

PRAYER FOR THE WHOLE WORLD APRIL 16, 2023 - 2:45 PM

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC CHURCH



#### **Reconciliation Confession**

Tues, Thurs

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

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: <a href="mailto:shepherd@christourlight.org">shepherd@christourlight.org</a>

Front cover photo: Beatification and canonization image of Sister Faustina by Helena Tchórzewska © ISMM. Printed with permission © ISMM

#### 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

#### 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)

#### PARISH LIFE

#### MASS INTENTION

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM Juana Hernandez † and Candido Diosdado †

MONDAY, APRIL 17

No Mass

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

6:00 PM Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

8:30 AM Barbara Macjewski †

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

8:30 AM Louis † and Loreina † Klevenski

6:00 PM\* Serafin † and Rosa † Murillo

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

8:30 AM Adolph † and Cecilia † Wischnewsky

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 - Vigil

6:00 PM Nina Rotello †

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM\* Jorge Quirino † and Demetrio Quirino †

\*Spanish

#### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** 

2:00 PM St. Patrick Festival

2:45 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet & Reflection

3:45 PM Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction

MONDAY, APRIL 17

5:00 PM Spanish Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

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

6:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, KC Hall Anderson

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

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

7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

7:00 PM Mystagogy, SPH

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

6:00 AM TMIY Men's Group, SPH

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

9:00 AM Confession for FHC Class, CH

11:30 AM English Baptism, CH

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

10:30 AM CCE Grades 6-12th, SPCC/SPH

4:00 PM First Holy Communion Workshop, SPCC/SPH

# 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.

#### 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

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.

# PARISH LIF

# 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 John Lawrence Christian Mills Leslie Mills

France Munoz

Donna Grupa

Anita Olguin Julian Olguin Matthew Oliver Cecelia Pearson Angelina Peterson Wallace Peterson Irene Ramirez Lucila Rivera Zek Rueda Rosalinda Salazar Iosh Sechelski Sherrie Shiflett Lydia Torres Jessie Torres Polly Uilkie Jessie Valadez, III Crystal Winkler David Woehler Trần Thi Tuyết Mai

<u>Call the parish office</u> 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, <u>please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.</u>

Thank you.

#### 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.

P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. following the 8:30 AM Masses and will be reposed at 9:00 PM on Wednesdays, Thursdays at 5:45 PM before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass and Friday at 9:00 PM. 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

#### HOLY WEEK COLLECTIONS

Palm Sunday 04/02/2023	\$ 5,840.13
Maintenance Fund	\$ 10.00
Holy Land Collection – Good Friday	\$ 1,291.63
Easter Sunday 04/09/2023	\$ 5,403.01
Easter Offering	\$ 1,472.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,359.38

#### **DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2023**

2023 Parish Goal	\$ 26,000.00
2023 Total Paid (activity thru 4/2	11/2023) \$ 12,510.00
Total Goal vs. Paid	\$ 13,490.00
Participants	33



#### DSF SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN CORP

Please scan here to make a gift to DSF



#### **APPRECIATION**

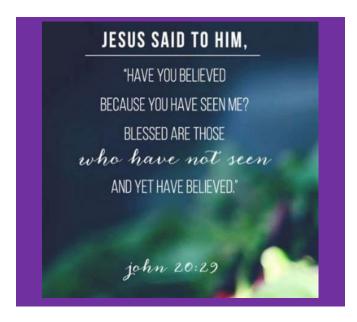
Thank you for your generosity during the Holy Week Collections and your continuous support in donating a onetime or monthly gift to the DSF this year. A little goes a long way when we all work together.



#### EASTER FLOWERS PRAYER INTENTION

#### IN MEMORY OF:

David Miller 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 François Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan The Rev. Joseph Nguyen Van Chu





#### **EASTER FLOWERS DONATION**

Pamela Maleh Anonymous

Barbara Lebeck

Laura Quirino

Helen Kimball

Clara Walkoviak

Michael Miller

Iuan & Elisa Caronella

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

#### APRII.

DIVINEMERCY SUNDAY Acts 2:42-47

1 6 1 1 1 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31 (43)
Pss Prop

MONDAY Acts 4:23-31
Jn 3:1-8 (267)
Pss II

1 Q Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15 (268)

WEDNESDAY Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21 (269)

Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36 (270)

Acts 5:34-42 21 Jn 6:1-15 (271)

Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21 (272)



#### SECOND FASTER SUNDAY

# Praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:47)

What a beautiful vision! The first believers' experience of the Spirit was so life-changing that they felt compelled to come together to worship the Lord and love one another as family. But this ideal situation didn't last long. Only a short time later, prejudice and tribalism crept in, leading some to neglect the needs of the poorer widows among them (Acts 6:1).

Later, some members of this mostly Jewish Christian community began telling Gentiles—falsely—that they had to be circumcised if they wanted to "be saved" (15:1). This attempt to treat Gentiles as second-class citizens caused "no little dissension" among the believers (15:2).

