

DUM BENEDICERET ILLIS RECESSIT AB EIS
ET FEREBATUR IN CAELUM. (LUKE 24:51)

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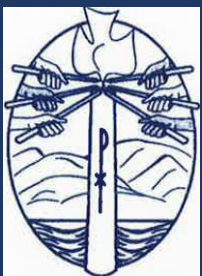
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BLESSING THEM, HE DEPARTED FROM THEM,
AND WAS CARRIED UP TO HEAVEN.



CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON
OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS: 510 MANLEY STREET • NAVASOTA, TX 77868-3926
LOCATION: 9677 SOUTH HWY. 6
(936) 825-3920 • FAX (936) 825-7612

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
Gregory Jelinek, MD (Retired)

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

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

Parish Website: <https://christourlight.org>



Front cover photo: My Catholic Life (May 2023)
<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/the-ascension-of-the-lord/>

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MAY

SEVENTH
SUNDAY
OF EASTER

GATHER BOOK #1022

21

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11
Eph 1:17-23
Mt 28:16-20 (58) Pss Prop

MAY
MONDAY

22

Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 19:1-8
Jn 16:29-33 (297)

TUESDAY

23

Acts 20:17-27
Jn 17:1-11a (298)

WEDNESDAY

24

Acts 20:28-38
Jn 17:11b-19 (299)

THURSDAY

25

Saint Bede the Venerable
Saint Gregory VII, Pope;
Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi,
Virgin Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Jn 17:20-26 (300)

FRIDAY

26


Saint Philip Neri, Priest
Acts 25:13b-21
Jn 21:15-19 (301)

SATURDAY

27

Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Jn 21:20-25 (302)

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



OUT OF COMPASSION FOR US
HE DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN AND
ALTHOUGH HE ASCENDED ALONE,
WE ALSO ASCEND, BECAUSE
WE ARE IN HIM BY GRACE.

ST. AUGUSTINE

WORD
on FIRE

PARISH LIFE

MASS INTENTION

SUNDAY, MAY 21

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM Adolfo Reyes †

MONDAY, MAY 22

No Mass

TUESDAY, MAY 23

6:00 PM George Malek †

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

8:30 AM Stash Macjewski †

THURSDAY, MAY 25

8:30 AM L. J. Vacek †

6:00 PM* Adolfo Reyes †

FRIDAY, MAY 26

8:30 AM Torres and Rangel Families

SATURDAY, MAY 27 VIGIL MASS

6:00 PM Nina Rotello †

SUNDAY, MAY 28

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM* Anastacia Barrios † and Tomas Herrera †

*Spanish

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, MAY 22

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

TUESDAY, MAY 23

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

THURSDAY, MAY 25

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

7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

7:00 PM Mystagogy, SPCC

7:00 PM R E Board Meeting, SPH

SATURDAY, MAY 27

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Altar Server Training, CH

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

ALTAR SOCIETY CAKES SALE

The altar society still has a few cakes left to sell (they are frozen). Stop by the kitchen window in the narthex on your way out this weekend to purchase. The sale of these goes to purchase the items used for Mass.

Thank you for your support!

OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY 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

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 LIFE

PRAY for THE CONTINUING RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF

the infirmed and homebound members of our community:

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

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

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Sixth Sunday of Easter 05/14/2023	\$3,434.50
Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,037.00

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2023

2023 Parish Goal.....	\$ 26,000.00
2023 Total Paid (activity thru 4/30/2023)..	\$ 13,695.00
Difference Goal vs. Paid.....	\$ 12,305.00
Participants.....	40

There will be a second collection this weekend for DSF



**DSF
SPOTLIGHT
OF THE WEEK
35 DEACONS
WERE
ORDAINED THIS
SPRING 2023**

Please scan here to
make a gift to DSF



APPRECIATION

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

Altar Flowers on May 7th weekend was in Memory of Celso Martinez.

The parish thanks the Dominguez Family

Altar Flowers this past weekend was for Mother's Day, Living and Deceased. The parish thanks the Altar Society.

The Regina Caeli prayer gives Easter joy in just a few seconds



DATING BACK TO THE 6TH CENTURY, TRADITION SAYS THIS PRAYER WAS CREATED WITH THE DIALOGUE OF AN ANGEL AND A POPE.

