



Saint Dominic Catholic Community

*God's Call to Build:
Our Bridge To The Future
Dios Nos ha Llamado a Construir:
Nuestro Puente Hacia
El Futuro*

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Archbishop: Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Auxiliary Bishop Most Rev. George A. Sheltz

8215 Reservoir Street, Houston, TX 77049-1728
281-458-2910 281-458-5703
Fax: 281-458-7114
www.stdominichouston.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Rev. Roger Estorque
frroger@comcast.net
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Phil Wiles
Bookkeeper: Duc Manh Ho
Office Manager: Irma Galvan
igalvan@comcast.net

Zalvador Manzo
Ministerio Hispano

Office Assistants:
Eliseida Pineda
Maria Ramos
Claudia Ramirez
Ivonne Soto

Housekeeping

Beatriz Parra
Aurelia Perez

Pastoral Council

Chairman - Juan Hernandez
Secretary - Juanita Hernandez
Esmeralda Ramirez
Rogelio Mendez
Salvador & Maria Manzo

Finance Council

Hector Hernandez,
Deacon Phil Wiles,
Gale Lamanilao
Luis Rodriguez

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Religious Education

Confirmation Coordinator

Janice Leggett

RCIA-Renee Renteria

First Communion

Irma Tello- Spanish

Jocelyn Vera-English

From the first week of
September through the
last week of May

SECOND SUNDAY

OF Advent

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4



DECEMBER 10, 2017

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Mission Statement

We, the parish community of St. Dominic, Houston, TX, a multi-cultural community, joined together by faith in Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church, commit ourselves to help each other grow in the understanding of our faith, celebrate this faith in Liturgy and live it out by using the gifts of each person in the service of others, especially those in need, so that in the end, we may become truly a community of faith: truly the people of God and be of service to all!

Worship Schedule

Weekend Masses:

Saturday -English 8:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Sunday - **English** 8:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.

Español 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 a.m. English

Wednesday 7:00 pm English

Liturgy of the Hours:

Morning Prayer: Sunday - Saturday 7:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer: Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

& Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Devotions: Rosary of the Virgin Mary:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting: Spanish - Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Novena to the Sacred Heart:

During the Friday morning Holy Mass

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

After Wednesday Mass

Eucharistic Adoration: Weekly Holy Hour:

Thursday 8:30 -9:30 a.m.

First Friday -9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Reconciliation Sacrament:

Wednesday 6:00 - 6:45 pm Saturday-5:00-5:45 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents & Sponsors please register one week in advance.

English Baptism Class: First Tuesday & Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

English Baptism Celebration:

Third Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Clase Pre Bautismal:

Primer Martes y Jueves del mes a las 7:00 p.m.

Bautismos Español:

Segundo Sábado del mes al las 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Marriage – Quinceañera Celebrations

Call the Parish office 6 months in advance to schedule appointment with priest.

Sacrament of the anointing of the sick

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for communion to be brought to your home or to the hospital.

Parish Registration

If you are new to the parish, please register at the office.

Monday –Friday 8:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m.

Pre -Baptismal Registration

Must register in the parish office,

Monday – Friday, 8:00 am –3:30 pm a week prior to the class.

Bring child's birth certificate; required to register

Sponsors if married must be married by the Catholic Church and marriage certificate required.

If single they must be at least 16, and bring copy of their Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation

Parents and godparents must attend two pre-baptismal classes held 1st Tuesday & Thursday of the month at 7:00 - 9:30 pm.

Donation for class is \$75.00

Baptism celebration 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 am

Child being baptized can not be older than 7 yrs. Old.

Children 7 years and older must be prepared through the parish Catechism Program. (Guidelines of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston)

Información Pre- Bautismal - Pase a la oficina parroquial Lunes –Viernes, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm una semana antes de la clase. Es requerido presentar la acta de nacimiento del niño/a quien van a bautizar.

Padrinos Si están casados

deben estar casados por la iglesia Católica es requerido presentar la acta de matrimonio.

Si son solteros, deben tener por lo menos 16 años y presentar su acta de Bautizo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación.

