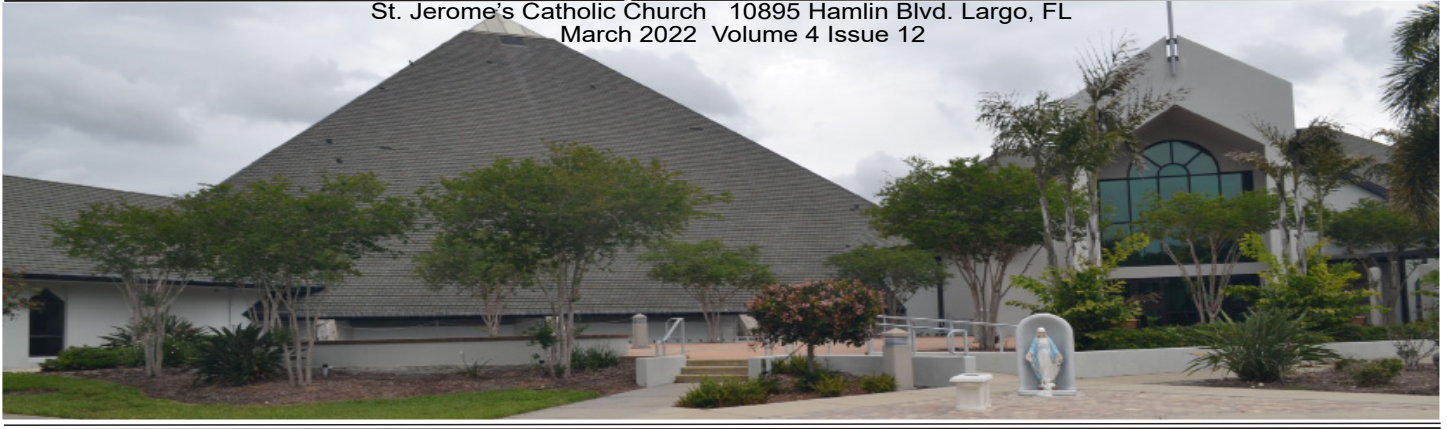


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
March 2022 Volume 4 Issue 12



LENT 2022



When is Lent 2022?

Lent 2022 is the six-week period leading up to Easter.

How long is Lent?

Lent begins 46 days before the Saturday of Easter weekend (Easter Sunday falls on Sunday, April 17, 2022), but is only observed Monday-Saturday each week because every Sunday is viewed as a celebration. Therefore, Lent is observed a total of 40 days.

When does Lent start in 2022?

Lent 2022 starts on "Ash Wednesday," which is March 2, 2022.

What is "Ash Wednesday?"

"Ash Wednesday" is a day of reflection and repentance from sin. It's possible that you may see some people walking around with black marks on their foreheads on this particular day, as some Catholics and other Christians who observe this holiday mark their foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross, publicly showing remorse for their sins.

When does Lent 2022 end?

Lent traditionally ends during "Holy Week," on "Holy Saturday," which is Saturday, April 16, 2022.

However, since 1969, Catholics now stop observing Lent on "Maundy Thursday" or "Holy Thursday," two days prior. For those following this practice, Lent will end on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

When is "Holy Week?"

"Holy Week" is the week leading up to Easter. The week begins on "Palm Sunday" (which is Sunday, April 10, 2022), it consists of other significant days such as "Maundy/Holy Thursday" and "Good Friday," and ends on "Holy Saturday," which is Saturday, April 16, 2022.

What is "Palm Sunday?"

"Palm Sunday" (also known as "Passion Sunday") celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. This is an important event that had been anticipated hundreds of years prior, with prophecies like, "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey," (Zechariah 9:9) being written long before Jesus was born.

The significance of "Palm" in the name of this day comes from the palm

branches that were placed on the road in anticipation of Jesus' arrival.

What is "Holy Thursday?"

"Maundy" or "Holy Thursday" commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, and takes place on April 14, 2022.

What is "Good Friday?"

"Good Friday" is the Friday before Easter (Friday, April 15, 2022), and it signifies the day that Jesus was crucified. That, in and of itself, does not sound very "good." But as Pope Francis shared in his 2019 Lenten message, the period of time leading up to Easter is when Christians are "welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives."

What is "Holy Saturday?"

"Holy Saturday," taking place on Saturday, April 16, 2022, commemorates the day that Jesus' body lay in the tomb.

What's the meaning of Lent?

