



The Little Flower Weekly

A Weekly Addition to the St. Therese Parish Bulletin



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*"If a little flower could speak, it seems to me
that it would tell us quite simply all that God has
done for it, without hiding any of its gifts."*

~St. Therese de Lisieux



An Update from the Pastor

June 26, 2020



Dear Parishioners and Friends (and anyone else who doesn't fall into one of those categories 😊).

For all who have been attending our public Masses (at Noon on the weekdays and on Saturday and at our regular times for the Sunday Masses), we wish to extend a big **THANK YOU** for your cooperation in following the directives set out for us by the Archdiocese and by Los Angeles County. Since we reopened the church for Mass and Adoration on Thursday, June 4, I've been very pleased with the way everything has gone. Your kindness and patience mean so much to us as we work on following the directives while—at the same time—not making people feel they've entered some sort of “crime scene”. For those who are not yet ready to return to Mass, know that the Dispensation from the Obligation to Attend is still in effect from Archbishop Gomez and that we continue to live stream the Masses. Here are some other topics I'd like to address:

ENTERING AND EXITING THE CHURCH: Please **ENTER** the church **ONLY** through the front doors; please **EXIT** the church **ONLY** through the side doors. Please do not linger after Mass or socialize in the front of the church—especially when there are people waiting there to enter for the next Mass. We are very grateful to all those who stepped up to volunteer as **DOOR GREETERS AND SANITIZERS** and to the members of the **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** for all their help. God bless you all!

SANITIZING YOUR PEW WITH SANITIZING WIPES: Thank you to each and every one of you who donated masks and/or sanitizing and disinfecting products for use in the church! Sanitizing wipes are the one product we are very low on. **We ask that every person or family bring your own sanitizing wipes to the church to wipe down your pew before and after Mass or adoration.** This would be a big help to everyone. Thank you!

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS: The Archbishop of Los Angeles has made it known that, due to the pandemic, he would prefer people to receive Holy Communion in the hand. However, ***no priest is allowed to prohibit anyone from receiving on the tongue, per the General Instruction of the Roman Missal*** (GIRM), issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on November 12, 2002. It reads: “If Communion is given only under the species of bread, the Priest raises the host slightly and shows it to each, saying, ‘The Body of Christ.’ The communicant replies, ‘Amen,’ and receives the Sacrament either on the tongue or, where this is allowed, in the hand, **the choice lying with the communicant**” (No. 161). Neither the pandemic nor any other reason can change this!

CONFESSIONS: We will continue hearing confessions on **Saturday afternoons (3:30 to 5:00 p.m.—and beyond 5:00 p.m. if necessary)** in the marked areas of the parking lot (underneath the red umbrellas). **We hope to add back our Wednesday evening Confessions sometime in the Fall.**

FUNERALS: Funerals may now be held in the church, under the same restrictions as are in place for our Masses; i.e., 100 maximum people, attendees wearing masks, keeping social distance, etc.).

BAPTISMS: Baptisms will be held by appointment only. A Baptismal Information Sheet will first need to be filled out and submitted with a copy of the hospital birth record or birth certificate. This form is on our website under the link BAPTISMS.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: For all our *children who had been preparing to receive their First Holy Communion this past May (*those attending St. Therese Carmelite School, those in our Religious Education Program, and those who are home-schooled), we have scheduled a First Communion Mass on **Saturday, July 11, at 10:00 a.m.** For more information, contact the coordinator, Andrea Zamperelli, at (909) 285-7069.

CONFIRMATION: For our youth and adults who had been scheduled to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 30, we are still waiting to receive delegation from the Archdiocese. We will let you know when that happens.

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS: For all our ongoing ministries and programs, if all goes well, we hope to **re-start them in the Fall of 2020.**

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Philip
Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD
Pastor



"Boast of Your Sufferings"

By Fr. Philip
Sullivan, OCD

In the second letter that St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he recounts some of the painful hardships he endured in his days of preaching and teaching, adding that the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that there were to be more.

"Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty stripes, save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of water, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the Churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed forevermore, knoweth that I lie not. At Damascus, the governor of the nation under Aretas the king, guarded the city of the Damascenes, to apprehend me. And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and so escaped his hands" (Word for word from 2 Corinthians 11:24-33, as translated in the Douay-Rheims version of the Bible).



