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MASS SCHEDULE

IN CHALDEAN @ 10:00 am - MON - FRI Weekdays:

Saturdays: IN ENGLISH @ 5:00 pm

Sundays: IN ENGLISH @ 9:00am

> IN ENGLISH (HIGH MASS) @ 10:30am IN CHALDEAN (HIGH MASS) @ 12:30pm

IN ARABIC @ 2:00pm

IN ENGLISH @ 7:30pm

Confessions: - During Masses

1st Friday of the Month at ECRC / Thursdays 11p-12a at St Thomas

BAPTISM SCHEDULE

Ist & 3rd Saturday

12:30 pm

2nd & 4th Sunday

3:30pm

ANOINTING SCHEDULE

Upon Request, please contact St. Thomas Church Office

CONGRATS! † BAPTISMS † MARCH 2015

March 1st, 2015

Noah Joseph-Pio son of Ammar & Yvonne Dabesh

March 15, 2015

Gianna Mariam daughter of Christopher & Ashley George

CONGRATS! † WEDDINGS † MARCH 2015

March 5th, 2015

Jeffrey Herfy to Raquel Karmo

March 8th, 2015

Ziad Jarbo to Christina Kashat

March 14, 2015

Brandon Semma to Carmen Garmo

March 15th, 2015

Sam Sema to Chanel Shadaia

March 21st, 2015

Patrick Jonna to Bianca Shammas

March 22nd, 2015

Marven Kashat to Vanessa Kajy

March 29, 2015

Giovanni Bommarito to Annette Tomina

HOLY THURSDAY

o you ever think about what happened exactly on Holy Thursday and what's so special about the day before the day that Jesus Christ would suffer for our sins? Wouldn't you think Jesus would be just praying and relaxing before his sufferings of being whipped, crowned with thorns, and crucified for our sake? Truly, Holy Thursday is one of the most epic days the Earth has ever seen. Let me tell you why.!

Luke 22: ³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

It is the day that God, Jesus Christ, was betrayed by one of His friends for 30 pieces of silver! Let us reflect on Jesus. He was with His Disciples for 3 years; healing, teaching, eating, laughing, and living as a family! Even though Jesus knew that He was going to be betrayed, it still grieved our Lord that one of His friends would not fully trust in His endless love! Lord, We too are like Judas, who betrayed Jesus, every time that we sin. We kiss Jesus on the cheek and hold hands with the Devil! With the grace of the Lord, we must pray and hope that we can be purified and forgiven of our sins, which Is why he allowed the betrayal; to forgive us!

Matthew 26: 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

WOW! On Holy Thursday, for the first time in the history of mankind, God has given us His very own Body and Blood, under the appearance of bread and wine! God, the creator of Heaven and Earth, the stars, planets, the sun, mountains and everything seen and unseen, has made for us, so that we might have Life through Him, His Body and Blood! Before typing this article I went to Mass and received the Eucharist and I can tell you God's greatest gift to mankind is Himself in the tiny white host we know as the Eucharist; Bread from Heaven, the Living Bread, the True Manna and so on!

Padre Pio: "Every holy Mass, heard with devotion, produces in our souls marvelous effects, abundant spiritual and material graces which we, ourselves, do not know. It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the holy Sacrifice of the Mass."

Jesus said, "Do this in memory of Me!"

Hi Father Frank, hello Abouna! Did Holy Thursday give us Priests? When Jesus Christ commanded His Apostles saying, "do this in memory of me," He gave them authority to celebrate Mass, to change bread and wine, normal food into the Living Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We know that only ordained men can celebrate the Mass, so those disciples of Jesus, on Holy Thursday became Apostles (Bishops) so that we can offer Jesus Christ to the Father by celebrating Mass!

Holy Thursday is a day filled with so many gifts that we are still unwrapping the love that God has for each and every single of us! We see that even Jesus had a bad friend; even Jesus was betrayed by one of His own! Jesus knows how a broken heart feels, I break His heart every time I sin against Him! He has given us the Eucharist, which will be our food and our shield against this world, no matter how dark and scary things get Jesus will be waiting for us in His beautiful bread form! Thank God for the gifts of Priests, who have given up so many other blessings to be able to serve Jesus Christ by being available to us, so they can baptize us and make us a son or daughter of our Heavenly Father, they even hear our ugly sins without judgment, always ready to reconcile us back to the Father, and the make for us the Food that brings Eternal Life, the Eucharist! I cant wait for Holy Thursday, God has really given us everything, Himself!



