

FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΝΑΖΑΡΕΤΩΝ
IESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDÆOR

The Crucifixion

FIFTH 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



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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

Tuesday, March 28:

12:00pm Mose Davis†

By: Walter & Bonnie Hayes

Wednesday, March 29:

12:00pm Jesus† & Refugia† Campos

By: Campos Family

Thursday, March 30:

8:30am Dennis Swenson†

By: Lauren Wichlep

Friday, March 31:

8:30am St. Jude

By: Mary Sigala

Saturday, April 1:

5:30pm In Thanksgiving

By: Mary Sigala

Sunday, April 2:

9:00am Leovardo Villarreal†

By: Ortiz Family

11:00am People of the Parish

1:00pm Aaron Rodriguez†

By: Mom (Janie)

Activities of the Week

Sun. March 26: CCE Optional Day, RH 10am

Adult Confirmation Class 10am PH Conf. Rm

Tues. March 28: Chapel Rosary for the Unborn 11:30am

Wed. March 29: Chapel Rosary for Spec. Int. 11:30am

Thurs. March 30: Oremos, 6pm RH Conf. Rm

Fri. March 31: Stations Eng. 6:15pm/ Span. 7:15pm

KC Fish Fry 5:30pm

Sat. April 1: Altar Society Church Cleaning 8am

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 in advance. Please call the office.**

English baptisms are generally held the second Sunday of the month after the 1pm Mass. Spanish baptisms are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month at 10am.

Weekly Collections

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

March 18/19, 2023

Offertory \$6,986.00 Catholic Relief \$1,721.00

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 31

Deacon Greg Bremer

7:15PM (Spanish Prayer Group)

Good Friday Stations

English 3pm ~ Spanish 7pm



KNIGHTS Fish Fry

Last One This Friday

\$10. Plate

5:30pm until we are sold out.

Thank you for your continued support with our Fish Fry Friday's. We have sold record numbers of plates. Also, thank you to the Altar Society, our local Scouts and all of our volunteers for joining us and sharing their fellowship with our parish family.

Dear Parish family,

5th Sunday of Lent A

Let me first introduce to you, *Msgr. Roland Diokno*, who will be helping here to do one Mass on weekends from time to time when he is available. He was the former pastor of Notre Dame Church in Houston, and turning 75 last year was granted retirement. He is in good health and needs to do Sunday ministry, being a good friend I offered him to come here. He is bilingual and can help me with the Spanish Masses. I surely appreciate his help. You'll like him and we welcome him.

The story about raising Lazarus from the dead on this Sunday's gospel was not just a miracle story for the early Christians. It points something more. It was for them a reminder to never give up hope even in the hopeless situations in which they found themselves as individuals, as a church, or as a nation – like what's going on in the world today. It is never too late for God to revive and revitalize a person, a church, or a nation.

To make the miracle happen, Jesus issued three commands, and all of them were obeyed to the letter. First, "Jesus said, 'Roll away the stone.' ... So they rolled away the stone". The second command Jesus gives is directed to the dead man: "Lazarus, come out!" and the dead man came out". The third command addresses the people, "Unbind him, and let him go." Jesus could have commanded the stone to roll away all by itself without bothering the people, but why choose not to?

Jesus needs the help of others, of the community, to do that for him. The story demonstrates that divine power is always activated by human cooperation and stifled by non-cooperation.

Many individuals and communities today are already in the tomb of spiritual decay, in the bondage of sinful habits and attitudes. Nothing short of a miracle can bring us back to life in Christ. Jesus is ready for the miracle. He said, "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). However, he always needs our cooperation to follow his commands. Are we ready to roll away the stone between us and the light of Christ's face? Are we prepared to take the first step to come out of the place of death? Are we ready to unbind and forgive one another and set them free?

There are various ways we can cooperate with God in the miracle of bringing us back to life and reviving us as individuals, as a church, as a community, as a nation, and as a human race. Each of us must think of it and what fits into our situation.

In these final days of Lent, we still have time to judge what keeps us from finding the new life offered by Christ. Only Jesus can give us this new life. The Lord reminds us in today's Gospel, "...if you believe, you will see the glory of God." Hope is there for us, but we must seize it.

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
04/01/23 Saturday 5:30PM					
04/02/23 Sunday 9:00AM					
04/02/23 Sunday 11:00AM (Spanish)					
04/02/23 Sunday 1 PM					

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

Querida familia parroquial,

5to domingo de Cuaresma A

Permítanme presentarles primero a Monseñor Roland Diokno, quien estará ayudando aquí a hacer una misa los fines de semana de vez en cuando, según su disponibilidad. Fue pastor de la iglesia de Notre Dame en Houston, y al cumplir 75 años el año pasado se le concedió la jubilación. Goza de buena salud y necesita hacer el ministerio dominical, siendo un buen amigo le ofrecí venir aquí. Él es bilingüe y me puede ayudar con las misas en español. Sinceramente agradezco su ayuda. Lo apreciaremos y le damos la bienvenida.

