

Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS
510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-3920 • **Fax:** 936-825-7612

Religious Education: 936-825-1869

After hour emergencies: 936-825-3920

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:15am - noon & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Friday 9:15am- noon

Other times by appointment

Website: www.christourlight.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopéz

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER

Nelda Kurten

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Carolyn Katkoski

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' COORDINATOR / SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Teresa Morales, Gregorio Gonzalez, Sam Pry, Nelda Kurten

FINANCE COUNCIL

Leonard Busa, Teresa Morales, Ann Clark, Carolyn Katkoski

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Dan Busa, Hipolito Olvers, Lupe Diaz, Ofelia Olvera, Toribio Hernandez, Celia (Rosa) Perez, Jose Murillo, Sr., Ruben Perez

FAMILY LIFE

Joe and Monica Fultz, Robert and Pam Malek

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Michael and Connie Arden, Mitch Kroll, Gregorio Gonzalez

RE BOARD

President: Jason Katkoski, Vice President: Brandi Tejeda,

Secretary: Teresa Morales, Lucy Coronilla, Dcn Grant Holt, Amber Collier,

Jessica Herrera, Allyson Sweeney

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mike Arden, Larry Busa, Danny Clark, Richard Krolczyk, and Joe Rangel.

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: (English) 8:00am

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

First Saturday 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm (English)

Thursday 6:00pm (Spanish)

ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:40pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10am

Saturday: 5:15pm

Sunday: 7:15am & 12:15pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Tuesday, Thursday and

2nd & 4th Saturdays 5:00-5:45pm

and by appointment 936-825-3920

RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los Martes, jueves y el

segundo y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45pm

y por cita 936-825-3920

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph : December 30, 2018

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

December 29 & 30, 2018

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

6:00 PM Vigil Bilingual

TUESDAY, JANUARY 01

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 02

No Mass

THURSDAY, JANUARY 03

No Mass

FRIDAY, JANUARY 04 (1ST FRIDAY)

8:30 AM Spanish Legion of Mary, Living & Deceased

SATURDAY, JANUARY 05 (1ST SATURDAY)

9:00 AM English Legion of Mary, Living & Deceased

6:00 PM Vigil Janie Kallus †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 06

8:00 AM Benefactor's of Memorial Fund

1:00 PM* Eduardo Perez †

*SPANISH

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

No Events Scheduled

TUESDAY, JANUARY 01

No Events Scheduled

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 02

No Events Scheduled

THURSDAY, JANUARY 03

12:00 PM English Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

FRIDAY, JANUARY 04

No Events Scheduled

SATURDAY, JANUARY 05

9:00 AM First Holy Communion Workshop, CH

"The Eucharist"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 06

No Events Scheduled

E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and or articles are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office, or faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org.

Events, meeting etc. for the Parish Calendar are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office in advance.

AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. Announcements are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodía. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, please notify the parish office, 825-3920.

Sacrament of Baptism Schedule



English Baptism Class Schedule for 2019:

8:30 AM to 10:30 AM January 12, April 13
July 13, October 12. **PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS.** To register please contact Deacon

Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Lucy Coronilla at 936-419-9296.

Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2019: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, January 20 and 27, April 21 and 28, July 21 and 28 October 20 and 27. For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974

ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. **SCHEDULED** Baptism will be celebrated once a month at 12 noon every 3rd Saturday following completion of the baptismal classes the prior month. The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration. Therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated here.

DIOCESAN SERICE FUND

Participation **Goal:**
\$24,940.00

Total Registered Families at Christ Our Light: 657 **Pledged:**
\$18,769.10

Participating Families in DSF: 73 **Paid:**
\$18,697.85

Percent Paid: 74.97%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Sick Relatives & Friends

