

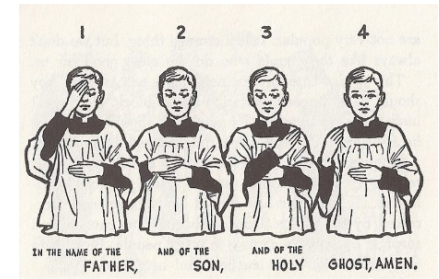
MARCH 2024
@ Christ the King Catholic Church, Sarasota, FL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 7 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, & 12:30 pm Masses Ocala 4:30 pm Mass (frh)	26 Feria of Lent 12 noon Mass 4:30 pm Vespers Ocala - 7 am Mass	27 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions 6:30-8 pm Women's Book Club	28 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	29 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5-8 pm Adoration	MARCH 1 (frv women's mission in Ocala) 1 st Friday / Feria of Lent 9 am Mass & Stations of the Cross 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 pm Stations & 6:30 pm Mass 7:30 pm soup meal	2 (frv w's mission in Ocala) 1 st Saturday / Feria of Lent 9 am Mass & devotions 4:30 pm Vespers Ocala 10:30 am Mass (frv)
3 3rd Sunday of Lent 7 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, & 12:30 pm Masses. Ocala 4:30 pm Mass (frh)	4 Feria of Lent 12 noon Mass 1 pm St Theresa Guild 4:30 pm Vespers 7 pm Young Adults Ocala - 7 am Mass	5 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions	6 Ss Perpetua & Felicity 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	7 St Thomas Aquinas 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers	8 Feria of Lent 9 am Mass 3:30 pm staff meeting 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 pm Stations & 6:30 pm Mass 7:30 pm soup meal	9 Feria of Lent 9 am Mass 10 am server practice 4:30 pm Vespers
10 4th Sunday of Lent 7 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, & 12:30 pm Masses Ocala 4:30 pm Mass (frh)	11 Feria of Lent 12 noon Mass 4:30 pm Vespers Ocala - 7 am Mass	12 Feria of Lent 7 am & 9 am Masses 10:15 am Holy Face devotions 6:30-8 pm Women's Book Club	13 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	14 Feria of Lent 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5-6 pm Youth Cat.	15 Feria of Lent 9 am Mass 3:30 staff meeting 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 pm Stations & 6:30 pm Mass 7:30 pm soup meal	16 Feria of Lent 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers
17 Passion Sunday 7 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, & 12:30 pm Masses Ocala 4:30 pm Mass (frv)	18 Mon. Passiontide 12 noon Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30-6:30 pm Tenebrae practice (1) Ocala - 7 am Mass	19 St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions	20 Wed. Passiontide 9-5 pm CtK Day at PP 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	21 Thurs. Passiontide 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30-6:30 pm Tenebrae practice (2) 7 pm begin 3-day Parish Mission (frv)	22 Friday Passiontide / Seven Sorrows of BVM 9 am Mass 3:30 staff meeting 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 pm Stations & 6:30 pm Mass 7 pm Parish Mission	23 Saturday Passiontide 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30-6:30 pm Tenebrae practice (3) 7 pm Parish Mission
24 Palm Sunday 7 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am, & 12:30 pm Masses Ocala 4:30 pm Mass (frh)	25 Mon. of Holy Week 12 noon Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30-7 pm server practice for Holy Week (1) Ocala - 7 am Mass	26 Tues. of Holy Week 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions 6:30-8 pm Women's Book Club	27 Wed. of Holy Week 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30-7 pm server practice for Holy Week (2)	28 Holy Thursday 10-11:15 am Tenebrae 2-4 pm server practice 7 pm Mass (frh) Ocala- 4 pm (frv)	29 Good Friday 10-11:20 am Tenebrae 1-2 pm server practice 2:30 Confessions (frh) 2:30 pm Stations (MC) 3 pm Service (frh) Begin Mercy Novena Ocala - 12 pm (frv)	30 Holy Saturday 10-11:45 am Tenebrae 12-2 pm churching 2:30-4:30 pm server practice 10 pm Easter Vigil (frh) Ocala - no vigil
31 Easter Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, & 12:30 pm Masses Ocala 1:30 pm Mass (frv)	APRIL 1 Easter Monday 12 noon Mass 1 pm St Theresa Guild 4:30 pm Vespers Ocala - 7 am Mass	2 Easter Tuesday 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions	3 Easter Wednesday 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	4 Easter Thursday / 1st Thursday 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 5-8 pm Adoration	5 Easter Friday / 1st Friday 9 am Mass 4:30 Vespers 5:30 Holy Hour 6:30 pm Mass	6 Easter Saturday / 1st Saturday 9 am Mass & devotions Ocala 10:30 am (frv)

