

Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS
510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-3920 • **Fax:** 936-825-7612

Religious Education: 936-825-1869

After hour emergencies: 936-825-3920

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:15am - noon & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Friday 9:15am- noon

Other times by appointment

Website: www.christourlight.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopéz

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Jeremy Trull, Deacon

ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER

Nelda Kurten

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Carolyn Katkoski

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC

Susan Russell

SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Culver (Chairperson), Teresa Morales, Jason Katkoski, Laura Quirino, Gerardo Olguin, Sam Pry and Larry Busa

FINANCE COUNCIL

Teresa Morales, Ann Clark, Carolyn Katkoski

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Mitch Kroll, Gregorio Gonzalez

RE BOARD

President: Brandi Tejeda, Vice President: Jessica Herrera

Secretary: Teresa Morales, Board Members: Lucy Coronilla, Jason Katkoski, Allyson Sweeney, Den Grant Holt

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Larry Busa, Danny Clark, Richard Krolczyk, and Joe Rangel

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Jessica Herrera

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: (English) 8:00am

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

First Saturday 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm (English)

Thursday 6:00pm (Spanish)

ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:40pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10am

Saturday: 5:15pm

Sunday: 7:15am & 12:15pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Tuesday, Thursday and

2nd & 4th Saturdays 5:00-5:45pm

and by appointment 936-825-3920

RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los Martes, jueves y el

segundo y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45pm

y por cita 936-825-3920

Fourth Sunday of Easter : May 3, 2020

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

May 02 & 03, 2020

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, MAY 04

No Mass

TUESDAY, MAY 05

8:30 AM Monty † Lucy † Thompson

WEDNESDAY, MAY 06

8:30 AM Risa Sauer †

THURSDAY, MAY 07

8:30 AM Anita Olguin, Living

FRIDAY, MAY 08

8:30 AM Chris † and Regina † Mattern

SATURDAY, MAY 09—Vigil

6:00 PM Rodney †, Maggie † & Lambert † Laskowski

SUNDAY, MAY 03,

8:00 AM People of the Parish



Fr. Eli will continue to offer Mass daily, except Mondays, for the glory of God and for the good of the people each day. Though he will do so privately, you and your intentions will be in his prayer and you are invited to join him in spiritual Communion.

In accordance with the guidelines issued by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in response to the public health crisis, we will be suspending all activities including the public celebration of the Holy Eucharist, until further notice. The church will remain open for personal prayer from 9am to 5pm. No more than 10 people gathering are strictly prohibited. Please observe social distancing.

The parish office will remain open for regular business hours. Fr. Eli is still accessible via phone (936-825-3920) and will still visit the sick and dying.

Words Worth Noting

Courtesy is as much the mark of a man as courage. —Theodore Roosevelt

E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and or articles are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office, or faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org.

Events, meeting etc. for the Parish Calendar are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office in advance.

AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. Announcements are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodía. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, please notify the parish office, 825-3920.



Sacrament of Baptism Schedule

English Baptism Class Schedule for 2019: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM April 11th, July 11th and Oct. 10th., 2020 **PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS.** To register please contact Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Lucy Coronilla at 936-419-9296.

Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2019: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, April 26th, July 26th and Oct. 25th. For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974

ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. SCHEDULED Baptism will be celebrated once a month at 12 noon every 3rd Saturday following completion of the baptismal classes the prior month and Fr. Eli has been informed in advance. The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration. Therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated here.



**PRAY for THE CONTINUING
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF**
the infirmed and homebound
members of our community. Jo

Ann Clepper, Frank Crouch, Herman Culmer, Eva Estrada, Liz Estrada, Lois Finke, Jerry Flores, Liz Johnson, Juanita King, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kubricht, Christian Mills, Leslie Mills, Leon Nowak, Victor Ostiguin, Leona Pasket, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Irene Ramirez, Lucila Rivera, Rosalinda Salazar, Josh Sechelski, Dana Sowell, and Krysten Sowell, Jessie Valadez, III, Crystal Winkler.

Call the parish office when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920.

Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, **please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.** Thank you.

New Memorial Candles



The new Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.

YOUR PARISH SUPPORT SU APOYO PARROQUIAL



**TRESASURE YOU HAVE
SHARED:**

GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS

Holy Land Collection

Envelopes/Loose Check 15.00

April 25 & 26, 2020

(30) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks
On Live Giving, Mail Ins, & Drop Ins 3,147.00

Maintenance Fund 400.00

Thank you thank you for Mailing, Bringing In, and On Line Giving your Offertory. You can see how helpful it is for our Parish.

APRIL 27, 2020 DIOCESAN SERVICE FUND—2020

Goal: \$24,940.00

Pledged: \$14,245.00

Paid: \$10,537.00

Total Registered Families: 675

Number of Participant: 49

Percent Paid: 42.25%

Paid Over (Under) Goal: (\$14,403.00)

Pledged Over (Under) Goal: (\$10,695.00)

In Our Prayers

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

SSG Jorge Aguilar, Jr., Alexander Cortez,
Jesus Cortez, SFC Antinia Franco, 1SG
Jason Malek, Antonio Magallon, Jose Rene Milan
Christopher Munoz, Javier Salinas,
Sgt. Kevin Seigler, SSgt Allen Thane

OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY

General Intention — For Deacons: We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church..



