

Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:00 pm Michael Simonelli, Eleanor Cervone,
Francis Raftery, Nicky Costa, John Elias
7:00 pm For the people of the parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:15 am Nicky Costa, Angelina Balsamo,
Margaret Coduto, Rose McAuliffe
9:00 am Hazel & Pat Luciano, Carol & John Svezia,
Peter Polizzano, Charles & Gladys Walker,
Theologus & Olga Chaoussoglou
10:30 am Pauline & Dominick Olivieri,
Mamie, John & Pauline Picone,
Josephine DeRugiero, Peter Razzo, Sr.,
Nicola & Filomena Cerciello
12:00 pm Sam & Margaret Passarella, Kelly Esposito,
Sam & Lucy De Marzo, Ann & Frank Papa,
Vincent & Catherine Vecchiarelli

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6:30 am Eugene Farner, Sr.
8:30 am Marty Kunberger, Jim Dirlam, Dominick Costa,
Marlene McCall, Jennie Tobin
12:00 pm Marianne Sawicki, Viola De Luca,
Mary Wendall, Dr. Zigmund Kaminski,
Charles, Theresa & Baby Maureen Kenworthy
7:00 pm The Mendez Family, Louise Traficante,
Rita Allocca, Theodore Anderson,
Special Intention

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:30 am Connie & William Bell
12:00 pm Pat De Rosa, Margaret Lumsden,
Lucy & Carmine De Rosa

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:30 am Ralph Sandello, Jack Marlovits, Nicky Costa,
Joanne Doherty
12:00 pm Lucy & Salvatore Fondaco, Mary McKinney,
Janet & Alexander Ciufu

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:30 am Emily & Jack DelGiudice,
Vincent Paragano (Healing),
Robert Hoffman (Healing)
12:00 pm Kristina Carrubba, Alfonso Sapio,
Jack O'Donnell

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:30 am Pasquale Iuliano, Saint Lucia
12:00 pm Fred & Sue Allocco, Robert Gero,
Brian Burns, Cecilia Gadenz

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:30 am For the people of the parish
5:00 pm Mary Warshany, Ralph Cervone,
Alice Bartinique, Sam Giordano, Sr.,
James & Catherine De Palma
7:00 pm For the people of the parish

**The Altar Bread and Wine
For the Week of December 15 - 21, 2019
are in memory of:
Altar Bread: The Peter McLaughlin Family
Altar Wine: Sam & Emilia Mantone**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:15 am The Carl & Elsie Chiarolanzio Family,
The Joseph & Agnes Kitchell Family,
Dominick Costa, Margaret Coduto,
Angela & Carmine Toto, Sr.
9:00 am Ralph Sandello, Joanne Yeager,
Donald Mansfield, Albert J. Salko,
Nancy & Nunzio Chiarolanzio,
John Heskett
10:30 am Joseph M. Heilmann, Anna Garossino,
Mary Dirlam, Umberto & Antonia Caputo,
Andrew Salerno, Nicky Costa
12:00 pm Domonic De Marzo, Antoinette Tirella,
Maria & Felice DelGiudice, Jennie Del Duca,
Lucy Monaco, Special Intention

Sacraments

FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND
A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE

... A TIME TO BE BORN

Claire Noelle Filak,
Sophia Grace Uhrynowich,
Camryn Elizabeth Renz
who were baptized November 24, 2019
Joseph Samuel De Marzo
who was baptized November 30, 2019
Madeleine Mary O'Keefe,
Valentina Francesca Gesualdo,
Michael Gian Fellow
who were baptized December 1, 2019



BAPTISM



...A TIME TO HEAL

Louise Gisoldi, Barbara Doyle,
Geraldine Cucciniello, Sharon Simmat

...A TIME TO DIE

...A TIME OF GREAT JOY

Kenneth Schrader & Michele Sebastiano
who were married November 22, 2019

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

The weekend collection for Saturday/Sunday, November 30/December 1 amounted to \$27,110.00. Your generosity to our Church is gratefully appreciated.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

The weekend collection for Saturday/Sunday, November 30/December 1 for Sound Start for Babies Program amounted to \$63.00. Thank you girls and boys for helping.