Papas y Padrinos tienen que asistir a dos pláticas pre-bautismales el primer martes y jueves del mes de 7:00-9:30 pm. **Donación** para la platica: \$75.00

Bautismos el segundo Sábado del mes a las 9:00 am

Niños sin bautizar no deben ser mayores de 7 años de edad.

Niños deben recibir catecismo en el programa de la parroquia. (Guías de Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston)

Presentación de Tres Años

Cuarto domingo del mes durante la misa de 1:00 p.m.

Pasa a la oficina y presente acta de bautismo para registrase

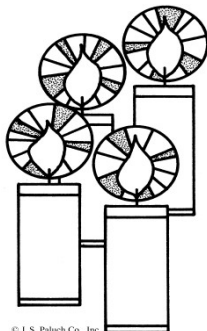
Sacrament of Marriage: Register at least 6 months in advance; drop by the office and fill out form and be ready to meet the pastor; Pick up wedding information check-list.

Quinceañera Celebrations: The family must be registered in the parish for a period of three (3) months prior to the date of the first preparation session. The candidate should register for her/his Quince Años ceremony on or before her/his 14th birthday. The candidate must have been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and must have received First Eucharist prior to the time of the ceremony. If the honoree has not received the Sacrament of Communion, she/he should be enrolled to prepare to receive the sacrament before the Quince Años ceremony. The candidate must attend and complete preparation sessions with the coordinator and must join our parish youth program. Pick up Quinceañera information check-list.

Pray For The Sick

Bobbie Anderson
Georgia Malonson
Glice Ligason
Maria San Juan
Dorothy Duhe
Mervin Auzenne
Joe Lozoya
Eduardo Castillo
Eola Corbello
Lynn Doane

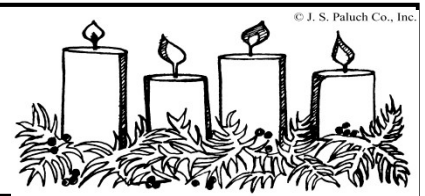
Erica Taylor
Doreen Whitmeer
Elma Revelo
Dorothy Neiderhofer
Bob Jurek
Gretchen King
Laura Rucka
Noito Valdehueva
Vitaliana Nisnisan
Vincent Stevens



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From The Pastor



Dear Friends in St. Dominic

This Sunday's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

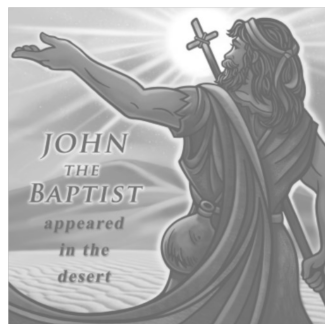
Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In the Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrasting his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ
Rev. Roger Estorque



Queridos Amigos en San Dominic,

El Evangelio de este domingo se toma desde el comienzo de Marcos. A diferencia de Lucas y Mateo, Marcos no incluye ningún detalle del nacimiento de Jesús. En cambio, Marcos comienza con la aparición de Juan Bautista en el desierto. En este segundo domingo de Adviento, estamos invitados a reflexionar sobre el papel de Juan Bautista, quien preparó el camino para Jesús y la salvación que nos traería.

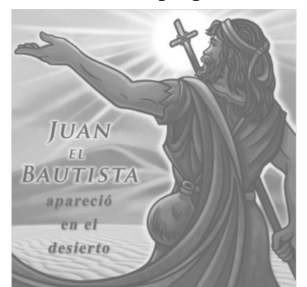
La descripción de Marcos de la aparición de Juan Bautista destaca la continuidad de Juan con el profeta judío tradición. Marcos combina citas de los libros del Antiguo Testamento de Malaquías, Isaías y Éxodo. La descripción de Marcos de Juan como un asceta, viviendo en el desierto, vestido de pelo de camello, y comiendo langostas y miel silvestre, es una reminiscencia del descripción del profeta que Elías encontró en los Segundos Reyes. La gente de Judea y Jerusalén acuden a él, escuchando a su mensaje de arrepentimiento y perdón; ellos también vienen a él para ser bautizados. El Evangelio de Marcos es claro, sin embargo, que el papel de Juan el Bautista es solo para preparar el camino para otro que vendrá, uno que es más grande que Juan.