La historia sobre la resurrección de Lázaro de entre los muertos en el evangelio de este domingo no fue solo una historia de milagros para los primeros cristianos. Señala algo más. Fue para ellos un recordatorio de nunca perder la esperanza, incluso en las situaciones desesperanzadoras en las que se encontraban como individuos, como iglesia o como nación, como lo que está sucediendo en el mundo de hoy. Nunca es demasiado tarde para que Dios reviva y revitalice a una persona, una iglesia o una nación.

Para que sucediera el milagro, Jesús dio tres mandatos, y todos fueron obedecidos al pie de la letra. Primero, “Jesús dijo: 'Quitad la piedra'... Así que removieron la piedra”. El segundo mandato que da Jesús va dirigido al muerto: “¡Lázaro, sal fuera! Y salió el muerto”. El tercer mandamiento se dirige al pueblo: “Desatadlo y dejadlo ir”. Jesús podría haber ordenado que la piedra rodara sola sin molestar a la gente, pero ¿por qué elegir no hacerlo?

Jesús necesita la ayuda de los demás, de la comunidad, para hacer eso por él. La historia demuestra que el poder divino siempre es activado por la cooperación humana y sofocado por la falta de cooperación.

Muchos individuos y comunidades hoy ya están en la tumba de la decadencia espiritual, en la esclavitud de hábitos y actitudes pecaminosas. Nada menos que un milagro puede devolvernos la vida en Cristo. Jesús está listo para el milagro. Él dijo: “He venido para que tengáis vida, y la tengáis en abundancia” (Juan 10:10). Sin embargo, siempre necesita nuestra cooperación para seguir sus órdenes. ¿Estamos listos para remover la piedra entre nosotros y recibir la luz del rostro de Cristo? ¿Estamos preparados para dar el primer paso para salir del lugar de la muerte? ¿Estamos listos para desatarnos y perdonarnos unos a otros y liberarlos?

Hay varias maneras en que podemos cooperar con Dios en el milagro de devolvernos la vida y revivirnos como individuos, como iglesia, como comunidad, como nación y como raza humana. Cada uno de nosotros debe pensar en ello y en lo que encaja en nuestra situación.

En estos últimos días de Cuaresma, todavía estamos a tiempo de analizar qué nos impide encontrar la vida nueva que Cristo nos ofrece. Sólo Jesús puede darnos esta nueva vida. El Señor nos recuerda en el Evangelio de hoy: “...si creéis, veréis la gloria de Dios”. La esperanza está ahí para nosotros, pero debemos aprovecharla.

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 2023-2024:
Jeff Gonzales, Beni Gutierrez, Ron Kolenc, Vanessa Lara, Sharon Martinez, Juanita Velasquez, , 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 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

Monday Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-18. 19-21;
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn
8:51-59

Friday Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7;
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10; 11-12abcd, 13;
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Procession: Mt 21:1-11
At Mass: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,
19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

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

Bazaar News

Planning is underway for our Bazaar! Please call the office or email our chairman, Randy Tecero, @ stmaryslaporte@gmail.com. We need you in order to make this the most successful Bazaar yet. This is our Church's biggest fundraiser. Our next in person meeting will be on April 13 at 7pm.

Veterans' Benefits Seminar

The Office of Aging and St. Dominic Village is co-hosting an on-site event for older veterans/ spouses and surviving spouses. The Veterans Administration (VA) will provide education on caregiving and funeral/burial benefits. Registration is open now for all parishes. Tuesday, March 28 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the St. Dominic Auditorium. Cost: Free. Information and registration link: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/Q50C8wVEQc> For more information contact the Office of Aging at 713-741-8712.



Marriage Encounter Weekends

All married couples are invited to live the Marriage Encounter experience. This is a live conference – typically held on a weekend – where three mentor couples and a priest provide tools, use examples, and help couples work through common themes we can all relate to. The experience helps participants to listen, share, and connect more deeply. Nine in ten couples who attend a Marriage Encounter recognize a long-lasting positive effect on their lives. For details, calendar, and registration, please visit the Marriage Enrichment section at www.archgh.org/familylife



Couples for Christ Spaghetti Dinner & Cake Auction

Friday, April 14th

Working together to build
community in our parish.

Please join us!



Please Pray for Our Troops and...

Sophia Ortiz, John Anthony Williams, 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, 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, Dianne 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

Continue to Pray for *Isabelle Salas, Linda Patten, Tom Davies, 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 Souls of *Treace Eudy and Lance Elliott*

Our Sympathy to the family of *Treace Eudy and Isabelle Salas and family on the loss of her nephew, Lance*

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

Special Intention for John Anthony Williams

By Gertrude Williams

Chapel Sanctuary Candle

Special Intention for Hector & Brenda Villarreal

April Altar Duty Assignments

Laundry ~ Gloria Rinche

Altar Duty ~ Adrienne Blow & Jan Hughes

Save the Date...

Upcoming Bingo For \$\$\$ Sun., April 16, 2-4pm

Join us for an afternoon of family fun and fellowship. Snack Bar with food and drinks will be available.

Sharon Ramos, President @ 281-451-9593

*****St. Peter Catholic Career and Technical High School** will be opening in August 2023 and is currently enrolling students. For more information on the school, visit stpeterhs.org/



**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.

Edge & Life Teen 2pm

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.



Online Giving

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>