

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

Garry Janota, 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, and Sam Pry

FINANCE COUNCIL

Teresa Morales, 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

Deacon Grant Holt, 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

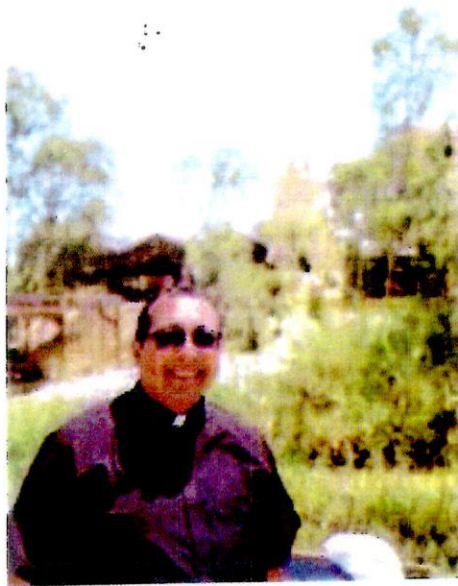
RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los Martes, jueves y el

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

y por cita 936-825-3920

Second Sunday of Easter : April 11, 2021



**Have you ever
thought about what
it would be like to
walk in the footsteps
of Christ and to
experience the
Gospels come to life?**

**Fr. Eli is planning a
pilgrimage to the
Holy Land this fall
(October 11-21,
2021).**

**For further
information, please
contact Fr. Eli at
936-873-2291 or
936-825-3920
lopez.eli68@gmail.com**

**Early registration is
encouraged!**

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

April 10 & 11, 2021

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

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, APRIL 12

No Mass

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

6:00 PM Louis Sandidge †

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

8:30 AM Smith Family, Living and Deceased

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

8:30 AM Eddie Knowles †

6:00 PM* Oziel Ramirez †

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

8:30 AM Ann Wetuski †

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

8:30 PM Dizon & Laskowski Families, Living

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM* Tomas Herrera †

*Spanish

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, APRIL 12

6:00 PM Altar Society Meeting, SPH

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting, SPH

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

6:00 PM CCE Grades 1-5, SPCC Group A

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

12:00 PM English, Legion Mary, Cry room CH

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM

7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

10:15 AM CCE Grades 6-9th, SPCC Group A

10:15 AM CCE Grades 10-12th, Group A & B



brations.

The parish thanks the Altar Society for the Easter Triduum Flowers and Decorations and all involved in the preparation for all the Easter Triduum Celebrations.

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.

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, 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, 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, Leona Pasket, Cecelia Pearson, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Irene Ramirez, Lucila Rivera, Zek Rueda, 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—Good Friday April 02

(24) Envelopes, Loose & On Line 1,532.60

April 03 and 04, 2021

(109) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks, On Line	
Giving, Easter, Mail Ins, Drop Ins	6,666.47
Children Offering	566.00
Maintenance Fund	360.00

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

**April 10 & 11, Maintenance Fund
April 24 & 25, Home Mission Collection**

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. 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 APRIL**

Universal Intention — Fundamental rights.
We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorship, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



**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**

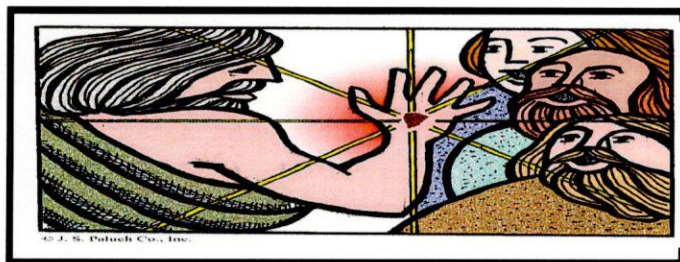
The Parish Code to access the website is
MVMZKF

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 Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) April 11, 2021

Who indeed is the victor over the world but
the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of
God?
—1 John 5:5

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.

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

Divine Mercy Sunday — “The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” Acts 4:32
All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money — these are all gifts from God! We aren’t really owners of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

Boletín de Mayordomía—Reflexiones

Domingo de la Divina Misericordia— “La comunidad de creyentes era una en corazón y mente, todo lo que tenían lo compartían entre ellos, y nadie se sentía dueño de nada...” Hechos 4:32 ¡Todo lo que somos y todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios! Piense sobre su familia, sus amigos, su vida, sus talentos y su dinero — ¡son todos regalos de Dios! Realmente no somos dueños de nada, somos simples “administradores” de los dones con los que Dios nos ha bendecido. Somos llamados a ser agradecidos y generosos con todos nuestros dones para beneficiar a los demás.

