



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 LITURGY AND MUSIC

Susan Russell

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' COORDINATOR / SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael-Cúlver (Chairperson), Teresa Morales, Jason Katkoski, Laura Quirino,
Gerardo Olguin, Sam Pry and Larry Busa

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, 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

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

Third Sunday of Lent : March 24, 2019

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

March 23 & 24, 2019

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

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, MARCH 25

No Mass

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

6:30 PM Marcelino Jr. † and Teresita †

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

8:30 AM Sammy Blair †

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

8:30 AM Cecil Wilde †

6:00 PM* Orlando Ramirez, Living

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

8:30 AM Baltazar † and Oliva † Diaz

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

6:00 PM Vigil Mike Nowak †

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM* Eduardo Perez †

*SPANISH

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, MARCH 25

5:00 PM Spanish Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

7:00 PM Adult Confirmation Class, SPH

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

6:00 PM at Mass Presentation of the Creed, CH

6:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

7:00 PM Finance Council Meeting, SPH

7:00 PM Lector Class, CH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

6:00 PM Religious Education Class, Pre-K thru 5th

6:00 PM to 6:45 PM Parent Class, English & Spanish, CH

7:15 PM Choir Practice, CH

7:30 PM RCIA in English, SPCC

7:30 PM RCIA in Spanish, SPCC

7:30 PM Youth Group Meeting, SPH

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

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

2:00 PM Music & Liturgy Practice & Work Time, CH

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH
Spanish Bible Class, CH Cry room
Guitar Lesson, CH

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

2:00 PM Music & Liturgy Practice & Work Time, CH

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross, CH

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

No Events Scheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 AM Mass RCIA Second Scrutiny

After 8:00 AM Mass, Youth selling Breakfast Tacos

10:15 AM Religious Education Classes, 6-12th Grades

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 April 13, July 13, and 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, 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.

Sick Relatives & Friends

PRAY for THE CONTINUING RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF the infirmed and homebound

members of our community. Frank Crouch, Minnie Crouch, Yvonne Meitzen, Leslie Mills, Leon Nowak, Victor Ostiguin, Leona Pasket, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Lucila Rivera, Josh Sechelski, Dana Sowell, and Krysten Sowell, Harold Urbanosky, Crystal Winkler.

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.



New Memorial Candles

The new Candle Stands are electrical. Any-one 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.

YOUR PARISH SUPPORT SU APOYO PARROQUIAL

Weekly Offering

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TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:

GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS

March 16 and 17, 2019

(80) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks and On Live Giving	3,747.00
Loose Cash	892.00
Children	49.00
Total	4,688.00
Maintenance Fund	202.00

II Collection, Black & Indian 863.77

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be held every Friday during Lent at 6:00 PM

March 22nd — Choir

March 29th — Legion of Mary

April 5th — Knights of Columbus

April 12th — Fr. Eli

Friday April 19th, the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) at 3:00 PM

DIOCESAN SERVICE FUND - 2019

Goal: \$24,900.00

Pledged: \$5,830.00

Paid: \$4,280.00

Total Registered Families: 651

Number of Participant: 19

Percent Paid: 17.16%

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.

SSG Jorge Aguilar, Jr., Alexander Cortez,
Antonio Magallon, Sgt. Kevin Seigler,
SSgt Allen Thane

OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

General Intention — Recognition of the Rights of Christian Communities: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.



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.

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

Web site is FORMED.ORG

The Parish Code to access the website is
MVMZKF

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

Then register to create an account.

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.



Third Sunday of Lent March 24, 2019

The LORD secures justice and the rights of
all the oppressed. — *Psalm 103:6*

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.

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.

Youth News

Jr High and High School Students are invited to attend Live Stations of the Cross Rehearsals being held each Friday until Good Friday at the Church from 6:45 to 8:45 pm. Live Stations of the Cross will be held on the outside Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Also, we have some amazing opportunities for our Jr High and High School Students this summer. Please contact Jessica Herrera if you would like to help sponsor a Retreat or Summer Camp for our students.



