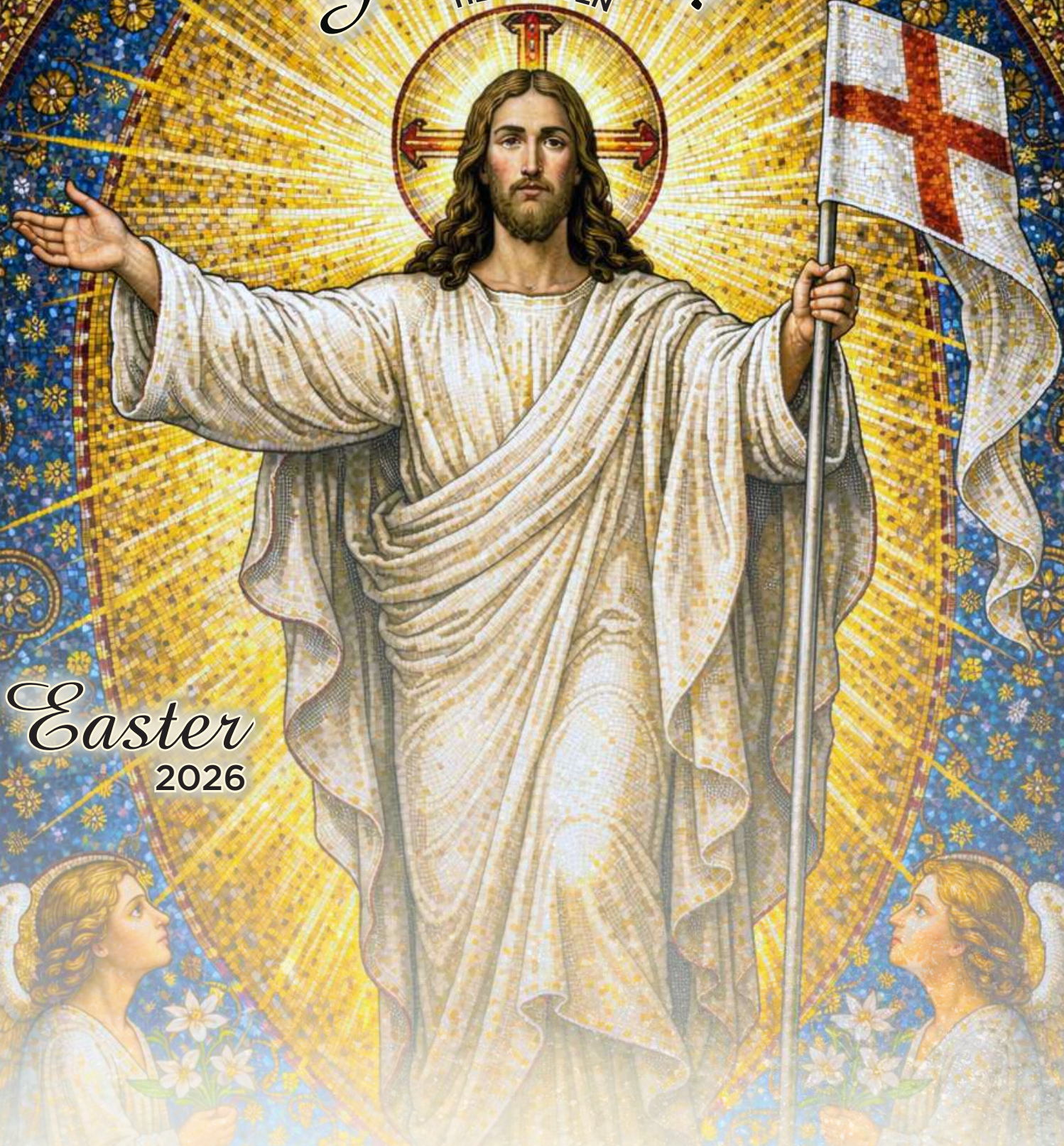


Alleluia!
HE IS RISEN



Easter
2026

St. Michael the Archangel

5750 N. High Street, Worthington, OH 43085
614-885-7814 · www.saintmichael-cd.org

SAINT MICHAEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Website: saintmichael-cd.org

Parish Office: 614-885-7814

MINISTERS TO THE PARISH

Pastor: Father Stash Dailey
 Parochial Vicar: Fr. David Johnstone
 Priest in Residence/
 Diocesan Judicial Vicar:
 Fr. Robert Kitsmiller
 Permanent Deacons:
 Dcn. John Crerand
 Dcn. Bill Demidovich
 Pastoral Minister: Sr. Riya Mary
sriya@saintmichael-cd.org
 Youth Minister: Jake Asuncion
jasuncion@saintmichael-cd.org
 Director of OCIA: Jake Neal
jneal@sjchcc.org

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary & PGC: Kathy Trafford
kttrafford@saintmichael-cd.org
 Receptionist: Rhonda Marinelli
rmarinelli@saintmichael-cd.org
 Business Manager/Accountant: Bryan Moore
bmoore@saintmichael-cd.org

ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

Website: stmichaelworthington.org

School Office: 614-885-3149

Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.
principal@stmichaelworthington.org
 Preschool Director: Laura Wells
lwells@stmichaelworthington.org

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Athletic Association Representative:
 Adam Rohrer
smaa@saintmichael-cd.org
 Knights of Columbus Representative:
 Mike LaMorte
grandknight@kofc11445.com
 St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:
 Elaine Miracle
svdp@saintmichael-cd.org
 Parish Council Representative:
 Martha Bogue

SAINT MICHAEL INFORMATION CENTER

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pre-Baptism classes offered at 2:00 p.m. on the second Sunday; preregistration required. All baptisms are by appointment only; sponsors need Letter from their pastor. Baptisms may be scheduled on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Please contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

No date should be set prior to seeing a priest or deacon six months before desired date.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office.



ADORATION CHAPEL

There is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Consider signing up for Adoration. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition each Monday from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. and from 5:00 a.m. Tuesdays until 9:00 p.m. Friday evenings. Adoration is available at all other times with the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the tabernacle. Registration is easy to do from your phone. Visit StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com to sign up or use the QR code.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are currently available to schedule for 2026. If you would like to remember a loved one in this way, please scan the QR code to order and pay online or visit the Parish Office. One should never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul, both for the living and the deceased.



NEW MEMBERS

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and a commitment to the life of the parish family. We are often asked to provide affidavits for parishioner standing. We can only do this if a person is a registered, active, and contributing member in our parish. You can register by scanning the QR code above or by visiting our website at www.saintmichael-cd.org.



LOW-GLUTEN HOST

If you are in need of a low-gluten host, please scan this QR code for full details.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

To submit a bulletin request, the request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday. Send bulletin requests to office@saintmichael-cd.org with "BULLETIN REQUEST" in the subject line with all details and contact person for questions. Early submission deadlines may be required surrounding holidays. All bulletin requests are subject to approval.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

St. Michael's Homebound Ministry is available to bring the Eucharist to the homebound. If you or a loved one within St. Michael Parish boundaries would like someone to bring the Eucharist to you, please reach out to Sr. Riya Mary to coordinate. She can be reached by calling the Parish Office or by emailing sriya@stmichael-cd.org.



ONLINE GIVING

St. Michael offers online giving as a convenient tool for you to use. Scan the QR code to learn more or to set up online contributions.

MASS INTENTIONS

Holy Saturday, April 4

9:00 p.m. For the Living and Deceased
Members of Our Parish

Easter Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m. S.I. Chris & Carole Meyers
(Elliott Family)

10:30 a.m. Pasquale & Cesidio Pizzuti

12:30 p.m. +Robert & Joan Brown
(Cheryl Brown)

5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of
the Marinelli Family

Monday, April 6

6:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory
(Rako Family)

8:15 a.m. +Antonio Tempesta
(Armando & Lilliana Tempesta)

Tuesday, April 7

6:30 a.m. S.I. The Caso Family
(Luis & Francoise Caso)

8:15 a.m. +Stanley & Barbara Flak &
Brian Montgomery
(Michael & Nora Kazor)

Wednesday, April 8

6:30 a.m. +Betty Maurer (Maurer Family)

8:15 a.m. +Thomas Rafferty (Joe Fiala)

6:00 p.m. Liv. & Dec. Members of the
Skaggs & Fairchild Families

Thursday, April 9

6:30 a.m. +Rosemary Trelease
(Trelease Family)

8:15 a.m. +Michael Hammontree

Friday, April 10

6:30 a.m. +Lenora Pellegrina (Joe Fiala)

8:15 a.m. +Michael Lavin
(Dcn. John and Mary Crerand)

Saturday, April 11

8:15 a.m. S.I. Stofer Family
(DeCenzo Family)

4:00 p.m. For the Living and Deceased
Members of Our Parish

Sunday, April 12

8:30 a.m. +Leo Zupan IV
(Zupan Family)

10:30 a.m. +Harriett & Lloyd Jordan
(Aleshire Family)

12:30 p.m. Carmelite Sisters for the
Aged & Infirm
(Fr. Michael Lumpe)

5:00 p.m. +Mary Frances Myles
(The Colston & Myles Families)

PARISH CALENDAR: APRIL

Easter Sunday, April 5	9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR)
Monday, April 6	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U)
Tuesday, April 7	Eucharistic Exposition (AC)
Wednesday, April 8	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
Thursday, April 9	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meeting (U) 6:30 p.m. Festival Committee (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (C)
Friday, April 10	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 9:30 a.m. Mom's Day Out (UMR)
Saturday, April 11	6:45 a.m. MFF (UMR) 7:00 a.m. WFF Pietra (LMR) 8:50 a.m. PSR (A) 9:30 a.m. SVdP Monthly Meeting (UMR) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C)
Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12	9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 9:00 a.m. PSR (A) 11:30 a.m. St. Gerard Blessing (C) 2:00 p.m. Preregistered Baptism 3:00 p.m. Middle School YM (G) 6:00 p.m. High School YM (G)

To view Parish Masses & Ministry Activities in advance,
please view our Parish Calendar online by visiting
www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/.

