

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
February 2023 Volume 3 Issue 11



What is the Meaning of Lent?

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring

temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry. Lent is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Oriental Orthodox, Persian, United Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions.

Which days are enumerated as being part of Lent differs between denominations, although in all of them Lent is described as lasting for a total duration of 40 days. In Lent-observing Western Churches, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, on Holy Saturday, when the Easter Vigil is celebrated, though in either case, Lenten fasting observances are maintained until the evening of Holy Saturday. Sundays may or may not be excluded, depending on the denomination.

The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, simple living, and self-denial. In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in imitation of Jesus Christ's sacrifice during his journey into the desert for 40 days; this is known as one's Lenten sacrifice.

Many Lent-observing Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God. Often observed are the Stations of the Cross, a devotional commemoration of Christ's carrying the Cross and crucifixion. Many churches remove flowers from their altars and veil crucifixes, religious statues that show the triumphant Christ, and other elaborate religious symbols in violet fabrics in solemn observance of the event. The custom of veiling is typically practiced the last two weeks, beginning on the Passion Sunday until Good Friday, when the cross is unveiled solemnly in the liturgy.

In most Lent-observing denominations, the last week of Lent coincides with Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. Following the New Testament narrative, Jesus' crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, and at the beginning of the next week the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday, the start of the Easter season, which recalls the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In some Christian denominations, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday form the Easter Triduum.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Catholic school students bake cookies to give prisoners hope

Mexican archdiocese shares first photo ever taken of image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Detroit TV personality Chuck Gaidica's 'breaking news': he's returned to the Church

UK woman praying in public asked to 'move on' by local authorities

Man in a coma for 50 days due to COVID and had just been ordained a priest

Pope Francis' watch auctioned off and proceeds set a world record

Pope Francis: The Church has a duty to welcome people with disabilities

Indiana AG files legal complaint against abortion doctor who performed a 10-year-old's abortion

Exorcist says porn addiction 'an opening to the demonic'

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers,
I write these greetings with a heavy heart. While there are a number of brothers I can always count on to get things done, we are going to lose one of those cogs in the

wheel that has made us such a powerful force for good works in the community.

This month we must say goodbye to Chuck Lake. He and his lovely wife will be moving to upstate New York to be closer to family. While this is a good move for them as they continue to enjoy their time together, the move leaves a void in our council that will never be filled in the same way. We will miss you two and you will

always have a spiritual home here.

Vivat Jesus,

Bill



Dolly and Chuck Lake

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights:

Pope Benedict XVI once said, "Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order

to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."

We begin our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. We make this journey with Jesus as He accompanies us into the desert. We focus on three areas for our ongoing journey: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Please remember to do the following:

- Create a Lenten plan as an individual, a married couple, and as a family.

- Attend Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Mass schedule: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:30 pm, 4:00 pm, and 7:00 pm.

- Observe the Lenten Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstain from meat of all Fridays during Lent and Good Friday.

- Attend the Stations of the Cross scheduled at St. Jerome on the Fridays of Lent in the church at 9:30 am or 7:00 pm or participate in our "Neighborhood Stations of the Cross."

- Participate in the Rice Bowl program for Lent and or decide on way to assist those in need.

- Pick up a Lenten nail to carry with you throughout Lent as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and as a reminder of the sacrifices we have chosen to make in imitation of Jesus during Lent. Bring the nail with you to one of our two Good Friday liturgies and place it in the containers near

Fast & Abstinence During Lent

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:

1. From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.

2. For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.

3. Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.

4. Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for The Eucharist—the truest of foods.

5. Fasting is preparation for baptism (and all the sacraments)—for the reception of grace.

6. Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.

7. Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

the Cross during veneration.

- Attend our Lenten Mission with Fr. Joe Waters scheduled for March 6 - 8, 2023 (Monday - Wednesday) at 7:00 pm each night in the church.

- Attend our Lenten Penance Service with individual confessions on Monday March 13, 2023, at 9:30 am or 7:00 pm.