Stories like these might make us wonder, *If the first Christians couldn't live together*, what hope does our Church have?

But today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Today we celebrate the good news that God is *always* ready to forgive and to heal divisions. Take the early Church, for example. By all counts, it should not have lasted more than a decade or two. But in fact, it not only survived but continued to grow and spread. That's because God's mercy, poured out at every Eucharist and every time his people gathered together, softened believers' hearts and moved them to resolve their conflicts peacefully and lovingly. What a powerful testament to a God whose merciful love triumphs over every imaginable obstacle!

Even today, God's mercy continues to flow. Every division and conflict can be overcome as we come together to worship him, confess our need for him, and strive to make love our aim. Every sin can be washed away and every relationship restored! Jesus, our merciful Savior, is always ready to help us love one another.

"Lord Jesus Christ, merciful Son of God, draw your people together in love!"

Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24. 1 Peter 1:3-9. Jn 20:19-31 The Word Among Us



St. Faustina-Vision of hell-www.churchmilitant.com.Public domain

#### Si no veo en sus manos la señal de los clavos... (Juan 20, 25)

Habría sido razonable que Jesús se sintiera decepcionado con la actitud de Tomás, incluso enfadado. En lugar de creer en lo que le dijeron los demás apóstoles de que Jesús había resucitado de entre los muertos, Tomás dijo que él no creería a menos que lo viera por sí mismo. Pero Jesús no estaba molesto; todo lo contrario, le *mostró su misericordia* a Tomás. Fue compasivo con él y se aseguró de regresar cuando Tomás estuviera presente. Fue paciente con la debilidad de Tomás, y se acercó a él, ofreciéndole sus manos para que viera las marcas de los clavos. Esta impresionante misericordia condujo a Tomás a hacer una profunda profesión de fe: "¡Señor mío y Dios mío!" (Juan 20, 28).

Eso es lo que produce la misericordia: Nos lleva de la incredulidad a creer. Nos acerca a una mayor fe en el Señor, ¿por qué? Porque, al igual que Tomás, nos sorprende; debilita nuestras defensas y nos derrite el corazón. Estamos cara a cara con Dios quien no se limita a perdonar nuestros pecados desde lejos, sino que se acerca a nosotros. Confrontado por nuestra debilidad, Jesús no se enoja ni se fastidia. Cuando ve nuestros errores, se llena de compasión por nosotros. Nos muestra que "eterna es su misericordia" (Salmo 118, 2).

Santa Faustina, "apóstola" de la Divina Misericordia, escuchó que Jesús le dijo: "No quiero castigar a la humanidad que sufre, sino que deseo sanarla, abrazarla a mi corazón misericordioso" (*Diario*, 1588). ¿No fue esto lo que Jesús hizo por Tomás? ¿Y no es exactamente lo que quiere hacer por nosotros? Al celebrar hoy el domingo de la Divina Misericordia, dedica tiempo a meditar en las formas en que has experimentado la misericordia de Dios. Permite que el recuerdo de estas experiencias llenen tu corazón con un amor más grande y más profundo por Jesús —que es la Misericordia encarnada— y te permita tener una fe más profunda.

"Señor, gracias por no mirar mi pecado, sino ofrecerme tu misericordia infinita. 3:5 "Hechos 2, 42–47Salmo 118 (117), 2–4. 22–24. 25–27a, 1 Pedro 1, 3–9

My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners...[I]t is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. For them I dwell in the tabernacle as King of Mercy.

(*Diary*, 367)

#### A GIFT FROM ST. FAUSTINA



The miracle-famous image of Merciful Jesus from the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Krakow-Łagiewniki. Photo: Piotr Tumidajski

© Zgromadzenie Sióstr Matki Bożej Miłosierdzia **Why and How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet** 

St. Faustina learned that God could always be trusted, because he loved her not only like a compassionate father but also like a sweet and gentle mother.

One particular way in which Jesus wanted Faustina to demonstrate her trust in him was through prayers of petition. To encourage her—and all of us—to petition God, not only for our needs, but also on behalf of others, Jesus gave us, through Faustina, a special prayer, the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Along with the chaplet comes Jesus' promise that if we recite this prayer and trust him to answer, he will give us everything we ask for, as long as it is according to his will. In particular, Jesus asked Faustina to exhort us to pray the chaplet for the dying.

While praying the chaplet for dying people, Faustina discovered that Jesus would often ease a dying person's final agony and enable him or her to die in peace. Once in 1938, as Faustina entered the convent

chapel, Jesus told her to pray the chaplet for a particular man who was dying.

After kneeling down and beginning to pray, the young nun received a vision of the dying sinner, who was obviously being inwardly tormented by his sins. By his side, his guardian angel was trying to defend him against the attacks of a "multitude of devils," who waited to snatch the man's soul at the moment of death. Obedient as always, Faustina continued with complete trust in God to fervently pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the man.