The Regina Caeli (Latin for “Queen of Heaven”) is offered us by the Church as a hallmark of Easter. Lasting for a full 50 days, Easter is a very long season — 10 days longer than Lent. The Regina Caeli is integrated especially into two daily Catholic devotions.

First, in the Divine Office prayed by priests, religious and many laypeople, the **Regina Caeli is the Easter season Marian antiphon at the end of Night Prayer.**

Then, the Church replaces during Easter the daily Angelus prayer with the Regina Caeli, traditionally prayed thrice daily (at 6:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m.).

The Angelus/Regina Caeli is prayed publicly by the pope and pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square on most Sundays. The pope offers a short greeting (usually with a reflection on the day’s readings) before leading the people in the prayer.

According to legend, **this prayer dates back to the sixth century with Pope Gregory the Great.** As the story goes, when the city of Rome was plagued with an epidemic, St. Gregory led a procession out from St. Peter’s Basilica past the Mausoleum of Hadrian in prayerful petition to end the plague.

Then, on top of the mausoleum, **he saw an angel singing the words of the Regina Caeli.** He responded in words also in the prayer, “*Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!*” or “*Pray for us to God, alleluia!*”

Inspired by this event, the faithful henceforth referred to the mausoleum with a different name: *Castel Sant’Angelo* (Castle of the Holy Angel) and the nearby bridge became known as the *Ponte Sant’Angelo* (Bridge of Angels).

The Church in Rome received two gifts that day. The disease of the city was cured and a new prayer was established to help remind the faithful of joy even in times of great suffering.

What, specifically, do we meditate on in this prayer?

First, the prayer assures us that Jesus truly is risen. This reflects the journey that all the disciples had to undertake, encountering the Risen Christ and thus leaving behind their doubt to become Christ’s witnesses.

Second, the prayer reminds us what the season of Easter is all about. We offer joyful praise to God with the word “*alleluia*” six separate times. Also, we proclaim different variations of the word “*joy*” five times (rejoice, rejoice, glad, joy, joys).

The Regina Caeli reminds us of the Resurrection and the meaning that it has for our lives. The Lord is risen and we can share in Easter joy with Mary, the Queen of Heaven. We can truly proclaim “*alleluia*,” giving praise to God for the great gift of everlasting life he offers us.

We need help on this journey to heaven. So we turn to Mary, the humble handmaid of the Lord whose openness to the will of God led to her coronation in heaven. We ask for her intercession daily so that we, like her, can experience the full joys of heaven in unity with her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Aletheia Jared Dees (May, 2017).

Photo: www.aciprensa.com regina coeli. 2089 (May 11, 2023). EWTN

REGINA CAELI PRAYER LATIN

Regina cæli, lætare, alleluia:
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia,
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.
Gaude et lætare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.
Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.
Oremus:
Deus, qui per resurrectionem Filii tui,
Domini nostri Iesu Christi,
mundum lætificare dignatus es:
præsta, quæsumus, ut per eius
Genitricem Virginem Mariam,
perpetuæ capiamus gaudia vitæ.
Per eundem Christum Dominum
nostrum.
Amen

REGINA CAELI PRAYER ENGLISH

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For he, whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen

REGINA CAELI PRAYER SPANISH

Reina del cielo, alégrate, aleluya.
Porque el Señor, a quien has llevado en tu vientre, aleluya.
Ha resucitado según su palabra, aleluya.
Ruega al Señor por nosotros, aleluya.
Goza y alégrate Virgen María, aleluya.
Porque en verdad ha resucitado el Señor, aleluya.

Oremos: Oh Dios, que por la resurrección de Tu Hijo, Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, has llenado el mundo de alegría, concédenos, por intercesión de su Madre, la Virgen María, llegar a los gozos eternos. Por Jesucristo Nuestro Señor. Amen.
Gloria al Padre y al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo, como era en el principio ahora y siempre por los siglos de los siglos.
Amen.

