

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 López

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Matthew Krusleski, Pastoral Year Seminarian

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, Carolynn 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

Second Sunday of Advent : December 06, 2020

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

December 05 & 06, 2020

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

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 07—VIGIL

THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE BVM,
Patronal Feast Day of the United
States of America

6:00 PM* People of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM

6:00 PM Louis Sandidge †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09

8:30 AM Margaret †, David † & Larry † Sechelski

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:30 AM Minnie Crouch †

6:00 PM* Torres & Rangel Families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:30 AM Jo Ann Smith Urbanosky †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:30 AM People of the Parish, Our Lady of Guad.

6:00 PM Vigil - Grace Martinez †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00 AM Torres, Rangel and Baldobino Families

1:00 PM* People of the Parish

*Spanish

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confessions, CH
After Mass, English Choir Practice, CH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09

6:00 PM CCE Grades 1-5th, SPH & SPCC Group B

6:00 PM RCIC, SPCC

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

12:00 AM English Legion of Mary, CH Cry Room

7:00 PM RCIA, SPH

7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM extra Confession Time

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

5:00 AM Las Mañanitas, CH

7:00 AM Rosary, CH, Mass at 7:30 AM

8:00 AM to 11:30 AM, Breakfast with Santa, SPH

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM Lector Workshop

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

10:15 AM CCE Grades 6-12th, SPH, SPCC Group B

4:00 PM to 5:30 PM Workshop, PFHC &
Confirmation, SPH and SPCC

EXTRA CONFESSION TIME

Friday, December 11th and 18th
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Church

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 2021: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Jan. 9th, April 10th, July 10th, & October 9th
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 2021: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, Jan 24th, April 25th, July 25th, & October 24th.

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.

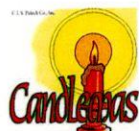


**PRAY for THE CONTINUING
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF
the infirmed and homebound
members of our community.**

Sarafina Alo, Jo Ann Clepper, Frank Crouch, Elizabeth Culmer, Herman Culmer, Eva Estrada, Liz Estrada, Lois Finke, Liz Johnson, Rachel Kammel, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kubricht, Glenda Lawrence, John Lawrence, Christian Mills, Leslie Mills, France Munoz, Leon Nowak, Victor Ostiguin, Leona Pasket, Cecelia Pearson, 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

November 28 & 29, 2020

(63) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks	
On Live Giving, Mail Ins, & Drop Ins	4,504.50
Maintenance Fund	145.00
Campaign for Human Development	10.00

Thank you thank you for Mailing, Bringing In, and On Line Giving your Offertory. Baskets will not be passed during the Offertory. You will be able to place your weekly gift in a basket by the Baptism Font before or after Mass.

II Collections

**December 05 & 06 — Retirement Fund for Religious
(Sisters)**

December 12 & 13 — Maintenance Fund

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, Spec. Alysa Flores Kelleher, 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 DECEMBER

General Intention — For a life of prayer.

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Thursdays throughout the Summer following the 8:30 AM Masses on Thursdays and will be reposed before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass.

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."

Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024 to sign up for a time slot on Thursdays.

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND
Web site is FORMED.ORG**

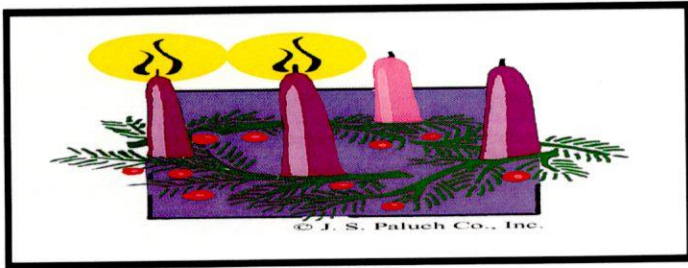
The Parish Code to access the website is
MVMZKF

Then register to create an account.

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

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.



Second Sunday of Advent December 06, 2020

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain
and hill shall be made low. **Isaiah 40:4**

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

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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>

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CELEBREMOS/LET US CELEBRATE MISSALETES

Missalette's starting November 29th to February 16, 2021 are available to purchase for \$5.00. Do not leave them in Church. Take them home with you, bring with you each weekday or weekend Masses you will be attending. Stop by the parish office at 510 Manley Street.

