



SAINT FAUSTINA CATHOLIC CHURCH

15551 N. Boggy Marsh Road, Clermont, FL 34714
352-515-9297 // E-Mail: office@stfaustina.org

Web Site: www.stfaustina.org

Facebook: facebook.com/St.Faustina Catholic Church

September 14-15, 2024

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus, I Trust in You

Mass Schedule / Horario de Misas

Daily Mass / Misa Diaria

Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Weekend Masses / Misas de fin de semana

Saturdays @ 4:00 p.m.

**Sundays @ 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,
5:00 p.m. en Español**

Wednesday Holy Hour / Miércoles Hora Santa

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*First Friday Adoration /
Adoración del Primer Viernes*

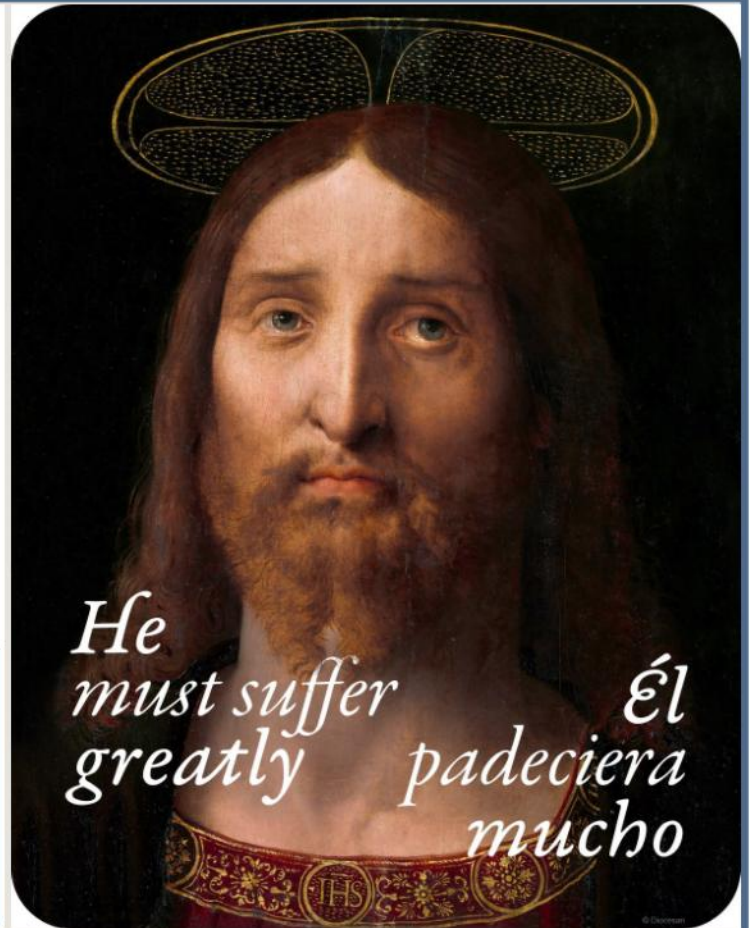
8:30 a.m to 10:30 a.m.

Confessions / Confesiones

**Saturday / Sábado 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
or appointment / o con cita previa**

*The Church is Open for Personal Prayer
Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to
4:00 p.m., and on Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*La Iglesia está abierta para la oración personal
De lunes a jueves, de 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
y los viernes, de 9:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m.*



Parish Office Hours / Horario de Oficina Parroquial

Monday thru Thursday / Lunes a Jueves 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday / Viernes 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pastoral Team / Equipo pastoral

Pastor	Father Carlos Caban	Ext. 101	ccaban@stfaustina.org
Retired	Father John McNalis		johnmcnalis@att.net
Deacon	Cris Stout		cstout@stfaustina.org
Deacon	Tom Baca		tbaca@stfaustina.org
Operations Manager	Christian Rivera	Ext. 104	crivera@stfaustina.org
Director of Music & Liturgy	Kelly Mucci	Ext. 102	kmucci@stfaustina.org
Director of Faith Formation	Marylu Mariniello	Ext. 103	mmariniello@stfaustina.org
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Duane Hyland	Ext. 107	dhyland@stfaustina.org
Receptionist	Carmen Pagan	Ext. 106	cpagan@stfaustina.org

A Message From Father Carlos / Un Mensaje de Padre Carlos

A Message From Father Carlos

On this Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, I would like to focus on the Gospel, a turning point in Mark's story. So far in this Gospel, the deeds of Jesus have shown Jesus to be the Son of God. Yet many, including Jesus' disciples, have not yet realized his true identity. Today, Jesus asks the disciples about what others say about him. He then turns the question directly to the disciples and asks them what they believe. Peter announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ.

Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah, which means "the anointed one." In today's reading, Jesus refers to himself instead as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures found in the Book of Daniel and other apocryphal writings. Scholars suggest that the phrase "Son of Man" is best understood to mean "human being."

Now that the disciples have acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he will be rejected, must suffer and die, and will rise after three days. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely. The image of Christ that Jesus is giving is not the image of the Messiah that Peter was expecting. Jesus then teaches the crowd and the disciples about the path of discipleship: To be Christ's disciple is to follow the way of the cross, a path that meant tremendous suffering and death. This commitment is the kind of radical commitment and sacrifice that Jesus calls us to adopt for the sake of the Gospel. Courage!

St. Faustina... Pray for us.

God Bless You,

Father Carlos



Mensaje del Padre Carlos

En este vigésimo cuarto domingo del tiempo ordinario, me gustaría centrarme en el Evangelio, un punto de inflexión en la historia de Marcos. Hasta ahora, en este Evangelio, los hechos de Jesús han demostrado que Jesús es el Hijo de Dios. Sin embargo, muchos, incluidos los discípulos de Jesús, aún no se han dado cuenta de su verdadera identidad. Hoy, Jesús pregunta a sus discípulos qué dicen los demás de él. Luego dirige la pregunta directamente a los discípulos y les pregunta qué creen. Pedro anuncia que creen que Jesús es el Cristo.

Cristo es la traducción griega de la palabra hebrea Mesías, que significa «el ungido». En la lectura de hoy, Jesús se refiere a sí mismo como el Hijo del Hombre, un término derivado de las Escrituras judías que se encuentran en el Libro de Daniel y otros escritos apócrifos. Los eruditos sugieren que la frase «Hijo del Hombre» se entiende mejor como «ser humano».

Ahora que los discípulos han reconocido a Jesús como el Cristo, Jesús les confía el desenlace de su ministerio: será rechazado, deberá sufrir y morir, y resucitará a los tres días. Pedro rechaza esta predicción, y Jesús le reprende severamente. La imagen de Cristo que Jesús da no es la imagen del Mesías que Pedro esperaba. A continuación, Jesús enseña a la multitud y a los discípulos el camino del discipulado: Ser discípulo de Cristo es seguir el camino de la cruz, un camino que significaba tremendo sufrimiento y muerte. Este compromiso es el tipo de entrega y sacrificio radicales que Jesús nos pide que adoptemos por el Evangelio. ¡Ánimo!

Santa Faustina... Ruega por nosotros.

Que Dios te bendiga,

Padre Carlos

Welcome to
St. Faustina Catholic Church!

Bienvenidos a la Iglesia Católica de
Santa Faustina

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 14, 2024

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 a.m. Memorial Mass Association

For the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. + Juan R. Fuentes

Sunday, September 15 2024

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. + Andrew Guvera

9:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Faustina

11:30 a.m. + Mary Ellen Doherty

5:00 p.m. + Ismael & + Alfredo Alvarez

Monday, September 16, 2024

SS. Cornelius and Cyprian

8:00 a.m. + Enrique Zapata

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

St. Robert Bellarmine; St. Hildegard of Bingen

8:00 a.m. + Paul E. Casey

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

8:00 a.m. + Frank Lentz

Thursday, September 19, 2024

St. Januarius

8:00 a.m. + Juan Javier Torres

Friday, September 20, 2024

SS. Kim Tae-gõn, Paul Chõng Ha-sang, and Companions

8:00 a.m. SI Diane Maglione, Birthday Blessings

Saturday, September 21, 2024

St. Matthew

8:00 a.m. Memorial Mass Association|

For the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. + John Friedrich

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. + Tomasa Saldana

9:30 a.m. + Thomas Van Nossdall

11:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Faustina

5:00 p.m. + Majin Pagán

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Prepare for Mass Prepararse para la misa

