

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHEDRAL PARISH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES

Established 1982



March 9, 2025

1240 S. Espina, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

(575) 524-8563 • Fax: (575) 523-2252 • [www.ihmcathedral.org](http://www.ihmcathedral.org) • Email: [frontdesk@ihmcathedral.org](mailto:frontdesk@ihmcathedral.org)

## CLERGY

**Bishop:** Most Rev. Peter Baldacchino, J.C.L.

**Rector:** Rev. Alejandro Reyes Cardenas

**Deacons:** Deacon Ed Fierro

Deacon Ruben Gutierrez



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



## SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES / MISAS

### WEEKENDS / FINES DE LA SEMANA

**Saturday Vigil/Vigilia los Sabados:** 5:30 p.m. (English)

**Sunday/Domingo:** 7:30a.m., 11:00a.m. (English)  
9:00a.m. (*Español*)

### WEEKDAYS / DÍAS DE LA SEMANA

**Mon. to Sat.:** 8:15 a.m. (English)

**Tuesday:** 6:00 p.m. (*Español*)

**Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. Holy Hour (*Español*)

**Friday:** 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet (English)

**Baptism:** Call Office to Register for Classes

Classes offered 3rd Saturday of every month

Spanish: 10AM-12PM and English: 12PM-2PM

**Confessions in Church:** Monday - Friday: 7am-8am

Sat.: 4pm-5pm

**OR ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF THE PRIESTS**

**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon Request

**Marriage:** Call Parish Office for Preparation at least 6 months  
in advance and before setting a firm date.



Registration: We welcome new parishioners, winter visitors and visiting friends to our parish. New members are encouraged to visit the IHM office to complete a registration form. We encourage you to use your envelope even if your donation is a modest one; this helps us to know that you are an active parishioner.



# RECENT EVENTS

1. Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral
2. Ash Wednesday Mass with our elderly
3. Immaculate Cisteros of San Joselito (IHM Youth Group)
4. IHM Rosary Makers' meeting and Valentine's Day celebration



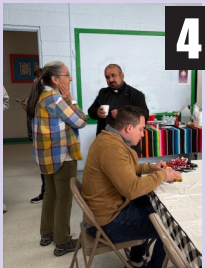
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## Saint Patrick's Day Celebration

Games, Food, Music and More!

on  
**Monday,**  
**March 17**  
**6:00pm**  
 in  
**Finley Hall**



### SCRUTINIES



During the lent season, during some masses, we will celebrate the scrutinies for those in our catechumenal process who are preparing to become full members of our Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter Vigil.

#### Scrutiny: What is it?

Another name that can describe the scrutiny is "major exorcisms." As such, they are among the most ancient prayers in the Christian liturgical tradition. As early as the second century, Christian communities would help those who had been chosen for Baptism to prepare for their initiation by laying on hands and by prayers for protection and deliverance from evil. Today we continue to celebrate these powerful rituals, convinced that those about to enter a covenant with God in Christ stand in need of our prayers for deliverance and protection.

#### What can you do?

Just as our entire community is called to journey with the catechumens throughout the Lenten season, we recognize the need we all share for freedom from evil and its effects. We urge you to prepare for the celebration of the scrutinies in a personal way by discerning what is in your own life that needs to be free from sin's bondage. Join in spirit with all our community who turn to Jesus for freedom from sin and protection from all evil.

*Please continue to hold in your Lenten prayers the elect who count on you for their spiritual support in making their faith journey.*

**Our Battle with Temptation**

Dear Brothers and Sisters: This first Sunday of Lent I want you to know that you are not alone on your journey. Ask the Lord to grant us the grace to walk together toward the Heavenly Father who always waits for us to return to him with sincere hearts.

I am aware of the seriousness and challenges of our spiritual warfare because we are not dealing with creatures from this world but with spiritual realities. We are constantly tempted and led to the spiritual desert of our lives. But today I want you to find courage in the Holy Spirit who is the Healer of souls. We are not orphans; we have a father who renders the heavens and comes to our assistance. In today's gospel our Savior and Redeemer teaches us how to overcome temptation and to battle against evil.

I ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with his grace, that our hearts may become strong enough to resist the deceit of the devil—to help us to see the seriousness of our sins and repent and change.

