



EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 9, 2023

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

9677 HIGHWAY 6 – NAVASOTA, TX 77868

TELEPHONE: 936-825-3920 [HTTPS://CHRISTOURLIGHT.ORG](https://christourlight.org)

PARISH LIFE

Reconciliation Confession

Tues, Thurs
2nd & 4th Saturdays
5:00 – 5:45 pm
Confession by appointment:
Parish Office
Tel: 936-825-3920

Reconciliación Confesiones

Los martes, jueves y el segundo
y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45 pm
y por cita 936-825-3920

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Giovanni Nguyen

Permanent Deacon

Garry Janota
Russell Pasket
Grant Holt
Gregory Jelinek, MD (Retired)

Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass:
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday: (English) 8:00 am
Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00 pm
Weekday Mass:
First Saturday 9:00 am
Wed, Thurs, Fri 8:30 am
Tuesday 6:00 pm (English)
Thursday 6:00 pm (Spanish)

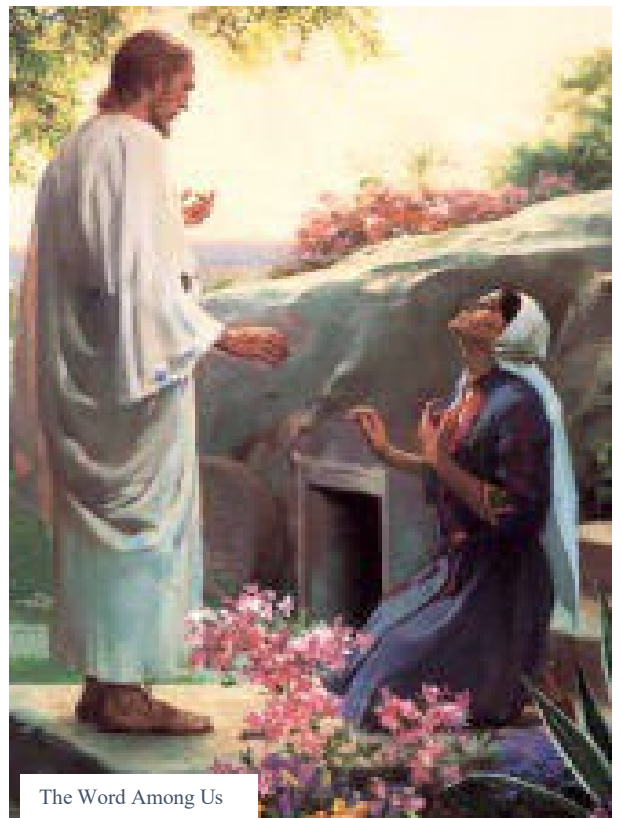
Rosary Prayed in Common:
Tues & Thurs: 5:40 pm
Wed & Fri: 8:10 am
Saturday: 5:15 pm
Sunday: 7:15 am & 12:15 pm

OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS

510 Manley Street – Navasota, TX 77868
Phone: 936-825-3920-Fax 936-825-7612
Email: shepherd@christourlight.org
Religious Education : 936-825-1869
After hours emergency: 936-825-3920

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.

John 20:1-3



The Word Among Us



SUNDAY, APRIL 09

8:00 AM Torres, Rangel and Baldobino Families
 1:00 PM People of the Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 10

No Mass

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

6:00 PM Maria Garcia †

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

8:30 AM Cecil Wilde †

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

8:30 AM Jimmy Lee Benedetto †
 6:00 PM* Cindy Regalado, Birthday

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

8:30 AM Rev. Basil Robert Travers

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 – Vigil

6:00 PM Jimmy Milkkelunka †

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 AM People of the Parish
 1:00 PM* Juana Hernandez †
 and Candido Diosdado

*Spanish

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, APRIL 10

5:00 PM Spanish Legion of Mary

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

5:30 PM Altar Society Meeting, SPH
 7:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting, SPH
 7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

6:00 PM CCE Grades 1-5th, SPCC/SPH

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

12:00 PM English Legion of Mary, CH Cry room
 7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

6:00 AM TMIY Men's Group, SPH

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

11:30 AM Spanish Baptism, CH

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

2:30 PM Religious Ed. St. Patrick Spring Festival,
 Church Grounds
 2:45 PM Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer & Holy Hour



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: 936-825-3920.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

English Baptism preparation is completed via an on-line video class. Spanish Baptism Classes will be held in person. Please call for Rosa or Felisa for class dates and times. All Documents, forms and classes must be completed prior to the next upcoming scheduled Baptism date, turned in, and approved by the Pastor.

The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration; therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated at Christ Our Light.

English Baptisms will be held quarterly. January 28, April 22, July 22, 2023, and October 28, 2023, at 11:30 AM. Spanish Baptisms will be held quarterly. January 14, April 15, July 15, 2023, and October 14, 2023, at 11:30 AM.

For more information regarding English Baptism, contact Susan Pilger at 979-219-1360.

For more information regarding Spanish Baptisms, contact Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974 or Felisa Paz at 979-255-4361.

WEDDING PREPARATION

Next Wedding Info Session: April 16, 2023. Contact parish office or email Jennifer Nguyen, jnguyen9@twu.edu for registration information. The standard preparation time for weddings is 6-9 months in advance of the desired date. All engaged couples must attend an information session.

EASTER JOY

The following people will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil:



LOURDES ARREDONDO
 TAMMY TRAN
 DAVID CLAWSON
 DIANA CLAWSON
 HELIBERTO DE LA ROSA
 KATHERINE GOMEZ
 LARI OUBRE
 MOISES GOMEZ

WHAT A JOY TO HAVE THEM IN OUR COMMUNITY!



PRAY for THE CONTINUING
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF

the infirmed and homebound members of
our community:

Sarafina Alo
Andrew Castillo
Braxton Castillo
Jo Ann Clepper
Frank Crouch
Elizabeth Culmer
Eva Estrada
Liz Estrada
Lois Finke
Fabryna Hitchcock
Liz Johnson
Rachel Kammel
Mary Ann Knowles
Liz Kubricht
Glenda Lawrence
John Lawrence
Christian Mills
Leslie Mills
France Munoz
Anita Olguin
Julian Olguin
Matthew Oliver
Cecelia Pearson
Angelina Peterson
Wallace Peterson
Irene Ramirez
Lucila Rivera
Zek Rueda
Rosalinda Salazar
Josh Sechelski
Sherrie Shiflett
Lydia Torres
Jessie Torres
Polly Uilkie
Jessie Valadez, III
Crystal Winkler
David Woehler
Trần Thị Tuyết Mai

Call the parish office when a member of our
community has a need to be remembered in
prayer, 936-825-3920.