- and to attend our special liturgies during Holy Week. (schedule to be published soon).

May God bless you on your Lenten journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom Morgan

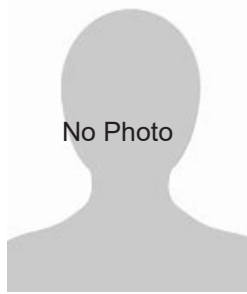
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



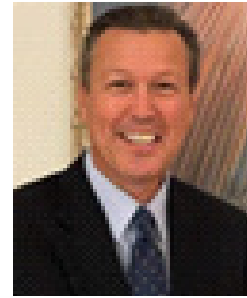
Rick Gregorio
February 2



Art Corby
February 4



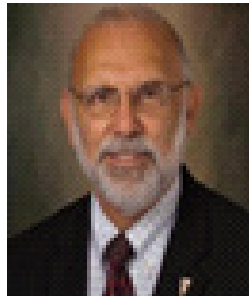
Rich Caya
February 6



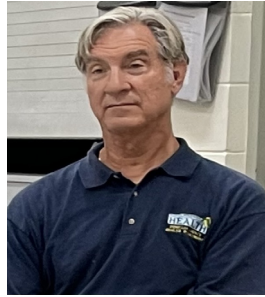
Mitch Borst
February 10



Kevin Manning
February 11



Pete Grasso
February 12



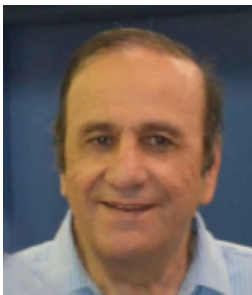
Joe Switzler
February 13



Andy McClane
February 14



Frank Cartunato
February 16



Nick Cambardello
February 17



Mike Guarino
February 19



Jim Patton
February 19



Linus Rautenstrauch
February 20



Dan Timmons
February 28

Why Do Some Religions Disregard Birthdays?

There are a few religions that don't celebrate birthdays, most notably Jehovah's Witnesses. They believe that birthday celebrations are rooted in paganism and therefore refrain from participating in them. Other religions, such as Islam, also don't traditionally celebrate birthdays, although

there is some debate on the matter among Muslims. Some Muslims believe that birthday celebrations are acceptable if they are done in moderation and without going overboard. Ultimately, it is up to each individual to decide whether or not to celebrate their birthday within their religious beliefs.

The origins of birthday celebrations can be traced back to ancient pagan festivals where people would worship the sun god or other deities. For Jehovah's Witnesses, participating in birthday celebrations would be tantamount to idolatry.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Saint Josephine Bakhita's Feast Day
Wednesday, February 8, 2023



St. Jerome Church will honor the feast day of former slave, St. Josephine Bakhita, with a Rosary procession to the Grotto on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, after 9:00 AM Mass. Please join us in the Gathering Space at approximately 9:30 AM.



St. Jerome Health Fair 2023



**St. Jerome Parish Center
10895 Hamlin Blvd
Largo, FL, 33774
Friday, February 17, 2023
9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Please join us for a fun day of sharing healthcare services, information and education with our community.

Wellness screenings, Blood Pressure Testing, Advance Directives Information and much more.

St. Jerome Health Fair is a nonprofit community event and all are welcome. Bring the entire family

Stjeromehealthfair23@gmail.com

The Bloodmobile will be at St Jerome during the Health Fair

**Every 2 seconds someone needs blood
One in 3 of us will need a blood transfusion
Three drops of blood have more than a billion red blood cells
The #1 reason donors give blood is because they want to help others**



Encouraging the Dying

On a gray spring day, four women entered a hospice unit. Following cues from the nurses, they quietly approached the room of an old woman lying unconscious in bed. Beside her

sat her two daughters, holding hands and weeping. They nodded as the women entered the room. They had contacted the women to sing for their mother as she approached death. The women faced one another, and their leader began a simple song: "Peace before you, peace behind you, peace under your feet. Peace within you, peace over you, let all around you be peace." They sang first in unison, then in a gentle three-part harmony. They are called the



Threshold Choir, a national organization of volunteers who sing songs of comfort to the dying.

