



THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

There is a painting of the Holy Family by a Spanish painter named Francisco de Zurbaran that impacts me very strongly and moves my heart every time I take the time to pray with it and contemplate the beauty it contains. In this painting we can see Joseph, Mary and Jesus in a way that is not very common. In the painting we can see Mary breastfeeding Jesus and right next to them, we see Joseph contemplating such a beautiful intimate moment between the Mother and the Son.

This image contains such a power and tenderness at the same time. It portrays the Holy Family in such a human way like yours and mine and at the same time it portrays a communion only to be found in the Blessed Trinity. The family of this painting is so human and, yet, so divine. We see a mother giving herself in love for her son and a father giving them the security they need. We see a communion that all families desire at the depth of their heart.

When we contemplate in prayer this image of the Holy Family or any other image, a sea of experiences can take place in the heart because the act of contemplation in prayer comes from the desire to find God in our lives and God desires to reveal his love to us. By contemplating this image of the Holy Family, God could bless us with memories of our own family where we felt loved, accepted and secure in the arms of our parents or in the mere presence of them. This act of contemplation could also bring to our hearts and minds the moments in which those who are parents were able to love their children in an unconditional way. It could also happen that as we contemplate this image in a more profound way, we will remember memories of those moments in which we were not loved or accepted or felt a lack of security with our parents who were called to protect us. Or moments in which those who are parents were not able to love their children in the way the truly desired.

If this moment of contemplation brings beautiful memories from the past, it is important to allow them to stay in our heart and rejoice with them as we offer our gratitude to God. If this moment of prayer brings difficult memories to our minds and hearts, I ask you to not run away from them. Both experiences come from God. On one occasion, we are called to rejoice and allow the grace of gratitude to grow in our hearts and on the other occasion, we are called to bring those wounds of the past that took place in our families and allow God to heal them and be free. True contemplation is meant to lead us into a profound encounter with the Blessed Trinity whose desire is to make us whole.

All human families are imperfect and with wounds. At the same time, the gift of the Holy Family and its contemplation is called to heal the wounds of the imperfect human family. I invite you to spend some time praying in a contemplative way in this festivity with an image of the Holy Family and the beautiful truth it represents as it calls us to a deeper communion in our families and a deeper healing of wounds in our hearts. May this prayer and contemplation begin to heal the heart of every human family.

Parish offices and all facilities will be closed beginning Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 12pm until Sunday, Jan. 3rd, 2016. Offices will reopen on Monday, Jan. 4th, 2016.

No meetings at the facilities will be allowed for groups and ministries this dates.

Oficinas parroquiales y todos los salones estarán cerrados desde el Mier. 23 de Dic. A las 12 pm, hasta el domingo, 3 de Enero, 2016. Las oficinas reabrirán el Lunes 4^o. De Enero, 2016.

No habrá juntas de ministerios o grupos en las instalaciones o salones durante estas fechas.

Mass intention/ Intenciones de Misa

Monday/Lunes December 28th, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

6:30 pm – English Mass- ☩ Juan Mata Sanchez, by his family, ☩ Janet Rangel, by Erik and friends.
Tuesday/Martes December 29th, Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

6:30 pm – Spanish Mass- ☩ Juan Mata Sanchez, dedicado por su familia, ☩ Janet Rangel, dedicado por Erik y amigos.

Wednesday/Miercoles December 30th,

6:30 pm – English Mass- ☩ Juan Mata Sanchez, by his family, ☩ Janet Rangel, by Erik and friends.

Thursday/Jueves December 31st, Saint Sylvester I, Pope

5:00 pm – English Mass

7:00 pm – Spanish Mass- ☩ Adrian Jaimes, dedicado por su mama, ☩ Aurora Cruz Dominguez, dedicado por sus hijos, ☩ Juan Mata Sanchez, por su familia, ☩ Hortensia Rodriguez, dedicado por su mama.

Friday/Viernes January 1st, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

9:30 am – English Mass. That the birth of Jesus make us meditate on Mary's yes.

11:30 am- Spanish Mass. *Para que el nacimiento de Jesús nos haga reflexionar en el sí de María.*

Saturday/Sábado January 2nd, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen Bishops and Doctors of the Church

5:00 pm – English Mass- For the parishioners

7:00 pm – ☩ Primitivo Solis Padron, dedicado por su familia, ☩ Candido Becerra, dedicado por su hija Leticia Becerra y familia

Sunday/Domingo January 3rd, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am –

9:30 am – ☩ Primitivo Miranda por su familia,

☩ Moisés Jaimes por su familia, ☩ Juan Mata Sanchez por su familia, ☩ Roger Gordillo Oregon, dedicado por sus hermanos y familia.

11:30 am – ☩ Miguel Ugarte, ☩ Silvia Macedo,

☩ Epigmenio Ugarte, ☩ Martha Llamas.

1:30 pm – Bendiciones para Adolfo Estévez, Zaira e hijos, dedicado por su mama.

5:00 pm –

This Week in our parish

Sunday/Domingo December 27th,

8 Parish offices closed. No meetings of groups and ministries allowed in facilities.

Oficinas cerradas. No habrá juntas de grupos o ministerios en las instalaciones.