Readings for the Week / Lecturas de la semana

Monday / Lunes: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33;
Ps (Sal) 40:7-10, 17; Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday / Martes: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a;
Ps (Sal) 100:1-5; Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday / Miércoles: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13;
Ps (Sal) 33:2-5, 12, 22; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday / Jueves: 1 Cor 15:1-11;
Ps (Sal) 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50

Friday / Viernes: 1 Cor 15:12-20;
Ps (Sal) 17:1bcd, 6–7, 8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday / Sabado: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13;
Ps (Sal) 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Saturday Vigil and Sunday / Vigilia del
sábado y Domingo :** Wis 2:12, 17-20;
Ps (Sal) 54:3-4, 5, 6-8; Jas (San) 3:16—4:3;
Mk 9:30-37

Next Sunday's Readings / Lecturas del Próximo Domingo

First Reading / Primera lectura:

Wisdom / Sabiduría 2:12, 17-20 — “...the wicked aim at contending with the just one’s behavior...thinking..and fundamental identity.” / “...los malvados pretenden contender con el comportamiento...el pensamiento...y la identidad fundamental del justo”.

Ps (Sal) 54:3-4, 5, 6 and 8 (6b) — “The Lord upholds my life.” / “El Señor sostiene mi vida”.

Second Reading / Segunda lectura:

James / Santiago 3:16—4:30 — “Unfortunately, the wicked also reap what they sow.” / “Por desgracia, los malvados también recogen lo que siembran”.

Gospel / Evangelio: Mark / Marco 9:30-37— “The message becomes clear: Fighting for God’s grace is futile. “...fostering an open, docile spirit is the antidote to selfish ambition and wicked desires.” / ‘El mensaje es claro: Luchar por la gracia de Dios es inútil. “...fomentar un espíritu abierto y dócil es el antídoto contra la ambición egoísta y los deseos perversos”.

©Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Lord. US Edition, 2024.

Parish Prayer List / Lista de Oraciones de la Parroquia

In Our Thoughts and Prayers / En Nuestros Pensamientos y Oraciones

"The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful."

James 5:16

"La oración ferviente de una persona justa es muy poderosa".

Santiago 5:16



Tina Audino
David Bache
David Bartkus
Katie y Bebe sin nacer
Dolores Beltrani
Zachary Birkholz
Michael Daniel Boglino
Angela & Exevior Bojda
Anita Boyd
Brenda Brubaker
Larry Brunke Sr.
Kay Bucci
Jeannie Burns
Mary O. Callaghan
Helen Capozzi
Jean Conn
Carlos Corrales
Baby Jimmy Costello
Judith Crogman
Mary Ann Cunningham
Daniel Cuttita
Patrick J Cyr
Tina Cyr
Frances Cavone, Sr.

George Dana
Roger Darnell
Sandy Darnell
Ed David
Patricia Dick
David Egan
Hadley Epps
Jim Flanagan
Joseph Foster
Christine Gallagher
Carmine Gallo
Mary Garl
Elsa Gomez
Dcn. Raphael Gonzalez
Julie Haley
Nancy Harrigan
Lilian Hawkinson
Ron Henefer
Jessica Hiles
Jeff Hollingsworth
Roberta Hyland
Robert Kasper
Phillip Kilinski
Robert Kolenc


Joseph Krajc
Gabriela Lantigua-Pazmino
Timothy Leonard
Joseph Loughrey
John Magnotti
Jack Marchewka
Paul Mayo
Susan Mayo
Mike McGee
Frank T. Montiagnino
Megan Naughton
Barb Nelson
Kristey Nelson
Jan Nilsen
Al Novak
Patty Odell
Becky Oosterveen
Felisa Parker-Gibson
Lee Patrick
Linda Patrick
Michael Patrick
Lorgia Pazmino
Pablo Pazmino
Sue Plante

Gene Plante
Denise Pruneski
John Pruneski
Michelle Rigney
Antonia Sanchez
Adeline Serignese
Lenise Shope
Adam Sparacio
Paulette Sparlik
Steven Syrkin
Marge Tagler
Mark Thomas
Catherine Tyner
Julie Sabon VanDyke
David Venditti
Donald Villeneuve
Trish Villeneuve
Larry Wilson
Josephine Woulfe
Arabella Zeglovskis