Please do not be deceived. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). For that reason, discerning and prayerful disposition are needed.

This Lenten season be aware of the many graces and spiritual weapons that the Lord has offered you. Prayer, fasting and giving alms should be essential for you. Don't waste these gifts which are given to us. Learn the value of them. "The unspiritual men do not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God," writes saint Paul. "For they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor 2:14). The unfortunate reality is that the modern campaign of militant secular indoctrination has been so severe that only a dwindling remnant remains who believes or trusts in God's supernatural power and sanctifying grace. As a result, the spiritual hearts are reduced to the size of a thimble, only capable of receiving a few drops, if any, from the wellspring of God's graces (Rev 22.12). In spiritual terms this makes us puny and scrawny rather than strong and powerful warriors ready to confront the powers of darkness in the heavenly realm. With so many modern Christians ignoring the reality of grace, it is not any wonder that evil is advancing in our days.

Saint Paul reminds us, "The weapons of our battle are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds" (2 Cor 10:4). Yes, a Divine Power is available to all those who choose to enlist in God's army of spiritual warriors, ready to stand "God strong" against evil's clear and present danger.

This Lenten season allows the fire of the Holy Spirit to fill your hearts to ensure your efforts to combat evil. Be humble, be obedient, and trust in the Lord who constantly comes down to rescue those who trust in him and not just in themselves.

Are you free from selfishness and willing to enlist in Christ's fighting force and be the warrior he is calling you to be? Or are you still slave of your own passion and attachments? Finally, temptation will be there until the last minute of your life. It will leave you for a season, but it will come back to you in your desire to entertain it. However, Satan will tire of tempting you if you ignore his plans and overcome temptation by becoming a warrior of God.

God is ready to restore your innocence and restore the grace you received the day of your baptism. Come back to him with your whole heart. Remember he hears the cry of the poor and the humble.

Have a blessed Sunday.

Sincerely,

Father Alejandro Reyes, Rector

**Nuestra batalla contra la tentación**

Queridos hermanos y hermanas: Este primer domingo de Cuaresma quiero que sepáis que no estáis solos en vuestro camino. Pedid al Señor que nos conceda la gracia de caminar juntos hacia el Padre celestial que siempre espera que volvamos a él con un corazón sincero.

Soy consciente de la gravedad y de los desafíos de nuestra guerra espiritual porque no se trata de criaturas de este mundo sino de realidades espirituales. Somos constantemente tentados y conducidos al desierto espiritual de nuestras vidas. Pero hoy quiero que encontréis valor en el Espíritu Santo que es el Sanador de las almas. No somos huérfanos; tenemos un padre que nos da los cielos y nos ayuda. En el evangelio de hoy nuestro Salvador y Redentor nos enseña cómo vencer la tentación y luchar contra el mal.

Pido al Espíritu Santo que nos llene de su gracia, para que nuestros corazones se fortalezcan lo suficiente para resistir el engaño del diablo, para ayudarnos a ver la gravedad de nuestros pecados y arrepentirnos y cambiar.

Por favor, no se dejen engañar. "Amados, no crean a todo espíritu, sino prueben los espíritus para ver si son de Dios, porque muchos falsos profetas han salido al mundo" (1 Juan 4:1). Por eso, se necesita una disposición de discernimiento y oración.

En este tiempo de Cuaresma, sean conscientes de las muchas gracias y armas espirituales que el Señor les ha ofrecido. La oración, el ayuno y la limosna deben ser esenciales para ustedes. No desperdicien estos dones que se nos dan. Aprendan el valor de ellos. "Los hombres carnales no perciben los dones del Espíritu de Dios", escribe san Pablo. "Porque para él son locura y no los puede entender, porque se disciernen espiritualmente" (1 Cor 2:14). La triste realidad es que la campaña moderna de adoctrinamiento secular militante ha sido tan severa que sólo queda un remanente cada vez menor que cree o confía en el poder sobrenatural de Dios y en su gracia santificadora. Como resultado, los corazones espirituales se reducen al tamaño de un dedal, capaces de recibir sólo unas gotas, si es que reciben alguna, de la fuente de las gracias de Dios (Apocalipsis 22:12). En términos espirituales, esto nos convierte en seres débiles y flacuchos en lugar de guerreros fuertes y poderosos listos para enfrentar los poderes de las tinieblas en el reino celestial. Con tantos cristianos modernos que ignoran la realidad de la gracia, no es de extrañar que el mal esté avanzando en nuestros días.

