

A DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP ON THE LINKS

## *Parish Golf Tournament Fundraiser Set to Tee Off in June*

Plans are under way for our annual St. Michael Golf Tournament Fundraiser, currently set for June 28 at the Cottonwood Greens Golf Course in Spalding. The event is a two-person scramble and the fee is \$120 per team, which includes lunch.

The tournament will consist of two shifts. The morning shift tees off first at 7:30 a.m., and the afternoon shift then tees off at 2 p.m. There will be a maximum of 54 teams in play per day. Those 18 years of age and older may take part in the Golf Tournament.

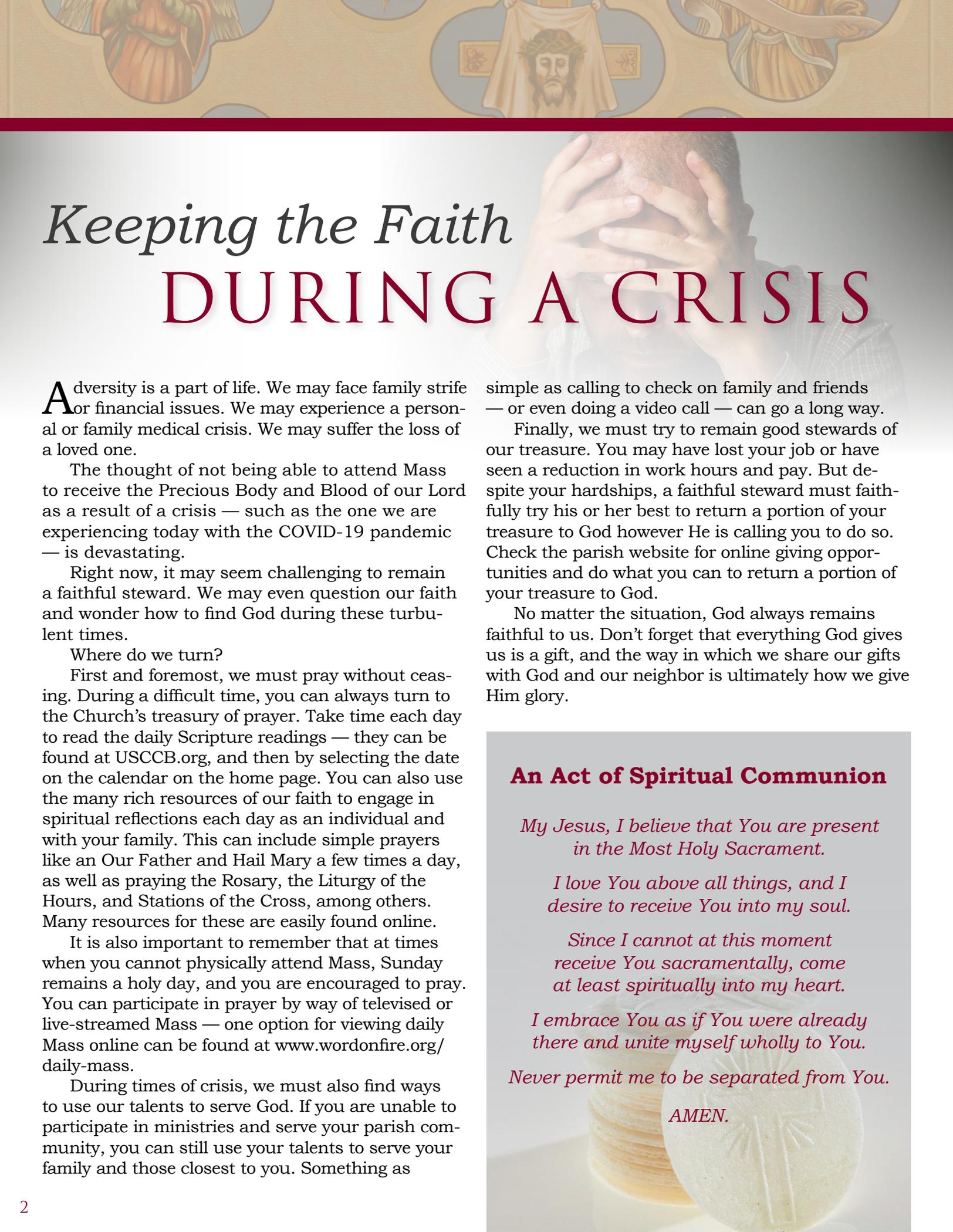
Besides the Golf Tournament, there also will be raffle prizes and a hole-in-one prize — and more!

