

IN THE BEGINNING

Church of the Redeemer
Sarasota, Florida

MAY 2024



Dear Redeemer Family,

“Jesus said, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” (Matthew 9:37-38)

Jesus was clear that the world is filled with people who need to experience care and compassion.

I am writing to you from the Santo Domingo airport in the Dominican Republic. Right now, a team of Redeemer missionaries is beginning the journey back to Sarasota after caring for God’s people in this beautiful country on your behalf. Redeemer has more than a 25-year history of prayer and presence in the Dominican Republic.

Your missionaries worked this week from dawn until dusk, designing and building an incredible playground on the grounds of Mt. Zion Episcopal Church. It was blessed and dedicated to the glory of God in memory of Redeemer parishioner and frequent Dominican Republic missionary Andy Dorr. As soon as the playground was blessed by the local bishop, more than 80 smiling children began to play!

The playground is a happy, bright place of enjoyment in what is otherwise a poor urban neighborhood devoid of refreshment. (Redeemer also provided the money and muscle for the parish church and just completed a lovely vicarage onsite). And best of all, the parish is growing — numerically and spiritually!

Lord George Carey often tells a story involving Mother Teresa of Calcutta when she was on a flight from India to London. A prominent businessman boarded the plane and was thrilled to learn he was seated next to Mother Teresa. Somewhat starstruck, he didn’t know really what to say, so he said too much — mostly rambling on about himself and all of his work in many countries. At one point, Mother Teresa gently interrupted him, took his hand into her callus-filled palms, and said, “But I want to hear about what you do.” Perplexed, the man replied, “I’ve been talking about what I do for the last hour.” She said, “No, my friend, tell me what you do that really matters.”

Nothing matters more than what we do at Redeemer: making new Christians and renewing everyone through the love of Jesus.

Your servant,

Father Charleston Wilson
Rector, Church of the Redeemer

*Pictured above:
Diocese of Southwest
Florida Bishop Doug
Scharf spent time with
Redeemer’s youth
confirmands before
Confirmation Sunday
at Redeemer on
Sunday, April 7.*

— **Special Gifts** —

Gifts in memory of
Becky Thornhill

Designated for the Memorial Fund

KT & Alan McFarland
Fiona McFarland & Matt Melton
Regina & Joseph Smith

Designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Tina & Bryan Corr
Paula Johnson
William Seider
Sandra K. Stuart
Maury, Duke, & David Wilson

Designated for the GATORS

Nancy Bushnell
Kay Chandler

~ ~ ~

Designated for the Memorial Fund

A gift in memory of
Constance Bulawka
from Bohdan Bulawka

A gift in memory of
Richard Diedrich
from Judith Diedrich

A gift in memory of
Jackie Hamad
from Renee Hamad

A gift in memory of
John Landry
from Bill Lambrecht

A gift in memory of
Mary Mason
from Barbara M. Bolton

~ ~ ~

In thanksgiving for the confirmation of
Austin Bobb

from Tanya Ramos

In thanksgiving for
Steve Long

from Beth & Eric Bobb

In honor of
Hugh Culverhouse

from Doug Mellinger &
Clarion Capitol Foundation

~ ~ ~

*This year's Paschal Candle was given
to the glory of God and in memory of*

Raymond "Les" Lucas
from Donna Dennis

Redeemer Builds Beds!

On Saturday, April 20, parishioners and friends sanded and assembled kits of 30 beds (10 more than last year!) in the Redeemer courtyard. Each bed included wooden boards decorated with prayers, drawings, and Bible verses. The beds will be distributed to area children who don't have one. Parishioners also purchased bedding items, including mattresses, blankets, and pillows to make sure these children have a well-built, comfortable place to sleep.



May Events for Redeemer's Women and Men's Groups

Women of Redeemer - Wine, Women, and a Tour: Monday, May 6, 6-7:30 p.m.

Learn about the architecture, design, and stories behind Redeemer's nave. Bubbles and light bites will follow. All women are invited. Bring a friend! Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.

Men of Redeemer Pizza Night: Thursday, May 30, 6-8 p.m., Gillespie Hall
Pastor Mark Sedacca will speak about his local street ministry and the needs of the homeless, veterans, and single mothers. Bring items to donate to Resurrection House (jeans, t-shirts, sneakers, backpacks, sweatshirts, and belts). Sign up for \$10 at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.

— **Milestones** —

Baptisms

Thomas Harman Mullin
Shawn Bradford Mullin
Warren O'Brien Weber

Joining

Jill Augevich
Emily, Ken, Duncan,
& Grant Hargreaves
Beverly & Patrick Lyons
Venus Stafford

Deaths

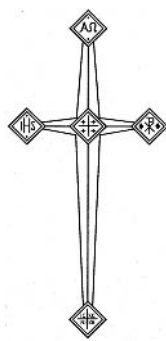
Beatrice "Bea" Brown

Transfer In

Suzanne & James Lobacki
from Old North Church,
Boston, Massachusetts
Michael Sudderth from
Grace Episcopal Church,
Manchester, New Hampshire

Transfer Out

Linda Cay Byrd to St. Peter's
Church, Altavista, Virginia



May Highlights at Redeemer

Grace — Is It Really Sufficient? Adult Class: Wednesday, May 1, 6:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Grace Gang Women's Bible Study: Thursday, May 2 and 16, noon-1 p.m., Goewey Hall

History Hunters: Thursday, May 2, 6-7:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

First Fridays on Palm Avenue: Friday, May 3, 5:30-7 p.m., Palm Avenue Terrace

Youth Sunday: Saturday, May 4, during the 5:30 p.m. service, and Sunday, May 5, during the 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. services, Church

Youth Ministry Fundraiser: Sunday, May 5, after 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. services, Gillespie Hall Veranda

Coffee Talk Women's Book Group: Monday, May 6, 9:30-11 a.m., Gillespie Hall (*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus)

Women of Redeemer - Wine, Women, and a Tour: Monday, May 6, 6-7:30 p.m., begins in the Church (Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.)

