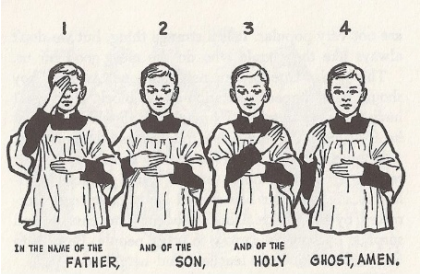
MARCH 2026
@ St Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Mableton, GA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Second Sunday in Lent** 7 am Mass (frh) - church 8 am Mass (fra) - gym 9:15-10:10 am Youth Catechism 10:30 am sung Mass (fra) - gym 1 pm Mass (frh) - church	2 **Feria of Lent** 6:30 am Mass (frh) 9 am Mass (frf) 1 pm staff meeting	3 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frh) 12 noon Mass (frf)	4 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frh) 9 am Mass (frf) **7:30 pm Inquiry Class (frh)**	5 Feria of Lent/*pro episcopo* 6:30 am Mass (frh) 12 noon Mass (frf) 5 pm Vespers 5:30-8 pm Adoration 6-7 pm Confessions (frh)	6 Sacred Heart of Jesus 6:30 am Mass & devotions (frh) 7 pm Stations of the Cross & Mass (frf)	7 Immaculate Heart of Mary 7 am Mass & devotions (frh) 9 am Mass & devotions (frf) 10 am St Stephen's Guild **10 am Inquiry Class (frh)**
8 **Third Sunday in Lent** 7 am Mass (frh) - church 8 am Mass (fra) - gym 9:15-10:10 am Youth Catechism 10:30 am sung Mass (frf) – gym 1 pm Mass (frh) - church	9 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh) 1 pm staff meeting	10 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frf) 12 noon Mass (frh)	11 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh) **7:30 Inquiry Class (frf)**	12 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frf) 12 noon Mass (frh)	13 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frf) 7 pm Stations & Mass (frh)	14 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh) 9 am-1:30 pm FNE 10 am Martha & Mary Guild (sewers guild) **10 am Inquiry Class (frh)**
15 **Fourth Sunday in Lent** 7 am Mass (frh) - church 8 am Mass (frf) - gym 9:15-10:10 am Youth Catechism 10:30 am sung Mass (frf) - gym 1 pm Mass (frh) - church	16 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frh) 9 am Mass (frf) Fr Duffy flies in 1 pm staff meeting	17 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frh) 12 noon Mass (frd) **7-9 pm Parish Mission (1/3)** (in the church - talk, adoration & confessions)	**18** **Feria of Lent** 6:30 am Mass (frh) 9 am Mass (frd) **7-9 pm Parish Mission (2/3)**	**19** **St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM** 6:30 Mass (frh) 12 noon Mass (frd) 1 pm St Gerard Guild **7-9 pm Parish Mission (3/3)**	20 Feria of Lent 6:30 am Mass (frh) Fr Duffy flies out 7 pm Stations & Mass (frh)	21 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass (frh) 9 am sung Mass (frf) 10:30 am Confraternity of Christian Mothers **10 am Inquiry Class testing (frh & frf) TESTING!**
22 **Passion Sunday** 7 am Mass (frh) - church 8 am Mass (fra) - gym 9:15-10:10 am Youth Catechism 10:30 am sung Mass (frf) – gym 1 pm Mass (frh) - church	23 Monday in Passion Week 6:30 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh) 1 pm staff meeting **6-7 pm *Tenebrae* practice (1)**	24 Tuesday of Passion Week 6:30 am Mass (frf) 12 noon Mass (frh)	25 **Annunciation of BVM** 6:30 am Mass (frf) 12 noon (FrHeehan) **7:30 pm sung Mass (frh)**	26 Thursday of Passion Week 6:30 am Mass (frf) 12 noon Mass (frh) **6-7 pm *Tenebrae* practice (2)**	27 Friday of Passion Week 6:30 am Mass (frf) 4:30-6:45 pm FNE 7 pm Stations & Mass (frh)	28 Saturday of Passion Week 7 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh) **10 am Inquiry Class** (prepare for Holy Saturday frs h&f) **6-7 pm *Tenebrae* practice (3)**
29 **Palm Sunday** 7 am Bless Palms & Mass (frh) - church 8 am Mass (frf) - gym 10:30 am Bless Palms & Solemn Mass (frf, fra, Dc) - gym 1 pm Mass (frh) - church	30 Monday of Holy Week 6:30 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh) 1 pm staff meeting	31 Tuesday of Holy Week 6:30 am Mass (frh) 12 noon Mass (frf)	APRIL 1 Wednesday of Holy Week 6:30 am Mass (frh) 9 am Mass (frf)	2 **Holy Thursday (gym)** **10-11:15 am *Tenebrae*** **7:30 pm Solemn Mass (w/ foot washing) (frh, frf, Dc)**	3 [begin Divine Mercy Novena] **Good Friday (gym)** **10-11:20 am *Tenebrae*** **1-2 pm Confessions** **2 pm Stations (frf)** **3 pm Solemn Mass of the Presanctified (frh, frf, Dc)**	4 **Holy Saturday (gym)** **10-11:45 am *Tenebrae*** **12 pm decorate church** **12-2 pm churching** **9:30 pm Solemn Mass (frh, frf, Dc)**
5 **Easter Sunday** 8 am Mass (frh) - church 10:30 am sung Mass (frf) – church 1 pm NO MASS	6 **Easter Monday** 6:30 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh)	7 **Easter Tuesday** 6:30 am Mass (frf) 12 noon Mass (frh)	8 **Easter Wednesday** 6:30 am Mass (frh) 9 am Mass (frf)	9 **Easter Thursday** 6:30 am Mass (frf) 12 noon Mass (frh)	10 **Easter Friday** 6:30 am Mass (frf) 7 pm Mass & Holy Hour (frh)	11 **Easter Saturday** 7 am Mass (frf) 9 am Mass (frh)