P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration)

We are inviting and highly encouraging everyone to sign-up for our "P.E.R.A." (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration). We are asking everyone to devote ONE HOUR (at least) a WEEK adoring God in the Blessed Sacrament—that is, only asking 168 parishioners to make adoration of God everyday, 24/7! We do this as a Parish Community in response to the teaching of St. John Paul II:

The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."

(Dominicae cenae, 3)

Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024.

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND Web site is FORMED.ORG

The Parish Code to access the website is

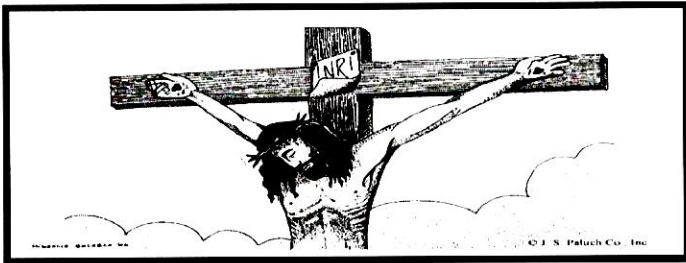
There are 2 easy ways to connect to
FLOCKNOTE (pick one):

MVMZKF

Then register to create an account.

NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.

1. Visit our church at: www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.



Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.
— 1 Peter 2:24a

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the month.



PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS
to the Priesthood and Religious Life
especially in our Archdiocese.

+++++ **MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE**

If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or Special Intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

**ParishSOFT
Giving**

SIGN UP NOW

**Sign Up for Christ Our Light
Online Giving Now**

Christ Our Light now accepts online giving. Parish Soft is our parish's online giving program. Enroll at the link below. It is secure and easy to use. You will be able to use Parish Soft for normal tithing and special collections throughout the year. Apps are available, so your cell phones/tablets can be used for online giving.

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/dl?uid=chri510191>



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers this past weekend are in Memory of Frank and Rosalie Vacante. The parish thanks Steve and Sandra Gilbert.

COUNTING SHEEP

When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep. —Anonymous

MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

Altar Society—January and July
Pastoral Council—February and October
Finance Council—March and September
R.E. Board—April and August
Stewardship—May and November
Choir—June and December

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

4th Sunday of Easter — *“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’ Acts 2:38* The word “repent” means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news—we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

Boletín de Mayordomía—Reflexiones

4º domingo de Pascua — *“Y Pedro les dijo: ‘Arrepíentanse y háganse bautizar, cada uno de ustedes, en el Nombre de Jesucristo...’” Hechos 2:38* La palabra “arrepentirse” significa apartarse del pecado, cambiar nuestras acciones. El cambio que es permanente viene de adentro. Requiere oración, disciplina y perseverancia. El cambio también es difícil. Tenemos que reconocer que estamos rotos y que necesitamos ayuda. La buena noticia es que no estamos solo en nuestro viaje. Pídale a Jesús diariamente orientación y escuche pacientemente su respuesta.

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Please know that despite the physical absence from the liturgies, the Holy Spirit continues to guide us in the communion of love that is found in our Trinitarian God. Let us pray for increased strength, faith and hope during this growing health crisis, confident that the comfort of our loving and healing God will dispel all our fears and anxiety. St. Roque pray for us.

IGNITE: Our Faith, Our Mission

Summary Report: April 27, 2020

Parish Goal: \$208,632.00

Total Pledged to Date \$100,527.00

Paid—Undesignated \$47,884.22 22.95%

Over/(Under) Goal (\$108,105.00)

% of Parish Goal Pledged 48.18%

Number of Participation 38

“TEACHING, EVANGELIZING AND WORSHIP”

YOUR DONATION TO DSF WILL SUPPORT



Your Gift Touches Many Lives Throughout the Archdiocese

DSF programs served our local Church in many ways this past year with your help:

Family Retreat Center at Circle Lake — The Family Retreat Center at Circle Lake is an Archdiocesan-owned retreat center in Pinehurst, Texas, about one hour northwest of the downtown Houston area. The facility is available for weekday or weekend retreats as well as family functions. The center hosts family programs, spiritual retreats, community programs, and events that focus on the support and development of all families.

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston continues to serve people in need during the COVID-19 pandemic through all of its programs. Food pantries are open for drive-through food distribution with hours each week at our three locations: Guadalupe Center in Houston; Manie George Community Center in Richmond; Beacon of Hope Center in Galveston. For hours and other assistance related to COVID-19 pandemic, call the COVID Assistance Line at 713-874-6521.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4;
Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;
Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27;
Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19;
1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Hch 11:1-18; Sal 42 (41):2-3; 43:3, 4;
Jn 10:11-18
Martes: Hch 11:19-26; Sal 87 (86):1b-7; Jn
10:22-30
Miércoles: Hch 12:24 — 13:5a; Sal 67 (66):2-3, 5,
6, 8;
Jn 12:44-50
Jueves: Hch 13:13-25; Sal 89 (88):2-3, 21-22, 25,
27;
Jn 13:16-20
Viernes: Hch 13:26-33; Sal 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Sábado: Hch 13:44-52; Sal 98 (97):1-4; Jn 14:7-
14
Domingo: Hch 6:1-7; Sal 33 (32):1-2, 4-5, 18-19;
1 Pe 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

**MUY NECESARIO AMOR — Nadie necesita más amor que quien no lo merece.
—Anónimo**

Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Run the Race

"...let us throw off everything that hinders... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1), exhorts the writer to the Hebrews. Perhaps that writer was the Apostle Paul, for running a race is a phrase he often used. In Acts 20:24, he declared that he wanted to *"finish the race and complete the taskthe task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace."* That task belongs to us as well as to Paul. We have been chosen by God to run the race for the sake of the Gospel. Like Peter and John, we *"cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20).