Muchos eruditos creen que los Evangelios reflejan la tensión que probablemente existió entre los seguidores de Juan el Bautista y los discípulos de Jesús. Cada uno de los cuatro Evangelistas informa sobre la predicación y el bautismo de Juan, y cada uno enfatiza la importancia del bautismo de Jesús por parte de Juan. Los cuatro Evangelios también explican que Juan fue enviado a predicar en preparación para otro. En el Evangelio de Lucas, se plantea la cuestión de si Juan el Bautista era él mismo el Mesías. Sin embargo, al igual que en el Evangelio de hoy, Juan habla de manera muy explícita que el Mesías iba a seguirlo.

En el Evangelio, escuchamos a Juan Bautista contrastar su bautismo de arrepentimiento con el bautismo que Jesús inaugurará. Juan dice que él ha bautizado con agua, pero que el que ha de venir bautizará con el Espíritu Santo. El bautismo de Juan todavía no era un bautismo cristiano, sino una preparación para el Sacramento del Bautismo a través del cual se perdonan los pecados y se recibe el don del Espíritu Santo.

Juan el Bautista se nos presenta como un modelo durante el Adviento. Nosotros, también, estamos llamados a preparar un camino para el Señor. Al igual que Juan Bautista, somos mensajeros al servicio de alguien que es más grande que nosotros. Nuestra El bautismo nos encarga llamar a otros a la vida como discípulos de Jesús.

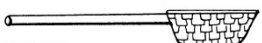
¡Atentamente suyo en Cristo
Rev. Roger Estorque



Misas de la Semana

Saturday	December 9th
8:00 am	† All Souls/Difuntos
6:00 pm	† All Souls/Difuntos
Sunday	December 10th
8:00 am	† All Souls/Difuntos
9:30 am	† Francisca Bustos/Maria Alvarado
	† Samuel Velazco/Maria Salcido
11:15 am	† Tomas Colin/Maria Rodriguez
1:00 pm	† Almas del Purgatorio/Araceli Rodriguez
Monday	December 11th St. Damasus I
8:00 am	† All Souls/Difuntos
10:00 pm	Misa en Español a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Tuesday	December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:00 am	† Maria Zepeda/Teresa Zepeda
6:00 pm	Misa en Español- Spanish Mass
Wednesday	December 13th St. Lucy
8:00 am MASS	NO MASS AT 7:00 PM
	NO CONFESSIONS AT 6:00 PM
Thursday	December 14th St. John of the Cross
8:00 am	† All Souls/Difuntos
7:00 pm	Asamblea de Oración
Friday	December 15th
8:00 am	† All Souls/Difuntos
Saturday	December 16th
5:00 am	Misa De Gallo
8:00 am	† All Souls/Difuntos
6:00 am	† All Souls/Difuntos



Yearly Budget	Christian Giving	Weekly Budget
\$332,500.00		\$6,694.23
12/03/2017	1st	2nd
6:00 pm	\$1,913.41	\$ 172.66
8:00 am	\$1,981.47	\$ 86.03
9:30 am	\$1,061.35	\$ 426.00
11:15 am	\$1,275.00	\$ 156.73
1:00 pm	\$ 758.36	\$ 372.25
Total	\$6,989.59	\$1,213.67

DSF GOAL \$34,000.00



Paid	\$29,796.62
Pledged	\$34,352.34
Participant	248
Paid Under	(\$ 4,203.94)
Pledged over	\$ 352.34

EVENTOS

Monday	December 11th
Tuesday	December 12th
5:30 pm	Coro Angeles de Dios/Mr. Tello
5:30 pm	Legion de Maria-Spanish
6:45 pm	RCIC, RCIT -English & Español
7:00 pm	RCIA- English & Español
Wednesday	December 13th
6:45 pm	Confirmation I & II
7:00 pm	Formación de Asamblea
Thursday	December 14th
5:30 pm	Legion of Mary-English
7:00 pm	Youth Group
Friday	December 15th
5:45 pm	1st Communion English & Español
Saturday	December 16th
6:00 pm	MFCC Posada
Sunday	December 17th LAST DAY OF OEC
	Breakfast with Santa-Desayuno con Santa
9:45 am	Regular -Pre-K -8th English
11:30 am	Regular- Pre-K-5th Español
	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY- VACACION NAVIDEÑA