The Sign of the Cross

Let us not dismiss the small but mighty Sign of the Cross in our Christian warfare.

“Never leave your house without making the sign of the cross. It will be to you a staff, a weapon, an impregnable fortress. Neither man nor demon will dare to attack you, seeing you covered with such powerful armor. Let this sign teach you that you are a soldier, ready to combat against the demons, and ready to fight for the crown of justice. Are you ignorant of what the cross has done? It has vanquished death, destroyed sin, emptied hell, dethroned Satan, and restored the universe. Would you then doubt its power? (St. John Chrysostom, 347-407 AD, Father & Doctor, Patriarch of Constantinople)



Five things to know about the Sign of the Cross (adapted from the internet).

- 1) **The Sign of the Cross is a sacramental.** It returns to us grace in proportion to our piety. Used with holy water this grace is compounded. Also, other sacramentals e.g., the Brown Scapular, Miraculous Medal, blessed candles, cost money; this one is free! A true DIY sacramental!
- 2) **Make the Sign of the Cross intentionally, not casually.** “When you sign yourself, think of all the mysteries contained in the cross. It is not enough to form it with the finger. You must first make it with faith and good will. When you mark your breast, your eyes, and all your members with the sign of the cross, offer yourself as a victim pleasing to God.” (St. John Chrysostom) Again, the habitual practice of making the Sign of the Cross can become quick & sloppy. Adam was told to maintain & protect the Garden. Keep this in mind in making the Sign of the Cross: make it so it clearly communicates what it means to express; do not let routine cause weeds of bad habit to invade. If the manufacturer sent us a damaged crucifix, we’d stomp our feet & want another or our money back. What manner of the Sign of the Cross do we send to heaven?
- 3) **The Sign of the Cross is of ancient tradition.** “At every forward step and movement, at every going in and out, when we put on our clothes and shoes, when we bathe, when we sit at table, when we light the lamps, on seat, in all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign.” (Tertullian, 160-240 AD) St. Basil (329-379 AD) writes that the Apostles “taught us to mark with the sign of the cross those who put their hope in the Lord,” that is, those who presented themselves for baptism.
- 4) **The Sign of the Cross is a blessing.** Besides blessing themselves, priests often impart the Sign of the Cross over persons, places & things. It is ancient practice that parents bless their children. Aaron blessed his children saying, “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26). Tobit blessed his son before his journey, “May God in heaven protect you on the way and bring you back to me safe and sound; may his angel accompany you” (Tobit 5:21). Parents should follow their example, using holy water, tracing the Sign of the Cross on their forehead saying the above or simply, “May God bless you in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
- 5) **The Sign of the Cross is a weapon against the devil.** Before Christ’s coming, diabolical powers deceived souls into worshipping them & obeying their oracles. “But now, since the divine appearance of the Word (Christ), all this deception has come to an end. For by the Sign of the Cross, if a man will only use it, their deceptions are driven out.” (St Athanasius, 296-373 AD) Again, it is profitable to make the Sign of the Cross whenever we feel spiritually attacked. In this, we may identify the mood or spirit e.g., “Spirit of anger, in the Name of Jesus, I throw you to the foot of the Christ to be judged there by God.” This practice will dispel fear & inspire courage or, at least, reduce the angst to manageable levels.

To end, in 312 AD, during a pitched battle for the Roman Empire, Constantine received a heavenly oracle, a cross in the sky & the words beneath, “*In hos signo vinces*” (in this sign thou shall conquer). He ordered his men to put crosses on their shields and the battle turned to his favor winning him the empire which inaugurated a new era for the Christian Church.