



**TRUSTING GOD IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE**

When we read the Book of Daniel, we hear the prayer of Azariah when he stands in the middle of the fire. The reason for them to be in the fire is Azariah and his companions had refused to worship the golden statue of the king. The fire was meant to destroy them and the heat was so intense. Humanly speaking, there was no way to escape. However instead of panicking, instead of blaming God, Azariah began to pray. This teaches us something important about faith. When many people face difficulty, their first reaction is to complain or to question God. But Azariah does something different. He turns toward God. Even inside the fire, he believes that God is still present. This is a deep lesson for us because sometimes we also experience our own "fires" in life. It may not be a furnace like Azariah faced, but it can be the fire of sickness, the fire of family problems, the fire of financial struggles, loneliness, or anxiety about the future. At such moments, we may feel trapped and helpless. But the prayer of Azariah reminds us that even when we are in the fire, God is not absent. Another beautiful thing we notice in this prayer is humility. Azariah does not say, Lord, we are innocent, we are good people so rescue us immediately. Instead he honestly admits the sins of the people. He says, We are brought low because of our sins. This humility is very important in our spiritual life. Many times we want God's help, but we do not want to acknowledge our weaknesses. True prayer begins when we stand before God with honesty. Azariah recognizes that the people have failed, yet he still trusts in God's mercy. Then he says something very touching. He tells God that they have no prince, no prophet, no sacrifice, no temple offerings. In other words, they have nothing to present before God. The usual religious practices are gone. All that remains is a contrite heart and a humble spirit. And he asks God to accept that humble heart as their sacrifice. And it is a powerful message for us, especially as we begin the Holy Week. Sometimes people think they can approach God only when everything in their life is perfect. They think, I will pray when I become better, or I will come closer to God when I have fixed my life. But the truth is that God does not first look at our achievements. He looks at our hearts. A humble heart, a sincere prayer, and a desire to follow Him. So dear friends the Word of God invites us to learn from Azariah. When we face difficulties, let us pray instead of complaining. Let us come to God with humble and contrite hearts. And above all, let us trust that the Lord who was present with His servants in the fire will also walk with us in every trial of our lives. Those who trust in Him will never be put to shame.

Amen.

Fr. Joseph Puthen

**Saturday, March 28**

5:00 p.m. † Manuela G. Mata by the family  
 † Arnulfo Requenez by the family

**Sunday, March 29**

8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS

9:30 a.m.(E) † Irene Barrera by the Barrera family  
 † Humberto Abrego by Ricki & Dolores Ramirez  
 † Amando Rodriguez, Sr. (birthday), Brian Garza (anniv) & Olivia Abrego (anniv) by the family  
 † Ramiro Cantu by the family

11:15 a.m. † Boerjan family members by the family

**Monday, March 30**

NO COMMUNION SERVICE

**Tuesday, March 31**

7:00 a.m. † Beatriz Ruiz by the family

**Wednesday, April 1**

7:00 a.m. †

12:05 p.m. †

**Thursday, April 2**

7:00 p.m. † Jessica Narvaez (birthday) by the Cantu family

**Friday, April 3**

NO MASS

**Saturday, April 4**

8:00 p.m. † Annabel Cuellar Munoz by the family  
 † Alberto Byington (birthday) by the family

**Sunday, April 5**

8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS

9:00 a.m.(E) † Merced Garza (anniv) by the family

11:15 a.m. † Eliezar Saenz, Jr. by the family



We praise you, O God,  
 for your redemption of the world  
 through your Son, Jesus Christ.  
 He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph  
 and was proclaimed Messiah and king  
 by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
 Just as we carry these branches,  
 may we follow Christ in the way of the cross that,  
 dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom;  
 through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns  
 with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

**Parish Tithes and Offerings Mar 21 & 22**

**Sacred Heart Parish**

**Regular Collection: \$3255.00**

**Online Giving: \$1432.10**

**St. Anne Mission**

**Regular Collection: \$153.00**



**Parish Meetings & Events**

- Mar 29 Palm Sunday**
- Mar 30-Apr 4 Holy Week—Check schedule**
- Apr 5 Easter Sunday**
- Apr 2-6 Parish Office will be closed for Easter Holidays**
- Apr 7 Knights of Columbus Officer Meeting: 7:00 pm Parish Hall**
- Apr 11 Altar Society Meeting @ 10:00 am**
- Apr 14 Guadalupanas Meeting at 6:00 pm Parish Hall**
- Apr 21 Knights of Columbus Meeting: 7:00 pm Parish Hall**



**~YOUTH NEWS~**

**Congratulations to our Students who were Confirmed:**

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Alek Cantu</b>     | <b>Aaron Garcia</b>    |
| <b>Jake Garcia</b>    | <b>Zoey Garcia</b>     |
| <b>Carlos Garza</b>   | <b>Akeysha Johnson</b> |
| <b>Catherine Lara</b> | <b>Kaitlyn Mireles</b> |
| <b>Colton Ramirez</b> | <b>Audrina Trevino</b> |

**Mia Vera**

**NO Religious Ed Classes  
April 1st— Holy Week**



**Knights of Columbus**

**Family of the Month**

**Jose & Jessica Peredes**



**Altar Society Schedule  
For the Month of March:  
have the privilege of cleaning the sanctuary:  
Enedelia S. & Joyce M.  
Cleaning the side altars:**