The Threshold Choir is not associated with any faith tradition, and its growing popularity marks an increase in the number of people seeking to change the conversation around death from denial to acceptance. Indeed, there is a growing number of people who are seeking to make sense of death and dying outside of their specific faith traditions, particularly through the arts, whether this be through making music, creating an altar of loved ones, writing poetry, etc. Some people grow uncomfortable when they learn of singers such as these. "A college student once asked me how I could sing in such a sad situation," one of the singers said, "but St. Benedict said we should keep death before our eyes always. I try

to do that in many ways."

For most of us in the United States, death is a reality we would rather deny, even as the news abounds with stories of mass shootings and ongoing death from various diseases. Unlike many other countries, the United States has no day officially devoted to remembering our dead, unlike the Catholic church which has All Souls Day.

In the medical field, the death of a patient is considered a failure. Some engineers in the technology industry claim we might someday defeat death by growing new organs in laboratories or uploading our consciousness into computers. But the human mortality rate remains 100 percent. In a society where many lack the proper words, the arts and cultural rituals, along with religion, provide a way to engage with this universal experience.

Jan Booth, an end-of-life nurse and codirector of the Threshold Choir, agrees that people in the United States have become disturbingly disconnected from the reality of death. "Until 60 or 70 years ago, most people died at home in a multigenerational setting. There weren't options for extending life," she says. "There was reticence and grief, of course. But we saw death more often. Modern medicine has brought wonderful advances to reverse disease. The unintended consequence is that for some death has lost some of its sting." Recently, however, Booth has observed a cultural shift: "More people at a grassroots level are realizing

there's something wrong with the way we look at death. They're asking how we can show up for our own families and communities, how we can change the dynamic from seeing death as a failure to seeing it as a part of life." Like death in general, infant mortality is not frequently mentioned in U.S. public discourse. But with 5.4 deaths occurring for every 1,000 live births, it is a painful reality for many parents. Joyelle McSweeney, an award-winning poet and professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, experienced the death of her daughter Arachne in 2017. "She was born with an unexpected birth defect and flown to a NICU in Indianapolis. She lived for 13 days and then died. She opened her eyes once," says McSweeney. "She couldn't breathe. I never saw her face until they took her off the ventilator and let her go. The shock was intense. At the same time, we had a 7-year-old and a 10-year-old. Somehow, we had to make them feel like the world would keep spinning."

"We say there are no words for certain experiences, but the human brain reaches out for words, extending a hand in the dark. An extremely traumatic experience reorients your relationship to words. They have to be reached for. They don't just come," says McSweeney, who adds that her Catholic faith has always formed her poetics. "When you are raised Catholic, the amount of information communicated through image and art is intense."

"As a Christian, I believe there is darkness before light," another poet said. "I think those sensitive moments of transition or darkness or grief in our lives are also moments of rejoicing. . . not always for the person left behind but for the person dying. We're celebrating the light that is to come."

DEATH, BE NOT PROUD

by John Donne

Death, be not proud, though some
have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art
not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou
dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst
thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy
pictures be, much pleasure;

then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee
do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's deliv-
ery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings,
and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sick-
ness dwell,

And poppy or charms can make us
sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why
swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eter-
nally
And death shall be no more; Death,
thou shalt die.



