

Dear friends in Christ,

Last Saturday at St. Peter's Basilica, our Holy Father Pope Leo led a rosary for peace. The Holy Father has been prompting us most urgently to pray for this most precious gift. Pope Leo stands in a long line of popes, who have, in times of war, called the leaders of peoples and nations to work for peace with justice. At that gathering, he offered these words for our reflection:

*Your prayer is an expression of that faith which, according to the words of Jesus, moves mountains (cf. Mt 17:20). Thank you for accepting this invitation to gather here at the tomb of Saint Peter and in so many other places around the world to pray for peace. War divides; hope unites. Arrogance tramples upon others; love lifts up. Idolatry blinds us; the living God enlightens. My dearest friends, all it takes is a little faith, a mere "crumb" of faith, in order to face this dramatic hour in history together — as humanity and alongside humanity.*

*Prayer is not a refuge in which to hide from our responsibilities, nor an anesthetic to numb the pain provoked by so much injustice. Rather, it is the most selfless, universal and transformative response to death: we are a people who are already risen! Within each of us, within every human being, the interior Teacher teaches peace, urges us toward encounter and inspires us to make supplication. Let us rise from the rubble! Nothing can confine us to a predetermined fate, not even in this world where there never seem to be enough graves, for people continue to crucify one another and eliminate life, with no regard to justice and mercy.*

*In the context of the 2003 Iraq war crisis, Saint John Paul II, a tireless advocate for peace, said with deep emotion: "I belong to that generation that lived through World War II and, thanks be to God, survived it. I have the duty to say to all young people, to those who are younger than I, who have not had this experience: "No more war" as Paul VI said during his first visit to the United Nations. We must do everything possible. We know well that peace is not possible at any price. But we all know how great is this responsibility" (Angelus, 16 March 2003)....*

*Prayer teaches us how to act. In prayer, our limited human possibilities are joined to the infinite possibilities of God. Thoughts, words and deeds then break the demonic cycle of evil and are placed at the service of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom in which there is no sword, no drone, no vengeance, no trivialization of evil, no unjust profit, but only dignity, understanding and forgiveness. It is here that we find a bulwark against that delusion of omnipotence that surrounds us and is becoming increasingly unpredictable and aggressive. The balance within the human family has been severely destabilized. Even the holy Name of God, the God of life, is being dragged into discourses of death. A world of brothers and sisters with one heavenly Father vanishes, as in a nightmare, giving way to a reality populated by enemies. We are met by threats, rather than the invitation to listen and to come together. Brothers and sisters, those who pray are aware of their own limitations; they do not kill or threaten with death. Instead, death*

*enslaves those who have turned their backs on the living God, turning themselves and their own power into a mute, blind and deaf idol (cf. Ps 115:4–8), to which they sacrifice every value, demanding that the whole world bend its knee. Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war! True strength is shown in serving life. With evangelical simplicity, Saint John XXIII once wrote: "The benefits of peace will be felt everywhere, by individuals, by families, by nations, by the whole human race." And echoing the incisive words of Pius XII, he added: "Nothing is lost by peace; everything may be lost by war" (Encyclical Letter Pacem in Terris, 116). Let us, therefore, unite the moral and spiritual strength of the millions and billions of men and women, young and old, who today choose to believe in peace, caring for the wounds and repairing the damage left behind by the madness of war. I receive countless letters from children in areas of conflict. In reading them, one perceives, through the lens of innocence, all the horror and inhumanity of actions that some adults boast of with pride. Let us listen to the voices of children!*

*Dear brothers and sisters, there are certainly binding responsibilities that fall to the leaders of nations. To them we cry out: Stop! It is time for peace! Sit at the table of dialogue and mediation, not at the table where rearmament is planned and deadly actions are decided! Yet there is a no less significant responsibility that falls to all of us — men and women from all over the world. We are an immense multitude that rejects war not only in word, but also in deed.*

*Prayer calls us to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built up day by day — in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities. A Kingdom that counters polemics and resignation through friendship and a culture of encounter. Let us believe once again in love, moderation and good politics. We must form ourselves and get personally involved, each following our own calling. Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace! The Rosary, like other ancient forms of prayer, has united us this evening in its steady rhythm built on repetition. Peace gains ground in the same way: word by word, deed by deed, just as a rock is hollowed out drop by drop, or fabric woven stitch by stitch. These are the slow rhythms of life, a sign of God's patience. Dear brothers and sisters, let us return home having made a commitment to pray without ceasing and without growing weary, a commitment to a profound conversion of heart. The Church is a great people at the service of reconciliation and peace.... Brothers and sisters of every language, people and nation: we are one family that weeps, hopes and rises again. "No more war, a journey with no return; no more war, a vicious cycle of grief and violence," (Saint John Paul II, Prayer for Peace, 2 February 1991).*

*Dear friends, peace be with you all! It is the peace of the Risen Christ, the fruit of his sacrifice of love on the cross....*  
POPE LEO

Blessings on your week!  
Fr Johnson

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday, April 20

9:00 AM Daily Mass  
10:00 AM Women of Faith

### Tuesday, April 21

No Daily Mass  
5:30 PM Faith Formation K-6

### Wednesday, April 22

8:30 AM Confessions  
9:00 AM Daily Mass  
7:00 PM House of Prayer: No Greater Love  
7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal  
(for 11AM Mass)

### Thursday, April 23

9:00 AM Daily Mass  
12:15 PM Steps to Freedom  
1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle  
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
(for 9AM Mass)  
7:00 PM OCIA

### Friday, April 24

9:00 AM Daily Mass  
9:30 AM Adoration until 9PM  
10:00 AM Guardians & Angels

### Saturday, April 25

3:30 PM Confessions  
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass

### Sunday, April 26

9:00 AM Sunday Mass  
**Pizzo Scholarship Awards Ceremony  
& Pancake Breakfast after Mass**  
11:00 AM Sunday Mass  
**Pancake Breakfast after Mass**  
6:30 PM Teen Group



**PARTNERS  
IN THE GOSPEL**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

St Jude | Holy Innocents  
Mission Church of St. Anthony

## ASCEND: SECURITY VOLUNTEERS



# ASCEND

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

### **CATHOLIC LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS NEEDED FOR ASCEND SECURITY SUPPORT**

**Are you a Catholic law enforcement officer  
who may be willing to assist with security  
support for the upcoming  
ASCEND Eucharistic Revival  
on May 16, 2026 in Bellevue?**

ASCEND is expected to welcome thousands of attendees from across the region for a day of prayer, worship, formation, and fellowship. We are seeking Catholic law enforcement officers who may be interested in serving in a volunteer security role during a portion of the event.

Volunteers will still be able to participate in and enjoy much of the event with their families while offering this important support. For security reasons, details regarding volunteer responsibilities and timing will be shared privately with those who inquire.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mark Sizemore at [childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org](mailto:childfamilyministry@saintbrendan.org)

## COFFEE & DONUTS MINISTRY

### Coffee & Donuts Volunteers Needed!

Our Sunday Coffee & Donuts fellowship is such a special part of parish life. It is a chance to connect, welcome one another, and build community after Mass.



We have a few weeks until we take a break and would love to finish the season strong with a full team of volunteers. Help is needed with picking up donuts, setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the Sunday Masses.

If you would like to join this ministry, we would be so grateful for your support. It is a simple but meaningful way to serve and bring people together.  
Contact [bettyreyes@stjude-redmond.org](mailto:bettyreyes@stjude-redmond.org)