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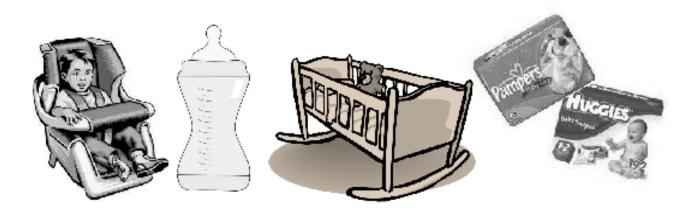
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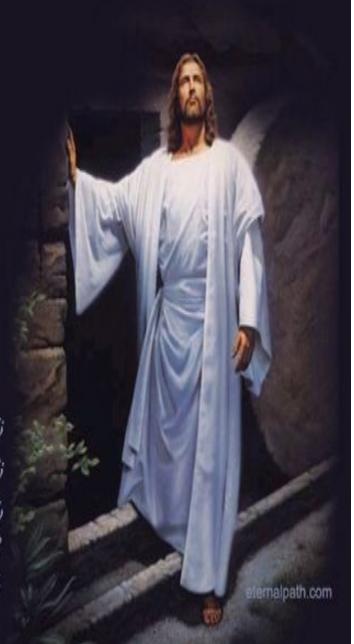
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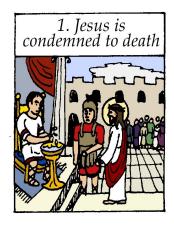
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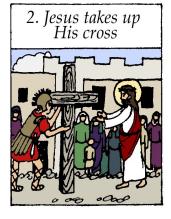


"For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke 11:10



The Stations of the Cross















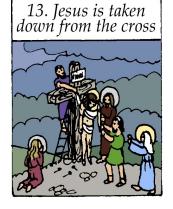














FUN EASTER FACTS

The Date of Easter

Prior to A.D. 325, Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by emperor Constantine. It issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. The "full moon" in the rule is the ecclesiastical full moon, which is defined as the fourteenth day of a tabular lunation, where day 1 corresponds to the ecclesiastical New Moon. It does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The ecclesiastical "vernal equinox" is always on March 21. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.





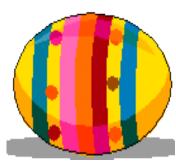
The Lenten Season

Lent is the forty-six day period just prior to Easter Sunday. It begins on Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras (French for "Fat Tuesday") is a celebration, sometimes called "Carnival," practiced around the world, on the Tuesday prior to Ash Wednesday. It was designed as a way to "get it all out" before the sacrifices of Lent began. New Orleans is the focal point of Mardi Gras celebrations in the U.S. Read about the religious meanings of the Lenten Season.

The Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny is not a modern invention. The symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre. The goddess, Eastre, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit to America. It was widely ignored by other Christians until shortly after the Civil War. In fact, Easter itself was not widely celebrated in America until after that time.





The Easter Egg

As with the Easter Bunny and the holiday itself, the Easter Egg predates the Christian holiday of Easter. The exchange of eggs in the springtime is a custom that was centuries old when Easter was first celebrated by Christians. From the earliest times, the egg was a symbol of birth in most cultures. Eggs were often wrapped in gold leaf or, if you were a peasant, colored brightly by boiling them with the leaves or petals of certain flowers. Today, children hunt colored eggs and place them in Easter baskets along with the modern version of real Easter eggs -- those made of plastic or chocolate candy.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had made ready. And they found the stone rolled back from the tomb, but when they went inside, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus... He is not here, but has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee.

Bible: Luke 24:1-3, 6

SAINT GEORGE (FEAST DAY APRIL 23)

aint George is one of Christianity's most popular saints, and is highly honored by both the Western and Eastern Churches. A wide range of devotions, traditions, and prayers to honor the saint have emerged throughout the centuries. He has for long been distinguished by the title of "The Great Martyr" and is one of the most popular saints to be represented in icons. Devotions to Saint George have a large following among Christians, and a large number of churches are dedicated to him worldwide.

Since the Middle ages, the story of the life of Saint George, both as fact and legend, has come to symbolize the victory of good over evil, and become part of local Christian traditions, festivals and celebrations that continue to date. Saint George has been widely represented in Christian art in multiple media and forms, from paintings and sculptures to stained glass and reliefs, through

St. Storge

the ages and has become the subject or multiple prayers and devotions. This article traces the origins, development and growth of the Christian devotions, traditions, and prayers to Saint George.