Second Sunday of Advent



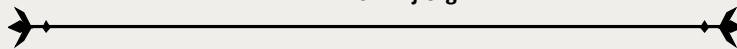
HOPE REQUIRES COURAGE

Christmas is the season of hope. The season awakens in us the deepest desire of our heart to live with hope. To live with hope takes courage and endurance. The Scriptures have been written to encourage us so that we live with hope. In this week we will look at why it takes courage to repent and to be filled with hope.

Challenge for the Week:

Ask God for the courage you need to let Him change what is not "hopeful" in your life.

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Trustees: Mrs. Barbara Doyle and Mr. Joseph Verbaro

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

Monday, December 9 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are: 6:30, 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon and 7:00 p.m.



This past week marked the first anniversary of the death of my friend, Bishop Rodimer. He went home to God on the Feast of Saint Nicholas, the patron of Bishops. Each year at Christmas I would give Bishop Frank something that depicted one of his favorite images from the Bible - the Lion and the Lamb co-existing in what we call the Peaceable Kingdom of God. It is the prophet Isaiah who gives us this vision of peace on God's holy mountain, a place not only where the lion lays down with the lamb but also where the child plays safely by the adder's lair, unharmed by this venomous snake.

The hope that we have for peace on earth must find its realization in our own efforts to establish the harmony God desires for us with Him, with each other and with all creation. Our work prepares the way of the Lord to act on us with his mercy and bring about the leveling of mountains of discord and the filling of valleys of distrust.

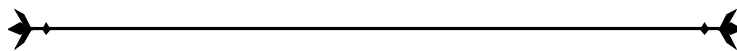
The world of politics is a great place to let peace begin with me. I share with you a writing by Fr. Richard Rohr that speaks to what we might strive to accomplish:

"Transformative change in politics depends so much on having a clear view of the desired end. Where does that vision come from? Possibilities may be offered by various ideologies, or party platforms, or political candidates. But, for the person of faith, that vision finds its roots in God's intended and preferred future for the world. It comes not as a dogmatic blueprint but as an experiential encounter with God's love, flowing like a river from God's throne, nourishing trees with leaves for the healing of the nations (see Revelation 22:1-2). This biblically infused vision, resonant from Genesis to Revelation, pictures a world made whole, with people living in a beloved community, where no one is despised or forgotten, peace reigns, and the goodness of God's creation is treasured and protected as a gift.

Such a vision strikes the political pragmatist as idyllic, unrealistic, and irrelevant. But the person of faith, whose inward journey opens his or her life to the explosive love of God, knows that this vision is the most real of all.

So, for the Christian, politics entails an inevitable spiritual journey. But this is not the privatized expression of belief which keeps faith in Jesus contained in an individualized bubble and protects us from the "world". The experience of true faith in the living God is always personal and never individual. Rather, it is a spiritual journey which connects us intrinsically to the presence of God, whose love yearns to save and transform the world. We are called to be "in Christ," which means we share - always imperfectly, and always in community with others - the call to be the embodiment of God's love in the world."

What a great gift to offer to Our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas, He who is God's love embodied - the word made flesh - the Prince of Peace. God bless!



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH



Our annual Christmas outreach is well underway. Each year we have been blessed with a generous and warm response to the poor and struggling in our community, and throughout our Diocese. Because of the generosity of so many of you, we are able to bring some of Christ's light into the lives of many. There are a variety of ways that you can participate if you are interested.

Giving Tree: A Christmas tree will be in the church vestibule with gift requests on it beginning Thanksgiving weekend. Anyone interested can take a tag, purchase the gift requested and return it ***when you come to Mass on the weekend OR by dropping it off at the parish office***

during the week, wrapped and **with the tag attached by December 15**. These gifts go to local families, to Diocesan or county agencies and to poor parishes.

Donations: Food cards or financial donations are gratefully accepted. Please call or drop a note to the Social Ministry in the Sunday collection.

Volunteer: The process of sorting and bagging gifts is one that takes time so if you have an hour to spare on **Sunday, December 15**, your help would be greatly appreciated. ***We will be in the Community Room in the Parish Ministry Center from 9:00 am onwards.*** If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Buckley on 201-988-4246 or via email at jeanneb1967@optonline.net.

