

# SAINT FERDINAND & GOOD SHEPHERD Catholic Churches

Saint Mary's Help of Christians Cemetery



PARISH BULLETIN | March 3, 2024, Third Sunday of Lent

## WEEKEND MASSES:

### **St. Ferdinand**

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m. (Español)  
Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

### ***Last weekend of each month:***

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. (Bilingual Mass)

### **Good Shepherd**

Sunday: 9 a.m.

For a Complete weekday  
Mass Schedule and Mass Intentions,  
please see the next page



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

### **St. Ferdinand**

Saturday: 4 p.m.

### **Good Shepherd**

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.  
(or by appointment)

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday  
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## WEBSITES:

[WWW.STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG](http://WWW.STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG)  
[WWW.GOODSHEPHERDICTX.ORG](http://WWW.GOODSHEPHERDICTX.ORG)

## PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

25 MAIN STREET  
BLANCO, TEXAS 78606

## MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 757  
BLANCO, TEXAS 78606

## PHONE NUMBERS:

OFFICE PHONE: (830) 833-5227  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: (830) 833-0444

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

[ADMIN@STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG)

## BULLETIN INQUIRIES:

[ADMIN@STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG)

*"Take these out of here, and stop making  
my Father's house a marketplace." (John 2:16)*

## PARISH INFORMATION

### **Pastor**

**Rev. Fr. Brion Zarsky**

[frbrion@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:frbrion@stferdinandblanco.org)

### **Deacon Jessie Esquivel**

[dcn.jessie.esquivel@gmail.com](mailto:dcn.jessie.esquivel@gmail.com)

### **Cathy Cudd, Parish Secretary**

[cathy@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:cathy@stferdinandblanco.org)

### **Dora Alegria, Receptionist**

[dora@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:dora@stferdinandblanco.org)

### **St. Ferdinand--DRE – Susan Moore 830-833-0444**

[susan@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:susan@stferdinandblanco.org)

Office hours/Horarios de Oficina:

Wednesdays/Miercoles 12:00-6:00 p.m.

### **Good Shepherd--Margie Vasquez 830-833-5227**

**Coordinator of RE & Youth Minister**

[margie@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:margie@stferdinandblanco.org)

### **St. Ferdinand Pastoral Council:**

Marilyn Bowman

Maria Villegas

Mary Jane Hill

Darrel Wagner

Christopher Rothlis

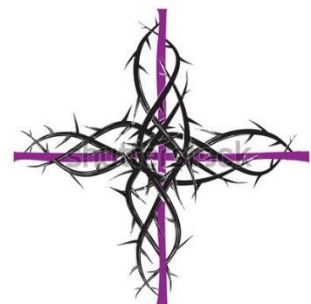
### **St. Ferdinand Finance Council:**

Nancy Biggs

Pete Powell

Lisa Nance

Dana Wagner



# Welcome Visitors & Guests

Thank you for Celebrating the Mass with us. We are glad that you are here. If you have any questions about our parish or joining the Catholic faith, please contact the Church office. For information concerning reception of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick, contact the Church office. Parent interviews for Baptism need to be scheduled with the priest six weeks in advance. Marriage Arrangements need to be made with the priest at least six months in advance. Holy Communion can be brought to the sick on request. If you know of anyone in need, please call the office. *Church Office: 830-833-5227.*



*Due to unforeseen circumstances, when a mass is subject to cancelation, the mass intentions will be reset accordingly.*

