

23 March 2025
III Sunday of Lent

Sunday Mass: Anticipated Sat. 4PM/Sun. 8AM Ancient Rite Latin Mass
Sunday 9:30AM (Live-streamed) & 11 AM
Confessions: Wed. & Fri. 6:30-6:55 PM/Sat. 7:30-7:55 AM
Sat. 2:30-3:30 PM & 6:30-7:30 PM

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Mon. 24 Mar. St. Gabriel the Archangel (Traditional Calendar)
8 AM Ancient Rite Latin Mass
For: Special Intention

TUE. 25 MAR. THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

8 AM For: Phillip Schultz (L.)
Req: Mr. & Mrs. Allen Kraeger
Holy Rosary for the Preborn & the Newborn

Wed. 26 Mar. St. Castulus, Martyr/St. Eutychius, Subdeacon Martyr
7 PM For: Jean Brennan+
Req: The Anderson Family

Thu. 27 Mar. St. Rupert of Salzburg, Bishop/Bl. Panacea de Muzzi, 15r old Martyr
8 AM For: Andrew McCauley+
Req: Frances McCauley

Fri. 28 Mar. St. Stephen Harding, Founder of Cistercian Monasteries
8 AM For: Timothy Secor+
Req: Mr. & Mrs. John Vanderhoof

Sat. 29 Mar. Bl. Berthold. Soldier who became a monk on Mt. Carmel
8 AM For: Special Intention

4 PM For: Christopher Dunn+
Req: Kathy Bonanza

Sun. 30 Mar. IV Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)
8 AM For: Timothy Sullivan+
Req: James Masset

9:30 AM For: The Parishioners of OLGCC

11 AM For: Bert+ and Charles "Pete" Baker+
Req: Their Daughters

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: TUE. 25 MARCH

Since we will be celebrating the Solemnity of the Annunciation that day, please save room for a Feast Day treat at class this evening. We Catholics believe in celebrating our Feasts!!!

Jr. High School Class: 7 PM

Adult Education: 8 PM

HOLY HOUR FOR OUR LADY'S SODALITY: THU. 27 MAR . 7 PM

The girls of Our Lady's Sodality have scheduled a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament to implore Our Lord for guidance in their choice of a vocation. All parishioners are welcome to come to this Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for peace in the Ukraine & Russia; peace in Palestine; peace in the Sudan, the Congo and other war-ravaged places; for the ending of abortion; for the persecuted Catholics of Nigeria, where a seminarian was killed this month; for the faithful Catholics of China, where an underground Bishop who refuses to join the state Church was arrested again; for the needs of the Church and for your own personal intentions.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, HOLY COMMUNION AND BENEDICTION

Every Friday evening during Lent at 7 PM. Have you walked with Our Lord on His sorrowful path to Calvary for you this Lent? Please do so this Friday.

FRIDAY ABSTINENCE

A reminder that for those 14 years of age and older, every Friday is a day of abstinence. That means that no meat may be eaten. The new (1983) Code of Canon Law differs from the older one (1917), in that it does not prohibit the use of gravy, sauce or broth made from meat.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR LENTEN PENANCE

“FAST” from using your phone as a source of entertainment, or diversion. Use it only for necessary communications. Limit your phone time to a specific amount of time, and do not use the phone outside those times.

RESTRICT your TV watching: instead of passing whole evenings in front of the screen, devote ½ hour to reading Sacred Scripture.

GIVE ALMS TO A WORTHY CHARITY: Some charities claim to be Catholic, but use your money for purposes which violate the teaching of the Church.

Here are a few charities that are sound in faithfulness to the teaching of Christ's Church:

Aid to the Church in Need: A Pontifical Agency supporting some of the most desperate areas of the Church in our time. 725 Leonard St., PO Box 220384, Brooklyn, NY 11222-0384.

Joseph's House for Women. Assisting women who have chosen to give birth rather than abort their babies. 802 Court St., Syracuse, NY 13208

Catholic Near East Welfare Association: A Pontifical Agency giving pastoral and humanitarian aid to the peoples of the Middle East. 220 E. 42nd St. New York City, NY 10017

The Sudan Relief Fund. One of the few relief organizations that has not abandoned the starving, sickened, war-ravaged people of the Sudan, who receive no mention in the western media. PO Box 7084, Merrifield, VA 22116.

RECENT CATHOLIC STATISTICS (Seminarians Decreased Each Year Since Pope Francis' Election)

The Catholic population of the world continued to grow by more than 1% and has now exceeded 1.4 billion. This is according to the latest data published in the Pontifical Yearbook (2025). The figures are for the year 2023.

It shows rapid growth of the Catholic population in Africa, with slower growth in the Americas and Asia, and almost no growth in Europe.

Africa, with a Catholic population growth rate of 3.3% in 2023, now accounts for 20% of the world's Catholics-almost as many as Europe, which is 20.4% Catholic. But with Europe's Catholic population growing by only 0.2%, Africa is likely to soon overtake Europe.

North and South America have the largest Catholic population, accounting for nearly half (47.8%) of the world's total. The growth rate was 0.9% there.

In Asia, the Catholic population grew by 0.6% and in Oceania by 1.9%. There were 406,996 priests in the world at the end of 2023; a decrease of 0.2% from the previous year. This trend is likely to continue, as the number of seminarians (106,495) also decreased by 1.8%.

There was an increase of 2.7% of the number of priests in Africa and a decrease of 1.6% in Europe.

The total number of seminarians worldwide decreased from 108,481 in 2022 to 106,495 in 2023. The number of seminarians has decreased every year since 2012. (Pope Francis became Pope in 2013).

The number of women religious (sisters) also decreased by 1.6% continuing a long-term trend.

In the United States, the number of converts to the Catholic Church in 1999 was 172,581. By 2022, the number had dropped to 72,212, a decline of 58%. A recently published Pew Study Survey reveals that for every one convert to the Church today in the United States, eight Catholics leave the Church.