

FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

The Carrying of the Cross

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Archdiocese of Galveston Houston

816 Park Dr. La Porte, Texas 77571

281-471-2000 Fax: 281-471-9365

Website: www.stmaryslaporte.com E-mail: stmaryslpcc@sbcglobal.net

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 Noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Eucharistic Celebrations

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. (Spanish)
1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church

Monday (No Mass)
Tuesday & Wednesday – 12:00 noon
Thursday & Friday – 8:30 a.m.

Parish Staff

Rev. Tony A. Castro, Pastor
Deacon Hector Cantu
Deacon Stan Avallone

Bookkeeper-Nelda Shealy
Bulletin/Sacramental Records–
Cheryl Frobenius
Maintenance– Steve Regan
Parish Secretary-Jessica Jaramillo

C.C.E. Director - Shari Davis
C.C.E. Coordinator - Graciela Lopez
EDGE Coordinator-Randy Tercero
Life Teen Director-Shari Davis
RCIA - Tracy Avallone

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Classes are held as needed, according to instructor availability. Please come by the Parish Office to register or call for more information.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Penance is offered on Saturdays, from 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office at least (6) six months prior to your desired wedding date to arrange a meeting with Father Tony or one of the Deacons. If you want a Mass, you must call Father Tony.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you a non-Catholic who is interested in joining the Catholic faith? Are you a baptized Catholic who has never received the sacraments of 1st Communion and Confirmation? If your answer is yes to either of these questions, call the Parish Office.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation/First Communion

First Reconciliation/Communion candidates must be baptized, at least in the second grade, and have been attending CCE classes for at least TWO full years prior to entering into sacramental preparation. Adults will be referred to the RCIA program.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a separate more intensive examination of the faith and our responsibilities as practicing Catholics. Confirmands will meet once per month in addition to attending Life Teen faithfully, both one full year prior to the beginning Sacramental preparation and during the preparation year (no more than three absences either year). Parents/Sponsors will also be required to attend once per month meetings. Confirmation candidates must have previously received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion. A habit of attending weekly Mass is required for both years. Please, note the above represents the minimum requirements. Adults will be referred to the RCIA program.

Vision Statement

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic Community of Believers called to serve Christ by gathering together at the Lord's Table in worship and praise, by serving our brothers and sisters in Christ, and by being a welcoming beacon of light to all. We are many parts, yet one body in Christ.

Mass Intentions For The Week

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Saturday, March 18:

5:30pm Charles Schoppe†
By: Schoppe Family

Sunday, March 19:

9:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Eva Salinas†

By: Mary Sigala

1:00pm In Thanksgiving for LP EMS

By: Lesenski Family

Tuesday, March 21:

12:00pm Mose Davis†

By: Lauren Wichlep

Wednesday, March 22:

12:00 pm Patricio Chapa†

By: Antonia Chapa

Thursday, March 23:

8:30am James Platt†

By: Walter & Bonnie Hayes

Friday, March 24:

8:30am Bishop Thomas William Muldoon†

By: Yen Khang Van

Saturday, March 25:

5:30pm People of the Parish

Sunday, March 26:

9:00am Delia Lopez†

By: Joe Lopez

11:00am Jesus Chavez†

By: Family

1:00pm Joyce Marks†
By: Lewis Family

Activities of the Week

Sun. March 19: CCE Optional Day, RH 10am

Adult Confirmation Class 10am PH Conf. Rm

Tues. March 21: Parish Council 7pm RH Conf. Rm.

Chapel Rosary for the Unborn 11:30am

Wed. March 22: Chapel Rosary for Spec. Int. 11:30am

Thurs. March 23: Oremos, 6pm RH Conf. Rm

Fri. March 24 Stations Eng. 6:15pm/Span. 7:15pm

KC Fish Fry 5:30pm

Sat. March 25: Rescheduled Fall Harvest Garage Sale

8am—4pm

St. Joseph Altar

St. Joseph Catholic School
1811 Caroling St., Baytown, TX

Wednesday, March 26, 2023

Blessing of Altar 10:30am

Lunch 11am-2pm

Weekly Collections

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March 11/12, 2023

Offertory \$ 5459.00

If you would like to send your donations weekly, please visit St. Mary's website and go to the Online Giving icon or mail them to St. Mary's, 816 Park Dr., La Porte, TX 77571.

www.stmaryslaporte.com

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Diocesan Services Fund



**GOD IS THE
STRENGTH OF
MY HEART**

Please prayerfully consider giving to DSF and help to provide 64 of our ministries with the funds that no one parish can do alone, including supporting the formation of our future priests. By sharing your gifts with DSF, you remind all that God is the strength of our hearts.