(U) = Undercroft/Cafeteria, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym,
(MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library,
(UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center,
(LMR) = Meeting room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center,
(AC) = Adoration Chapel, (A) = Atrium

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

MARCH 29, 2026

Envelopes \$ 13,090.00
Online Giving \$ 9,112.00
Total: \$ 22,202.00

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
HE IS RISEN!

Last evening, while in the darkness of night, the Church entered into the Sacred Liturgy with the blessing of the Fire, and from the fire was lit the Paschal Candle and then from there, each individual received the fire giving the light of Christ. Today, we celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over death and its darkness.

For the duration of eight days, we will celebrate the beautiful reality of Easter Sunday; it is the Easter Octave.

I would like to bring to your attention the example of a young man, a parishioner, who has not abandoned his normal sense of being a teenager and yet has done something rather incredible. Jack Bakshi is a senior at St. Charles Prep. He has served the Holy Mass for many years and has helped pioneer our Knights of the Altar serving corps for young men, as well as being a brilliant student and athlete. Last fall, Jack approached me and asked if I would be open to assisting young men in high school with their desire to become Catholic. He was not overbearing, nor did he slip away and become distant. Over the last seven-eight months, he encouraged, built bridges by presenting questions, kept open lines of communication and was a true friend and brother. While there were many involved in this process of formation and preparation, Jack was our local missionary, making sure St. Michael was the parish where these young men would find a home wherein, they could enter the faith. Now I know his parents and siblings would be quite ready to testify that Jack is a normal senior in high school and that is so true, for indeed he is. He is a NORMAL senior in high school who has allowed his faith to be alive and bring others to Jesus Christ in the Sacraments of our Holy Catholic Faith.

I share the example of Jack with you to highlight what and how we should define "normal" as Christians. It is normal to be who we are and yet to also live out our faith in service of the Lord and for the benefit of our neighbor. More than half of the just under 30 individuals who entered the Church last night did so at St. Michael because of Jack; because of one normal high school senior dude.

Jack will be graduating high school this spring and will soon go off to college. I'm asking the Lord to light a fire in our parishioners so that they may be just as alive and open to the Spirit as Jack – inviting, assisting, and accompanying those you meet into the Church next Easter. We don't have to be weird or abnormal in how we live out our faith, we just have to be alive and normal Christians giving witness to Jesus. Should someone ask or inquire, we only have to be generous in inviting them to learn more and become more.

We are a people of the Resurrection event, we have something to share with others and that which we must share is about what we proclaim, HE IS RISEN!

In Jesus our Lord,
Fr. Dailey





Name:

The Abbinante Family

Mr. & Mrs. Rich Agnello

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Basehore

Debra Benjamin

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Berglund, Jr.

Kathleen Bloomer

Cheryl Brown

Mr. David Cap

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Coldiron

The Cahall Family

Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Carrison

Dcn. John and Mary Crerand

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Cross

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Drenik

Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Dudley

Mr. & Mrs. Ian Farms

Mr. Michael Farms

The Fann Family

Mrs. Jeanne Ferkany

Mrs. Sharon Fricke

Mr. & Mrs. Godwin Gandu

Mr. & Mr. Stephen Gladysz

Dad and Melody

Mr. Howard Hartman

Ms. Rita Hollingsworth

Mr. Michael Jasiewicz

Mr. & Mrs. Jason S. Jourdan

Mrs. Cynthia Kalinoski

Ms. Mary Kane

In Honor / Memory of:

In Honor of Madalyn Grace Abbinante

In Honor of Rhys Edward Grunewald

In Honor of Karishma Mary Trushel

In Honor of Amanda Severt (Cheers)

In Memory of Bob Tofany, Bishop Kearney '75

In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Kuvinka
& Basehore Families

In Memory of Benjamin/Nagy Family

Len & Barbara Berglund & Lynn

George, Mildred & Robert Anderson

In Memory of Marie & Harry Bloomer

In Memory of Helen & Al Snyder

In Memory of Robert & Joan Brown

In Memory of Sara Lynn Brian

Matthew Coldiron

In Memory of Caroline Cahall

In Memory of Lori Ann Hartsough

In Memory of the Deceased Members of the
Crerand-Lavin Families

In Memory of Eugene & Virginia Fate

In Memory of Parents/Friends of the Drenik Family

In Honor of First Responders

In Honor of All Military Branches

The Dudley, Trybus, Sykes, Yormick & Swieca Families

In Memory of William R. Farms

In Memory of William R. Farms

In Memory of Tina Fann

In Memory of the Ferkany & Hoerig Families

In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Fricke & Mains Families

In Memory of Deceased Family Members and Friends

In Honor of our Children & Grandchildren

In Memory of Kathleen & Stanley Gladysz

In Memory of Karl & Flora Wuerfel

In Honor of Allyson Marie Gross

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Glen Hartman

In Memory of Daniel Hollingsworth

In Memory of the Deceased Members of the
Jasiewicz & Komperda Family

In Memory of Robert & Bonnie Wagner

In Memory of Tom Kalinoski

In Memory of Wilfred & Helen Kane

In Memory of Don & Jodie Munhall





Name:

