmail.com](mailto:homelessministrycotlf@gmail.com)

## CANDLEMAS AND THE BLESSING OF THROATS

February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also celebrated as “Candlemas,” the Feast of Light and Hope. Candlemas is an ancient feast that has developed over the centuries. The liturgy focuses on the meeting of Christ with the elderly Simeon. With Simeon we rest our hope in the Lord. The Gospel includes the beautiful Canticle of Simeon, Nunc Dimittis, which is said at the Church’s Night Prayer: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

This the last feast of the liturgical calendar that we commemorate Christ still as an infant child but it is also clearly connected to the upcoming Lenten and Easter seasons. Mary and Joseph offering Jesus to God is the beginning of His earthly ministry for His Heavenly Father. This is the first of Our Lady’s Seven Sorrows, and a foreshadowing of the Cross. Even the popular name Candlemas hints at the “light to reveal you to the nations“ that we celebrate at Easter with the blessing and procession of the Paschal Candle.

Parishioners are invited to bring candles to all Masses on February 2nd to be blessed for religious use in the home. We will also be blessing the candles which will be used for the Blessing of Throats at all Masses on February 3rd, the Memorial of St. Blaise.



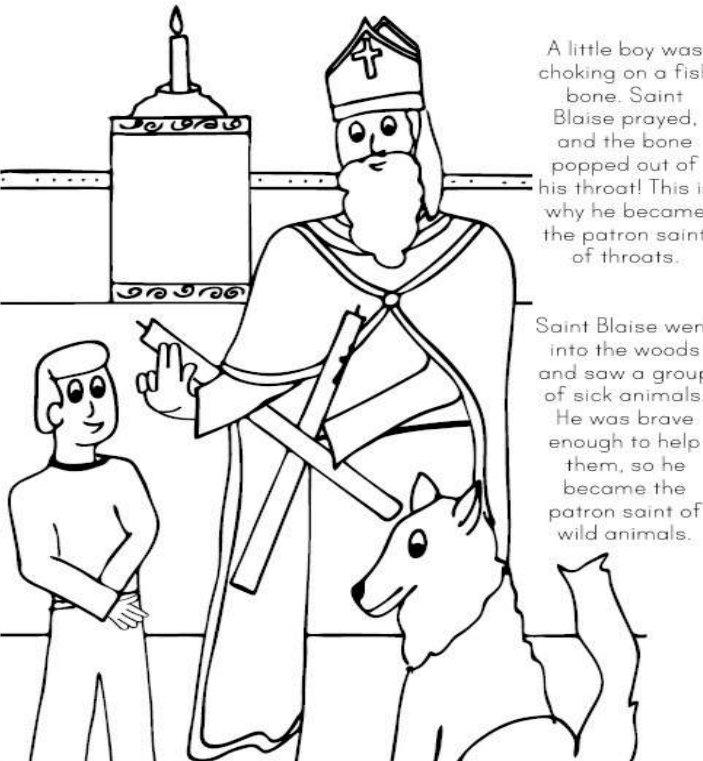
February 3rd is the Memorial of St. Blaise, a 4th Century Bishop who was martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ. According to tradition, St. Blaise is most well-known for the miraculous healing of a boy who was choking to death from a fish bone that had become lodged in his throat. St. Blaise prayed over the boy and he was healed. Over the centuries, a tradition developed within the church for the faithful to have their throats blessed on this day in which we celebrate St. Blaise. The priest, holding two blessed candles in the form of an X, usually tied with a red ribbon to represent the blood of the martyrs, touches the candles to each side of the person’s neck and prays:

*“Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”*

The annual blessing of throats will take place following all Masses on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2026.

## Saint Blaise

Saint Blaise is the patron saint of throats and wild animals.




A little boy was choking on a fish bone. Saint Blaise prayed, and the bone popped out of his throat! This is why he became the patron saint of throats.

Saint Blaise went into the woods and saw a group of sick animals. He was brave enough to help them, so he became the patron saint of wild animals.

BOBLESSEDPJAREITHEIWJCS  
 BOWISO THEIRSPWKZ  
 Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!  
 OPORROINWKSPIRITJ  
 PWTHECKINGDOMPOFIHEAVEN

There is a special Mass on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate Saint Blaise. You can receive a blessing for your throat in honor of Saint Blaise.

# Beatitudes

**Gospel** Jesus went up a mountain and talked to the people about heaven. His words are called the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes tell us how to live with love and kindness.



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