To make a donation you can use one of the envelopes located in the church, log onto the archdiocesan website or simply scan the QR code.



Friday Lenten Stations of the Cross

6:30PM (English)

7:15PM (Spanish)

Date

Celebrant

March 24

Deacon Stan Avallone

March 31

Deacon Greg Bremer

7:15PM (Spanish Prayer Group)

Good Friday Stations English 3pm ~ Spanish 7pm



KNIGHTS Fish Fry

Every Friday in Lent

\$10. Plate

5:30pm until we are sold out.

Thank you for your continued support with our Fish Fry Friday's. We are experiencing record support this year. Also, thank you to our Altar Society, our local Scouts and all of our volunteers for joining us and sharing their fellowship with our parish family.

Dear parish family,

4th Sunday of Lent A

The gospel reading this Sunday is the study of contrast; on the one hand is about the blind able to see, and seeing further, he discovered more than what meets the eye. He was able to see the truth on a profound level; he went deeper into seeing the light of faith. On the other hand, there are those whose eyes are wide open but are blind to see the truth, and refusing to accept reality, they plunged into deeper darkness.

The gospel story illustrates that the more we open ourselves up to Jesus, the more we will grow deeper in our experience of faith in him, and the more we will come out from the darkness into the embrace of the light of life. Then, we will soon discover, just as the blind man did, that there is something more than what meets the eye. We will quickly see things from a different perspective that others may not see. We see more profound meaning in things and understand life more fully when others may fail to consider it.

Although we live in times of so much material progress, many are blinded by material and worldly things and fail to see the truth and goodness of spiritual life. Unfortunately, many cannot see that life is more than what the eyes can see. And in the culture of self-indulgence, many plunged into the tide of mentality where people choose what to believe. Many are directed to know the meaning of life only in terms of how their bodies go or how much they possess and yet blind to recognize the needs of the starving soul within. And the tragedy is that the words of the Lord fell on deaf ears; hence so many fell deeper into the abyss of spiritual darkness, unable to have a clear vision of the meaning of life.

Spiritual blindness is worse than physical blindness. Unlike physical blindness, it is contagious. It can also lead others to be spiritually blind. Unlike physical blindness, spiritual blindness is destructive; it can wreak havoc on relationships, divide communities, and lead societies to their self-destructive paths.

The readings this Sunday challenge us to examine the path we are choosing. In the second reading, St. Paul admonishes, "Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord and take no part in the fruitless works of darkness but live as children of light."

As we are now in the midst of our Lenten journey, may we be persistent in gaining sight and insight into the gift of faith that we already have. May our persistence lead us to see what God wants us to see – perhaps much further and more profoundly. And come to realize His blessings we failed to see before.

Blessings to all and have a good week!

Fr. Tony

**Pope's Prayer Intention for March:
For the Victims of Abuse**

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Baptismal Information

Baptism class/baptisms are currently being held each month. If we do not have anyone signed up for either the baptisms or classes in advance, they will be cancelled. **You must pre register for both the class/baptism. Please call the office.**

Mass Schedule	Lector/ Commentator	Cup Minister	Cup Minister	Altar Server	Altar Server
03/25/23 Saturday 5:30PM	Isabelle Salas				
03/26/23 Sunday 9:00AM	David Davenport				
03/26/23 Sunday 11:00AM (Spanish)	Vanessa Bermudez				
03/26/23 Sunday 1 PM	Randy Tercero				



***For Ministry signups for next weekend, please use your phone to scan the QR and sign up through Flocknotes.

Querida familia parroquial, 4º domingo de Cuaresma A

La lectura del evangelio de este domingo es el estudio del contraste; por un lado se trata del ciego capaz de ver, y viendo más allá, descubrió más de lo que se ve a simple vista. Pudo ver la verdad en un nivel penetrante; profundizó en ver la luz de la fe. Por otro lado, están aquellos cuyos ojos están bien abiertos pero están ciegos para ver la verdad, y negándose a aceptar la realidad, se sumergen en una oscuridad más profunda.