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

JOIN FR. ELI

HOUSTON ASTRO VS. SEATTLE MARINERS

ST. STANISLAUS & CHRIST OUR LIGHT AT THE
GAME JUNE 28TH

BUS WILL LEAVE ST. STANISLAUS AT 4:00 PM
AND RETURN AFTER THE GAME.

\$50 PER PERSON INCLUDES ASTROS TICKET
AND BUS TRIP. PLEASE CALL ST. STANI-
SLAUS OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS.

936-873-2291

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

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.

Third Sunday in Lent — *"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" Luke 13:7* We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return with increase.

Tercer domingo de Cuaresma — *"Dijo entonces al viñador: 'Ya hace tres años que vengo a buscar fruto en esta higuera, y no lo encuentro; córtala; ¿para qué va cansar la tierra?'"* Todos podemos ser como la higuera estéril a veces. ¿Te aferras a lo que tienes o compartes generosamente con los demás? ¿Cómo responderás cuando Dios te pregunte qué has hecho con todos los dones que Él te ha dado? Recuerda, no solo estamos llamados a ser generoso, estamos llamados a desarrollar y nutrir nuestros dones y regresarlos con aumento.

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

Words Worth Noting A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on.

—John F. Kennedy



Summary Report — February 14, 2019
Parish Goal: \$208,632.00

Total Pledged to Date: \$98,853.00
% of Parish Goal 47.38%
Number of Participation
(# Families) 34

St. Mary and Joseph Women's ACTS Retreat Has Openings.

The SMSJ ACTS Women's Retreat will be held April 4th—7th, 2019. It is with excitement and anticipation that we invite all women of St. Mary's—St. Joseph's and surrounding parishes to attend this retreat. If you would like to attend this retreat, please contact Lucy Lomonte at 936-597-8659 or 832-489-2567. You do not have to be Catholic to attend. If physical or financial challenges are a concern, assistance and scholarships are available.



Anyone who did not receive information through mail from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston may pick up information with an envelope to fill out both TOP and BOTTOM portions of the envelope. Return to the Parish Office or mail to Diocesan Services Fund. Do Not Neglect to SHARE What You Have. Please support

DSF with your Gift today.

Teaching, Evangelizing and Worship

Funds vital, day-to-day operations annually

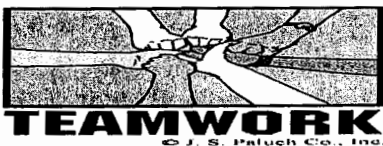
Teaching, Evangelizing and Worshiping

Ministering to the Poor, the Sick and the Incarcerated

Promoting, Preparing and Supporting the Clergy

Nurturing and Strengthening Families

Second Collection in March and April
March 30th & 31st — Archdiocese Catholic Relief Service
April 13th & 14th — Maintenance Fund
April 27th & 28th — Archdiocese Home Mission



Additional improvements have been made in St. Patrick Catechetical Center and skilled volunteers are needed to tape, float and paint the walls and make repairs to the floor. Please call the Parish Office at 936 825-3920 and leave you name and telephone number or drop your information off at the office. Someone will be in touch with you to schedule a time. Thank you for your generous gift of Time and Talent.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Patience and Mercy

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
you rescued your people and led them
to a land of milk and honey.

Throughout history,
you have patiently allowed your people
time to repent.

May we be grateful for your mercy
and regard this season of Lent
as a time to be cultivated in your ways
so that we may bear fruit in the future.

We look to your Word
to guide us on our journey
as we seek to know your will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Repentance

Today's Readings: Exodus 3:1–8, 13–15; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–11; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10–12; Luke 13:1–9.
The word “repent” is usually equated with being sorry or seeking forgiveness. During Jesus’ time on earth, people would understand repentance to mean a change of life, a total transformation. Change is difficult, even when it is small.

In today’s Gospel, we hear a parable about a fig tree that has produced no fruit during three years. Now the time has run out, and the owner wants to cut the tree down. However, the gardener requests that he be allowed to care for the fig tree for one year, cultivating the ground and fertilizing it, so that it will bear fruit in the future.

