

# 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](http://www.christourlight.org)**

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor Rev. Giovanni Nguyen

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Garry Janota, Permanent Deacon

Russell Pasket, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

## **ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER**

Nelda Kurten

## **COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Carolyn Katkoski

## **COORDINATOR OF LITURGY**

Angelia

## **SACRISTAN**

Samuel Pry

## **PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Michael Culver (Chairperson), Teresa Morales, Jason Katkoski, Laura Quirino,

Sam Pry and Diane LeFlore

## **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Teresa Morales, Carolynn Katkoski, Jose Coronilla

## **DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN**

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Bill Heathcott, 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

**December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day**





## **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.

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**Pray for Vocations**

**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>

## **LA SOCIEDAD DE SAN VICENTE DE PAÛL CRISTO EL BUEN PASTOR NAVASOTA/ANDERSON**

Somos una organización religiosa, sin ánimo de lucro, que presta servicios sociales a personas necesitadas. Nuestro número de teléfono es  
**936-873-5002**

Gracias por su continua generosidad, oraciones y apoyo a nuestros vecinos que necesitan ayuda.

## **The Nativity of the LORD (Christmas) December 25, 2022**

### **WINTER WILD**

It was winter wild while the Heav'n-born child . All  
meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies.

— John Milton, *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*

### **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

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**December 25, 2022**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**WHAT ALL THE WAITING HAS BEEN FOR**

Today's readings are as familiar to most of us as the carols we sing and the commercials that overwhelm this holiday season. Often Christmas finds us tired, struggling with preparations and expectations. What we really want to feel is joy and peace. The stress of preparation, of waiting, is reflected in both Isaiah and Paul's letter to Titus. Luke tells us of the exhaustion that Mary and Joseph felt: a young pregnant wife and her husband, forced to travel just as she is about to give birth, unable even to find a room to stay in. It must have been miserable. They must have been afraid. In the midst of this exhaustion, misery, and fear, a child is born, a Son is given. The world is then filled with light and hope, joy and peace. In that moment they, and we, know what all the waiting has been for.

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## **THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD NAVASOTA/ANDERSON**

We are a non-profit, faith-based organization providing social services to people in need. We can be reached at 936-873-5002.

Thank you for your continued generosity, prayer, and support of our neighbors in need.



## **IGNITE**

**Ignite Parish Goal \$208,632.00**  
**Gifts Amount Received \$80,577.00**  
**39 Donors**

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### **2022 DIOCESAN SERVICE FUND**

**DSF Goal 26,200.00**  
**Gifts Received**  
**Gifts Received \$22,212.00**  
**57 Doner — 8.1 Partition**  
**Less of Goal to be paid \$3,988.00**

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**II Collections in January, 2023 — January 07 & 08, Maintenance Fund, January 21st and 22nd, Bishops' Fund for Latin American**

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**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Christ The Good Shepherd Navasota and Anderson is in need of assistance to help those in need. Here at Christ Our Light you may place your monetary donations in a sealed envelope marked for St. Vincent de Paul. Other items needed macaroni and cheese, snacks and crackers and any other foods requiring little preparation. Hygiene products also are needed: deodorant/anti-perspirants, shampoos, toothpaste and soap. Paper products: paper towels and toilet paper. Cleaning items: detergent and Clorox type wipes.**

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### **OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

#### **Christmas Time**

**The feasts that make up Christmas Time all illuminate in their own way the fundamental mystery of the Incarnation that stands at the heart of this sacred season. Each celebration sheds its own distinct light on our conviction that, in the birth of Jesus, earth and heaven have been wedded together for the sake of our salvation. The feasts of the Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord all have their own particular histories. But they have been joined together in a single seasonal flow that invites us to trace the unfolding meanings of the Incarnation from myriad perspectives. As we follow the successive meanings of Jesus' birth, his participation in family life, the meaning of Mary's motherhood, the significance of the Magi's visit, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we are invited to explore in deeper and deeper fashion the staggering truth that Jesus has shared completely in our human experience, has truly become one with us, fully human while remaining fully divine.**

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#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

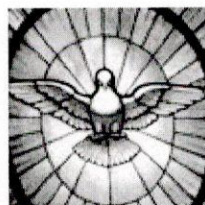
**First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).**

**Psalm — The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).**

**Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).**

**Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).**

# Sunday Connection



God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

## The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass During the Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

### Gospel Reading

**John 1:1-18 (or shorter form, John 1:1-5, 9-14)**

John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse.