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

Second Sunday of Advent — *"Prepare the way of the Lord..." Mark 1:3* We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to follow, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

Boletín de Mayordomía—Reflexiones

2º Domingo de Adviento — *"Preparen el camino del Señor..." Marcos 1:3* Todos estamos llamados a vivir una vida santa. Todos estamos llamados a invitar a otros a vivir vidas santas. Vivir un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad, ser agradecidos y generosos con nuestros dones, nos pone en el camino de la santidad y es un ejemplo para que otros también sean santos. Somos responsables no solo de nuestras propias vidas, sino también de las vidas de los demás.

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Christ Our Light Catholic Church



The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston

The Church is open every day
from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for
people to come stop by and
Pray.

CCE NEWS: We are asking that more parents get involved with their child's Religious Education by becoming an aid/assistant in the classroom. We are still looking for aids for the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Even if you don't have a child attending classes please consider helping to educate our students. All are welcome!

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CHRISTIAN RNEWAL CENTER

Furniture Sale, Saturday, December 12 — 8AM to Noon. Face Covering Required. New Mattresses, Used Bedframes, Night Stands, Table, and Chairs. Christian Renewal center, 1515 Hughes Rd. Dickinson, Texas. Face Covering Required.

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DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The Altar Society plan to decorate the Church for Christmas on December 20th at 2:00 PM.

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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Ambrose;
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday: St. Juan Diego
Thursday: International Human Rights
Day; Hanukkah begins at sunset
Friday: St. Damasus I
Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES

Domingo: Segundo Domingo de Adviento
Lunes: San Ambrosio;
Día para Recordar Pearl Harbor
Martes: La Inmaculada Concepción de la Virgen María
Miércoles: San Juan Diego
Jueves: Día Internacional de Derechos Humanos; Januká comienza al atardecer
Viernes: San Dámaso I
Sábado: Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

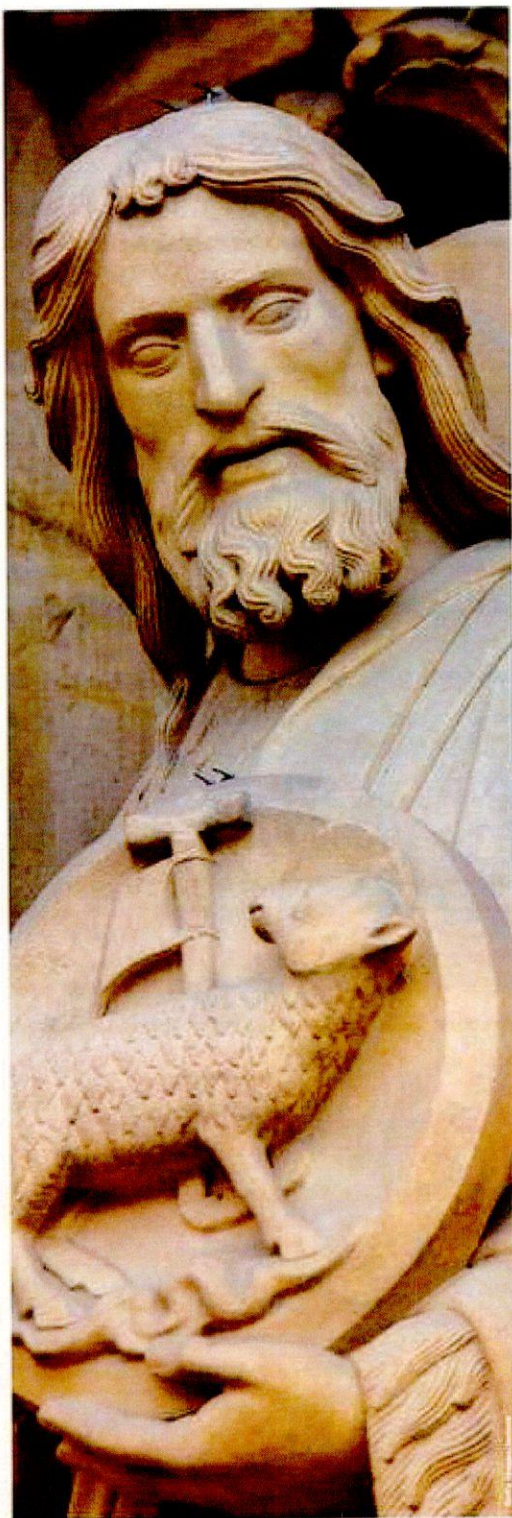
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PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That we are called to live holy lives and invite others to do the same.

ORACIONES DE LOS FIELES

Que estamos llamados a vivir vidas santas e invitar a otros a hacer lo mismo.



Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | 2 Pt 3:8-14 | Mk 1:1-8

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

For kids, the weeks before Christmas seem to drag on forever; for many adults, they zip by way too fast ("Second week of Advent, already? Oh my!"). Fortunately for us, God is outside of time – he does not experience the temporal moments as we do. "With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day," Peter writes. "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but he is patient with you." Just as we have the Advent season to prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, God gives us ample time to repent of our sins and grow in "holiness and devotion" as we prepare for his Second Coming. During this rich liturgical season of Advent, let us help prepare the way of the Lord through our words and actions.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Preparation. Preparedness. We use these words in Advent to mark our patient waiting for Jesus to come into our world. But while we are waiting, it is fitting to remember Peter's question in the second reading: "What sort of persons ought you to be?" That is not simply an Advent question. And the answer is relevant to all days and times of life: Conduct yourselves with "holiness and devotion." Right living and loving God and neighbor never go out of style. They are the answer to everything. Make wise choices. And, like John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." And perhaps one day, we can be transformed into the people God created us to be.

WITNESS Today's psalmist prays: "Lord, let us see your kindness." This Advent, be conscientious about your everyday interactions with the people around you, making God's kindness visible and known to them.

Immaculate CONCEPTION

The Sinless Mother of God

The most important theological truth about Mary is that she is the Mother of Jesus, whom she conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and who was at once both human and divine. This singular relationship is the basis for all the reverence and dignity which Christians have for her. Therefore all other teachings about her are in one way or another related to this central fact. Of course, although no one in the earliest Church disputed that she was Jesus' mother, and because Jesus was called God, it was common in devotions and in the liturgy to refer to Mary as Mother of God. Nevertheless theologians argued about whether she could properly be called Mother of God (Greek: *Theotokos*, "birth-giver to God") or should just be called Mother of Christ (*Christotokos*). Finally the bishops gathered at the ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431AD agreed that she was indeed Mother of God since divinity and humanity are joined together in her son Jesus.

And it took the Church many more centuries to define the doctrine of Mary's own Immaculate Conception, that is, the recognition that by God's grace from the first moment of her conception she was free from all sin because she had been chosen by God to be the Mother of Jesus Christ. We must not confuse Mary's Immaculate Conception in the womb of her mother with the Virgin Birth of Jesus—his miraculous conception in Mary's womb at the time of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) through the power of the Holy Spirit without any human father.

The Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's unique holiness as a result of God's gift of God's own divine life (sanctifying grace) to prepare her for bringing forth the Son of God into the world. Thus we rightly hail Mary in faith and prayer because she is "full of grace" and because "the Lord is with her." Like her, we are also called upon to accept the sanctifying power of God's life within us and in our own way bring forth Jesus into our world today.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH'S TEACHING

The dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception is just one of only two solemn definitions—the other being Mary's Assumption into heaven—that are considered “ex cathedra” or “from the chair of Peter,” that is, declared by a pope speaking in the name of the whole Church rather than by an ecumenical Council of all the Church's bishops.

It affirms that through God's grace she was never separated from God by sin. Over the centuries Mary's freedom from original sin—the teaching that every human is born in a distorted relationship with God (this is what sin is and does) and so must be freed from this condition through God's grace (this is what salvation is and does)—was disputed by theologians who could not agree.

Theologians in the Western Latin Church, following St. Augustine of Hippo, agreed that Mary could be free from all personal or actual sin, but found it more difficult to exempt her theologically from original sin if, as St. Paul says, all persons (which would include Mary who was not miraculously conceived as Jesus was) have sinned through their relation to Adam (Romans 5:12) and thus need God's saving power through Christ to free them from the power of Sin.

Theologians in the Eastern Greek Church emphasized that as a necessary presupposition to her role as Mother of God, God must have granted Mary some special immunity from all sin. But how this exemption happened and when it occurred in Mary's life were subject to debate.

In the 19th century, the theological debate was officially resolved when in 1854 Pope Pius IX solemnly defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith. But even before this definition, the US Bishops in 1846 had chosen Mary, conceived without sin, as the patroness of the Catholic Church of the United States.

A Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.
Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

—Pope Francis

UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH'S TEACHING

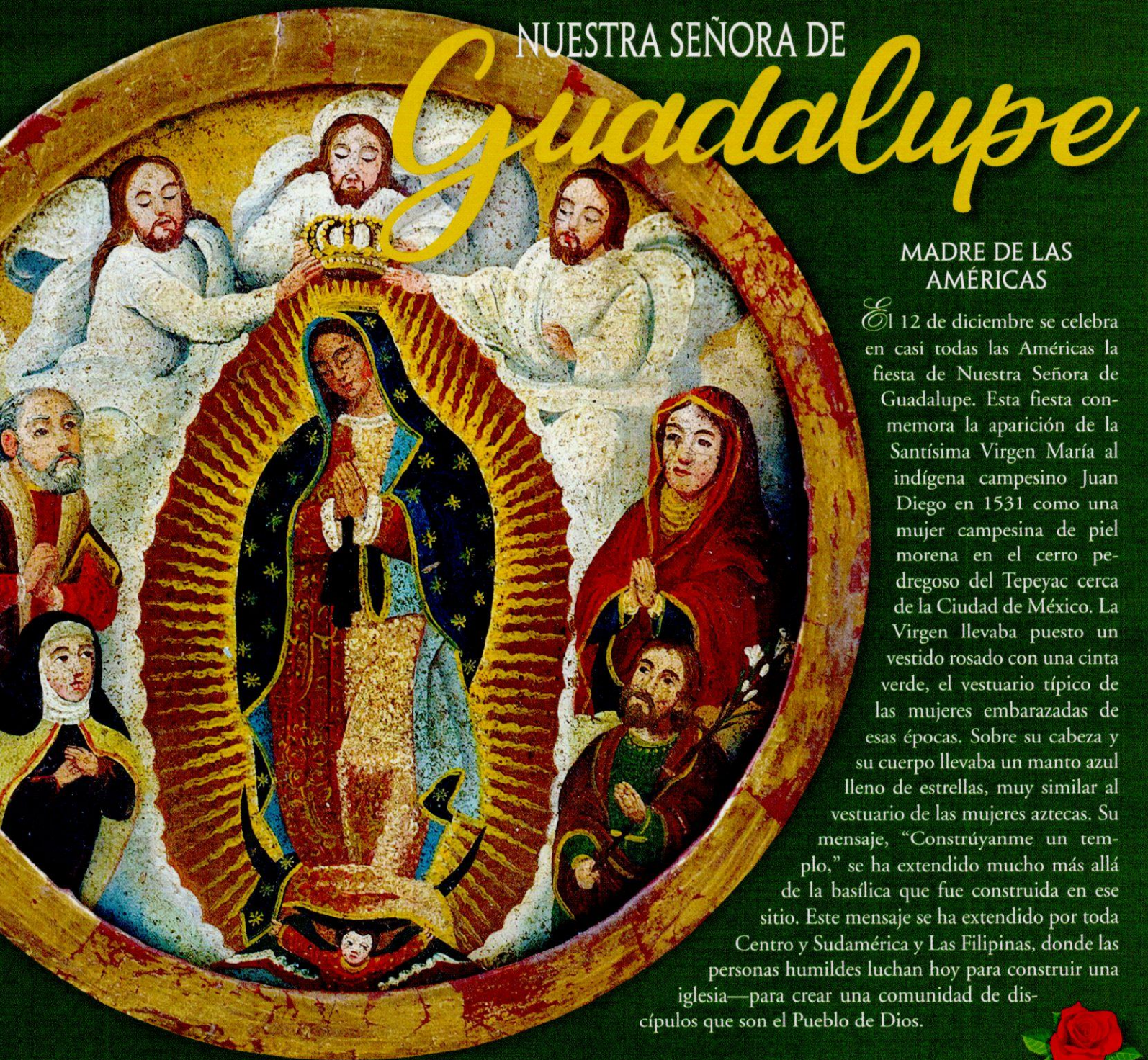
In the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* of December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in this way:

“We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

This doctrine assumes that Mary was formed in the womb of her parents in the normal way through sexual intercourse, thus the “first instance of her conception” does not refer to the procreative activity of her parents. Rather it refers to Mary being exempted from original sin at the first moment of her existence. Sanctifying grace was given to her by God before original sin could have taken effect in her soul.

Mary's unique holiness was granted by God in view of the salvation that Jesus Christ would bring to all humanity. God the Father granted Mary this “singular grace and privilege” revealing that the salvation that would come for all humanity through Christ had now occurred in her.

Original sin was not removed from Mary's soul in the usual way that it is cleansed from persons by baptism. It was simply excluded; it never existed in her soul. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, thus wounding our human nature, weakening our natural powers and breaking down our relationships with God and others. Since from the first instant of her existence Mary was gifted with sanctifying grace, she was preserved from these corrupting effects (the “stain”) of original sin.