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER OR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
VII DOMINGO DE PASCUA O: ASCENSIÓN DEL SEÑOR

DAILY MEDITATION: ACTS 1:1-11

You will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

Today's first reading describes the last time the apostles saw the risen Christ. Luke describes the scene in the very first chapter of his Book of Acts, but words alone can't capture the amazement and wonder the apostles must have felt when they saw Jesus "lifted up" into heaven (Acts 1:9). They were blessed indeed to have seen all that Jesus said and did, from the beginning of his ministry up to this dramatic moment.

But along with this privilege came a great responsibility. In his final instructions to his apostles, Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This was their new purpose in life, the very reason why Jesus had chosen them in the first place. Upon their eyewitness accounts would rest the faith of millions of believers—and the entire Church—through the centuries.

Of course, many other people have followed in the apostles' footsteps by witnessing to Christ. They may not have seen Jesus firsthand, but they have experienced his presence and the power of his Holy Spirit in their lives. In fact, every person who calls himself a believer is also, by default, a witness to Christ.

Do you think of yourself as a witness? If you follow Jesus, you can't help being one. You witness by the values that guide you, by the love you show others, and by your life of prayer. You witness when you share how God is working in your life or how he has forgiven you or answered a prayer.

Jesus' final words at his Ascension weren't just for his apostles; they are for you, too. So how might you witness to Jesus today? Every day presents a new opportunity—one that might just lead another person to a new or deeper love of the Lord.

*"Holy Spirit, open my eyes to the ways
I can witness to you today."*

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9 Ephesians 1:17-2 Matthew 28:16-20
Word Among Us 05/21/23

¿Ahora sí vas a restablecer la soberanía de Israel? (Hechos 1, 6)

Después de tres años de viajar con Jesús, después de verlo ser arrestado, juzgado y crucificado, y resucitar de entre los muertos, incluso después de cuarenta días de enseñanzas inspiradas por el Espíritu Santo, después de todo esto, los apóstoles seguían confundidos. Le preguntaron a Jesús si había llegado el momento de expulsar a los romanos y restablecer la antigua gloria de Israel.

Sin embargo, nosotros podemos hacer una pregunta parecida hoy: "Señor, ¿cuándo vas a venir y arreglar todo? ¿Qué pasa con todas las guerras, la pobreza y el aborto?" Como respuesta, Jesús les dijo a sus apóstoles, y también nos dice a nosotros: *Sí, vengo a establecer el reino de Dios, pero quiero que tú me ayudes a construirlo.*

Es justo, en este día, alabar a Jesús con el "son de trompetas" (Salmo responsorial). Pero en medio de nuestra celebración, las palabras de Jesús siguen resonando: "Serán mis testigos" (Hechos 1, 8). "Vayan, pues, y enseñen a todas las naciones" (Mateo 28, 19).

Jesús ascendió a los cielos, pero la obra de su reino continúa, y él ha puesto ese trabajo en nuestras manos. Esa es la razón por la cual nos prometió el Espíritu Santo. Necesitamos el Espíritu para que nuestros intentos de predicar el evangelio, mantenernos firmes frente al pecado y ayudar al pobre estén llenos de la gracia y el amor de Dios. No es tan difícil como podrías pensar. Predicar el evangelio puede ser tan simple como ofrecerte a rezar por un amigo que lucha, o compartir con un vecino cómo Dios te ayudó en medio de una situación difícil. Ayudar al pobre puede significar una visita semanal al hogar de ancianos o aumentar tus donaciones en la alcancía para los pobres. Mantenerse firme contra el pecado puede significar rezar por la conversión de las personas o tratar de generar un ambiente más pacífico en tu hogar.

Sí, Jesús va a restablecer su reino y tú serás parte de su obra.
*"Padre, ¡danos la fuerza para construir
un reino digno del Señor resucitado!"*

Salmo 47 (46), 2-3. 6-7. 8-9 Efesios 1, 17-23
Mateo 28. 16-20. Palabra Entre Nosotros 21/5/23

This bulletin is made possible by your generosity. Because of your donation today, we are able to serve in many ministries here at Christ Our Light. Yes, you are making a difference!
We could not do what we do without you

*The Lord
bless you. and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine
upon you. and be gracious to you:
the Lord lift up
His countenance upon you.
and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26*

KING CHARLES' CORONATION CROSS BEARS RELICS OF THE TRUE CROSS



After the May 6 coronation of King Charles III, the cross will be received by the Church in Wales to be shared between Catholic and Anglican communities.