-over-



This expression (logos in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witnesses to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

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## **Altar Server Training**

**Saturday, January 7**

**10:00 a.m. in the Church**

To sign up please call, text, or e-mail:

Angela Chandler

979-836-2444

[srangel2010@aol.com](mailto:srangel2010@aol.com)

Christ Our Light is looking for new volunteers who want to become Altar Servers. Children and teens who have received First Communion and attend Mass regularly are encouraged to serve. We will train you!



# Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

December 2022

**C**hristmas Eve services had been packed. The first one brimmed with families, worshipping amidst angels and shepherds and music and noise and children waving to their parents as they sang special songs. The later service was candlelit and meditative.

People came forward for communion remembering the incarnation of God's gift in Jesus Christ.

## A surprise

As I prepared to go home about 1 a.m., the head usher asked me to hold out my hand. There he placed a Christmas offering envelope, bulky in shape. Looking inside, I found a small toy car which one

*I smiled. What a precious gift it was! This child had chosen one of his toys, a portion of what God had provided him.*

young worshipper. had offered to God during our family service.

I smiled. What a precious gift it was! This child had chosen one of his toys, a portion of what God had provided him, to give to the church for service in the world. The child understood giving in proportion to what has been received.

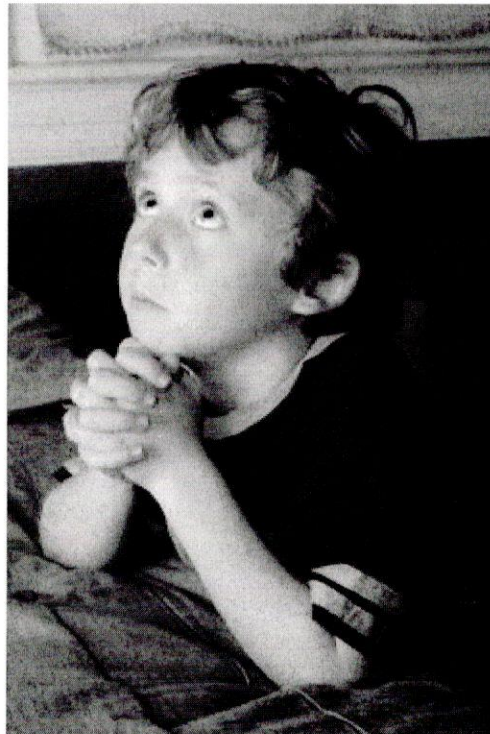
## We have much to give

We have abundance in our lives. We have gifts of homes, talents, families, friends, ability and resources, and we have the joy of sharing a portion to strengthen the ministry of Christ. As we

have means, we are able to share with others.

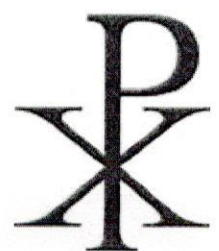
Just as the child offered a valued toy, we, too, have much to give. ✠

*"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." Luke 12:48*

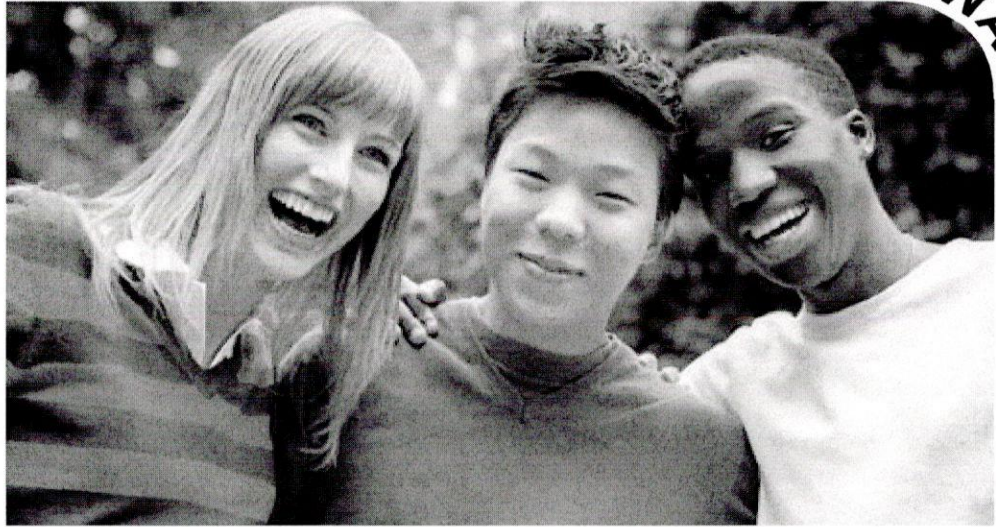


*We need saving. God's way of saving us is through a babe, a tiny helpless boy. To receive God's gift of the Holy Child is to become children of God ourselves.*