Certainly our words testify to the Gospel of God's grace, and so do our lives. That's why we are also involved in the race of holy living. In this race, we put aside the hindrances of sin and self-interest that would keep us from a close relationship with our Savior and that would give ammunition to those who wish to disparage the Christian faith.

Our race is by no means all downhill. Competing in this race requires strict discipline and a focus on the goal. Scripture urges us to keep our eyes on *"Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"* (Hebrews 12:2). Like the faith heroes of old, we run the race for those who will follow not in our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament.

Perseverance is key in our race. Scripture challenges us to stand firm, knowing that our labor for God is not in vain. We're commanded to hold fast to our faith and to keep to God's ways. As we run the race with perseverance, we are filled with *"inexpressible and glorious joy"* (1 Peter 1:8) in our Savior in whom we believe, even though we haven't seen him. Although the race is long and difficult, we have an eternal perspective and consider any suffering or distress but *"light and momentary troubles"* (2 Corinthians 4:17).

On the Lighter side

Garrison Keillor tells of a letter written from a local church to one of its members who was not present on pledge dedication Sunday, and therefore, did not fill out a pledge card:

"Dear Anne and Joe: We missed you last Sunday, Pledge Sunday. Since you were not present to fill out your pledge card, and to make it easy for you, we have completed a pledge card for you. Thank you for being so generous. Your Finance Committee."

✓ PLEDGE

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Email: _____

I commit to give \$ _____ over the next year.

I plan to give:

☐ 1x ☐ Weekly ☐ Twice a month ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Other _____

☐ I believe this is a defining moment and I will not hold back. I prayerfully commit to step out in faith and pledge to give above my regular tithe over the next year.

Return this card in a postage paid giving envelope at a worship service.

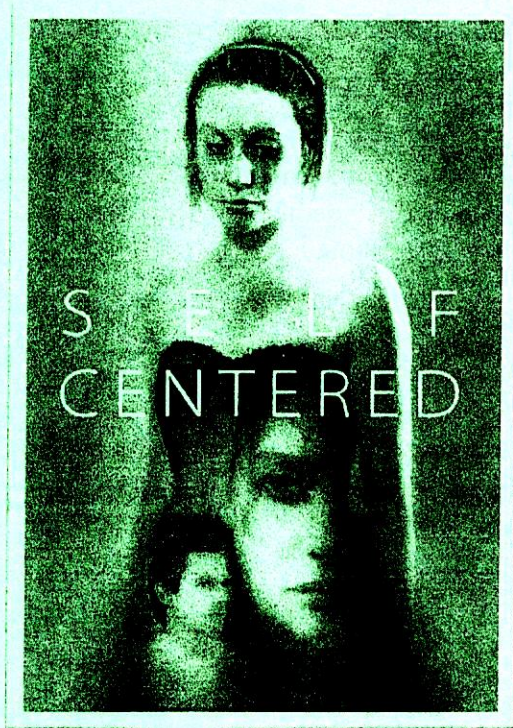
Our culture now has "lite" everything on the market: butter, cheese, syrup, even beer. A suggestion arose regarding what a "lite" church might look like: perhaps a 45-minute worship service, a seven percent tithe, and only eight of the Ten Commandments. And you get to choose which eight!

Self-centered or God Centered

At different times throughout our lives, we all make the choice whether to serve ourselves or to be servants to others. If we make a practice of putting ourselves first, we will spend life joyless and empty, wondering why fulfillment escapes us.

Even though God never abandons us, we can elect to turn away him. God wants the best for us, and his best for us is that we deny ourselves

and follow him. If we focus only on our earthly possessions and make it our top priority to take care of ourselves only, we push God out of our lives. Putting our own interests first, we become selfish and self-centered.



The Apostle Paul wrote that, as people redeemed by God's mercy, we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. He further said in Romans 12:2, "*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by*

the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is ... his good, pleasing and perfect will." Paul revealed the secret of the transformed mind to the Galatians. "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me*" (Galatians 2:20). Joy comes into our lives when God, instead of self, is the object of our love and worship. It was joy that compelled Jesus to endure the Cross (Hebrews 12:2).

The stewardship life is a life dedicated completely to God through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus said that if we would follow him, we "*must deny [ourselves] and take up [our] cross[es] and follow [him]*" (Matthew 16:24). The reward outweighs by far the sacrifice, for Christ promised in Matthew 16:25, "*Whoever loses his life for me will find it.*" Martin Luther said, "If anyone would rap at the door of my heart and ask, 'Who lives here?' I would answer, 'Martin Luther once lived here. But Martin Luther has moved out and Jesus Christ has moved in.' " When Jesus has permanent residence within us, he can use us to build his kingdom among men.