## Masses for March 2, 2024 – March 10, 2024

- Saturday, March 2nd (SF) 5:00 p.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Betty Maskey by Helen Heffner
- Saturday, March 2nd (SF) 7:00 p.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Julian Reyes Espinoza by Sixta Galo
- Sunday, March 3rd (GS) 9:00 a.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of William Hubble by Vern and Sherry Metzger
- Sunday, March 3rd (SF) 11:00 a.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Kathleen Willett by Tim and Frances Willett and the Souls of Lucille and Noe Rodriguez by Yolanda Davila
- Tuesday, March 5th (SF) 9:00 a.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Wesley Reid Cudd
- Wednesday, March 6th (SF) 9:00 a.m.**  
St. Anne's Altar Society
- Thursday, March 7th (SF) 9:00 a.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Rev. Edward Rabroker
- Thursday, March 7th (GS) 6:00 p.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Tommy Tobolka by Patti Marx
- Friday, March 8 (SF) 9:00 a.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Enrique Moreno by Juan and Rosa Vargas
- Saturday, March 9th (SF) 5:00 p.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Walter Heffner by Helen Heffner
- Saturday, March 9th (SF) 7:00 p.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Julian Reyes Espinoza by Sixta Galo
- Sunday, March 10th (GS) 9:00 a.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Deacon Jack Murrell
- Sunday, March 10th (SF) 11:00 a.m.**  
Repose of the Soul of Enrique Moreno by Juan and Rosa Vargas

## Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for comfort and healing for the sick in our parish community. In addition, please ask the Lord for wisdom for their doctors and nurses, rest for their caregivers, and peace and strength for their family and friends.

**Maggie Atkinson**  
**Chris Berryhill**  
**Gene Beyer**  
**Ben Boyer**  
**Gaelynn Brown**  
**Lucia Carbary**  
**Jack Cudd**  
**Julia Dechert**  
**Gunner Deeds**  
**Roselle Fischler**  
**John Frazier**  
**Guadalupe Rios Galvan**  
**Pete Garcia**  
**Jim Gronke**  
**Derek Halton**  
**Joe Hancock**  
**Vernon Hancock**  
**Myles Harris**  
**Kristina Yochum Hurst**  
**Tim Ivy**  
**Charles Jennings**  
**Randall Jones**  
**Jeanette Lavelle**  
**Homer Lowden**  
**Jane Martin**

**Segunda Martinez**  
**Keith McClellan**  
**Elsie Meurer**  
**Tim Nance**  
**Coleman Nelson**  
**Devin Newsome**  
**Ruth Nieto**  
**Tim Polster**  
**Charles Reinert**  
**Sid Reinert**  
**Brenda Robinette**  
**Buddy Roessler**  
**Lupe Ruvalcaba**  
**Sandra Rodriguez**  
**Josie Salazar**  
**Josh Strodthbeck**  
**Antonio Tapia**  
**Olivia Tapia**  
**Barbara Turley**  
**Jacob Umanzor**  
**Kippi Verluis**  
**Pedro Villegas**  
**Daniel Zamora**  
**Polo Zamora**  
**Susie Zamora**



**We are proud of all those in our parish who are serving and protecting our country. Thank you and God bless all of you.**

If you or someone you know needs prayer in a special way, please email: [admin@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:admin@stferdinandblanco.org). Unless you are an immediate family member, please obtain permission from the person whose name is being placed on the list prior to submission.



**GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU BUT PROBABLY NOT ON YOUR CELL PHONE**

**Please Turn Off or Silence your Cell Phone**



## prayer for the sick

May you be wrapped up in God's love,  
Found deep in His everlasting wings,  
Carried and kept, safe and cherished.  
May the healing power of Christ  
Breathe across your being now.





**Weekend of February 25**  
*Thank you for your generosity!*

**St. Ferdinand:**  
Regular Collection **\$3,916.00**  
Building Fund **\$400.00**

**Good Shepherd:**  
Regular Collection **\$789.00**

**The Second Collection today is for the Building Fund.**

**Calendar of Events  
St. Ferdinand**

March 5 – Lenten Penance Service at St. Ferdinand, 6:30pm  
March 6 – Spanish Stations of the Cross, 6pm  
March 7 – Ministerial Alliance Lenten Luncheon at St. Ferdinand, 12pm  
March 8 – Men’s Club Fish Fry, 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
March 8 – Stations of the Cross led by the Nunn Family, 7pm

**Calendar of Events  
Good Shepherd**

March 8 – Stations of the Cross, 6pm

  
**Mark your calendars!**  
**Join us for Fish Fry Fridays During Lent**

Lent is here and that means the Men’s Club will be firing up the fryers! The whole community is invited to the following Fish Fry Fridays during Lent.