La historia del evangelio ilustra que cuanto más nos abrimos a Jesús, más creceremos en nuestra experiencia de fe en él, y más saldremos de la oscuridad al abrazo de la luz de la vida. Entonces, pronto descubriremos, tal como lo hizo el ciego, que hay algo más de lo que se ve a simple vista. Rápidamente veremos las cosas desde una perspectiva diferente que otros pueden no ver. Vemos un significado más profundo en las cosas y entendemos la vida más plenamente cuando otros no pueden considerarlo.

Aunque vivimos en tiempos de tanto progreso material, muchos están cegados por las cosas materiales y mundanas y no logran ver la verdad y bondad de la vida espiritual. Desafortunadamente, muchos no pueden ver que la vida es más de lo que los ojos pueden ver. Y en la cultura de la auto indulgencia, muchos se sumergieron en la marea de la mentalidad donde la gente elige en qué creer. A muchos se les indica que conozcan el significado de la vida solo en términos de cómo funcionan sus cuerpos o cuánto poseen y, sin embargo, están ciegos para reconocer las necesidades del alma hambrienta en su interior. Y la tragedia es que las palabras del Señor cayeron en oídos sordos; por eso muchos cayeron más profundamente en el abismo de la oscuridad espiritual, sin poder tener una visión clara del significado de la vida.

La ceguera espiritual es peor que la ceguera física. A diferencia de la ceguera física, es contagiosa. También puede llevar a otros a ser espiritualmente ciegos. A diferencia de la ceguera física, la ceguera espiritual es destructiva; puede causar estragos en las relaciones, dividir comunidades y llevar a las sociedades a caminos autodestructivos.

Las lecturas de este domingo nos desafían a examinar el camino que estamos eligiendo. En la segunda lectura, San Pablo advierte: “Traten de aprender lo que es agradable al Señor y no participen en las obras infructuosas de las tinieblas, sino vivan como hijos de la luz”.

Como ahora estamos en medio de nuestro viaje de Cuaresma, que seamos persistentes en obtener la vista y la comprensión del don de la fe que ya tenemos. Que nuestra persistencia nos lleve a ver lo que Dios quiere que veamos, quizás mucho más lejos y más profundamente. Y llegar a darnos cuenta de Sus bendiciones que no pudimos ver antes.

Bendiciones a todos y que tengan una buena semana!

Fr. Tony

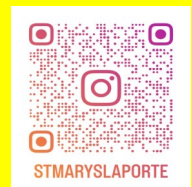
Have Questions or Concerns? Maybe we can help.

Meetings the 3rd Tuesday of the Month
Pastoral Council Members for 2023-24:

Sharon Martinez, Juanita Velasquez, Beni Gutierrez,
Vanessa Lara, Kerry Regan., Jeff Gonzales, Ron
Kolenc, Steve Wilson and Sonja Mathews.
Graciela Lopez, (Recorder).

Want to Stay Connected?

On Twitter
@StmarysLP
and



Www.stmaryslaporte.com



Spiritual Direction

Feeling stuck in your faith? Deeper intimacy with Our Lord Is possible. With gentle encouragement from a spiritual director and your commitment of 30-60 minutes a day you can enter into a deeper relationship with Our Lord than you ever thought possible. Spiritual direction can help you learn to pray better.

Contact Tracy: stmarysrcia@yahoo.com

Readings of the Week

Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23: 1-3a,
 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Monday **Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of
 the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29;
 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-
 51a

Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18;
 Jn 5:17-30

Thursday Saint Toribio de Mogrovejo, Bishop
 Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20,
 21 & 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday
Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
 Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb 10:4-
 10; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8;
 Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

Parish Pictorial Directory *We Need Your Participation* *Goal Deadline April 28th*

Our last Directory was in 2017, and done professionally. This time we are going to do it economically. Pastoral Council has determined that it is time for an updated Pictorial Directory.

We are not looking for professional shots. We would like to have candid shots of your families.

Sample text with your picture:

Dianne Gerdes (parishioner)

Left to Right:

Charity Gerdes Kinzie, Kevin Kinzie, Dianne Gerdes, Ben Gerdes, Jr., Kristy Gerdes, Klayten Gerdes

635 Meadowlawn, Shoreacres, TX 77571

281-941-4481 – home

713-306-1887 – cell

crossbg3@gmail.com

**PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO
 THE FOLLOWING EMAIL OR TEXT**

crossbg3@gmail.com

713-306-1887



St. Joseph's Chapel

Scheduled Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held Tuesday from 12noon to Thursday at 8:30am.