The Golf Tournament has been a St. Michael

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*The Golf Tournament has been a St. Michael Parish tradition since 2000, when a group of volunteers gave freely of their time and talent to make the tournament a reality. Their work has continued over the past 20 years, and it has meant that the event typically raises about \$10,000 that is allocated to St. Michael's general fund.*



# *Keeping the Faith* **DURING A CRISIS**

**A**dversity is a part of life. We may face family strife or financial issues. We may experience a personal or family medical crisis. We may suffer the loss of a loved one.

The thought of not being able to attend Mass to receive the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord as a result of a crisis — such as the one we are experiencing today with the COVID-19 pandemic — is devastating.

Right now, it may seem challenging to remain a faithful steward. We may even question our faith and wonder how to find God during these turbulent times.

Where do we turn?

First and foremost, we must pray without ceasing. During a difficult time, you can always turn to the Church's treasury of prayer. Take time each day to read the daily Scripture readings — they can be found at [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org), and then by selecting the date on the calendar on the home page. You can also use the many rich resources of our faith to engage in spiritual reflections each day as an individual and with your family. This can include simple prayers like an Our Father and Hail Mary a few times a day, as well as praying the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours, and Stations of the Cross, among others. Many resources for these are easily found online.

It is also important to remember that at times when you cannot physically attend Mass, Sunday remains a holy day, and you are encouraged to pray. You can participate in prayer by way of televised or live-streamed Mass — one option for viewing daily Mass online can be found at [www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

During times of crisis, we must also find ways to use our talents to serve God. If you are unable to participate in ministries and serve your parish community, you can still use your talents to serve your family and those closest to you. Something as

simple as calling to check on family and friends — or even doing a video call — can go a long way.

Finally, we must try to remain good stewards of our treasure. You may have lost your job or have seen a reduction in work hours and pay. But despite your hardships, a faithful steward must faithfully try his or her best to return a portion of your treasure to God however He is calling you to do so. Check the parish website for online giving opportunities and do what you can to return a portion of your treasure to God.

No matter the situation, God always remains faithful to us. Don't forget that everything God gives us is a gift, and the way in which we share our gifts with God and our neighbor is ultimately how we give Him glory.

## **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

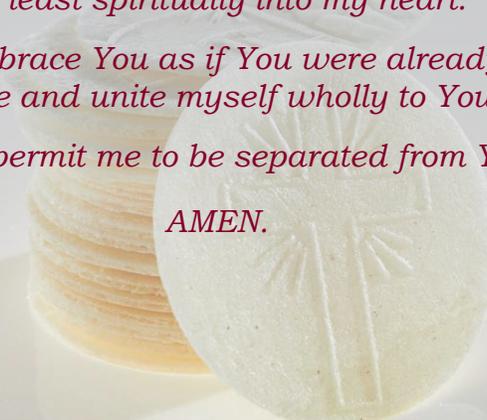
*I love You above all things, and I  
desire to receive You into my soul.*

