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My dear parishioners:

Two weeks ago, we moved our clocks ahead an hour. I immediately felt like I had more time in my day as it was lighter later. My mind knows that I had really only about two more minutes of sunlight the day after the time change than the day before, but because I spend more time outdoors in the early evenings than I do the early mornings, the shifting of the time of light was for me a welcome change.

The time change was a nice reminder to me of the importance of light. This is certainly true for us as a people of faith, as the first words the Bible tells us God spoke were the words "Let there be light." This is even more true for us Catholics for whom light, in the form of candles, is an important symbol in our rituals.

It is interesting to note that in the first 2-3 centuries of the Church, the use of light (fire) was prohibited except for the need to be able to see, for example when Mass was celebrated underground in catacombs. The reason for prohibiting fires and candles was due to their use by pagans. Both the ancient Greeks and Romans burned sanctuary lamps in their temples to signify their adherences to their gods. The Germanics in pre-Christian times burned bonfires to announce the beginning of spring planting time to appease their gods so that they would have good crops.

As Christians became less fearful of persecution after the Edict of Milan in 313 AD and their numbers began to rapidly increase, bishops began to take pagan rituals and symbols and redefine them from a Christian perspective to demonstrate that God's true revelation to his people is fulfilled in Jesus the Christ.

The flame became a symbol of the presence of Christ. Jesus referred to himself as the Light of the World (Jn. 8:12, 9:5, 12:46) and the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples as a tongue of flame (Acts 2:3). With this scriptural foundation, candles began to have a required presence in Christian rituals, especially the Mass. Candles had to be placed on the altar, not just so the celebrant can see the missal, but because the altar was the sacred piece of furniture upon which Christ would be re-presented in the consecration of the bread and wine. A lit candle had to be placed close to the tabernacle to symbolize the Lord was near in the consecrated hosts reserved within.

The blessing of an Easter Fire and the Paschal Candle became a part of the Holy Saturday service by the sixth century to show how the light of Christ's death and resurrection conquered the darkness of sin and death. Soon to follow was the liturgical rubric to light the Easter Candle at Masses during the Easter Season, and for baptisms and funerals, as in these liturgies there is a particular emphasis on the light of Christ. Just as God led the Israelites through the desert for forty years at night by the light of a pillar of flame so, too, does the light of the grace of Christ guide the journey of life of Christians. This grace is given at baptism, (where we begin the journey) and ends at death (where we end the journey by arriving at our destination of heaven).

So instrumental did the presence of lit candles become to Christian rituals, that a new word was coined to describe these rituals: ceremonies. Our English word "ceremony" comes for the Latin word "caeremonius", meaning "the person who carries a wax candle at public rituals". Some theologians taught that it was not just the flame of the candle that symbolized Christ, but the entire candle. For the wax symbolized Christ's flesh (as wax was flesh-colored), the wick symbolized Christ's soul (hidden within the wax of his flesh), and the flame his divine nature. In this way, the consumption (burning) of the candle symbolized Christ's sacrifice as he slowly emptied himself for our salvation by his passion and death on the cross. →

**March 31, 2019 - April 7, 2019**  
**Readings and Mass Intentions**

**Sunday, March 31** 9:00am—Mass  
 Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/  
 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*

**Monday, April 1** 4:30pm—Mass  
 Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday, April 2** 11:30am—First Tuesday Mass  
 Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday, April 3** 4:30pm—Mass  
 Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday, April 4** 8:30am—Mass  
 7:00pm—Mass  
 Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23

**Friday, April 5** 9:30am—Communion Service  
 Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

**Saturday, April 6** 4:30pm—Mass  
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass  
 Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday, April 7** 9:00am—Mass  
 Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*

**Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)**



**Weekly Stewardship**

March 23 & 24 Weekly Offering	\$ 3,074.34
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ -77.68

*Thank you for your generosity.*

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, [www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com](http://www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com) and click on **Donation**.

