

Happy Thanksgiving

May God's peace, grace, and abundance rest upon you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving. We are deeply grateful for your life and ministry, and for the faithful, joyful heart with which you serve the Lord and His people. May He refresh your spirit and bless your home abundantly during this season of gratitude.

Bishop's Letter

Create a dwelling place within hearts, minds, souls

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We behold God's dwelling place in the heavens, a place in which we long to see God face to face. The people whom we call saints, also longed for this, and they give us the example of how to live on this earth — creating the dwelling place of God right here. The saints tell us that we are created by God to live as His dwelling place, within our heart, our mind, our soul and with all our strength. The saints also show us our humanity, for their struggles to believe in or remain faithful to God are as real as the ones we encounter within ourselves each day.

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Couples Retreats

We have the dates for 2027 couples retreats at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center.

Consuming Love: The Eucharist and Spousal Intimacy

Led by Father Greg Cleveland, OMV | January 22-24

The Eucharistic banquet is the wedding feast of the Lamb. Our union with Jesus in the Eucharist is most truly and fully a marriage which transcends marriage on a human level since God is divine and we as humans are "divinized" by his grace. Since the Eucharist is a wedding feast, the Song of Songs, which portrays a Bridegroom King and his bride queen on their wedding day, becomes the perfect language of love to describe our bond with Christ our Bridegroom.



Father Greg Cleveland, OMV, is a native of Chicago and graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in business administration. After working as a marketing manager for a Midwestern railroad company, he followed God's call to priesthood in 1987, joined the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, and attended Our Lady of Grace Seminary and St. John's School of Theology in Boston.

Father Cleveland then served as executive director of the Lanteri Center for Ignatian Spirituality in Denver, Colorado, where he offered spiritual direction and retreats while teaching training programs in these ministries. Currently, he is the Retreat Master at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center in Venice, Florida.

The Missionary in the Mirror: Lessons on our Ministry from Pope Leo

Led by Deacon Greg Kandra | February 19-21

This retreat draws on the writings and life of Pope Leo and applies some lessons to our lives as deacons. It looks at how we can reconsider ministry as being, really, a mission — one animated by three important elements: prayer, preaching, and presence. Deacon Kandra offers stories of some well-known missionaries and what we can learn from them.



Deacon Greg Kandra is an author, speaker, blogger, and award-winning journalist who may be best known as the creator of the popular blog The Deacon's Bench. Deacon Kandra was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2007. He served for 11 years as a senior writer and editor for Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a pontifical agency founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926. Before joining CNEWA, Deacon Kandra spent nearly three decades in broadcast journalism, most of that time at CBS News, where he was honored with every major award in broadcasting, including three Peabody Awards, three Emmy Awards and four awards from the Writers Guild of America. Deacon Kandra is the author of eight books, including "A Deacon Prays" (Ave Maria Press), which won First Place (Prayer) at the 2022 Catholic Media Book Awards. He and his wife live in Apopka, Florida.

Couples Retreats

Comingling Humanity and Divinity: Our Life in Christ

Led by Deacon Kevin Bagley | March 5-7

"By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity." How do we, as deacons, mix with the presbyterate and laity; how do we express our fiat; how are we moving our humanity toward divinity?



Deacon Bagley is a father and grandfather, a catholic gentleman, and a great guy to know. He was ordained a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Baltimore in June 2001 by Cardinal William Keeler. Deacon Bagley has a Doctorate in Ministry degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. with a specialization in Liturgy and Sacramental Theology. His treatise: "Guiding Deacons to a Greater Understanding of the Spirit of the Liturgy through a Deeper Understanding of the Nature of Liturgical Action."