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ALTAR SOCIETY

The Altar Society Meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on April 12th in the Parish Hall.

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CHRIST IS HERE

Christ departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find him. For he departed, and behold, he is here.

—St. Augustine

TRANSFORMACION

Sólo el amor que se hace don puede transformar nuestro planeta. —Papa san Juan XXIII

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**Pray for
Vocations**



PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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 the 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
MISSALETTES**

Missalette’s starting April 11 to July 31, 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.

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2021

DSF Goal \$25,000.00
Gifts Received \$8,445.00
39 Doners

Internal Communications — Internal Communications is responsible for: Archdiocesan advertising (in the Texas Catholic Herald and in external publications); Archdiocesan internal communications tools and branding; the annual Archdiocesan Directory; monitoring the official use of Archdiocesan images by internal and external parties; the Chancery Copy Center; and the Chancery Mail Room.

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IGNITE

Ignite Parish Goal \$208,632.00
Gifts Amount Received \$63,124.00
38 Doners

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FEAST OF FAITH

The Psalms in the Liturgy

The book of Psalms is a prayer book, hymnal, and anthology of verse all rolled into one. It contains one hundred fifty ancient songs—poem-prayers that express the joys and sorrows of the Hebrew people and their longing for God. The psalms are incredibly varied in tone. Some are solemn anthems of praise that once accompanied processions of great multitudes to the temple; others record the lonely cries of a faithful soul who feels abandoned by God.

This ancient prayer book of the Hebrew people is our principal prayer book as well. The psalms are everywhere in the liturgy—in the antiphons and acclamations of the Mass, and most particularly in the responsorial psalm that follows the first reading. The psalm that is sung at Mass usually echoes the themes of the first reading, and sometimes even comments on it. On this Third Sunday of Lent, we listen to the Exodus account of the stubbornness of God's people in the desert, and then the psalm comes to remind us: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Psalm 95:8). In their wonderful variety, the psalms teach us how to pray.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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FIESTA DE LA FE

Las lecturas

La primera lectura, excepto durante la Pascua, siempre se toma del Antiguo Testamento. Durante los cincuenta días de la Pascua, la primera lectura se toma del libro de Los Hechos de los Apóstoles. Esto tiene como fin el poner de "relieve la unidad de ambos Testamentos y de la historia de la salvación" (IGMR 57). Así pues, no está permitido, bajo ninguna circunstancia, cambiar los textos bíblicos, incluyendo el Salmo Responsorial, por textos no bíblicos. La vinculación entre la primera lectura y el Evangelio es vital, pues ambas tienen el mismo tema de fondo. La segunda lectura, por su parte, sigue su propio ritmo, más no por eso está desvinculada o debe desvincularse de la primera lectura y del Evangelio. Puesto que se trata de la Palabra de Dios, la proclamación de ambas lecturas, así como el canto del Salmo Responsorial, debe hacerse desde el ambón. La proclamación corresponde a ministros laicos, pues este ministerio no es de quien preside, sino de quienes celebran junto con él, el pueblo de Dios. No obstante, el Evangelio sí es de oficio presidencial y ha de proclamarse por el diácono o el presbítero.