We currently are in need of someone to fill the Holy Hour from 7 to 8pm on Tuesday evenings. If you are able to take this hour on a permanent basis, please contact the office.

If you cannot commit to a specific hour each week we are also in need of Adorers who are willing to be placed on our sub list.

ST. MARY'S GARAGE SALE

has been rescheduled for March 25 & 26!!

Donations accepted all this week

March 20-24 at St. Mary's Hall

Donations needed:

Holiday Decorations & Craft Items

Home Decor & Vases

Kitchenware & Table Coverings

Collectibles & Knick Knacks

Decorative Pillows & Bedding

Pictures & Wall Hangings

Games, Toys, Stuffed Animals, Dolls

Yard Art & Decorations

Jewelry & Purses

Please no clothes or shoes

Volunteers needed to help:

Mon-Fri, March 20-24, day/evening hours available

Sort, price, organize garage sale donations.

Drop - Off & Volunteer Work Schedule

Mon., March 20 10am-8pm

Tues. March 21 10am-8pm

Wed. March 22 8am-12pm

Thurs. March 23 8am-3pm

Fri. March 24 8am-5pm

Sat & Sun, March 25 & 26

Work at Garage Sale (cashier, organize, monitor, help)

Mon, March 27

Clean up and box leftovers

Please contact Debbie Wade at 713.417.5132

or wadesinlp@sbcglobal.net



Please Pray for Our Troops and...

Frankie Aleman, Raul Sanchez, Laila Trejo, Dianna, Emilee DeLeon, Mary Fuentes, Bridgette Weber, Beverly Zann White, Kevin & Pamela Howell, Angela Johnson, Micole McNair, Gail Hall, Vaughn & Laura, Elizabeth & Daniel Fassbinder, Bethany Free, Michael Lesenski, Mason Cade Robles, Jose Guerrero, Ally LaBlanc, Bianca Brog, Martinez Family, Craig Wade, Jennifer Wade, Regina Casazza, Tommy Phillips, Diane Phillips, Dena Michna, Dave & Cindy Schmitz, Ann DuBois, Raelynd, Ash, Becky Smith, Di-
anne Lemons, Peggy & Erica Hargens, Ruth Christian & family, Bob & Barbara Jennings, Robert D, Lowine, Wes & Miles Sarbacker, Katherine Reichley & family, Don & Allie Faye Matthews, Jennifer & Ernie Bernet Vera & Violet Garcia, Monica Lesenski, James Fontroy, Joshua & Kellie Ojeda, Irene McFarland, Darrell, Frankie Livingston, Maria Raymundo, Judith Ibañez, Evelia Carazo, Jaime Ibañez, Kathy Heredia, Gloria Ibañez y Catalina Heredia, Richard Mata, Monica Rey Araujo, Ramon Araujo

Continue to Pray for Linda Patten, Tom Davies, Romeo Yap, Lea Katherine Tennyson, Valeria Key, Beatriz Gamboa, Cathy Hanzelka, Mario Cano, Wal'Dean Lundquist, Steve & Amy Farley, Sue Gonzales, Maria Miranda, Britton & Gayle Phillips, Lucille Schaidler, Tim Hellstein, Miguel Campos, Rebecca Guzman, Jessica Salazar, Maria Alicia Hodges, Josh Lara, Allen Hayes, Maria Garcia, Charlie Jenkins, Fr. Gary Rickles, Edward D. Palacios, Ladd Puskus, David Gonzalez, Nell Turk, Rosie Yznaga, Teresa Mills, Joe Lozano, Sr., Leroy Marchan, Geraldine Christensen, Daniel Vasquez, Rosa Harness, Jeanette Tilley, Marisol Leyva & family, Marisol Luna, Pete & Juanita Sanchez, Orville Burgess, Marlene Orellana, Humberto Villalobos, Kathy & Mark McBride, Robert & Margaret Espinoza, Romela Nolan, Renee Cortez, Rosa Reyes, Pat Lewis, Preston Wolf, Marcos Vasquez, Gavin Binkley, Linda Jaramillo, Sue Crockett, Ben Munoz, Diana Ortiz, Janet Hoffpauir, Nick Martin and those requesting prayer via our website.