To honor the new King of England, Charles III, a new cross has been forged that will lead the procession into Westminster Abbey for his coronation, on May 6, 2023. The cross, which was created using Welsh silver, also bears **two relics believed to have come from the True Cross, courtesy of Pope Francis.**

Reuters explains that the relics, two thin shards of wood, are believed to have come from the True Cross, or the Cross on which Christ was crucified during his Passion. The two pieces of wood were arranged in a cruciform pattern and set within a rose crystal gemstone.

The donation of these relics, which were in the Vatican, was made "some time ago" and is intended as an "ecumenical sign," a Vatican source told I.MEDIA on April 19. Like many relics owned by the Holy See, the two fragments were in the Lipsanoteca, which is located in the Vatican Museums and is accessed from the Sistine Chapel through the Redemptoris Mater Chapel. Most of the relics kept in this room come from donations made to popes during canonizations.

The two fragments of the True Cross donated to England measure 5 and 10 mm.

Pope Francis has met with the then Prince Charles twice at the Vatican, in 2017 and 2019.

Keep the faith

According to CNN, the procession cross was commissioned by the Crown and donated to the Church in Wales to mark its centenary. The Church in Wales will receive the cross after the coronation to be shared by the UK's Anglican and Catholic communities. Andrew John, Archbishop of Wales, said in a statement:

"We are honored that His Majesty has chosen to mark our centenary with a cross that is both beautiful and symbolic. Its design speaks to our Christian faith, our heritage, our resources, and our commitment to sustainability. We are delighted too that its first use will be to guide Their Majesties into Westminster Abbey at the Coronation Service."

The cross was reportedly designed by master silversmith Michael Lloyd, using materials sourced from Wales.

These include recycled silver from the Royal Mint, in Llantrisan; Welsh windfall wood for the staff; and slate sourced from Wales for the stand.

The art style drew heavily on historical medieval Christian Welsh designs, with the hallmark reportedly hammered on by Charles III himself.

CNN notes that the back side of the cross bears an inscription in Welsh, taken from the final sermon of St. David, patron saint of Wales:

"Byddwch lawen. Cadwch y ffydd. Gwnewch y pethau bychain," which translates to: "Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things."

The cross, which is also a reliquary, is a strong symbol of the deeply Christian roots of Wales and England that will be present in Anglican and Catholic ceremonies throughout the UK for generations to come. Aletea. J-P Mauro April 20, 2023

3 IMPORTANT BENEFITS FROM THE CORONATION OF CHARLES III



GARETH CATTERMOLE/AFP/East News

Even if you're not a fan of royalty, there were some wonderful aspects from the day that can inspire and unite.

Last Saturday the world got to see a lot of pomp and ceremony for the crowning of King Charles III. While you might have read about the spiritual side of the service, and the history behind the beautiful abbey itself, there are some elements from the day that should also be highlighted.

Uniting of faiths

For those who watched the ceremony, you might have seen before Charles III left the abbey, that he stopped in front of a semi-circle of different religious leaders from numerous faiths. It wasn't only an important moment in showing the power of prayer, it was also an opportunity to show how different religions can unite for the good of others.

Placing Jesus at the forefront

While Charles is head of the Church of England, it was wonderful to see the Cross of Wales leading the procession into the abbey. Inside the cross were the relics of the True Cross that the Pope had sent as a gift.

Of course, in the ceremony itself, the British prime minister, Rishi Sunak, gave a beautiful reading from the Epistle to the Colossians. Sunak himself leans on his own Hindu religion. So it was inspiring to see him take to the lectern and give a moving reading that focuses on the love of Christ.

While some found the move controversial, the political leader felt it was his duty to read during the service to represent his people, not his own religious beliefs.



Mary Gardens

A common Marian symbol is flowers. We often think specifically of roses in association with Our Lady, but there are actually hundreds of flowers with Marian names and meanings.