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.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR APRIL 2023

FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

WE PRAY FOR THE SPREAD OF PEACE AND NON-
VIOLENCE,
BY DECREASING THE USE OF WEAPONS
BY STATES AND CITIZENS.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

MARCH 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent\$5,226.01

Maintenance Fund\$ 230.00

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2023

2023 Parish Goal..... \$26,000.00

2023 Total Paid (*activity thru 03/28/2023*)... \$ 9,185.00

Participants28

APPRECIATION

Thank you for considering a one-time
or monthly gift to the DSF this year. A
little goes a long way when we all work
together.

MEMORIAL CANDLES

The 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.

PARISH LIFE

EASTER FLOWERS PRAYER INTENTION

Peter Nguyen Ngoc Tuynh
 Maria Tran Thi Thanh Tra
 Maria Teresa Pham Thi Tuyet
 Teresa Avila Huynh Thi Hue
 Joseph Nguyen Van Hung
 Peter Nguyen Ngoc Huyen
 Peter Nguyen Xuan Canh
 Maria Pham Thi Nhan
 Anton Nguyen Thai Hy
 Pauline Bidelspach
 Rev. Phaolo Nguyen Hoai Chuong
 Maria Nguyen Thi Dung
 Bishop George Arthur Sheltz
 Venerable Cardinal Francois Xavier
 Nguyen Van Thuan
 The Rev. Joseph Nguyen Van Chu

**“He is not
 here; he has
 risen, just as
 he said.”**

—Matthew 28:5-6

Getty Image

PARISH LIFE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

APRIL

**EASTER
 SUNDAY**

9

GATHER BOOK #1022

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/

Col 3:1-4

Jn 20:1-9 (42)

MONDAY

10

Acts 2:14, 22-33

Mt 28:8-15 (261)

TUESDAY

11

Acts 2:36-41/

Jn 20:11-18 (262)

WEDNESDAY

12

Acts 3:1-10

Lk 24:13-35 (263)

THURSDAY

13

Acts 3:11-26/

Lk 24:35-48

FRIDAY

14

Acts 4:1-12/

Jn 21:1-14 (265)

SATURDAY

15

Acts 4:13-21/

Mk 16:9-15 (266)

EASTER REFLECTION

He had to rise from the dead. (John 20:9)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And that changes everything.

Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus "*had to* rise from the dead" (John 20:9, emphasis added). But why? Wasn't it enough that he became a man? Wasn't it enough that he died for us? Actually, no. As St. Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17).

By rising from the dead, Jesus proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that he has power over sin and death. Everything he said about himself is true. He is more than the victim of an unjust condemnation. He is more than an inspiring teacher or a philosopher or the founder of a new movement. He is more, even, than a healer and wonderworker. He is the Son of God, the One whom death could not hold in its grasp (Romans 1:4).

By rising, Jesus did more than just vindicate himself. He also opened the way into new life for each one of us. He overcame the sin that was keeping us separated from our Father in heaven! Because of that, we who believe in him and are baptized can now "live in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Now we can hope in our own resurrection. We can experience power over sin and freedom from the fear of death that so often binds us up. We can count ourselves "dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus" (6:11). We now know, beyond a shadow of doubt, that love is stronger than death.

It's easy to understand why Jesus' resurrection was always front and center when the apostles proclaimed the good news. You can see it in Peter's sermon from today's first reading. And you'll see it throughout the Book of Acts this Easter season. The apostles' preaching hinged on the resurrection of Jesus. Because the resurrection changes everything!

"Jesus, risen Lord, I rejoice in you!"

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Colossians 3:1-14



The Word Among Us

Busquen los bienes de arriba. (Colosenses 3, 1)

En un principio, no es sencillo descubrir el gozo y la alegría de aquel glorioso día en la lectura del Evangelio. Con María Magdalena, descubrimos un sepulcro vacío. Con Pedro y Juan, corremos a ese sepulcro para encontrar solamente los lienzos y el sudario. Y al igual que ellos nos alejamos con más preguntas que respuestas. ¿Dónde está la alegría? San Pablo nos ofrece una pista en la segunda lectura: "Busquen los bienes de arriba" (Colosenses 3, 1). Ya hemos sido resucitados con Jesús; ahora es el tiempo de buscar un encuentro personal con él. No te limites a esperar que el Señor aparezca, ve y búscalo.

Sé como María Magdalena, que no desahució hasta que encontró a Aquel a quien estaba buscando (Juan 20, 11-16). Ella fue privilegiada por ser la primera persona en ver al Señor resucitado.

Sé como los discípulos en el camino a Emaús, que escucharon atentamente mientras Jesús les hablaba (Lucas 24, 27-29). Su corazón les empezó a arder y lo reconocieron cuando partió el pan con ellos.

Incluso sé como Tomás, que insistió en tener su propio encuentro personal con el Señor. (Juan 20, 25). Él terminó proclamando: "*Mi Señor y mi Dios!*" (20, 28; énfasis añadido).

Busca al Señor hoy. Exclama: "¡Gloria a Dios!" con todo tu corazón. Al renovar tus promesas bautismales, proclama "¡sí creo!" con una convicción firme. Reza: "Una palabra tuya bastará para sanarme", confiando en que Jesús realmente te ha salvado.

Cristo ha resucitado. El Señor ha vencido al pecado y ha conquistado a la muerte. Jesucristo ha hecho todo lo que tú jamás podrías haber hecho para rescatarte. Ahora él te pide que hagas una cosa que él no puede hacer por ti: Buscarlo. Jesús te promete que si lo haces, lo encontrarás. Y al encontrarlo, te unirás a los ángeles y a los santos en un "¡aleluya!" sin fin.

"Señor, ¿te pido que me llenes con la alegría de tu resurrección!"