Send updates to /
enviar actualizaciones
a
office@stfaustina.org

Vote No on Amendment 4

An extremely grave amendment has been placed on the November 2024 ballot that seeks to erase pro-life protections by inserting language into the Florida Constitution banning regulation of abortion. This amendment to the Florida constitution would allow abortion up until birth, including when the baby is capable of feeling pain, and would eliminate laws requiring parental consent and safety protocols for women. **The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is working hard to oppose this dangerous and deceptive amendment and urges all Floridians to vote 'no' on Amendment 4.**



VOTE NO
AMENDMENT 4

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Daily Mass Monday thru Saturday at 8:00 a.m. followed the Holy Rosary
Misa diaria de lunes a sábado a las 8:00 a.m. seguida del Santo Rosario*

- Saturday, September 14** Bake Sale after Mass
Bereavement and Consolation Ministry Workshop, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.,
Church and Classrooms 1 and 2
- Sunday, September 15** Bake Sale after Mass
- Monday, September 16** Timeline Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Classroom 2
- Tuesday, September 17** Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Classroom 2
Prayer and Life, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Classroom 1
Choir Practice, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Church
Emmaus, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Classroom 2
- Wednesday, September 18** Grandparents Ministry, 11:00 a.m. to Noon, Classroom 2
Holy Hour, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Church
Handbell Choir, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Church
Young Adults, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Classroom 2
- Thursday, September 19** Baptism Classes, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Classrooms 1 and 2
- Friday, September 20** Rosario en Español, 7:00 p.m., la Iglesia
- Saturday, September 21** Mulch Madness, 8:00 a.m. to noon, Church Grounds
Divine Will Study Group Announcement before Mass
- Sunday, September 22** Divine Will Study Group Announcement before Masses

OUR MISSION

St. Faustina is a parish family inspired by the Holy Spirit and called to reflect God's Divine Mercy through responsible stewardship of time, talent, and treasure in ministry.

NUESTRA MISION

Santa Faustina es una familia parroquial inspirada por el Espiritu Santo y llamada a reflejar la Divina Misericordia de Dios a traves de una administracion responsable del tiempo, el talento y el tesoro en el contexto de ministerio.



STEWARDSHIP / ADMINISTRACIÓN

Offertory / Ofertorio	\$9,705.76
Poor Box / Caja pobre	\$146.00
Mass Intentions / Intenciones de Misa	\$20.00
Religious Education / Educación religiosa	\$1,630.00
Votive Candles / Velas votivas	\$62.00
Gift Shop / Tienda de regalos	\$339.00
Diocesan Collections / Colectas diocesanas	\$1,059.00
Total	\$12,961.76
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Construction / Construcción	\$3,743.45
Fund Raising (Mulch Madness) / Recaudación de fondos	\$80.00
Fund Raising Food Sales / Venta de alimentos	\$150.00
Total	\$3,973.45

**Financial Stewardship
Administración
Financiera
September 7-8
7-8 de Septiembre**

**Mass Attendance
Asistencia a misa
1,488**

Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Faustina Parish!
¡Gracias por su continua generosidad con la parroquia de Santa Faustina!

Celebrate St. Faustina! ¡Celebremos a Santa Faustina!

St. Faustina Feast Day Celebration — We will celebrate St. Faustina's Feast Day on Saturday and Sunday, October 5-6! We will open the festivities on Saturday with a procession at 3:45 p.m., followed by our 4:00 p.m. Mass. After Mass, we will have food for sale and games for the kids until 6:30 p.m. On Sunday, October 6, we will have our regular schedule of Masses, except the Spanish Mass, which will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. instead of 5:00 p.m. We will have a closing procession after the Spanish Mass, followed by food sales and games, until 5:00 p.m. Our Caring Crafters Ministry will be selling their wares throughout the weekend, learn more at <https://bit.ly/4d2DI9c>, at the bottom of the page. All funds raised will go toward paying off the mortgage. Please come out and support our Parish while praising our Patron Saint.