As the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship states, "Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection." Although a solemn time, it is also a hopeful, expectant time of prayer and fasting before acknowledging/celebrating Jesus' death and then His subsequent defeat of the grave on Easter.

As Pope Francis has shared, this is a period of time where we can strive to abandon idolatry (which is putting anything in our lives above God) as well as the "self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy." The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship adds, "The Lenten season is set aside for self-examination, spiritual renewal, and growth."

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers,

February was a very successful month for the council. Highlights include the breakfast on the third Sunday of each month and the work at the grotto. The breakfast continues to meet the goal of covering our costs for the food we provide. In fact, the February breakfast was our most successful so far, serving 159 guests with a profit of nearly \$700.00. We were also able to lay 155 engraved bricks at the grotto. I have received multiple comments on how nice it looks and orders are being received for additional bricks to be added.

We have another exciting month ahead of us in service to the parish and our community as we move into the Lenten season. There are six key events I

would like to bring to your attention. On March 12, we will participate in another campus cleanup at St. Jerome. We will start after morning mass and trim and lay mulch. Additionally, we will help with the Women's Retreat being held that same day. We have one Knight serving coffee in the morning, and I could use three Knights to help me serve lunch that day. On March 16, we will have a Knights of Columbus insurance presentation in the Parish Center. Two of these meetings are required for Star Council, so we plan to have another in May. Food is provided, so please attend. On the following day, there will be a St. Patrick's Day lunch in the Parish Center. Tickets can be purchased for \$10.00 in the Parish Office or after mass. March 20 is our next breakfast and the following day is the anniversary of the official founding of our council.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events!

Vivat Jesus,

Bill

Words of WISDOM

Words of Wisdom
from Winston Churchill

You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks.

Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision.

The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible.

If you're not a liberal at 20, you have no heart. If you're not a conservative at 40, you have no brain.

Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights:

We begin our Lenten journey on March 2, 2022, Ash Wednesday. We do not make this journey alone as we travel with

Jesus and each other into the desert that is Lent. We focus during this time on the place of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. St. John Paul II once said, "Lent is a time that makes us think about our relationship with 'Our Father'; it re-establishes the order that should reign between brothers and sisters. Lent is a time that makes us jointly responsible for one another; it detaches us from our selfishness, small-mindedness, meanness and pride; it is a time that enlightens us and makes us understand better that we too, like Christ, must serve."

We are invited during Lent to:

*Observe the fast and abstinence prescribed by the Church. (Please see be-

low for the prescriptions).

Attend "Stations of the Cross" during Lent on Fridays at 9:30am and 7:00pm in the church. Parishioners are also encouraged to pray the "Stations" privately at home or together with your neighbors.

Participate in almsgiving and sacrificial giving with the "Rice Bowl" program. Rice Bowls are available at the entrances of the church.

Pick up a Lenten nail to carry with you throughout the 40 days of Lent as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us and our call to sacrifice for God and others. Attend our Lenten Penance Services with individual Confessions on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 9:30am and 7:00pm in the church.

Attend our Lenten Mission with Bishop Robert Baker, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, Monday March 14, 2022, through Wednesday March 16, 2022. Bishop Baker will deliver a mission talk in the morning following the 9:00am Mass and the talk will be repeated at 7:00pm each day during the mission.

Participate in the liturgies during Holy Week: April 9 – 17, 2022. (The Holy Week schedule will be included in the April newsletter).

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule: (ashes will be distributed during Mass after the homily)

7:00am, 9:00am, 10:45am, 12:30pm, 4:00pm, and 7:00pm

Fasting and abstinence have a long history in the Church. The custom of self-denial is meant to simplify one's life so that freed from all distractions, we may hear and respond to God's continued call to conversion and holiness. ▪ **FASTING** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together should not equal another full meal. Liquids are allowed. ▪ **ABSTINENCE** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. ▪ **PASTORAL NOTE:** Persons unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons may practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Richard Gregorio
March 2



Phillip Monnig
March 8



Jim Hand
March 11



Jason Peterson
March 12



Fr. Tom
March 15



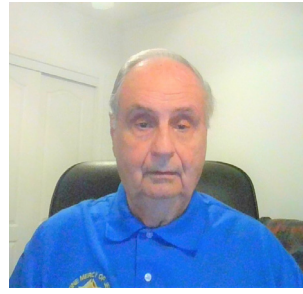
Frank Cortonuto
March 16



Danny Elliott
March 16



John Connova
March 20



Richard Bovin
March 22



Fred Melchiorri
March 25

WSJ Column: Pope Francis is Losing Latin American Catholics



A new report from the Wall Street Journal found that under Pope Francis, the Church is losing Latin Americans, many of whom are joining Pentecostal and Evangelical Christian groups.