PRAY for THE CONTINUING RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF

the infirmed and homebound members of our community. Steve Alvarado, Deborah Allwell, Amy Baldobino, Joe Baldobino, Katherine Berger, Irene Castillo, JoAnn Clepper, Frank Conte, Minnie Crouch, Sherry Noto Coronado, Taylor Cox, Susie Dominguez, Barbara Eldridge Carol Lynne Estes, Maria Flores, Charleen Holmes, Judy Huber, Marion Huber, Joe Imhoff, Eva James, Liz Johnson, Esther Jones, Charlie Kapchinski, Brianna Kelley, Kim Kelly, Landon Kimich, Lysie Kitchens, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kurbricht, Crystal Lane, Leslie Lane, Manuel Lebeck, Ted Loq, Ken Longoria, Lillian Marcotte, Maria Martinez, June McDonald, Yvonne Meitzen, Valeriano Melchor, Anthony Mendez, Evita Mendez, Beth Minava, Eddie Muston, Fabian Munoz, Trealean Nickerson, Thomas Nobles, Leon Nowak, Julian Olguin, Victor Ostiguin, Howard Owens, Ralf Perez, II, Tanisha Perry, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Rose Betty Piper, Mercedes Rios, Joel Rivera, Irma Salazar, Abby Schoessow, Josh Sechelski, Judy Seigler, Dana Sowell, Krysten Sowell, Angie McLaurin Till, Lucy Thompson, Tina Tomczak, Alene Torres, Anastacia Torres, Jesse Valadez, III, Carrie Vega, Amanda Walkoviak, Clara Walkoviak, Debra Wills, Charlotte Rose Winkler, and Pam Wise. Call the parish office when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920. Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list. Thank you.

YOUR PARISH SUPPORT **SU APOYO PARROQUIAL**

TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:

Weekly Offering

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GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS

December 22 & 23, 2018

(79) Offertory Envelopes / Loose Checks	2,894.00
Loose Change	813.88
Children's	176.00
Total	3,883.88
On Line Giving	200.00
II Collection, 2018 DSF Deficit	378.00
Maintenance Fund	25.00

YOUR PARISH SUPPORT **SU APOYO PARROQUIAL**

TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:

GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS

December 24 & 25, 2018
CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

(57) Offertory Envelopes / Loose Checks	3,590.00
Loose Change	809.00
Children's	76.00
Total	4,475.00
4th Week Offertory	115.00
5th Week Offertory	30.00
II Collection, 2018 DSF Deficit	618.50

In Our Prayers

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DEC.

General Intention — EVANELIZATIN: In the service of the transmission of Faith. That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time..



P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration)

We are inviting and highly encouraging everyone to sign-up for our "P.E.R.A." (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration). We are asking everyone to devote ONE HOUR (at least) a WEEK adoring God in the Blessed Sacrament—that is, only asking 168 parishioners to make adoration of God everyday, 24/7! We do this as a Parish Community in response to the teaching of St. John Paul II:

The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."

(Dominicae cenae, 3)

Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024.



New Memorial Candles

The new Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND **Web site is FORMED.ORG**

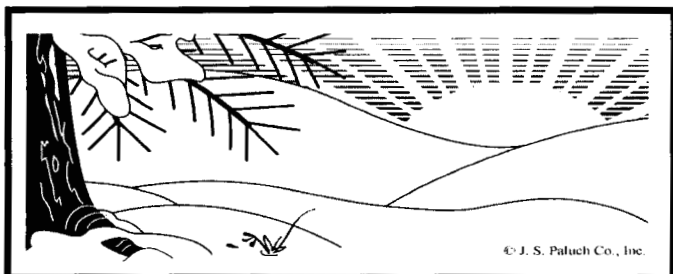
The Parish Code to access the website is
MVMZKF

Then register to create an account.

There are 2 easy ways to connect to
FLOCKNOTE (pick one):

NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.

1. Visit our church at: www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.



**The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 30, 2018**

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. 1 John 3:2a

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the month.

MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

- Altar Society—January and July
- Pastoral Council—February and October
- Finance Council—March and September
- R.E. Board—April and August
- Stewardship—May and November
- Choir—June and December

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

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MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE



If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or special intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

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II Collections in December and January

- December 29 & 30 — 2018 DSF Deficit
- January 12 & 13 — Maintenance Fund
- January 26 & 27 — Bishops' Fund for Latin America

ONLINE STORE FOR CATHOLIC GIFTS

Go to our website: www.christourlight.org
Click on: www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store/?
Promo Code=102608" <> img (with a % of your purchase going back as Credit to the parish.

Feast of the Holy Family — *"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3:1* During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received — being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them frequently.