Pictures of St. George usually show him killing a dragon to rescue a beautiful lady. The dragon stands for wickedness. The lady stands for God's holy truth. St. George was a brave martyr who was victorious over the devil.

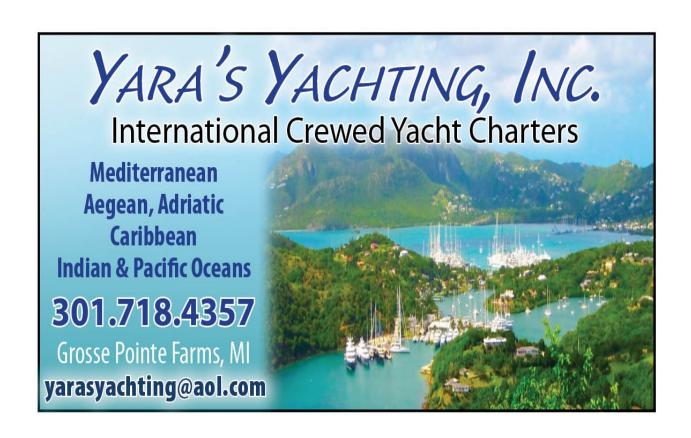
He was a soldier in the army of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and he was one of the Emperor's favorite soldiers. Now Diodetian was a pagan and a bitter enemy to the Christians. He put

St. George was a soldier in Diocletian's army. The emperor hated Christians and killed any he came across. George was also a soldier in the army of Christ and scolded the emperor for being cruel and resigned from the Roman army. For this he was torturde and beheaded. He is revered by soldiers everywhere and is usually depicted fighting a dragon (enemies of Christ).

to death every Christian he could find. George was a brave Christian, a real soldier of Christ. Without fear, he went to the Emperor and sternly scolded him for being so cruel. Then he gave up his position in the Roman army. For this he was tortured in many terrible ways and finally beheaded.

So boldly daring and so cheerful was St. George in declaring his Faith and in dying for it that Christians felt courage when they heard about it. Many songs and poems were written about this martyr. Soldiers, especially, have always been devoted to him.

We all have some "dragon" we have to conquer. It might be pride, or anger, or laziness, or greediness, or something else. Let us make sure we fight against these "dragons", with God's help. Then we can call ourselves real soldiers of Christ.



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

omestic violence has recently been acknowledged in the media thanks to the, "no more" slogan, used by the NFL following a very public incident involving multiple players. Domestic violence may be the hot topic for the moment, but unfortunately this has been an ongoing issue that has been shoved under the rug. What is even more unfortunate is that our Chaldean community chooses to keep these types of incidents private, "because it's no one else's business." Anyone can be subject to this problem, which is often overlooked, excused, or denied.

Abuse can come in different forms including, emotional, verbal, or physical aggression. The difficult part of domestic violence is recognizing the signs of abuse, especially since it may be coming from someone you love. Domestic violence doesn't look the same in every relationship since every relationship is different. The most important thing to do is to make sure to not ignore the warning signs of someone being abused, even if it is you, yourself. Some warning signs to be aware of are as follows:

The partner of the abused is in constant need of power or control

The partner demonstrates jealousy of your friends

The partner does not enjoy you spending time away

The partner is consistently embarrassing or shaming you with putdowns

The partner does their best to prevent you from making your own decisions

The use of weapons for intimidation

The partner forces sexual intimacy, when it is not wanted.

The partner has you distant from your friends and family

THE ABUSER CAN BE MAN OR WOMAN

No matter what type of abuse you experience, "speak up." If you are someone who believes a loved one is a victim of domestic violence, "speak up." Although relationships are a private affair, the effects of abuse are not. Not only does the relationship suffer, but the people involved and around you may suffer too. Although many incidences of domestic violence go unreported due to fear (i.e., threats of being severely injured if a report is made), there are ways to protect yourself, such obtaining a personal protection order, or domestic violence shelters.