Celebración de la Fiesta de Santa Faustina — ¡Celebremos la Fiesta de Santa Faustina el sábado y el domingo, 5 y 6 de octubre! Abriremos las festividades el sábado con una procesión a las 3:45 p.m., seguida de nuestra Misa a las 4:00 p.m.. Después de la Misa, tendremos comida a la venta y juegos para los niños hasta las 6:30 p.m. El domingo, 6 de octubre, tendremos nuestro horario regular de Misas, excepto la Misa en Español, que se celebrará a las 2:00 p.m. en lugar de a las 5:00 p.m. Tendremos una procesión de clausura después de la Misa en Español, seguida de venta de comida y juegos, hasta las 5:00 p.m. Nuestro Ministerio de Artesanos Solidarios venderá sus productos durante todo el fin de semana. Más información en <https://bit.ly/4d2DI9c>, al final de la página. Todos los fondos recaudados se destinarán al pago de la hipoteca. Por favor venga y apoye a nuestra Parroquia mientras alaba a nuestro Santo Patrón.

Parish News / Noticias Parroquiales



Saturday, September 21 / Sábado 21 de Septiembre

Next Weekend / Próximo fin de semana

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Food! Music! Fun! / ¡Comida! ¡Música! Divertido!

Learn How You Can Help Us at / Sepa Cómo Puede Ayudarnos en

<https://stfaustina.org/mulch-madness-2024/>

Please Help Us Spruce Up Our Church Grounds as we get Ready to Celebrate St. Faustina's Feast Day on October 5-6.

Por favor, ayúdenos a arreglar el terreno de nuestra iglesia mientras nos preparamos para celebrar la fiesta de Santa Faustina el 5 y 6 de octubre.



St. Faustina Grief Support Group Forming — Our next grief support group will begin on Saturday, September 28, at 1:00 pm in one of the classrooms. The group will meet every Saturday for ten consecutive weeks (except Thanksgiving weekend). We will end on Saturday, December 7. We have space for only ten individuals. We encourage you to sign up early. The Diocese of Orlando trains our coordinators, and they are here to help you on your journey. All group meetings are confidential, which means "WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY IN THE GROUP STAYS IN THE GROUP."

No one should ever grieve alone; let us help you on your journey. For more information and/or to join, please contact Kelly Mucci at kmucci@stfaustina.org or call the church office at 352-515-9297.

“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

Parish News / Noticias Parroquiales



Please Turn Right After Mass — When you leave our parking lot after Mass, please turn right onto Rte. 27 South. Attempting to cross Rte. 27 to turn left onto 27 North creates backups in the driveway and could be dangerous. Our Parking Ministry thanks you for your cooperation!

Por favor gire a la derecha después de la misa — Al salir de nuestro estacionamiento después de la misa, por favor gire a la derecha en Rte. 27 Sur. Intentar cruzar la Rte. 27 para doblar a la izquierda en la 27 Norte crea embotellamientos en el camino de entrada y podría ser peligroso. Nuestro Ministerio de Estacionamiento le agradece su cooperación.

Divine Will Group Will Start Meeting on September 26

— The Divine Will Group meets on the fourth Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in classroom #1. Its first meeting is on September 26.

The Divine Will is primary to all that exists and will ever exist. It is God's very Intention for all Creation. By disobeying God's Will, Adam and Eve were banished from Paradise and forced into lives injured by sin. God has a loving plan to redeem Humanity through a New Adam and Eve, namely Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We are now living during the culmination of God's plan for Redemption: the time of Sanctification. For this, our loving Father is providing special gifts and graces through His Will and the message of Our Lady of Fatima. As Pope Benedict said, "We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete."

By combining the message of Fatima and Mary's plan for our Salvation: the Rosary, Scapular, daily offerings, Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, and First Saturday Devotion, in the Divine Will, the Father cannot refuse our plea for Peace.

Is your soul thirsting for holiness and desire to pray for His Kingdom to come and His Will be done?

To learn more about the mystical gift of living In the Divine Will and Pilgrim Virgin Ministry, call David and Gloria Russell at 863-353-1673. Visit our parish ministry webpage at: <https://bit.ly/4fN0Yed>.



Salvar Vidas, Donar Sangre
Save Lives, Donate Blood

Parish Blood Drive Set for September 29

—On Sunday, September 29, we will host our bi-monthly blood drive from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Big Red Bus will be parked right outside our front entrance.



Our July drive saw this five-year ministry surpass the 600-donation plateau as 23 donors entered the bus, giving us 606 total pints donated, thus saving up to 1,818 lives as each donation can help save up to three patients. Besides the ability to help someone, you will receive a Wellness Check from the highly trained OneBlood staff members on board and a gift from OneBlood. While 90% of our donors are walk-ups, you can reserve your space by making an appointment at <https://bit.ly/3XBMSol>; as always, thank you for considering donating, and THANK YOU to all those who have participated in this important outreach ministry.