'Can't Not Do It,' Says Sister Prejean of Her Fight to End Death Penalty

Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph, shows no signs of slowing down in her long-standing fight to end the death penalty. At 83, she is writing her fourth book while directing her advocacy organization, Ministry Against the Death Penalty, in New Orleans. She spends a fair amount of time on the road as she continues to give talks, especially on college campuses, about the injustices she sees with capital punishment. She also continues to minister to both death-row inmates and murder victims' families. She has accompanied six men to their executions. She said she gets her energy from the work she does. For starters, she said she is energized by those she ministers to on death row — currently a Louisiana inmate in his 60s, Manuel Ortiz. The Salvadoran has been on death row for close to 30 years and continues to claim innocence for the sentence he received for hiring someone to murder his wife. Sister Helen said Ortiz is a prayerful man with a great devotion to Our Lady of

Guadalupe. "How does he get up every morning in that cell 30 years now? How does anybody do that?" Sister Helen asked. She said she comes away more enlivened from every visit with him and is also overwhelmed by what he goes through — "knowing you're innocent, knowing the lies they told about you in trial." His case, along with the 690 people currently on death row in this country, remind her "we've got our work cut out for us," she said in her understated way. Her passion for both the innocent and the guilty on death row — who all have God-given dignity, she points out — has been her driving force ever since she witnessed her first execution in 1984: the electrocution of Patrick Sonnier, a 34-year-old man found guilty of killing two teenagers. Sister Helen first came to know Sonnier as a pen pal, when she volunteered to write to someone on death row. From that correspondence she became Sonnier's spiritual adviser. Sonnier wanted Sister Helen to be

with him and to pray for him at his execution. Nothing could have prepared her for what she witnessed. "What I saw set my soul on fire, a fire that burns in me still," she wrote in her memoir, *River of Fire*. After leaving the prison, in the middle of the night, she said she threw up in the parking lot. But from that day forward, she knew that she had to do something about what she had seen. As she put it: "Our faith awakens and we speak." "You just stay in there because you know what your eyes have seen, you know what your heart has felt you know what the Gospel of Jesus says about loving your enemy and forgiving."

So she has stayed in there, and continues to do so, for nearly four decades. Starting with parish talks and then moving on to writing *Dead Man Walking*, which was made into a movie, and speaking to St. John Paul II and Pope Francis about death penalty wrongs. "Have to do it. Can't not do it," she said of her personal crusade.

Raised in Lexington, KY, Charlie grew up in a traditional Catholic family and attended all Catholic schools through high school. As he entered adulthood, he aspired to pursue a civil engineering degree, but realized he wasn't strong enough in math! He then decided to follow his father's footsteps, so Charlie became an air traffic controller in Hilliard, FL, north of Jacksonville during the Vietnam war. A few months at this job convinced him that he did not have the nerves of steel needed for that occupation, especially when dealing with military spotter planes that did not abide by the rules; the only time he heard from them was when they were running out of fuel and needed to find an airport to land. Also, Navy planes as well were constantly simulating take offs and landings on carriers without letting the traffic controllers know what they were doing! At that point Charlie realized that with his experience he could get a job in aerospace and went to work at ECI. However, that did not last long, for as soon as NASA landed on the moon, pink slips were mass distributed. During that time, Charlie had been taking night courses in HVAC so he went to work for a large Pinellas County air conditioning company. He soon saw massive

Charlie Scott Shares His Life's Story

incompetence as well as corruption and decided to start his own business. This led to Charlie and his wife, Marianne, running a very successful and honest air conditioning business for 30 years. Putting in many long hours as they built their business led to a lot of stress which led them to a Marriage Encounter weekend. This was the beginning of a life full of blessings from our Lord. Charlie and Marianne worked as a team in ME to help other couples and the benefits they received were far greater than the time they put into the ministry. About two years later Charlie and Marianne were invited to make Cursillo weekends, one for men and another for women. These weekends were even more life changing. They learned to pray together over every situation and what a gift that became! In the years that followed, blessings too many to count came into their lives. Because he was open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, Charlie received incred-



ible gifts such as having the founder of Marriage Encounter celebrate a Mass in his home, having one of the Medjugorje visionaries as a guest in his home, spending two different weeks on a group retreat of spiritual direction with a priest in Croatia who has stigmata and so many pilgrimages. Charlie and Marianne celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2022 and they now spend almost half of the year in their home in the Blue Ridge mountains, and the rest of the year is spent enjoying their three children and their families consisting of six grandchildren and three greats, as well as loving their beautiful parish - St. Jerome. Charlie would like to acknowledge that his faith, which started growing in 4th grade due to a very sweet nun and which grew in leaps and bounds through Marriage Encounter, The Cursillo Movement, three trips to Medjugorje, and the charismatic renewal as well as daily prayer together has been the reason he and his wife have had a wonderful life and their love for each other continues to grow stronger each year.