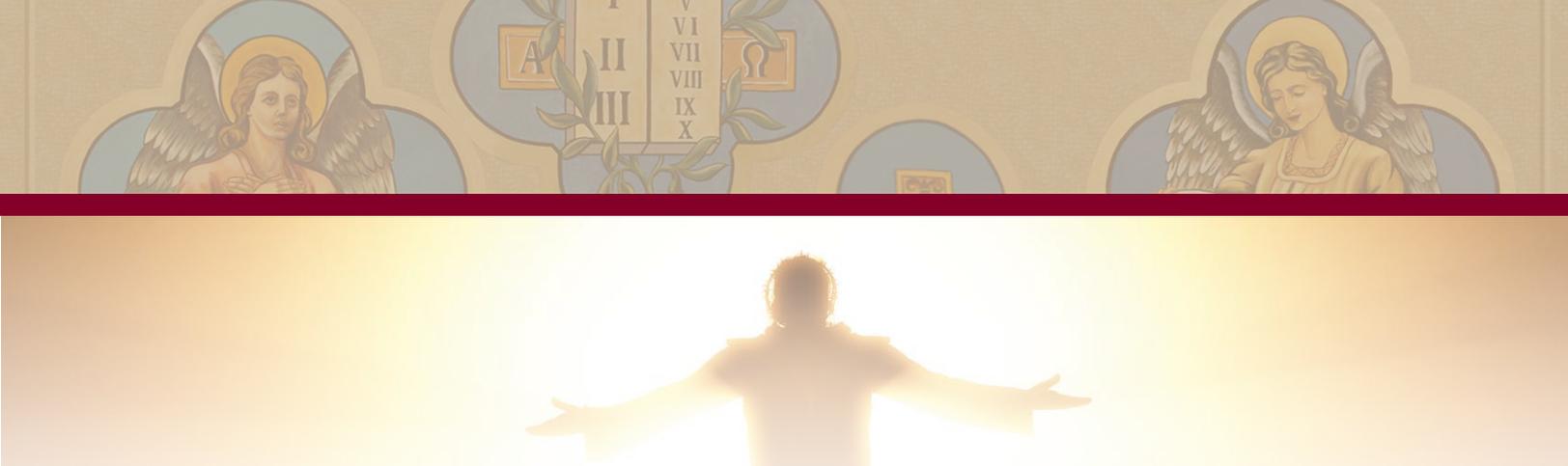
*Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally, come  
at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace You as if You were already  
there and unite myself wholly to You.*

*Never permit me to be separated from You.*

**AMEN.**





*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## ARE WE TRULY AN EASTER PEOPLE?

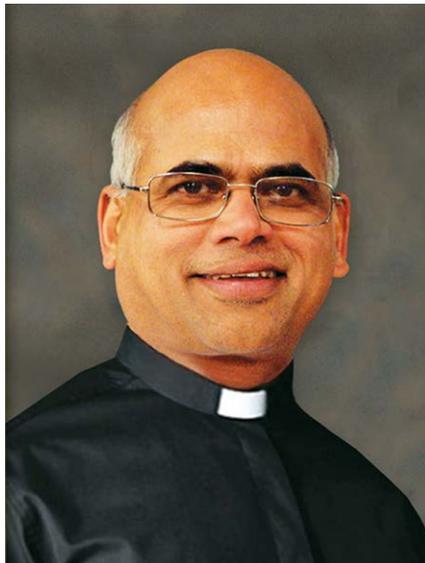
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During a visit to Croatia when he was pope, St. John Paul II proclaimed, “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” Are we really the Easter people? I think we should be.

This is still the Easter season and it continues throughout this month until Pentecost Sunday, May 31. What does that mean, however, to be Easter people? Being an Easter person has much to do with how we view our faith and how we live it out. Stewardship people are Easter people.

Jesus is so alive for us on Easter Sunday morning. He needs to be alive for us and in us every day, and certainly in these days that follow Easter. At the time of His Resurrection, His followers did not whisper “He is risen” — they shouted it and rejoiced! That is how we need to approach our faith as well.

During Lent leading up to Easter, we did not use *Alleluia* in our liturgies. We put it away until Easter, and I missed it. But then, it made it even better when it came back over and over on Easter and throughout this Easter season. St. John Paul II was telling us all that we are not just an Easter people, but we are also an *Alleluia* people. We are called to exemplify *Alleluia* in everything we do. Think about it. Who is an *Alleluia* person? Certainly, it’s someone who seems to just brim over with the Good News, constantly reflecting the joy of being a Christian and a Catholic. It is also possible to be an *Alleluia*



person in quiet ways, but others do need to see that God is alive in us in everything we do.

Easter began with the Easter Vigil, but it did not end on Easter. That was the beginning. One indication to us that Easter is going on right now is a change in how we identify the Sundays throughout May. For many years, the Sundays that followed Easter during the Easter season were called the “Sunday after Easter.” When the Church adopted the new liturgical calendar, that was changed to “Sunday of Easter.” Thus, we are not winding down from Easter — we are in the midst of it.

We became Easter people at our Baptisms. We should be Easter people every day and every week and during every season. Being an Easter person is acknowledging our call to discipleship and stewardship. We should begin and end everything with *Alleluia*. *Alleluia* — *Hallelujah* — means quite simply “Praise to God.” It is not just something we sing, chant or say. It is something we live. By living our lives in praise of God — stewardship is, after all, a way of life — we can be and are an Easter people.