**11 DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND
TIBERIAS—MOUNT OF BEATITUDES—
CANA—NAZARETH—MOUNT OF OLIVES—
JERUSALEM—BETHLEHEM - WITH FR.
ELI - APRIL 30—MAY 10, 2019**

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land brings the scriptures to life. It will give new meaning and depth to scripture and your faith. How wonderful it would be for you to make a pilgrimage and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. I invite you to join me on a life changing journey of faith to visit the Holy Land. If you have any questions, please contact me at lopez.eli68@gmial.com

Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia — *"Mira qué amor nos ha dado el Padre, que seamos llamados hijos de Dios; y así lo somos: 1 Juna 3:1* Durante esta temporada de dar, recordemos el regalo más importante que hemos recibido: ser hijos de Dios. Como hijos de Dios, es importante que expresemos nuestro amor por los demás también. Dile con frecuencia a tu cónyuge, hijos y otros familiares y amigos, que los amas.
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TODAY'S READINGS

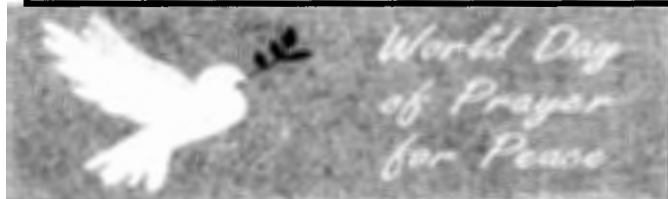
First Reading — Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.*

Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or *Psalm 128.*

Second Reading — See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24) or *Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].*

Gospel — The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They found him in the temple, in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectonary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.





Mass Intentions for 2019 are available. Stop by the parish office or drop your request in the collection basket with the needed information.

IGNITE: Our Faith, Our Mission

Summary Report — December 17, 2018

Parish Goal: \$208,632.00

Total Pledged to Date: \$109,911.00
% of Parish Goal 47.32%
Number of Participation (# Families) 33

HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always “get it right,” but they always tried to. These three “amateurs” were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation—to do his Father’s work—but he also returned home with his parents.

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EN EL HOGAR ESTÁ LA FAMILIA

La idea, el sueño y la realidad de lo que es familia es tan fuerte y perdurable que lo usamos para describir lo mejor de las relaciones humanas. Hablamos de una familia de naciones, de nuestra familia eclesial y parroquial. El mejor halago que podemos dar a un amigo o amable anfitrión es decirle que nos sentimos como en casa con su compañía, que nos sentimos parte de la familia.

Las familias son el primer crisol en el que se prueba y se fortalece el amor. Jesús mismo fue una de tres personas que vivía a la sombra del otro. Esta familia, como la nuestra, no siempre “lo hacía todo bien”, pero siempre trataba. Estos tres amateurs celebraban un día de fiesta, y uno de ellos se perdió. Los otros dos se preocuparon bastante y se esforzaron grandemente para encontrar al tercero, un niño después de todo, que siempre buscaba el significado de su llamado. Encontró su vocación —hacer la obra del Padre— pero también volvió a casa con sus padres.

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Mary, Mother of God



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Monday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year’s Eve
- Tuesday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year’s Day
- Wednesday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- Thursday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Friday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; First Friday
- Saturday: St. John Neumann; First Saturday



La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES

- Domingo: La Sagrada Familia;
- Lunes: Séptimo día dentro de la octava de Navidad; San Silvestre I
- Martes: Santa María, Madre de Dios; Octava de Navidad; Año Nuevo; Jornada Mundial de Oración por la Paz
- Miércoles: Santos Basilio Magno y Gregorio Nacienceno
- Jueves: El Santísimo Nombre de Jesús
- Viernes: Santa Isabel Ana Seton; Primer viernes
- Sábado: San Juan Neumann; Primer sábado



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Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2019

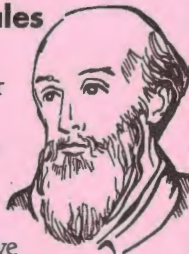
Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church
Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Francis de Sales

Born to a wealthy family in Savoy, near Switzerland, St.

Francis became the Bishop of Geneva and worked to revive Catholicism in Chablais, Switzerland. Controversial for his day, he taught that all Christians in whatever station in life could grow in holiness. He was known for his simple but profound sermons, and kindly spiritual wisdom. His famous work, *Introduction to the Devout Life* is still a popular read today as it was when he wrote it.



God stays the same

Although the world changes constantly, God stays the same. He can be trusted to provide love, support, and strength when we need it: All we have to do is ask him. *"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed"* (Malachi 3:6).

Pass it on

"Evangelization means to set out with Christ in order to pass on the gift we have received" (Pope Benedict XVI).



God watches good efforts with loving eyes

We start the New Year with the best of intentions, but life can get in the way of success. Household expenses leave little for charity, work encroaches on family time, daily tasks distract from prayer time, and healthy habits fall away. It can be discouraging when we stumble, but it's important to keep trying. God watches our efforts with loving eyes.



God knows our limits. Our Father understands that we are weak and that we struggle. Even Peter, Jesus' close friend, promised devotion but later denied knowing him (John 13: 37-38).

