Winning *If we want help understanding victory, triumph, and winning, we need to look to the triumph of the cross. We will not get much help from a society that says, "Winning is everything," "Might makes right," "The person who ends up with the most toys wins." Today we look upon the One who emptied himself and triumphed. Who ever heard of such a thing?*

COMMENT

We need help understanding a bronze saraph as an image of Jesus raised up on the cross. This image is carried forward from the book of Numbers and is uttered by Jesus himself, interestingly enough.

The people of God were barely three days into the wilderness after their escape from slavery in Egypt. The desert was an Egyptian idea of the end of the world. And here they were, thanks to Moses and his God—free and wretched at the end of the world. They were bitter and filled with deep regret. Slavery and fresh water were better than this god-forsaken place! The Israelites' encounter with the desert's poisonous saraph snakes was interpreted as God's punishment for their complaint. They came to their senses (and to Moses), begging to be rid of this new affliction.

In response, Moses drew on all the power he could summon. He also drew on the cults of the neighboring Canaanite peoples and used the image of the bronze snake that was "lifted up" among them and brought about their cure. The author of Numbers makes clear, however, that it was not the serpent image itself, but the will of God that effected this cure and overcame yet another desert rebellion.

The image of the serpent lifted up survived for a short while in the Jewish Scriptures. But it comes up again, when Jesus talks to Nicodemus. In John's account, Jesus uses all the images at his command to bring around this bewildered and nervous Pharisee. Jesus had spoken of rebirth in water and the Spirit. He goes on to speak of a new kind of life that can only come to pass when the Son of Man is "lifted up," an allusion to the story in Numbers. It also is part of the language of the early Church, denoting the Savior's terrible lifting up on the cross and his triumphant lifting up by the Father in the Resurrection.

The second reading from the Letter to the Philippians is a hymn of Jesus' triumph as Christ and Lord. This is one of the most exultant and best-known hymns in all the epistles, a poetic masterpiece that traces Jesus' journey from heaven to earth to heaven. He is the one equal to God, emptied of Godhead, then emptied of human life itself, and then "lifted up" (as John says) or "exalted" (as Paul says). This circular journey from life to death to life leads to our acknowledgment that Jesus Christ is Lord.

REFLECTION

It once was as difficult for early Christians to see, much less venerate, a cross as it is for us today to compare Jesus to a bronze serpent. This aversion among early Christians is understandable: crucifixion was ignominious and unbearable to watch.

The Israelites in the desert had to face their own bitterness and infidelity. They had to face the source of their scourge to be saved from it. In like manner, the Crucifixion shows us the cost of sin and the price paid to wrench us from its grip. Shouldering our own responsibility is just what we don't want to do. We want to blame someone else, something else, some circumstance of nature or nurture. We want to make someone else pay, so we strike out or we complain bitterly—"We are disgusted with this wretched …!" But we know in our sane and saving moments that we must do what Jesus did, and in his triumph we will triumph and win our very lives.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Jn 19:25-27; Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday:	1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday:	1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35
Thursday:	1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-10; Lk 7:36-50
Friday:	1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday:	1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday:	Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]

JAMAICA SPONSORS

Please thank the following generous sponsors for their support of this year's Jamaica:

Mike & Mariana Aguilar
Salon Rubio
Petra Camacho
Aaron Dehoyos
Ray Adames
Justin & Judit Cerveny

Their generosity makes it possible for
Holy Spirit Catholic Parish
to host an exciting, safe, and fun family festival!

Saturday, September 13th -
5:00PM-IHM– +Belinda Gomez, Tomas & Guadalupe Morales; +Alma & Frances Solano; in thanksgiving for Matthew Falana's birthday

Sunday, September 14th
8:00AM – +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira; Por Grupo Misionero y en acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Lisa Martinez-Soto, Lily Ensenia y Martin Luna
11:00AM – For the People of Nolan County

Tuesday, September 16th 9:00AM - HF
Communion Service

Wednesday, September 17th 6:00PM–IHM
Communion Service

Thursday, September 18th 9:00AM HF
Communion Service

Friday, September 19th 9:00AM– HF
Communion Service

Saturday, September 20th -
5:00PM-IHM– +Maria Morales & Carlos Guerrero, Rodolfo Morales; +Daniel Grimaldo; +Manuela Solano

Sunday, September 21st
8:00AM – +Mercedes Perez; +Sara Gomez, Eulalio y Sarita Olvera, Ysidro y Elvira Navarette; +Francisco de la Torre y Fidencio Carlos
9:30AM –**HF**– For the People of Nolan County
11:00AM – Humberto Diaz; in thanksgiving for Jerry DelaCruz's birthday

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● **Project Rachel** Hope and Healing after Abortion
Safe and Confidential Helpline (432) 236-9883
Email: projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org
Website: HopeAfterAbortion.com
● **Proyecto Raquel**: Esperanza y Sanación después del Aborto
Línea de Ayuda Segura y Confidencial (432) 236-9883
Correo electrónico: projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org
Sitio web: HopeAfterAbortion.com

09/06-07, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS…….$5397.00
LOOSE PLATE…….1548.26
CCD…….989.36
TOTAL COLLECTION……...$7934.62

FOOD DRIVE

The parish will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to one of our local food pantries. You can bring your donations to any of the Masses during the month of September. Let us share what we have with those in need.