**March 8th                      March 22nd**

Bring the family and friends to St. Ferdinand’s for a wonderful celebration of community as we prepare for Easter. Dine in or take your dinner to go. Plates are \$15 and all proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.

**St. Anne’s Altar Society will have desserts available during the Fish Fry. Any monetary donation will be appreciated.**



**Parish Organizations & Meeting Times**

**Altar Server Training, St. Ferdinand**  
Meets the last Sunday of the month at St. Ferdinand at 8:30 a.m. (following school schedule)

**Good Shepherd Contemplative Prayer**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month for April through October at 6:00 p.m. in the Church, Contact: Katie Shafford at 512 925-4472 .

**Good Shepherd Men’s Club**  
Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Contact: Gary Reeves, 281-387-9547.

**Good Shepherd Women’s Circle**  
Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Center. Contact: Cindy Wiggins, 830-290-3033.

**Good Shepherd Women’s Bible Study**  
Meets every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. If you’re interested in joining, please contact Jan Harry at 936-293-0064 or edharry1946@gmail.com.

**St. Ferdinand Men’s Club**  
Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Ferdinand Parish Hall.

**St. Anne’s Altar Society**  
Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month following the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the St. Ferdinand Parish Hall. **Next meeting will be on March 6th.**

**St. Ferdinand’s Parish Choir**  
Meets Wednesday nights at 4:00 p.m. Call 713-562-0228 for more information.

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**  
If you are interested in RCIA, please contact the parish office at 830-833-5227.

**Estudio Biblico**  
Todos los martes de 6-8:30pm en el RICH house (trailer Juvenil) de la iglesia de San Fernando. llama al 512-563-3146 para mas informacion.

**Mass Preparation**  
March 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent

**First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23**  
*The causes for the Israelites’ captivity in Babylon are described.*

**Psalm: 137:1-6**  
*A lament from exile for the loss of Jerusalem*

**Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10**  
*In grace we have been saved, so that we may do the work of the Lord.*

**Gospel Reading: John 3:14-21**  
*Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life.*

... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24)

The words roll off our tongues so easily. Of course Jesus is God's wisdom and power! He's the Son of God, after all. But what do these words mean? Today's readings can help us.

First, there's Jesus as the *wisdom of God*. The story of the Ten Commandments in the first reading shows us that God's commands are nothing more—and nothing less—than a revelation of his own divine wisdom. They reveal how he wants his children to live: by loving God and one another. This is the wisdom that Jesus lived out perfectly. In everything he said and did, he showed us what it is like to love God completely and to pour ourselves out in love for the people around us. And nowhere is this revealed more powerfully than when he laid down his life on the cross!

As for Jesus being the power of God, what could be more astounding than his promise in today's Gospel to rebuild the

"temple of his body" after three days (John 2:21)? Imagine the kind of power it took for Jesus' crucified, lifeless flesh to come back to life! Imagine the power that transformed his body into something radiant and glorious! That was a work that only God, by his own mighty power, could do!

These are not just historical facts. The power and wisdom of God are present today—and they're yours in Christ! Every act of love, forgiveness, and generosity that you perform demonstrates his wisdom to a world lost in folly. Every time you pray in confident intercession, every time you rely on God's grace to say no to temptation, and every time you lay down your life to care for someone, you are revealing the power of God.

That's right. *You* can be God's revelation to this world!

*"Jesus, fill me with your wisdom and power so that I can share them with everyone around me!"*



... Cristo, el poder de Dios y la sabiduría de Dios. (1 Corintios 1:24.)