San Pablo nos recuerda: "Las armas de nuestra guerra no son armas del mundo, sino que tienen el poder divino para destruir fortalezas" (2 Cor 10:4). Sí, hay un Poder Divino disponible para todos aquellos que eligen alistarse en el ejército de guerreros espirituales de Dios, listos para permanecer "Dios fuerte" contra el peligro claro y presente del mal.

Este tiempo de Cuaresma permite que el fuego del Espíritu Santo llene tus corazones para asegurar tus esfuerzos para combatir el mal. Sé humilde, sé obediente y confía en el Señor que constantemente desciende para rescatar a quienes confían en él y no solo en sí mismos.

¿Estás libre del egoísmo y estás dispuesto a alistarte en la fuerza de combate de Cristo y ser el guerrero que Él te está llamando a ser? ¿O todavía eres esclavo de tu propia pasión y apegos? Finalmente, la tentación estará allí hasta el último minuto de tu vida. Te dejará por un tiempo, pero no te dejará.

Volverá a ti en tu deseo de entretenerte. Sin embargo, Satanás se cansará de tentarte si ignoras sus planes y superas la tentación convirtiéndote en un guerrero de Dios.

Dios está listo para restaurar tu inocencia y restaurar la gracia que recibiste el día de tu bautismo. Regresa a él con todo tu corazón. Recuerda que él escucha el clamor de los pobres y los humildes.

Que tengas un bendecido domingo.

Atentamente,

Padre Alejandro Reyes, Rector

## MASS INTENTIONS / INTENCIONES DE MISAS

~ Readings of the Week ~

### VIGIL MASS/VIGILIA: Saturday/Sábado, March 8

5:30 PM † Caroline OnDelacy (by the OnDelacy Family)  
† Mike Padilla (by the Padilla Family)

### SUNDAY/DOMINGO, March 9

Deuteronomy 26:4-10 / Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 / Romans 10:8-13 / Luke 4:1-13  
7:30 AM † Antonio and Helen Martinez (by Alice and Harry Lujan)  
9:00 AM (Sp) † Maria Escalante y Esperanza Lucero (por Les Flores Family)  
† Jose Eduardo Hernandez (por Patricia Rodriguez)  
Almas del Purgatorio  
11:00 AM † Natalia Villa (by Jose and Marie Gallegos)  
† Shelly Burke  
For immigrants and refugees

### Monday/Lunes, March 10

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 / Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 / Matthew 25:31-46

8:15 AM † Joseph H. Medina (by the Medina Family)

### Tuesday/Martes, March 11

Isaiah 55:10-11 / Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 / Matthew 6:7-15

8:15 AM Health for Pope Francis  
6:00 PM (Sp) Por la salud del Papa Francisco

### Wednesday/Miércoles, March 12

Jonah 3:1-10 / Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 / Luke 11:29-32

8:15 AM † Maria Asuncion Flores (by her family)

### Thursday/Jueves, March 13

Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 / Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 / Matthew 7:7-12

8:15 AM † Lilia Duran (by her daughters)  
6:00 PM (Sp) Por los jóvenes de nuestra comunidad

### Friday/Viernes, March 14

Ezekiel 18:21-28 / Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 / Matthew 5:20-26

8:15 AM † PC Cardon JR (by Kathy Cardon)

### Saturday/Sabado, March 15

Deuteronomy 26:16-19 / Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 / Matthew 5:43-48

8:15 AM For world peace

## WHAT IS HAPPENING



### O.C.I.A.: Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (Sacraments for Adults)

For **adults** who wish to learn more about their faith and/ or receive any sacrament of initiation: **baptism, holy first communion, confirmation.**

Classes will begin **Tuesday May 6, 2025.**

You will be confirmed into the program **after** a personal interview with the religious education director.

Please leave your name and phone number  
at the **IHM Office (575) 24-8563**  
so the DRE can return your call and schedule an interview.