This is quite a list! It's almost as if St. Paul is taunting the Corinthians with his boasting! This is his "Red Badge of Courage"! He also speaks of boasting when writing to the Galatians, "But God forbid that I should glory [boast], save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14). There should be a sense of pride in our willingness to suffer for and with Christ: Pride not in ourselves but in the fact that our sufferings can be united to the Glory of the Cross of Jesus Christ. Only then do we become co-redeemers with Jesus Christ. Remember...our Lord's wounds were still present on His Body after His Resurrection. Is Paul then displaying, in his own wounds, all of his many sufferings—like trophies are displayed in glass cabinets for all to see? Maybe. I think St. Paul understood all too well how hard it is to be converted in our way of thinking about suffering and death. He is not boasting about himself; rather, he is boasting in the fact that his suffering is a big part of his ability to evangelize and teach effectively to others about the salvation offered by Jesus Christ.

Isn't it true that so many of us try to avoid suffering—with pills, treatments, and frequent trips to the doctors? What do we really mean when we ask someone, "How are you?" Can you imagine someone like St. Paul answering that question? St. Padre Pio who, like St. Paul, shared in the stigmata of Christ, was once asked if the wounds he bore were painful? To which he replied, "What do you think? They are the wounds of Christ!" Be careful when you ask a saint, "How are you?" You might just get what you're *not* asking for!

I want you to ponder the following words of St. Paul as your meditation homework: "I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do; now glorify me, Father, with you..." (John 17:1-11). These words are Christ's, but I want to encourage you to urgently make them your own! Are we doing the work that the Father has entrusted to us? Are priests living like priests should live or do they betray Christ like Judas? Are parents dutifully raising their children with the hope of Heaven in mind or are they preoccupied with the banal success of their children's achievements? Are husbands and wives living faithfully in the Sacrament of Marriage? Are principals and teachers teaching Truth and Beauty or have they surrendered their vocations to the "Father of Lies," the devil?

In our Lord's imminent death, He urgently prays for His apostles! Concluding His prayer to the Father, Jesus says: "And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you" (John 17:11). These are the words we must think about as our frail lives are held in a balance. We would do well to make a list of our own sufferings, like St. Paul did, and honestly reflect on whether or not any of them was truly offered to God. **Can we boast with St. Paul and countless others who suffered with Christ for the redemption of the world?** Is the work of the Father that our Lord speaks of being accomplished through us or is it being ignored?

For those of you who are undergoing suffering, consider seeking the intercession of St. Paul, asking for the grace to endure your pains, united with Jesus' Passion and Suffering, as did St. Paul. **(Monday, June 29, is his feast day.)**

The following items are also published in the bulletin:

KNIGHTS OF C O L U M B U S FIREWORKS SALE! The Knights will be selling TNT fireworks in the Alhambra Smart and Final parking lot from June 29 through July 4 (10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day). Parishioners with a St. Therese bulletin will receive a 10% discount. **Pre-sale and on-line orders can be made at <http://kofcca.org/shop/>.**



ANNIVERSARY MASS FR. FR. JUSTIN RAMOS



Fr. Justin Ramos, O.Praem, who celebrates our Traditional Latin Mass every Sunday at 1:00 p.m., INVITES everyone to a **MASS OF THANKSGIVING**, commemorating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood.

It will be held at **Noon on SATURDAY, JULY 4, at St. Andrew's Church, 311 North Raymond, Pasadena, California.**



May God bless Fr. Justin for his dedication to the Priesthood and to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Congratulations to Mother Brenda

We are happy to announce that Mother Brenda Marie, O.C.D., has been re-elected as **Mother Superior and Prioress** of the Carmel of St. Teresa in Alhambra. She will serve another three-year term. **We love you, Mother Brenda! Please continue to pray for us as we pray for you and all your community.** May God guide you, protect you, and bless you!

~The Discalced Carmelite Friars Community and the Parishioners of St. Therese Church



"St. Peter and St. Paul Are As One"

By Fr. Peter Stravinskis, Ph.D., S.T.D.

Founder and Superior of the Priestly Society of St. John Henry Cardinal Newman



Why are these two Apostles so important? St. Luke's Acts of the Apostles ends with the notice that Paul was headed to Rome for a trial before the Emperor. Luke saw in this event the Hand of Providence, for Rome was the center of the world. With Paul in Rome, the Lord's desire for the Gospel to be preached to the very ends of the earth would be fulfilled, for "All roads lead to Rome. Beyond that, Peter's first epistle is written, we are told in that

letter, "from Babylon," a code word for Rome.