Sincerely yours in Christ and His Mother,

Fr. Antony  
Pastor

# SEEKING COMMUNION WITH OUR AN UPDATE ON OUR “TWIN” P



*The local bishop with Fr. Riche and Fr. Antony.*



*Altar servers are ready for Mass.*



*Children and adults are seated for Mass on Sunday.*

The Catholic faith knows no boundaries. In the United States, we may not often stop to consider our Catholic brothers and sisters facing persecution, poverty, war and other injustices. Our Families in Faith parishes have a unique opportunity to reach across language, cultural and physical barriers to seek communion with our Catholic brothers and sisters at St. Raphael’s Parish and School in l’Etang Rey, Haiti, known as our “twin” parish.

A “twinning parish” relationship describes the connection and interaction between two parishes, which may be thousands of miles apart. The Twinning Parish Program of the Americas, or PTPA, was founded in 1978 by Harry Hosey, a Catholic who became dedicated to outreach in Haiti after witnessing the poverty there in the 1950s. Today, hundreds of parishes around the United States participate as twinning parishes.

This relationship with St. Raphael’s goes back many years. It is a relationship of prayer, travel and financial support. Fr. Antony Thekkekara has made several trips to Haiti, most recently in 2018 with Sister Mary Chamberlain and Peg Zwiener, and the priest at St. Raphael’s, Fr. Riche Emmanuel, has also visited our Families in Faith parishes.

Kelli Wood traveled to l’Etang Rey in 2015 and 2017 and became very involved in the Twinning Parish Ministry that meets about every two to three months at Sacred Heart.

“When I stepped off the plane on my second trip, in 2017, the heat and smell of hot concrete and burning trash hit me in the face, and in that moment I knew that was exactly where I was supposed to be,” Kelli says. “It almost felt like coming home.”

Kelli has continued to have a passion for helping the people, especially the school children, at St. Raphael’s since her first trip in 2015. Unfortunately, political unrest in the capital city, Port-au-Prince, has made travel there dangerous. Any further exchange travel between the United States and Haiti will have to wait.

# CATHOLIC BROTHERS AND SISTERS PARISH, ST. RAPHAEL'S IN HAITI

“Although Port-au-Prince is about three hours from St. Raphael’s, this has made food even more scarce than it already is,” Kelli says. “It has made life even harder for them than it already is.”

This makes the Sponsorship Program even more important. As part of this program, parishioners pay \$200 per school year to provide one student with a full school year of school lunches. Money previously donated by our parishes was used to add a kitchen to the school, which serves the preschool through seventh-grades. In turn, this may be the only meal the students get in a day.

“Because the school now provides lunches, more students have been attending school,” Kelli says. “This way, they get both needs met. They stay in school for education, and they are getting nutrition.”

Money donated to the school from Families in Faith is also used to pay the teachers. Before our support began, they were not being paid on a regular basis. This support has also allowed the school to recently add a grade level, seventh grade.

“We recently sent the money from our St. Raphael’s collection to the school so they can

*continued on page 6*



*Hospitality ministers are ready to welcome the people.*



*Bags are loaded to go to St. Raphael.*

*Anyone is welcome to join the Twinning Parish Ministry.  
Please contact Tom Nekoliczak at 308-571-0238 to get involved.*

## AN UPDATE ON OUR “TWIN” PARISH *continued from page 5*

purchase land for a class rooms,” Kelli says.

All of the funds are deployed directly in the church and school via Fr. Riche. In past years, support from the parishes in Ord and Burwell helped purchase a new vehicle for Fr. Riche for the parish. This is likely the only vehicle, besides small motorcycles and dirt bikes, in l’Etang Rey.

“Fr. Riche said a baby was even born in the car one time,” Kelli says.

The vehicle is needed for community members to go to the hospital, visit far-away family, and other important activities.

One big goal of the Twinning Parish Ministry is to add on to the school, especially if there are

enough funds to add another grade every year.

More donors are needed for the Sponsorship Program to help supply school lunches to the students. Donations can be put in the collection, but should be clearly marked “Sponsorship Program.” Anything you can give to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti is appreciated. Fr. Riche helps identify the biggest needs from month to month and reports back on how the money is used.

“I like to make it clear that the money we send from the collection is not given directly to a family or for food,” Kelli says. “The money is used to ‘bridge the gap.’ It helps pay teachers, put gas in the car and run the generator, to name a few.”