*And as we receive, so we are moved to give. To give ourselves to each other. To give to those in need. To give ourselves in worship.*







### Young People Speak Out

*"I've always given part of my money to the church, but I haven't always been too careful with the part I've kept. Now I realize that just giving isn't enough. I'm also trying to spend what I keep in a way that would please Christ."*

*"Boy, I have to work for my money, and I have to manage it, too. No sponging off my folks, not even for church. At first it was hard to make sure I had enough left for God. But I've fixed that ... I take God's part out first."*

*"I'll be getting married soon, and John and I have ideas about a home and family. We're going to have to watch our money pretty closely, but we don't want to leave God out, so we're going to have a planned economy that includes the church."*

*"Money? Well, I don't have very much. I still go to school. I do go baby-sitting to get a little extra money, but that's all. Church? Yes, of course! I can't give a whole lot, but I know God doesn't expect more than I can do."*

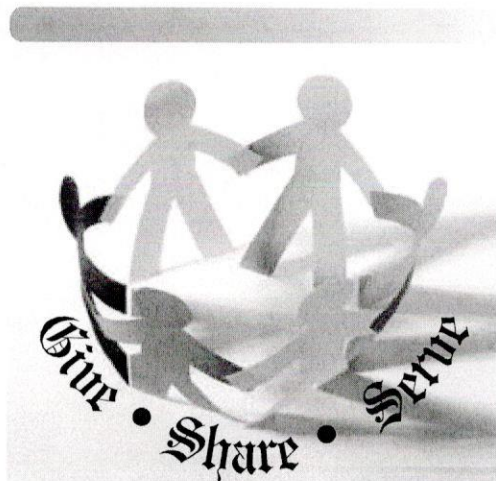
Each of us has special gifts that we have received from God. We are grateful for God's goodness to us. We are so grateful that we want to use these gifts as God would have us use them, in service to him and our fellow humans. We don't have much money. But what we do have comes from God, whether it is from an allowance or a job. We are careful how we use our money, too. We first dedicate a part of it to God. "On the first day of the week, let everyone of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." Our giving is regular ... every time we receive money or property ... and proportionate ... as God has prospered us.

We set aside this percentage for God first, just as we put God first in the rest of our lives. And we don't begin when we're 90, or after we've made our first million. We start now.

We must always remember that in the sight of God, the gift, is not as important as the giver. The spirit in which we give is what counts. We give out of hearts full of love and gratitude; we give generously; we give prayerfully. Thus our gifts and our lives are acceptable unto the Lord. ☩

*The stewardship of all life will lead some to enter full-time Christian service. To all, it will mean an on-the-job witnessing, no matter what our abilities, our bank accounts, or our jobs. Christian stewardship means the glad contribution of time and abilities to the work of the local church and church-related causes around the world.*





**A**t the present time, I'm sure everyone is caught up in what is called the "Christmas rush."

We have decorations to put up, cards to be mailed, a tree to be trimmed, gifts to be purchased and wrapped for all of our loved ones ... you get the picture.

However, gifts for people are not the kind of gifts I had in mind. The Bible states that everyone has been given a gift. We read in 1 Corinthians 7:7 that "each one has been given his own gift from God, one has this gift and another that."

Do you know what gift God has given you? Are you using that gift so that God will be pleased? Most people associate a gift with giving. We should think of using our gifts to serve.

I'm sure you've heard the expression, "I'm giving all I can afford now. I just can't do anything more."

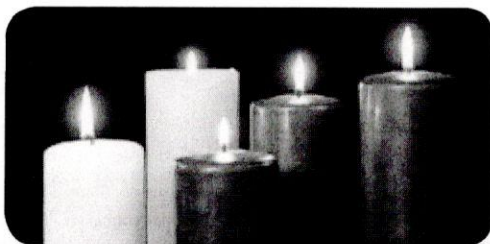
If you are giving all that you can be assured that God is aware of it. However, God might ask, "What are you doing with the gift I gave you?"