Bishop Barron Reconsecrates Cemetery Vandalized on Halloween

Bishop Robert Barron of Rochester, Minnesota, has reconsecrated the diocese's Calvary Cemetery after one or more vandals damaged the grounds with obscene and satanic graffiti. "Halloween night, this place was desecrated with some really obscene graffiti," he said ahead of the ceremony Nov. 11. "Even the name of Satan invoked. I found that outrageous." Five memorial walls in the cemetery were heavily covered with blue and brown graffiti, the Diocese of Rochester reported. Two grave markers, a statue of Christ, and a cross were covered in graffiti. The cleanup and repair costs could go as high as \$8,000. Photos of the graffiti show vulgar messages and the words "In Satan we trust." According to KMT3 News, the vandals have not yet been identified.



Can a Priest Withhold Communion from a Catholic?

The default position is that Catholics should not be denied communion except for a serious reason. Canon Law states, "Sacred ministers cannot deny the sacraments to those who seek them, are properly disposed, and are not prohibited by law from receiving them." However, it also says that those "...who obstinately persist in grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion."

The difficulties come from deciding who obstinately persists in manifesting grave sin and how this should be addressed. There are currently two circumstances that are particularly controversial: communion for divorced and remarried couples who have not had an annulment, and communion for Catholic politicians who either accept or promote legal abortion. The preferred approach is for a priest to communicate with people privately and persuade them not to present themselves for communion until the situation is corrected.

Withholding communion from someone is not a statement on the status of that person's soul, but rather it is a reaction to publicly available information that shows the person is not in "communion" with the church and its teachings. On these occasions, the reception of communion can cause others to doubt or misunderstand church teaching.

Because Catholics who are divorced

and remarried (without an annulment) are objectively in a situation contrary to church teaching. In the past the church taught that they could not receive communion. This discipline (not doctrine) changed somewhat with Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation where he allows for the possibility that some divorced and remarried people might be able to receive communion. This change continues to be controversial.

Because of President Joe Biden, a practicing Catholic who has accepted and/or promoted legal abortion, the issue of whether he (and other Catholic politicians in similar circumstances) should receive communion has become a subject of debate. Cardinal Luis Ladaria, the prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, recently sent some guidance concerning the issue to Archbishop José Gomez, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. According to Ladaria, any



national policy on the eucharistic coherence of one's life with one's faith cannot supersede the authority of an individual bishop in his own diocese to decide whether Catholic politicians should receive communion. There is no consensus among the U.S. bishops on the matter.

In either of these situations, a priest can and sometimes must withhold communion. However, denying a Catholic communion should never be done without due prayer and discernment. It should never be done for any reason other than the action is understood as necessary for the good of all the faithful as well as for the good of the person being denied communion.

What Does the Church Teach About People of Other Faiths?

Growing up, I assumed that the Catholic Church taught that people who were not Christian could not go to heaven. That view never sat well with me, so it was a relief to learn later in life that my assumption had been wrong.

In fact, the church teaches that the "plan of salvation" includes all people, regardless of their religious affiliation. The Second Vatican Council declared this most clearly, and it remains the position of the church today. It means that those who do not profess faith in Jesus Christ may—by following the dictates of their conscience and embracing what is true and good—"attain eternal salvation." This is not to say that everyone is guaranteed to be saved (even Christians), but it means that God labors tirelessly to bring all people—Christian or not—to salvation in Christ. Ultimately, we are saved not by membership in an institution or by

our ideas or good deeds but by God. The church also recognizes that other religions very often contain "true and holy" elements. Because of this, people of other faiths deserve our respect.