As she did, Jesus appeared to her. Two rays of light flowed from his heart—just as they had appeared in the Divine Mercy image he had commanded her to have painted. The translucent rays fell in streams of mercy onto the tormented man. Still reciting the chaplet, Faustina gazed in adoration at Jesus as the two rays of light emanating from his heart enfolded the dying man and caused the devils to suddenly vanish in fear. With the spirits of darkness gone, the man peacefully took his last breath.

Jesus told Faustina that we could obtain "everything" by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. So in addition to praying the chaplet for people who were dying, she also used it to petition the Lord for countless other requests. For instance, at various times she prayed the chaplet as a request for Jesus to calm violent storms, to draw all people closer to God, to enable sinners to trust in his mercy....

The one condition Jesus mentioned after saying he would grant us unimaginable graces was trust. Just as Faustina placed her trust in the Lord in all situations, so must we. With her, let us allow our minds, hearts, and souls to continually echo these words: "Jesus, I trust in you."

#### How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Using an ordinary set of rosary beads, first say one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Apostles' Creed.

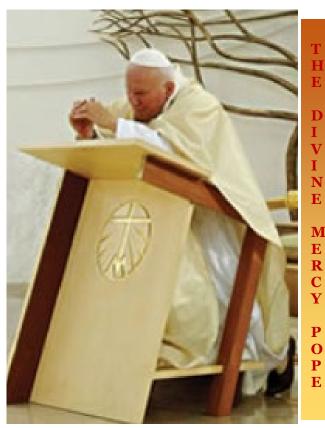
On the Our Father beads, pray: "Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

On the Hail Mary beads, pray: "For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

When you finish all ten decades of beads, conclude by praying three times the following: "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

This is an excerpt from Praying with Faustina, by Eileen Bertanzetti (The Word Among Us)

# FAMILY LIFE: CCE CORNER



It was St. Pope John Paul II who told the Marian Fathers: "Be apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary." We've been faithfully following his instructions ever since.

Both in his teaching and personal life, St. Pope John Paul II strove to live and teach the message of Divine Mercy. As the great Mercy Pope, he wrote an encyclical on Divine Mercy:

"The Message of Divine Mercy has always been near and dear to me... which I took with me to the See of Peter and which it in a sense forms the image of this Pontificate."

In his writings and homilies, he has described Divine Mercy as the answer to the world's problems and the message of the third millennium. He beatified and canonized Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, the nun associated with the message, and he did it in Rome and not in Poland to underscore that Divine Mercy is for the whole world.

Establishing Divine Mercy Sunday for the Entire Church

When St. Pope John Paul canonized Sr. Faustina (making her St. Faustina), he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday (the feast day associated with the message) as a feast day for the entire Church. The feast day falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter season. On that day, John Paul II declared, "This is the happiest day of my life."

Entrusting the World to Divine Mercy

In 2002, the Pope entrusted the whole world to Divine Mercy when he consecrated the International Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Lagiewniki, a suburb of Krakow in Poland. This is where St. Faustina's mortal remains are entombed. The saint lived in a convent nearby. The Pope himself remembers as a young man working in the Solvay Quarry, just a few meters from the present-day Shrine. He also says that he had been thinking about Sr. Faustina for a long time when he wrote his encyclical on Divine Mercy. Further, the Holy Father has frequently quoted from the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and has prayed The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy at the saint's tomb.

Beyond the Life of John Paul II

Given all these connections to Divine Mercy and St. Faustina, is it any wonder that Pope John Paul II died on the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday (the evening before the feast day), which fell that year on April 3? It is also no surprise that the Great Mercy Pope left us a message for Divine Mercy Sunday, which was read on the feast day by a Vatican official to the faithful in St. Peter's after a Mass that had been celebrated for the repose of the soul of the Pope.

Repeatedly Pope John Paul II has written and spoken about the need for us to turn to the mercy of God as the answer to the specific problems of our times. He has placed a strong and significant focus on the Divine Mercy message and devotion throughout his pontificate that will carry the Church long after his death.

https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/john-paul-ii

Right from the beginning of my ministry in St. Peter's See in Rome, I consider this message [of Divine Mercy] my special task.

Providence has assigned it to me in the present situation of man, the Church and the world.

It could be said that precisely this situation assigned that message to me as my task before God. –John Paul II

November 22, 1981 at the Shrine of Merciful Love in Collevalenza, Italy

## **PARISH NEWS**

# FEAST OF MERCY

## CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC CHURCH



Collect all the sinners from all over the world and immerse them in the depths of My mercy.

On My feast day, on the Feast of Mercy, you shall go around the whole world and bring fainting souls to the fount of My mercy.

I shall heal and strengthen them.

SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023 @2:45 PM



# WE EMBRACE THE WHOLE WORLD

# WITH OUR PRAYERS!







Azje / Asie



Afryka / Africa







Ameryka pd / South America



Australia



In the book of Genesis, we find the story of Noah, which tells about when God noticed the sinfulness of the people and sought to purify it with a flood. God then appointed Noah to build an ark that would save a faithful remnant, entrusting them with a mission to fill the earth with a new people who would be true to God's covenant.