God Bless you – Thank you!

COLECTA DE ALIMENTOS

La parroquia recolectará alimentos no-perecederos para donar a una de nuestras despensas de alimentos locales. Puede traer sus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas durante el mes de septiembre. Compartamos lo que tenemos con los necesitados.

Dios lo Bendiga - Gracias!

"WELCOME Fr. Paul Kodakarakaran!"

"CATECHETICAL SUNDAY" - Commissioning of all CCD teachers, aides, and helpers during the 11 o'clock Mass, next Sunday, September 21, 2025.

CCD RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026

● Sunday classes - Pre-K to 6th Grade; 9:30-10:40am
● Wednesday Classes -7th to 11th Grades; 7:00-8:30pm

PLEASE NOTE: NO REGISTRATION on WEDNESDAYS or SUNDAYS when CLASSES start

OCIA – Need Sacraments? Looking to grow closer to God through baptism, communion or confirmation? Classes have started but you may still go by the parish office to sign up. Classes are held on Thursdays, 6:00pm at Holy Family Hall, 507 Crane St.

WEDNESDAY – Communion Service at 6:00pm & Adoration until 7:30pm at IHM.

WHY AM I CATHOLIC? Deacon Bill's sharing session is every Tuesday at his home, @6pm. All are invited!

ULTREYA– meets Monday, September 15th , 7:00pm at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don't have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html

GRUPO MISIONERO meets on Thursdays, IHM hall, @7:00pm.

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – will meet this Sunday, September 14th, at 4:00pm, Holy Family parish hall.

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE
Sept. 20–Grupo Misionero Sept. 27–Guadalupanas

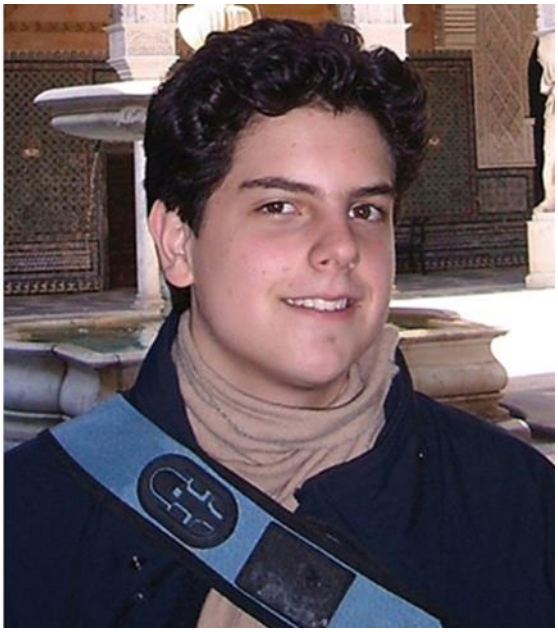
JAMAICA September 28, 2025

Holy Spirit Jamaica Committee is getting ready for our annual festival! Once again, we are asking for donations for the bingo prizes, cakes for the cake walk, 2 liter soft drinks, and stuffed animals for game prizes. All donations may be dropped off at the parish office and the cakes the day before the Jamaica. If you would like to help in any other way, please contact Ellie Mendez @ 725-0671. Please remember to pick up your raffle tickets and to return them to Patty Torres (finance). Someone from the finance council will be outside after all the masses. The raffle is the biggest money maker of the Jamaica! Thank you for your help!

● **SELL 100 Tickets** to have your name entered in a drawing for a CHANCE to win a NINTENDO SWITCH 2"

●**"WE STILL *NEED* JAMAICA SPONSORS!"** – Contact Patty Torres @325-733-8252

SPONSOR . . . by September 20th!



Pope: Saints call us to look to God, make masterpieces of our lives

Vatican News

Presiding over the Mass and canonization of Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV paid tribute to their extraordinary witnesses to faith, hope, and trust in God, and to the Lord's great plan for eternal joy and happiness. The Pope declared the two young Italians Saints at the start of the celebration on a stunningly beautiful late summer day, Sunday 7 September.

Daily Mass, prayer, and especially Eucharistic Adoration, marked the lives of Saints Pier Giorgio and Carlo in cultivating their love for God and neighbor through simple acts of charity, the Pope said. And even as illness struck both of them, cutting their lives short, they continued to bear witness to hope and offer themselves to God, the Pope added, recalling how Pier Giorgio once said: "The day of my death will be the most beautiful day of my life"; and how young Carlo often remarked that "heaven has always been waiting for us, and that to love tomorrow is to give the best of our fruit today."

In conclusion, Pope Leo underscored how both Saints Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis invite everyone, "especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces."

"They encourage us with their words: "Not I, but God," as Carlo used to say. And Pier Giorgio: "If you have God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach the end." This is the simple but winning formula of their holiness. It is also the type of witness we are called to follow, in order to enjoy life to the full and meet the Lord in the feast of heaven."

Saints Pier Giorgio Frassati & Carlo Acutis Pray for us!