During Lent, we pray and fast so that we can live out our life in Christ better. These forty days offer an opportunity to reexamine our lives and to seek what God desires of us. This is our chance to be fertilized and cultivated in God’s ways so that we can bear fruit in the future. How are you making small changes in your life so that God can transform you? Are there habits of prayer or reading Scripture that you are trying to form? How can you integrate these habits into your life even after Lent? Take some time today to reflect on what in your life is in need of repentance. Remember, Lent will soon be half over.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 25

Handmaid of the Lord

Mary responds to the angel Gabriel, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word." In describing herself as the handmaid of the Lord, Mary is claiming her role as a humble servant before God. Mary models for us how we are to respond to God, with a humble heart that is ready to assist and to serve. How can you surrender yourself to God's will? How are you called this week to be of service to others? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 40:7–8, 8–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Tuesday, March 26

Forgive from Your Heart

Do you find forgiveness to be difficult in your life? Is it easier for you to ask for forgiveness or to be the one who offers pardon to another who has wronged you? Forgiveness can lead to healing and peace. This is our hope: to be restored to one another and to God. Find out when your parish community is offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation and plan to attend. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 27

Fulfillment of the Law

The law and the prophets were guides for the Chosen People. Jesus comes to fulfill the law, and the law he shares is the law of love. When it comes to living our faith, we must do so with a sincere heart. How often do you do something because it is required? Today strive to lift up one of your obligatory tasks and embrace it with a new heart of love and humility for the Lord. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 28

Unfair Judgment

Those who witness Jesus casting out a demon were amazed, but they also were skeptical about the source of his power and even tried to test him by demanding a sign from heaven. Have you ever been in a situation in which there seemed to be no good options to take? Have you ever been judged unfairly? Jesus invites us to follow him and in doing so, we need to pray for one another. It can be difficult to pray for those who are unkind and causing division. Ask God to heal them and for the courage to follow Jesus. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 29

Loving God

Jesus summarized the Commandments into loving God completely and loving neighbor as ourselves. Do you find it more difficult to love God or others? What does it mean to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength? How will you show your love of God today? *Today's Readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6–8, 10–11, 14, 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 30

Right Attitude

Through a parable about two men praying in the Temple, Jesus calls us to a right attitude of ourselves before God and others. The posture, gestures, and words of the two men reveal much about their relationship with the Lord. Which man's life was changed because of his prayer that day? Do you open yourself to be changed through prayer? As you continue to journey through Lent, consider a new prayer form, such as journaling, centering prayer, or adoration, to enrich your relationship with God. *Today's Readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21; Luke 18:9–14.*



TERCER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA



Paciencia y misericordia

Dios de Abraham, Isaac y Jacob,
tú rescataste a tu pueblo
y lo llevaste a una tierra de leche
y miel.

Al paso de los tiempos,
le diste siempre oportunidad
para arrepentirse.

Concédenos un corazón agradecido
por tu misericordia

y contemplar

en este tiempo cuaresmal
la oportunidad de cultivarnos
en tus caminos y dar frutos.

Que vivamos atentos a tu Palabra
para que guíe nuestros pasos
mientras buscamos tu voluntad.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor.
Amén.

Domingo, 24 de marzo de 2019

Arrepentimiento

Lecturas del día: Éxodo 3:1-8, 13-15; Salmo 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-11; 1 Corintios 10:1-6, 10-12; Lucas 13:1-9. “Arrepentirse” equivale a sentir pena o pedir perdón. En el tiempo de Jesús, la gente entendía el arrepentimiento como una manera de cambiar de vida, una transformación completa. No es fácil cambiar, ni siquiera en algo mínimo.

Escuchamos la parábola de la higuera que, en tres años, no dio higos. Se le acabó el tiempo, y el propietario quiere ese terreno mejor ocupado. El trabajador, sin embargo, le pide que le permita cuidarla un año más, limpiar la tierra y abonarla, para ver si da fruto a su tiempo.