Through God's grace, we are transformed into "new creatures" (2 Corinthians 5:17) willing to live lives that honor him with all that we are and have. God's love and generosity are seen through us as we recognize the opportunities God places before us to share our time, talents, and treasures in the building up of his kingdom.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

A Stewardship Minute

gaining a deeper understanding of true giving
An introduction of **Stewardship** to the congregation

May 2020

In the early days of our country, grist mills ground grain for various foods. Many mills were powered by water wheels until gasoline engines replaced them. The water-powered mill could not work during the dry season when the flowing water was not powerful enough to turn the wheel. The gasoline-powered mill, however, worked steadily, supplying ground grain consistently.

As followers of Christ, we can only fulfill the mission of the church if we are consistent and faithful in doing the work of the Lord. The work of the Lord is dependent upon us being reliable in the use of our talents, time, energy, and financial resources. The church can only be as fruitful as we Christians enable it to be, therefore our dependability is as important as it is with the grist mill.

An article in the May issue *Stewardship* describes these two grist mills. The author makes the point that the mill powered by gasoline was more dependable than the one which relied on water-power because of the varying levels of the water in the river; therefore, the gasoline-powered mill consistently met its goals!

St. Paul wrote the following words to the Christians at Corinth: "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (I Corinthians 15:58) "Excelling in the work of the Lord" should be our goal and mission!

Prayer: Lord of all, make us restless until we are steadfast in serving you rightly. In Christ's name. **Amen**

A Stewardship Minute is available to subscribers of Stewardship at www.parishpublishing.org. Simply click on the "Parish Resource Center" and log in using with your account number (Username) and zip code (Password), both of which can be found on the invoice or mailing label.

parish

Parish Publishing, LLC (888) 320-5576 www.parishpublishing.org

Our Lady of Fátima

Feast Day May 13

Our Lady of Fátima is one of the more recent and well-known devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady appeared six times to three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, between May 13 and October 13, 1917, in the little village of Fátima.

She asked the children to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray the rosary every day to bring peace to the world and an end to war—World War I, a long and tragic war, had just entered into its fourth year. She also asked the children to help increase devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

In her last apparition, it has been reported, Mary gave a great sign—the sun dancing—as a way of proving that she was truly there. There were 70,000 witnesses on October 13, 1917, in Fátima who saw this sign. It is said all could stare at the sun without blinking, or even hurting their eyes. It is said the sun rotated, got larger and smaller and “danced” in the sky.

Two of the children, Francisco and Jacinta, died in 1919 and 1920, respectively, as part of the great, worldwide flu epidemic. The third, Lucia, became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

The children said that Mary gave them three secrets to reveal to the world. Lucia told all of this in a series of memoirs that she was asked to write. In 1941, she said the first secret was shown in July 1913. That secret was a vision of hell that the children were allowed to see.

The second stated: “The war is about to end [World War I], but if men do not cease to offend God there will begin a worse one in the pontificate of Pius XI...the punishment of the world is at hand for its so great sins by means of war, famine and persecutions directed against the Church and the Holy Father.”

The third secret was written down by Lucia in 1944 and given to a Portuguese bishop. It was sent to the Vatican in 1957 and finally revealed in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II.

She wrote: “We saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, Penance, Penance!’”

The secret also spoke of a bishop dressed in white going up a steep mountain and being killed along with many other bishops, priests and religious. Many believe that this is a reference to the assassination attempt of Pope

St. John Paul II in 1981. However, Pope Benedict XVI said the third secret did not directly refer to the assassination attempt. Pope Benedict has said that all of the third secret has been revealed and that the matter is settled.

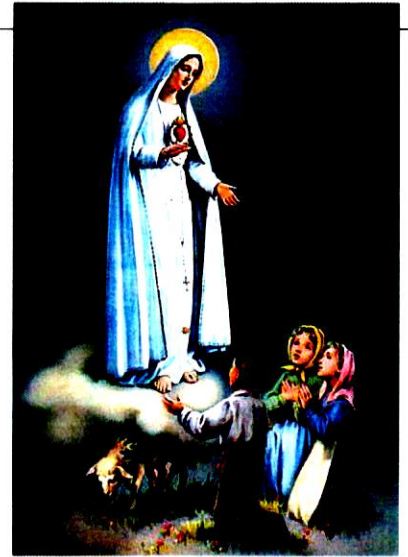
For most people, though, Fátima is not about secrets. Rather, it is about the faith of small children and the benevolence of a loving mother who cared for them.

The feast of Our Lady of Fátima was approved by the local bishop in 1930. It was added to the Church’s worldwide calendar in 2002. About four million people visit Fátima each year.

In August 2015, Pope Francis said, “Virgin of Nazareth, Mary: the first human person who believed in God by accepting the flesh of Jesus. Let us learn from her, our Mother, joy and gratitude for the gift of faith, a gift that is not private but shared. It is for the life of the world.”

Mary believed, and she continues to go out and help others to believe.