At Vatican II, the church highlighted many positive aspects of other religions that are similar to those of the Catholic faith and practice. In the Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, the church praised specific aspects of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Written in the wake of the Holocaust, this declaration was originally conceived as a declaration on the church's relationship with the Jewish people and a repudiation of anti-Semitism. But the document also includes a paragraph on aspects of the Muslim belief and practice. It affirms that Muslims and Christians (along with Jews) worship the same God. Since Vatican II, the church

has also been clear that all people have the right to religious freedom and that Catholics should stand up against religious discrimination, even when it targets those outside our fold.

Going back to its earliest days, the church has recognized that the Holy Spirit "blows where it wishes," even outside the walls of the church. How might we go about identifying where the Spirit may be at work in other religions? One way is by looking for the "fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Of course, Christians do not have a monopoly on these qualities. People of other faiths (or no faith) exhibit them just as well as—and sometimes better than—we do. We should be on the lookout for these fruits of the Spirit and recognize the many ways God is present among people of other faiths.

Mass for Image of Our Lady 'Miraculously Saved' from a Fire in the Ukrainian Capital

The image of Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn was hanging right on the organ in the church of St. Nicholas in the Ukrainian capital when the fire started in September 2021. The blaze consumed the instrument — while the icon remained intact. The artwork's restorer is convinced the sacred work of art's survival cannot be rationally explained.

The faithful thanked God and the Blessed Virgin Mary for the miracle of the rescue of Mary's image from the fire.

According to the *Kyiv Post*, the fire — whose cause was investigated by police, but determined to have been a faulty electrical system — broke out during an organ music rehearsal. The parish priest, Father Pawel Wyszkowski, OMI, expressed his gratitude: "We especially thank the Blessed Virgin Mary for her presence among us."

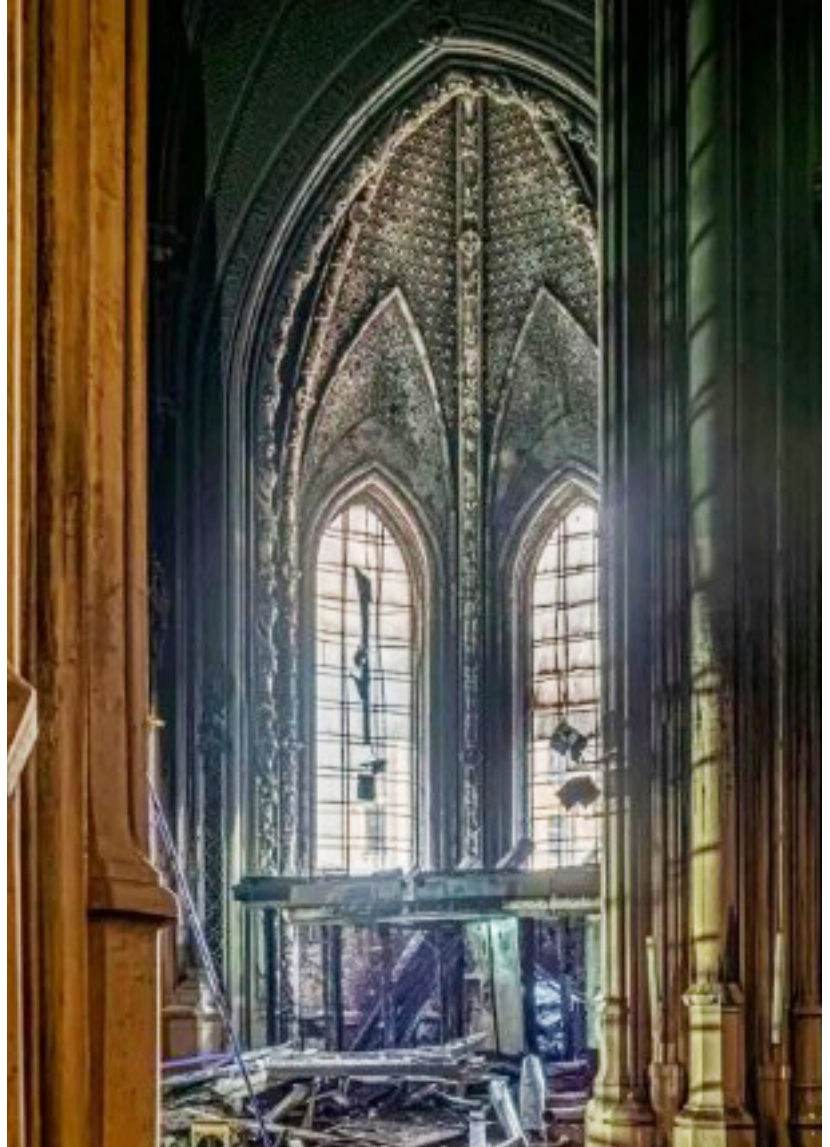
The fire destroyed the entire organ, but the painting remained largely intact. Few works of art can survive a fire. Upon its restoration, Andriy Afanasyev determined that the artwork, created at the end of the 19th century, was well preserved in its entirety — canvas, paint, stretcher, and original frame.