Books and Beyond Men's Book Club: Wednesday, May 8, 6 p.m., Room 220 (*John James Audubon: The Making of an American Woodsman* by Richard Rhodes)

Relational Soul Adult Class: Wednesdays, May 8, 15, 22, and 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Ascension Day Service & Reception: Thursday, May 9, 6 p.m., Church (Nursery opens at 5:45 p.m. Reception after service.)

Grammar of Faith Adult Class with Guest Pastor Bob Linders: Sunday, May 12, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall

Pentecost Services: Saturday, May 18, 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 19, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m., Church

Redeemer Forum - Habbakuk: The Poet Prophet: Sundays, May 19 and 26, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall

Evensong: Sunday, May 19, 5:15 p.m., Church

Parish Office Closed: Monday, May 20 (Pentecost Monday)

Night Shift Women's Book Club: Monday, May 20, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 220 (*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus)

Trinity Sunday Services: Saturday, May 25, 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 26, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m., Church

Parish Office Closed: Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day)

Men of Redeemer Pizza Night: Thursday, May 30, 6-8 p.m., Gillespie Hall (\$10) (Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.)

Visit [RedeemerSarasota.org/Calendar](https://www.redeemersarasota.org/Calendar) for more info about upcoming events.

The Trouble with Trouble



The school year had just started, and fall meant football games on Friday nights. One weekend, my parents were traveling and told me not to take my car to the football game on Friday night. I was a new driver, and my parents' confidence was low concerning my ability to make it through the night without incident. However, I was a new driver with a new (to me) car, and I was anxious to exercise my newly licensed freedom. So I disobeyed my parents and took my car to the football game. Did I mention that the football game was an away game?

Often the trouble we get into is self-imposed. One bad decision can lead to a world of consequences. When we choose to disobey what the Bible tells us is wrong, the results can be riddled with cascading impacts. We can pray that God will overlook the decision or ask God to forgive us and try our best not to repeat the offense. Either way, we cannot escape the consequences of bad choices. How would we learn from our mistakes if they were glossed over and no adverse consequence was incurred?

At 16 years old, I chose to take my car out that Friday night. I made it there without incident and enjoyed the game, resting on the knowledge that I had gotten away with disobeying my parents. But when I returned to my car, I realized I had locked my keys inside! I had to call the police, who reported their response to my parents.

My lousy decision had landed me in a heap of trouble. My car was taken away from me for several weeks, and I was not allowed to attend any away football games for the rest of the season.

My father explained to me that he trusted my ability to drive the car. He wanted me to be safe and have fun. But he knew that he would not be able to respond if something happened to me on that Friday night. In other words, he loved me and only wanted the best for me.

Our Heavenly Father wants the same for us. God wants us to have fun *and* to be safe. While we may not be able to see the dangers, He sees them and wants us to avoid them if at all possible. I had to suffer the consequences of my decision, but I learned from the mistake and never made *that* mistake again.

I pray that we can all learn from our mistakes, even if the consequences are hard to swallow. Matthew 6:34 admonishes us not to worry. It also says that each day will have troubles of its own. We always have a way back to God through Jesus Christ. No matter how bad things are or will get, God's grace is sufficient for our redemption.

— Father Michael Hurst, Senior Assistant Rector



Church of the Redeemer
222 S. Palm Avenue
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Making new Christians and making all Christians new

Redeemer team builds playground in Dominican Republic

In April, a group of parishioners and priests from Redeemer traveled to Boca Chica in the Dominican Republic to build a playground in memory of parishioner Andy Dorr. A plaque at the playground recognizes the years Dorr spent helping to build the nearby church. The plaque in the new playground reads in part, “Longtime friend and builder of Iglesia Monte de Sion, Andrew, a member of Church of the Redeemer, was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ...Although the specialty of his mission work was construction, his heart was with the children of Altigracia.”

Thank you to the hard-working team from Redeemer that helped build this playground and the many parishioners who have supported our work in the Dominican Republic over many years.



Saturday at 5:30 p.m.
Contemporary Mass*

A service with contemporary music

Sunday at 7:30 a.m.
Rite One Mass

A service without music for early risers

Sunday at 9 a.m.
Rite Two Choral Mass*

A service for all ages with traditional music
(Children’s Chapel during mass)

Sunday at 11 a.m.
Rite One Choral Mass*

A service with traditional music

Sunday at 1 p.m.
Rite Two Mass*

A service in Spanish with contemporary music

*in person and livestreamed

Nursery care at the 9 and 11 a.m. masses.

Daily Mass at Redeemer: Monday-Saturday at 10 a.m.

Morning Prayer at Redeemer: Monday-Saturday at 9 a.m.

Evening Prayer at Redeemer: Monday-Friday at 5:15 p.m.