Mary, you come to us in so many different ways and in so many different parts of the world. You come, so often, to the humble and the young. Thank you for continuing to talk with us and reach out to us. You were young and humble and believed. Help us to believe!



Reflection:

- Imagine that Mary appeared to you. It would be a blessing but also imagine having to convince people that it really happened. What would you do? How do you explain your own faith? For that, too, is miraculous.
- So often we think back on the “good old days.” But Mary appeared at a time when war was raging. A worldwide flu epidemic followed. Heartache and death were commonplace. Sorrow is part of life, but the comfort of Mary also is a constant. When do you turn to Mary? How has she helped?

Hail Mary...

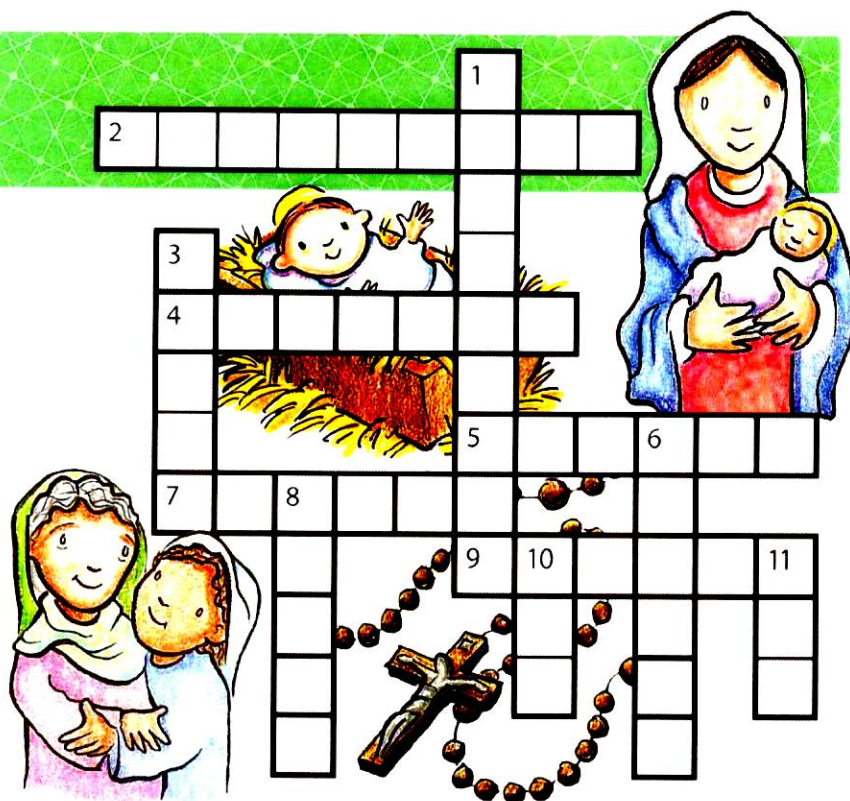
You've probably heard these words a lot. Maybe you say this prayer. But have you ever wondered why we say it? What about all the songs, statues and feast days dedicated to Mary? Why do we honor Mary so much?

First, think about this. People who do great and heroic things have schools, streets and even cities named after them. Some heroes even have holidays in their honor. Great people can inspire us to do great things too. It's a little like that with Church heroes. Except that when we honor the people who love and follow Jesus, we're not glorifying them, we're giving God the glory. Now, can you think of any saint who loved and followed Jesus more than his own mom?

Who could be more loving, kind and good than the person God himself chose to be the mother of his son?

No one else but Mary.

When we give Mary the honor that's due to her, we give glory to God who created her. And imagine how happy that makes Jesus!



ACROSS

2. Mary's cousin
4. The angel who visited Mary
5. He wanted a sign from Juan Diego
7. Mary and Joseph took Jesus here to worship God
9. String of beads for praying

DOWN

1. Mary's birthday is this month
3. Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus escaped Herod here
6. At the end of her life Mary was taken up to _____
8. Mary asked St. Catherine to create the Miraculous _____
10. The angel called Mary "Favored _____"
11. Mary's answer when God asked her to be Jesus' mom



In Fatima, Portugal, Mary appeared to three kids

named Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco with an important message for the world to turn away from sin and back to Jesus.

Sometimes Mary gives us special reminders too. She appeared to Catherine Labouré, asking her to create a special medal. Nowadays, many people wear the Miraculous Medal to show they belong to God. Another time, Mary offered a small piece of cloth tied to a string, called a **scapular**, which some people wear as a reminder to live as Mary and Jesus lived.

Stewardship

When I was a boy in the mountain of eastern Tennessee, not far from the J.B. Chapman log memorial church, we lived in a somewhat primitive community. We carried water from the well to the house; we chopped our firewood and we had to have our corn ground into meal.

There were two grist mills in the neighborhood. One was west of us, down by the river, and was run by a water wheel; Mr. Yarmouth was the owner and operator of it. The mill building was rather large and stood out over the river. It was a lovely scene, the kind that inspires poets.

When the river level was high Mr. Yarmouth could grind meal for the farmers all day long without any operating expense. Then, too, the running of the mill was very quiet and serene with no noise of machinery interrupting the quiet of a river valley.