"It's simply a miracle," the restorer said, "because even at moderately high temperatures, the oil paint always melts and disintegrates."

During the restoration, Afanasyev found silver spots on the back of the painting. At first, it was thought to be silver paint. However, the restorer concluded that it was metal, melting at very high temperatures. There were also remnants of ash and dirt.

The restorer asked with amazement, "How high must the temperature have been in order for the melted metal of the organ pipes to almost completely cover the back of the painting and even get on the front side?" He said he was convinced that divine intervention was involved.

The burnt interior of St. Nicholas in Kyiv, Ukraine. St. Nicholas Parish in Kyiv



Nancy Pelosi Seeks Exorcism for Her House

Nancy Pelosi had priests perform an exorcism on her house in the wake of the brutal attack that left her husband Paul hospitalized, her daughter told *The New York Times*. "I think that weighed really heavy on her soul. I think she felt really guilty. I think that really broke her," Pelosi's daughter Alexandra told *Times* columnist Maureen Dowd. "We were always worried. It's like your worst fear coming to life."

Although Pelosi didn't speak on the exorcism herself, she said she found it unimaginable that in the aftermath of the attack Republicans mocked the attack and spread baseless conspiracies while her husband was in serious condition. "This has been tough. It's going to be about three or four more months before he's really back to normal," Pelosi said.



Construction Worker Travels Hundreds of Miles by Horse to Pay Homage to Blessed Virgin Mary



Sergio Ariel Ozán, a 58-year-old construction worker from the province of Córdoba, Argentina, traveled more than 180 miles on horseback to visit Catamarca and leave his intentions at the feet of Our Lady of the Valley, the Virgin he has "carried in his soul" since he was a child.

The journey began on Nov. 4, when, mounted on his horse and accompanied by his brother Hugo, he began to travel to the capital of Catamarca. On the way, they lacked nothing and there were no inconveniences — a blessing that he attributes to the intercession of the Virgin.

On the morning of Nov. 10, the date on which Argentina celebrates the

Day of Tradition, he arrived at the feet of Mary and what he felt, he said, "is indescribable."

On his way back, the pilgrim told ACI Prensa, CNA's news agency, that his visit to the Virgin is "more than a promise, it is a tribute, a return of favors. One asks the Virgin for so many things, that if I had to fulfill them, I don't know how many rides I would need," he said.

After this first visit to Catamarca, Ozán said, "I longed to visit the cathedral and see the Virgin before I died; it is a longing I have had for many years." To arrive and see the image of the Virgin "is something indescribable, it is a lot of emotions,"

he said.