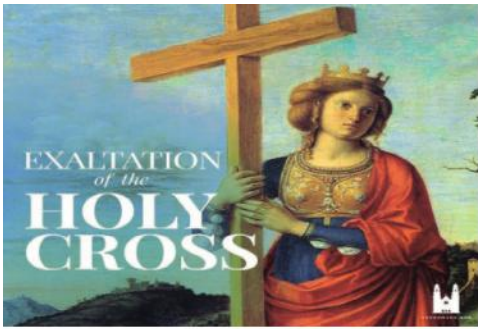
Colecta de Sangre Para el Domingo, 29 de Septiembre — El domingo, 29 de septiembre, tendremos nuestra colecta de sangre bimensual de 7:30 a.m. a 1:00 p.m. El Gran Autobús Rojo estará estacionado justo afuera de nuestra entrada principal.

En nuestra campaña de julio, este ministerio quinquenal superó la barrera de las 600 donaciones cuando 23 donantes entraron en el autobús, lo que nos dio un total de 606 pintas donadas, salvando así hasta 1.818 vidas, ya que cada donación puede ayudar a salvar hasta tres pacientes. Además de la posibilidad de ayudar a alguien, recibirás un chequeo de bienestar por parte del personal altamente cualificado de OneBlood que se encuentra a bordo y un regalo de OneBlood. Aunque el 90% de nuestros donantes son personas sin cita previa, puede reservar su plaza concertando una cita en <https://bit.ly/3XBMSol>; como siempre, gracias por considerar la posibilidad de donar, y GRACIAS a todos los que han participado en este importante ministerio de divulgación.



Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

By Marylu Mariniello



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated every year on September 14. It recalls three historical events – the finding of the True Cross by St. Helen, the dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulcher and Mount Calvary, and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II.

Helen, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in the early fourth century to search the holy places of Christ's life. She was in her eighties at that time. According to tradition, Helen first received the inspiration for this holy mission in a dream. While she was in Jerusalem, she had a second-century Temple of Aphrodite demolished. Many believed that the temple was built over Christ's tomb. During the excavation, workers found three crosses, a

board with Pilate's inscription and the nails which had pierced Jesus' body. The local bishop Macarius had all three crosses touched to the corpse of a dead man and the body of a woman who was dying. One cross brought the dead man back to life and instantly cured the sick woman. This was the life-giving Cross of Christ, which was found on May 3, 326. Then, her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot on September 13, 335.

Also, per the historian Rufinus, the identity of the True Cross was confirmed by a miraculous healing after Bishop Macarius recited this prayer:

"O Lord, who by the Passion of Thine only Son on the cross, didst deign to restore salvation to mankind, and who even now hast inspired thy handmaid Helena to seek for the blessed wood to which the author of our salvation was nailed, show clearly which it was, among the three crosses, that was raised for Thy glory. Distinguish it from those which only served for a common execution. Let this woman who is now expiring return from death's door as soon as she is touched by the wood of salvation."

Helen had a true love and zeal for Christ and his Cross. She taught everyone that if we have a strong love for Jesus, then it must also be a desire for his Cross. Helen became a saint, as well as Macarius.

The cross immediately became an entity of veneration. Towards the end of the fourth century, an eyewitness stated that while at a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered to be placed above Jesus' head.

Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

In 614, the Persian King Chosroes II declared war on the Romans. He conquered Jerusalem and confiscated many treasures, including Christ's Cross. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius tried to negotiate peace but was rejected. Then, he waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which was returned to Jerusalem. According to legend, the emperor wanted to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward. Then, he took off his regal clothing and became a barefoot pilgrim, which allowed him to do the pilgrimage.

The date of this event was placed on the Western calendar in the seventh century.

The Chapel of St. Helena is inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which was built by the [Crusaders](#) in her honor. It lies below the Chapel of the Finding of the True Cross, which venerates the site where Jesus Christ was crucified and buried.

