



St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church Wyalusing

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Extends a Warm Welcome to All



Mission Statement: We bring together a parish family to worship God, to evangelize the community, to encourage participation of youth and young adults in parish life, to pass on our faith to the next generation, to respect life and be good stewards of God's gifts.

PASTOR

Rev. Jose Joseph
Kuriappilly

PARISH SECRETARY

Kathy Stoddard

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Tammy Tewksbury

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Alice Berger

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.

Cathy Hagadorn

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTOR

Ann Marie Kusmierz

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Free Will

From the first days of creation, humans took advantage of their free will and sinned against God. But God so loved the world that God sent the Son to be born into the world, to suffer and die to atone once and for all for our sins, and to be raised up so that all may have eternal life. The Holy Spirit draws us here each week to allow us to express our love for God in the way that we worship God and the way that we treat each other. On this Laetare (“Rejoice!”) Sunday, we are reminded of God’s unparalleled love and mercy and ultimate purpose for us all.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 10, 2024

Mass Schedule at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wyalusing

Saturday Vigil – 6:00 PM Sunday – 11:00 AM

Wednesday & Friday – 12:00 Noon

Holy Days: 12 Noon

Confessions: 5:30 PM Sat. & 10:30 AM Sun.

***OR AS SCHEDULED INSIDE BULLETIN

Mass Schedule at SS Peter & Paul Church, Towanda

Saturday Vigil – 4:00 PM Sunday – 9:00 AM

Monday- No Mass

Tuesday – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday – 8:30 AM

Website: sspeterandpaulchurch.net -570-265-2113

READINGS

MARCH 11TH

MONDAY

ISAIAH 65:17-21

JOHN 4:43-54

MARCH 12TH

TUESDAY

EZEKIEL 47:1-9, 12

JOHN 5:1-16

MARCH 13TH

WEDNESDAY

ISAIAH 49:8-15

JOHN 5:17-30

MARCH 14TH

THURSDAY

EXODUS 32:7-14

JOHN 5:31-47

MARCH 15TH

FRIDAY

WISDOM 2:1A, 12-22

JOHN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

MARCH 16TH

SATURDAY

JEREMIAH 11:18-20

JOHN 7:40-53

MARCH 17TH

SUNDAY

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

HEBREWS 5:7-9

JOHN 12:20-33

PARISH BULLETIN CALENDAR

COMING EVENTS, MEETINGS, GATHERINGS, ETC.

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY: ROSARY AT 11:00 AM, ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT 11:30, MASS TO END ABORTION AT 12:00 NOON

ALL FRIDAYS DURING LENT- ROSARY AT 11:00 AM, STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 11:30, MASS AT 12:00 NOON

FIRST FRIDAY & FIRST SATURDAY: MASS AT SS PETER & PAUL AT 8:30 AM

FEBRUARY 13TH THRU MARCH 25TH - FATHER JOSE – RECTORY, SET COOK

SAT. & SUN., MARCH 9TH & 10TH – CRYSTAL SALSMAN, DIRECTOR OF ENDLESS MOUNTAINS PREGNANCY CARE CENTER WILL SPEAK AT MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH – PENANCE SERVICE AT 4:00 PM AT SS PETER & PAUL, TOWANDA

MARCH 12TH – DECEMBER 12TH NINE-MONTH NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH – MASS AT 5:30 & PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH- ANNUAL PICNIC MEETING AT 5:30 PM IN HALL

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH –PALM SUNDAY – 11:00 AM PROCESSION WITH PALMS FROM THE HALL TO CHURCH.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH- PENANCE SERVICE AT 2:00 PM AT ST. BASIL'S DUSHORE

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH – MASS AT 6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH- MASS AT 3:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH – BLESSING OF THE BASKETS AT 10:00 AM AT SS PETER & PAUL

HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL – MARCH 30TH – MASS AT 8:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31ST – MASS AT 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH – MASS AT 5:30 & FINANCE MEETING AT 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH – FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT 11:00 AM MASS