"One has been chewing on it all the way, thinking about the moment of arriving, but when you get there you can't believe it. The church dazzled me, I did not expect it to be like this: The cathedral is huge and very beautiful," he continued. "Thank God, the Little Virgin has accompanied us at all times, we have not lacked anything since we left."

His devotion to Our Lady of the Valley began many years ago, because the chapel in his neighborhood is dedicated to this devotion. There he received the sacraments of Christian initiation and for that reason he carries "the Virgin of the Valley in my soul, as if she had raised us, like a mother."

In his community, Ozán belongs to a gaucho group that bears the name of the Virgin of the Valley.

In Argentina, gauchos are known as country men, traditionally dedicated to cattle raising.

For the past four years, Ozán has been participating in the horseback ride that crosses the high peaks in honor of the saintly "Cura Gaucho."

"I live for the horses," Ozán admitted. "Every day, when I come back from construction, I dedicate two or three hours to them." And although he assured that this is a mission accomplished, he hinted that this may be the beginning of a path of encounters: "Maybe later, if the opportunity arises, I will come again."

Remember This Song?

He's got the whole world in his hands
 He's got the whole wild world in his hands
 He's got the whole wild world in his hands
 He's got the whole world in his hands
 He's got the little bitty baby in his hands
 He's got the little bitty baby in his hands
 He's got the little bitty baby in his hands
 He's got the little bitty baby in his hands
 He's got the whole world in his hands



UK Woman Praying in Public Asked to 'Move on' by Local Authorities

Concerns about religious freedom in the UK are intensifying after local council officers confronted a woman on the south coast of England for praying quietly in a public space and asked her to move away.

Livia Tossici-Bolt was praying with a friend near a local abortion clinic in Bournemouth but had not breached the borders of the censorship zone around the clinic, which the local council had imposed.

Nevertheless, two 'Community Safety Accredited Officers' patrolling the buffer zone informed Livia that her actions could cause "intimidation and harassment" and asked her to move away. According to Tossici-Bolt, the officers also expressed concern that there was a local school nearby and that "the children may ask questions."

In a statement released on November 24, ADF International formally announced their support for Tossici-Bolt and the launch of an official complaint to local authorities for breaching her right to pray on a public street. The statement comes as parliamentarians in England and Wales have also conveyed concern about the direction of religious freedom within their jurisdiction as the Public Order Bill makes its way through Parliament. Clause

9 of the Bill proposes to institute 'buffer zones' around abortion clinics nationwide, which campaigners argue would have a detrimental impact on outreach for women facing crisis pregnancies while raising fundamental questions concerning freedom of religion and expression.

Clause 9 recently faced notable scrutiny in the House of Lords as peers across the political spectrum expressed unease with the introduction of buffer zones. According to a statement from ADF International, Clause 9 of the Public Order Bill prohibits not only "harassment" outside of abortion facilities but "informing," "advising," "influencing," "persuading," and even "expressing an opinion." During the debate Baroness Claire Fox of Buckley said: "If we pass Clause 9, why will other institutions not demand buffer zones around their special case facilities? If we consider that in Clause 9 a buffer zone is defined very broadly as "150 meters from ... any access point to any building or site that contains an abortion clinic", does that not make protests of all sorts at hospitals potentially unlawful? What if you wanted to organize a vigil outside a hospital in which, for example, babies died due to negligence, such as in the



maternity services scandal recently? What about a rally against the use of puberty blockers on teenagers? Would that be banned too?"

Commenting on her own experience, Tossici-Bolt said, "Everyone has the freedom to pray quietly in a public place. I would never dream of doing something that causes intimidation and harassment. We complied with the new rules instituted by the council and didn't pray within the censorship zone. Yet nevertheless, these prayer-patrol officers tried to intimidate us out of exercising our freedom of thought and of expression - in the form of prayer - which has been a foundational part of our society for generations."