(2/20/26)

The Sign of the Cross



Let us not dismiss the small but mighty Sign of the Cross in our Christian warfare.

"Never leave your house without making the sign of the cross. It will be to you a staff, a weapon, an impregnable fortress. Neither man nor demon will dare to attack you, seeing you covered with such powerful armor. Let this sign teach you that you are a soldier, ready to combat against the demons, and ready to fight for the crown of justice. Are you ignorant of what the cross has done? It has vanquished death, destroyed sin, emptied hell, dethroned Satan, and restored the universe. Would you then doubt its power? (St. John Chrysostom, 347-407 AD, Father & Doctor, Patriarch of Constantinople)

Five things to know about the Sign of the Cross:

1) **The Sign of the Cross is a sacramental**. It returns to us grace in proportion to our piety. Used with holy water this grace is compounded. Also, other sacramentals e.g., the Brown Scapular, Miraculous Medal, blessed candles, cost money; this one is free! A true DIY sacramental!

2) **Make the Sign of the Cross intentionally, not casually**. "When you sign yourself, think of all the mysteries contained in the cross. It is not enough to form it with the finger. You must first make it with faith and goodwill. When you mark your breast, your eyes, and all your members with the sign of the cross, offer yourself as a victim pleasing to God." (St. John Chrysostom) Again, the habitual practice of making the Sign of the Cross can become quick & sloppy. Adam was told to maintain & protect the Garden. Keep this in mind in making the Sign of the Cross: make it so it clearly communicates what it means to express; do not let routine cause weeds of bad habit to invade. If the manufacturer sent us a damaged crucifix, we'd stomp our feet & want another or our money back. What manner of the Sign of the Cross do we send to heaven?

3) **The Sign of the Cross is of ancient tradition**. "At every forward step and movement, at every going in and out, when we put on our clothes and shoes, when we bathe, when we sit at table, when we light the lamps, on seat, in all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign." (Tertullian, 160-240 AD) St. Basil (329-379 AD) writes that the Apostles "taught us to mark with the sign of the cross those who put their hope in the Lord," that is, those who presented themselves for baptism.

4) **The Sign of the Cross is a blessing**. Besides blessing themselves, priests often impart the Sign of the Cross over persons, places & things. It is ancient practice that parents bless their children. Aaron blessed his children saying, "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). Tobit blessed his son before his journey, "May God in heaven protect you on the way and bring you back to me safe and sound; may his angel accompany you" (Tobit 5:21). Parents should follow their example, using holy water, tracing the Sign of the Cross on their forehand saying the above or simply, "May God bless you in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

5. **The Sign of the Cross is a weapon against the devil**. Before Christ's coming, diabolical powers deceived souls into worshipping them & obeying their oracles. "But now, since the divine appearance of the Word (Christ), all this deception has come to an end. For by the Sign of the Cross, if a man will only use it, their deceptions are driven out." (St Athanasius, 296-373 AD) Again, it is profitable to make the Sign of the Cross whenever we feel spiritually attacked. In this, we may identify the mood or spirit e.g., "Spirit of anger, in the Name of Jesus, I throw you to the foot of the Christ to be judged there by God." This practice will dispel fear & inspire courage or, at least, reduce the angst to manageable levels.

To end, in 312 A.D., during a pitched battle for the Roman Empire, Constantine received a heavenly oracle, a cross in the sky & the words beneath, "***In hoc signo vinces***" (in this sign thou shall conquer). He ordered his men to put crosses on their shields and the battle turned to his favor winning him the empire which inaugurated a new era for the Christian Church.