In the Middle Ages, flowers were given religious names as a little way to sanctify, or make holy, an everyday object. These names came from traditions associated with the plant or symbolism that could be matched to its shape, color, or use. The titles highlighted things like events from the life of Jesus or virtues of Mary and the saints. When intentionally grown together, these flowers are called a Mary Garden. While most of these names have fallen out of popular use, we can bring back the Mary Garden names as a way to celebrate our faith and honor the role of Mary as the Mother of our Savior.

Here are some common flowers and their Marian titles:

- Daffodil: Mary's Star
- Iris: Sword of Sorrow
- Lavender: Mary's Drying Plant
- Lily of the Valley: Mary's Tears
- Morning Glory: Our Lady's Mantle
- Sunflower: Mary's Gold
- Tulip: Mary's Prayer
- Zinnia: The Virgin

Just as everything about Mary points us to Christ, even Mary Gardens can help us to call to mind the gift of the Eucharist while enjoying the beauty of nature. There are several flowers with traditional names connected to Jesus' Passion and the Blessed Sacrament:

- Fuchsia: Christ's Blood Drops
- Oriental Poppy: The Crucifixion Flower
- Passion Flower: The Five Wounds of Christ
- St. John's Wort: Christ's Sweat
- Lunaria Honesty Plant: connected with the Eucharist because of its similar shape to Communion hosts
- Eucharist Lily: named for its radiant white color and sweet fragrance
- Basil: Holy Communion Plant, called such because it was used to decorate Communion rails

Source: Eucharistic Revival. Mary Gardens



Knowing the Christian name for these flowers can create small catechetical opportunities. In your garden or landscaping at home, consider growing a few plants with Eucharistic and Marian names. Teach them to your children or grandchildren, pointing out the meaning behind the title. If choosing flowers for a First Communion or Confirmation party this spring, or even deciding on the bouquets that will decorate the altar for Holy Mass, use flowers with layers of symbolism pointing to Jesus and Mary. We can enrich our worship by filling our homes and churches with beauty, which teaches us the truths of our faith.

Children commonly pick little flowers and sweetly offer them to their mom as an act of love. In the same way, we can gather flowers—whether from our garden, the florist, or the grocery store—and bring a bouquet to our heavenly Mother to show our love and ask for her prayers, all the while letting her gently lead us closer to Jesus. During May, many parishes and schools will host a May Crowning to honor Mary. Singing songs, presenting flowers, and crowning a statue or image of the Blessed Mother brings the community together to celebrate and pray. Families can replicate this devotion at home, creating their own shrine with a Mary statue in their home or yard. A May crowning doesn't have to be fancy in order to have an impact on children—even a fistful of dandelions and a simple, heartfelt prayer can show our Lord the gratitude we have that he shares his Mother with us.

Questions & Discussion:

- Did you know that flowers could have so many meanings? Would you like to research more Christian names for flowers? Should our family try to grow our own little Mary Garden?
- What is one of your favorite stories about Mary from the Bible? What are some ways that Mary leads us to Jesus?
- Have you ever been to a May Crowning at your church or school? If not, would you like to try to attend or host one this month?
- Have you ever noticed that there are almost always flowers decorating the sanctuary of our church? What do you think are some reasons why we would add that beauty around the altar? How might it help us to show our love for Jesus in the Eucharist?
- Do you have a favorite Mary statue or picture in our home? How do you think having images of Mary helps us honor her? How do these images help us think about Jesus?
- May is a month to honor all of the women who care for and love you. How can you pray for your mom, grandmas, aunts, and godmother this month?



ALTAR SERVER TRAINING SATURDAY, MAY 27

9:00 A.M. IN THE CHURCH

*PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX
THIS WEEKEND*

CAPACITACIÓN DE MONAGUILLOS SÁBADO, 27 DE MAYO 9:00 AM EN LA IGLESIA *Regístrese en el nártex este fin de semana*

Christ Our Light is looking for new volunteers who want to become Altar Servers. Children and teens who have received First Communion and attend Mass regularly are encouraged to serve. We will train you! If you have already attended a training session, please come for a refresher so we can schedule you to serve.