St. Mary's continues to be open from 8 AM to 2 PM weekdays. Please stop in and enjoy the real presence of Jesus in the tabernacle, especially during this Lenten season. Our thanks to Alice Berger for opening the church for us.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF MARCH 11TH – MARCH 17TH 2024

| | INTENTION | OFFERED BY |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Wednesday, March 13th 5:30 PM | Healing of Bill Walters | Kilmer Family |
| Friday, March 15th 12:00 Noon | Repose of the Soul of Ruth Bedard | Larry & Marilyn Burke |
| Saturday, March 16th 6:00 PM | Repose of the Souls of Norman and Doris Kunkle | Family |
| Sunday, March 17th 11:00 AM | Repose of the Soul of Ron Harvat | Tom & Elaine Harvat |

MINISTRY

Lector Schedule

Sat., Mar. 16th
6:00 PM
Eva Weaver

Sunday, Mar. 17th
11:00 AM
Lou Ann Kilmer

OUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Monthly Financial Obligations - \$4,000.00

General Collection Mar. 2nd & 3rd 2024 = \$3,898.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our Parish!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED – Raymond Tenasco who recently passed away.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ENTRUSTED IN OUR PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Tolise Otis, Bob Franko, Ivette Gonzalez, Richard Bennett, Ginny Amoroso, William Walter, Jr., Chuck Bullock, Joan Abrey, John Armitage, Donna Elchin, Suky Burgess, Kelly Kulsicavage, Joe Friery, Joyce Hussong, Irene McMahon, Grace George, Marian Miller, Fred Storey, Stephanie McDevitt, Barbara Bodine, Cathy Stienbaugh, Sue Mullen, Mary Salay, Robert Gaumer, Silver Dempsey, Jean Caine, James Perella, Tammy Trauger, Paul & Sandra McIntyre, Keensley Middlecamp, Carmel Buneo, and Tina Clapper.

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the Sick, we ask that You restore Your servants to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge Your holy will and know that whatever You do, You do for the love of us. Amen.

Sick, Hospitalized and Homebound, Please call office or notify Father Jose.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn in loving memory throughout the entire month of March 2024 for Rose Belcher by the Kusmierz Family. Please remember Rose in your prayers.



*The Sanctuary Lamp
The light that
symbolizes the
Eternal Sacrifice*

SERVERS

Sunday, March 17th
Trowbridges

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP WK OF 3/3/24

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Loose | 152.00 |
| Offertory Env | 3,323.00 |
| Dues | 53.00 |
| Ash Wed. | 5.00 |
| Easter Flowers | 115.00 |
| Easter | 250.00 |

Total Offering to Parish
General Fund

\$3,898.00

National Collections

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Care & Edu. | 73.00 |
| Holy Land | 35.00 |
| Rice Bowl | 50.00 |
| Social Serv. | 40.00 |
| Total | \$198.00 |
| Building | 10.00 |
| Cemetery | 35.00 |
| Total | \$45.00 |

TOTAL DEPOSITS
\$4,141.00

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a Pastoral Council Meeting on Wed., March 13th at 6 PM held in the office, after the 5:30 PM Mass.

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

It's time to start planning our annual picnic fundraiser. A meeting will be held Tuesday, March 19th at 5:30 PM in the Hall. Talk among those who have organized the picnic in previous years is that backs are not so strong and feet are not so steady anymore. We need some younger bodies to be able to carry on this tradition or ideas for an alternate fundraiser. PLEASE COME!

INQUIRING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Do you have questions about God or the Catholic faith or do you know someone who does? If you are interested in entering the Catholic Church or receiving Confirmation, or you're just curious about Catholicism, please contact Mike Kilmer at 570-721-0872 or mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com to get started.

RECTORY, SET, COOK CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER JOSE AND TEAM BRADFORD FOR PLACING 6TH SO FAR AND RAISING \$4,955.00 IN THE COOK-OFF. (Fr. Jose, Fr. Shinu, Fr. Tony Mathew, Fr. Toomey, and Fr. Binesh) We still have time to donate through March 25th.