Hechos 10, 34. 37-43

Salmo 118 (117), 1-2. 16ab-17. 22-23

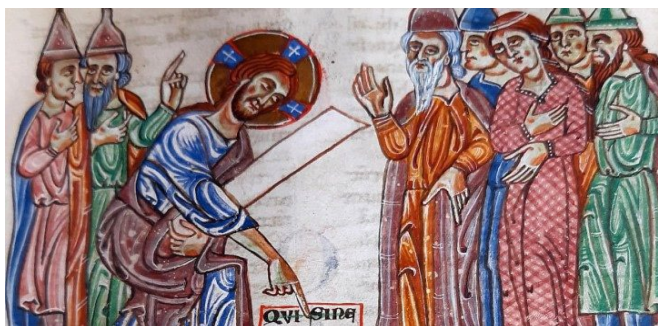
Juan 20, 1-9.

The Word Among Us

IN HIS FAREWELL DISCOURSE, JESUS
ANNOUNCED HIS IMMINENT DEATH: "I AM GOING
AWAY AND I WILL COME BACK TO YOU"

(JOHN 14:28).

Faces of the Gospels': Pope Francis reflects on amazement of encountering Jesus



"Love is continuous contact. It is continuous talking and listening. That is why I insist that we have direct contact with the Gospels... If you do not have contact with the living Christ, the one of the Gospel," Pope Francis says, you will have contact with ideas, doctrines, and ideologies about the Gospel, that may or may not have come from Jesus.

"Redemption was not done by doctrines, but by a Person." Even if you know all the dogmas, but do not have contact with the Gospel, you will only be Catholic in your head and not in your heart. Being a Catholic, being a Christian, insists Pope Francis, requires contact with Jesus.

The vocation of Matthew

This very Gospel was read on 21 September 1953, the day Jorge Mario Bergoglio realized he was going to become a priest.

The Pope's words were illustrated by director Cerisola's filming, which took the spectator "inside" the Caravaggio painting depicting the scene.

"What happened there?" the Pope wondered to himself. That is the strength of Jesus' gaze. Surely, the Pope said, he looked at Matthew with such love, with such mercy; that look of the merciful Jesus: 'Follow me, come.'

Matthew was resistant. Not only did he want money, the Pope reflected, he was a "slave to money," Yet, he got up and followed Jesus, the Pope said.

Importance of 'seeing' in the Gospel

Pope Francis then spoke about the Good Thief.

"It is true," he said. "He was a thief and had been stealing all his life. But in the end, repenting for what he had done, looking at Jesus so good and merciful, he managed to 'steal' heaven: this is a good thief!" The third figure presented during the programme was Judas Iscariot. Then the Pope, in another passage of the wide-ranging interview granted to the programme's authors, Andrea Tornielli and Lucio Brunelli, continued: "One of the things that will help us so much to do in the Gospels is to think of the encounter with Jesus: to look at Him in order to encounter Him. In reading the Gospel look and see, with eyes full of contemplation. And seeing also

means listening. In the spiritual exercises, when we meditate on the life of Jesus, we must see them, listen to them. It is true that faith comes from hearing and listening, but the encounter comes from seeing. Zacchaeus was interested in seeing Jesus. Intrigued by Jesus, he climbed the tree, 'I want to see Him.' Even God, frequently in the Old Testament, presents Himself as the one who saves His people by performing miracles, and from there, says: 'Remember what I have done with you: remember what you have seen!' Seeing goes a long way towards memory, and the way of growth in the Christian life is memory: the memory of those things we have seen, and heard," but especially seeing, stressed the Pope.

....Entire gospels in two parables

The last two short episodes of the programme were dedicated to two famous and moving parables told by Jesus.

"Rereading the parable of the merciful Father always greatly impresses me," said the Pope, "because it always gives me great hope. Think of the youngest son who was in the Father's house. He was loved; yet he wants his share of the inheritance; he goes away, spends everything, arrives at the lowest level, farthest from the Father. When he has reached the bottom, he feels nostalgia for the warmth of his father's home and returns."

"And the Father? Had he forgotten his son?" asked the Pope. "No, never. He is there, he sees him from afar. He was waiting for him every day, every moment: he has always been in his heart as a son. Even if he had left him, even if he had squandered all his wealth, as soon as he sees his son far away, he runs to meet him and embraces him with tenderness, the tenderness of God, without a word of reproach: he has returned! That is the joy of a father."

Pope Francis then recounted the parable of the Good Samaritan, recalling that "some ancient theologians said that in this passage, is the whole Gospel. Each one of us is the man there, wounded, and the Samaritan is Jesus."

The episode dedicated to the Good Samaritan ended with the image of the statue of the Good Shepherd, present in the Vatican Museums.

Fascination with Jesus

The "Faces of the Gospels" programme concluded with the Pope's answer to the question of why the figure of Jesus and the story of the Gospels have always fascinated non-believers, even those who are far away. "Because He is the Lord," the Pope replied. "He is not a character: He is the Lord. And even to non-believers, when they see this, something moves inside. It is the Lord, it is a grace of His life, to show that message that He came to bring us. But it is important to see Jesus, and for this reason to feel attracted by His person. This is a grace. It is a grace to see, to contemplate and also to feel, the attraction towards Him. Without His grace, without the Spirit, we would never be attracted to Him."

Vatican News 4/18/2022

DID JESUS VISIT HIS MOTHER FIRST ON EASTER MORNING? HERE'S WHY JP II SAID "PROBABLY SO"



William Adolphe Bouguereau 1881/Public Domain via Wikipedia

The Polish pope had this to say about Mary as witness to the Paschal mystery.

This belief was reflected upon by Pope John Paul II at the general audience of May 21, 1997.

1. After Jesus had been laid in the tomb, Mary “alone remains to keep alive the flame of faith, preparing to receive the joyful and astonishing announcement of the Resurrection” (*Address at the General Audience*, 3 April 1996; *L’Osservatore Romano* English edition, 10 April 1996, p. 7). The expectation felt on Holy Saturday is one of the loftiest moments of faith for the Mother of the Lord: in the darkness that envelops the world, she entrusts herself fully to the God of life, and thinking back to the words of her Son, she hopes in the fulfilment of the divine promises.