Mr. Johnson owned the other mill, some distance to the east of us. His mill was powered by a gasoline engine, and was housed in a simple and unpretentious small building. His double-piston engine often shattered the silent surroundings of the peaceful valley. Yet, Mr. Johnson got most of the corn-grinding business.

The reason was easily understood. Mr. Yarmouth could grind the corn only when the river was high, but people's needs occurred regularly. They ate three times a day, every day. Mr. Johnson could grind corn at any time, because the source of his

power was always at hand; the fuel tank of his engine was always full of gasoline.

Giving is like that. There are those Christians who give when their particular river of life is high; when they feel flush with the spirit of giving. They are good folks and speak of liberty, of not being bound to the law, etc. In times like these, however, the river doesn't run as high. However, the needs continue to arrive regularly. Come sunshine or rain, summer flowers and beautiful landscapes, or wintry blasts and barren trees, the needs keep coming. In such times we are forced to rely on the equivalent of Mr. Johnson's gasoline engine.

Regular and systematic giving may not be spectacular and exhilarating. It may be an unpretentious, down-to-earth, practical manner of supporting the Kingdom. But it gets the job done regularly, and on time. During these difficult times, let's be dependable givers like the gasoline-engine miller, and get the job done every time! ☩



In the story of the widow's mite, the poor widow "put more in than all who contributed." She had a spirit of sacrificial giving. We have churches, just like in Jesus' synagogue days. We support the church, but in what spirit? Will our depth of spirit be able to meet the stresses facing churches in the future? The widow shows the way.






Nothing Happened Today

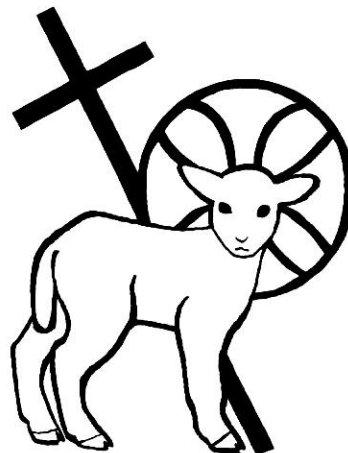
One definition states that a steward is a person who manages the affairs of a household or an estate for the owner. In the Christian sense, a steward is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. God has made each of us a steward and has given us abilities and talents that are unique for each of us to use in that work.

I asked someone the other day, "How are things going?" He replied, "All right, I guess. Nothing's happened today!" There are some days when it does seem that nothing happens. But are there really any such days?

God is always at work! When we look around us and really seek to see God at work, we will find that the sick are always being healed, people are always being saved, lives are being blessed. God is always at work in the life of his children. We may not always recognize what God is doing and many things may happen that we don't understand, but

God is always there! Has God been doing something in your life? Have you counted your blessings lately?

Don't ever say, "Nothing happened today," because something is always happening. Look around you this week ... See what is happening! If you will notice the changes that are occurring in your own life and in the lives of those around you, you will see that God is at work. As we receive the blessings of God from day to day and week to week, we should return a portion of what God has first given to us by making things happen using our time, talents and resources. 



A Stewardship Prayer

Dear God,

At baptism, we accepted the call to follow Jesus.

Be with us as we move along on our faith journey.

Send us your Holy Spirit, so that we might have wisdom for the journey.

Help us to develop and share our gifts as good stewards, so that we may use them in love and service in your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

“Notable Quotes”

“He who gives what he would as readily throw away, gives without generosity: for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice.”

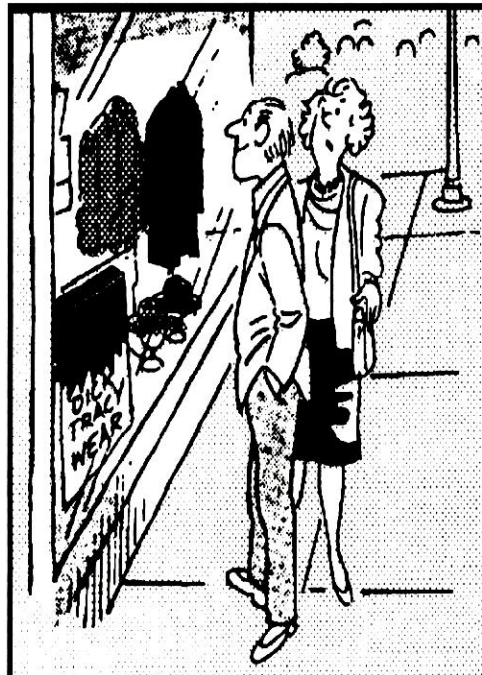
Sir Henry Taylor

“If we love Christ and his church enough, we will not stay away from church for light reasons. If we love enough, we will not easily turn down a church committee assignment. If we love enough, we will not refuse to help in the church school or choir. If we love enough, we will not have too tight a hold on our pocketbooks. Love wants to pour itself out. Love never counts the costs. Love never fails.”

William LaRoe Jr.

“Our love follows our pocketbook. Some say, dedicate the heart and the money will follow; but our Lord put it the other way around. ‘Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.’ If your treasure is dedicated, your heart will be dedicated. If it is not, it simply won’t. It’s as simple as that.”