Not only did Jesus forgive him, he made Peter the first head of his beloved Church.

Don't let fear of failure keep you from trying again. *"Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you"* (Isaiah 41:10). The key is to get back to the plan.

We aren't meant to do it alone.

Jesus is the source of our true strength and wants to help us get it right.

"Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its

own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me" (John 15:4). *"Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power"* (Ephesians 6:10).

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Mary the Mother of God?

When we refer to Mary as "Mother of God," we are saying that Jesus is God. The Church has always taught that Jesus is both God and sinless man. As the Word of God, he always existed. He took on flesh and "became man" in history



through Mary (John 1:14). Mary is truly his mother: she gave birth to him and raised him. Since Jesus is God, Mary, his mother, is the "Mother of God" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #495).

Forgiveness makes good sense

"My best friend hurt me terribly, hasn't apologized and doesn't act sorry. I refuse to forgive her." "When my parents died, my brother took more than his share of their estate. I'll never speak to him again."

Refusing to forgive merely prolongs the hurt feelings and traps us in the past. It forces us to dwell on bad feelings and keep them alive. That feels awful. Forgiving is something we do for ourselves.

But when we forgive, the energy that sustained the anger and hurt is now available



for better purposes. That feels better.

Need another reason? Jesus taught us that to receive forgiveness of our own sins we must forgive those who have hurt us. If we can't or won't – how can we obtain it for ourselves?

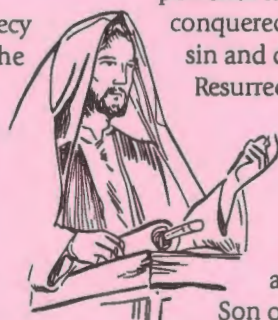
Instead, pray for those who hurt you and ask God to bless them. Not only will you find the pain start to lessen, you'll be saying one of God's favorite kinds of prayers. It's exactly how Jesus prayed while on the Cross.

from Scripture

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; Jesus teaches in the synagogue

In this passage, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. He read the prophecy of Isaiah about the advent of the Messiah, who would come to "bring glad tidings to the poor." Then he said, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." He confirmed that he was the long-awaited Messiah.

His hearers must have been shocked. They expected the Messiah to be a worldly king from an important city, not a carpenter-turned-preacher from a small town like Nazareth. They expected this Messiah-king to defeat the



oppressive Romans and make Israel a powerful nation. Instead, Jesus conquered the powerful enemies of sin and death by his Death and Resurrection.

Throughout the Bible, God chose unlikely heroes to carry out his plan: think of Abraham, Moses, David, St. Peter, St. Paul, and many others. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a newborn infant and lived in humility, poverty, and service. The Good News is that God's love is stronger than sin and death. If he rose to glory, those who follow him will, too.

Q & A What is a "holy hour?"

A "holy hour" is a devotion during which one sets aside an hour for prayer and meditation before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Try these ideas to



make a holy hour:
Find a tabernacle with a lit sanctuary lamp. The lamp signifies the presence of Christ. Silence yourself both interiorly and exteriorly. Clear your mind of daily stresses or

outside distractions.
Start the conversation. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you, then make acts of faith, hope and charity. Tell God how you believe, trust and love him. Ask for more faith, hope and love.

Adore God. Rather than recite prayers, focus on adoration. God is all powerful, all good, more beautiful than we can imagine, and more real than the distractions on which we focus.

Imagine Christ sitting with you. It's not your love for God, but his for you that saves. God delights in the company of his children (Proverbs 8:31). If you can't pray, then just be with him. That itself is a prayer pleasing to God.

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 2 – St. Gregory Nazianzen (389). Born in Cappadocia, Turkey, St. Gregory was awarded the title of "The Theologian" for his faithfulness and eloquence. Preferring the quiet life of a monk, he was unwillingly made a bishop of Sasima by his friend, St. Basil the Great. With St. Basil and St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Gregory helped clarify the Church's teachings about the Holy Trinity.

Jan. 3 – Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. We honor Jesus' name, which means, "God saves," and refers to his mission as Savior (Matthew 1:21). Jesus is

"the name above all names," at which "every knee should bend ..." (Philippians 2:10).

Jan. 5 – St. John Neumann (1860). The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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Creciendo en la Fe™

Descubriendo **esperanza y gozo** en la fe católica.