En la Cuaresma, oramos y ayunamos para nutrirnos de Cristo. Estos cuarenta días nos ofrecen la oportunidad de reexaminar nuestra vida y discernir lo que Dios quiere de nosotros. Es nuestra oportunidad para recibir abono y cultivarnos en los modos de Dios, y producir frutos. ¿Qué está usted cambiando para que Dios lo pueda transformar? ¿Se esfuerza usted en el hábito de orar y leer las Escrituras para que lo transformen? ¿Cómo va a integrar a su vida después de la Cuaresma dichos hábitos? Medite en aquello de lo que requiere arrepentirse. Recuerde que pronto estaremos a media Cuaresma.



ESTA SEMANA EN CASA

Lunes, 25 de marzo

Sirvienta del Señor

Al ángel Gabriel, María responde: “Yo soy la sirvienta del Señor: que se cumpla en mí tu palabra”. Al describirse a sí misma como sirvienta del Señor, María asume su humilde papel ante Dios. María nos muestra cómo responder a Dios, con humildad de corazón, dispuesto a ayudar y a servir. ¿Cómo puede usted rendir su voluntad a Dios? ¿Cómo va a servir a los demás, esta semana? *Lecturas del día: Isaías 7:10-14; Salmo 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11; Hebreos 10:4-10; Lucas 1:26-38.*

Martes, 26 de marzo

Perdón de corazón

¿Le resulta difícil perdonar? ¿Le resulta más fácil pedir perdón u otorgarlo? El perdón procura curación y paz. Esa es nuestra esperanza: ser restaurados unos con otros y por Dios. Infórmese sobre cuándo su comunidad parroquial va a ofrecer el sacramento de la Reconciliación y prepárese para asistir. *Lecturas del día: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Salmo 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mateo 18:21-35.*

Miércoles, 27 de marzo

Cumplimiento de la Ley

“La Ley y los Profetas” guiaban la vida del pueblo elegido. Jesús viene a cumplir la Ley, y con su entrega amorosa, él la lleva a la plenitud. Cuando se trata de vivir nuestra fe, debemos hacerlo con un corazón sincero. ¿Con qué frecuencia hace usted algo porque es obligatorio? Hoy, esfuércese por elevar una de sus tareas obligatorias y abrazarla con amor y humildad nuevos por el Señor. *Lecturas del día: Deuteronomio 4:1, 5-9; Salmo 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mateo 5:17-19.*

Jueves, 28 de marzo

Juicio injusto

Cuantos vieron a Jesús expulsar un demonio quedaron sorprendidos, pero también se preguntaban por la fuente de su poder, e incluso lo tentaban y le exigían una señal del cielo. ¿Alguna vez se ha sentido usted en una situación en la que no hay una buena opción para escoger? ¿Alguna vez se sintió usted juzgado arbitrariamente? Jesús nos invita a seguirlo y a orar unos por otros. Quizá resulte difícil orar por los que nos tratan injustamente y alientan la división. Ruegue a Dios por todos ellos y para no desalentarse en el seguimiento de Jesús. *Lecturas del día: Jeremías 7:23-28; Salmo 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lucas 11:14-23.*

Viernes, 29 de marzo

Dios amoroso

Jesús resume los mandamientos en amar totalmente a Dios y amar al prójimo como a uno mismo. ¿Le resulta a usted más difícil amar a Dios o al prójimo? ¿Qué le significa amar a Dios con todo el corazón, alma, mente y fuerzas? ¿Cómo demostrará hoy ese amor total a Dios? *Lecturas del día: Oseas 14:2-10; Salmo 81:6-8, 10-11, 14, 17; Marcos 12:28-34.*

Sábado, 30 de marzo

Actitud correcta

Jesús se vale de la parábola de los dos hombres que rezan en el templo, para enseñarnos la actitud correcta ante Dios y ante los demás. Postura, gestos y palabras de los dos hombres revelan mucho sobre su relación con el Señor. ¿Cuál de aquellos hombres cambió debido a su oración? ¿Estás dispuesto a que la oración te cambie? Durante esta Cuaresma, ensaye un modo nuevo para orar, como escribir un diario, o contemplar o meditar en una imagen o en una frase, o adorar. Enriquezca su relación con Dios. *Lecturas del día: Oseas 6:1-6; Salmo 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21; Lucas 18:9-14.*



Conversion of Heart

Lenten Reflections on Mercy and Forgiveness

Week 3

READINGS: *Exodus 3:1–8a,13–15; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6,10–12; Luke 13:1–9*

We must work toward our salvation

Not forgiving someone is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. Holding a grudge against those who have wronged you only destroys you on the inside. It does nothing to create peace.