Both Peter and Paul sealed their preaching and ministry with their blood—St. Peter was crucified upside down in 64 AD, while St. Paul was beheaded in 65 AD. Their martyrdom was part of a long procession of disciples who were so convinced of the truth of the Gospel that they gave the ultimate witness of their lives. If something is worth dying for, it *must* be worth living for—so concluded thousands of pagans, Jews, and atheists, converts to Christianity in those first years of the Christian Dispensation. Hence, the adage, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians." In *O Felix Roma, (O Happy Rome)* our martyrs are hymned thus:

**Heaven's porter and earth's sage,
The world's bright lights who judge the age.
One wins by cross, and one by sword,
And life on high is their reward.**

**These are your princes, happy Rome!
Their precious blood clothes you, their home.
We praise not you, but praise their worth,
Beyond all beauty of the earth.**

For centuries on end, enemies of the Cross of Christ have followed the unholy example of the first persecutors, seemingly never learning the lesson of history that their efforts would be counter-productive. Martyrs' blood continues to water the earth, bringing forth new life. Is it an accident that pagan Chinese are added to the number of the redeemed with amazing frequency, let alone the even more amazing conversions of Muslims? Truly, today's martyrs are worthy sons and daughters of Peter and Paul.

This Monday, June 29, the Church celebrates the feast day of Sts. Peter & Paul. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of St. Peter and St. Paul on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there. **St. Peter**, who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee, introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means "Rock," because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church. Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. He also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on the water with Christ and denying the Lord on the night of His passion. Yet despite his weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith.

St. Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish Pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen. Saul's conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian community there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and fell off his horse. He then heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" He answered, "Who are you, Lord?" Christ said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized and his sight was restored. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world.



On the night of Christ's betrayal, Peter, the "Rock" on which Christ willed to build His Church, crumbled in fear and denied even knowing our Lord. Fortunately, the converting look of Jesus during His kangaroo court trial led Simon Peter to tears of repentance (Luke 22:62), an event memorialized on the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. The Risen Lord completed the rehabilitation of the "Rock" by gently and lovingly coaxing him to undo his three-fold denial by a three-fold affirmation of love (John 21:15-17). If legend is accurate, Peter was a "recidivist," for we read that, while in Rome and being apprised of his imminent execution, he beat a trail for the Via Appia to hightail it out of town. En route, he is encountered by the Lord Jesus heading into Rome. Pope Peter asks, "Where are you going, Lord? Comes the response, "To Rome, to be crucified again, since you refuse." Peter gets

gets the grace, once again, to do the right thing, finally. Peter began a long line of martyr-popes; in fact, **it was not until the fourth century that a pope died in his bed!**

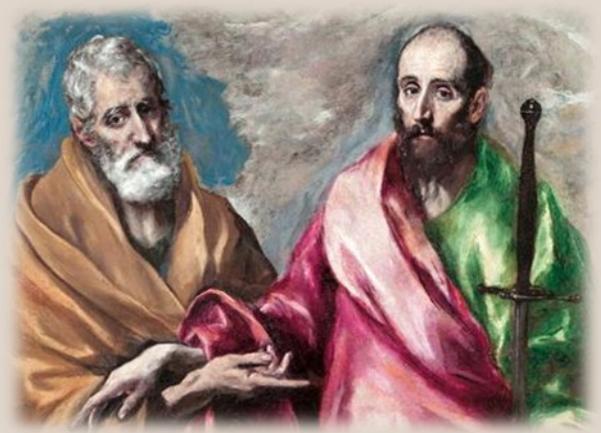
Some popes were exceptionally bad men: Formosus was dug up by his nutty successor, Stephen VI, and put on trial for heresy. Saint Charles Borromeo dubs Benedict IX "the nadir of the papacy." Needless to say, the Borgias were not models of sanctity (although, thankfully, they never diluted Catholic teaching on faith or morals). Truth be told, most popes have been rather mediocre. In modern times, Pius IX had become such a concern and a disappointment to St. Cardinal Newman that he urged people to pray for an end to the pontificate! The twentieth century was perhaps unique in papal history as the Church had a succession of talented, brilliant, and holy men sitting on the Chair of Peter. However, none of them was perfect, either. In 2018 we marked the fortieth anniversary of "The Year of the Three Popes"—with the death of Paul VI, the accession and rapid death of John Paul I, and the election of John Paul II. Pope Paul VI was, to say the least, an enigmatic figure; the Italians called him "Amleto" (Hamlet), due to his propensity for vacillation. Against all odds and counter to his proclivity to avoid conflict, Paul VI did the right thing in 1968 by writing his encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, for which he suffered immeasurably—although he failed tragically in not enforcing the document, thus setting in motion a whole trajectory of dissent and disunity.