—Miguel Arias, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

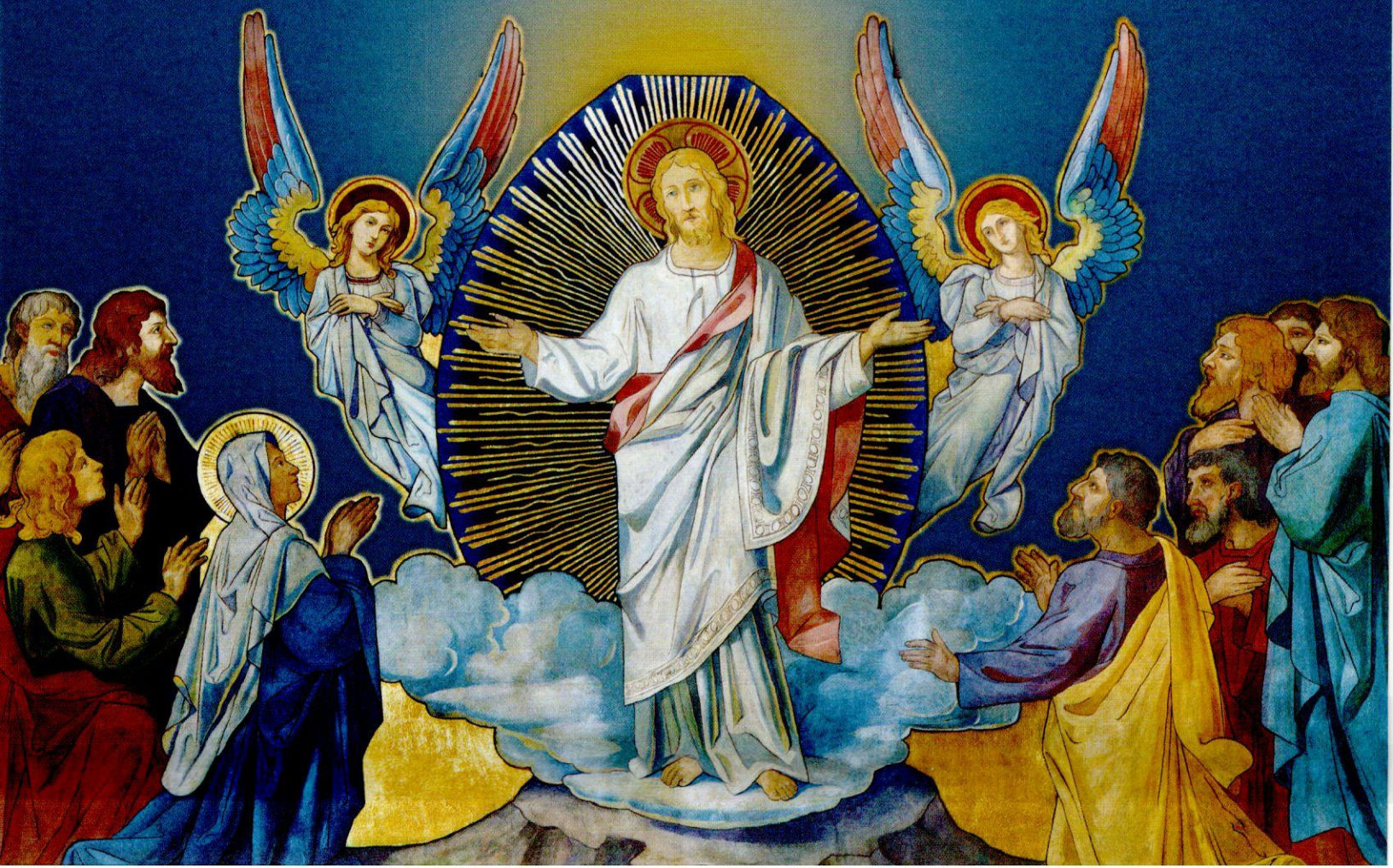
GOD'S MERCY IS FOR EVERYONE, ALWAYS

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis reminds us that "Jesus said to St. Faustina, 'be merciful to everyone always' (December 24, 1937). *To everyone*: let us not think only of our interests, our vested interests. Now, while we are looking forward to a slow and arduous recovery from the pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that then we may be struck by an even worse virus, that of *selfish indifference*—a virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better *for me*, and that everything will be fine if it is fine *for me*. It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress.

"The present pandemic reminds us that there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us: the time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice

that is undermining the health of the entire human family! Let us learn from the early Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles. It received mercy and lived with mercy: 'All who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need' (Acts 2:44-45). This is not some ideology: it is Christianity.

"In mercy, we find proof of how God loves us. God gives his entire self, always, freely, asking nothing in return. The salvation God offers us is the work of God's mercy and is for everyone. No human efforts, however good they may be, can enable us to merit so great a gift. God draws us to himself and makes us one with him. We too can love others as God has loved us, giving our lives for one another. Whoever experiences divine mercy, is impelled to be an architect of mercy among the least and the poor. Let us receive mercy and let us give mercy."



St. Faustina's Mission

Polish born Helena Kowalska (1905–1938), was the third of ten children. When almost twenty, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, became Sr. Maria Faustina and devoted her life to the message of God's mercy. She traced her spiritual experiences with Christ in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*. She was canonized in 2000.

St. Faustina's life-long dedication to God's mercy was the direct result of her mystic encounter with Jesus, who gave her this mission. "Today I am sending you with my mercy to the people of the whole world. Speak to the world about my mercy. Let all mankind recognize my unfathomable mercy. Let them have recourse to the fount of my mercy. Let them profit from the blood and water which gushed forth for them. Before I come as a just judge, I first open wide the doors of my mercy. One who refuses to pass through the doors of my mercy must pass through the doors of my justice. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy."