The column began with an anecdote: Tatiana Aparecida de Jesus, a former prostitute and drug addict, “joined a small Pentecostal congregation in downtown Rio called Sanctification in the Lord and left her old life behind” last year. “The pastor hugged me without asking anything,” she said. WSJ described her as “one of more than a million Brazilians who have joined an evangelical or Pentecostal church since the beginning of the pandemic, according to researchers.”

“For centuries, to be Latin American was to be Catholic; the religion faced

virtually no competition,” WSJ explained. “Today, Catholicism has lost adherents to other faiths in the region, especially Pentecostalism, and more recently to the ranks of the unchurched. The shift has continued under the first Latin American pope.”

“The Vatican is losing the biggest Catholic country in the world—that’s a huge loss, an irreversible one,” Brazilian demographer José Eustáquio Diniz Alves said. “At the current rate, he estimates Catholics will account for fewer than 50% of all Brazilians by early July.” Under Pope Francis, who has famously emphasized the poor in his speeches, critics “point to [the Church’s] failures to satisfy the religious and social demands of many people, especially among the poor. Latin Americans often

describe the Catholic Church as out of touch with the everyday struggles of its congregation,” WSJ reported.

Liberal Catholics have made great efforts to capture the imagination of Latin Americans, with less success than many realize. “The rise of liberation theology in the 1960s and ’70s, a time when the Catholic Church in Latin America increasingly stressed its mission as one of social justice, in some cases drawing on Marxist ideas, failed to counter the appeal of Protestant faiths,” according to WSJ. “Or, in the words of a now-legendary quip, variously attributed to Catholic and Protestant sources: ‘The Catholic Church opted for the poor and the poor opted for the Pentecostals.’”

“Fish Eaters and Mackerel Smackers” The Joy of Penance

50 years after the U.S. bishops made it optional, year-round Friday abstinence is making a modest comeback — but for many American Catholics it isn't even a real option, because they've never been told it's still in practice.

Contrary to common misconception, abstinence from meat on Fridays throughout the year has never been abolished from Roman law. It was not abolished by Vatican II. It was not abolished by Pope Paul VI or Pope St. John Paul II. It was not abolished by the 1983 Code of Canon Law. It remains the universal law of the Latin Church.

Can. 1249 The divine law binds all the Christian faithful to do penance each in his or her own way. In order for all to be united among themselves by some common observance of penance, however, penitential days are prescribed

and when is not specified by the divine law, but as human beings, members of a community, and heirs to a tradition, it behooves us to have forms of penitential observance that bind us together, linking us to one another and to our common past.

One important way we can be united in our penitential practices is by observing common penitential days and seasons. Friday, of course, has always been a day of penance for Christians because Jesus died on a Friday, just as Sunday is the Lord's Day because Jesus rose on a Sunday.

Every Sunday is like a mini-Easter season, and every Friday is like a mini-Lent in preparation for Sunday. That describes how it's been throughout Church history, and that's the way it still is in the universal law of the Latin Church — not to mention the laws of the Eastern Churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, which continue to observe abstinence on Fridays. (Their abstinence also includes Wednesdays, as ours once did...and their abstinence is sterner than ours, excluding fish, dairy, and other animal products).

Although Friday abstinence remains the law of the Latin Church, many national bishops' conferences — including the U.S. bishops — make exceptions in their jurisdictions, permitting Catholics to choose another form of penance instead.

Fifty years ago, in 1966, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a “Pastoral Statement on Penance and Abstinence” in which they declared, among other things:

Among the works of voluntary self-denial and personal penance which we especially commend to our people for the future observance of Friday, even though we hereby terminate the traditional law of abstinence binding under pain of sin, as the sole prescribed means of observing Friday, we give first place to abstinence from flesh meat. We do so in the hope that the Catholic community will ordinarily continue to abstain from meat by free choice as formerly we did in obedience to Church law.

Strikingly, the phrase “we hereby terminate the traditional law of abstinence

binding under pain of sin” is relegated to a subordinate clause in a lengthy discourse on a point that has been almost entirely lost on the average Catholic in the pew:

The U.S. bishops, in the very act of abolishing the law of Friday abstinence in their jurisdiction, expressed the “hope” and “expectation” that “the Catholic community will ordinarily continue to abstain from meat by free choice as formerly we did in obedience to Church law.”