However, even after the flood, humanity was still in need of a savior, and it wasn't until Jesus came into the world that a new "ark" was constructed to save people from their sins. The St. Andrew Daily Missal explains the symbolism.

It was the wood of the ark which saved the human race and it is that of the Cross which in its turn, saves the world. "Thou alone," says the Church, speaking of the Cross, "hast been found worthy to be, for this shipwrecked world, the ark which brings safely into port."

Furthermore, "The open door in the side of the ark by which those enter who are to escape from the Flood, and who represent the Church, are as is explained in the liturgy, a *type* of the mystery of redemption; for on the Cross, our Lord had His sacred side open and from this gate of life, went forth the sacraments, giving true life to souls. Indeed the blood and water which flow from thence are symbols of the Eucharist and of Holy Baptism."

Connected to the wood of the cross, Baptism is also seen as the new "ark" that saves humanity.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, "The Church has seen in Noah's ark a prefiguring of salvation by Baptism, for by it 'a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water': The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of Baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness" (CCC 1219).

Just as Noah was the "captain" of the ship that saved humanity, Jesus wakes up from his slumber and takes his place as captain of the Church, ushering all people to come upon the boat that will lead to their salvation.

This image is a perfect meditation for Lent, for as God sent rain upon the earth for 40 days and 40 nights, so too does the Church spend 40 days in preparation for the saving waters of Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

May we never leave the ark of our salvation and cling tightly to the cross of Jesus Christ, no matter what storm may come. *Philip Kosloski – Aleteia.* 03/03/19



The Archdiocese of Hartford is investigating a possible Eucharistic miracle

A priest at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Thomaston, Connecticut, has recently claimed that a Eucharistic miracle occurred at his parish on March 5.

According to <u>WFSBNews</u>, "[Fr. Joseph] Crowley said earlier this month, as a Eucharistic minister was handing out host ... a miracle happened. The number of hosts that minister had actually went up instead of down."

The claim is that the parish was running out of consecrated hosts and were worried they would run out before the distribution of Communion was over.

Instead, their ciboria were re-filled miraculously, and by the end of Mass, they had the same or even more consecrated hosts as when they started.

Fr. Joseph Crawley said in a <u>video</u>, "It's really, really cool when God does these things, and it's really, really cool when we realize what he's done, and it just happened today. **Very powerful, very awesome, very real, very shocking**. But also, it happens, and today it happened."

The **local bishop** is the primary individual in charge of investigating an alleged miracle, which will be examined by various experts before an official pronouncement is made. Even if this miracle is not officially recognized by the Church, the local parish's faith has been renewed by this experience and Fr. Crawley says he is grateful for the chance to witness such an event.

Philip Kosloski - Aleteia. 03/29/23

# HAVE YOU DONE YOUR LENTEN ALMSGIVING?

THERE IS STILL TIME TO HELP US SPREAD FAITH AT OUR CHURCH.
WITH JUST A LITTLE AS \$5 OR \$10, WE CAN CONTINUE TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL BULLETIN TO YOU EACH WEEK.





#### Mass Readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A

- **First Reading** <u>Acts 2:42–47</u>: In the early Christian community in Jerusalem, believers were united in heart and mind, shared all their possessions, and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. As a result, many signs and wonders were done, and the community grew in number and favor.
- Responsorial Psalm Psalm 118: This psalm expresses gratitude to the LORD for his enduring mercy and love. The psalmist recounts how the LORD saved him from distress and how the rejected stone became the cornerstone, inviting all to rejoice in the day the LORD has made.
- Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3–9: The apostle Peter speaks of the hope and salvation that believers in Jesus Christ have, which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. He encourages the readers to endure trials because their faith will be refined and ultimately lead to the praise, glory, and honor of Christ.
- **Gospel** <u>John</u> <u>20:19–31</u>: Jesus appears to his disciples after his resurrection, and shows them his wounds. Thomas, one of the disciples, doubts their testimony until Jesus appears to him and invites him to touch his wounds, after which Thomas proclaims him as Lord and God.

#### Themes for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A

The readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A (the 2nd Sunday of Easter) help us reflect on the boundless mercy of God. The first reading tells how the early Christian community lived in peace, sharing with each other. The psalm reminds us that God's love is eternal. The second reading speaks of having faith in the resurrection. And in the gospel Jesus shows mercy to Thomas, even in his doubts

- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ This is a central theme in the readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A, as it is through Christ's resurrection that we receive mercy and forgiveness for our sins. The readings testify to the fact that Jesus conquered death and sin, and that through his resurrection, we are able to experience new life and hope.
- **Divine Mercy and Forgiveness** This theme is particularly evident in the Gospel reading of John