St. Faustina's Prayer

I want to be completely
transformed into your mercy
and to be your living reflection, O Lord.
Help me, that my eyes may be merciful,
so I may never suspect
or judge from appearances,
but look for what is beautiful
in my neighbors' souls
and come to their rescue.
Help me, that my ears may be merciful,
so I may heed my neighbors' needs
and not be indifferent to their pains.
Help me, that my tongue may be merciful,
so I should never
speak negatively of my neighbor,
but have a word
of comfort and forgiveness.
Help me, that my hands may be merciful
and filled with good deeds,
so I may do only good to my neighbors
by doing the difficult tasks.
Help me, that my heart may be merciful
so I may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor.
Jesus, I trust in you!

OUR MISSION TODAY: WITNESSING TO GOD'S MERCY

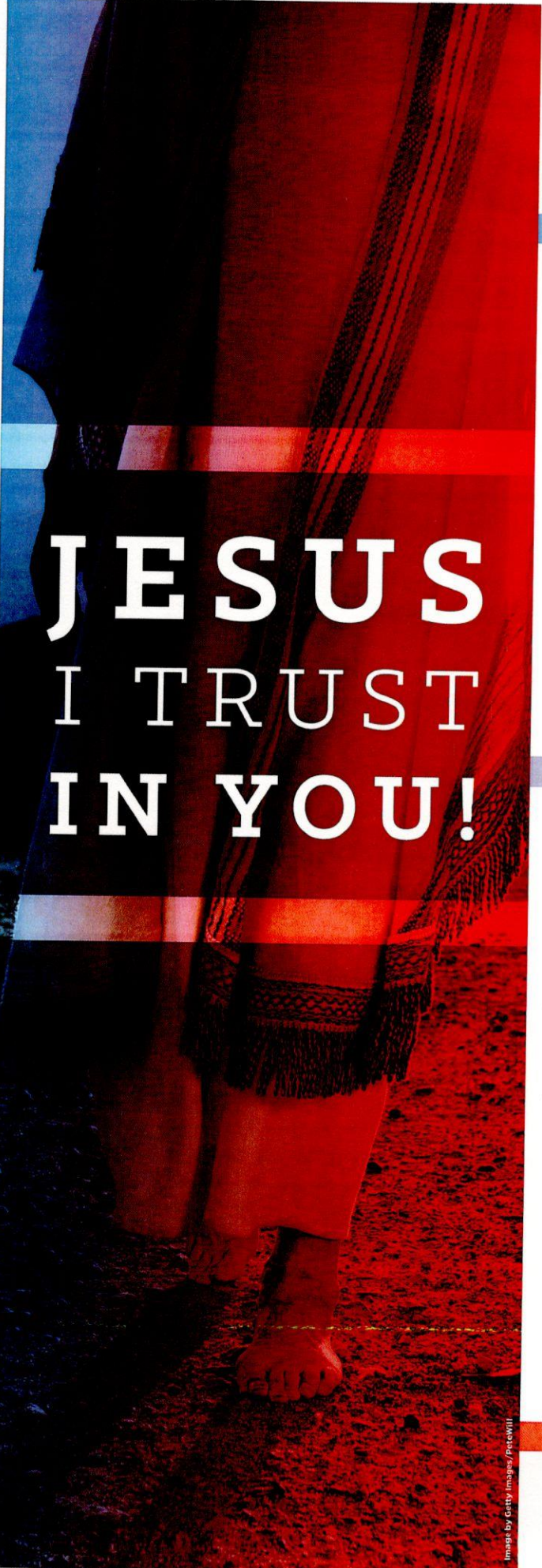
In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis reminded us that the Church, which means each of us its members, is called to witness to the power of God's mercy to transform us and our world.

"The Church is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative and has loved us first (1 John 4:19). Therefore we can move forward, boldly taking the initiative, going out to others, seeking those who have fallen away, standing at the crossroads and welcoming the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of God's infinite mercy. Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved by word and deed in people's daily lives, to bridge distances, to embrace human life and to touch the suffering flesh of Christ in others."

"Today there is need for people to be witnesses to God's mercy and tenderness. So many situations require our comforting witness. I am thinking of those burdened by suffering, injustice and tyranny; of those enslaved to money, to power, to success, to worldliness. We are all called to comfort our brothers and sisters, to testify that God alone can eliminate the causes of existential and spiritual tragedies. Any environment, even the furthest and most impractical, can become a place where our witness can bear fruit. There are no situations or places precluded from our Christian presence and witness. The witness that Jesus asks of us is not closed, but is open. It is in our hands."