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kazor

Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Kish
Mrs. Mary Lamatrice

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lanza

Mrs. Gail Loughlin

Mrs. Laurie Luft

Mrs. Rebecca Lund
Mary Maurer Family

Mr. Kevin McIver

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Meck

Mr. Thomas Messina
Mr. & Mrs. Miller
Mrs. Roselle Mishkind
Susan O'Donnell
Mrs. Juliana O'Leary

Mr. & Mrs. George Pavlick

Mr. Jeffery Pillivant
Mrs. Pierina Pizzuti
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Preston

Dan & Sarah Rankin
Ms. Mary Rayburn

In Honor / Memory of:

In Memory of Theodore, Angela & Terry Schlesinger
In Memory of Michael, Anne & Jon Kaczor
In Memory of Sophie Chvastek, Joseph & Frank Chaste
In Memory of Maureen Podlogar

In Memory of the Rankin & Kish Families
In Memory of Louis F. Lamatrice, Jr.
In Memory of the Lamatrice Family
In Memory of the Molnar Family
In Memory of Bernadine Riley

In Memory of the Salamony Family
In Memory of the Lanza Family

In Memory of Thomas Loughlin
In Memory of Lucian & Eleanor Klimas
In Memory of Joseph & Rosemarie Doersam
In Memory of Peter Luft

In Memory of David Rocchi
Living & Deceased Members of the Mosser & Oparowski Families
Living & Deceased Members of the Wilson & Maurer Families

In Memory of Jack & Charlotte McIver
In Memory of Francis G. McIver
In Memory of Terrence & Mary McIver
In Memory of Florian & Mary Szczpanek

In Memory of Wilbur Meck
In Memory of Eunice Meck
In Memory of Harry & Jeanne Cahill Hollern
In Memory of Steven Meck

In Memory of Monroe & Irene Wireman
In Memory of the Michael J. Miller Family
In Memory of Dr. Michael Mishkind
Tom & Margaret Eckenrode, Neil & Lorraine O'Donnell

In Memory of Mr. Thomas O'Leary
In Memory of Ms. Claudia Pena
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. James O'Leary
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Pena

In Memory of the Deceased Darlington Family Members
In Memory of the Deceased Pavlick Family Members

In Memory of Samuel Joseph Pillivant
Pasquale Pizzuti, Cesidio Pizzuti & Mario & Francesca

In Memory of Joseph & Helen Preston
In Memory of John & Sue Korte

In Memory of the Pitcock & Rankin Families
In Memory of Leon, Delphine & Patti Fox
In Memory of Peter Fox





Name:

Mr. & Mrs. John Romanoski

Mrs. Julie Roudabush

Rushia Family

Don & Cheryl Sands

Savko Family

Mr. & Mrs. Corey Schaal

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Schmitt

Mrs. Charlene Scott

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Simendinger

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Smiley

Ms. Ellen Sullivan

Mr. & Mrs. Armando Tempesta

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Tucker

Dr. & Mrs. Patrick Vaccaro

Mr. & Mrs. George Vais

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wade

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Wagner

Mr. & Mrs. James Williams

Kathryn Zaenger

In Honor / Memory of:

In Memory of the Deceased Romanoski Family Members

In Memory of the Deceased Salina Family Members

In Memory of the Roudabush/Walker Families

James Rushia

In Honor of our Children & Loved Ones

In Memory of Gerald & Frances Stucker

In Memory of Don & Mary Sands

In Memory of Adrianna Claire Savko

In Memory of Fred Zugaro

In Memory of Nick & Gilda Savko

In Memory of Paul Mortimer, Sr.

In Memory of Caroline Schmitt

In Memory of Josephine Schmitt

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Mayer

In Memory of Darrell J. Mayer

In Memory of David & June Scott

In Memory of Leslie Scott & Ric Blombaugh

In Memory of Helen Duft

In Memory of The Marcellus Geiger Families

In Memory of The John C. Miller Families

In Memory of Ross Smiley & Family

In Memory of Rev. Elder J. Miller

In Memory of Fr. Richard Pendolphi

In Memory of Domenica Canini

In Memory of Domenico Canini

In Memory of Antonio Tempesta

In Memory of Donata Tempesta

In Memory of Mom & Dad Quartarquo

In Memory of Kyle Ann Kowaleski

In Memory of Mary Therese Abel

In Memory of Zdenek Vais

In Memory of Marie Vais

In Memory of Miroslav Bartak

In Memory of Eliska Bartak

In Honor of Ike Wade

In Memory of Betty Byard

In Memory of Edmund and Doris Kowaleski

In Memory of Jack & Pat Wagner

In Memory of Mary Margaret Roach

In Memory of John Paul Roach

Leota Todd Williams

James R. Williams

In Memory of Robert & Barbara Hoffer



WHO IS FR. FLANAGAN, THE NEWEST AMERICAN VENERABLE?

