

Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church

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4th Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2017

Mass times: Tuesday-Friday at 9:00 AM, Saturday at 5:00 PM, Sunday at 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 2:00 PM (in Spanish) and every First Saturday at 12:30 PM

Confessions: Saturday, 4:00 PM, Sunday, 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 1:30 PM and First Saturday, 11:30 AM

Weekly Mass Intentions: March 25, 5:00 PM: Kathleen DePhillips (SI), March 26, 8:00 AM: Velma Franklin, RIP & Veronica Landry (SI), March 26, 10:30 AM: For the closure of the Birmingham abortion clinic and the conversion of the staff, March 28, 9:00 AM: George Huffman (RIP), March 29: 9:00 AM, Donald Abbott (RIP), March 30, 9:00 AM: Mary Lee Bowers (SI), March 31, 9:00 AM: Rev. Andy Kennedy (RIP)

PARISH PRAYER LIST: Patricia Kennedy, Janis Welch, Anna Smith, John Joyner, Janet Bean, Bill Fager, Chuck Jones, Shirley Winslett, Don & Pat Standifer, Terry & Eileen Taylor, France Ragsdale, Richard Coyne, Godfrey Fayard, Joshua Hayes, Barbara Kuberski, Eugene and Libby Nabors, Louis Sprueill, Benny Garza, Patricia Maddux, Charlie-Kai Wadsworth, Don Mock, Katelyn Mock, Jeff Bearden, Curtis White, Cayden Cox, Jack Coppola, Ed Gimberg, Raymunda Longino, Alipio Tomas Jr, Carolyn Shaffer, John McLendon, Doris Williams, Linda Jennings, Donna & Rex Ziegenbein, Cole Amundson, George Pilato, Joy Kemper, Reta McCombs, Sheila Blackston, Frankie Tortorigi, Sharon Neal, Maureen McDowell, Weston Ross, Tommy Priola

Pope's Prayer Intention for March 2017: Support for Persecuted Christians: That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church. A REFLECTION ON THE POPE'S

PRAYER INTENTION: Every year Pope Francis asks us to join him in praying for our persecuted brothers and sisters. This year's month of prayer for them falls during Lent, a good time to include fasting and alms-giving for them. In his April 12, 2016 homily he said that Christians face two kinds of persecution. One is bloody. It began right after the birth of Jesus when King Herod killed babies as he sought to eliminate Christ. "From that time until today there have been martyrs in the Church—men and women persecuted simply for confessing and for saying that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Persecution "is the daily bread of the Church: after all, Jesus said so." The history of this "clear, explicit type of persecution" can be seen in Rome where "we go to the Colosseum and think of the martyrs killed there by lions." And it is seen in countries like Pakistan where, last Easter, Christians were "martyred just for celebrating the Risen Christ." He added that "the Church is the community of believers, the community of confessors, of those who profess that Jesus is Christ. Indeed, the Church is the community of martyrs."

What is the second kind of persecution? It is "not often spoken about." It is "disguised as culture, disguised as modernity, disguised as progress: it is a kind of—I would say somewhat ironically — polite persecution." It happens "when someone is persecuted not for confessing Christ's name, but for wanting to demonstrate the values of the Son of God."

This persecution is being institutionalized in the laws of nations that have historically been Christian. In this way "we see every day that the powerful make laws that force people to take this path, and a nation that does not follow this modern collection of laws, or at least that does not want to have them in its legislation, is accused, is politely persecuted." This is a "persecution that takes away man's freedom" and the right to "conscientious objection." "This is the persecution of the world when the powerful want to impose attitudes, laws against the dignity of the children of God, persecute them and oppose God the Creator." In both ways, the Church today is walking the Way of the Cross.

[LEGION OF MARY TO HOLD THIRD MEETING IN OUR PARISH this Tuesday, March 28 following the 9:00 AM Mass. The meeting will take place in the Library/Conference Room in the Parish Life Center. If you are interested, please try to attend Mass and then come over for the meeting.](#)

HEEDING OUR LADY'S CALL TO PRAYER AND CONVERSION...FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS:
This Saturday, April 1st...Confessions (11:30 AM-12:30 PM), Rosary (12:00 PM), Mass and Theological Reflection (12:30 PM) "Our Lady of Fatima, we offer unto thee our daily Rosary!"

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS: Wednesday, March 29, Regular Youth meeting @ 6:00 PM, Wednesday, April 10 @6:00 movie night- The Passion of the Christ-- bring a drink and we'll provide the popcorn!! (For more info, please contact Youth Group Coordinator Andrea Booker at 914-7884)

RCIA (Adult Education) will meet this Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Parish Life Center Library. The topic is "The Mercy and Humility of Jesus" Fr. Bean is the instructor this week. Everyone is welcome to attend!

LENTEN PRAYER: Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:00 PM followed by a soup meal. We rotate each week to offer a different "Way of the Cross" This week: "The Way of the Cross According to the Method of St. Francis of Assisi".

LENTEN ALMSGIVING: The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring "40 Cans for 40 Days" program during Lent. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Hallway outside of the old Parish Hall (Martin Hall). These items will be given to Leeds Welfare and the Holy Rosary Food Pantry. Thank you for your concern for the hungry!

MEET THE SAINT! A BRAND NEW BLESSED! When **Blessed Monsignor Oscar Romero** was installed as Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador in February 1977, he was thrust into a tumultuous situation. A military coup in October 1979 led to a gruesome, twelve-year civil war. These events were precipitated by the great disparity between a small number of powerful, wealthy families - who were backed by local politicians and the military - and the rest of El Salvador's citizens. Many people suffered extreme poverty. Laborers worked for minimal pay for wealthy landowners, yet they could not hope to obtain land for themselves. The military terrorized the people in order ensure that the families held onto land and money. The Catholic Church became a target when some clergy began to defend the poor. In response to these injustices, some Salvadorans took up arms and fought against the military.

While some Latin American clergy promoted violence as a response to injustice, Archbishop Romero advocated for a different weapon: Christian love. Before becoming archbishop, Monsignor Romero was not aware that the government was responsible for the deaths of many civilians. Because of his quiet nature, some thought that he would be good for the position, assuming he would not meddle in controversial affairs. However, shortly after his installation, his close friend, Fr. Rutilio Grande, was assassinated by gunmen while traveling with two people to celebrate Mass. This experience awakened Archbishop Romero to the reality of the corruption in his country and prompted him to take a stand for his people's freedom.

Archbishop Romero preached many homilies that were broadcast throughout San Salvador. He persistently defended the rights of the people, calling government leaders to conversion and challenging them to uphold God's law. He reminded the people that they were loved by God and that fighting back with Christian charity was the way to victory. His vocal response to government violence against the poor led to difficulties with other clergy members and his religious superiors as well as death threats from government accomplices. In spite of these challenges, he continued to speak out on behalf of the poor. On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was shot to death while celebrating the Eucharist in the chapel of Divina Providencia hospital. Blessed Oscar Romero was beatified by Pope Francis in May 2015. Feast Day: March 24