The Gospels mention various appearances of the risen Christ, but not a meeting between Jesus and his Mother. This silence must not lead to the conclusion that after the Resurrection Christ did not appear to Mary; rather it invites us to seek the reasons why the Evangelists made such a choice. On the supposition of an “omission,” this silence could be attributed to the fact that what is necessary for our saving knowledge was entrusted to the word of those “chosen by God as witnesses” (Acts 10:41), that is, the Apostles, who gave their testimony of the Lord Jesus’ Resurrection “with great power” (cf. Acts 4:33). Before appearing to them, the Risen One had appeared to several faithful women because of their ecclesial function: “Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me” (Mt 28:10).

If the authors of the New Testament do not speak of the Mother’s encounter with her risen Son, this can perhaps be attributed to the fact that such a witness would have been considered too biased by those who denied the Lord’s Resurrection, and therefore not worthy of belief.

2. Furthermore, the Gospels report a small number of appearances by the risen Jesus and certainly not a complete summary of all that happened during the 40 days after Easter. St Paul recalls that he appeared “to more than 500 brethren at one time” (1 Cor 15:6). How do we explain the fact that an exceptional event known to so many is not mentioned by the Evangelists? It is an obvious sign that other appearances of the Risen One were not recorded, although they were among the well-known events that occurred. How could the Blessed Virgin, present in the first community of disciples (cf. Acts 1:14), be excluded from those who met her divine Son after he had risen from the dead?

3. Indeed, it is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. Could not Mary’s absence from the group of women who went to the tomb at dawn (cf. Mk 16:1; Mt 28:1) indicate that she had already met Jesus? This inference would also be confirmed by the fact that the first witnesses of the Resurrection, by Jesus’ will, were the women who had remained faithful at the foot of the Cross and therefore were more steadfast in faith. Indeed, the Risen One entrusts to one of them, Mary Magdalene, the message to be passed on to the Apostles (cf. Jn 20:17–18). Perhaps this fact too allows us to think that Jesus showed himself first to his Mother, who had been the most faithful and had kept her faith intact when put to the test.

...Lastly, the unique and special character of the Blessed Virgin’s presence at Calvary and her perfect union with the Son in his suffering on the Cross seem to postulate a very particular sharing on her part in the mystery of the Resurrection.

In the Easter season, the Christian community addresses the Mother of the Lord and invites her to rejoice: “Regina Caeli, laetare. Alleluia!” “Queen of heaven, rejoice. Alleluia!” Thus it recalls Mary’s joy at Jesus’ Resurrection, prolonging in time the “rejoice” that the Angel addressed to her at the Annunciation, so that she might become a cause of “great joy” for all people. (Kathleen N. Hattrup, Larry Peterson. *Aleteia*. 04/18)

FAMILY LIFE: CCE CORNER

Jesus is Risen!

Alleluia!



Today we celebrate the greatest feast day in the year! Jesus has come back to life! Alleluia!

Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday to take away our sins. But He didn't just die- He came back to life again so that we could come back to life one day too.

The Apostles were afraid when Jesus was killed. They were very sad and tried to comfort each other. Imagine their surprise when Mary Magdalene came rushing in and told them that the body of Jesus was gone from the tomb! Peter and John ran to see. When they saw the empty tomb they knew what had happened.

Jesus had come back to life!



Answer to Word-Find Puzzle: Jesus was raised from the dead.
Jesus is Alive!

Answer to puzzle on Front:
www.thekidsbulletin.com



John 20:1-18



What are we celebrating on Easter?
Unscramble the letters
to fill in the blanks!

Alleluia!



PARISH NEWS

STEWARDSHIP AMONG US

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION



A huge thank you from Father Giovanni to those who attended the workshop at St. Stanislaus of Kostka in Anderson last Friday March 31, 2023. An email was sent to you with the application for the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Please return your application before April 11, 2023. If you have not received the application, please email shepherd@christourlight.org. If you miss the training, please check our bulletin for future training date. We hope to see you soon!



STEWARDSHIP AMONG US

Parish new website design: <https://christourlight.org>
Please check out our new website. You can also view our website using the PR Code below:



If you would like to have Sunday's bulletin and announcement sent to your email before Sunday, please email to add your name to the mailing list at Christ Our Light parish email address: shepherd@christourlight.org

SOCIAL MINISTRY DAY

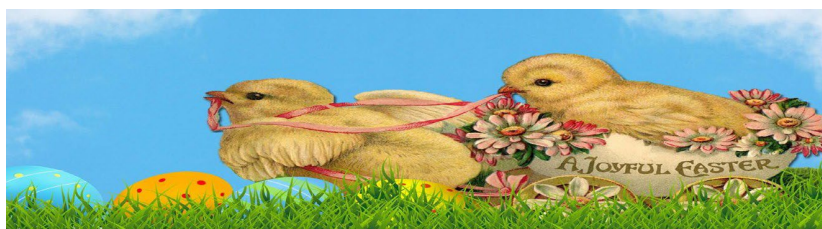
Ministry day is coming up in May. If you have a talent and time, please consider joining us with various position at our parish. Details coming soon.

APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY DECREE

*Indulgences attached to devotions in honour of
Divine Mercy
PLENARY INDULGENCE*

To ensure that the faithful would observe this day with intense devotion, the Supreme Pontiff himself established that this Sunday be enriched by a plenary indulgence, as will be explained below, so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. In this way, they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbour, and after they have obtained God's pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their brothers and sisters.

Decree Misericors et miserator, (5 May 2000)



*Every one of you who perseveres in zeal until death
in My Congregation shall evade the fire of Purgatory.*

The words of the Mother of God to St. Faustina, Diary, 1244.



FQA - Divine Mercy Sunday

Q. Can I receive Holy Communion on Mercy Sunday and offer those graces for someone else, living or deceased?

A. Our Lord's promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Mercy is given to those who accept His invitation to come to the Fountain of Life. These graces are for ourselves.

I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy (Diary 1109).

Whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment (Diary 300). The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary 699).

However, given the extraordinary graces that the person receives from Holy Communion on Mercy Sunday namely, the complete renewal of baptismal grace the time after that Communion is an excellent time for the communicant to intercede for loved ones on earth, and to begin to undertake indulgenced works, as established by the Church, for the sake of the souls in purgatory.