Enero de 2019

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church

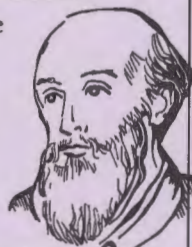
Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

Meditaciones breves

San Francisco de Sales

Nacido en el seno de una familia rica de Savoya, cerca de

Suiza, san Francisco fue obispo de Ginebra y se esforzó por reanimar el catolicismo en Chablais, Suiza. En su día polémico, enseñó que todos los cristianos sin diferencia pueden crecer en santidad. Fue famoso por sus discursos sencillos pero profundos y por su sabiduría benévola y espiritual. Su famosa obra *Introducción a la Vida Beata* sigue siendo hoy una lectura tan popular como cuando la escribió.



Dios no cambia

Aunque el mundo cambia constantemente, Dios permanece el mismo. Podemos confiar en que nos dé amor, apoyo y fuerza cuando lo necesitamos. Sólo tenemos que pedirselo. *"Porque yo, el Señor, no he cambiado, ¡pero ustedes no dejan de ser hijos de Jacob!"* (Malaquías 3:6).

Transmítanlo

"La evangelización es partir con Cristo para transmitir el don que hemos recibido" (Papa Benedicto XVI).



Dios observa los buenos esfuerzos con ojos amantes

Empezamos el Año Nuevo con las mejores intenciones, pero la vida puede impedir que las cumplamos. Los gastos de casa dejan poco para las obras de caridad, el trabajo invade el tiempo para la familia, las tareas diarias distraen del tiempo de oración y los hábitos sanos desaparecen. Quizá nos desanimemos cuando tropezamos, pero es importante seguir intentándolo. Dios observa nuestros esfuerzos con ojos amantes.

Dios conoce nuestros límites. Nuestro Padre entiende que somos débiles y que batallamos. Hasta Pedro, el amigo íntimo de Jesús, le prometió devoción pero luego negó que lo conocía

(Juan 13: 37-38). Jesús no sólo lo perdonó sino que nombró a Pedro el primer encargado de su amada Iglesia.

No permita que los fallos impidan que siga esforzándose. *"No temas, pues yo estoy contigo; no mires con desconfianza, pues yo soy tu Dios; yo te he dado fuerzas, he sido tu auxilio"* (Isaías 41:10). Lo importante es volver al plan establecido.

No tenemos que hacerlo solos. Jesús es la fuente de nuestra fuerza y quiere ayudarnos a que hagamos lo debido.

"Permanezcan en mí, como yo permanezco en

ustedes. Así como el sarmiento

no puede dar fruto si no permanece en la vid, tampoco ustedes, si no permanecen en mí"

(Juan 15:4). *"Por lo demás, fortalézcanse en el Señor con la fuerza de su poder"* (Efesios 6:10).



¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

¿Por qué llaman los católicos Madre de Dios a María?

Cuando nos referimos a María como "Madre de Dios", estamos diciendo que Jesús es Dios. La Iglesia ha enseñado siempre que Jesús es a la vez Dios y hombre sin pecado. Como la Palabra de Dios, existió siempre. Tomó cuerpo y "se hizo hombre" a través



de María (Juan 1:14).

María es verdaderamente su madre: ella lo trajo al mundo y lo educó.

Como Jesús es Dios, María, su madre, es la "Madre de Dios"

(Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, #495).

El perdón tiene sentido

"Mi mejor amiga me ha hecho mucho daño, no me ha pedido perdón y no muestra remordimiento. Me niego a perdonarla". "Cuando mis padres murieron, mi hermano se llevó más de lo que le correspondía de la herencia. Jamás volveré a dirigirle la palabra".

Cuando nos negamos a perdonar únicamente prolongamos los sentimientos heridos y quedamos atrapados en el pasado. Nos obsesionamos con los sentimientos malos y los mantenemos vivos. Esto nos hiera. Perdonar es algo que hacemos por nosotros mismos.



Cuando perdonamos, la energía que alimentó el enojo y la herida está disponible para objetivos mejores. Esto nos sienta mejor.

¿Necesita otra razón? Jesús nos enseñó que para recibir el perdón de nuestros pecados debemos perdonar a los que nos han ofendido. Si no podemos o no queremos, ¿cómo vamos a obtener perdón para nosotros?