Resources:

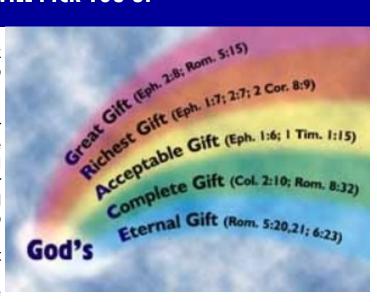
1. National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233

H.A.V.E.N-Crisis Line 877-922-1274

GOD'S GRACE WILL PICK YOU UP

o you find yourself sinking back into what God has brought to you? Do you find yourself drowning God with complaints? You feel that you've been traveling fry and weary land long enough and its time for the Lord to move on your time because the conditions are exasperating. What the Lord had promised isn't happening expediently enough for you. Traveling this rugged road has turned all the positive feelings you had in God into bickering and doubt.

In Numbers 11 you'll read a story about Israelites who complained constantly to God. They were the people God uses Moses to free



out of Egypt from slavery to enter the Promised Land. If God made provisions to free them out of slavery why wouldn't He be just to provide food, water, shelter, and other means during the journey? Instead they complained that they were thirsty and hungry and wished they were back in Egypt. The Lord is all loving but His patience was growing thin with the people including Moses. In verse 18 the Lord said He'll provide meat for the people just because they grew tired of eating manna. Moses questioned God's words that He'll provide meat because in Moses' eyes he saw there were 600,000 people and how and where would God provide meat in a desert from a whole month. God simply said in verse 17 "is my arm too short? You will see now whether or not what I say we will come true for you."

As I reflect I see myself emulating their behavior sometimes. Ladies and gentlemen, quit grumbling and allowing petty things to bother you. Yes, conditions may be rigorous. You may be facing a constant threat from the enemy. Don't allow a short test of your faith last longer than God intended for it to be. Is His arm too short that He cannot come through for you? Is His arm too short that He cannot heal you? Is His arm too short that He cannot bring peace in your home; health to your bodies? The spirit of God said to me "If you would look back at all the things that I have done for you and how I made ways where there seems to be no way there would be no reason to question me."

Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

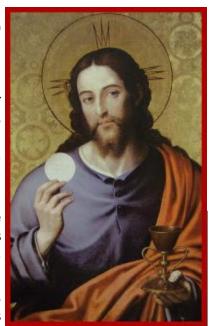
- Jeremiah 31:2-3

APRIL—THE MONTH OR THE EUCHARIST

he Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed" (1 Cor 11:23) instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his body and his blood. The words of the Apostle Paul bring us back to the dramatic setting in which the Eucharist was born. The Eucharist is indelibly marked by the event of the Lord's passion and death, of which it is not only a reminder but the sacramental re-presentation. It is the sacrifice of the Cross perpetuated down the ages. This truth is well expressed by the words with which the assembly in the Latin rite responds to the priest's proclamation of the "Mystery of Faith": "We announce your death, O Lord!" (Ecclesia de Eucharistia).

April is the month of the Eucharist! And the month in which we celebrate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord. It is appropriate to begin Pathways to Peace, as a reminder to us that Jesus in the Eucharist is our true source of peace.

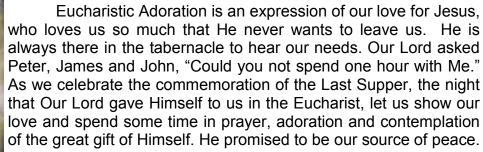
The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian Life. (1324) And Our Lord has told us that He will give us His peace and refreshment if only we come to Him.



"Come to Me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you..." "Cast all of your anxieties upon the One who cares for you...." "My peace is My gift to you." (Mt. 11:28; 5:7; John 14:17)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our

whole Christian Life. 1324). Daily in community we pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, to draw us closer to Himself, His Church, and one another as His own people.



Each moment that you spend in His Eucharistic Presence will increase His Divine Life within you and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with Him. If more people would realize this, they would never pass up an opportunity.

If you care to share your experience and blessings received through Eucharistic Adoration, perhaps it would inspire others to spend time with the Lord.





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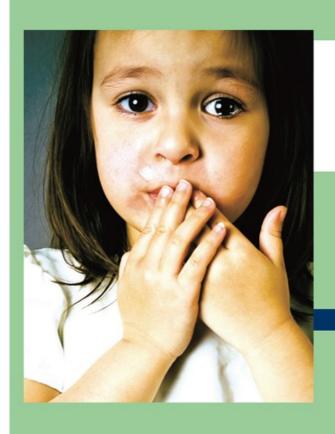


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