Now, clearly that's a “hope” and “expectation” that has been overwhelmingly disappointed, and even gone overwhelmingly unheard.

All most American Catholics have known for decades is “No more meat on Fridays.” Many never got the message that Friday is still a day of penance that they're still meant to observe in some meaningful way. They certainly haven't been told “Your pastors, the bishops, hope and expect that Catholics as a community will ordinarily continue to practice Friday abstinence by free choice.”

There are still meaningful reasons to observe Friday abstinence from meat. The U.S. bishops note some reasons in their document. By abstaining from meat on Fridays, in the first place, we freely and out of love for Christ Crucified show our solidarity with the generations of believers to whom this practice frequently became, especially in times of persecution and of great poverty, no mean evidence of fidelity to Christ and His Church.

In other words, it is fitting that Catholics should continue to abstain from meat on Fridays simply because doing so was an integral part of Catholic piety and identity for nearly all of the past two millennia.

In anti-Catholic times, on the modest end of the spectrum, Catholics were mocked for avoiding meat, for example with slurs like “fish-eaters” or “mackerel snappers” that Catholics have claimed as badges of honor.

For this and other reasons, by avoiding meat on Fridays, we remind ourselves that we are part of something bigger than our own cultural moment.

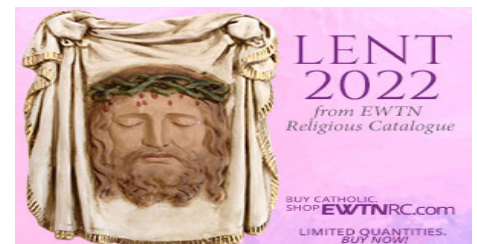


on which the Christian faithful devote themselves in a special way to prayer, perform works of piety and charity, and deny themselves by fulfilling their own obligations more faithfully and especially by observing fast and abstinence, according to the norm of the following canons.

Can. 1250 The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.

Can. 1251 Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Note the reasoning: Penance is not man's idea, but God's. God says we must do penance. What sort of pen-



Several Knights work on laying inscribed bricks in the grotto. It's tedious work taking up what has already been laid to replace those bricks with the new ones.

Because we didn't know as much about inscriptions when we first started selling the bricks and what the total cost could be, our council is thinking of selling the next round of bricks for a higher price, say \$100 instead of \$60. This remains to be determined.

The project itself will indeed add to the beauty of the grotto and will remain for many years. We are confident that once more parishioners see how nice the bricks look, they will want to take part in the project.



Famous Statue in Rio de Janeiro To Be Overshadowed by Replacement

Christ the Redeemer is an Art Deco statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, created by French sculptor Paul Landowski and built by Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa. It was constructed between 1922 and 1931. The statue is 98 ft high, excluding its 26 ft pedestal. The arms stretch 92 ft wide. It is made of reinforced concrete and soapstone.

The statue weighs 635 metric tons, is 625 long, 700 short tons, and is located at the peak of the 2,300 ft. Corcovado mountain in the Tijuca National Park overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro. A symbol of Christianity around the world, the statue has also become a cultural icon of both Rio de Janeiro and Brazil and was voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

With the passage of time, however, nature has taken its toll on the icon and it's time for some competition. For further details, please read the article below.



Brazil to have a statue of Jesus larger than Christ the Redeemer



A statue of Christ is being built in Brazil that will be larger than the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue of Rio de Janeiro.

The image, which has been under construction since 2019, will be called Cristo Protector and is being erected on the Cerro de las Antenas, a hill near Encantado in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

The project was planned to be completed by the end of 2021, but the state government extended the deadline until the end of January 2022.

Christ the Protector will be 140 feet tall, 16 more than the Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro.

Christ the Protector will be 118 feet wide hand to hand. Once completed, visitors will be able to take an interior elevator to the heart on the statue's chest, from where they will have a panoramic view of Encantado, Lake Garibaldi, and the Taquari Valley.

With these dimensions, the Christ the Protector statue surpasses Christ the Redeemer, built in 1931 of reinforced concrete, 125 feet tall on a 25-foot pedestal. The arms of Christ the Redeemer stretch 92 feet.

Christ the Protector has a budget of approximately \$364,000 and has been financed by the local community, especially by the "Amigos de Cristo," a

non-profit association which seeks to promote "faith and devotion" with the monumental project.

According to the Spanish news agency EFE, Christ the Protector was designed by the sculptor Genésio Gomes de Moura and his son, Moisés Moura.