What can each of us do today to be more merciful as Jesus was?

- *Whom have I 'infected' with my faith and trust in God?*
- *How many people have I encouraged with my hope for a better life for all?*
- *How much love have I shared with those in my life?*
- *How might I take the first step to heal some broken relationship?*
- *How might I act to change in some small way the injustice I see around me?*



April 11, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35 | 1 Jn 5:1-6 | Jn 20:19-31

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

Do you ever have times – at the dinner table or at a gathering of friends – where all seems right with the world? I often hold my breath, conscious of the fragility of those moments, fearful that saying something might jinx things. It's a little like rooting for a pitcher cruising into the bottom of the ninth with a no-hitter – that feeling that we are on the verge of perfection. Well, as Christians, we are on that verge, although perfection will not come in this life but the next. And so, as fleeting as these human moments feel, and can actually be, we are reminded in today's psalm: "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting ... Let those who fear the Lord say, 'His mercy endures forever.'" As we celebrate this Divine Mercy Sunday, and enter the second week of Easter, let us give thanks for the gift of God's great mercy, and pray for the grace to be as loving and merciful to others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I'm taken by the story of doubting Thomas. For a long time I've focused on the "doubting" part of his name, the fact that he demanded to place his fingers in the nail marks and his hand in Jesus' side. However, when Jesus addresses Thomas, Thomas' response is immediate and unqualified: "My Lord and my God!" Thomas has recognized the divine nature of Jesus; he sees him not just as the man he has followed, but as God. As Catholics, we may sometimes face questions about how the Church has come to believe and teach certain things. Thomas' ultimate affirmation encourages us to be steadfast in our faith, and to be patient with any of our own and others' questions. That is because Christ will come to meet us where we are. As the Incarnation of God's divine mercy, Jesus Christ is the one who hears our doubts and insecurities, and he answers them: "Here I am. Look at me. Touch me. Feel my presence." Thomas was not afraid, and we need not fear either. God's mercy is upon us, "and the victory that conquers the world is our faith." Let us witness to our faith as Thomas did to his.

PRAY Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, a day when we are reminded of God's immense love and mercy for us. Learn more about this day and how to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet: usccb.org/prolife/divine-mercy-sunday.

JESUS
I TRUST
IN YOU!

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

April 2021

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church

Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

For His love

Each day, offering our very best to God raises all of our efforts to the level of a prayer. He rewards our dedication with peace, joy, and awareness of His presence in all that we do.

Choose companions well

Delilah had to know the secret of Samson's strength but God had forbidden him to reveal it. *"And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death"* (Judges 16:16). He gave in and it was his undoing. Don't let anyone – friend or family – pressure you into violating God's commandments.



Hold hope

"When a man has died, were he to live again, all the days of my drudgery I would wait, until my relief should come" Job 14:14. Despite all his misery, Job clung to the one truth that also gives us hope – salvation. God offers the hope of being with Him forever.



Open the gifts of Easter throughout the year

Easter is the highest Sunday throughout the year, but each Sunday is a chance to celebrate a "little Easter." We can live the gifts of the Resurrection each Sunday of the year:

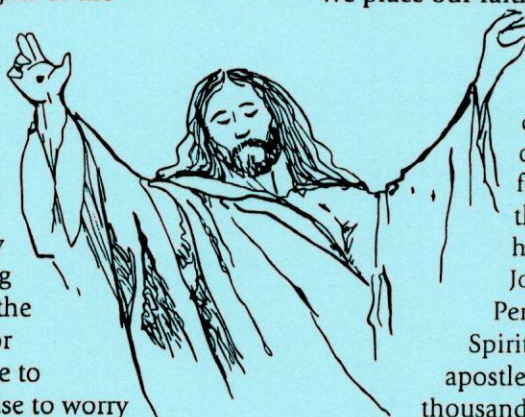
Death doesn't have the last word. Easter means that we can face each day with joy, knowing that Jesus paved the way to Heaven for those who choose to follow Him. Refuse to worry about earthly matters and share your joy with friends, family, colleagues.

Jesus offers peace the world can't give. Jesus ascended to Heaven and left everything behind. We follow his example when we detach from worldly concerns and care more about God's

will than our own. If we seek God before everything else, we can join Him in His Heavenly kingdom.

We place our faith in the Holy Spirit. "Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him" (Pope St. John Paul II). At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostles to bring thousands to Baptism. Call upon the Holy Spirit to help you bring Jesus to others through words, actions, and compassion.