G. Timothy Johnson



When you let me put more than ten dollars in the Sunday collection, I'll let you get the \$200 Dick Tracy pajamas!

The gift of money ... while forever needed ... cannot tell the whole story. The most precious gift, always, is the message that you care. There are, in practical terms, only two ways of showing how much you care for a particular cause. One is the amount of work you do for it; the other is the amount of substance you give to it.

Steward of the Month

Our Stained Glass Windows

Jerome, Penns Grove NJ

We have a wonderful old church built in 1920, and like many of us in the congregation, age has taken its toll. There are 45 exquisitely beautiful stained glass windows and therein lies our problem. Many of them are in desperate need of repair. So our pastor asked for volunteers to raise money to repair them.

A team of 6 stepped forward and in just about 3 years they have raised over \$14,000, had 2 small windows repaired for \$2000 and contracted to restore a large, 14 ft. high window for \$13,120. The window was removed last week and restoration has begun.

The team, with the help of the congregation, sold "Joe Corbi" pizzas, cakes and cookie dough, Tupperware, and jewelry. They ran concession stands for a local Minor League Baseball Team, The Blue Rocks in Wilmington, DE. They received money from a church Chinese auction, cleaned streets for the Township, hosted "Tastefully Simple" parties and received donations every Sunday from church members in a little green, stained glass box in the narthex.

The total estimated cost to repair all of the windows was over \$120,000 and when we started we said, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." We have taken that step ... just a small congregation, but BIG on STEWARDSHIP. ☩



Co-Responsabilidad

Mayo 2020

Cuando yo era niño en las montañas del este de Tennessee ... no muy lejos de la iglesia conmemorativa J. B. Chapman - vivíamos en una comunidad un tanto rudimentaria. Acarreábamos el agua de un pozo a nuestras casas; cortábamos nuestra leña y llevábamos nuestro maíz a un molino para hacer harina.

En la zona había dos molinos. Uno nos quedaba al oeste, río abajo, y era movido por una rueda hidráulica; su dueño y operador era el señor Yarmouth. El edificio del molino era bastante grande y estaba construido sobre el río. Era una escena conmovedora. De esas que inspiran a los poetas.

Cuando el nivel del río subía, el señor Yarmouth podía moler harina para los granjeros durante todo el día sin ningún gasto de operación. Además su funcionamiento era muy silencioso y sereno, sin ningún ruido de maquinaria que interrumpiera la tranquilidad del valle.

El dueño de la otra molienda, ubicada no muy lejos hacia el este, era el señor Johnson. Su molino era movido por un motor de gasolina, y estaba alojado en un edificio más bien pequeño y modesto. Su motor de dos pistones con frecuencia interrumpía el silencio de los tranquilos alrededores. No obstante, el señor Johnson tenía la mayor parte del negocio de la molienda de maíz.

La razón era muy fácil de entender. El señor Yarmouth solo podía moler maíz cuando el nivel del río estaba alto; pero las necesidades de los granjeros eran permanentes. Tenían que comer

tres veces al día todos los días. El señor Johnson podía moler maíz a cualquier hora, porque la fuente de energía de su molino estaba siempre a la mano; el tanque de gasolina de su motor siempre estaba lleno.

La forma de dar es algo parecido. Hay cristianos que dan cuando el río particular de su vida está alto; cuando se sienten inundados del espíritu de desprendimiento. Son buenas personas y hablan siempre de libertad, de no verse constreñidos por la regla, etc. Pero, en tiempos como los actuales, el río no corre a un nivel tan alto. Sin embargo, las necesidades siguen surgiendo en forma regular. Haya días soleados o con lluvia, flores de verano y bellos paisajes, o vientos tormentosos y árboles arrasados, las necesidades siguen ahí. En tiempos como estos nos vemos obligados a depender del equivalente del motor a gasolina del señor Johnson.

Dar en forma regular y sistemática puede no ser tan espectacular y emocionante. Sino más bien una forma práctica pero modesta y realista de

Continúa en página 4

En el relato de la viuda y su monedita, la pobre mujer "puso más que todos en el cesto de las ofrendas". Tenía sin duda el espíritu del dar sacrificial. Hoy tenemos iglesias, tal como las sinagogas de los tiempos de Jesús. Apoyamos a la iglesia, pero ¿con qué espíritu? ¿Tendrá nuestro espíritu la profundidad necesaria para lo que requerirán nuestras iglesias en el futuro? Aquella viuda nos mostró el camino.



La esquina de los **CO-RESPONSABLES JÓVENES**




Hoy No Pasó Nada

El otro día le pregunté a alguien, “¿Cómo van las cosas?” Y me contestó, “Supongo que bien. ¡Hoy no pasó nada!”

Hay días en los que pareciera que no sucede nada. Pero ¿en verdad es así? ¡Dios siempre trabaja! Cuando vemos a nuestro alrededor y en verdad buscamos ver a Dios en acción, encontramos que los enfermos siempre están siendo sanados, la gente siempre está siendo salvada y las vidas bendecidas. Dios siempre está actuando en la vida de sus hijos. Puede que no siempre reconozcamos lo que está haciendo y mucho de lo que sucede no lo comprendamos, pero ¡Dios siempre está presente! ¿Ha estado haciendo Dios algo en tu

vida? ¿Has contado las bendiciones recibidas últimamente?