How many of us long for the halcyon days of the John Paul II years as he sought to right the course of the Bark of Peter, causing not a few of us to revive that hymn of our youth, "Long Live the Pope!" His magisterium was incalculable, and his persona was magnetic. Yet he had flaws, too, particularly in regard to issues of governance. The appreciation for his long-time first associate, Cardinal Ratzinger, who became Benedict XVI, was more measured but also real and deserved. Now we find ourselves in the Francis era, which even the most objective assessment would have to call "confusing." Being "critical" of the Pope—if done in sincerity and charity—is not wrong; indeed, Aquinas and the Code of Canon Law even speak of its necessity at times, and Pope Francis himself has indicated on several occasions that he welcomes such criticism. We should take him at his word. Let me reflect on this point for a bit.

I have lived through seven pontificates and must say that I have never seen the Church (or even the world-at-large) so fixated on the *personality* of a pope. And this for a man who famously urged his first audience not to focus on him but on Jesus! Let's be clear about this: The Pope is not the Church; he is a member of the Church and her premier servant, whose task is to safeguard ecclesial unity and, minimally, never to teach heresy. He need not constantly teach Catholic doctrine, but he may *never* teach the opposite. Because of Francis' less-than-precise mode of writing and speaking, his lack of philosophical and theological depth, and his penchant for off-the-cuff remarks, we find ourselves awash in near-daily confusion. As a result, conversations about him have the effect of sucking all the oxygen out of the Church. Interestingly, to use the political categories, the "hard-left" and the "hard-right" in the Church use Francis to perpetuate their perceptions or agendas: The "Left" ignores his orthodox statements on the ordination of women, abortion, gay marriage, birth control, and gender theory, while getting onboard his "mercy train"; the "Right" gives currency to his questionable or silly statements and fails to highlight his orthodox ones.

Every papal burp is reported in the blogosphere, leaving us all with indigestion. In the Middle Ages, the Church advanced the cause of tranquility in a bellicose era by establishing the Truce of God and the Peace of God. I would like to propose a moratorium on reporting on "every word that proceeds from the mouth..." (Matt 4:4), not of God, but of the Pope! With all due respect, one could also wish that the Pope would observe a holier silence. Maybe we might then get on with the business of being Catholic and the work of the new evangelization. One last pet peeve about things papal. Can we call a halt to the papal canonization mania! Admittedly, the popes of the last century were worthy successors of Peter, but that doesn't mean that they thereby automatically qualify for the conferral of a halo. No, they probably would (or should) echo Christ's encouragement for the laborers to respond: "We are only unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty" (Luke 17:10). It is beyond strange that if all the popes of the twentieth century who have been declared venerable, blessed, or saint are added up, it would, according to my calculations, surpass the total number of such for the preceding **nineteen centuries!** Can we say that the coin of the realm has been terribly diminished? Poor Pius XI and Pius XII have the distinct honor of being relegated to the outer darkness.

Well, enough about popes. Let's bring this feast down to its significance for the Catholic in the pew. Reading the cultural and political tea leaves, I think it's safe to say that we are embarking upon a new age of martyrs. Professor Robert Royal documented this phenomenon in his landmark book, *"The Catholic Martyrs of the Twentieth Century"*. The late-archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Francis George, opined: "I expect to die in bed, my successor, to die in prison, and his successor, to die a martyr in the public square." The privilege to die for the faith will not be limited to clerics; it will be visited upon any true, loyal Catholic. The question of today's feast is aptly directed to us all: ***Where are you going, Church? Where are you going, Christian?*** It may not get so bad for us in the United States in our lifetime, but a "soft" martyrdom is here in spades. It is the ***martyrdom of ridicule and marginalization***. Back in 1977, Billy Joel taunted: "You Catholic girls start way too late," as he mocked virginity. The Obama Administration tried to force the Little Sisters of the Poor to pay for contraceptives. Believers who stand by the moral standards of the Judeo-Christian tradition and thus oppose abortion and same-sex marriage are classified as "haters," to be consigned to Hilary Clinton's "basket of deplorables" and as unwelcome in New York State, according to Governor Andrew Cuomo.