In fact, Pope John Paul II granted a plenary indulgence for special devotions to The Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday, and these indulgences can be obtained for the suffering souls in purgatory.

Q. How can I receive extraordinary graces on Divine Mercy Sunday?

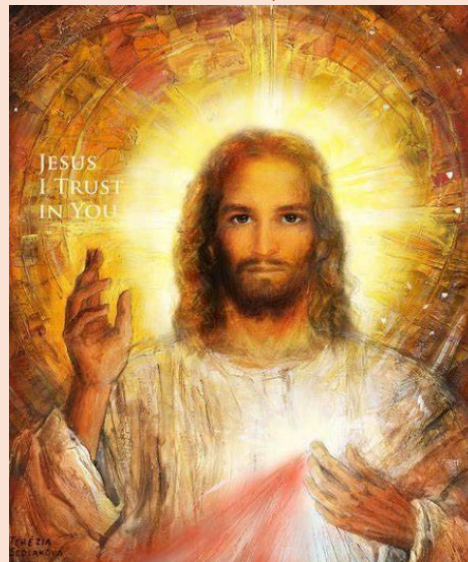
A. In order to receive the extraordinary graces, you should prepare by making a good confession, so that you can receive Holy Communion in a state of grace on Divine Mercy Sunday. In addition, Our Lord asked St. Faustina to be sure to perform acts of mercy, and to come to Him in Holy Communion with great trust in His mercy.

Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy (Diary 742).

The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive (Diary 1578).

*Vatican Grants Plenary Indulgence for
Divine Mercy Sunday*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023



8:00 AM CHRIST OUR LIGHT
NAVASOTA

10:00 AM ST. STANISLAUS
ANDERSON

1:00 PM CHRIST OUR LIGHT
(SPANISH)

DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

JOIN WITH MEMBERS AROUND THE
WORLD TO PRAY THE DEVOTION TO
GOD'S GREAT MERCY.

HOLY HOUR BEGINS

2:45 PM

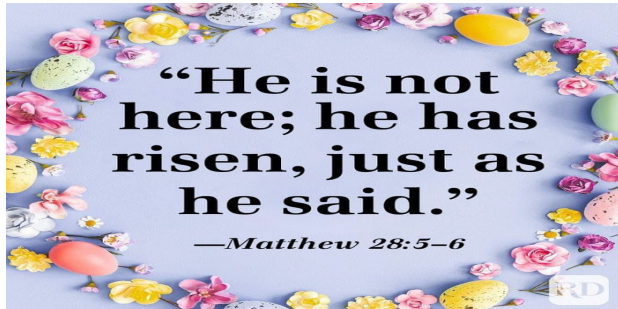
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION PRAYING
AND SINGING THE DIVINE MERCY
CHAPLET THEN BENEDICTION

3:45 PM



FAMILY LIFE: YOUNG CATHOLICS

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Family Connection

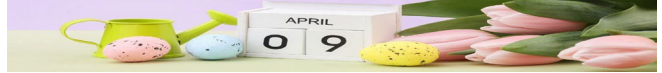
In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

Loyola Press-Sunday Connection-Easter 4/9/23

WHY EASTER CHANGES DATES EVERY YEAR



Easter 2023 will be observed on Sunday, April 9. The most important Christian holiday, Easter is a "movable feast." Why does it change every year? What are the commonest and rarest Easter dates? How is the date determined? Where did the word "Easter" come from? Find answer to these questions on our everything-Easter page.

When Is Easter 2023?

This year, Easter Sunday will be observed on Sunday, April 9. This is based on the Gregorian calendar. However, note that many Eastern Orthodox churches follow the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian. In 2023, Eastern Orthodox Easter will take place on Sunday, April 16 (Julian calendar date converted to the Gregorian calendar).

Is Easter Always in March or April?

Easter is a "movable feast," so it doesn't happen on the same date from year to year. In the Gregorian calendar, it is always observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. However, in the Eastern Orthodox church, the observance of Easter can occur between April 4 and May 8.

What Is the Most Common Easter Date?

Over a 500-year period (from 1600 to 2099 AD), it just so happens that Easter will have most often been celebrated on either March 31 or April 16.

What is the Most Unusual Easter Date?

According to long-term averages, the [most unusual Easter date is March 22](#). The second place goes to April 24 and third place goes to March 23.

How Is The Date of Easter Determined?

Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the [Paschal Full Moon](#). What is the Paschal Full Moon? This is specifically the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or after the [March or spring equinox](#).

While Christmas is fixed to a solar calendar (and near the winter solstice), Easter is based on the lunar cycles of the Jewish calendar. In the Christian religion, the Last Supper (which was the final meal Jesus shared with his apostles before his crucifixion) was a Passover feast. It's because Easter is based on a lunar month (which is 29.5 days) that the date of Easter can really vary.

Note that the spring equinox date used by the Christian Church is always March 21 just to simplify matters. In fact, the astronomical date of the equinox can shift by a day or so. In 2023, the astronomical date of the equinox is Monday, March 20. So, you'll often see this called the "ecclesiastical" equinox (i.e., the date used by the Church).

Almanac. Catherine Boeckman. March 21, 2023

THE COLLEGE PREP SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Scholarships and awards for outstanding high school juniors from low-income backgrounds

DEADLINE: MARCH 22, 2023



Learn if you're eligible and apply for free at questbridge.org

Awards may include:

- > Full scholarships to summer programs at Yale, UChicago, Emory, and more
- > Quest for Excellence Awards, including \$1,000 for a new laptop
- > An invitation to a QuestBridge National College Admissions Conference
- > Personalized college essay feedback
- > Expert guidance on applying for full four-year scholarships to 50 top colleges through the National College Match



Story Lines

WONDERWORKS and the DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON present a reading-intensive exploration of fiction plus films based on fiction and creative writing.