**Pope Leo on Monday declared Fr. Edward Flanagan “Venerable,”
advancing the Irish-born Omaha priest one step closer to canonization.**

**Who was Fr. Flanagan? What is he known for? And what happens next?
The Pillar explains.**

Edward Flanagan was born in 1886 on a farm in Ireland, the eighth of 11 children. In 1904, he and his sister moved to the United States. He attempted seminary studies in America and then in Rome, but was forced to leave due to poor health. He eventually completed seminary and was ordained a priest in Austria in 1912.

Fr. Flanagan then returned to the U.S. He was incardinated in Omaha, where he had family members, including a brother who was also a priest. A series of natural disasters – including a tornado and drought – left many people in the area homeless and jobless in the years that followed. Flanagan worked to convert an old hotel, and later a boarding house, to offer shelter to them.

Over time, Flanagan became known for his work with youth. He was particularly concerned about at-risk boys. In 1917, he created an orphanage for boys. Within a year, he had 150 boys at the home. The project expanded, and in 1921, he founded the Boys Town on a farm just outside Omaha.



Fr. Flanagan. Credit: Archdiocese of Omaha

More than just an orphanage, Boys Town offered housing, schooling, spiritual formation, an opportunity to learn trades, and a junior government. Flanagan founded it on the motto that “There’s no such thing as a bad boy,” in contrast to the juvenile reformatories where delinquent boys were often sent.

Flanagan was later asked to help review models of care for orphans in other countries around the world. He died of a heart attack in 1948, while in Germany to assess child welfare conditions.

Is Boys Town still around?

Today, Boys Town is a national organization that offers a variety of services for children and families. These services include parenting classes, foster services, crisis response, and residential care for children and teens with behavioral and mental health challenges.

In addition, Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric care and conducts research on an array of pediatric health issues.

Boys Town says it operates today in all 50 states and has served more than 3.5 million children and families since its founding.

What was the process for Fr. Flanagan to be declared “venerable”? And what happens next?

Flanagan’s canonization cause was opened in 2012, and he was given the title “Servant of God.”

Both the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Vatican have investigated the priest’s life.

The announcement from Pope Leo Monday confirms Flanagan’s life of “heroic virtue,” bestowing on him the title “Venerable.”

Catholics can now pray to Flanagan and ask for his intercession. To be declared “Blessed,” a miracle would need to be investigated and confirmed as being attributed to the priest’s intercession. A second miracle would be required for him to be canonized a saint.

Credit: Michelle La Rosa - March 23, 2026 – The Pillar

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

“On the day of His Resurrection, Jesus Christ left in the tomb the shroud which is the symbol of our infirmities, our weaknesses, our imperfections. Christ comes from the tomb triumphant – completely free of earthly limitation; He is animated with a life that is intense and perfect, and which vibrates in every fiber of His being. In Him everything that is mortal has been absorbed by His glorified life.” +BLESSED COLUMBA MARMION

Monday, April 6 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:8-15 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce the news to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. The chief priests assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.’ And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present day.

Meditation: Have you ever asked what the basis of our faith is in the resurrection? The scriptures tell us that “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”(Hebrews 11:1). Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. Our faith is a free assent to the whole truth which God reveals to us through his word. Faith is certain because it is based on the very word of God who cannot lie. Faith also seeks understanding. That is why God enlightens the “eyes of our hearts” that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us (Ephesians 1:18). Peter the Apostle says we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Through the gift of faith, the Lord reveals himself to those who believe in his word and he fills them with “new life in his Holy Spirit”. Do you live in the joy and hope of the resurrection? And do you recognize the presence of the Risen Lord in his word, in the “breaking of the bread”, and in his church, the body of Christ?

Prayer: O God, who give constant increase to your Church by new offspring, grant that your servants may hold fast in their lives to the Sacrament they have received in faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Are you always prepared to meet the Risen Lord? The disciples of Jesus were as unprepared for his resurrection as they were for his death. The empty tomb made them fearful and joyful at the same time. “Where did they put the body or did he really rise just as he predicted?” Even though Jesus had spoken to them before of his death and rising, they could not believe until they saw the empty tomb and met the risen Lord. Aren’t we the same? We want to see with our own eyes before we believe! The guards brought their testimony to the chief priests and elders who met the news with denial. They were resolved to not believe that Jesus had risen and they bribed the guards in the hope of keeping others from believing.

Tuesday, April 7 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 20:11-18 Mary Magdalene stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are

you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he had told her.