The Dish Father Jose & his team prepared was the delicious Kerala Shrimp Roast and Kerala-Style Chicken Biryani. The St. Agnes Students gave it a thumbs up!

Please help Father Jose and Team Bradford by donating on-line to Diocese of Scranton and select your "favorite Chef" and complete the donation information. You can also vote by writing a check to Our Lady of Perpetual Help or Father Jose Kuriappilly and on the memo line write TEAM BRADFORD. You may put your check in the offertory basket or drop off at the Office. Donations will benefit Catholic Social Services', Food Kitchens and Pantries, and Men's and Women's Shelters. All donations are tax deductible. Please support Father Jose and Team Bradford!

A Note from the Finance Council:

Several weeks ago, the Diocese asked us to publish a five-year trend analysis in our weekly bulletin. (A copy of this analysis is reprinted on the reverse.) There was some confusion as to what this information meant to us as a parish, and we'd like to clarify a few points.

- From 2019 – 2022, our financial report includes all of St. Joachim collections and expenses. The 2023 column shows just St. Mary of the Assumption.
- The line item for Designated Expenses includes all of the transfers from St. Mary's to St. Joachim's (\$195,015) and the St. Anthony Cemetery Association (\$8,689). These are not true expenses – they are simply cash transfers.
- Although we showed a deficit of \$130,649, this is not a true deficit. When we add back the cash transfers, we actually show a net surplus of \$73,055.
- The unpaid Diocesan obligations is the amount of designated collections (second collections) that was received by the parish, but not yet remitted to the Diocese as of our fiscal year end of 6/30/23

Our current collection goal is estimated to be \$4,000.00 per week. Total budgeted expenses for the fiscal year 2023 – 2024 are approximately \$200,000. These expenses break down weekly as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Clergy salary and expenses | \$1,278 |
| Diocesan assessments | 1,071 |
| Administrative expenses | 268 |
| Grounds & building maintenance | 637 |
| Insurance & taxes | 265 |
| Other | 481 |
| TOTAL | <u>481</u> \$4,000 |

If you have any other questions about this analysis, please feel free to reach out the Finance Council for further clarification.

Parish Financial Report
Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wyalusing
TREND ANALYSIS

| | Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30 | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Collections | 172,394 | 216,842 | 183,410 | 197,137 | 196,072 |
| Faith Formation Fees | - | 2,150 | 404 | 933 | 1,003 |
| Fundraising/Development | 23,624 | 45,168 | 31,474 | 21,302 | 58,730 |
| Other Income | 55,063 | 66,874 | 45,662 | 16,181 | 6,917 |
| Designated Income/Grants/PPP Loan | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transfers Savings Account/Other | 4,616 | 4,681 | 51,000 | 36,857 | 60,000 |
| Diocesan Special Collections | 4,440 | 9,707 | 7,163 | 9,114 | 12,609 |
| Total Revenue | 260,137 | 345,421 | 319,113 | 281,524 | 335,331 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Administration | 99,183 | 95,073 | 129,363 | 119,550 | 123,738 |
| Rectorry | 2,462 | 2,438 | 6,849 | 9,187 | 9,366 |
| Liturgy | 8,408 | 7,692 | 13,801 | 29,855 | 28,996 |
| Faith Formation | 7,838 | 8,774 | 3,410 | 3,572 | 6,647 |
| Social Justice | 2,523 | - | - | - | - |
| Operation & Maintenance of Plant | 31,543 | 59,733 | 54,269 | 70,694 | 69,636 |
| Fixed Expense | 13,147 | 27,763 | 32,225 | 32,454 | 26,577 |
| Debt Service | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Outlays | - | - | - | 10,500 | - |
| Designated Expenses /Transfers Out | 203,458 | 5,140 | 5,000 | 11,452 | - |
| Catholic School Assessment | 20,911 | 18,840 | 21,012 | 21,144 | 20,397 |
| Diocesan Special Collections Remittance | 5,017 | 10,296 | 6,505 | 9,067 | 12,145 |
| Total Expense | 394,489 | 235,748 | 272,434 | 317,475 | 297,502 |
| Parish Surplus/(Deficit) - CASH Basis | (134,352) | 109,673 | 46,679 | (35,951) | 37,829 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations ** (SEE NOTE) ** | 3,703 | (3,703) | 1,615 | - | 10,411 |
| Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit) | (130,649) | 105,970 | 48,294 | (35,951) | 48,240 |
| **NOTE** | | | | | |
| Outstanding Diocesan Obligations could include: Diocesan assessments, School assessments, health insurance, self-insurance, pension and other expenses. | | | | | |
| End of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations | - | 3,703 | (1,615) | - | - |
| Beginning of Year Unpaid Diocesan Obligations | 3,703 | - | - | - | 10,411 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Unpaid Diocesan Obligations | 3,703 | (3,703) | 1,615 | - | 10,411 |
| Diocesan Loan/Debt | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

