

FAITH MATTERS



Father Paul Gary is joined by Pat Brownd and Nilda Monserrate at our parish Lenten Retreat that took place on Saturday, February 21. See more photos on page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE

[Lenten Retreat Recap](#)

[Saint Óscar Romero](#)

[Ask Father Templeton](#)

[Red Cross Blood Drive](#)

[March Calendar](#)

Parish Lenten Retreat

A Day of Forgiveness and Reflection

On Saturday, February 21, almost 50 parishioners gathered at the Shannamara Clubhouse for our annual Lenten Retreat. Adult Faith Formation Coordinator Christine Connelly chose the theme of forgiveness - a day to reflect on God's mercy in our lives.

Our guest speaker was Katie Dunn Knoefel from St. Matthew. Katie reminded us that human beings share two fundamental callings that are the same for everyone: 1) to get to heaven, and 2) to make earth as much like heaven as possible through mercy and forgiveness of others.

Knoefel read the parable of the Prodigal Son and asked us to close our eyes and place ourselves in the story - a method called Ignatian Contemplation. The method, developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, uses the senses and imagination to enter Gospel scenes, helping you really immerse yourself in scripture.

Knoefel stated that, as in the story of the Prodigal Son, Jesus constantly offers His mercy to us, and we are reconciled through confession.

continued...p. 2



@stlukesminthill

Continued from p. 1

While we receive mercy from Jesus, we also have to extend that mercy to others and change the way we interact with them.

Connelly led activities reinforcing the theme of forgiveness. Participants also created prayer chains using the prayer requests submitted by parishioners after Masses over the past few weekends.

To round out the day, Peter and Friends provided the live music, while Scott Connelly was the caterer. The retreat concluded with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Enjoy a few pictures from the retreat below!



Saint Óscar Romero

A Voice for the Voiceless and Martyr for Justice

Days before his murder, Archbishop Óscar Romero told a reporter, "You can tell the people that if they succeed in killing me, that I forgive and bless those who did it. Hopefully, they will realize they are wasting their time. A bishop will die, but the Church of God, which is the people, will never perish."

St. Óscar Romero was appointed archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, during severe political and economic turmoil. Amidst this chaos, he gained recognition for defending the poor and oppressed.

Over 75,000 Salvadorans were killed; one million would flee the country, and another million would be left homeless, on the run from the army in a country of 5.5 million people.



Romero used his radio sermons to speak out against the widespread violence and social injustices by both the Salvadoran government and rebels.

Although he knew speaking against violence was dangerous, he believed it was necessary to help the Salvadoran people. Today, he is remembered as a "voice for the voiceless."

By early 1980, amidst violence, Romero wrote to President Jimmy Carter pleading for an end to military aid because, as he stated, "It is being used to repress my people." The U.S. sent \$1.5 million in aid daily for 12 years. Romero's plea went unheeded. Two months after his letter, he was assassinated.

"God needs the people themselves," Romero said, "to save the world ... The world of the poor teaches us that liberation will arrive only when the poor are not simply on the receiving end of hand-outs from governments or from the churches, but when they themselves are the masters and protagonists of their own struggle for liberation."

The night before his murder, Romero said on the radio: "I appeal especially to the army, National Guard, police, and garrisons. Brothers, you belong to our people. You kill your own brothers. In the face of an order to kill from a man, God's law—'Do not kill!'—should prevail."

On March 24, 1980, Romero was assassinated while saying Mass at a hospital chapel in San Salvador. He was standing behind the altar, preparing the gifts of the offertory, when two mercenaries approached the chapel and fired a single shot from an assault rifle. Archbishop Romero died within minutes from shock and blood loss.

He died a martyr and was the greatest source of hope for millions of oppressed and impoverished Salvadorans,

Romero was canonized by Pope Francis in 2018. His feast day is March 24 and is recognized by the United Nations as a day to remember those who work for human rights.