That's why Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, / for they will be called

sons of God" (Mt 5:9). God's mercy is given as a reward for those who pursue it with diligence. We must work to cultivate peace if we desire to see it flourish in our families, communities, nations, and especially within our own selves.

In today's Gospel reading, we see how this truth is manifested in the fig tree.

"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it" (Lk 13:8).

It was surrounded by the untilled and unproductive soil, much like those who withhold forgiveness are surrounded by unrest, anxiety, and spiritual inactivity. We feel worthless in such a state, and as such we risk being unproductive, unhealthy, and ultimately destroyed.

However, the good farmer, here representing God, provides us with hope. He tills our soil and fertilizes our souls with mercy. His forgiveness gives us another chance for spiritual survival, but only if we are able to bear good fruit as a result. Our good fruit, then, is the mercy we show to others, which leads us to being known as the true sons and daughters of the God of peace.

For Reflection

- › Has God tilled the landscape of your soul so that it can bear fruit abundantly?
- › Have you helped him weed out the vices that keep your soul from thriving as it should?
- › Have you helped others by tending to their spiritual growth in service to them?





Saint

Prayer and work

Benedict was a man of silence and constant reflection. He was also a man who knew how to work! He helped form the Benedictines, a Catholic religious order whose motto is *ora et labora* (“pray and work”). Benedict knew that in order to show God how much he loved him, he would need to work diligently in both his prayer life as well as through manual labor. He understood St. Paul’s words that we must “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes 5:17) and “work quietly” (2 Thes 3:12). Indeed, St. Benedict was given God’s reward of mercy for having persevered in prayer and for acquiring a work ethic that was marked by the spiritual worth of every one of his daily tasks.

The saints are like the stars. In his providence Christ conceals them in a hidden place that they may not shine before others when they might wish to do so. Yet they are always ready to exchange the quiet of contemplation for the works of mercy as soon as they perceive in their heart the invitation of Christ.

~ ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA



How to bear GOOD FRUIT

Live the corporal works of mercy — feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, ransom the captive, bury the dead — and the spiritual works of mercy — instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish the sinners, bear patiently those who wrong us, forgive offenses, comfort the afflicted, pray for the living and the dead.

Family Activity

The more you know ...

One of the best ways to be diligent in our zeal for holiness is to make it fun. Sometime this week, gather your family members and distribute notecards. On each notecard, write down as many quiz questions each person can about the Catholic faith along with the answers. Then, put them all in a box and take turns picking them out and answering them one-by-one until all of the cards have been answered.

“Called to beatitude but wounded by sin, man stands in need of salvation from God. Divine help comes to him in Christ through the law that guides him and the grace that sustains him” (1949).

Catechism Chat



Prayer

Lord, I have not worked as hard as I should at knowing, loving, and serving you. Please renew me with the zeal, energy, and order I need to pursue you with all of my heart, all of my soul, and all of my mind. I am yours; may I acquire the work ethic needed to achieve eternal life with you in heaven.

La conversión del corazón

Reflexiones de Cuaresma sobre la misericordia y el perdón

Semana
3

LECTURAS: *Éxodo 3, 1-8a. 13-15; 1 Corintios 10, 1-6. 10-12; Lucas 13, 1-9*

Debemos trabajar para nuestra salvación

No perdonar a alguien es como beber veneno y esperar que la otra persona muera. Guardar rencor contra los que te han hecho daño solo te destruye por dentro. No te ayuda a tener paz. Es por eso que Jesús dijo, "Felices los que trabajan por la paz, porque serán reconocidos como hijos de Dios" (Mt 5, 9).

La misericordia se da como recompensa para los que la buscan

con diligencia. Debemos trabajar para cultivar la paz si es que deseamos verla florecer en nuestras familias, comunidades, naciones y, sobre todo, en nuestro interior.