Forgiveness is ours for the asking. Jesus bore the punishment for our sins. That means no matter what we have done, Jesus is ready to forgive. All we have to do is ask.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

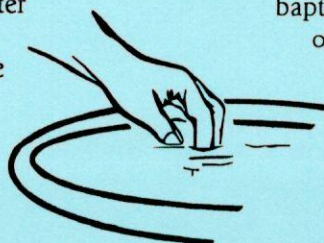
The practice of blessing oneself with holy water harkens back to the washing rituals of the Old Testament Jews, who had to bathe before entering the temple.

Today, when we bless ourselves with

Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?

holy water, it brings to mind our own baptism. It was at our baptism that our souls were washed clean of original sin and we were officially made members of the Church. We also received the gift of faith.

In blessing ourselves, we renew our baptismal promise.



Cast looks toward Heaven throughout the day

St. Therese of Lisieux confided that, "For me prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look towards Heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." Adding short, heartfelt prayers to our daily activities can help us glance toward Heaven throughout the day:

The Jesus Prayer – "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Try repeating it 100 times a day.

"Teach me, O Lord, to do your will, for you are my



God." Say this when beginning a chore, task, or project.

"May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace." A prayer for the souls in Purgatory.

"Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like yours." Pray this for humility and love.

"Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ." She is always willing to help.

"Thy will be done." It's what Jesus said.

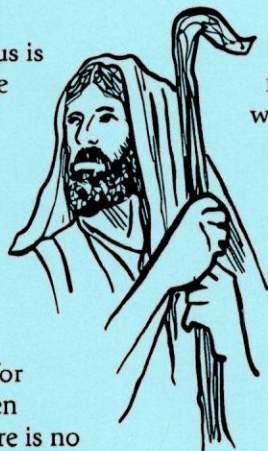
from Scripture

John 10:11-18, Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

This Gospel tells of our relationship with God. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are His flock.

Today society tells us that it is good be independent and answer to no one. We are encouraged to please ourselves and follow our own desires. However, there is no one to turn to for guidance and comfort when circumstances go bad. There is no shepherd.

In Jesus' day, a shepherd lived with the sheep, cared for them, and even put himself at risk to keep them safe. He



tended them in a flock for safety, to protect them from predators. The shepherd was trusted and familiar, so that the sheep knew His voice and followed him but no other.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd for all of humanity. In this Gospel Jesus defined the role of a shepherd. He predicted how he would fill that role by giving His life for His sheep. But he looked beyond the sheepfold of Israel. His hope is to have one flock and one shepherd for the whole world. That flock is the Church which he founded.

Q & A Why should I participate in Mass if it's not required?

In many dioceses around the country, the obligation to attend Mass in person remains lifted while the pandemic lasts. Still, finding ways to celebrate the Eucharist – in person, if it can be done safely, or online – has spiritual benefits during difficult times.



"Do this in memory of me" is the only direct order Jesus gave to

His followers. That means God is the one who initiates this encounter with us. And when God asks us to do something, it is smart to do it.

Sanctify the day. Participating in Mass on Sunday still helps to fulfill the Third Commandment obligation to keep holy the Sabbath day and sanctify the day.

You're a baptized person needed by your community. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). We help worship God just by being there.

You get "take out." The homily gives the Gospel relevance to our lives. Then we have something to act on in the coming week.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 4 – Easter Sunday. The solemnity that marks Jesus' Resurrection. It is the most important feast in the Church year.

April 11 - St. Stanislaus (1079). As Bishop of Krakow in 1072, St. Stanislaus attempted to reform the violent and depraved king of Poland, Boleslas II. When his efforts failed, he excommunicated the king. In retaliation, Boleslas murdered the saint as he said Mass.

April 11 – Divine Mercy Sunday. In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina

and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy." Jesus promised that anyone who honors him as the King of Mercy and prays The Chaplet of Divine Mercy – the prayer he gave to St. Faustina – will receive special graces and great mercy.

April 21 – St. Anselm (1109). A native of Italy, St. Anselm initially enjoyed a luxurious life at court. After his mother died, he became a monk in France and reluctantly became bishop of Canterbury, England. He was exiled for rebuffing the king's interference in Church matters.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Creciendo en la Fe

Descubriendo esperanza y gozo en la fe católica.

Abril de 2021

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church
Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

Meditaciones breves

Por su amor

Cuando cada día ofrecemos lo mejor de nosotros mismos a Dios, nuestros esfuerzos son elevados al nivel de oración. Él premia nuestra dedicación con paz, alegría y con la consciencia de su presencia en todo lo que hacemos.