Each morning when I begin my personal prayer, I light a candle that is on my prayer table. Its flame is a visual reminder to me that while I am there I am to be in prayer, and so consciously remove from my mind any thoughts that would be a distraction to prayer. The flame also reminds me that I am not alone in prayer; the Lord is with me. May the Light of Christ assist us to see his presence more clearly, and give us the courage to walk faithfully and fearlessly in the grace of his light.

Sincerely in Christ,  
  
 Msgr. Frank H. Rossi  
 Pastor

Sun. Mar 31 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00am—Mass	Mon. April 1 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. April 2 10:00am—Senior Social 11:30am—Mass 12:00—Lunch 1:00pm—Altar Society 6:00pm—Adoration/ Confessions 7:00pm—Mission	Wed. April 3 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 6:00pm—CCE 6:00pm—Adoration/ Confessions 7:00pm—Mission	Thurs. April 4 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet 6:00pm—Adoration/ Confessions 7:00pm—Mass/Mission	Fri. April 5 9:30am— Communion Service 5:30pm—Stations of the Cross	Sat. April 6 9:00am-12pm—RCIA Retreat Encounter Catholic during Dogwood parade 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass Anointing during Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. April 7 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00am—Mass Anointing during Mass	Mon. April 8 4:30 pm—Mass 6:30pm—Pastoral Council	Tues. April 9 6:30pm—RCIA and Easter Vigil rehearsal	Wed. April 10 10:00am—Stewardship 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. April 11 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. April 12 9:30am— Communion Service 5:30pm—Stations of the Cross	Sat. April 13 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Bilingual Mass 5:30pm—Passion Play, Pt. I

**Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D.,  
 Bishop of Beaumont,**  
 invites you to attend the **Chrism Mass** that Bishop will  
 concelebrate with all the priests of the Diocese.  
**Tuesday of Holy Week, April 16, 2019**  
**St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica**  
**700 Jefferson Street**  
**Beaumont, TX , 6:30 PM**

This is a beautiful and memorable experience in the life of the Church. Bishop will bless the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens and consecrate the Oil of



Chrism. These holy oils will be distributed to every parish and to prison, hospital and nursing home chaplains for sacramental use throughout the year.

Another moment in this liturgy occurs when all the priests, in unison with their Bishop, renew their priestly promises. The Chrism Mass manifests the diversity of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Beaumont throughout the celebration and is a most prayerful way to journey through Holy Week.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Please pray for:* Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt, Linda Dipuccio, Shirley Anderson; Pat Roy, Cardinal DiNardo, Angela Brown, Frances Martin, Joseph Crawford, Carol Moore, RoseMary Urban; Carol Richoux, Sam Brocato, Jay West, Lois Cuccia, Linda Passons, Marion Newitt, Roger Gibson & wife, Page Rayburn, Bonnie Turnbull, Herbert Clubb

*Rest of the soul:* Merrick Wyble, Tom Broussard; Michael Cavaretta, E.B. Sheffield, Amanda Dumesnil, Annie Jacobs

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

**Parish Lenten Mission**

**"IF YOU KNEW THE GIFT OF GOD . . ."**  
 ~JOHN 4:10

**Sunday, March 31 – Thursday, April 4, 2019**  
 6:00pm—Confessions/Adoration  
 6:45pm—Divine Mercy Chaplet  
 7:00pm—Mission Talk; this hour begins with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, followed by the Mission Conference, and ending with Benediction; **Mass on Thursday**

- Topics will include:
- ♦ Baptism: Power to Become Children of God
  - ♦ Confession: Unconditional Love and Healing
  - ♦ The Church: That They may Be One
  - ♦ The Eucharist: Heaven on Earth
  - ♦ Mary, Mother of God, and Our Mother
- Mission presentation by Fr. Ricardo Pineda, CPM

**Upcoming Events**

**March 31-April 4: PARISH MISSION**, Woodville, TX  
 April 6: Encounter Catholic at The Dogwood Festival, Woodville, TX  
 April 16: Chrism Mass, St. Anthony Basilica, Beaumont, TX  
 April 27: Liturgical Ministry Formation, Ministers of the Eucharist, OLOP Family Center, Woodville, TX  
 April 28: Vocation Q&A for Women, Lamar Student Center, Beaumont, TX