How shall we prepare properly to withstand the assaults of the enemies of Christ and His Church? First of all, by fervent prayer and reliance on divine grace: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Second, knowing well the truths of our Holy Faith and by being able to represent them and defend them in the public forum—which means in one's workplace, in one's neighborhood, in one's municipality, and by responding to attacks on Christian principles found in the media. Sadly, we must often nowadays include the members of our own families among those who need fraternal correction. Third, it is important to stand apart from the lunacy being promoted by all the "beautiful people." Not only to stand apart—but to critique the insanity. Can we forget the admonition of Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing"? Fourth, we need to pose the real, bottom-line question to those within our sphere of influence who have bought into the pagan lifestyle: "Are you really any happier or more fulfilled as a result of your attachment to these patterns of life?" The dramatic rise in suicide would seem to offer a convincing response. Last, but by no means least of all, we must train our youngsters to be comfortable living in a counter-cultural mode. Which is why our Catholic schools—authentically- and unabashedly-Catholic schools—are more needed than ever. We need educational institutions where children are given an environment in which to grow in truly Christian ways.

When I was in Third Grade, I made an oral book report to the class on the North American martyrs. At its conclusion, Sr. Vera asked, "Now, Peter, did you learn anything from the book?" "Yes, Sister, I learned that I want to be a martyr!" Sister smiled and suggested, "Well, maybe just a confessor!" It is good to recall that in the Church's tradition, being a confessor is considered "green martyrdom." Perhaps a resolution we can all make today is to assume the mantle of confessor. Cardinal George added a sentence to his gruesome prediction, one that is not often cited. He said that the successor to the bishop executed in the public square "will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the Church has done so often in human history." Therein lies our reason to hope. Evil and insanity do not have staying power. As St. John Paul II reminded us so often, the *mysterium iniquitatis* (the mystery of iniquity) will be overcome by the *mysterium pietatis* (the mystery of piety), which is all that is good and true and beautiful in the Catholic faith. As our Blessed Lord was preparing for His own martyrdom, He likewise prepared His chosen apostles for the same. His assurance should buoy us up for the battle: "Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

In the year 395, St. Augustine ended his sermon for St. Peter and St. Paul's solemnity with these words of encouragement: **"Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."**

With great confidence—even in the face of impending death—St. Paul could declare to Timothy, his son in the priesthood: "The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for His Heavenly Kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (2 Tm 4:18). For a similar sense of holy assurance, we plead: **Saints Peter and Paul, pray for Christ's holy Church, our holy Church; pray for us!**

Eucharistic Adoration

We now have a

NEW ONLINE

SIGN-UP SITE!

(See below)

If you signed up on the other site, you must re-sign up on the new page.

"Know that you will probably gain more by praying **fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament** than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. Our Lord has revealed that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace."

~St. Alphonsus Liguori

Since we are not allowed to open our Adoration Chapel at the present time, we are offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the main body of the Church as follows:

Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm; Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Note: The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed during any Mass.)

"CAN YOU NOT STAY WITH ME FOR ONE HOUR?"

Greetings Dedicated Adorers!

Our new Adoration sign-up sheet is ready and can be accessed at <https://adorationpro.org/ThereseCA>. Once there, click on **Weekly Commitment** to view the schedule and then sign up for a weekly time slot (the other site will close down after June 27). We are transitioning to a **WEEKLY COMMITMENT SCHEDULE**, so if you sign up for a time slot, it means you will be serving at the same hour/day each week. You will be sent automatic email or text reminders beforehand.

Once you've signed up, the check-in process is a little different now, too. When you arrive, please use your smartphone to check-in (or use the kiosk once it's installed in the church) by visiting the site and then clicking **Adorer Sign In**. Then click **Scheduled Adorer Sign In**, select your name, and confirm sign in (if your name does not appear that means you are either not scheduled for that hour or you arrived much earlier or later than scheduled).

Finding substitute adorers to take your place is super easy. If you cannot attend a particular week, you can go to this website to find a sub or invite a friend to take your place. The current "Find a Sub" password is **subpass**. If your schedule changes and you can no longer commit weekly to a time slot, email 247adorationchapel@gmail.com to be removed, and Gabriel will help you.

After you've signed up for a Weekly Commitment(s), please consider joining the Substitute Adorers list to support your fellow Dedicated Adorers. Please share this new Adoration Sign-up site with your friends so we can have trusted adorers watch with Jesus every hour. Thank you again for your willingness to serve St Therese Church and keep God's people safe. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Blessings be upon you, -Richard and Gabriel, Coordinators

PS... **If a funeral or a wedding, etc., is being celebrated, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed.** If one of those events takes place during your hour, you obviously will not be able to make your commitment at that time. You may "make it up" by adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at another time that week.