- 20:19–31, where Jesus appears to his disciples and offers them peace and forgiveness. He commissions them to carry out his mission of forgiveness and mercy, and grants them the power of the Holy Spirit to do so.
- Faith and Trust in Jesus Throughout the readings, there is an emphasis on the importance of faith and trust in Jesus. This is particularly evident in the story of Thomas, who initially doubted the testimony of the other disciples, but ultimately came to believe through his encounter with the risen Christ.
- Witnessing to the Resurrection The disciples were called to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus, and this remains the mission of the Church today. Through our words and actions, we are called to testify to the reality of the resurrection and to share the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness.
- The Gift of the Holy Spirit The readings emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit in empowering the disciples to carry out their mission. It is through the Holy Spirit that they are able to forgive sins and to be witnesses to the resurrection.
- The Mission of the Church The readings also highlight the mission of the Church, which is to proclaim the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness to the world. This mission is grounded in the reality of the resurrection and is empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- God's love and compassion for humanity The readings reveal the depth of God's love and compassion for humanity, as demonstrated through his mercy and forgiveness. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers us the gift of new life and the hope of eternal salvation.
- The power of faith to overcome doubt and fear Finally, the readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A show us that faith has the power to overcome doubt and fear. Like Thomas, we may struggle with doubt and uncertainty, but through faith and trust in Jesus, we can experience the peace and joy that comes from knowing the risen Christ.

Young Catholics

# TURN TO THE TREE, THE CRUCIFIED ONE, URGES POPE



Juli Eliz | Shutterstock

Here before this Broken One, we see the truth of ourselves ... and hope sprouts in us. We are healed of bitterness.

"Let us approach the Crucified One," Pope Francis invited the faithful this April 5, at the end of the general audience. "Let us place ourselves before Him, stripped naked, to be in the truth of ourselves, removing anything superfluous."

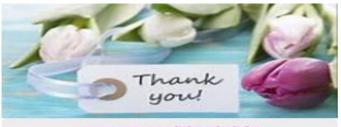
The Pope's appeal-prayer was made to the French-speaking pilgrims. He added an exhortation to allow Jesus to "regenerate hope in us. "In Jesus' wounds, we can see our own; in his obedience to the Father's will and his forgiveness of those who crucified him, he shows the victory of God's love and offers us the hope of interior renewal and redemption. In these coming days, let us draw near to the Lord and place our hope in the power of his cross to turn evil into good, and suffering into a generous love of our brothers and sisters, especially those in greatest need.

The Holy Father made a similar suggestion to Spanish-speakers, inviting the faithful to "draw close" to the Crucified Jesus. "Contemplating Him, wounded and stripped of everything, let us recognize our own truth." Let us present to Him all that we are, and allow Him to renew in us the hope of a new life.

The Pope encouraged Polish-speaking faithful to look to the "Tree of the Cross, so that hope may sprout in you." May the Crucified Lord **heal you of your sadness and bitterness.** For as St. Peter reminds us, by Christ's wounds we have been healed.

But may we not only see the suffering Christ on the Cross, the Pope invited, in greeting Arabic-speaking faithful. "Let us carry in our minds and hearts the sufferings of the sick, the poor and the marginalized, remembering also the innocent victims of wars, so that Christ, by His Resurrection, may grant peace, consolation, and blessings to all," he said.

Kathleen N. Hattrup - published on 04/05/23



#### SUNDAY TREATS

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THESE COMMITTEES FOR PROVIDING REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

ALTAR SOCIETY JANUARY & JULY

PASTORAL COUNCIL FEBRUARY & OCTOBER

FINANCE COUNCIL MARCH & SEPTEMBER

R.E. BOARD APRIL & AUGUST

STEWARSHIP MAY & NOVEMBER

CHOIR JUNE & DECEMBER



# The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul today

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is present in over 150 countries, with 800,0 members and 1,500,000 volunteers. Eve day, it helps over 30 million people.

The SSVP is an associate member of UNESCO and a special adviser to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is also part of the Global Catholic Clima Movement and is aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations in its Agenda 2030.

#### 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.

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

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



#### See the Signs of Spring

Read the story of Noah and the Arc (Genesis, 6–9) with your children. Discuss the signs that Noah identifies that indicate that land, earth and life must be near. Go for a walk with your children and talk about any signs of spring that you see. Think about all of your five senses and ask your children: What do you hear? What do you see? Does it feel like spring is near? What do you smell? Discuss the signs with your children as you walk through your neighborhood.



#### Plan a Garden for God

To prepare for spring, plan a garden with your children. We honor God's creation when we touch our world and our communities with beauty, so take some time to think about plants and flowers that might do that. Take a trip to your local hardware store to purchase some seeds. Work together to plant them and watch them grow. Make sure your Garden for God is located in a place where others can benefit from its beauty and appreciate God's new life!





#### Build a Fresh Friendship

Discuss with your children the importance of building relationships with community members and by getting to know all the members of your parish. Think about the people in your parish and those who are present at Mass, and talk to your children about the people you know and those you do not. Make a goal to introduce yourselves to a new community member or family in order to begin a fresh new relationship. You'll be glad you did!