Nunca hay que decir “Hoy no pasó nada”, porque siempre está pasando algo. Esta semana fíjate a tu alrededor... ¡Observa lo que está sucediendo! Si notas los cambios que están ocurriendo en tu propia vida y en las de los que te rodean, verás que Dios está trabajando.

Así como recibimos las bendiciones de Dios día con día y semana con semana, debemos regresar una porción de todo lo que él nos ha dado, usando nuestro tiempo, talento y recursos. Siempre estamos recibiendo las bendiciones de Dios. Así como hemos recibido gratuitamente las bendiciones de Dios, en correspondencia démoslas gratuitamente a otros. 

Una definición establece que coresponsable es quien administra los asuntos diarios del hogar o la hacienda de un propietario. En el sentido cristiano, coresponsable es el administrador de los asuntos de Dios en la tierra.

Dios nos ha hecho a cada quien un coresponsable y nos ha dado a cada uno habilidades y talentos únicos para que los usemos en este trabajo.



Oración Del Co-Responsable

Dios querido,

En el bautismo, aceptamos el llamado a seguir a Jesús.

Acompáñanos en nuestro viaje de fe.

Envíanos al Espíritu Santo, para tener la sabiduría necesaria para este viaje.

Ayúdanos a desarrollar y compartir nuestros dones como buenos co-responsables, para que los usemos con amor y espíritu de servicio en tu Reino.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

“Citas Citables”

“Quien da lo que fácilmente tiraría, lo hace sin generosidad, porque la esencia de esta es el auto-sacrificio”.

Sir Henry Taylor

“Si amamos suficiente a Cristo y a su Iglesia, no nos alejaremos de la ella por cualquier ligereza. Si amamos lo suficiente, no rechazaremos con facilidad el nombramiento para algún comité eclesial. Si amamos suficiente, no nos negaremos a participar en el coro o en la escuela parroquial. Si amamos lo suficiente no nos aferraremos tan fuerte a nuestra chequera. El amor quiere demostrarse. El amor nunca cuenta los costos. El amor nunca falla”.

William LaRoe Jr

“Nuestro amor sigue a nuestra chequera. Algunos dicen, compromete tu corazón y tu dinero irá detrás de él; pero nuestro Señor lo puso en sentido inverso. ‘Donde está tu tesoro, ahí estará también tu corazón’. Si comprometes tu tesoro, comprometerás tu corazón. Si no, nunca lo harás. Tan sencillo como eso”.

G. Timothy Johnson



Cuando me dejes poner más de diez dólares en la colecta dominical, yo te dejaré comprar las pijamas de \$200 de Dick Tracy!

La decisión de invertir tiempo y esfuerzo en nuestra iglesia es la decisión más importante que una persona puede hacer. Tomar esa decisión durante la juventud es como poner dinero en una cuenta de ahorro y dejarlo que nos produzca intereses por el resto de nuestra vida.

Co-responsable del Mes

Nuestros Ventanal Es De Vitral Jerome, Penns Grove NJ

Tenemos una magnífica iglesia antigua, construida en 1920, y como en muchos miembros de nuestra congregación el tiempo ha dejado en ella su marca. Tiene 45 ventanales exquisitamente bellos de vitrales artísticos y es ahí donde radica nuestro problema. Muchos de ellos necesitan desesperadamente reparación. Así que nuestro pastor pidió que un grupo de voluntarios se avocara a conseguir dinero para repararlos. Un equipo de 6 personas salió al frente y en solo 3 años ha recaudado más de \$14,000, con lo cual repararon dos ventanas pequeñas, con un costo de \$2000 y contrataron la reparación de una de las grandes, de 14 pies de altura, por \$13,120. La ventana fue desmontada hace una semana y se ha iniciado la reparación. El equipo de voluntarios, con ayuda de la congregación, vendió pizzas "Joe Corbi", masa de pasteles y galletitas, recipientes Tupperware, pasteles y joyería. Tomaron la concesión del puesto de un equipo de la Liguilla local de Béisbol, The Blue Rocks, en Willmington, DE. Recibieron dinero de una subasta china de la iglesia, limpiaron calles para el Ayuntamiento, realizaron fiestas "Sencillamente Sabroso" y recibieron donativos todos los domingos en una pequeña caja de vitral verde colocada en el vestíbulo de la iglesia.

El costo total estimado para reparar todos los vitrales es de \$120,000 dólares, pero al empezar nos dijimos: "Un viaje de mil millas empieza con el primer paso". Ese paso ya lo hemos dado...una congregación pequeña, pero grande en CO-RESPONSABILIDAD. ☩

Viene de página 1

Cuando yo era niño...

ayudar a la construcción del Reino. Pero realiza la tarea en forma regular y a tiempo. Durante esta temporada de Adviento, seamos coresponsables de los que se pueda depender, como el motor de gasolina del señor Johnson, y ¡realicemos el trabajo siempre que se requiera! ☩



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WHY IS IT?

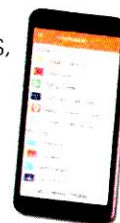
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