Meditation: The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our hope – the hope that we will see God face to face and share in his everlasting glory and joy. "Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9). And so, do you recognize the Lord's presence with you, in his word, in the "breaking of the bread", and in his church, the body of Christ?

Prayer: O God, who have bestowed on us paschal remedies, endow your people with heavenly gifts, so that, possessed of perfect freedom, they may rejoice in heaven over what gladdens them now on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: How easy it can be to miss the Lord when our focus is on ourselves! Mary did not at first recognize the Lord because her focus was on the empty tomb and on her own grief. It took only one word from the Master, when he called her by name, for Mary to recognize him. Mary's message to the disciples, I have seen the Lord, is the very essence of Christianity. It is not enough that a Christian know about the Lord, but that we know him personally. It is not enough to argue about him, but to meet him. In the resurrection we encounter the living Lord who loves us personally and shares his glory with us. The Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to see the truth of his resurrection and victory over sin and death (Ephesians 1:18).

Wednesday, April 8 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his Body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Meditation: St. Augustine provides a reflection on the dimness of their perception: "They were so disturbed when they saw him hanging on the cross that they forgot his teaching, did not look for his resurrection, and failed to keep his promises in mind" (Sermon 235.1). "Their eyes were obstructed, that they should not recognize him until the breaking of the bread. And thus, in accordance with the state of their minds, which was still ignorant of the truth (that the Christ would die and rise again", their eyes were similarly hindered. It was not that the truth himself was misleading them, but rather that they were themselves unable to perceive the truth." (From The Harmony of the Gospels, 3.25.72) How often do we

fail to recognize the Lord when he speaks to our hearts and opens his mind to us? The Risen Lord is ever ready to speak his word to us and to give us understanding of his ways. Do you listen attentively to the Word of God and allow his word to change and transform you?

Prayer: O God, who gladden us year by year with the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection, graciously grant that, by celebrating these present festivities, we may merit through them to reach eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: We often wonder how it would have been difficult for the disciples to recognize the risen Lord. To put it simply, Jesus' death scattered his disciples and shattered their hopes and dreams. They had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. They saw the cross as defeat and could not comprehend the empty tomb until the Lord appeared to them and gave them understanding. Jesus chided the disciples on the road to Emmaus for their slowness of heart to believe what the scriptures had said concerning the Messiah. They did not recognize the risen Jesus until he had broken bread with them. Do you recognize the Lord in his word and in the breaking of the bread?

Thursday, April 9 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:35-48 The disciples of Jesus recounted what had taken place along the way, and how they had come to recognize him in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Meditation: Isn't amazing how much we are like the apostles? We won't believe unless we can see with our own eyes. The gospels attest to the reality of the resurrection. Jesus goes to great lengths to assure his disciples that he is no mere ghost or illusion. He shows them the marks of his crucifixion and he explains how the scriptures foretold his death and rising. Jerome, an early church bible scholar, comments: "As he showed them real hands and a real side, he really ate with his disciples; really walked with Cleophas; conversed with men with a real tongue; really reclined at supper; with real hands took bread, blessed and broke it, and was offering it to them...Do not put the power of the Lord on the level with the tricks of magicians, so that he may appear to have been what he was not, and may be thought to have eaten without teeth, walked without feet, broken bread without hands, spoken without a tongue, and showed a side which had no ribs." (*From a letter to Pammachius against John of Jerusalem 34, 5th century*)

Prayer: O God, who have united the many nations in confessing your name, grant that those reborn in the font of Baptism may be one in the faith of their hearts and the homage of their deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: A central teaching of the gospel is the cross; but it does not stop there. Through the cross Jesus defeated our enemies – death and Satan and won pardon for our sins. His cross is the door to heaven and the key to paradise. The way to glory is through the cross. When the disciples saw the risen Lord they disbelieved for joy! How can death lead to life, the cross to victory? Jesus shows us the way and he gives us the power to overcome sin and despair, and everything else that would stand in the way of his love and truth. Just as the first disciples were commissioned to bring the good news of salvation to all the nations, so, we, too, are called to be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to all who live on the face of the earth. Do you witness the joy of the gospel to those around you?

Friday, April 10 ~ The Octave of Easter

Holy Gospel: John 21:1-14 Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in

Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

Meditation: Why didn't the apostles immediately recognize the Lord when he greeted them at the Sea of Tiberias? John gives us a clue. He states that Peter decided to return to his home district of Galilee, very likely so he could resume his fishing career. Peter was discouraged and didn't know what to do after the tragedy of Jesus' death! He went back to his previous career out of despair and uncertainty. The other apostles followed him back to Galilee. When was the last time Peter was commanded to let down his net after a futile night of fishing? It was at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee when the Lord dramatically approached Peter in his fishing boat after a futile night of fishing and commanded him to lower his nets (see Luke 5:4-11). After the miraculous catch, Jesus told Peter that he would be 'catching people' for the kingdom of God. Now Jesus repeats the same miracle. John, the beloved disciple, is the first to recognize the Lord. Peter impulsively leaps from the boat and runs to the Lord. Do you run to the Lord when you meet setbacks, disappointments, or trials? The Lord is ever ready to renew us in faith and to give us fresh hope in his promises.