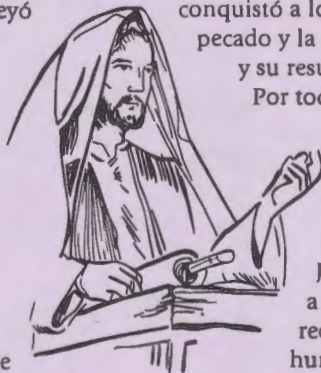
Recen por los que los han ofendido y pidan a Dios que los bendiga. No sólo verán que la pena disminuye, también dirán uno de los tipos de oración preferidos de Dios. Es exactamente como Jesús rezó en la Cruz.

de las **E**scrituras

Lucas 1:1-4, 4:14-21; Jesús enseña en la sinagoga

En este pasaje Jesús regresó a Nazaret para enseñar en la sinagoga. Leyó la profecía de Isaías sobre el advenimiento del Mesías que llegaría para dar la "buena noticia" a los pobres. Luego dijo: "Hoy se ha cumplido este pasaje de la Escritura que acaban de oír". Confirmó que era el esperado Mesías.

Los que lo escuchaban estaban sorprendidos. Se esperaban que el Mesías fuera el rey terrenal de una importante ciudad, no un carpintero convertido en predicador de un pueblito como Nazaret. Esperaban que este mesías rey derrotara al opresor romano y convirtiera a Israel en



nación poderosa. En cambio, Jesús conquistó a los poderosos enemigos del pecado y la muerte mediante su muerte y su resurrección.

Por toda la Biblia, Dios elige a héroes improbables que realicen su plan: piensen en Abraham, Moisés, David, San Pedro, San Pablo y muchos otros. Jesús, el Hijo de Dios, vino a la tierra como un bebé recién nacido y vivió en humildad, pobreza y servicio. La buena nueva es que Dios es más fuerte que el pecado y la muerte. Si se alzó a la gloria, los que lo siguen lo harán también.

P & R ¿Qué es una "hora santa"?

Una "hora santa" es una devoción durante la cual dedicamos una hora a la oración y a la meditación ante Jesús en el Sagrario. Ponga a prueba estas ideas para hacer una hora santa:



Encuentre un sagrario que tenga encendida la lámpara del santuario. La lámpara indica la presencia de Cristo. Póngase en silencio interior y exterior. Limpie su mente del estrés diario

y de distracciones externas.

Comience la conversación. Pídale ayuda al Espíritu Santo, haga luego actos de fe, esperanza y caridad. Dígale a Dios cuánto cree y confía en él y cuánto lo ama. Pídale más fe, esperanza y amor.

Adore a Dios. En lugar de recitar oraciones, concéntrese en la adoración. Dios es todopoderoso, todo bondad, más hermoso de lo que podemos imaginar y más real que las distracciones en las que nos concentramos.

Imagine que Cristo está sentado junto a usted. Lo que salva no es su amor por Dios, sino el de Dios por usted. Dios se deleita con la compañía de sus hijos (Proverbios 8:31). Si usted no puede rezar, simplemente quédese junto a él. Eso es una oración que le agrada a Dios.

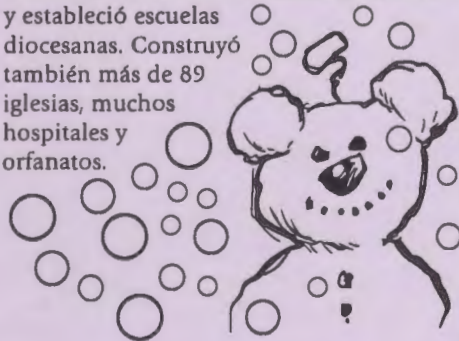
Fiestas y celebraciones

2 de enero – San Gregorio Nacianceno (389). Nacido en Capadocia, Turquía, san Gregorio recibió el título de "el teólogo" por su fe y su elocuencia. Prefería la vida callada de los monjes, pero su amigo San Basilio Magno lo hizo obispo de Sasima contra su voluntad. Junto con San Basilio y con san Gregorio de Nicea, san Gregorio contribuyó a aclarar las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre la Santísima Trinidad.

3 de enero – Fiesta del Santo Nombre de Jesús. Honramos el nombre de Jesús que significa "Dios salva" y se refiere a su misión de Salvador (Mateo 1:21). Jesús es el "nombre sobre todo nombre" así llamado

para que ante él "se doble toda rodilla..." (Filipenses 2:10).

5 de enero – San John Neumann (1860). El primer obispo estadounidense canonizado nació en lo que hoy es la República Checa en 1811. San John viajó a Nueva York como misionero antes de convertirse en obispo de Filadelfia. Desarrolló el sistema de escuelas católicas y estableció escuelas diocesanas. Construyó también más de 89 iglesias, muchos hospitales y orfanatos.



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