REPENT

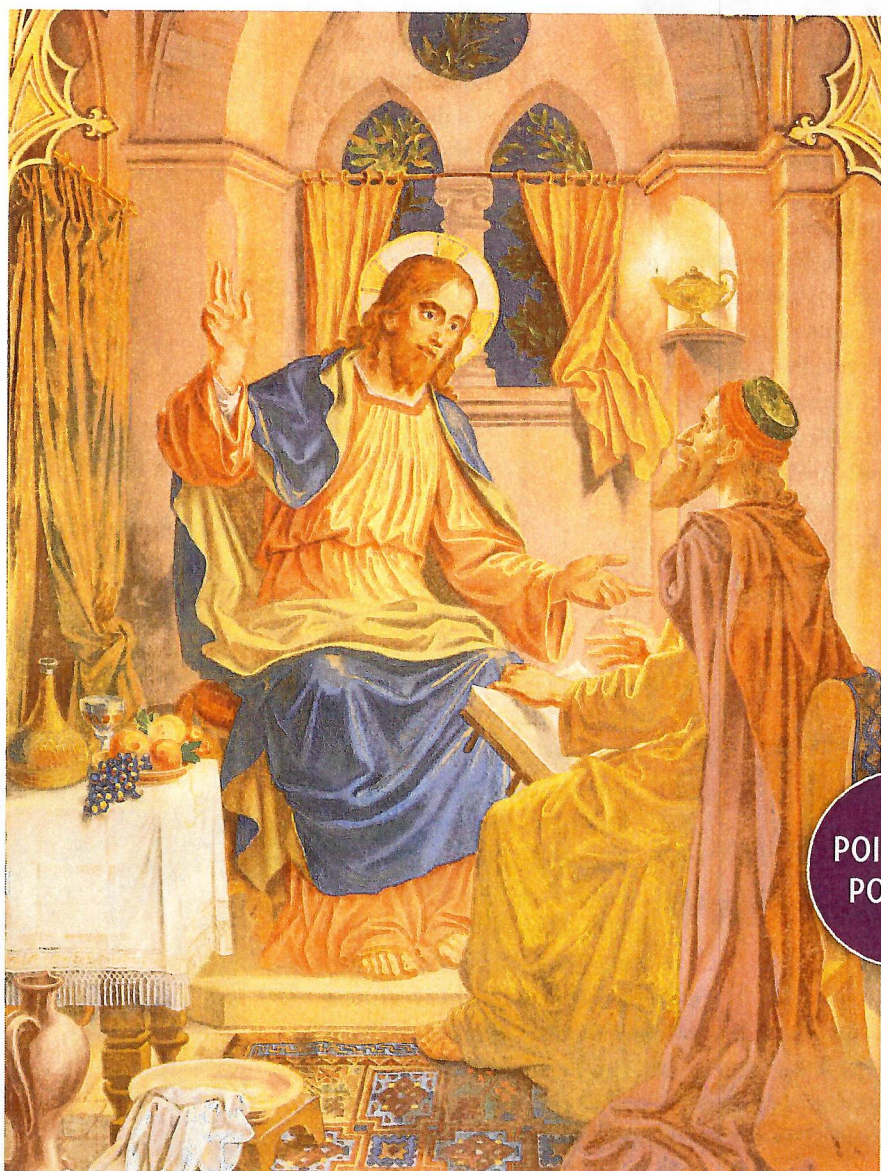
Meditations for the
Season of Lent

AND BELIEVE

The Name of the Son

John 3:14–21

The events that give rise to the teachings in today's Gospel begin a few verses before when the Pharisee Nicodemus comes to visit Jesus secretly in the night. Nicodemus has heard about Jesus and is curious, but he is also afraid. He wants to believe, but he isn't quite ready to make a public commitment.