Las palabras se nos escapan de la lengua con tanta facilidad. ¡Por supuesto que Jesús es la sabiduría y el poder de Dios! Después de todo, él es el Hijo de Dios. Pero, ¿qué significan estas palabras? Las lecturas de hoy pueden ayudarnos.

Primero, está Jesús como la *sabiduría* de Dios. La historia de los Diez Mandamientos en la primera lectura nos muestra que los mandamientos de Dios son nada más y nada menos que una revelación de su propia sabiduría divina. Revelan cómo quiere que vivan sus hijos: amando a Dios y a los demás. Esta es la sabiduría que Jesús vivió perfectamente. En todo lo que dijo e hizo, nos mostró lo que es amar a Dios completamente y derramarnos en amor por las personas que nos rodean. ¡Y en ninguna parte se revela esto más poderosamente que cuando entregó su vida en la cruz!

En cuanto a que Jesús es el poder de Dios, ¿qué podría ser más

asombroso que su promesa en el Evangelio de hoy de reconstruir el "templo de su cuerpo" después de tres días (Juan 2:21)? ¡Imagínese el tipo de poder que se necesitó para que la carne crucificada y sin vida de Jesús volviera a la vida! ¡Imagínese el poder que transformó su cuerpo en algo radiante y glorioso! ¡Esa era una obra que solo Dios, por su propio poder, podía hacer!

Estos no son solo hechos históricos. El poder y la sabiduría de Dios están presentes hoy en día, ¡y son tuyos en Cristo! Cada acto de amor, perdón y generosidad que realizas demuestra su sabiduría a un mundo perdido en la locura. Cada vez que oras en intercesión confiada, cada vez que confías en la gracia de Dios para decir no a la tentación, y cada vez que das tu vida para cuidar de alguien, estás revelando el poder de Dios.

Así es. ¡Tú puedes ser la revelación de Dios a este mundo!

*"¡Jesús, lléname de tu sabiduría y poder para que pueda compartíroslos con todos los que me rodean!"*



**The Lenten Penance Service for St. Ferdinand and Good Shepherd will be held Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at St. Ferdinand at 6:30 pm.**

## 2024 Lenten Luncheons

Each Thursday during Lent at 12:00 Noon sharp, a light lunch will be served followed by a brief service of scripture, music and reflection during this Holy Season. The meal is offered by donation by a different church each week.

Please plan to attend the lunch this week, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at St. Ferdinand Church.



Take with you words, and return to the Lord. (Hosea 14:3)

“Talk is cheap.” “Names will never hurt me.” In a world where sayings like these are often thrown around, the prophet Hosea—who lived around 750 BC—tells us something very different. When the people of Israel had fallen into idolatry, God sent Hosea to them with a simple message. God wasn’t demanding a grand gesture or a costly sacrifice from them. Instead, he simply asked them to speak to him: “Take with you words, and return to the Lord” (Hosea 14:3). He asked them to give voice to their heartfelt repentance and their longing to be restored to him.

Hosea’s message is a moving reflection of how deeply God desires a living relationship with his people. He makes it clear that returning to the Lord does more than wipe our slate clean. It also opens up a process of healing between those who love one another.

Take with you words. Isn’t that at the heart of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Every Confession is meant to be a sacred encounter in which we can speak words that heal wounds in our relationship with God. What kind of words? Not necessarily the most eloquent or impassioned words, but the most open and honest ones. Words that reflect our desire to put aside whatever has caused a rift between us and the Lord.

Many parishes will have expanded opportunities for Confession this season—so make plans to go! But before you do, ask the Spirit to help you be forthright, clear, and direct in your language. Ask for the courage to name your sins, even if you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. Believe that if you bring words of humility and repentance, the Lord himself will respond with words of mercy, comfort, and healing.

God doesn’t want us to wallow in guilt, just as he didn’t want the Israelites to be lost in their sin. He doesn’t want to burden you with shame; he wants to set you free so that you can live as the beloved child you truly are.