THANKSGIVING OUTREACH

The spirit of generosity and giving is alive and well at SVM! Through your outpouring of support, we were once again able to meet all of our commitments for our annual Thanksgiving Outreach Program. Your donations of baskets, gift cards (more than \$1,600) and financial support (more than \$4,495) allowed the parish to provide the following:

- 115 baskets to local families
- 150 baskets to families whose children are enrolled in the Catholic Charities daycare centers in Paterson. An increase of 50 baskets this year made possible because of your financial support!
- 50 baskets to the Vocationist Sisters in Florham Park who distributed the baskets in Newark
- 80 baskets, 159 lbs. of rice, 20 lbs. of beans, 200 lbs. of potatoes, 22 extra turkeys, 6 extra chickens and 27 boxes of canned goods to St. Agnes Church in Paterson

The sincere gratitude and appreciation expressed by those receiving a basket made all of our efforts worthwhile.

Thank you to the army of faithful volunteers who worked so tirelessly to help pick up our Shop-Rite order, process and deliver the baskets locally, to the Vocationist Sisters and to St. Agnes. Once again, a number of new volunteers joined us this year. Hopefully, we didn't scare them off! Thank you to Fr. Chris who helped load the various vehicles, including his own, to deliver the 50 baskets to the Vocationist Sisters. It helps to live in the land of the big SUV's! So many volunteers assist year after year, too numerous to name individually; it's inspiring. I am truly grateful for the hard work and energy you provide! Without your enthusiastic help, we would never have accomplished our goal. Thank you to Randal and Tom for setting up and dismantling the tables and chairs needed on Sunday and Monday morning. This additional work adds to an already busy schedule, but they pitch in with a smile. Thank you to Ms. Gisoldi and the team of teens and parents who conducted another successful scavenger hunt for us on Sunday. Thank you also to Mrs. Stefanelli and the Christian Formation classes for their very generous donation of canned goods, potatoes, fruit and many other items. These efforts always put us over the top! A big thank you to the SVMS students, their teachers and staff who donated and decorated baskets in order to help us meet our commitments.

Through your phenomenal response, many families enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving. Thank you one and all!!

Barbara Eutsler, Thanksgiving Outreach Coordinator

Stewardship

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING



Our Advent Wreath will be blessed this weekend and lit at the Masses below by members of our parish ministries. Each week we will highlight those ministries lighting the candle in our Stewardship Corner.

Dec. 7: 5 PM – The Stewardship Council works closely with the Pastor and the Staff to help advance all aspects of stewardship through education, information and engagement. *Stewardship is a way of life based on the recognition that all we are and possess are a gift*

from God.

Dec. 8: 7:15 AM – Ministers to the Homebound. These Ministers of Holy Communion bring the Eucharist and our parish friendship to those who are not able to be with us at Mass due to age, disability or illness. Arlene Kennedy coordinates this ministry.

Dec. 8: 9 AM – Choristers. These young children, grades 3 to 8, lead us in song at our 9 AM Family Mass each week. Their participation helps us to lift our voices in song.

Dec. 8: 10:30 AM – Morristown Soup Kitchen. Parishioners set up, serve and clean up at the Soup Kitchen on the second Thursday of every month. We appreciate this outreach to the poor on behalf of all of our parish family which is coordinated by Jim Costello.

Dec. 8: Noon - Family Promise Volunteers. SVM is one of 18 host congregations that provide emergency shelter, hospitality and meals for a one week period throughout the year. Our Parish hosts these families 3 to 4 times each year and Laura Balogh organizes this amazing outreach.

Thank you to all those parishioners who participate in these ministries.

DECEMBER AT ST. VINCENT MARTYR PARISH

Since everyone is busy this Month, we wanted to help you enter into this season of preparation and light. Below are the details about the events, liturgies, service opportunities and fellowship happening with your parish family.

DEC. 9TH – FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

- Holy Day of Obligation: Masses at 6:30 am, 8:30 AM, Noon and 7 PM.

