



**"FOR EVERYONE WHO DOES WICKED
THINGS HATES THE LIGHT AND
DOES NOT COME TOWARD THE LIGHT,
SO THAT HIS WORKS MIGHT NOT
BE EXPOSED.**

**BUT WHOEVER LIVES THE TRUTH
COMES TO THE LIGHT, SO THAT
HIS WORKS MAY BE CLEARLY SEEN AS
DONE IN GOD."
Jn 3:20-21**

Nothingness vs. Everything!

There is a **tension** that develops during Lent that I call the "**gift of nothingness**" versus the "**gift of everything**." Under "nothingness", part of our Lenten journey is to recognize that we are **sinners**. We have all gone astray and chosen sin. As we remember the **sufferings** of Jesus as we pray the **Stations of the Cross, the Sorrowful mysteries** or hear the account of the **Passion**, we recognize the result of our sin. Our sins led to the **suffering and death** of Jesus.

The **good news** is that **Lent is a time of renewal**. Despite our sinfulness we are reminded **how much we are loved**. Even though we **were dead in our sins**, we are brought to **new life** by the grace of Christ. We hear those beautiful words of John, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life**." It was not the will of the Father that we perish so he took an extraordinary step. He sent His only Son into the world to free us. How great is the Father's love for us!

How do we determine the **worth** of something? We find out **how much has been paid for it**. There are **paintings that cost \$15** and there are paintings that cost 15 million dollars. **How much are you worth? What did you cost?** The **Son of God shed his blood** for you and that makes you **priceless**. You were paid for with the **blood of the Lamb!** St. Paul says, "**We are his handiwork...**" Did you hear that? You are the handiwork of God! **We are created by the very hands of God.**

When you are shopping and the owner says, "That is **handmade**" you know it is very special. Special care and consideration have gone into its creation. Did you ever think that you were handmade by God? How much care and consideration went into making you? Psalm 139 says, "**Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**"

How often do you stop and realize that **God is madly in love with you?** We long to be loved. **God is thinking of us every moment of every day.** God wants the **absolute best** for our lives. Are we aware of that fact? Once we know this, how can we not submit every area of our lives to God?

And yet, at the same time, God's love is **extremely personal**. **St. Augustine** says, "**God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love**". That is the **good news** of Lent. As I pray the **Stations of the Cross**, as I meditate on the **Sorrowful mysteries** as I go to mass, I realize my **self worth**. **God sent His only son into the world for me!**

Let us enter into the **tension of Lent**. Yes, I have **sinned and wandered from the friendship of God** but God calls to me and wishes to take me back. That is the **center of my self-worth**: God sent His only son into the world to rescue me. That Son says to me today, "**This is my body which will be given up for you**" and I realize how much I am loved.

-Fr. Tim McKeown

Fr. Tim is on vacation this weekend and will be back in the office Friday morning.

Please join the Knights of Columbus Sunday **March 10** for the **Red Cross blood drive**. Thank You for giving your precious gift to save a life



Fish Fry Dinners during Lent

Dinner will be served on Fridays from **5 PM until 6:30PM**. Meal includes fish, grits, hush puppies, slaw and tea. Cost \$12.00 per person. Grilled cheese sandwiches will also be available for \$2.00. This is open to all of our friends and family. Tickets available at the door. The remaining dates are Mar 15 & 22.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Join us each Friday of Lent for the Stations of the Cross. Here we meditate on the last 14 moments from the life of Our Lord as He goes to Calvary to die for our sins. You do not have to be Catholic to participate so this would be a good event to invite a family member or co-worker to introduce them to this beautiful devotion! Stations in English at 7:00 pm. En Español at 8:00 pm.

Palm Sunday is Sunday March 24. Good Friday is March 29. Our **Easter Vigil** will be Saturday March 30 at 8:00 pm. This will be a two-hour bi-lingual Mass where we will enter new members to the Catholic Faith through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. **Easter Sunday** is Sunday March 31.

Normally the **Solemnity of the Annunciation** is celebrated on March 25. Because that falls during Holy Week this year the celebration will be transferred to Monday April 8th.

We have **new pamphlets** out to assist you on your journey of faith. Check out the pamphlet rack on the front table.

Special Thanks to Fr. Daniel Ihunnia for his time with us! On March 15th, he will begin his journey back to Nigeria. Godspeed, Fr. Daniel!

