

From the Pastor's Desk

I am writing to you *very* early on Friday Morning, some would call it the wee hours of the morning since it is beyond midnight, yet dawn is quite a way off at this time. In any case, I have been finishing the bulletin because of an extremely busy work week, and I needed to take some time to rest and to pray before I finished with my weekly piece. Today I was at the doctor to discover that I am on my fourth bout of pneumonia for the season, something that is partially my fault since I have never taken the time to adequately rest and recuperate. It is an ugly sort of pneumonia, one that is particular to transplant patients and that requires very strong antibiotics and lots of bed rest. This type of infection is **relatively normal** for persons with compromised immune systems and needs to be addressed. The doctor of course wanted me to be admitted to the hospital, but I stubbornly refused, and I asked if there was any other alternative. She said that I would need 2-3 days of complete bedrest, with the very potent antibiotics and other medications, while maintaining strict adherence to my regular medical regimen, proper nutrition, and extreme hydration measures **IF I INTEND TO CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK AND THE SACRED TRIDUUM OF HOLY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY/EASTER (Vigil and Sunday)**. As you may know, I am also slotted to travel to Europe from Easter Monday (April 21st) until April 30th, specifically to Fatima, Portugal; religious sites in Spain; and Lourdes, France as a chaplain with a pilgrimage group. **AS A RESULT, following Mass and Adoration today (I will be asking Pat B and Chris to officiate at Stations of the Cross), I WILL BE TAKING THE WEEKEND OFF** (which you will know at the time you read this bulletin piece) **AND REMAIN BEDFAST ALL WEEKEND**. Also, *I will forgo attending and participating in the celebration of the Chrism Mass* (which almost literally breaks my heart for I have been looking forward to participating in the celebration throughout the whole of Lent). If I am well enough, I will celebrate Mass here on the Monday of Holy Week; however, if not I will make arrangements for all those who attend Mass regularly to be informed. I want you all to know that I do not do any of this lightly. I have been playing around with this pneumonia since before the season of Lent began. I cannot afford to allow it to get any worse, and I **WILL** celebrate the **Holiest Days** of the liturgical year with my parish family. As you will have heard some of this in this weekend's announcements, please continue to pray for me. This is just another small hurdle in my transplant recovery process. I have complete trust that God will heal me if I humble myself and cooperate with grace (and what is actually "common" sense). I also have complete faith in your prayers. Thank you for them and for your patient understanding.

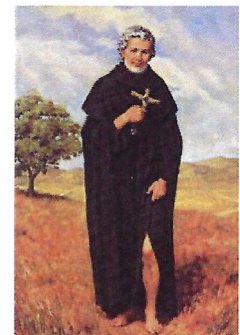
Saint Peregrine Triduum: May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2025

The Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary will celebrate its Annual Triduum in honor of St. Peregrine on Thursday, May 1, Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3.

St. Peregrine is known as the patron saint of cancer patients, AIDS victims and others suffering from serious illnesses. Peregrine Laziosi was born in 1260 in Forli, Italy to a wealthy family. Although he was a member of an anti-papal party as a young man, he experienced a profound change of heart, much like St. Paul's conversion in its intensity. He and some companions showed up one day to heckle and otherwise abuse St. Philip Benizi, the Prior General of the Servants of Mary, who was preaching in Forli. Peregrine went so far as to strike him in the face! St. Philip, seemingly following our Lord's advice in scripture (Matt 5:39, Luke 6:29), offered his other cheek in response. This gesture so moved Peregrine that he quickly asked for Philip's forgiveness and soon thereafter converted to Catholicism, spending much time in prayer at the Chapel of Our Lady at the Cathedral. Mary appeared to him there in a vision asking him to join the Servite Order in Siena. He was received there by St. Philip! Peregrine spent the rest of his life ministering to the poor and the sick, mainly in his hometown of Forli where he established a new house for the Servites. His dedication to the faith was such that, according to tradition, he would stand constantly instead of sitting down, as a form of penance. He underwent a severe trial when he developed a cancerous sore on his leg (as we see in depictions of him such as the one below) as well as his feet. Doctors decided upon amputation as treatment. The night before the operation, Peregrine spent the night in prayer before a crucifix in a hospital chapel. He dreamt at one point there that Christ came down from the cross and healed his leg. When he woke up he and his doctor made the discovery that he was completely cured. God had truly performed a miracle on this holy man! Peregrine himself performed numerous miracles in his life. After his death in 1345, there were countless others, especially in Spain. The Church attributed to him more than 300 cures of cancer and other illnesses from 1694 to 1726 in one city there alone!

Please consider joining us for our celebration of this important triduum invoking this powerful patron. The schedule for the triduum is as follows:

- May 1st** – 6:00 PM -6:45 PM Confessions
7:00 PM Opening Mass with Novena Prayers
- May 2nd** – 12:00 Noon -3:00 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:00 PM -6:45 PM Confessions
7:00 PM Healing Mass (Anointing of the Sick during Mass)
and Novena Prayers. Individual Healing Prayers following Mass.
- May 3rd** – 3:00 PM -3:30 PM Confessions
4:00 PM Closing Mass with Novena Prayers
Hors D Oeuvres Reception immediately following Mass. All are welcome!!!



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Prayer Intention for Saint Peregrine Triduum

Please light candle for the following intention during the Saint Peregrine Triduum (Please include \$5.00 for candle)