DEC. 12: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

- Bilingual Rosary followed by Mass will begin with a procession from the Mary Grotto in our Parking Lot. Please dress for the weather and join us for this powerful devotion to our Blessed Mother, Patroness of the Americas.

DEC. 13

- Parish Advent Service: 7 PM in the Church. The Gift of God's mercy is a wonderful way to prepare for our Christmas celebration.

DEC. 16 – 24: SPANISH NOVENA

- Join our Latino community in the Columbian Tradition of the Novena to the Christ Child in the Community Room at 7 PM nightly.

DEC. 24 – 25: Feast of the Nativity Mass Schedule:

- Dec. 24th at 4 PM – Mass in the Church; Mass in the Lower Church (Gym) and Mass at St. Paul Inside the Walls
- 6 PM – Mass in the Church; 8 PM – Mass in the Church in Spanish
- 10 PM Prelude of Christmas Music (Adult Choir) followed by the Solemn Mass of Christmas at 10:30 PM
- Dec. 25th: Masses at 7:15 AM; 9 AM; 10:30 AM and Noon. All in the Church ONLY.

DEC. 31 – JAN. 1: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

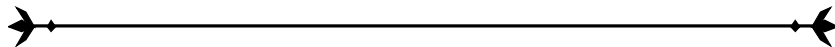
- Mass Schedule: Dec.31st at 5 PM; Jan. 1 at 9 AM and 11 AM

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday December 13 at 7 PM in our Church. Advent begins the church year and gives us the opportunity to focus on the coming of Christ – at the end of time and as the Christ Child at Christmas. What better way to prepare to meet the Lord than with the Sacrament of his Mercy. All are invited to celebrate with our parish family

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOME

Last weekend at the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass, we welcomed new members into our Parish Family as they continue their journey of conversion. We celebrated the "Rite of Welcome and Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens" with Lochlan MacQueen, Eugene Wan and Karla Sanko. They are preparing for the reception of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. The candidates were signed with the cross of Christ and were affirmed in their intention to live under Christ's cross and received a special blessing. Our Parish community is most important in this RCIA Journey as we welcome these candidates into our midst and share our faith with them. Each week as we see them dismissed after the homily to spend time reflecting on the Sunday Readings, please keep them and their families in your prayers.



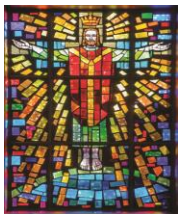
2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal "For I Was Hungry . . ."

As the year comes fast to an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop's Annual Appeal - as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission - and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop's Annual Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or on-line at www.2019appeal.org. If you are 70 1/2 or over and have an IRA, you can receive a tax benefit by instructing your IRA investment manager to donate your required minimum distribution to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please call the Bishop's Annual Appeal office at 973-777-8818, ext. 218 for additional details and also consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

Prayer



ATTENTION: MEN OF THE PARISH



"Silence" comes from the Latin word "silens," meaning stillness. Stillness, the renowned theologian Father Romano Guardini tells us, "is the tranquility of the inner life; the quiet at the depths of its hidden streams. It is a collected, total

presence, a being 'all there', receptive, alert ready . . . It is when the soul abandons the restlessness of purposeful activity." Experience stillness for yourself. Join the men of the Parish for our annual Retreat under the direction of the Jesuits at Loyola Retreat House in Morristown.

Visit Loyola.org to learn more or call any of the men listed below for information or to make reservations for the Men's Retreat weekend - January 10 - 12, from 7 PM Friday until 1 PM Sunday. Please mark your calendar. Jim Penders, 973-377-8803, Mike Newman, 973-822-2078, Steven Penders, 973-443-0570, Jim Perrello, 646-419-4463 or Bill Rojack, 973-377-1962. More details to follow.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

December 12th

Rosary: 7:00 pm

Mass: 7:30 pm

ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary is prayed daily at 8:00 a.m. followed by Mass at 8:30 a.m. Let us continue this devotion to our Blessed Mother. Come and join us in our devotion to the Blessed Mother.

WEEKLY HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The weekly Holy Hour is on Friday after the Noon Mass. During the Holy Hour we will recite the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and have some quiet time of reflection. All are welcome to share in this Holy Hour.