Let’s all bring our words to the Lord so that he can bring us his healing, reconciling love!



*“Holy Spirit, help me to speak words of truth and humility and love as I confess my sins.”*

### suggestions on

## WHAT SHOULD I GIVE UP FOR LENT?

- Don’t buy anything you don’t need.
- Be silent for 30 minutes.
- Throw away 40 things for 40 days.
- Fast on another day instead of just Fridays of lent.
- 40 days of home organization
- Arrive 15 minutes earlier to Mass.
- No gossiping
- Stay after Mass to help sanitize the church.
- Work out daily to take care the body God gave you.
- Search and learn about a saint each week of lent.
- Don’t eat after dinner.
- Pick one of the 4 Gospels and read a chapter each Sunday.
- Say 3 nice things to your spouse & kids daily.
- Post only positive quotes on your social media.
- Don’t eat out for 40 days.
- Stop worrying about tomorrow but focus on today.
- Replace 30 minutes of TV or screen time with devotion/prayer time.
- Volunteer in a ministry that you’ve always wanted to.
- Do not complain or speak negatively.
- Sit down and have a meal as a family or with someone.

## PRAYER | FASTING | ALMSGIVING

**St. Ferdinand’s Men’s Club  
Monthly Communal Rosary  
Sunday, March 3**

The St. Ferdinand Men’s Club would like to invite all members of our parish to a communal reciting of the Holy Rosary after the 11am Mass on Sunday, March 3rd. The Rosary will take place in the area between the Parish Hall and the Chapel. Our goal is to have enough families participating that each Hail Mary and Our Father would be led by a different member of the parish.

If you would like to volunteer to help lead a portion of the Rosary, or would like more information, contact John Duran at 830-431-8088.

### Live the Liturgy

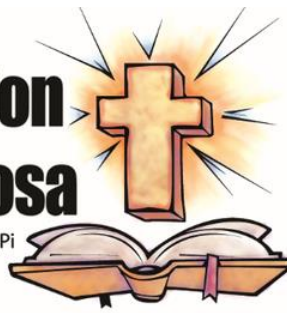
#### *Inspiration for the week*

With our world in such constant turmoil and conflict, it makes such good sense to return to the simple directives given in the Ten Commandments. God’s unassuming guidelines provide the perfect recipe for ordering our relationships with God, others, and even ourselves. But yet, we are so quick to glance beyond them and even remove them from public view because we foolishly believe we can create something better. Arrogance runs far deeper in the members of our society than we can ever imagine. Lent is a perfect time to call ourselves back to our foundations and the basic relationships that comprise our lives. It is also a time to remember that Jesus is the true sign of God’s presence. Everything he says and does, including his suffering and death, is a sign of the God who sent him. The anger we witness when Jesus exhorts those in the temple to stop making his Father’s house a marketplace can equally be seen in his anger and frustration over humanity’s constant mission to turn God’s creation into a secular world. We have a lot of work to do for sure.

***Father Almighty, may this Lent be a time of fervent prayer and real self-denial, truly transforming our desires of soul to be more closely united to your will and to the heart of your Son Jesus. Amen.***

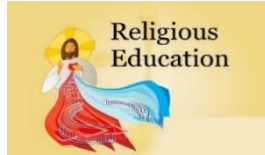
# Religious Education Educación Religiosa

©LPi



## St. Ferdinand Blanco

Director of Religious Education  
Susan Moore  
[susan@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:susan@stferdinandblanco.org)  
or 830-833-0444 (T-W)



### Calendar:

**Sundays, March 10th & 17th, Wednesday March 13th**

Spring Break – no class

**Sunday, March 31** Easter Sunday – no class.

*When the Word says This is My Body, be convinced of it and believe it. St John Chrysostom*



The most important thing you can do to encourage and bolster the faith of your family is to attend Mass. Catholics have a duty to participate at the Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays.