The people of the Gospels aren't so very different from us. Nicodemus is intrigued by Jesus but unwilling to be seen publicly with him. How often have you learned that someone you've known for a long time is or was raised as a Catholic? This is particularly true of famous people who are afraid that making their faith public will harm their careers. Sometimes we fall victim to this same temptation, hiding our faith out of fear. While we fear that we may be mocked or made fun of for our faith, in some parts of the world today people are being killed for their Christian beliefs. Truly the words of John 3:16 (*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life"*) are at the very center of our faith. The season of Lent is the perfect reminder that we are called to let our faith show in our daily lives — with joy and fervor!

POINTS TO PONDER

- Do the people I work with, go to school with, and spend free time with know that I am Catholic?
- Who encourages me most in my faith? Who can I encourage?
- "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light" (Jn 3:21). How can I come more closely to the light of Jesus this Lent?

CATHOLIC INSIGHTS

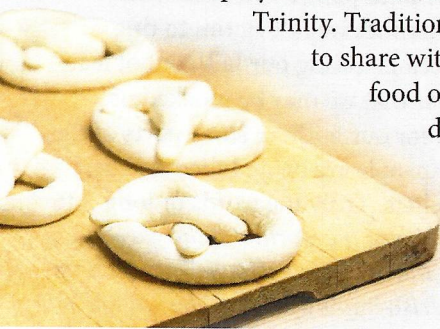
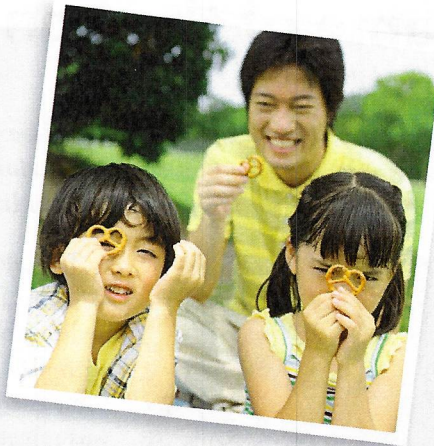
A Good Pharisee

Although the word “Pharisee” has come to have a negative connotation, not all Pharisees were wicked. Nicodemus, the curious Pharisee in today’s Gospel, was one of those who eventually followed Jesus. A member of the Sanhedrin, he defends Jesus when the chief priests are debating what to do with Jesus. And after the Crucifixion, along with Joseph of Arimathea, he brought about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloe to anoint Jesus’ body. Tradition says that he was martyred for the Faith.

FamilyActivity

Pretzel Prayers

Once considered the official Catholic food of Lent, pretzels date back at least 1,400 years. Because fat, eggs, and milk were part of the Lenten abstinence, these little bites of bread made only with flour, salt, and water were invented. They were wrapped in the shape of arms crossed in prayer, and the three holes in the middle represented the Trinity. Traditionally, pretzels were the perfect food to share with people who were struggling for food or living on the streets because they didn’t spoil easily. Make your own pretzels as a family (find a recipe on the Internet), and share them with someone in need in your neighborhood or community.



LENT PRAYER

Unto to you, I cry, my God!