Education

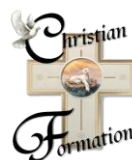
YOUTH NEWS



1.) Alpha follow-up this Sunday, December 8 from 7:15 - 8:45 p.m. in the Youth Center. Both week 2 and week 3 follow-up talks will be presented.

2.) The first Sprantioch team meeting is Wednesday, December 11 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. in the Youth Center at St. Vincent's. Co-Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Please mark your calendars for the next session for CF:

Traditional Monday Program: No class on December 9. Resuming on Monday, December 16 at 3:30 pm

Faith Family Sunday Program: Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 am in the school gym/auditorium

Hope Family Sunday Program: Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 am in the school gym/auditorium

6th grade Junior High Ministry Program: Sunday, January 5 at 9:00 am

7th grade Junior High Ministry Program: Sunday, January 5 at 10:30 am

8th grade Decision Point: Sunday, January 12 at 5:00 pm

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (level 1 -preK3, preK4 and K and level 1- first and second graders): Sunday, December 8 at 9:00am Level 2 (third- fifth) Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 am

Pottery Retreat (for all of those registered in the First Sacraments program)-

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Church at 9:00 am Mass then presentation from 10:15 - 11:30 am

(CGS) (Family Sunday Program {Faith and Hope})(Home Study) (SVMS {2A and 2B}) and (Traditional Monday Program {2A-2B}) (FS 2plus) in the Gym/Auditorium

WEE WEDNESDAYS

Free Fun for Tots and Caregivers

Toddlers and their caregivers are invited to enjoy these FREE events at St. Vincent Martyr School. Space is limited. Event registration is required. No admission without a ticket. Register online at www.eventzilla.net/user/svmsnj or visit our website at svmsnj.org to learn more. All sessions begin at 10:00 a.m.

December 18 - Dickens-era holiday magician

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Congratulations and welcome to our fraternal order! In the past few weeks 17 parishioners completed their Admissions Degree to join the Knights of Columbus, Dr.

McDowell Council #2248 Madison/Florham Park. The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. Our council supports the local communities and our Parishes, Holy Family and St. Vincent Martyr. The Knights meet the first Tuesday each month at 7 pm on the parish grounds of Holy Family in the Knights Hall working to support Faith, Family, Community and Life. If you are interested in joining the Knights please reach out to Matt Donnelly at 973-908-7486. Our new Knights are: Matt Bazley, Richard W. Beekman, Thomas F. Blunda, Owen Bolante, Peter J. Ciercello, Michael W. Ewart, David Farkas, Bill Figenshu, Thomas Fox, Tobi Ippolito, John Kennedy, Drew Lewis, Peter J. Meshki, Gene Picone, Michael W. Sabol, John Scaglione and Carlos Vargas.

OPLATKI

For those who celebrate the Eastern European custom of the sharing and the breaking of Oplatki, packets of the wafers are available in the Parish Office.



CHRISTMAS DECORATION MEMORIALS

It has been our custom here at St. Vincent Martyr to make donations in memory of loved ones toward the flowers and plants that will decorate our worship space during the Christmas

season. A list will be published of all memorial donations received. Please return the special envelope in your envelope packet no later than Monday, December 16. Extra envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church and also the Parish Office.

SVMS PLANT SALE

The classes of 2021 and 2022 of St. Vincent Martyr School will be selling poinsettias, wreaths, and amaryllis after all Masses this weekend, December 7/8.

This fundraiser is to benefit the SVM classes of 2021 and 2022. Please help to support SVM school.

HOPE HOUSE FOOD COLLECTION

Next weekend, December 14/15 is our monthly collection for Hope House, Dover. Your generous donation of non-perishable goods such as cereals, coffee/tea, detergents, canned goods, toiletries, etc. are greatly appreciated. Please be as generous as your means permit to help those in need. Items may be left in the church vestibule through Sunday.

A Family Perspective

Like John the Baptist, every parent "prepares the way of the Lord" in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask: "Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?"