At the end of December, the governor of Rio Grande do Sul, Eduardo Leite, signed an agreement with the mayor of Valle de Taquari for paving the roads that will allow visitors to reach Christ the Protector.

The work will improve the 1.4-mile tract that gives access to the statue of Christ and will also build a path for pedestrians.

Youth make trip to Washington for March for Life



St. Jerome's Parish took 41 parishioners to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. under the direction of the youth ministers Marissa and Micgael Guarino. The teens paid nothing for the trip with the cost being paid for by Marissa and Michail Guarino. The teens had a life-changing experience at mass as well as on Friday when they walked over 10 miles to be witnesses for life in this pro-life generation. Many teens lost friends on social media because they tweeted, posted, and shared being at the March, but that didn't stop them from sharing their stories. If you look carefully, you'll see Cardinal Gregory of Washington, D.C.

Florida Lawmakers Consider 15-Week Abortion Bill



Gov. Ron DeSantis, R-FL

A bill that would protect preborn children after 15 weeks of gestation will receive a hearing by the State House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee in Florida Thursday.

HB 5, modeled after the Mississippi law currently before the Supreme Court, has faced considerable opposition from Democrats and abortion groups, and is

more robust than many other bills of its kind. It does not include exceptions to allow the killing of preborn children conceived in acts of rape or incest.

The bill does include an exception for cases in which the life of the mother is at risk or in which there is a "serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman other than a psychological condition."

There is also an exception in the bill for cases in which a non-viable preborn child is found to have a fatal abnormality.

As CatholicVote reported shortly after the bill was first introduced, Gov. Ron DeSantis, R-FL, has signaled that he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk:

Asked by reporters about a possible 15-week abortion ban, he said: "Having

protections is something that makes a lot of sense," according to Business Insider:

He didn't endorse a particular bill, however, saying that "a lot of pro-life legislation" would be introduced in the legislature and that "we are going to be welcoming it." ...Two lawmakers on Tuesday introduced 15-week abortion bans that did not include exemptions for rape or incest but did allow exceptions for fatal fetal abnormalities or when a pregnancy would cause "irreversible physical impairment."

HB5 is "sponsored by Rep. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, and Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka, R-Fort Myers, will go before the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee after passing the Judiciary Committee last week," Florida Weekly reported.

The Florida bill is one of many such bills under consideration in states as the Supreme Court considers the case of *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health*, which many believe could result in a landmark ruling that would return the question of legal abortion to the States.

CatholicVote reported earlier this month that lawmakers in Alabama, Florida, Missouri, Ohio, and Oklahoma, had introduced bills restricting abortions.

Student's Grade Lowered Because He Referred to God as Masculine

A professor at a Catholic university docked a student's grade for repeatedly referring to God with masculine language — in contradiction to the Catholic church's documents and the Bible.

The College Fix reported that Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu, a professor of theological studies at Loyola Marymount University, harshly graded a student's paper for using "male-gendered language for God repeatedly."

The student, whose identity was kept anonymous, said the grade was wrong and emailed Gonzalez-Andrieu, saying, "Your comment that I referred to God as a male, I should not have gotten any points off for that. MULTIPLE times throughout the Bible God is



referred to as a he, the student wrote to the professor in an email obtained by the College Fix. "I feel targeted by your comment, as I was raised in the church with the belief that God is a male."

The College Fix reported that Gonzalez-Andrieu offered the student the opportunity to "resubmit your paper and add a footnote stating your reasons as a scholar to opt to preserve male language for God."

Chad Pecknold, a professor of systematic theology at that Catholic University of America, told the Washington Examiner that theology departments that employ professors like Gonzalez-Andrieu "are staffed by those who believe that our talk about God is nothing other than talk about ourselves."

"Instead of teaching students how we use words drawn from our experience of created effects to refer analogically to their uncreated cause, and instead of teaching students to depend on divine revelation for our knowledge of God, the woke religion can only abide by a god fit to their own purposes, which is to say that they aren't even teaching students about God at all," Pecknold told the Washington Examiner.

Pecknold pointed the Washington Examiner to an October article he authored for the journal First Things titled, "Why We Call God Our Father," in which he wrote that in calling God "father" and using masculine language, "we are not saying that God is like a human father, but rather that human fathers can be similar to God.

"The most proper name for God is revealed like God by Jesus Christ, who in the most intimate way calls God 'Father' and teaches his disciples to address God as 'our Father,' too," Pecknold wrote.