*The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. We Christians go to Sunday Mass to encounter the Risen Lord, or better still to allow ourselves to be encountered by him, to hear his Word, to nourish ourselves at his table, and thus to become the Church, that is, his mystical living Body in the world.... Without Christ we are condemned to be dominated by everyday weariness, with its worries, and by fear of the future. The Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage, and to go forth with hope. For this reason we Christians go to encounter the Lord on Sunday, in the Eucharistic celebration.*

- Pope Francis, Wednesday Audience of December 13, 2017

*Help your children meet their best friend.  
Sign up for Religious Education.*



## Good Shepherd Johnson City

### Religious Education Classes:

**PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the RE Building.

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Middle School EDGE Youth Ministry:** Middle School classes are held in the summer for middle school. Curriculum includes Call to Protect for the Youth, RE Curriculum, Catholic Social Teachings, Morality, Sacrament teachings, Praise and Worship, Bible Study, Fun and Games. Classes have ended for this school year; we will resume classes in June 2024.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade (or Pre-Confirmation):** Classes are held once a month on the second Sunday of each month from 10:00am to 11:30am. Please Call the parish office to register or get more information.

**High School RICH Youth Ministry:** Classes are held every other Sunday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the St. Ferdinand/Good Shepherd Youth Building (Trailer). Curriculum includes Call to Protect for Youth, Morality, Sacramental Prep, Liturgical Celebrations, Theology of the Body, Bible Study, and Praise and Worship as well as lots of Fun and Games.

**RCIA Classes:** The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Adapted for Children is offered at Good Shepherd. If someone is needing to discuss Sacrament preparation for adult or child, please schedule an appointment with Margie Vasquez to discuss the process and class times. Classes are offered in Spanish or English.

**2024 Confirmation Classes: Confirmation is schedule October 26, 2024. Classes are underway – If you have not picked up your packet to register for the online classes – Please get with Margie Vasquez.** Students interested in registering for next years Confirmation class must be enrolled in RICH Youth Ministry Classes. Students must have completed 1 year of pre-confirmation or 8th grade classes prior to enrolling. Students must be at least 14 years of age at time class starts

*If you would like to register your child for Religious Education, please contact Margie Vasquez at [Margie@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:Margie@stferdinandblanco.org) or the parish office at (830) 833-5227.*

**Volunteers/Catechist/Helpers:** If anyone is interested in helping in our RE program or would like to make donations of supplies for the classroom – Please contact Margie Vasquez or call the parish office during regular business hours. Remember to volunteer you must be EIM compliant. Please refer to the bulletin or the Diocese Website for upcoming EIM workshops in our area.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in What you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity". 1 Timothy 4:12



**Classes are on March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>**



**High School RICH Youth Ministry:** Classes are held on every other Sunday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. All classes will include a meal from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm. **RICH (Resting in Christ Hands) Youth Ministry** utilizes the *Life Teen Program* – as well as Diocesan approved curriculum. Curriculum includes Call to Protect the Youth, Morality, Sacramental Prep, Liturgical Celebrations, Theology of the Body, Bible Study, Praise and Worship as well as lots of Fun/Games. High School Classes are combined with Blanco and Johnson City students. We meet at the St. Ferdinand Youth Building (Trailer). *Life Teen is an environment in which high school youth can come into a deeper relationship with God through spiritual, educational, emotional, and social experiences. Our Youth Ministry follows the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) guidelines for comprehensive youth ministry programs.*