STAY CONNECTED WITH ST. VINCENT'S

Get important updates from our church in a timely and convenient way. This new tool we're using lets you choose what info you'd like to receive - via email or text message from various ministries and groups in our church. You can unsubscribe any time. Visit our church at: www.flocknote.com/StVincentMartyr or text SVMNJ to 84576.

OUR PARISH WEBSITE - DID YOU KNOW??

...that you can find the parish mass schedule on the home page as well as read the bulletin each weekend?
...that you can register and download forms, information, etc. on our Youth Ministry pages?
...that you can read pertinent and important information for Family Faith Formation on our Faith Formation Education pages?
...that we have a parish calendar of events on the home page?
...and much more! Check it out!
VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.SVMNJ.ORG TO KEEP IN TOUCH.

San Vicente Mártir

Diciembre 1, 2019

Experiencia Hispana

Rev. Msgr. George F. Hundt,
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FrGeorge@svmnj.org

Rev. Jader Avila
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FrJader@svmnj.org

Rev. Krzysztof Liwarski
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FrChris@svmnj.org

Deacon Robert Morton,
Diácono permanente
Bobmort2002@yahoo.com

Mrs. Jan Figenshu,
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Jan.Figenshu@svmnj.org

Mrs. Denise Stefanelli,
Dir. Ed. Religiosa x 251
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Ms. Anne Marie Gisoldi,
Dir. Jóvenes x 300
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Mrs. Kathy Simonelli,
Administradora x105
Kathy.Simonelli@svmnj.org

Ms. Maribeth Kenworthy,
Secretaria x106
Maribeth.Kenworthy@svmnj.org

**La colecta del Pasado 24 de
Noviembre fue de 563. dólares.
Dios multiplique su generosidad.**

Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe 12 de Diciembre

**Rosario: 7pm
Misa: 7:30 pm**



Viene Navidad

En esta semana presentaremos algunos pensamientos iniciales sobre la virtud de la esperanza y hacer de la esperanza un hábito.

Veremos la esperanza como una forma de reconocer que somos peregrinos en un viaje que aún no hemos llegado. La esperanza nos señala el hecho de que todavía no estamos allí, que la vida no es todo lo que se supone que debe ser.

Desafío para la semana

¿Qué esperas para esta Navidad?

Los Sacramentos

Reconciliación (Confesiones): Todos los Sábados a las 4:00pm o haciendo una cita con uno de los sacerdotes, ya sea llamando a la oficina o hablando con ellos directamente o [973-377-4000 ext. 257](tel:973-377-4000).

Unción de los Enfermos:

Para las personas que están gravemente enfermas, hospitalizadas o preparándose para una cirugía, al igual que las personas de edad avanzada un asilo para la tercera edad. Para administrar este Sacramento; Favor llamar a la oficina de la parroquia para que uno de los sacerdotes administre la Unción de los enfermos. [973-377-4000 ext. 257](tel:973-377-4000).

Papa: "Que el Espíritu Santo nos dé un corazón abierto"

Renato Martinez – Ciudad del Vaticano

"Queridos hermanos, el libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles narra la llegada de Pablo a la ciudad de Filipos, colonia romana de la Macedonia, y por tanto la entrada del Evangelio en Europa", lo dijo el Papa Francisco en la

Audiencia General del último miércoles de octubre de 2019, continuando con su ciclo de catequesis sobre la evangelización a partir del Libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles.

El Espíritu Santo, protagonista de la misión de la Iglesia

Explicando este pasaje de los Hechos de los Apóstoles (16,9), el Santo Padre precisó cómo el Espíritu Santo es el protagonista de la misión de la Iglesia: es Él quien guía el camino de los evangelizadores mostrándoles el camino a seguir. “Esto lo vemos claramente en el momento en que el Apóstol Pablo, habiendo llegado a Troade, recibe una visión. Un macedonio le suplica: “¡Ven a Macedonia y ayúdanos!”. Y el pueblo de Macedonia del Norte se siente tan orgulloso de esto, se siente orgulloso de haber llamado al Apóstol Pablo a anunciar a Jesucristo. Recuerdo mucho a ese bello pueblo que me acogió con tanto calor – señaló el Papa – que conserven esta fe que Paolo les ha predicado”.