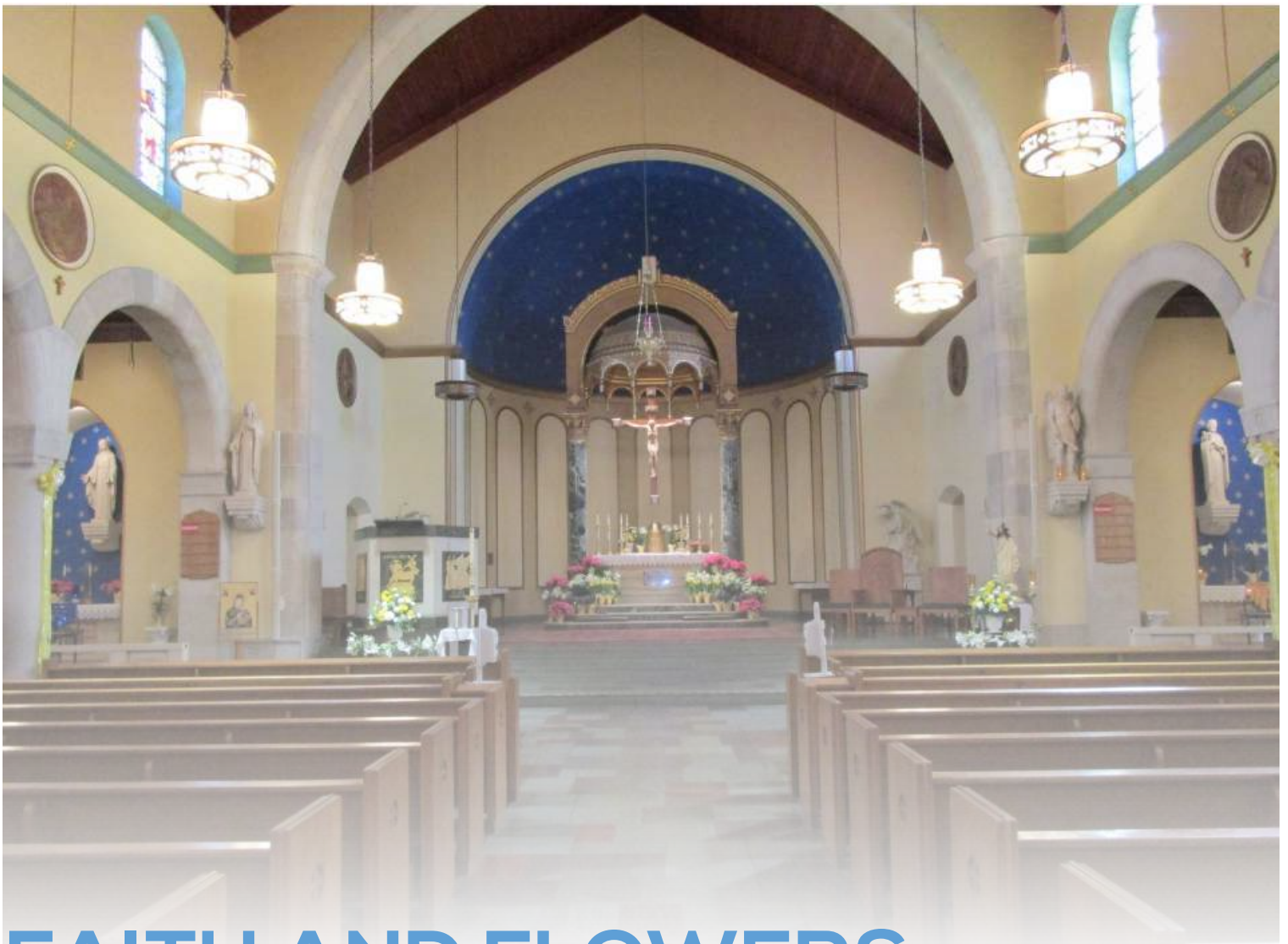
Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who gave us the Paschal Mystery in the covenant you established for reconciling the human race, so dispose our minds, we pray, that what we celebrate by professing the faith we may express in deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Skeptics who disbelieve the resurrection say the disciples only saw a vision of Jesus. The gospels, however, give us a vivid picture of the reality of the resurrection. Jesus went out of his way to offer his disciples various proofs of his resurrection – that he is real and true flesh, not just a spirit or ghost. In his third appearance to the apostles, after Jesus performed the miraculous catch of fish, he prepared a breakfast and ate with them. Peter's prompt recognition of the Master and exclamation "It is the Lord!" stands in sharp contrast to his previous denial of his Master during the night of Jesus' arrest. The Lord Jesus reveals himself to each of us as we open our hearts to receive his word. Do you recognize the Lord's presence in your life? Do you receive his word with faith? Are you open to conforming your mind and heart to that of Jesus Christ, so that you can follow him with love as a true disciple?