Elijan bien su compañía

Dalila insistía en conocer el secreto de la fuerza de Sansón, pero Dios le había prohibido a Sansón que lo revelara. *"Como siguiera molestándolo y acosándolo todos los días con la misma pregunta, creyó que se iba a morir"* (Jueces 16:16). Él cedió y ello fue su ruina. No dejen que nadie —amigos o familiares— los presione a violar los mandamientos de Dios.

Tengan esperanza

"Un hombre, una vez muerto, ¿podrá revivir?. Entonces yo esperaré, todos los días de mi servicio, hasta que llegue mi relevo" (Job 14:14). A pesar de su desgracia, Job se agarró a la verdad que nos da esperanza: la salvación. Dios nos ofrece la esperanza de estar con él para siempre.



Abran los dones de la Pascua a lo largo del año

La Pascua es el domingo más solemne de todo el año, pero cada domingo es una ocasión de celebrar una "pequeña Pascua". Podemos vivir los dones de la Resurrección cada domingo del año:

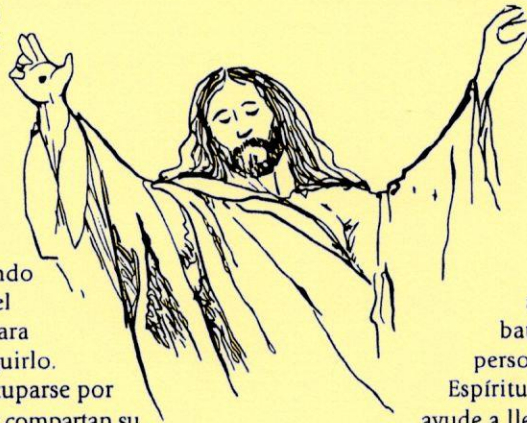
La muerte no tiene la última palabra. El significado de la Pascua es que podemos hacer frente a cada día con alegría, sabiendo que Jesús allanó el camino al Cielo para quienes eligen seguirlo. Niéguese a preocuparse por asuntos terrenales y compartan su alegría con amigos, familia y colegas.

Jesús ofrece la paz que el mundo no puede dar. Jesús ascendió al Cielo y dejó atrás todo. Nosotros seguimos su ejemplo cuando nos alejamos de las preocupaciones terrenales y nos ocupamos más de la voluntad de Dios que de la nuestra. Si buscamos ante todo

a Dios, podemos unirnos a él en su reino celestial.

Ponemos nuestra fe en el Espíritu Santo. "Los que han estado en contacto genuino con Cristo no pueden guardárselo sólo para ellos, deben proclamarlo" (Papa San Juan Pablo II). En Pentecostés, el Espíritu Santo inspiró a los apóstoles a que bautizaran a miles de personas. Invoquen al Espíritu Santo para que les ayude a llevar a Jesús a los demás mediante palabras, obras y compasión.

El perdón se nos da sólo con pedirlo. Jesús soportó el castigo por nuestros pecados. Esto significa que hagamos lo que hagamos, Jesús está dispuesto a perdonar. Lo único que debemos hacer es pedirselo.

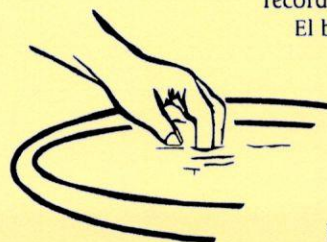


¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

La costumbre de santiguarse con agua bendita se remonta a los lavados rituales de los judíos del Antiguo Testamento, los cuales debían lavarse antes de entrar en el templo. Hoy, cuando nos

¿Por qué se santiguan los católicos con agua bendita?

santiguamos con agua bendita, recordamos nuestro propio bautismo. El bautismo lavó nuestras almas del pecado original y nos convertimos oficialmente en miembros de la Iglesia. También recibimos el don de la fe. Al santiguarnos renovamos nuestra promesa bautismal.



Contemplan el Cielo a lo largo del día

Santa Teresa de Lisieux explicaba: "Para mí la oración es un oleaje del corazón, una simple mirada al Cielo, es un grito de reconocimiento y de amor, que acepta tanto las dificultades como la alegría". Añadir plegarias breves y sinceras a nuestras actividades cotidianas nos ayuda a levantar la vista al cielo a lo largo del día:

La oración de Jesús – "Señor Jesucristo, Hijo de Dios, ten misericordia de mí, pecador". Procure repetirla 100 veces al día.