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14;
December 11th	Gospel: Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
December 12th	10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19;
	Gospel: Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10;
December 13th	Gospel: Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab;
December 14th	Gospel: Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6;
December 15th	Gospel: Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b,
December 16th	15-16, 18-19;
	Gospel: Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-
December 17th	54; 1 Thes 5:16-24;
	Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Eucharistic ADORATION 1st Friday

Holy Hour for Vocations:

on Thursdays: 8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.

Next Full Day Adoration : January 5, 2018
8:30am-9:00 p.m. **Jesus asks us, "Can you not spend an hour with me?"** For further information, call Mrs. Gloria Casey @ 713-453-4968

ST. DOMINIC

PLEASE LET US KNOW... If you or a loved one are hospitalized and would like to be added to the prayer list, have a visit, homebound, and receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing. Call the Parish office - 281-458-2910

INTENCIONES DE MISAS

Favor de pasar al la oficina por lo menos un semana antes de fecha de intención. No le de su intención a ultima hora al lector. El nombre de intención debe aparecer en el boletín. El boletín es enviado a impreza en lunes para edición del próximo domingo. La donación por intención son \$10.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Please come by the office at least a week prior to date that you want intention mentioned. Please do not give name to lector last minute before intentions are mentioned. Names will appear in the bulletin. Bulletin is sent to press on Monday of the week before Sunday edition. Donation per intention is \$10.00

LA ASAMBLEA DE ORACIÓN

Se reúne cada Jueves a las 7:00 pm en la iglesia. Venga a las alabanzas y charlas de diferentes predicadores



XAVIER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

Society for the Blind provides inspirational, spiritual and religious reading materials in braille, audio and/or large print to the blind and visually impaired community of faithful free of charge, including: Monthly readings, prayers and responses for the Sunday Mass and selected feast days of Solemnities.

If you know a family member, friend or fellow parishioner who can benefit from our services please, visit website: xaviersocietyfortheblind.org, E-mail-info@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org Phone: 1-800-637-9193

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS Leaders & Time

Altar Servers: Mercedes Flores -Spanish

Clem & Cecile Monta **English** 3rd Saturday 9:00 am.

E. M. of Holy Communion:- Mary LeBlanc -English

E. M. de Eucaristia: Uriel & Lucila Duran

Lectors English: Gale Lamanilao

Lectores Spanish: Rogelio Mendez

Liturgy English Music: Melner Calvo, Sundays 5:00 pm

Liturgia Musica Espanol: Valentin Cobos, Jesus Puente, Elias Tello

Ushers/Greeters English : Antonio Razo, Denise Manzo

Acomodadores Español: Miguel Rodriguez

Offertory Collection Counters: Gloria Casey

Parish Pastoral Council- Juan Hernandez, 1st. Monday 6:00 pm

Parish Finance Council: Hector Hernandez quarterly & as necessary

Baptismal classes- English Melner Calvo, Alex Bozon, Clem Monta

Clases Pre -Bautismales Español Lauro y Veronica Leal,

Rogelio y Reyna Mendez , Valentin y Araceli Cobos

Catholic Daughters Juanita Hernandez, 3rd Tuesday 6:30 pm

Family Ministry-Melner Calvo

Knights of Columbus: Robert Baccigalopi, 1st. Sunday 9:30 am

Legion of Mary- Esmeralda Ramirez, Saturday 9:00 a.m. English

Legion de Maria -Angelita Gonzalez, Martes 7:00 p.m. Español

Facilities Maintenance: Daron Monteilh & Raymond Helfrich

Asamblea De Oración, Jesus & Ma. Dolores Velasquez Jueves 7:00 pm

MFCC St. Dominic: Gerardo y Esmeralda Marroquin

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator: Salvador Manzo

Parish Youth Ministry: Rosana Gonzales Thursday 7:00 pm

Clase Pre-Nupcial : Jose y Silvia Cervantes

Pre-Nuptial Class: English Melner Calvo, Clem Monta, Alex Bozon

Nullity Sponsors: Clem Monta & Alex Bozon

Virtus Facilitator Español: Salvador Manzo

Virtus Facilitator English: Rosana Gonzales

Vocation: Antonio Razo, Denise Manzo

Evangelization: Salvador Manzo

Pro-Life Esmeralda Gallegos

Parents Faith Formation:

Rogelio Mendez-Spanish

Jocelyn Vera-English



ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

APPLAUSE DENTISTS
13415 WOODFOREST @ UVALDE
HOUSTON, TX 77015
713 453-1004



December 17 Sunday – LAST DAY OF OEC CLASSES / ULTIMA DIA DE LAS CLASES DE OEC

DICIEMBRE 21 – JUEVES

7:00 PM PASTORELLA MUSICAL (in the Church)

MISA DE GALLO (December 16-24)

DECEMBER 16	SATURDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
DECEMBER 17	SUNDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
DECEMBER 18	MONDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
DECEMBER 19	TUESDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
DECEMBER 20	WEDNESDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
DECEMBER 21	THURSDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
DECEMBER 22	FRIDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO



FRIDAY 6:00 PM Archdiocesan Culminating Simbang Gabi Mass
at Notre Dame Church His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo-Main Presider

DECEMBER 23	SATURDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
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DECEMBER 24	SUNDAY	5:00 AM	MISA DE GALLO
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6:00 pm BILINGUAL – Christmas Carols/ Panunuluyan – Filipino tradition of posadas
Christmas Vigil Mass– Misa de Vigilia Navideña

December 25 – MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM – MASS (ENGLISH)

12:00 NOON – MISA (ESPANOL)

DECEMBER 26	TUESDAY	8:00 AM MASS	Feast of St. Stephen, first martyr
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December 27	WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM MASS	Feast of St. John the Apostle & Evangelist
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December 28	THURSDAY	8:00 AM MASS	Feast of the Holy Family
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December 29	FRIDAY	8:00 AM MASS	5th day within the octave of the nativity of the Lord
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December 30	SATURDAY	8:00 AM MASS	6th day within the octave of the nativity of the Lord
		6:00 PM MASS	Anticipated Mass For Sunday

December 31	SUNDAY		
		8:00AM & 11:15 AM	ENGLISH
		9:30 AM & 1:00 PM	SPANISH

NO 6:00 PM MASS

JANUARY 1, 2018 MONDAY NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:00 am English

12:00 noon Spanish



Happy new year everyone! Feliz Año Nuevo

JANUARY 7th, 2018 SUNDAY - CCE CLASSES RESUME-REGRESA A LA DOCTRINA

Second Sunday of Advent
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths. --
Mark 1:3



Segundo Domingo
de Adviento
Preparen el camino del
Señor, enderecen sus
senderos. -- Marcos 1:3

Eagerness. Today's readings combine to tell a story of eagerness--enthusiasm, zeal, wholehearted dedication. Eager anticipation is not a surprising topic for the Advent season, but very surprising, perhaps, is what our readings urge us to be eager about: the cleansing of sins. Isaiah tells God's people to cry out loudly, proclaiming that the Lord will come with power to comfort them and forgive all their sins. Saint Peter inspires us to "be eager to be found without spot or blemish." In Mark's Gospel, people from all over stream to the Jordan, acknowledging their sins and repenting. John the Baptist preaches the mighty power of the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin. Today's readings wake us up, reminding us how great God is. May we eagerly seek the powerful peace that God's forgiveness brings.

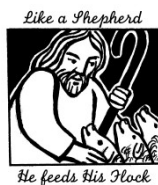
REALITY CHECK

The spiritual world is real, every bit as real as the material world. We cannot properly "see" spiritual realities like love, wisdom, and goodness, but we know they exist and influence our lives. We may not be able to point out hatred or sin on a map, but each one of us has encountered those destructive powers. Today's readings testify to a fact we often overlook: sin is real. Sin changes our hearts and has real consequences for our relationships with others. For followers of Christ, acknowledging the reality of sin is not at all depressing. We naturally grow frustrated with ourselves when we sin, but Jesus has a different reaction. In his astonishing mercy, the Lord sees our sin as an occasion to show just how much he loves us--and how he loves us. Jesus Christ takes our own sin upon himself and accepts the punishment--death--that should rightfully come to us.