Sources: USCatholic.org, Catholic Apostolate Center, FranciscanMedia.org
Photos: Wikimedia Commons



Father Andrew Templeton
Parochial Vicar at St. Luke

ASK FATHER TEMPLETON

We asked children in our Faith Formation Program and Teens for Christ to submit questions to Father Templeton about things they would like to know about him or the Catholic religion in general. Father has kindly agreed to answer one or two questions each month in this newsletter.

Q. What is the (true) Sabbath?

A: The word “Sabbath” comes from the Hebrew word shabbat (שַׁבָּת), which literally means: “to cease,” “to rest,” or “to stop working.” So from the Old Testament, we receive the law that we are supposed to keep the Sabbath holy, meaning we are asked to fully pause and give our attention primarily to God, enjoying His creation, contemplating His word, and not be distracted by work. For Catholics, the “true Sabbath” is Sunday, not because Saturday was wrong, but because Sunday is the fuller revelation of the Sabbath — centered on the Resurrection of Christ and the Eucharist, the source and summit of Christian life. Furthermore, Christ gave us the Mass to celebrate as the new passover. This is what we celebrate every Sunday.

So in summary, we combine all three realities into one day—Sunday: 1. Jesus’ Resurrection 2. Holy Mass (Jesus’ Passion, Death, and Resurrection made present again), and 3. Rest and be with God.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to the St. Luke parishioners and community members who donated blood on Saturday, February 7. We are happy to report that we collected 38 units of blood. As a result, our donors helped save up to **114** lives!

Our next blood drive is on Saturday, June 6, at our Lawyers Road Campus. Appointments are available from 7:00 am through 12:00 pm. Sign up now at <https://stluke.life/redcross> and be a hero - your donation saves lives!



March

To see a full list of Mass times, ministry meetings, and Faith Formation classes, please go to our website calendar at <https://www.stlukechurch.net/full-calendar>. For current volunteer opportunities, please go to <https://www.stlukechurch.net/volunteer>.

- Sun., March 1** Kairos Meal Ticket Sales after Masses
Teens for Christ, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in the Narthex, FREE, for teens in grades 7-12
- Fri., March 6** First Friday Adoration, 9:00 - 10:00 am, in the Church
Fish Fry, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, parking lot at the Lawyers Road Campus
Stations of the Cross: 6:00 pm in English, 7:00 pm in Spanish
Room in the Inn
- Sat., March 7** Kairos Meal Ticket Sales after Masses
- Sun., March 8** Kairos Meal Ticket Sales after Masses
Teens for Christ, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in the Narthex
- Thurs., March 12** Penance Service, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, in the Church
- Fri., March 13** Fish Fry, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, parking lot at Lawyers Road Campus
Children's Stations of the Cross: 6:00 pm in English
Spanish Stations of the Cross: 7:00 pm in Spanish
Room in the Inn
- Sat., March 14** Hispanic Lenten Retreat, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, in the Church
- Sun., March 15** Teens for Christ, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in the Narthex
- Mon., March 16** Young at Heart, 11:00 am Mass followed by a social in the Family Life Center
- Fri., March 20** Fish Fry, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, in the parking lot at the Lawyers Road Campus
Stations of the Cross: 6:00 pm in English, 7:00 pm in Spanish
Room in the Inn
- Sat., March 21** Family Adoration, 2:30 - 3:30 pm, in the Church **Incense used**
- Sun., March 22** Teens for Christ, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in the Narthex
- Fri., March 27** The last Fish Fry, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, in the parking lot at the Lawyers Road Campus
Stations of the Cross: 6:00 pm in English, 7:00 pm in Spanish
Room in the Inn
- Sun., March 29** Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, at the Pavilion
Holy Hour, 2:00 - 3:00 pm, in the Church
Teens for Christ, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, in the Narthex
- Tues., March 31** **NO** Tuesday morning Mass
ChrisM Mass at St. Mark Church, 3:00 - 4:00 pm, all are invited

[Return to page 1](#)