La fuerza del Evangelio se dirige a las mujeres

Hay tres acontecimientos que caracterizan este episodio, tres acontecimientos importantes que se dieron en esos tres días en Filipos. “En primer lugar, el bautismo de Lidia, una mujer creyente a la que el Señor por obra del Espíritu le abrió el corazón para que aceptara la enseñanza de Pablo. Una vez que el corazón de Lidia se abrió, pudo acoger a Cristo mediante el bautismo, junto a toda su familia, y abrió su casa a los demás Apóstoles”. Tenemos aquí, afirmó el Pontífice, el testimonio de la llegada del cristianismo a Europa: el inicio de un proceso de inculturación que dura hasta hoy. El cristianismo, subrayó el Papa, ha entrado por Macedonia.

La desolación de la cárcel

En segundo lugar, Pablo y Silas fueron denunciados por los dueños de una esclava que tenía un espíritu de adivinación y les procuraba muchos beneficios, y a la que los Apóstoles liberaron con un exorcismo. En la cárcel, en vez de lamentarse, alababan a Dios y Él los salvó mediante un terremoto que sacudió la prisión y rompió las cadenas que los ataban.

Hablando espontáneamente, el Santo Padre explicó que la mujer que habían liberado en nombre de Jesús, una esclava, que tenía un espíritu de predicción, con el cual sus dueños ganaban dinero, leía las manos y predecía el futuro. También hoy, dijo el Papa, la gente paga por esto. Y sus padrones, los dueños de la esclava, en represalia, denunciaron a Paolo y llevaron a los Apóstoles ante los magistrados con la acusación de desorden público.

La oración produce efectos prodigiosos

Sin embargo, durante su encarcelamiento se produce un hecho sorprendente. Es en la desolación que en vez de quejarse, Pablo y Silas cantan alabanzas a Dios y esta

alabanza libera una fuerza que los libera: durante la oración un terremoto sacude los cimientos de la prisión, se abren las puertas y se cayeron las cadenas de todos. Como la oración de Pentecostés, la oración hecha en la cárcel también produce efectos prodigiosos.

Y, por último, la conversión y el bautismo del carcelero y de toda su familia. En medio de la noche, él creyó en el Señor Jesús, junto a toda su familia, acogió a los apóstoles en su casa, les lavó las heridas y recibió el Bautismo. Después, lleno de alegría por haber creído en Dios preparó la mesa y celebraron una fiesta. En medio de la noche, para el carcelero y su familia brilló la luz de Cristo, se rompieron las cadenas del corazón y experimentaron una alegría indescriptible.

Es así como el Espíritu Santo está haciendo la misión – agregó el Papa Francisco – desde el inicio, desde Pentecostés en adelante es Él el protagonista de la misión. Y nos lleva adelante, es necesario ser fieles a la vocación que el Espíritu nos mueve a realizar. Para llevar el Evangelio.

“Buscar soluciones justas a los desafíos y problemas en Iraq”, llamamiento del Papa

Pidamos un corazón abierto a Dios

Antes de concluir su catequesis, el Papa Francisco saludó cordialmente a los peregrinos de lengua española, venidos de España y de Latinoamérica. “Pidamos al Espíritu Santo que nos dé un corazón abierto a Dios y acogedor con los demás, con una fe audaz capaz de romper las cadenas que nos oprimen a nosotros y a los demás”

(Ver en <https://www.vaticannews.va>)

“Si usted o alguien que usted conozca ha sido abusado por un sacerdote deben de llamar de inmediato a la oficina del Procurador General de su comunidad y a la Coordinadora para Asistencia de Víctimas de la Diócesis: Peggy Zanello al 973-879-1489. También deben de llamar a la Diócesis y hablar con el Rev. Monseñor James T. Mahoney, Vicario General y Moderador de la Curia al número 973-777-8818 ext. 205 o a la Hermana Joan Daniel Healy, S. C. C., Canciller/Delegada Religiosa al número 973-777-8818 ext. 248.

El texto completo de la póliza de la Diócesis de Paterson refiriendo a Reclamos de Abuso Sexual esta disponible en la página web: www.patersondiocese.org.”

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