AIM HIGH

In dying for us, Jesus shattered the limitations of human life. Sin had doomed our earthly existence, but then Jesus died for us and gave us an all-access pass to everlasting life. Saint Peter speaks gently to us about Jesus' gift. Jesus is patient with us, Peter assures us, "not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Knowing that Jesus opened heaven to us, we can aim high each day, striving to avoid sin and do good. Not even the sky is our limit! Peter encourages us further. We are not frightened to hear "the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire," because we are not trapped in the material realm. The salvation of God is real and unifying. We hope one day to live--body and soul--in the "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." This is the Lord's plan for us, a plan of deep and lasting peace.

Today's Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11;
Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:4, 6;
Mk 1:1-8



Afán. Las lecturas de hoy se combinan para contar una historia de entusiasmo: entusiasmo, celo, dedicación incondicional. La anticipación ansiosa no es un tema sorprendente para la temporada de Adviento, pero muy sorprendente, tal vez, es lo que nuestras lecturas nos instan a estar ansiosos: la purificación de los pecados. Isaías le dice al pueblo de Dios que luche en voz alta, proclamando que el Señor vendrá con poder para consolarlos y perdonar todos sus pecados. San Pedro nos inspira a "estar ansiosos por ser encontrados sin mancha ni imperfección". En el Evangelio de Marcos, personas de todas partes corren al Jordán, reconociendo sus pecados y arrepintiéndose. Juan el Bautista predica el gran poder del Cordero de Dios, quien quita nuestro pecado. Las lecturas de hoy nos despiertan y nos recuerdan cuán grande es Dios. Que ansiosamente busquemos la poderosa paz que trae el perdón de Dios.

REVISIÓN DE LA REALIDAD

El mundo espiritual existe, es real, tan real como el mundo material. Propiamente no podemos "ver" realidades espirituales como el amor, la sabiduría y la bondad, pero sabemos que existen e influyen en nuestra vida. Quizá no podemos indicar dónde está el odio o el pecado en un mapa, pero cada uno de nosotros ha encontrado esas fuerzas destructivas. Las lecturas de hoy testifican un hecho que a menudo pasamos sin notar: el pecado es real. El pecado cambia nuestros corazones y tiene consecuencias reales en nuestras relaciones con las demás personas. Para los seguidores de Cristo, reconociendo la realidad del pecado no es algo deprimente. Crecemos naturalmente frustrados con nosotros mismos cuando pecamos, pero Jesús tiene una reacción diferente. En su asombrosa misericordia, el Señor ve nuestros pecados como una ocasión para mostrar solo lo mucho que nos ama, y cómo nos ama él. Jesucristo toma nuestros pecados sobre sí mismo y acepta el castigo, la muerte, que legítimamente viene sobre nosotros.

APUNTAR ALTO

Al morir por nosotros, Jesús rompe las limitaciones de la vida humana. El pecado había condenado nuestra existencia terrenal, pero entonces Jesús murió y nos dio un pase con todos los accesos a la vida eterna. San Pedro nos habla gentilmente acerca del don de Jesús. Jesús es paciente con nosotros, Pedro nos asegura que: "no quiere que nadie perezca, sino que todos se arrepientan". Sabiendo que Jesús abrió el cielo para nosotros, podemos apuntar alto cada día, esforzándonos por evitar el pecado y por hacer el bien. ¡Ni siquiera el cielo es el límite! Pedro nos anima más. No debemos temer escuchar "los cielos desaparecerán con gran estrépito, los elementos serán destruidos por El fuego", porque no estamos atrapados en un reino material. La salvación de Dios es real y unificado. Esperamos un día vivir, cuerpo y alma, "en un cielo nuevo y una tierra nueva, en que habite la justicia". Este es el plan de Dios para nosotros, un plan de una profunda y larga paz.

Lecturas de hoy: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Sal 85
(84):9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pe 3:4, 6; Mc 1:1-8



St. Dominic Catholic Church
Houston, TX

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 10, 2017

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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