*“Because the school now provides lunches, more students have been attending school. This way, they get both needs met. They stay in school for education, and they are getting nutrition.” — Kelli Wood*



*Children are ready in the class room and excited to learn.*



*Mass is celebrated at the mission parish.*



*Children are ready for school assembly.*



# THE ROSARY: OUR LADY'S LASSO

There was a priest who once said, “It is no coincidence that rosaries look like lassos, as Our Lady wraps them around lost souls and pulls them out of the depths of hell.”

This thought is comforting but provokes inquiry — what exactly is the Rosary, how does one pray it, and why should one pray it?

Since May is the month of Mary, this is a great time to consider the theology behind this intense spiritual weapon.

There are two putative origins of the Rosary. For many centuries, it was believed that the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Dominic and exhorted him to encourage the use of the Angelic Salutation — or Hail Mary — for the conversion of souls and comfort of the afflicted. Modern scholarship traces the Rosary back to ninth century Irish monasticism. Monks would pray all 150 psalms or “psalters” every day, a form of prayer too complicated for uneducated laypeople without access to copies of Scripture. So many began reciting the Lord’s Prayer or the Angelic Salutation in response to each psalm, keeping count with pebbles or a knotted rope. Through many centuries, the Rosary evolved into three sets of five mysteries, each mystery consisting of 10 Angelic Salutations and one Lord’s Prayer recited while meditating upon the life, death or glory of Jesus Christ.

In *The Secret of the Rosary*, St. Louis de Montfort expounds the dynamics of the Rosary. The prayer consists of both vocal or exterior prayer, and meditative or interior prayer. The first vocal component of the Rosary, the Creed, is important because faith is “the foundation of all Christian virtues, of all eternal virtues, and also of all prayers that are pleasing to Almighty God.” The

Lord’s Prayer is the “perfect prayer” to the God of heaven because it was authored by Christ, is free of all human limitations, and “contains all the duties we owe to God, the acts of all the virtues and the petitions for all our spiritual and corporal needs.” The Hail Mary blesses the name of Mary and her Divine Son and implores her powerful intercession as mediatrix of graces.

But the Rosary is not simply a physical incantation. Vocal prayer is accompanied by contemplation of the mysteries of Christ’s life and the virtues of the Virgin Mary. It is by lifting the incorporeal soul in prayer that one quiets the passions, tastes the peace of Christ, marvels at His loving plans and promises, and grows in the desire to emulate Him and His sinless mother. Because the soul animates the body, a strengthened soul means nobility of action and a will that is commensurate with the will of God. As Louis de Montfort says, “The Rosary is a blessed blending of mental and vocal prayer by which we honor and learn to imitate the mysteries and the virtues of the life, death, passion and glory of Jesus and Mary.” The Rosary’s emphasis on both vocal and meditative prayer caters to man’s nature as an embodied soul – one’s entire being, both physical and spiritual, cries out to God in praise, repentance, thanksgiving, and supplication.

Thus, it is no surprise that the magisterium and countless saints have encouraged devotion to the Rosary. Pope St. John Paul II said of the prayer, “The Rosary is my favorite prayer, marvelous in its simplicity and its depth.” The late pontiff also added five more “luminous” mysteries to the Rosary to help the faithful meditate upon significant moments in Christ’s earthly ministry.

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## *Golf Tournament* continued from front cover

Parish tradition since 2000, when a group of volunteers gave freely of their time and talent to make the tournament a reality. Their work has continued over the past 20 years, and it has meant that the event typically raises about \$10,000 that is allocated to St. Michael's general fund.

Not only do members of St. Michael's Parish take part, but guests from out of town have made the tournament a tradition, as well — not only because of the fellowship and fun, but also because it's a great opportunity to see their friends.

*Anyone with questions about playing in the Golf Tournament, or who would like to volunteer to help, is asked to contact the parish office at 308-497-2662. Sign up at the Clubhouse to register to play. We hope to see you there on June 28!*

### MASS SCHEDULE:

**7 p.m. Saturday** - St. Michael in Spalding | **7 a.m. Sunday** - St. Michael in Spalding  
**9 a.m. Sunday** - Sacred Heart in Greeley | **11 a.m. Sunday** - St. Theresa in Ericson