Tema por determinar (Spanish)

Led by Father Dowglas Ramon Guevara Ávil, vicario parroquial de la parroquia de San Isaac Jogues | April 23-25



Nací en la ciudad de Chinandega, Diócesis de León, al occidente de Nicaragua. Siempre me apasionó el tema del sufrimiento humano y la pobreza y por esa razón me involucré en la pastoral Juvenil parroquial para aprender más de Jesucristo. Hice incidencia política no partidaria mientras estudiaba la licenciatura de Economía hasta finalizarla en el 2006. Ese mismo año decidí entrar al seminario para iniciar los Estudios de bachillerato en filosofía y teología necesarios para la ordenación sacerdotal. Fuí ordenado el 25 de enero del 2014 ya con 12 años de ministerio. Tengo 43 años de edad. Por la persecución religiosa llevada a cabo por el criminal gobierno sandinista hace me exilie el 09 de Julio del 2023 en Costa Rica y allí fui nombrado Vicario Parroquial de la Parroquia Sagrado Corazon de Jesus- Catedral de la Diócesis de Limón. Trasladé mi residencia a los Estados Unidos y llegué a la parroquia Santa Ana en Haines City en la Diócesis de Orlando, FL donde me dediqué al estudio, la oración y el apostolado de la música y la atención a los enfermos. Nombrado pocas semanas como vicario parroquial de la parroquia Resurrección Lakeland, y actualmente soy nombrado vicario parroquial para la parroquia San Isaac Jogues.

ALL RETREAT COSTS ARE PAID BY THE DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

All retreats are held at San Pedro Center.
For more information and to register please visit www.sanpedrocenter.org/deacon-retreats, scan the QR code or call Luna Padilla at 407-671-6322 ext. 115.

Registration will close 2 weeks before the retreat.

San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

SAN PEDRO CENTER | 95 BISHOP GRADY LANE, WINTER PARK, FL 32792 | 407-671-6322



Continuing Education

Clincal Pastoral Education for Hospital Chaplains

AdventHealth offers a broad offering of educational programs in support of those wishing to serve in hospital ministry from online courses to enhance specific skills to a full CPE program.

Click here to explore these opportunities.

Funeral Arrangements

As we begin to wrap up for the year, now is a great time to review your funeral arrangements and update if needed.

Click here for a blank copy of the form.

*Email your funeral updates to **Jennifer Kuhn**.*

Contact Information

As most of you are aware, you are required to update our office with any contact information changes such as mailing addresses, phone numbers, and emails. If you have had a change and are not sure if we have received this change, please email **Jennifer** with the new information.



Job Opportunity

Family Services Coordinator

The Diocese of Orlando is hiring for a Memorial Advisor for Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery in Oxford, Florida. Their preferred candidate is a deacon with faculties in the Diocese of Orlando. This is a full-time paid position.

Click here for job details.

Parishes Still In Need Of Deacons

Several pastors have requested additional deacons be assigned to their parishes. If you feel God may be calling you to one of these parishes, or that God may be letting you know it is time to change parishes, please contact **Deacon Dave** to discuss one or more of these opportunities:

St. Andrew Parish
801 N. Hastings St., Orlando | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.
Pastor: Father Leo Hodges

St. Joseph Parish (Winter Haven)
532 Ave. M, NW, Winter Haven | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.
Pastor: Father Glenn Lopez

St. Paul Parish and School
1330 Sunshine Ave., Leesburg | Needs a deacon (bilingual Spanish/English preferred).
Parochial Administrator: Father Joseph Tran

St. Mary Parish
1136 Seminole Dr., Rockledge | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.
Parochial Administrator: Father Joseph Shaute

St. Mary Magdalen Parish
861 Maitland Ave., Altamonte Springs
Pastor: Father Ralph DuWell

St. John Neumann Parish
501 East Carter Rd. Lakeland, FL
Parochial Administrator: Father Juan Montoya

Ministry Opportunities

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, PATHWAYS TO CARE

Learn how to volunteer.

TOURISM

Serving at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe** continues to be a deeply rewarding ministry. The beauty of the liturgy, our collaboration with the Diaconate Formation Program, and the opportunity to accompany pilgrims in prayer and conversation make this service especially meaningful.