20 June - 21 July 2023 | 10AM - 4PM, M-F | University of Houston

Story Lines is open to high school students of special promise and ability who will be entering grades 10, 11, or 12 next fall or who will have just graduated from high school this spring. Admission is competitive – Wonderworks requires at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average plus a high level of achievement in relevant core subjects and commensurate scores on relevant sections of the PSAT/SAT or ACT. Tuition and fees (not including parking) are \$750. [Scholarships](#) are available in the form of full-tuition waivers, but only for students demonstrating true financial need. Admissions are determined on a need-blind basis. No student will be prevented from participating in the program because of inability to pay tuition. The program is held at the [University of Houston Central Campus](#), Monday – Friday, except 4 July. Story Lines is meant to be enjoyable, but is also challenging and requires focused effort and commitment.

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NATIONAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CONFERENCES

QuestBridge National College Admissions Conferences are invite-only events held exclusively for College Prep Scholars.

Our life-changing conferences are hosted by QuestBridge Staff and college partner admissions officers, who collectively offer in-depth admissions and financial aid experience that you won't find anywhere else. The conferences are free and all College Prep Scholars are invited to attend. The 2023 National College Admissions Conferences will be held on-campus at select college partners and virtually through an interactive platform.

Locations and Dates

- Virtual Conference, Online - Saturday, May 13 & Sunday, June 4
- Pomona College, Claremont, CA - Saturday, May 20
- Emory University, Atlanta, GA - Sunday, June 11
- Northwestern University, Evanston, IL - Sunday, June 25

What to Expect

At a National College

Admissions Conference, College Prep Scholars will have the opportunity to:

- Discuss strategies for preparing strong college applications.
- Discover the full benefit of top colleges' generous financial aid policies.
- Engage with QuestBridge college partner admissions officers in small group settings.
- Attend a college fair to get to know all of QuestBridge's college partners.
- Get to know students from around the country with similar backgrounds and aspirations.
- Learn about opportunities that QuestBridge offers through the National College Match and the QuestBridge Scholars Network.

Please [apply online](#) starting 1 January. To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by [19 May](#). Early applications are encouraged and will receive early decisions. Late applications will be considered only if space remains available. If you have questions or need additional information, please e-mail info@wonderworkshouston.org or call 713.594.9561.

<https://www.wonderworkshouston.org/story-lines-2023>



FOR THE ENGAGED

Easter and the paschal mystery in marriage



We currently find ourselves in the season of Easter, the time between Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday and Pentecost, which celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire on Christ's followers. As we look back to the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus we experienced throughout the triduum, we witnessed the self-sacrificing love of our Lord. This is known as the paschal mystery, which embraces and celebrates the redemptive work of Christ.

For Catholics and all Christians, marriage has this sacrificial aspect of the paschal mystery at its core. On their wedding day, however, couples don't often think about the concept as they state their vows. That day is filled with joy, people who support and encourage the couple, and the expectations of a loving future together. Even though the couple promises to love one another in good times and in bad, the bad times seem inconceivable, and the promise to abide by the vows in such times is often easily made. However, when the day arrives to live out the commitment to remain resolute and faithful to that promise, the real work of the sacrament of matrimony unfolds.

A spouse might be diagnosed with depression or another mental illness, which will significantly affect the couple's happiness and well-being. Or one of them might have a stroke or a heart attack, requiring the other spouse to take on a new role in the marriage, often that of caretaker, even though he or she might feel ill-equipped to do so. Or one might be diagnosed with chronic or terminal cancer, catapulting the other spouse into the role of deciphering medical jargon, as well as managing the turmoil experienced by their children.

In each of these cases, as well as many others, the supportive spouse must summon the resources to remain steadfast and committed to the work that will be required to remain strong and stabilize the family. This spouse might not feel prepared to handle the pressures of such changes in the marriage, and yet, as Scripture reminds us, God's grace is a gift to us in times of difficulty and struggle, as it states, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).

Action challenge. Make a renewed commitment to your spouse and your marriage during this season of Easter, as well as to the paschal mystery. Take time to read the Mass readings for each upcoming Sunday liturgy and ask God to fill your heart with the grace of faithfulness to the renewal of your marriage.

Living the 'yes'

With these and many other individual struggles that must be managed by couples, marriage in our current era requires a new kind of commitment. The "yes" we made on our wedding day is a "yes" to the self-sacrificing love found within the paschal mystery, which espouses that life will come from the "yes" we convey to the difficulties we experience with our partner throughout our lived commitment to that "yes." When Jesus accepted the cross and all that it meant for himself, as well as for humanity, he did so through such self-sacrificing love.

As couples face the challenges in marriage and remain committed in the good times and the bad, they are a living example of the paschal mystery. Esther Perel, a noted New York marriage and family therapist, stated that in modern marriage, we have four or five marriages to the same person, for marriage must grow and evolve in order to withstand the pressures of our current culture.

In such a marriage, the partners continue to live out the "yes" they made to each other on their wedding day, and they hold true to that promise as they face difficulties that arise each day, due to the willingness to accept the sacrifice required by that "yes." [The Catholic Spirit](#) April 10, 2018. Kate Soucheray

AROUND OUR ARCHDIOCESE

175 Years of Faith

On May 4, 1847, the Apostolic See in Rome established the Diocese of Galveston; May 4, 2022, marks 175 years since the founding of our Diocese. We will be celebrating this milestone all year! Visit our website for information: www.archgh.org/175. Coverage can also be found in the *Texas Catholic Herald*.

Join us in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Join the Archdiocese at our 175th Gala on April 20, as we come together to celebrate our legacy in Texas and the great work yet to come!

St. Peter Catholic Career and Technical High School

St. Peter Catholic Career and Technical High School will be opening in August 2023 and is currently enrolling students. For more information on the school, visit stpeterhs.org/

North Houston Young Adult Ministry

North Houston Young Adult Ministry is a group composed of young adult ministries from parishes in the north of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The purpose of this group is to share and coordinate better the resources offered to all young adults in the North of our Archdiocese. Every month a parish hosts an event open to ALL young adults from the area. For more information, visit www.archgh.org/NHYAM or visit their [Facebook page](#).