<p>RCIA class on Monday, March 11 in the Narthex at 7 p.m.- The topic is the Church History.</p>	<p>ST. VINCENT de PAUL FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS Baked Beans, Cereal, Spaghetti Hunts Spaghetti Sauce</p>
<p>Adult Bible Study Sundays in the St. Anne Room Meets between 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Please come join us!</p>	<p>Our High School Youth Group meets on Wednesdays in the Narthex from 3:30 until 7:30. Please come and join us. Snacks, games and homework starting at 3:30 pm. Group activities at 4:30 pm. Dinner served at 5:15 pm. Spiritual lesson at 6:00 pm. Holy Mass at 7:00 pm in Church.</p>
<p>That Man is You! For more information contact Deacon Chris at csadowski@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Our Young Catholics (18-35, single or married) meet each Friday night. Please contact Rob Sadowski for the schedule. Phone - (912)230-4863 or email robertsadowski@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Knights of Columbus State Charity Raffle: The 2023-2024 Charity Raffle to benefit both statewide and local charities is now being held through the end of April. Up to 70% of the proceeds from local ticket sales will be used to fund improvements to the parking area between SFX church and the school. The prizes are: 1st Place \$5,000; 2nd Place \$2,500; 3rd Place \$1,000. Tickets may be obtained from members of the Knights of Columbus – 1 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. Tickets will be available after most weekend masses and at the Lenten Fish Dinners. Winners will be drawn on May 18th at the Georgia Knights of Columbus Convention. For tickets or more information, call Don Heinecke at 912-577-8722.</p>	

MASS INTENTIONS

March 9 - 17

Saturday, March 9

5:00 p.m. † Rita & George Doubek,
† Rosanne Hale

7:00 p.m. *Our Parish Family*
(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)

Sunday, March 10

8:30 a.m. † Avie May Poleski
11:00 a.m. † Kirk Knox
6:00 p.m. (Spanish) Efrain Lopez (int.)

Monday, March 11

Noon Special Intention

Tuesday, March 12

Noon Special Intention

Wednesday, March 13

7 p.m. † Melissa LeComte

Thursday, March 14

8 a.m. Special Intentions

Friday, March 15

8 a.m. Our Staff and Students
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16

5:00 p.m. Murdock McInnis
7:00 p.m. † David Glasser
(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)

Sunday, March 17

8:30 a.m. † Frank & Isla O'Quinn
11:00 a.m. † Mary, Effie, & Preston
Blanchard
6:00 p.m. (Spanish) Maria Mendez,
Rafael & Rafael Rojas

Second Collections

March 10 - Catholic Relief Services

Operation Rice Bowls - when returning, please either convert change into bills or write a check please. Bowls need to be returned the weekend after Easter.

Join us during Lent as we examine the **Christian meaning of suffering** according to the writing of St. Pope John Paul II in his 1984 apostolic letter "Salvifici Doloris." As we study this document, we will try to better understand:

The meaning of suffering?

What is Salvific suffering?

Can we rejoice in suffering?

Physical suffering vs. moral suffering?

Fasting and renunciation

The potluck dinner and fellowship begins at 6:00 pm, followed by the study from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. in the Narthex. Bring a dish or dessert to share! If you have any questions, please email
lanevepj@bellsouth.net.

Do you pay most of your bills on-line? You can donate to SFX on-line through Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) on our website.

Would you prefer to receive your bulletin each week via email? Go to www.DM.CHURCH/4324 or you can scan the code on the back of the bulletin.

The **2024 Annual Catholic Appeal:** Faith, Hope, Charity, has begun! Our parish goal is \$67,829. Your sacrificial gift and prayers will help make this year's appeal a success. We can do this if, after thoughtful consideration and prayer, everyone participates according to their own ability.

If your baby or toddler is feeling restless, the **Narthex** is open with a **live video and audio feed**. There are about 25 seats available. There is also a room located at the back of the Church you can go to.

2024 Mass Intention book is open. If you are interested in having some Masses said for a loved one, contact Ann in the office. You can call, email or stop by. Suggested donation is \$10 per Mass.



May 18 starting at 7:30 a.m. in front of the school



Congratulations Spelling Bee & Model UN Winners!



St. Francis Xavier Staff email addresses and exts.

912-265-3249

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