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FAITH AND FLOWERS: SPECIAL RULES KEEP GOD'S HOUSE SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL

By Carol Glatz – March 10, 2026 – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Catholic News Services

March 10, 2026 VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Of the many traditions and penitential practices observed during the season of Lent, one of the more visible is the stark change in church decor and a complete absence of flowers.

That shift was markedly noticeable during Pope Leo XIV's series of pastoral visits to different parishes in Rome.

He started the weekly Sunday visits February 15, before Lent, and the areas around the altar in the Church of Santa Maria Regina Pacis in Ostia Lido were resplendent with bright yellow and white blooms and lush greenery.

Then, after Ash Wednesday, February 18, each church visit has featured an altar and surroundings to be somberly bare of all floral decorations.

"Using flowers is absolutely forbidden" during the season of Lent, according to Micaela Soranzo, a professor and expert in liturgy and religious architecture.

However, this doesn't mean the church should be devoid of greenery, as small plants or simple compositions made up of leaves and branches are permissible, Soranzo told Catholic News Service in an interview in 2019. She has since published a book on the subject, "Il giardino del cielo. Arredo floreale e liturgia," (The Garden of Heaven: Floral decoration and the liturgy.)

Even fruit and berries are acceptable adornments all year, and the cherry is particularly suitable for Lent because, as St. Augustine noted, its red pulp is a powerful symbol of Christ's Passion and the pit recalls the wood of his cross, said Soranzo, who has also worked for the liturgy office of the Italian bishops' conference for two decades.

A modest display of flowers during Lent is possible on "Laetare" (Rejoice) Sunday, the fourth Sunday in the season, when the liturgical vestments change from purple to rose. This sudden visual variation is meant to strike the faithful that something new and joyful is approaching as Easter draws near, she had told CNS.



Volunteers organize trays of flowers on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 19, 2025, as part of the preparations for Easter Mass. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

On Easter day, there is a true "explosion of flowers," representing new life and "light," which means the predominant colors should be yellow and white, she said. All the other colored blossoms and plants are there "to give the idea of a garden, the garden of the Resurrection," she said.

For the Catholic Church, those sprigs, sprays and bouquets adorning church interiors are meant to bring deeper meaning and attention to the liturgy and the key elements inside each place of worship, Soranzo said.

"The liturgy needs the language of flowers" because they complement "the immobility of the architecture" and church furnishings with their ability to appropriately represent different feast days and the changing cycle of seasons both in nature and the liturgy, she said.

"Flowers are meant to be an integral part of the liturgy," Soranzo said, "not filler."

In fact, when the true purpose of floral arrangements is misunderstood, churches run the risk either of being bereft of any gift of nature presented in homage to Christ or of being turned into a greenhouse "obstacle course" with pots and plants placed in every available space, she said.

The topic is so important that the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and bishops' conference guidelines include norms on the appropriate use of floral decoration, said Soranzo.

Like all adornments, flowers and plants must not ignore or detract from the symbolic and theological meaning of sacred spaces and furnishings, and they should highlight – not hide – the altar, the ambo and the baptismal font, said Soranzo.

The altar – the table of the Lord – is Christ; the ambo – from where the word of God is proclaimed – is the visible image of Christ resurrected; and the baptismal font is where God's children are welcomed into the Church, she said.

The need to focus on Christ and his sacrifice means only those elements necessary for the eucharistic celebration should be on the altar, she said, which means flowers should be placed near or next to the altar, never on top – unless the altar is so large that a small arrangement would not be in the way.

Potted plants with roots should never be used near the altar – only cut flowers to represent life "that is sacrificed," like the sacrifice of the Eucharist, she said. That is also why no artificial flowers or fake candles should ever be used, she said, because objects near the altar must always be things that "are consumed," depleted and fade away.

The use of flowers also should reflect the hierarchy of what is most important in the church, she said; for example, "it is not right if there are more flowers adorning the statue of the patron saint than the altar."

Soranzo said that a frequent concern of sacristans and parish workers in Italy is the high cost of floral decorations.

She said she tells them, "We must recognize that nature offers us so much," not just the usual hothouse flowers and expensive imports.

"Creation is so beautiful and wide. The Lord really gave us a lot," she said.

Parishes can keep their costs down by working with florists or farmers and using what is available in their community, said Soranzo. Sometimes the greater the challenge – be it low budgets, high snowdrifts or long droughts – the more room for creativity.

"Often simplicity is what makes a composition more beautiful," she said.

The aim, she said, is to create a space where a person of faith or a visitor walks into church and says, "'How beautiful it is to be here.' It has to feel welcoming and flowers help do that."



A statue of St. Peter frames the flowers decorating St. Peter's Square during the celebration of Easter Mass at the Vatican March 31, 2024. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

AROUND THE PARISH



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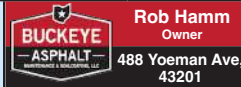
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