Choose one of your favorite songs from Mass (such as "Sing a New Song") to sing as a family, or write an original song together. Singing together is a wonderful way to praise God for his many gifts, particularly the gift of new life. Sing the song outdoors! Observe the gifts of God all around your family during this special season of the year.





CTIVIDADES AMILIARES PARA

Vea los signos de la primavera Lea con sus hijos la historia de Noé y el arca (Génesis, 6-9). Analice las señales que Noé identifica para saber que la tierra, el mundo y la vida están cerca. Vaya a dar un paseo con sus hijos y hablen sobre los signos de la primavera que vean. Piense en cada uno de los cinco sentidos y pregunte a sus hijos: ¿Qué escuchan? ¿Qué ven? ¿Se siente como si la primavera estuviera cerca? ¿Qué huelen? Discuta sobre los signos con sus hijos mientras camina por su vecindario.



#### Planifique un jardín para Dios

Para prepararse para la primavera, planifique un jardín con sus hijos. Nosotros honramos la creación de Dios cuando compartimos la belleza con nuestro mundo y nuestras comunidades, así que tómese un tiempo para pensar en las plantas y flores que podrían brindar eso. Vaya a su tienda local para comprar algunas semillas. Trabajen juntos para plantarlas y verlas crecer. ¡Asegúresne de que su jardín para Dios esté ubicado en un lugar donde otros puedan beneficiarse de su belleza y apreciar la nueva vida en Dios!





#### Forme una nueva amistad

Discuta con sus hijos la importancia de entablar relaciones con los miembros de la comunidad y de conocer a todos los miembros de su parroquia. Piense en las personas de su parroquia y en los que están presentes en la Misa, y hable con sus hijos sobre las personas que conocen y las que no. Póngase la meta de presentarse, junto con sus hijos, a un nuevo miembro de la comunidad o de la familia para comenzar una nueva relación. ¡Estará contento de haberlo hecho!

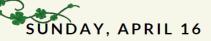


#### ¿¡Cante por la primavera!

Elijan una de sus canciones favoritas de la Misa (como "Canta una nueva canción") para cantar en familia o escriban juntos una canción original. Cantar juntos es una maravillosa manera de alabar a Dios por sus numerosos dones, en particular el don de la nueva vida. ¡Canten la canción al aire libre! Contemplen los dones de Dios en toda su familia durante esta temporada especial del año.



### FAMILY LIFE: CCE CORNER



# St. Patrick Religious Education Spring Festival

9677 N. HWY 6 LOOP 2:00-4:30 PM



# Raffle

Food and Games

Fr. Giovanni Nguyen, Pastor

All proceeds from the festival go to support religious education



\$500.00 Kimmey Family

in Memory of Mary A. Kimmey

\$100.00 Bob & Linda Armstrong

\$100.00 Marvin & Joyce Sechelski

\$100.00 Salvador & Maria Tovar

\$ 85.00 Gregorio & Dora Gonzales

\$ 50.00 Jose Luis & Lucy Coronilla

\$ 50.00 Steve & Sonia Drabek

\$ 50.00 Anonymous

#### CCE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Wednesday, April 12 CCE Grades 1-5 SPH/SPCC 6:00 – 7:15 P.M.

Thursday, April 13 Mystagogy SPH 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16 St. Patrick's Religious Education Festival 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19 CCE Grades 1-5 SPH/SPCC 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 20 Mystagogy SPH 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 22 First Holy Communion student confessions 9:00 a.m. COL

Sunday, April 23 CCE Grades 6-12 SPH/SPCC 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

**First Holy Communion Workshop** SPH 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Confirmation Workshop** SPCC 4:00- 5:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 26 CCE Grades 1-5 SPH/SPCC 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 27 Mystagogy SPH 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 30 CCE Grades 6-12 SPH/SPCC 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

First Holy Communion Rehearsal COL 6:00 P.M.



# The beautiful symbolism of the wedding veil

For Isabelle, a 31-year-old architect from Nantes who will marry Dimitri next summer, the question of whether or not to wear a veil on her wedding day isn't up for debate.

"I can't imagine entering the church without wearing the veil that my mother and grandmother already wore ... It's important for me to remain faithful to this beautiful family tradition, and perhaps one day to pass it on to my daughter. But that's not all. The veil also symbolizes commitment and fidelity for me," she tells Aleteia.

Celestina Agostino, a Parisian wedding dress designer, is also in favor of its use.

"The bridal veil is for me a biblical garment. My clients, those who get married in the church, are increasingly returning to the tradition of wearing a veil. For some of them, it enhances the wedding dress. For others, it carries real meaning," says.

This wedding accessory, which is worn in front of the bride's face as she enters the church on her father's arm, is actually loaded with rich symbolism. If we look at its history, we find early traces of its origins in Virgil's *Aeneid*: as a sign of offering, men would wear a veil before the gods. This sign of religious devotion would become a powerful symbol for the Romans.