Here is how you can give more without it costing a cent! Give some thought to putting your talents to work for God. The Bible says that all have that talent. Show God what you can do with it! I'm sure God will be pleased. ✕

**J**esus, in the Old Testament tradition, cared for the poor and those suffering. He urged his disciples to have compassion for the lame, the hungry and the blind. He also encouraged them to visit the sick and to be worthy and generous stewards.

Today churches should not be suffering from material poverty, yet we know that many are doing just that. They struggle to pay expenses and have little left to assist the poor that come to their door for alms. The cynic will say in his heart, our Lord said, "The poor you will have with you always." Then, can the church pay its way in today's world and still be expected to be charitable to those in need? The answer is yes, the Lord expects his stewards to pay the utility bills, keep the church in good repair, and to build up the church in numerous ways. But we must not forget those in our midst who are in need both physically and spiritually. It happened in Jerusalem after the Day of Pentecost when, "No one in the group needed anything." (Acts 4:34).

Some may reason, "I want to be a generous steward, but I have a family and bills to pay," and certainly this may be true. However, there are other contributions a good steward can make. Do you have a skill in plumbing, painting or minor carpentry. Church is always in need of skilled people who can donate a little time. This saves money that can be used to serve the truly needy. Whatever the resources you have in your hand is not the harvest, it's the seed. Sow it! ✕



*By giving to the church, we become a part of the purpose for which it was created: to spread the Good News about salvation.*

*When we give of our time and talent, we are actively involved in the church's mission. When we give of our wealth, we support that mission with our own power of life.*



**M**ike Gavin hated Christmas, not its true meaning, but the commercial aspects, including the overspending on gifts for people who really didn't need anything.

One year, Mike's son, Kevin, age 12, was wrestling on the junior high team. Shortly before Christmas, they competed against an inner-city church team. These youngsters, dressed in old sneakers and gym shorts, presented a sharp contrast to Kevin's team in their spiffy uniforms and regulation wrestling shoes. Also, the other team wrestled without headgear, which alarmed Mike's wife, Nancy.

Kevin's team easily won the match in every weight class. Mike, who loved kids, said, "I wish just one of them could have won ... losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

#### **An envelope on the tree**

That afternoon, Nancy bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, she placed an envelope on the tree, with a note inside telling Mike what she had done and that this was his gift from her. She reports that Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year.

So in succeeding years, she continued this tradition, selecting various people to help in Mike's name. The envelope became the highlight of the Gavin family Christmas. Even their children looked forward to learning who was receiving Mike's gift each year.

After 10 years, Mike died of cancer. Nancy was in grief, but when Christmas came, she still placed an envelope on the tree. In the morning, she was thrilled to see three more envelopes as

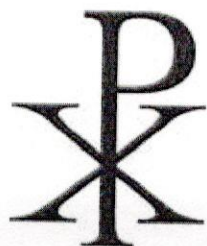


well, one from each of their children, who had each made a gift to someone in need on their father's behalf.

#### **Giving and receiving**

We need to be good stewards of Christmas in our own homes, in our own families, and in our own churches. Let the theme of this Christmas be giving and receiving. Receiving first, the amazing grace of God in the gift of Jesus Christ. Then to give. A gift for someone in need. A thank-offering of money for the Lord's work at your church. What do we have that we did not receive?

In all the hustle and bustle of the season, we need to take time to meditate on the significance of the holy day. We need to make sure that we are exchanging love, in addition to our gifts. ✠







An important milestone in your daughter's life. Create cherished memories and experience this beautiful tradition in the Crown Jewel of Navasota, the P.A. Smith Hotel and Event Center. Full catering services and a beautiful setting for the Quinces and her Court to celebrate and dance. Call Becky Davila at 832-368-3238 to schedule a tour.

Un hito importante en la vida de su hija. Crea recuerdos inolvidables y experimenta esta hermosa tradición en la Joya de la Corona de Navasota, el Hotel y Centro de Eventos del P.A. Smith. Servicios completos de catering y un hermoso entorno para La Quince y su Corte para celebrar y bailar. Llama a Becky Davila al 832-368-3238 para citar una visita.

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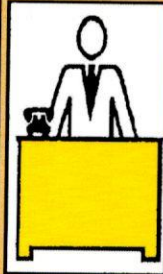
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**Contact (Comuníquese con) Becky Davila at 832-368-3238**  
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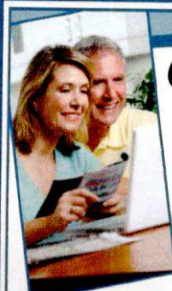
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