APR 21: PRIESTS V SEMINARIANS Get your ticket now to the sellout game of the year, the annual Priests v Seminarians Basketball Game, on Friday, April 21, 7pm, in the Strake Jesuit Competition Gym. Tickets are \$20 for adult admission and \$7 for children (8 and under). All tickets are sold online in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. All proceeds benefit the seminarians at St. Mary's Seminary. Join the fun! TICKETS: houstonvocations.com/events

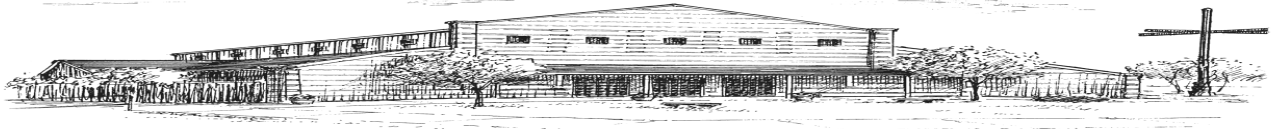
APR 22-23: MARRIAGE RETREAT IN GALVESTON Spend some quality time with your spouse on a Stella Maris Island Retreat April 22-23, at the Holiday Inn Resort on the Beach in Galveston. Our own Justin & Meaghan Frato will be guest presenters at this retreat designed to provide tools for resilient marriages. Included in the cost are retreat materials, meals and hotel lodging. Register by March 21 to get early bird pricing (\$399) or register by March 28 at the regular price (\$499). REGISTER: ilovestellamaris.org/retreats

APR 29: CONVERGING ROADS HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE Converging Roads is a regional conference series offering continuing education for health care professionals to practice the highest ethical and medical standards of their profession. A Health Care Ethics Conference will be held on Saturday, April 29, 9:15am-6:45pm at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Houston. This year's theme is Catholic Medicine in a Secular Society, and will include presentations on the art of suffering and dying, gender dysphoria, law, medicine, & the dignity of life, and more. Please visit the website for continuing education credits, pricing and to register. Questions: CR@forlifeandfamily.org

APR 20: MAGNIFICAT HOUSES SPRING GATHERING Come to a fun-filled, 60s-themed evening on Thursday, April 20, 6-9pm, at St. Arnold's Beer Hall, and help Houston's homeless, hungry and mentally ill. The Here Comes the Sun Spring Gathering and Fundraiser benefits Magnificat Houses, a faith-based non-profit that operates residential homes and the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, motivated by the belief that all are created with dignity and worth. Tickets start at \$150. INFO/REGISTER: mhihouston.org/who-we-are/here-comes-the-sun



Christ Our Light Catholic Church



The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston

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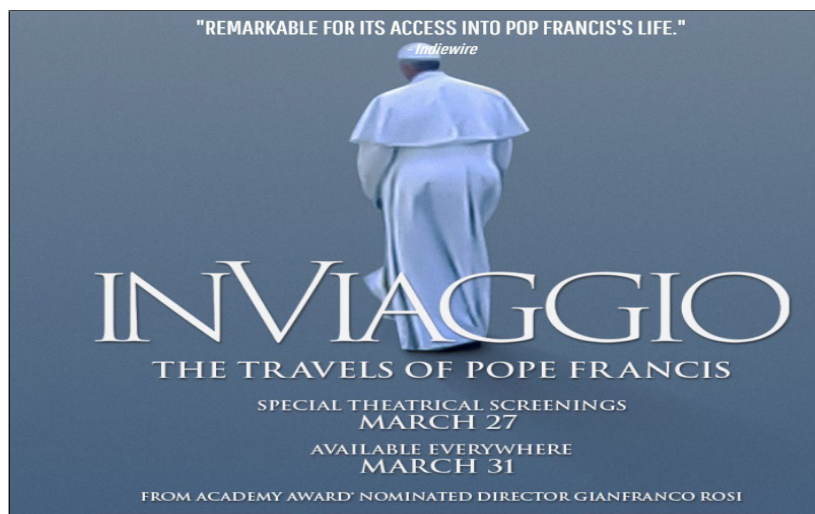


APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023 YOUNG LEADERS INSTITUTE ARE ACCEPTED ON A ROLLING BASIS, WITH STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY EARLY TO SECURE THEIR PLACEMENT. THERE IS LIMITED CAPACITY FOR EACH SESSION, AND THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023.

[HTTPS://ASIASOCIETY.ORG/TEXAS/STUDENT-PROGRAMS](https://asiasociety.org/texas/student-programs)



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Daily Activities for Families



CALENDAR

APRIL

SUN 9

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad." Ps 118:24

Joyfully say Alleluia, a family together at Mass on Easter Sunday.

MON 10

Monday in the Octave of Easter
"Do not be afraid." Mt 28:10

How can these words spoken by Jesus support your family today?

TUE 11

Tuesday in the Octave of Easter
"Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Jn 20:17

Write a story or a prayer to tell others about Jesus.

WED 12

Wednesday in the Octave of Easter
"Give thanks to the Lord... Sing praise to him, play music; proclaim all his wondrous deeds!" Ps 105:1-2

Compose and sing a song of praise together as a family.

THU 13

Thursday in the Octave of Easter
"He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." Lk 24:35

Discuss how Jesus is made known to your family in the breaking of the bread.

FRI 14

Friday in the Octave of Easter
"Many of those who heard the word came to believe." Acts 4:4
Read accounts from the Acts of the Apostles together from a children's or family Bible.

SAT 15

Saturday in the Octave of Easter
"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." Mk 16:15

Decide on a creative way you can proclaim the Gospel this week.



Daily Activities for Families



CALENDAR

APRIL

SUN 16

Sunday of Divine Mercy
"His mercy endures forever." Ps 118:1

What does it mean to be merciful? Decide on a way your family will show mercy this week.

MON 17

"Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." Jn 3:5

Look together at photos or keepsakes from family members' Baptisms and recall your baptismal promises.

TUE 18

"Whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him." 1 Jn 2:5

Talk about ways that your family exemplifies the commandments.

WED 19

"Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." Jn 3:21

Talk about ways that your family lives the truth in a way that is visible to others.

THU 20

"The one who comes from above is above all." Jn 3:31

Remember to put God first in all you do, today and each day.

FRI 21

"Blow upon my garden that its perfumes may spread abroad." Sg 4:16

Plant something together as a family, from a seed or seedling. Nurture it and watch it grow.

SAT 22

"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come." 2 Cor 5:17

Take a family walk and behold signs of new life.