As visitation grows, we are having trouble covering all scheduled Mass times. We invite deacons to consider **volunteering**—even once per quarter—to support this important ministry to the thousands who visit the Basilica.

If you would like to be included in the rotation, please contact **Deacon Joe Gassman.**

AIRPORT CHAPLAINCY

Orlando International Airport continues to establish their interfaith chapel at the airport providing spiritual care to both travelers and airport employees. The airport is currently looking to hire a Catholic Deacon or a candidate for ordination who can serve there 10 to 20 hours per week. All airport chaplaincy positions are paid, which is a requirement to be able to serve inside of security. Training is provided. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact **Deacon Dave**.

DIVINE MERCY/FIRST FRIDAYS

We are looking for deacon couples to lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet on First Fridays at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. For more information, contact **Deacon Joe Gassman.**

MINISTRY TO THE INCARCERATED

". . . in prison and you visited me." (MT 25:36)

For those interested in volunteering at any of the Florida Department of Correction sites:

Click here to learn more and apply

If you want to learn more about this ministry, especially about the good work already being done at the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) in Orlando, please reach out to **Deacon Jimmy Avellan**. If you know of prisons or jails that are underserved, please let us know.

SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

November Calendar

Eucharistic Cenacle

Friday, November 6, 2026 | 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
Join the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary for Mass, Adoration Praise and Worship and Prayer!

View Event

First Saturdays with the Blessed Mother: With Fr. Dan Bassile

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Join us for a reflection on Our Blessed Mother. This event is being held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe!

View Event

Fauré Requiem Memorial Concert

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
The Diocesan Choir offers a special performance of the Fauré Requiem commemorating all the faithful departed, with special remembrance of the souls at Queen of Angels Cemetery.

View Event

San Damiano Senior Day- Taste and See: Food, Faith & the Saints with Father Anthony Aarons

Thursday, November 12, 2026 | 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Inspired by Psalm 34:9, "Taste and see that the LORD is good," this program invites us to encounter the saints through the stories, foods, and traditions that surrounded their lives and ministries.

View Event

VIVET- Youth and Young Adult Formation & Adoration

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 | 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
All youth and young adults are invited to join the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary for Adoration, Praise, Worship and Prayer!

View Event



SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

November Calendar

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 26, 2026 | 10 A.M. - 11 A.M.

Please join us at 10 A.M. for our Thanksgiving Day Mass! There will be no 7:30 A.M. Mass on this day.

View Event

Wait With Hope: Advent Silent Day of Reflection led by Jen Settle

Saturday, December 5, 2026 | 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Spend a day slowing down during the Advent season, entering into silent prayer and reflection, and looking to the Holy Family as witnesses of what it means to wait with trust, wonder, and hope.

View Event



Liturgical Updates

2027 Liturgical Calendar

The 2027 USCCB Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America is available to download **here**.

2028 Liturgical Calendar

The 2028 USCCB Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America is available to download **here.**

Liturgical Advisory

The Liturgy Advisory for the Seasons of Advent and Christmas 2026/2027 is available now. Click here to download the advisory.

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight. (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year, 39)

Advent begins with First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Sunday that falls on or closest to December 1 and it ends before First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord. (Norms, 40)

The weekdays from December 17 up to and including December 24 are ordered in a more direct way to preparing for the Nativity of the Lord. (Norms, 42)

FDLC

Two publishers have been chosen to print the four volumes of the Liturgy of the Hours – Ascension Press and Word on Fire.

- The volumes will be released gradually.
- The first volume to ship will be Volume II – Lent and Easter seasons.
- Each volume will be shipped approximately one month before its permitted first use date.
- It is anticipated that digital and one volume editions will be available by **the first Sunday of Advent 2028**.
- Mandatory use for the revised translation of the Liturgy of the Hours is **the first Sunday of Advent 2028**.