En la lectura del Evangelio de hoy, vemos esta verdad puesta de manifiesto en la higuera. Este árbol estaba rodeado de tierra que no producía nada, así como aquellos que no perdonan están rodeados de inquietud, ansiedad y de

"Señor, déjala un año más
y mientras tanto cavaré
alrededor y le echaré abono"

(Lc 13, 8).

falta de actividad espiritual. Cuando estamos en ese estado, sentimos que no valemos nada y corremos el riesgo de no ser productivos, de descuidar nuestra salud y, a final de cuenta, autodestruirnos.

Sin embargo, el buen viñador, que representa a Dios, nos da esperanza. Él ara la tierra a nuestro alrededor y fertiliza nuestras almas con su misericordia. Su perdón nos da otra oportunidad para la supervivencia de nuestra alma, pero esto solo sucede si somos capaces de dar buen fruto. Por tanto, nuestro buen fruto es la misericordia que mostramos a los demás, lo que nos lleva a ser reconocidos como verdaderos hijos e hijas del Dios de la paz.



Para reflexionar

- › ¿Dios ha "arado la tierra" alrededor de tu alma para que pueda dar frutos abundantes?
- › ¿Lo has ayudado a sacar de raíz los vicios que evitan que tu alma florezca como debería hacerlo?
- › ¿Has ayudado a otros con su crecimiento espiritual al prestarles algún servicio?



Santo

Oración y trabajo

Benito era un hombre a quien le gustaba permanecer en silencio y en constante reflexión. También era un hombre de trabajo y acción. Él ayudó a fundar a los Benedictinos, la orden religiosa católica cuyo lema es *ora et labora* (“ora y trabaja”). Benito sabía que, para mostrarle a Dios cuánto lo amaba, tendría que trabajar diligentemente en su vida de oración y mediante el trabajo manual. Él entendía muy bien las palabras de san Pablo que dicen que debemos “orar sin cesar” (1 Tes 5, 17) y “trabajar en paz” (2 Tes 3, 12). En efecto, Dios recompensó con su misericordia a san Benito por haber perseverado en la oración y por haber logrado una ética de trabajo que se distinguía por el crecimiento espiritual de cada una de sus tareas cotidianas.



Oración

Los santos son como las estrellas, que, en su providencia, Cristo esconde en un lugar oculto, para que no aparezcan siempre que lo deseen. Sin embargo, siempre están dispuestos a pasar de la quietud de la contemplación a la acción de las obras de misericordia en el momento decidido por Dios, cada vez que su corazón escucha la invitación de Cristo.

- SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA



Cómo dar BUEN FRUTO

Poniendo en práctica las obras corporales de misericordia: dar de comer al hambriento, dar de beber al sediento, vestir al desnudo, dar posada al peregrino, visitar a los enfermos, visitar a los presos y enterrar a los difuntos; y las obras espirituales de misericordia: enseñar al que no sabe, dar buen consejo al que lo necesita, corregir al que se equivoca, sufrir con paciencia los defectos del prójimo, perdonar al que nos ofende, consolar al triste y rezar por los vivos y por los difuntos.

Actividad familiar

Mientras más sabes...

Una de las mejores maneras para ser perseverantes en nuestro celo por alcanzar la santidad, es hacerlo de manera divertida. En esta semana, reúne a los miembros de tu familia y distribuye varias tarjetas en blanco. En cada tarjeta, cada persona va a escribir tantas preguntas sobre la fe católica con sus respuestas como le sea posible. Luego, coloca las tarjetas en una caja y tomen turnos para sacarlas una a una y contestar cada pregunta hasta que no quede ninguna en la caja.

“El hombre, llamado a la bienaventuranza, pero herido por el pecado, necesita la salvación de Dios. La ayuda divina le viene en Cristo por la ley que lo dirige y en la gracia que lo sostiene” (1949).

Mensaje del Catecismo

Señor, no me he esforzado lo suficiente para conocerte, amarte y servirte. Renueva en mí el celo, la energía y la disposición que necesito para buscarte con todo mi corazón, con toda mi alma y con toda mi mente. Soy todo tuyo, te pido que me concedas obtener la ética de trabajo que necesito para alcanzar la vida eterna contigo en el cielo.