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Readings for the Week of December 27, 2015

Sun. Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52

Mon. 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Tue. 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Wed. 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Thu. 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

Fri. Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Sat. 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Sun. Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

LA FESTIVIDAD DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE JESUS, MARIA Y JOSE

Hay una pintura de la Sagrada Familia de un pintor español llamado Francisco de Zurbarán que me impacta y me conmueve cada vez que me tomo el tiempo de contemplar la belleza que existe en ella. En esta pintura se puede ver a José, María y a Jesús de una manera no muy común. En ella podemos observar a María amamantando a el niño Jesús y a un lado de ellos esta José contemplando tan hermosa e íntima ocasión entre la Madre y el Hijo.

Esta imagen es tan impactante y conmovedora al mismo tiempo. Es tan fuerte y tan tierna a la misma vez. Es una imagen que muestra a la Sagrada Familia como una familia humana como la tuya o la mía y a la vez representa una comunión que solamente había existido en la Santísima Trinidad. La familia de esta pintura es tan humana y tan sublime. Es una madre dándose en amor con ternura y un padre firme a lado de ellos dándoles la seguridad que necesitan. En ella contemplamos el deseo de comunión inscrito en todo corazón humano.

Cuando se contempla en oración esta imagen u otra imagen de la Sagrada Familia un mar de experiencias pueden manifestarse en el corazón porque la contemplación es el recogimiento del corazón en busca de Dios y es Dios revelándose a nosotros en nuestra vida. Tal vez el contemplar esta imagen traiga a nosotros recuerdos de nuestra propia familia donde recibimos y dimos amor, donde nuestros padres estuvieron con nosotros amándonos o donde aquellos que son padres dieron un amor profundo a sus hijos e hijas. O tal vez el contemplar de una manera más profunda esta imagen traiga recuerdos de la falta de amor en nuestras vidas por parte de nuestros padres o esos momentos de falta de amor donde aquellos que son padres no pudieron dar a sus hijos.

Si tu momento de oración trae recuerdos gratos es importante dejar crecer ese gozo y gratitud porque ha sido un regalo de Dios. Si este momento de oración trae recuerdos difíciles te pido que no huyamos de ellos. La contemplación verdadera de la revelación de Dios siempre trae estas experiencias. Ya sea un gozo que despierta una gratitud más profunda o unas heridas que están llamadas a sanar para ya no vivir encadenados al dolor. La contemplación verdadera de estas imágenes esta llamada a llevarnos a un encuentro con Dios porque Dios desea encontrarnos de muchas maneras.

Toda familia humana es imperfecta. Déjame repetirlo... toda familia humana es imperfecta y con heridas. Al mismo tiempo el regalo de la Sagrada Familia y la contemplación de ella, está llamada a sanar las heridas de la familia humana que sufre. Te invito en esta festividad de la Sagrada Familia que busques esta imagen o una parecida y pasemos algún tiempo contemplando la hermosura resplandeciente en ella y dejemos que nuestro momento de contemplación y oración con esta imagen comience a sanar el corazón de nuestra propia familia.

A Day of Reflection for all Catechists

You are invited to "A Day of Reflection" on Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 8:30 am until 1:00 PM in the PAC Hall. Please bring your Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church, a notebook, and a pen or pencil. Please sign up before in the RE office. We will have breakfast.

Un día de Reflexión para los catequistas

Todos los catequistas están invitados a "Un día de reflexión" el Sábado, 9 de enero, 2016, comenzando a las 8:30am hasta la 1:00pm en el salón PAC Hall. Por favor traigan su Biblia, su Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, un cuaderno, y una pluma o lápiz. Por favor de registrarse antes en la oficina de la doctrina. Tendremos almuerzo.

Men invited to consider diaconate

Have you recently become aware of a desire to deepen your faith life, but not sure why? Do you feel that your heart is being moved inexplicably in a new or bold way lately? Have you felt of late a greater need to know Christ more intimately, or a growing desire to follow him more fully, for some unknown reason? For no apparent reason, has your awareness increased recently of the needs of the materially and spiritually poor – and perhaps even sensed a greater desire to respond? Do you live a mature faith, love the church, and follow church teaching, but have a nagging sense that there's something missing?

If you answered yes to some of these questions, and you are a man between 30 and 57, the Holy Spirit might be calling you to explore the permanent diaconate. Does that possibility excite you? Scare you? Puzzle you? Whatever your reaction, talk to your pastor about what's going on in your heart. He'll help you decide next steps.

The diaconal formation class of 2022 will begin forming in January 2017. Inquiry sessions are scheduled (in Spanish and English) from 2-5 p.m., at these locations.

With your pastor's permission, explore diaconal formation at one of these sessions. For more information, call: 512-949-2459; email: diaconateformation@austindiocese.org; or visit <http://www.austindiocese.org/offices-ministries/offices/diaconal-ministry-office>.

Dec. 13 at St. John the Evangelist - 105 Hwy 1431 E., Marble Falls, 78654
Jan. 17 at St Mary's - 701 Church Rd, Brenham, 77833
Feb. 14 at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 707 S. Sixth St., Temple, 76504
March 13 at St. John the Evangelist, 624 E Hopkins St, San Marcos, 78666
April 10 at Pastoral Center 6225 Highway 290 East, Austin, 78723
Marzo 13 -- St. John the Evangelist, 624 E Hopkins St, San Marcos, 78666
Abril 10 -- El Centro Pastoral, 6225 Hwy 290E Austin, 78723