## Lent: March 5 - April 17, 2025

### LENTEN FASTING

Fasting on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday  
Ages: 18-59

### ABSTINENCE (No Meat)

Ages: 14+  
On Ash Wednesday and every Friday  
during Lent

*When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.*

### Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.



MDS



Te invitamos  
A un retiro:

### Dialogo Matrimonial

Del 4 al 6 de April de 2025  
Solo parejas, no niños  
Para más información: Coordinadores de:  
Mision San Pedro  
Jeus y Claudia 575-650-3117 y 575-650-3083,  
Inmaculado corazon de Maria (West Way)  
Noe y Blanca 575-639-8980,  
Santo Tomas Moro  
Enrique y Sandra 575-621-0766 y 575-650-4468  
Catedral Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Luis y Lucia 575-571-5438



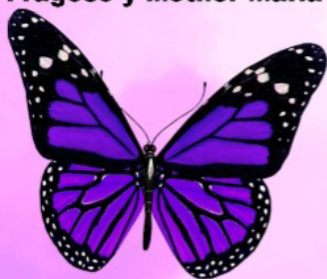
The Immaculate  
Heart of Mary  
**Gift Shop**  
**Is Open!**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**8:30am – 4:30pm**  
Located in the IHM office



*Pray for the Member of Our Parish Who Are Ill*

**Vickie Y Peter Alvarez  
Jennette & Jessie Apocado  
Margie y Carlos Armendariz  
Stella Armenta  
Christina Arrieta  
Mrs. Arvizu  
Daniel J. Castillo  
Alice & Carlos Castro  
Jessica D. Chavez  
Bill & Raquel Chubb  
Joe Contreras  
Narciso Dominguez  
Rick & Gerry Duran  
Ed Fragoso y Mother Maria**

**Manuel Granillo  
Daniel Jasso  
Isabel Juarez  
Mary y Tony Gallegos  
Jim Hirschy  
Phyllis Larkin  
Caesar Lopez  
Raymond Matlak  
Lupe Mirabel  
Deacon Ed Misquez  
Mr. & Mrs. Montoya  
Msgr. Juan Moreno  
Lucy & Nacho Nuanez  
Jackie Ontiveros  
Virginia y Mike Ortega  
Martha Rivera  
Julieta Rojas  
Rose Sedillo  
Daniel Tellez  
Sally Torres  
Ralph Trevizo  
Sadie Valverde  
Mr. & Mrs. Zapta**



**Collections: 2-23-2025**

1st Collection.....	\$5,606.00
2nd Collection.....	\$2,225.00
Gift Shop.....	\$433.00
Office.....	\$5,268.00
Mail-ins.....	\$1,993.00
Online Donations.....	\$4,572.10

**2nd Collections:**

Month of March: Easter Flower Offerings  
March 9: IHM Building Fund

Mass Intentions Weekday: \$10.00 • Weekend: \$15.00 • Prayer Request: Free  
**\*\* Please request Mass Intentions at least 2 weeks in advance. \*\***



TALLERES DE ORACIÓN Y VIDA  
Life Means Embracing Life

**Prayer and Life Workshop**

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO FEEL CLOSER TO 'GOD'.  
AND HAVE MORE PEACE AND JOY IN YOUR LIFE?**

In the 'Prayer & Life Workshop' you will learn to walk step by step into a personal relationship with our 'Lord'. By using different Prayer Methods you will be freed from sadness, anxiety, fear, and anguish.

You're invited to come to the 'Prayer & Life Workshop.'  
1st Session Monday March 10th, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Room 3  
For more information call  
Judy & William Cornelius: 575: 635-1781



**JOIN US AS WE PRAY A  
ROSARY FOR LIFE**

COURT SANTA CRUZ #1298  
COURT QUEEN OF HEAVEN

**SUNDAYS 12:30 PM**

**ST. GENEVIEVE'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

March 16  
March 23

**CATHEDRAL OF THE  
IMMACULATE HEART  
OF MARY**

March 30  
April 6  
April 13

**Mass Intentions**

Pope Paul VI said,  
**"The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer,"**  
and is said in communion with the ENTIRE Universal Church.

Mass intentions are a great treasure of the Church and have a spiritual weight that is incalculable.

