

Lenten Mission

*Taking Time out to Listen, Reflect, Pray,
and be Spiritually Nourished*

with Deacon Raymond Frendo

Wednesday, March 20th (bilingual)
& Thursday, March 21st (bilingual)
Mass at 7:00 pm followed by the Sermon (English)

Friday, March 22nd
Bilingual Mass at 7:00, English Sermon within the Mass

Concluding with Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows
on the evening of the 22nd

EASTER FLOWER FUND

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every one of you for your generous contributions to the **Easter Flower Fund**. Your collective donation of **\$300** has allowed us to create **special floral arrangements** that will adorn our church and our altar of repose during this sacred season. While we still value the tradition of donating Easter lilies and I encourage you to continue doing so, the parish will also purchase other flowers like daffodils and hyacinths. These additional blossoms will help us emphasize the beauty and symbolism that flowers bring to our liturgical celebrations. It is important to note that these flowers are not just decorative, but they hold deep significance. Just as Christ's resurrection brings hope and renewal, the vibrant colors and delicate petals of our Easter flowers remind us of the promise of eternal life. Flowers emit a subtle fragrance, inviting us to pause, reflect, and connect with the divine. Their scent permeates the sanctuary, enveloping us in a sense of reverence. Each bloom carries meaning. The lily, for instance, symbolizes purity and the resurrection. Other flowers—such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths—contribute their own symbolism to our worship space. Flowers enhance our worship experience. Their presence invites us to lift our hearts in praise, drawing our gaze upward and reminding us of the beauty of God's creation.

As we gather in a few weeks for the celebration of Easter, let us appreciate the visual feast that surrounds us—the delicate petals, the vibrant hues, and the intricate designs. These floral arrangements are not mere adornments; they are vessels of prayer, connecting us to the mysteries we celebrate.

May the fragrance of these blooms uplift our spirits, and may their beauty lead us closer to the risen Christ.

Let's delve into the lives and significance of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, two revered saints in the Catholic tradition.

ST. PATRICK

KNOWN FOR:

- ◆ St. Patrick, also known as the Apostle of Ireland, is celebrated for bringing Christianity to Ireland during the 5th century. His missionary efforts played a pivotal role in converting the Irish people.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- *Shamrock Legend:* St. Patrick is often associated with the shamrock, which he used to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to the Irish.
- *Driving Out Snakes:* While the popular myth claims that St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland, it is more symbolic, representing his spiritual victory over paganism.
- *Lorica (St. Patrick's Breastplate):* A beautiful prayer attributed to him, the Lorica invokes God's protection and presence.

QUOTES:

- "May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and forevermore."
- "Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me."
- ◆ "I am certain in my heart that all that I am, I have received from God."
- ◆ "Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me."
- ◆ "I am Patrick, yes a sinner and indeed untaught; yet I am established here in Ireland where I profess myself bishop. I am certain in my heart that 'all that I am,' I have received from God. So I live among barbarous tribes, a stranger and exile for the love of God."

ST. JOSEPH

KNOWN FOR:

- ◆ St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, is revered as a model of humility, obedience, and faithfulness. He cared for Mary and Jesus, protecting them and providing for their needs.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- *Silent Saint:* St. Joseph is often called the "silent saint" because the Bible records no spoken words from him. His actions, however, speak volumes.
- *Dreams and Obedience:* St. Joseph received divine guidance through dreams, such as when he took Mary as his wife and fled to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod's wrath.
- *Patron Saint:* St. Joseph is the patron saint of workers, fathers, families, and the universal Church.

Both St. Patrick and St. Joseph exemplify unwavering faith, selflessness, and devotion to God. Their lives continue to inspire believers across generations.