Daily Activities for Families



CALENDAR



SUN 23

"We're nor our hearts burning (with in us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" Lk 24:32

Invite each family member to read a Scripture account or part of the Daily Readings. Discuss the passages together.

MON 24

"This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." Jn 6:29

Invite family members to share expressions of faith.

TUE 25

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Jn 6:35

Reflect on these words of Jesus. Donate a meal to a family who hungers or thirsts for food.

WED 26

"Say to God, 'How awesome your deeds!'" Ps 66:3

Incorporate this psalm in a family prayer of praise.

THU 27

"Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me." Jn 6:45

Pray the Lord's Prayer as a family.

FRI 28

"Tois man is a chosen instrument of mine." Acts 9:15

Talk about what it means to be an instrument of God.

SAT 29

Fest Day of Saint Catherine of Siena

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor 1:3

Together, compose and send a message of peace, like Saint Catherine of Siena.



CALENDARIO DE



Actividades diarias para las familias



ABRIL

DOMINGO 9

"Este es el día que hizo el Señor: alegráronse y regocijaron en él." Sal 118:24

Digan Aleluya con alegría en familia en la Misa del Domingo de Pascua.

LUNES 10

Lunes de la Octava de Pascua

"No teman." Mt 28:10

¿Cómo pueden decir palabras de alabanza por Jesús? ¿Ustedes dar apoyo a su familia hoy?

MARTES 11

Martes de la Octava de Pascua

"Ve a decir a mis hermanos: 'Subo a mi Padre, el Padre de ustedes; a mi Dios, el Dios de ustedes.'" Jn 20:17

Escriban una historia o una oración para contarles a otros acerca de Jesús.

MIÉRCOLES 12

Miércoles de la Octava de Pascua

"Den gracias al Señor... ¡canten al Señor con instrumentos musicales, pregonen todas sus maravillas." Sal 105:1-2

Redacten y canten una canción de alabanza en familia.

JUEVES 13

Jueves de la Octava de Pascua

"Ellos por su parte, contaron lo que Jesús había pasado en el camino y cómo lo habían reconocido al partir el pan." Le 24:35

Hablen sobre cómo Jesús se da a conocer a las familias en la fraternidad del pan.

VIERNES 14

Viernes de la Octava de Pascua

"Muchos de los que habían escuchado la palabra abrazaron la fe." Heh 4:4

Lean juntos los relatos de los Hechos de los Apóstoles de una Biblia infantil o familiar.

SÁBADO 15

Sábado de la Octava de Pascua

"Vayan por todo el mundo, anuncien la Buena Nueva a toda la creación." Mc 16:15

Decidan de una manera creativa proclamar el Evangelio esta semana.



CALENDARIO DE



Actividades diarias para las familias



ABRIL

DOMINGO 16

Domingo de la Divina Misericordia

NEs etemo su amor" Sal 118:1

¡Ouf signlrfka ser miseriordioso? Decidan cOmo su familia mostrar ii mi:sericordia e:sta se:mana.

LIJNES 17

-re aseguro que e.l que no nace del agua y del Espiritu no puede entrar en el Reino de Dios- Jn 3:5

Mirenjuntos foto:s a recuerdo:s de los Bautismo:sde familiare:s y re.memoren su.s promesas baut:Ji:smale:s.

MARTES 18

-rero en aquel que cumple su palabra, el amor de Dias ha llegado verdaderamente a su plenitud-. 1 Jn 2:5

l-iallen sobre las ifo:rma:s en las que su familia ejemplifica los mandamientos.

HIERCOLES 19

-En c-ambio, el que obra c-onforme a la verdad se acerca a fa luz, para que :se ponga de m::mifle.sro que sus obras han sido hechas en Dios Jn 3:21

Hablen sobre las formas enas que su familia Yive la ve.rdad de una manera l'isible para lo,s dem.is.

JUEVES 20

-El que viene de lo aho est.i por enc-irma de todos" Jn 3:31

Recuerden poner a Dios primero en todo lo que tlaen, hoy y todo.s las dias.

VIERNES 21

soplen sobre mi jardin para que exhale su perfume". Cant 4:16

Planten algo junt:os en familia, a partir de una semilla o pl.intu'a. Cuidenla y \l'e:anla crecer.

SABADO 22

-El que vive en Crislo e:s una nueva criatura: lo ant::iguo ha desaparecido, un :ser nuevo se ha hecho presem,e_ 2 Cor 5:17

Den un pa:sea fammar y contemplen las senale:s de nueva vida.



CALENDARIO DE



Actividades diarias para las familias



ABRIL

DOMINGO 23

-(No ardia ac-aso nuestro coraZ.On, mienrras nos hablaba en el camino y nos exp:licaba las Escrituras?" Le 24:32

l.nvite.n a ,cada rniembro de la familia a leer un relato de las Escri.turas o parte de las lect:uras dialia...s. Discm:an las pasajes juntas.

LUNES 24

-La obra de Dios. es. que usrneds crea.n ,en aquel que fl ha enviado_ Jn 6:29

Inviten a los miembros de la familia a compartir exp:resione:s de fe.

MARTES 25

-yo soy el pan de Vida. El que vi,ene a mi jam.is t,end:r:ii hambre: ,el que cree en mijam::is rendra sed_ Jn 6:35

Reflexione-n s.obre estas palabras de J.estis. Donen um1 comida a una familia que tenga hambre o sed de alimentos.

HIERCOLES 26

-o:gan al Senor: :;Que admirables son tus obras-Sal +66:J

Incorporen este.salmo en una oraciDn familiar de alabanza.

JUEVES 27

"Todo el que oyO al Padre y recib.e su ensenanza, viene a mr: Jn 6:45

Recen el Padre Nue:stro en familia.

VIERNES 28

"Porque es un instumemo elegido por mt. Heh 9:15

Hablen sobre lo que siignifica ser un instrumento de Dias.

SABADO 29

Festividad de Sa1Ja. Catalina de5jella

-uegue • ustedes la gracia y la paz que proceden de Dios, nuestro Padre, y del Seilor JesucrislO-. 1 Cor 1:J

Juntos, redacten y e.nvien un mens.aje de:paz, coma santa Catalina de Siena.