NUESTRA SEÑORA DE

Guadalupe

MADRE DE LAS AMÉRICAS

El 12 de diciembre se celebra en casi todas las Américas la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Esta fiesta conmemora la aparición de la Santísima Virgen María al indígena campesino Juan Diego en 1531 como una mujer campesina de piel morena en el cerro pedregoso del Tepeyac cerca de la Ciudad de México. La Virgen llevaba puesto un vestido rosado con una cinta verde, el vestuario típico de las mujeres embarazadas de esas épocas. Sobre su cabeza y su cuerpo llevaba un manto azul lleno de estrellas, muy similar al vestuario de las mujeres aztecas. Su mensaje, “Constrúyanme un templo,” se ha extendido mucho más allá de la basílica que fue construida en ese sitio. Este mensaje se ha extendido por toda Centro y Sudamérica y Las Filipinas, donde las personas humildes luchan hoy para construir una iglesia—para crear una comunidad de discípulos que son el Pueblo de Dios.



MADRE MARÍA. NUESTRO CONSUELO, FUERZA Y ESPERANZA

“En estos momentos cuando tantas familias son separadas o se ven forzadas a emigrar, cuando hay tantos que sufren a causa de la pobreza, la corrupción, el abuso doméstico, el tráfico de drogas, la crisis de valores y el aumento del crimen, venimos a María en busca de consuelo, fuerza y esperanza. Ella es la Madre del Dios verdadero, quien nos invita a permanecer con fe y caridad bajo su manto, para así vencer todo el mal y establecer una sociedad más justa y fraternal.”

—Papa Benedicto XVI

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es la única aparición de María en las Américas que ha sido oficialmente reconocida por la Iglesia. En 1945 el Papa Pío XII la designó “Patrona de todas las Américas” y en 1961 el Papa Juan XXIII la invocó como “Madre de las Américas.” Esta fiesta también nos recuerda que nuestras diferencias étnicas contribuyen a la bendecida plenitud y diversidad del Pueblo de Dios. Los católicos hispanos, incluyendo a los filipinos, son especialmente devotos a ella y alegremente celebran su día con música de mariachi, liturgias, bailes, comidas, y el recuento de su historia, así como también con una abundancia de rosas en diciembre. Su santuario en la Ciudad de México es el segundo más popular (después del Vaticano) en el mundo católico.



OUR LADY OF

Guadalupe

MOTHER OF
THE AMERICAS

December 12 in most of the Americas is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It commemorates the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance to the Indian peasant Juan Diego in 1531 as a dark-skinned peasant woman on the rocky hill of Tepeyac near Mexico City. She was dressed in a pink gown with a green sash, the typical dress of pregnant women of the time. Over her head and body she had a blue star-studded mantle, similar to the clothing of Aztec women. Her message, "Build me a church," extends far beyond the basilica built on the site. This message has spread throughout Central and South America and to the Philippines as the peasant people struggle today to build a church—to become a community of disciples who are the people of God.



**MOTHER MARY,
OUR CONSOLATION, STRENGTH AND HOPE**

"At this time when so many families are separated or forced to emigrate, when so many are suffering due to poverty, corruption, domestic violence, drug trafficking, the crisis of values and increased crime, we come to Mary in search of consolation, strength and hope. She is the Mother of the true God, who invites us to stay with faith and charity beneath her mantle, so as to overcome in this way all evil and to establish a more just and fraternal society."

—Pope Benedict XVI

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the only appearance of Mary in the Americas that is officially recognized by the Church. In 1945 Pope Pius XII designated her "Patroness of all the Americas" and in 1961 Pope John XXIII invoked her as "Mother of the Americas." This feast also reminds us that our ethnic differences contribute to the wholeness and blessed diversity of the People of God. Hispanic Catholics, including those in the Philippines, are especially devoted to her and joyously celebrate her day with mariachi music, liturgies, dancing, meals, the re-telling of the story and an abundance of roses in December. Her shrine in Mexico City is the second most popular one (after the Vatican) in the Catholic world.

**LINDLEY
ROBERTSON
HOLT**
Funeral Home
815 South LaSalle
936-825-6448



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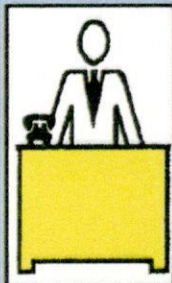
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