Remember Our Shut-Ins Albert Palacios, Lydia Rubio, Trinidad Arrindon, Elida Peterson, Aurelia Hinojosa, Ann Mullins and those battling terminal illness and the residents of La Porte Care Center and Parson's House

Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Our Sympathy the family of

Prayer request names are placed in our bulletin for four weeks. If someone needs to be put back on the prayer list or added, please call the office.



Altar Society Needs you!

Altar society is a group of faith-filled Catholic men and women both young and old, that furnish the liturgical necessities for our parish. The main purpose of the Altar Society is to provide for the adornment of the altar, sanctuary, and chapel. And we are currently experiencing an acute shortage of members. We are asking that you prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve our parish by volunteering and perhaps volunteering with the Altar Society. We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the Parish Hall at 6:30 pm but you'd prefer not to have a vote in the things we do and just want to volunteer PLEASE LET US KNOW that we can call on you to volunteer when we need it. We need a variety of talents and skills and we'd love to have you join this extraordinary group of people.

Altar Flowers 2023

Available Dates

May 6/7, 13/14, 20/21 **June** 3/4, 10/11, 17/18, 24/25
Please contact Rose Kolenc 713-202-3283 to reserve a date for flowers in 2023.

Church Sanctuary Candle

*In Loving Memory of Alex Jaramillo
By Family*

Sharon Ramos, President @ 281-451-9593

Cup Minister Training Lector/Commentator/Altar Server

Deacon Stan is currently doing the updated training for anyone who was a Cup Minister before COVID, and would like to resume their duties. Deacon has asked that you approach him after Mass to do the training this weekend or at anytime he is on the Altar.

If you would like to be a Cup Minister, but have not done so, also please speak to Deacon Stan. Once you have been trained with him a request letter will be sent to the Archdiocese requesting that you be commissioned to serve. After we receive the letter of approval back you will be able to sign up through Flocknotes. This method enables people to choose whatever Mass works for them.

Lector/Commentator/Altar Server Training is done on an as needed basis. If you are interested, please call the office to sign up.

Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you.



Speaker Series:
Our Father Who Art in Heaven
 You are invited:
Speaker: Tracy Avallone
 April 2, 2023 at 10:10 A.M. Rosary Hall

Healing Rosary for Families
On April 2, 2023
Rosary Hall
 We will begin at 9:15 if you would like to join us.

Spring Break ~ No Edge or Life Teen

EDGE ~ Randy & Angie Tercero randytercero1977@gmail.com
 Life Teen ~ Shari Davis Davisinlp@aol.com

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Mon., Tues., and Wed., 9-11am
Drop-off Room Open 7am to
8pm

Monday ~ Wednesday
9-11am ~ Room C



Our St. Vincent program is a reflection of the generosity of our community. Through your donations, we are able to financially help the needy in our community with clothing, utility bills or rent. Currently we are serving the cities of La Porte, Seabrook and Baytown. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call or have them call the office to make an appointment. We see clients on Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

WE SERIOUSLY NEED HELP. WE NEED YOU!!! Our store has been in existence for many years. However, this milestone would not have been possible if it were not for ALL of Our DEDICATED Volunteers. Are you retired, looking for a way to help our church and community? Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this Ministry. There are many ways to help. We are in desperate need of volunteers. You can pick any day you are able to work. If you can help, please call the office or contact Norma @ 281-471-1752.



If you are interested in giving online, please visit our church website scroll down to online giving icon and follow the prompt to make a donation. You can make a one time donation or a recurring one. Please visit www.stmaryslaporte.com. Thank you for your generosity.

RCIA... Classes

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Who should do the full RCIA program? If you are not baptized or were baptized in another Christian denomination and are interested in possibly becoming Catholic, RCIA is for you. If you are a baptized Catholic adult who needs First Holy communion and confirmation, then you should attend RCIA to receive those sacraments. Coming once (or twice or more) obligates you to NOTHING. For additional information about RCIA call the office or email Tracy, stmarysrcia@yahoo.com.

Office of Aging

The Office of Aging Ministry offers a variety of practical and pastoral planning resources on their website. The resources address: •Caregiving• Aging in place • End-of-life planning For more information, contact the Office of Aging at 713-741-8712; visit their webpage <https://www.archgh.org/aging>