“No one who lights a lamp hides it away or places it [under a bushel basket], but on a lampstand so that those who enter might see the light.” — Luke 11:33

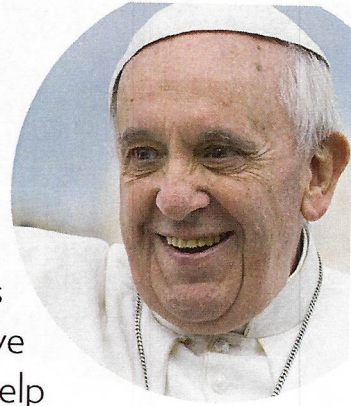
Lord, give me the courage to be a brave and bold witness to you in all that I say and do.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON The Color Purple

The liturgical color for Lent is purple, symbolizing pain, suffering, and mourning. But why purple? Purple was the most expensive color in biblical times. Extracted from a sea snail, it took as many as 12,000 shells to get enough dye to color a handkerchief. Because of the enormous cost, only the wealthiest wore purple garments. When soldiers mocked Jesus for being the “King of the Jews,” they put a purple robe on his shoulders to belittle his claim. Therefore, we use the color purple during Lent to remind us of the passion and death of the Lord.

“Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts.”

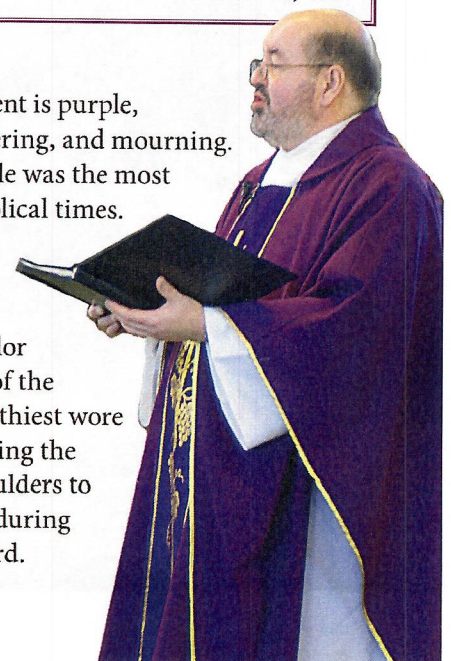
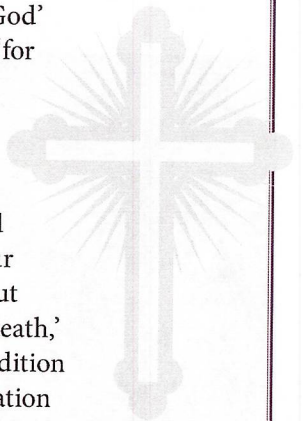
— Pope Francis



Catechism CONNECTION

“By the grace of God’ Jesus tasted death ‘for every one’” (Heb 2:9). In his plan of salvation, God ordained that his Son should not only ‘die for our sins’ (1 Cor 15:3) but should also ‘taste death,’ experience the condition of death, the separation of his soul from his body, between the time he expired on the cross and the time he was raised from the dead.”

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 624





**Prayer
of the Nine-Month Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe
12 March to 12 December, 2024**

O Virgin Mother of God, we fly to your protection and beg your intercession against the darkness and sin which ever more envelope the world and menace the Church. Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, gave you to us as our mother as He died on the Cross for our salvation. So, too, in 1531, when darkness and sin beset us, He sent you, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac to lead us to Him Who alone is our light and our salvation.

Through your apparitions on Tepeyac and your abiding presence with us on the miraculous mantle of your messenger, Saint Juan Diego, millions of souls converted to faith in your Divine Son. Through this novena and our consecration to you, we humbly implore your intercession for our daily conversion of life to Him and the conversion of millions more who do not yet believe in Him. In our homes and in our nation, lead us to Him Who alone wins the victory over sin and darkness in us and in the world.

Unite our hearts to your Immaculate Heart so that they may find their true and lasting home in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ever guide us along the pilgrimage of life to our eternal home with Him. So may our hearts, one with yours, always trust in God's promise of salvation, in His never-failing mercy toward all who turn to Him with a humble and contrite heart. Through this novena and our consecration to you, O Virgin of Guadalupe, lead all souls in America and throughout the world to your Divine Son in Whose name we pray. Amen.

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

*To be prayed daily throughout the nine-month novena
from March 12 to December 12, 2024.*



MOSAIC IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
CREATED BY THE VATICAN MOSAIC STUDIO
FOR THE CHURCH OF THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