Thus, in antiquity, every bride wore a veil. In fact, the Latin word "nubere," which means "to veil," is synonymous with "to marry." The veil was a symbol of a wife's commitment to her husband. On the other hand, at that time it was also used to distinguish married or widowed women from single women, slaves, and prostitutes. A woman's hair being uncovered was considered an attribute of female seduction, so it had to be reserved for the husband in the intimate sphere of the home. The Roman wedding veil was called the "flammeum": red or orange, it symbolized joy and fertility.

In the Middle Ages, marriage was a commitment between the parents of the bride and groom. Traditionally, the veil worn by the bride-to-be was opaque, so as to hide her face. Why? So that her husband could discover her for the first time on their wedding night. If the future husband already knew his bride, both had to wear a veil during the ceremony to be blessed.

#### Symbol of purity and chastity

In Christianity, the explanation of the bridal veil can be found in the Bible where St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 11:16) mentions that the married woman should be veiled as a sign of her devotion to God. Since marriage is a religious celebration, in the same spirit and for the same reason as in that text, the bride ("the veiled one" in Hebrew) had to wear a veil. She was not to reveal herself until she reached the bridal chamber. The symbol of purity and chastity was therefore strong: the veil was reserved for a pure young woman.



Although the bridal veil is not mandatory today, it is still a common tradition for a bride to wear a veil in front of her face until the bride reaches the altar or until the vows are exchanged and the husband lifts the veil from her face in a gesture that completes the beautiful symbolism of the bridal veil.

Aleteia.  $o_1/25/23$ 

#### MIRACLE-MATCHMAKER? PRIEST Helps 270 Couples Find Love



Fernando Cuevas Raposo, Facebook / Church POP

This is the story of Fernando Cuevas Raposo, a priest who was the matchmaker for 270 marriages.

Father Fernando is an Opus Dei priest and chaplain of several residence halls in Valencia, Spain. He is 67 years old, lives in Ibiza, Spain, and began matchmaking Catholic couples 13 years ago. Thanks to his strategy, more than 500 people found love. This Priest Helped More Than 500 People Find The Love Of Their Lives

# Over the past 13 years, Father Fernando applied the same methodology for all the candidates.

People hoping to find their Catholic match fill out a form. They include their name, age, birthday, height, studies, place of employment, hobbies, virtues, shortcomings, what they would like in a person, their commitment to the faith, and their ecclesiastical movement of formation in the Church.

Once each applicant submits their information, Father Fernando analyzes it and considers possible matches. If he sees compatibilities between people, he passes along each his candidate's card. Then, if they give the go-ahead, he shares contact information. "I pass on the phone number and tell the person that they will contact them in 24 hours. And there they will say or do whatever they want. I already forget there. My work is finished", the priest told the digital newspaper El Español. But the candidates looking for a match arrive by the dozens every day. The priest receives 20 requests daily and immediately develops his work as matchmaker.

**"270 have married.** I counted it. Not one more and not one less. Maybe in a week I can tell you that there are five more, but for now they are those," he assured.

And although the number of marriages is incredible, what causes him the most happiness is that **none** of the couples have divorced.

"That they do not separate is not because of the technique. I have not trained them nor have I done the pre-marriage course for them. That is because **they are very spiritual people** and they are very used to giving and giving themselves", he said.

# In the midst of a society turning its back on God, Father Fernando finds his work important.

"Society is very secularized and people have tremendous religious ignorance. And lack of interest. They have no interest in the things of God because they have not been brought up that way. Those who do want to live their faith attach great importance to it and want to find someone like that."

Andres Jaromezuk – Feb 15, 2023. EWTN GB – Global Catholic Television Network



# PREPARATION OF MARRIAGE AT CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### Information about Twogether in Texas Certificate

Our PREPARATION OF MARRIAGE program here at Christ Our Light works with the state of Texas and the Twogether In Texas Program. We have gone through a lengthy review process to gain our qualification to provide the marriage program course to you.

Once you have completed your preparation of marriage program, we will then log into the official Twogether In Texas Program website with the state of Texas. We input your name and your future spouse's name. The state's site then generates a unique certificate for you two that includes your registration number. Having this number indicates that you have been registered as completing the course with Texas.

Any Texas clerk of court will then have record that you and your spouse have completed the course. We receive your certificate immediately from the State of Texas, and will then email you an electronic copy of your official Twogether In Texas Premarital Program certificate. The Twogether In Texas certificate will give you 1) Up to \$60 off of your marriage license and 2) Waiting the 72 hours requirement waiting period with the State of Texas.

Our program will equip you with:

- 1) Theology of the Body course (TOBET) approved by the USCCB
- 2) Prepare Enrich
- 3) Financial Planning
- 4) Effective Communication
- 5) Overview of Natural Family Planning
- 6) Couple Retreat (info. coming soon)

Registration begins April 16, 2023, for class starts on May 21, 2023. More information on our website: https://christourlight.org/Holy Matrimony.