"Enséñame, Señor, a hacer tu voluntad pues tú eres mi Dios". Diga esto al empezar una tarea, un



trabajo o un proyecto.

"Que las almas de los fieles difuntos, por la misericordia de Dios, descansen en paz". Una oración por las almas del Purgatorio.

"Jesús, manso y humilde de corazón, haz mi corazón semejante al tuyo". Rece esto para pedir humildad y amor.

"Reza por nosotros, Santa Madre de Dios, para que seamos merecedores de las promesas de Cristo". Ella está siempre dispuesta a ayudar.

"Que se cumpla tu voluntad". Es lo que dijo Jesús.

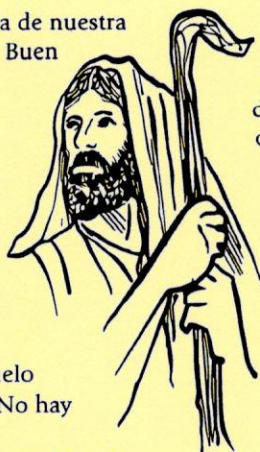
de las Escrituras

Juan 10:11-18, Dios es el Buen Pastor

Este pasaje evangélico habla de nuestra relación con Dios. Jesús es el Buen Pastor y nosotros somos su rebaño.

Hoy la sociedad nos dice que es bueno ser independiente y no rendir cuentas a nadie. Se nos anima a que nos demos placeres y sigamos nuestros deseos. Sin embargo, no hay nadie a quien acudir en busca de orientación y consuelo cuando las cosas se tuercen. No hay pastor.

En tiempos de Jesús un pastor vivía con las ovejas, las cuidaba y hasta se arriesgaba para protegerlas. Las atendía en un rebaño



por seguridad, por protegerlas de los predadores. El pastor era alguien conocido y de confianza, de modo que las ovejas conocían su voz y lo seguían a él y no a otra persona.

Jesús es el Buen Pastor para toda la humanidad. En este pasaje evangélico Jesús definió el papel del pastor. Predijo cómo él desempeñaría ese papel al dar la vida por sus ovejas. Pero miró más allá del redil de Israel. Su esperanza es tener un rebaño y un solo pastor para todo el mundo. Ese rebaño es la Iglesia que él fundó.

P & R ¿Por qué debo participar en la misa si no es obligatorio?

En muchas diócesis del país la obligación de asistir a misa en persona sigue en suspenso mientras dure la pandemia. Aun así, encontrar el modo de celebrar la Eucaristía—en persona, si se

puede hacer sin riesgo, o en la red—proporciona beneficios espirituales en tiempos difíciles.



"Hagan esto en memoria mía" es el único mandato directo que Dios dio a sus seguidores. Esto

significa que Dios es quien inicia este encuentro con nosotros. Y cuando Dios nos pide que hagamos algo, lo sensato es hacerlo.

Santificar el día. Participar en la misa dominical nos ayuda a satisfacer la obligación del Tercer Mandamiento de respetar la santidad del domingo y de santificar el día.

Usted es una persona bautizada necesitada por su comunidad. "Pues donde están dos o tres reunidos en mi nombre, allí estoy yo, en medio de ellos" (Mateo 18:20). Ayudamos a adorar a Dios simplemente con nuestra presencia.

Nos lo llevamos a casa. La homilía da relevancia a nuestras vidas mediante el evangelio. Así tenemos algo en lo que concentrarnos durante la semana.

Fiestas y celebraciones



4 de abril – Domingo de Pascua. La solemnidad que celebra la resurrección de Jesús. Es la festividad más importante del año litúrgico.

11 de abril – San Estanislao (1079). Obispo de Cracovia en 1072, san Estanislao trató de reformar al violento y depravado rey de Polonia, Boleslao. Al fallar sus esfuerzos, excomulgó al rey. Boleslao se vengó asesinando al santo cuando celebraba misa.

11 de abril – Domingo de la Divina Misericordia. En 1931, Jesús se le apareció a santa Faustina y le pidió que el domingo después de Pascua se convirtiera en la

"Fiesta de la Misericordia". Jesús prometió que todo el que lo honre como Rey de la Misericordia y rece la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia—la oración que dio a santa Faustina—recibirá gracias especiales y gran misericordia.

21 de abril – San Anselmo (1109). Nacido en Italia, de jovencito san Anselmo vivió una vida despreocupada en la corte. Tras la muerte de su madre se hizo monje en Francia y a desgana se convirtió en arzobispo de Canterbury. Fue desterrado por oponerse a la intromisión del rey en los asuntos de la Iglesia.



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