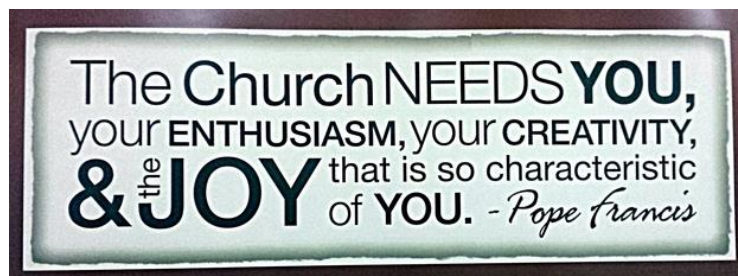
**Middle School EDGE Youth Ministry:** Middle School classes are held in the summer for middle school. Curriculum includes Call to Protect for Youth, Catholic Social Teachings, Morality, Sacrament teachings, Praise and Worship, Bible Study, Fun & Games. *Blanco and Johnson City middle school students participate in EDGE Youth Ministry, EDGE is part of the LIFE TEEN Middle School youth ministry. We focus on Leadership, Prayer, Service and Unity.*



**2023 Confirmation Classes: Confirmation is schedule October 26, 2024. Classes are underway – If you have not picked up your packet to register for the online classes – Please get with Margie Vasquez.** Students interested in registering for next year's Confirmation class must be enrolled in RICH Youth Ministry Classes. Students must have completed 1 year of pre-confirmation or 8th grade classes prior to enrolling. Students must be at least 14 years of age at time class starts.

*If you need any information for any of the Youth Ministry events, classes or Confirmation - Please contact Margie Vasquez at [Margie@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:Margie@stferdinandblanco.org), Mary Jane Hill at [MaryJane@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:MaryJane@stferdinandblanco.org) or the parish office at (830) 833-5227.*

**Youth Ministry Volunteers/Catechist/Helpers: If anyone is interested in helping in our program donating supplies or to provide Meals for the RICH YM nights** – Please contact the parish office during regular business hours or email [Margie@stferdinandblanco.org](mailto:Margie@stferdinandblanco.org). Remember to volunteer you must be EIM compliant. Please refer to the bulletin or the Diocese Website for upcoming EIM workshops in our area.



# Please Support Our Sponsors

## Johnson City Pharmacy



Phil Lietz, R.PH.  
Pharmacist/Owner

405 Highway 281 South  
Johnson City, TX 78636  
t 830.868.7185  
f 830.868.7183  
monday-friday: 9am-5:30pm



**KIM & RYAN BAYLESS**

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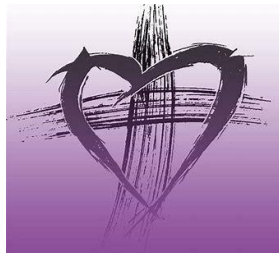
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## RENEWAL THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



Have you found yourself struggling this Lent? For many of us, the “toil and struggle” (1 Tim. 4:10) for salvation can be a lonely and disheartening journey.

When we find ourselves lost and in despair, we must strive to see our desperation as a sign that we are not allowing our connection to God to truly sustain us. Perhaps we’ve stopped praying. Maybe we’ve allowed the distractions of worldly obligations and desires to break our stride. Maybe we’re lost in the foggy shame of sin.

Faith and Hope sustain our connection to God, who is Love (1 Jn. 4:8). These virtues allow us to tap into God’s supernatural grace and trust that despite our struggle, the Father desires us, loves us and we will always remain His “beloved” (1 Jn. 4:10)

How beautifully is our “belovedness” displayed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There we meet the priest, and so we meet the Church and are made whole within it. In the priest, we also meet Jesus, and in Jesus we intimately meet the Father (Jn. 14:7), who yearns for our return to Him so deeply that even death itself cannot separate us from His love (Rom 8:38).

When we consider the great power of God’s love and the great happiness with which he gives it to us, how are we not compelled to run to the confessional? Our shame tells us that Sacramental Reconciliation is something to fear, yet God cries out to us “Do not be afraid!” (Is. 41:10). Why? Because He knows the power of His mercy. Reconciliation is about more than dropping off your sin. Reconciliation is a chance to dance in the arms of a God who cherishes you.

This Lent, consider a return to the Father through the mercy found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **The Lenten Penance Service for St. Ferdinand and Good Shepherd will be held Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at St. Ferdinand at 6:30 pm.**