**Please Request Mass Intentions in the office  
AT LEAST 2 weeks in Advance**





## St. Christina

**Feast Day: March 11**



St. Christina lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century and was the daughter of a rich and powerful magistrate. Though his lovely daughter had drawn the eye of several suitors by the time she reached the age of 11, he wanted her to be a pagan priestess.

He locked his daughter in a room filled with gold and silver idols, then ordered her to burn incense before them. Saint Christina often peered at the world outside her window and decided there must have been a great creator of the

world. Turning to the idols, she came to believe they could only be false as they were forged by man and she began to pray to the creator of the world and asked him to reveal himself to her. That was when she felt an intense love blaze from deep within her heart and saw an angel appear before her. She began to fast and continued to pray. St. Christina smashed the false idols.

When her father came to visit and discovered the idols, he questioned St. Christina but she refused to speak to him. Enraged, he began to slap his daughter's face until she began to speak - but her words were to proclaim her new faith and to share the Truth so he threw her in prison. During her time in captivity, she was tortured yet converted nearly 300 people. When she survived five days in a red-hot furnace, she was finally executed with a sword.

## Santa Cristina

**Día festivo: 11 de marzo**

Santa Cristina vivió en el siglo III y era hija de un magistrado rico y poderoso que quería que ella fuera una sacerdotisa pagana.

Encerró a su hija en una habitación llena de ídolos de oro y plata y luego le ordenó que quemara incienso ante ellos. Santa Cristina miraba a menudo el mundo fuera de su ventana y decidía que debía haber habido un gran creador del mundo. Refiriéndose a los ídolos, llegó a creer que sólo podían ser falsos ya que habían sido forjados por el hombre y comenzó a orar al creador del mundo y le pidió que se revelara a ella. Fue entonces cuando sintió un intenso amor arder desde lo más profundo de su corazón y vio aparecer un ángel ante ella. Ella comenzó a ayunar y continuó orando. Santa Cristina destruyó los falsos ídolos.

Cuando su padre vino de visita y descubrió los ídolos, la metió en prisión. Durante su tiempo en cautiverio, fue torturada y, sin embargo, convirtió a casi 300 personas. Cuando sobrevivió cinco días en un horno al rojo vivo, finalmente fue ejecutada con una espada.

## **Pope's March prayer intention: 'for families in crisis'**

*Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of March 2025, and invites everyone to pray for "families in crisis," as he acknowledges that no family is perfect, but that when we forgive our family members, we can rediscover peace.*

### **By Deborah Castellano Lubov**

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this March is for "families in crisis."

The Pope invited the Church to pray for this intention in this month's The Pope Video, which is entrusted to the entire Catholic Church through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

The images and audio in the video were prepared prior to the Holy Father's arrival at Rome's Gemelli Hospital on 14 February, where he continues his treatment for bilateral pneumonia.

In The Pope Video for March, the Holy Father acknowledged the great difficulties facing families.

### **'NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT FAMILY'**

"We all dream about a beautiful, perfect family. But," Pope Francis recognized, "there's no such thing as a perfect family," for each family "has its own problems," "as well as its tremendous joys."

While every member of the family is important because each is unique, the Pope lamented how often their differences cause conflict and painful wounds, as he suggests a solution.

"The best medicine to heal the pain of a wounded family," he stressed, "is forgiveness," adding that forgiveness requires giving our family members "another chance."

"God," Pope Francis pointed out, "does this with us all the time." Reminding that God's patience is infinite, the Holy Father reminded how He "forgives us, lifts us up, and gives us a new start."

### **RENEWING THE FAMILY THROUGH FORGIVENESS**

In the same way, the Pope suggested, pardoning one another "always renews the family" and makes "it look forward with hope."

Even when there's no possibility of the "happy ending" we'd like, he noted, God's grace gives us the strength to forgive.

Doing so, he explained, "brings peace," because "it frees us from sadness, and, above all, from resentment."

Pope Francis concluded by saying, "Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences."