**Faith in the Present Tense**

**By Fr. Kevin O'Brien**

Our remembering this week is not mere nostalgia, recollecting the past as if scrolling through a catalog of distant memories. Instead, as we commemorate the Lord's entry into Jerusalem, the Passion and Resurrection, we recall past events in such a way that they are made present again. The opening proclamation of today's liturgy reminds us that we walk in Jesus' footsteps *today*. By God's grace, we continue to share in Christ's suffering and in his resurrected life. In other words, this week is present tense, as much as it is about the past and future. Too many are crucified today: those suffering mental or physical illness or battling addiction, those victimized by war and violence. The earth, too, is crucified by environmental degradation of many kinds. Christ's suffering is theirs. Christ's plea from the cross is echoed by today's crucified peoples. So, too, is the proclamation of Easter morning. We witness resurrection today in the hope-fueled perseverance of crucified peoples, in their selflessness in the midst of suffering, in the resilience of their faith, and in their wisdom, which sometimes only suffering can teach. We vow not to relegate the Paschal mystery to the past where it demands nothing of us. Instead, we hear and respond to cries in the present tense. We accompany those who suffer by taking them down from their crosses or by helping to carry them. Resting neither in the accolades of Palm Sunday or in the shadows of Good Friday, we walk with our neighbors in loving solidarity. In doing so, Easter breaks in *today*.

**Holy Week & Easter Schedule**



**Mar 29 Palm Sunday—Everyone will meet at the Parish Hall before each Mass (5:00pm 8:00am & 11:15am) and procession to the Church with palms**

**Mar 30 NO Communion Service**

**Mar 31 Masses 7 am & NO 12:05 pm**

**Apr 1 Masses 7 am & 12:05 pm;  
Tenebrae Service—7 pm**

**Apr 2 Holy Thursday—7 pm Sacred Heart Adoration till midnight**

**Apr 3 Good Friday—Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm  
Good Friday Liturgy in the Church.**

**Apr 4 Morning Prayer at 8:00 am in OLG Chapel  
Easter Vigil Mass at 8 pm**

**Apr 5 Easter—8:00 am; 9:30 am (St. Anne);  
11:15 (Sacred Heart)**

**Apr 2-6 Parish Office Closed for Easter**

# VOCATIONAL CROSS



## 5:00 p.m. Mass

Mar 21-Mar 28 Esmeralda Hinojosa  
 Mar 28-Apr 4 Edna Balderas  
 Apr 4-Apr 11 Claudia Cantu

## 8:00 a.m. Mass

Mar 22-Mar 29 Grace Charles  
 Mar 29-Apr 5 Enedelia Saenz  
 Apr 5-Apr 12 Lucy Flint

## 11:15 a.m. Mass

Mar 22-Mar 29 Omar & Missy Guerra  
 Mar 29-Apr 5 Pam Cabrera  
 Apr 5-Apr 12 Gilbert & Dominique Alegria

## **St. Anne Misson**

## 9:30 a.m. Mass

Mar 22-Mar 29 Alica Cantu  
 Mar 29-Apr 5 Beltrando & Nora Soliz  
 Apr 5-Apr 12 Diana Martinez



## **Prayers Before Mass**

Schedule for Saturdays at 4:25 pm

<b>MAR 07</b>	<b>Patti Ann Solomon</b>	<b>Lent 3rd Week STATIONS</b>
<b>MAR 14</b>	<b>Heather Cottingham</b>	<b>Lent 4th Week STATIONS</b>
<b>MAR 21</b>	<b>Mary Costley</b>	<b>Lent 5th Week STATIONS</b>
<b>MAR 28</b>	<b>E. Hinojosa/J. Mauldin</b>	<b>Lent 6th Week STATIONS</b>



## **March is dedicated to St Joseph**

O Glorious St Joseph, you were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the most pure spouse of Mary ever Virgin, and the head of the Holy Family. Therefore it is with great confidence that I implore your powerful assistance for the whole Church on earth. Protect in a special manner, with true fatherly love, the Pope and all bishops and priests in communion with the See of Peter. Dear St Joseph, accept the offering of myself that I now make to you. I dedicate myself to your service, that you may ever be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent love for the interior life. May all my actions, after your example, be directed to the greater glory of God, and pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death.



## Mar 29-Apr 11

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Church** is burning for:  
**Matilde Salazar**  
 By the family

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Guadalupe Chapel** is burning for:  
**Carlota & Rodolfo Garcia**  
 By Ana Lisa Vela & family

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Schoenstatt Chapel** is burning for:  
**Armando Garcia, Jr.**  
 By the family

The Sanctuary Candle in **St. Anne Mission** is burning for:  
**M/M Octavio Longoria**  
 By the family

## **Prayer Blanket Ministry**



This ministry will be making blankets for people in our parish who are seriously ill. These blankets will be blessed and given to everyone on our list. Prayer is very powerful and we ask everyone in our parish to pray for these individuals on the prayer list:



<b>3-29-26</b> Jesus Rosas, Jr. AJ Moreno	<b>3-22-26</b> Bianca Alegria Diana G. Cantu Alda Lopez Dorothy Torres Adan Moreno	<b>3-15-26</b> Jason Alegria Rodolfo R. Gutierrez
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**3-8-26**  
 Neri Almendarez  
 Grace Mora  
 Ana Narvaez  
 Adrian Reyes  
 Albert Villarreal  
 Diana Barrera  
 Yoli & Jesus Longoria  
 Lily Garcia  
 Nori Garcia  
 Marshal Ramirez  
 Kindra Vannest  
 Jacob Soliz  
 Benny Soliz  
 Rolando "R.D." Davila  
 Elva Del Bosque

**3-1-26**  
 Bel Rivera  
 Anna Rios  
 Aiden Villa  
 Ruben Garza  
 Letty Garcia  
 Joe B. & Elma Garcia  
 Margaret Solomon Story  
 Agueda A. Garza  
 Grace Zepeda