The cross is the universal image of Christian belief. Thousands of generations of artists have made the cross into a thing of beauty to be carried in a procession or worn as jewelry. But to the first Christians, it had no beauty. Crosses stood outside many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, reminding all that Rome had authority and anyone who defied Rome, including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods, would be crucified. Believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, but it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

As the universal symbol of the Christian faith, the cross represents Christ's victory over death. In a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the means of our salvation. It was an instrument of torture designed to degrade the worst of criminals. Now it has become the life-giving tree which has reversed Original Sin.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: *'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (John 3:13-17).*

Blessed Dina Bélanger

By Marylu Mariniello

Marie-Marguerite-Dina-Adélaïde Bélanger was born on April 30, 1897 in Quebec. Her parents were Olivier Octave Bélanger and Séraphia Matte. Dina was baptized only a few hours after birth. She had two brothers, but one died as an infant. Her mother was very religious and taught her children many religious principles, including attending Mass and saying novenas. As a child, Dina was bored with church attendance and often had temper tantrums if she didn't get her way, but eventually outgrew this.

She began her studies at the convent-school of Saint Roch in 1903, making her First Communion and Confirmation on May 2, 1907. Then she went to Notre-Dame de Jacques-Cartier in 1909 and later entered the Bellevue convent boarding school in 1911, where she became homesick but overcame it. Here, she made a private act of consecration to God. Upon completing her education, Dina lived at home from 1913 to 1916 and started to examine her conscience each night.



In 1913, she asked her parents and two priests if she could enter the Notre-Dame order's novitiate, but the priests told her to wait. Dina studied piano in school, which led to a very high-level certificate and a laureate before she received a teaching diploma. Her parish priest advised her parents to enroll her at the Institute of Musical Art in the US. She went to New York to study in 1916, also learning English, returning to Canada after her graduation in June 1918. She now performed public concerts between 1918 and 1921 but wanted something more.

Dina entered the Religieuses de Jésus-Marie on August 11, 1921 taking the name of "Marie de Sainte-Cécile de Rome." She made her vows on August 15, 1923. Her first mission was at Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse, where she taught the piano, but she then became sick with scarlet fever, recovering that December in 1923. She tried to resume teaching, but the fever soon deteriorated into tuberculosis. Sister saw this as something which allowed her to deepen her union with Christ. Her Mother Superior suggested that Dina begin writing a biographical account of her life. Before this, Dina saw Jesus in a vision, who said to her, "You will do good by your writings." Her autobiographical accounts spanned from 1924 until a few months prior to her death, which gave details of her spiritual encounters with Christ in a series of visions.

Sister Marie became sicker in 1927 and was taken to the medical ward. On April 29, 1929, she was moved to the tuberculosis isolation ward for good.

She died on September 4, 1929, and was buried at the convent. Later, in May of 1990, her remains were moved.

In 1950, her beatification cause opened in Québec. The informative process was held from May 11, 1950 until May 2, 1956 with her parents offering testimonies for the process. The theologians approved her journal entries and other spiritual writings on July 8, 1965, with a supplementary process. An apostolic practice was dispensed, causing the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to validate the previous processes in Rome on January 30, 1987. Pope John Paul II announced her Venerable on May 13, 1989.

The miracle that led to her beatification was the cure of an infant, Jules Chiasson of Brunswick. He suffered from hydrocephalus, which is a condition with a great deal of fluid within the brain, which was now reduced. The miracle was approved, and Dina Bélanger was beatified on March 20, 1993. Her feast day is September 4.

The Salle Dina-Bélanger, the Québec Music Festival Dina Bélanger, and the Collège Dina Bélanger in Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse are named for her. A musical based on her life was presented as part of the Fourth Centennial of Quebec, including the Forty-Ninth International Eucharistic Congress, which was held there in June 2008.

This is her quote: "In heaven I shall be a beggar of love: that is my mission and I am beginning it here and now. I shall give joy."

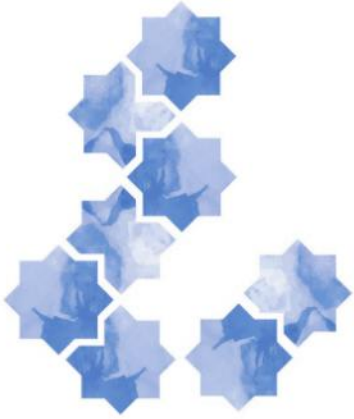


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