## **Semana por la Vida en México: "Promovamos la familia y la educación en valores"**

*La Conferencia Episcopal Mexicana divulga un mensaje llamando a abrir la conciencia a la luz de la verdad para ser mensajeros de la esperanza y de la vida.*



### **Sebastián Sansón Ferrari - Ciudad del Vaticano**

"Frente a la cultura de la muerte y del descarte, nuestra respuesta debe ser un compromiso firme y decidido con la cultura de la vida y la dignidad humana". Este es el llamamiento que la Conferencia Episcopal Mexicana (CEM) dirige

con motivo de la "Semana por la Vida 2025", que se celebrará del 24 al 28 de marzo durante el Año Jubilar. Según plantean, esto implica formar una conciencia iluminada por la verdad, defender la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural, promover la familia y la educación en valores, combatir la violencia con la paz del Evangelio, acompañar a las víctimas de violencia y fortalecer tanto la evangelización como el compromiso social.

"Queremos ser mensajeros de esperanza y vida, acogiendo con amor la fraternidad", expresa el Episcopado. "Seamos mensajeros de esperanza y vida, acogiendo con amor al enfermo, al débil y al vulnerable. Acojamos a nuestros enfermos, especialmente a aquellos que se encuentran cerca de la resurrección de la vida en Cristo. Seamos mensajeros de esperanza y vida, rehabilitando a quienes han caído en las garras del crimen".

Los obispos afirman que "la dignidad humana ha sido gravemente afectada por el secuestro, la extorsión y la violencia" en una situación que definen como "desafiante" para el país. Se trata de una realidad "dolorosa", subrayan, marcada por la proliferación de una "cultura de la muerte y el descarte", que se manifiesta de diversas formas: desde la despenalización y promoción del aborto hasta la violencia descontrolada, la delincuencia organizada y el narcotráfico, que han convertido vastas regiones en "zonas de guerra".

Ante este contexto, el comunicado de los Obispos cita un pasaje de la bula de indicción del Año Santo, *Spes non confundit*, en la que el Pontífice afirma: "San Pablo sabe que la vida está hecha de alegrías y dolores, que el amor se pone a prueba cuando aumentan las dificultades y la esperanza parece derrumbarse frente al sufrimiento". Por ello, insisten en que la Iglesia nos invita a mirar el futuro con esperanza y reafirma su compromiso inquebrantable con la defensa de la vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Los Pastores también hacen un llamado a ser mensajeros de esperanza y vida para los migrantes. Asimismo, tienen la certeza de que "Dios camina con su pueblo" y desean que la esperanza "sea un faro que oriente nuestro caminar, porque sabemos que el Amor nos ha salvado y nos sostiene".

En este sentido, animan a trabajar juntos, con valentía, "por un México donde la vida sea respetada y promovida en todas sus etapas". Por último, los prelados encomiendan la "Semana por la Vida" a la Virgen de Guadalupe, "para que interceda por nosotros y nos ayude a ser constructores de una auténtica cultura de la vida".

## EU Bishops: Ukraine's struggle 'will be decisive for the fate of Europe and the world'

*The Presidency of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU releases a statement stressing the importance of continuing to support Ukraine and its people.*

By Kielce Gussie

A statement issued on March 4 by the Presidency of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union stresses that Ukraine's struggle for peace "will also be decisive for the fate of Europe and the world."

The message reaffirms the European Union Bishops' continued support of Ukraine and its people, "who have been suffering from Russia's unjustifiable full-scale invasion for more than three years."

### A FATE WHICH EXTENDS BEYOND BORDERS

The Presidency of the Commission's statement shares their ongoing prayers for those who have died, those who are wounded or fighting for their country, and those who have been displaced as a result of the war.

The statement also expresses gratitude to the EU decision-makers for "providing unprecedented humanitarian, political, economic, financial as well as military support to Ukraine and its people over the past years."

More than simply describing their sentiment, the bishops use the statement to highlight how the fate of Ukraine will extend far beyond its borders and instead affect the entire world.

### A NEW CHAPTER OF WAR

Recognizing the "geopolitical complexities and the unpredictability of actions" of some countries, the bishops call on the EU and its member states to "remain united in their commitment to supporting Ukraine and its people."

Following the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion, the Commission labels the attack as a "blatant violation of international law" and points out that the acts committed against civilians during this time "demand a consequent pursuit of justice and accountability."

