

St. Theresa's Catholic Church

Fr. Paulinus Okpala, Pastor

807 South 3rd Street Cordele, Georgia
(229) 273-3446 (office) (585) 285-1864 (emergency)
Office Email: churchofthelittleflower@gmail.com
Website: churchofthelittleflower.church

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM Sunday: 9:30 AM (English) & 12:15 PM (Spanish)
Daily: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon Wednesday: 6:00 PM
Adoration: Wednesday 5:00 PM Private Prayer: Wednesday 8:00 AM—7:00 PM

JESUS DIED FOR LOVE

We begin Holy Week today with Palm/Passion Sunday to accompany Jesus into his passion. Going into this week, we focus on the central mystery of our salvation, Jesus' Death and Resurrection (the Paschal Mystery). This is a week of retreat for all of us. Going into this week, we pay close attention to the meaning of Christ's Death and try to clarify for ourselves what it does not mean.

When we say that Christ died for us, we sometimes get confused as to what this really means. Does it mean he died "in place of us?" Yes and no. Jesus did not mainly die "in place of us," otherwise, he wouldn't ask us to follow him with our crosses, rather, he died for love of us, meaning, he died giving himself to us. It needs to be clearly stated that any understanding of the Cross that is not Eucharistic is wrong. Part of the reason for the misunderstanding of the Cross is that somehow we tend to separate the Father from the Son. The Father and the Son are distinct but NEVER separate. The theological language for this is co-inherence – the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father. The Cross is where Jesus, by the power of His Spirit, gives himself to the Father in us and gives us to the Father in him. The biggest obstacle to understanding this is the illusion of separation, either about the Persons of God or between God and his creatures. No one can exist outside God, for in him we all live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). The yes to the question is because Jesus takes to himself the consequences of our sins and invites us to join him, as his Body, to bear the consequences of sin in the world.

If Jesus mainly died "in place of us" then he would have to remain dead for us to remain alive. But because he died for love of us, meaning, giving himself to us, regardless of our unwillingness to do the same, we can live with his undying life of God. He joins himself to us for better for worse, and that "worse" is the suffering part of the Cross. It is entirely for love, an infinite love that is unstoppable by anything. Constant love means suffering with and for the beloved. In Jesus, God shows us that his love for us is faithful, constant, and unchanging regardless of how we treat him. This is how he draws our hearts to change and begin to love in the same way. Let us journey into Holy Week willing to join him on the Cross of constant love every day of our lives.

God bless you all.

Fr. Paulinus

Sacraments

Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick– Call for appointment
First Communion/ Religious Ed– Every Sunday 11:00 am–12 Noon
Confirmation– Every Sunday 11:00 am–12 Noon
Youth Group–Next Meeting April 8, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
Confessions- Sunday: 8:45-9:15 am & 11:30 am to Noon;
Saturday: 4:15-4:45 pm; Wednesday: 5:15-5:45 pm; and by appointment

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday ~ April 2

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 6:00pm (Trilingual)
Holy Thursday Adoration: 7:30 pm until 12 Midnight
7:30 -8:30 pm (English) 8:30 – 9:30 pm (Vietnamese)
9:30 – 10:30 pm (Spanish) 10:30 – Midnight (Individual)

Good Friday ~ April 3

12:00pm Stations of the Cross (English) 1:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Vietnamese)
3:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)
6:00pm Passion of the Lord (Bilingual)

Easter Vigil ~ April 4

8:00pm (Trilingual)

Easter Sunday ~ April 5

9:30am (English) 12:15pm (Spanish)

Easter Egg Hunt ~ Easter Sunday at 11:00 am.

Children 10 and under are welcome.

Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 12

Chaplet and Adoration 2:30 –3:30 pm

Second Collections ~ there will be second collections on Good Friday for the Holy Land and on Easter for Priest Retirement.

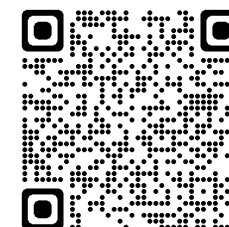
Prayer List ~ Please add Jewel Worthington, Mike Pittman's mother to your prayers.

Today's readings begin on page 848 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,875 Last Year's Offering: \$2,549.80
Last Sunday's Offering :\$2,238.33 (In pew: \$1,940.00, Online:\$298.33)
Children's Offertory: \$19
Harvest of Hope Goal: \$128,508
Pledges Remaining: \$28,191.46 Total Given: \$50,819.54

As you are gone, help our church carry on. Please remember your offering is essential to help us meet our budget. Give online: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/littletherese> or you may text "GIVE NOW" to 229.318.4127 or scan the QR Code



Weekly Mass

March 28
5:00 pm Mass

March 29
9:30 am Mass
Barry L Roseman
12:15 pm Mass

March 30
Noon Mass

March 31
No Mass

April 1
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:00 pm Mass

April 2
6:00 pm Mass

April 3
6:00 pm Mass