2026-2027 Diocesan Choir

Add your voice to the Diocesan Choir and join a group of singers who share their love for sacred music and inspire one another to enrich the liturgical music at their parishes. The Diocesan Choir sings for diocesan celebrations and special events throughout the year and represents singers from all parishes in the diocese. If you would like more information about joining the Diocesan Choir for future liturgies, please email David McIntyre or call at **(407) 246-4862**.

Fauré Requiem

Must have attended one of the following rehearsals to participate:

Sunday, September 20, 2026 | 2 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. | Our Lady of Lourdes, Melbourne
Sunday, October 11, 2026 | 2 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. | Queen of Peace, Ocala

Sitzprobe:

Sunday, November 1, 2026 | 7 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. | San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

Performance:

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 7 P.M. (5:30 P.M. Choir Warm Up) | San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

Reserve your tickets here.

Cantor Workshop

October 3, 2026 | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. | Church of the Epiphany, Port Orange



The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy

The second track of The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy will begin November 9. Each session is Monday evening and the deadline to register is **November 8 2026**. For more information and to register for this track, **visit the LTP website**.

Save the Date

Planning the Seasons

November 7, 2026 | St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Altamonte Springs
Art and environment for Lent. **RSVP here**.

Planning the Seasons

January 16, 2027 | St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, St. Cloud
Proclaiming the Palm Sunday and Good Friday Passions. **RSVP here**.

2026 EMHC Workshops

EMHC Coordinators or Liturgy Directors ONLY:
Please fill out our EMHC Formation Workshop Host Application to schedule a workshop for the Spring 2027 season. *Please note these workshops are for new EMHCs and are open to the whole deanery.*

Those looking to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion can apply this Fall. EMHC candidates must register for a workshop online via Eventbrite. A completed Petition for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion with the pastor's signature must be sent to the Office of Worship. **Click here to visit EMHC webpage and register.**

St. Stephen Parish, Winter Springs (CN)

November 7, 2026

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wildwood (N)

November 14th, 2026

Important Dates for 2027

Please note your Calendars! You can always have our updated events by visiting our **Diaconate** webpage.

January 22
Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe at 12 P.M.

January 22-24
Diaconate Retreat at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center.

January 31
Diocesan Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. James at 5 P.M.

February 6
Mass for Marriage at the St. James Cathedral at 10 A.M.

February 13-14
Rite of Election, locations and times still to be determined.

February 19-21
Diaconate Retreat at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center.

February 27
Lenten Retreat for Liturgical Ministers at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe from 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.

March 5-7
Diaconate Retreat at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center.

March 22
Chrism Mass- Location TBD

April 23-25
Spanish Language Diaconate Retreat.

May 29
Priest Ordination at the Basilica of the National Shrine Mary Queen of the Universe at 10 A.M.

June 20
Diocesan Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. James Cathedral at 5 P.M.

September TBD
White Mass and Mass for Suicide Prevention and Remembrance. These Masses will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe.

September 29
Blue Mass at the St. James Cathedral at 12:10 P.M.

October 2
Diaconate Convocation- Holy Family Parish.

October 10
Diocesan Adult Confirmation at the St. James Cathedral at 5 P.M.

November 5
Red Mass at St. James Cathedral at 12:10 P.M.

Happy Birthday

Deacon Tommy Tate	86
Deacon Mike Biennas	84
Deacon Hugh Muller	82
Deacon Tom Tagye	80
Deacon Ernesto Nunez	80



IN REMEMBRANCE

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Amen.



Memorial Mass

English - Friday, November 27th

Mary, Mother of God Chapel
San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR



CLICK TO VIEW DIOCESAN CALENDAR

LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR



DIOCESAN BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE



ANUNCIO DEL BOLETÍN DIOCESANO



MARRIAGE PREPARATION



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS
NOVEMBER 2026 | VOL 53