### WHAT PEACE SHOULD LOOK LIKE

This accountability would come in the form of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine. The statement explains this can only be achieved through negotiations, supported by global solidarity, and including Ukraine in discussions. The EU bishops "firmly reject any attempts to distort the reality of this aggression."

Peace must be in accordance with international law and must create the needed environment to allow Ukrainian families to reunite and "live a life in dignity, security and freedom in their sovereign and independent homeland."

Yet, the bishops also stress the importance of protecting the rights of all communities, "including the Russian-speaking minority." This should be part of the reconstruction of Ukraine's infrastructure and "Russia, the aggressor, must adequately participate in this effort." It must be a peace created through international cooperation and solidarity.

The bishops do not shy away from encouraging the EU to move forward with adding Ukraine as a member state in a "timely and fair manner." The Commission of EU bishops express its hope that the European Union will continue to live its vocation as a promoter of "peace and an anchor of stability to its neighborhood and to the world."

As Christians prepare for Lent to begin on March 5, the bishops entrust Ukraine and Europe to Jesus through the intercession of Mary, the Queen of Peace.

## The Faithful Can Witness to the Power of God's Love by Supporting the Poor and Vulnerable During Lent

"This Lent, poor families around the world are struggling to access the basic necessities which they need in order to survive. Right now, children are at risk of acute malnutrition, pregnant mothers are not receiving essential care at critical moments during pregnancy, and efforts to prevent deadly diseases like measles, polio, and pneumonia are paused."

WASHINGTON - "As Catholics in a global Church, we witness to the power of God's love through our presence and assistance to those who are vulnerable," said Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. Bishop Zaidan encouraged the faithful to remember the vulnerable around the world who are struggling for survival:

"This Lent, poor families around the world are struggling to access the basic necessities which they need in order to survive. Right now, children are at risk of acute malnutrition, pregnant mothers are not receiving essential care at critical moments during pregnancy, and efforts to prevent deadly diseases like measles, polio, and pneumonia are paused. Yet we know that each child who is hungry and each mother and father who struggle to care for their family is precious in the eyes of God and is a neighbor in need of our loving care."

"As Catholics in a global Church, we witness to the power of God's love through our presence and assistance to those who are vulnerable. The Church's witness is lived out through the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which is the official overseas relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas Internationalis. This Lent, Catholics can participate in CRS Rice Bowl, and The Catholic Relief Services Collection, which benefits CRS and other efforts by the Church to help those in need. The work of CRS helps the Church live out Christ's call to love our neighbors—without exception—whether next door or across the globe."

"As we approach the season of Lent, let us respond to the invitation of Pope Francis, champion of the poor, for whose speedy recovery we continue to pray. Inspired by his call to be 'neighbors without borders' (Fratelli tutti, no. 80), may we pray, fast, abstain, and give alms, that all who are precious in God's eyes may have what they need to not only survive, but also thrive."

Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral

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Stations of the Cross

Fridays During Lent

English: 6pm

Spanish: 7pm

# IHM Catechism Announcement

**Spring Break 2025:**  
**NO CLASS!**  
Classes Resume  
March 26, 2025  
At 6pm



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces requires that all clergy, employees, and volunteers undergo a background check, participate in a



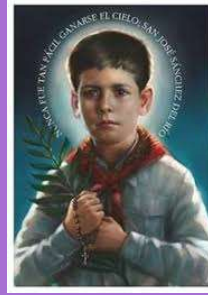
**VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Training Module,**

and sign a code of conduct every 5 years.

**For questions in complying with these requirements,** please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Mary Frances Garcia for Assistance.  
mgarcia@rcdlc.org

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Grades 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to attend!

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**Important Dates at the Cathedral**

**Season of Lent**  
*No meat on Fridays!*  
March 5- April 17, 2025

**Stations of the Cross**  
*Fridays through Lent*  
English - 6:00PM  
Spanish - 7PM

**IHM Pilgrimage To Mexico**  
March 9 - March 15, 2025

**Saint Patrick's Day Celebration**  
Games, Food, Music and more!  
Monday, March 17, 2025  
6:00PM

**Holy Week**  
Sunday April 13 -  
Saturday April 19, 2025

**Easter Sunday**  
Sunday April 20, 2025

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