Jennifer Nguyen @jnguyen9@twu.edu

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**



#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER 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 WITH THE APPLICATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION. PLEASE RETURN YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE APRIL 11, 2023. If you have not received the APPLICATION, PLEASE SHEPHERD@CHRISTOURLIGHT.ORG. IF YOU MISS THE TRAINING, PLEASE CHECK OUR BULLETIN FOR FUTURE TRAINING DATE. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!





#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

OUR SPECIAL THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO THE SISTER OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY IN WASHINGTON DC FOR THE DIVINE MERCY PRAYER CARDS TO DISTRIBUTE AT OUR PARISH. SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY (CONGREGATIO SORORUM Mariae MISERICORDIAE (LAT)),(ZGROMADZENIE SIÓSTR MATKI BOŻEJ MIŁOSIERDZIA (POL)) FROM POLAND FOR GIVING US THE PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOS AND CONTENT OF THEIR WEBSITE FOR OUR BULLETIN THIS WEEK. www. (saint-faustina.org)

> The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.





OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE DONATED EASTER FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR SOCIETY IN DEDICATE THEIR PRECIOUS TIME TO KEEP LENT AND EASTER SPECIAL AT OUR PARISH!

### IN THANKSGIVING

FR. GIOVANNI, FR. MCCLOSKY, FR. LOCKEY AND OUR DEACONS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CONFIRMED AT EASTER VIGIL APRIL 9, 2023!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE LEADERS, PARENTS, SPONSORS, AND EVERYONE WHO MADE THE LITURGY POSSIBLE THE
FIRST
DIVINE
MERCY
VISION



February 22, 1931, was the First Sunday of Lent, the day when St. Faustina received her Divine Mercy vision. The Divine Mercy devotion promoted by St. Faustina was providentially revealed to her on the First Sunday of Lent. St. Faustina records the date of her vision of Jesus on Sunday, **February 22, 1931**, which would have been the Sunday following Ash Wednesday of that year.

She explains what happened on that fateful Sunday night in her *Diary*. In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the chest. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the chest, there were emanating two large rays, one red and the other pale. (...) After a while Jesus said to me, "Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You." *Diary*, 47

The artist Eugene Kazimirowski, who received instructions provided personally by Sister Faustina, painted the first depiction of Divine Mercy in 1934 in Vilnius. However, it is the image of Lagiewniki, Krakow, painted by Adolf Hyla, that has gained fame throughout the world.

It is fitting that St. Faustina received this instruction at the beginning of Lent, as the Divine Mercy devotion is **connected intimately with the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus**, displaying the love Jesus has for humanity through the rays of his wounds. Lent is set apart as a special time in the Church's calendar to meditate on Jesus' Passion, and Divine Mercy Sunday occurs a week after Easter Sunday, on the Second Sunday of the Easter season. While St. Faustina received many other private revelations throughout her life, this vision on the First Sunday of Lent is regarded as the most important one.

Philip Kosloski – *Aleteia*. 2/25/23

#### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday): April 16 That we help our parish create a welcoming environment where people feel included. "Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" John 20:19 Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too - just as God, Our Father, sees us. Source: ARCHGH.ORG

Domingo de Pascua (Domingo de la Divina Misericordia): 16 de abril Que ayudemos a nuestra parroquia a crear un ambiente acogedor en el que todas las personas se sientan incluidas. "Jesús entró, se puso en medio de ellos, y los saludó diciendo: 'La paz sea con ustedes'." Juan 20:19 ¿Se le da bien hacer que la gente se sienta bienvenida? Cuando usted conoce a alguien, como un nuevo vecino, un nuevo compañero de trabajo o un nuevo feligrés, ¿lo hace sentirse en casa? Cuando hacemos que las personas se sientan bienvenidas, les hacemos sentir que están incluidas en lugar de excluidas. Fuimos hechos para las relaciones - con Dios y con los demás. Cuando usted se ve a sí mismo como un querido hijo de Dios, tiende a ver también a los demás de la misma manera, de la misma manera en la que Dios, Nuestro Padre, nos ve a nosotros.

#### Christ Our Light Catholic Church

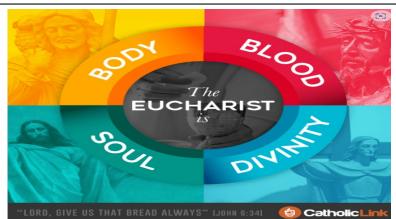


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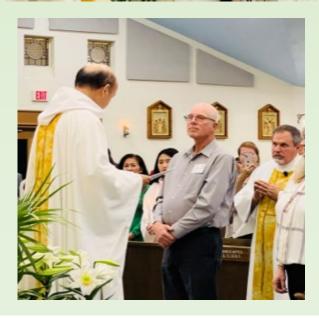










































More photos will be sent out with a link to download next week!

