Cristo Nuestra Luz está buscando nuevos voluntarios que quieran convertirse en Monaguillos. Se alienta a los niños y adolescentes que han recibido la Primera Comunión y asisten a Misa regularmente a servir. ¡Te entrenaremos! Si ya ha asistido a una sesión de capacitación, venga a refrescarse para que podamos programarlo para servir.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING YOUR TIME, TALENT &
TREASURE BY CONTACTING OUR PARISH EMAIL:

SHEPHERD@CHRISTOURLIGHT.ORG

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR TALENT & TREASURE,
PLEASE SEE FR. GIOVANNI AFTER EACH MASS OR BY
CONTACTING OUR PARISH OFFICE.

BLESSING ALL GRADUATES 2023

COME DRESSED IN CAP AND GOWN FOR A
BLESSING BY FR. GIOVANNI ON
SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2023, AT 6:00 PM VIGIL MASS
SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2023, AT 1:00 PM

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of
2023

It is in giving that we receive

St. Francis of Assisi

TIME

We are called to develop a close relationship to God by share our talent and time by assisting our Church. Time is precious and we should not store our time away because every moment passes by is a waste of time. Everyone's gift of their time is precious because you are the only one who can give up your time for God.

TALENT

Everyone's talent is unique. With trust in God, we can do many things. God has given it to use not for our own use but also to use our talents to serve others.

St. Peter in his first epistle tells us, "Each one of you has received a special grace, so like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others." All of Christ's works need to be done in our parish and community. As you know, we need many volunteers present in our parish to do Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to glorify in His name. Your gift of talent is a special gift from God. You can share your talents in the following ministries:

- Serve as Extraordinary Minister Holy Communion and Sacristan
- Visit the sick and elderly
- Feed the hungry
- Teach those who want to learn
- Console the lonely and sorrowful
- Pray for the needs and to give a helping hand and a kind word

TREASURE

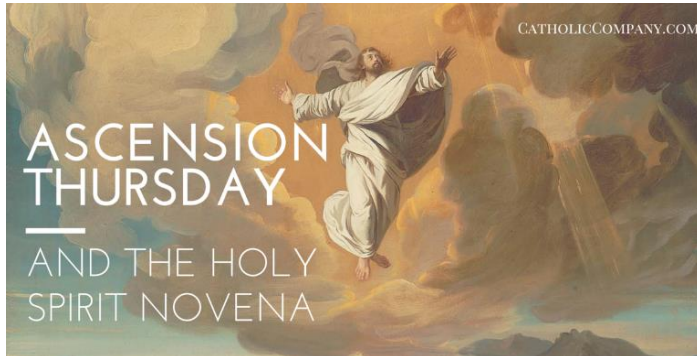
Our Treasure, as illustrated in the parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14-30, of a man preparing to travel to a far country. Before departing, he gives talents or money to his servants.

- The first servant receives five talents and works to build them into five more
- The second servant, who receives two talents, doubles their value as well
- But the third servant, who receives one talent, buries it

When the master returns, he praises the first and second servants, but he takes the one talent from the third servant because the servant was not a good steward of the money, having done nothing to increase its value. The lesson of the parable of the talents is that we are to make good use of material gifts given to us by God. To be less than frugal with our material goods is a sin. To do nothing with them is just as wrong.

HELP WANTED

EMHC, SACRISTAN, and USHERS to serve
at all masses. Please contact Fr. Giovanni or
parish office for an application.



Ascension Thursday is closely connected with Pentecost. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were instructed to go to Jerusalem and wait. They, together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, waited and prayed for a period of 9 days until the Holy Spirit was poured out on them at Pentecost. Although Jesus' physical presence was taken from them with his Ascension into heaven, he did not leave them as orphans; he sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in their souls and to guide them into all truth.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (John 14).

In fact, Jesus told his disciples that unless he ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit would not come to them. This period of 9 days that the Apostles prayed and waited, from the Ascension to Pentecost, was the Church's first novena, and the biblical precedent for all the various novenas that believers pray today.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself soul and body to Thee, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Thy purity, the unerring keenness of Thy justice, and the might of Thy love. Thou art the Strength and Light of my soul. In Thee I live and move and am.

I desire never to grieve Thee by unfaithfulness to grace, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against Thee. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Thy light and listen to Thy voice and follow Thy gracious inspirations. I cling to Thee and give myself to Thee and ask Thee by Thy compassion to watch over me in my weakness.

Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore Thee Adorable Spirit, helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Thy grace that I may never sin against Thee. Give me grace O Holy Ghost, Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to Thee always and everywhere, "Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Amen.

To be recited daily during the Novena

Novena to the Holy Spirit that can be prayed daily between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost. The novena traditionally begins the Friday after Ascension Thursday and concludes 9 days later, on the vigil of Pentecost.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love.

Grant me,

the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal,

the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth,

the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven,

the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation,

the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints,

the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and

the Spirit of Fear of the Lord that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.

Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit.

Amen.

May this feast day inspire us all to live like saints, through the power of the Holy Spirit!



"The Risen Christ is our future. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the starting point and the ultimate goal of the history of humanity."

— Pope Francis

ST. CONSTANTINE- FEAST DAY MAY 21



The reason Constantine was going to do battle the next day was to decide once and for all who should be the ruler of the Roman empire.

When his father, Constantius, had died six years earlier, he'd been proclaimed emperor. There was no doubt about that. The problem was that one of his generals, General Maxentius, had other ideas. He thought he should be emperor, and now that the matter was going to be settled by a battle close to a bridge that crossed the River Tiber near Rome.

The night before the battle, Constantine had a dream. Jesus appeared to him in the dream and said that he must make the cross his own symbol and have it placed on all the imperial flags and standards.

The next morning, October 28 in the year 312, the battle began. As in the army of General Maxentius began to advance across the bridge; it collapsed, flinging many of his soldiers into the river. Constantine won easily.

San Constantino

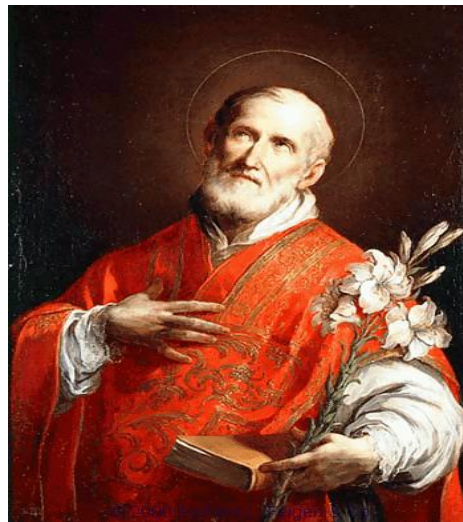
La razón por la que Constantino iba a pelear al día siguiente era para decidir de una vez por todas quién debería ser el gobernante del Imperio romano.

Cuando su padre, Constancio, murió seis años antes, Constantino fue proclamado emperador. No cabía duda de eso. El problema era que uno de sus generales, el general Majencio, tenía otras ideas. Pensaba que él debía de ser emperador, y ahora el asunto se resolvería con una batalla cerca de un puente que cruzaba el río Tíber cerca de Roma.

La noche antes de la batalla, Constantino tuvo un sueño. Jesús se le apareció en el sueño y le dijo que debía hacer de la cruz su propio símbolo y colocarla en todas las banderas y estandartes imperiales.

A la mañana siguiente, 28 de octubre del año 312, comenzó la batalla. Cuando el ejército del general Majencio comenzó a cruzar el puente, este se derrumbó, arrojando a muchos de sus soldados al río. Constantino ganó fácilmente.

SAINT PHILIP NERI- FEAST DAY MAY 26



For forty-five years St. Philip Neri evangelized thousands of people at Rome, from the poor to the popes. Philip won their hearts with his consistent kindness and jovial sense of humor. He became known as the "Second Apostle of Rome" because his ministry promoted a general return to the Christian living.

You can get a feel for the saint's attractiveness in his maxims, like these:

"The best preparation for prayer is to read the lives of the saints, not from mere curiosity, but quietly and with recollection a little at a time. And to pause whenever you feel your heart touched with devotion."

"He who does not go down to hell in his lifetime, runs a great risk of going there when he dies."

"Never try to evade the cross that God sends you, for you will only find a heavier one."

In 1533, after a dramatic personal experience of God, Philip went to Rome, where he lived in poverty. After several years of solitude and study he sold his books and hit the streets to do the grassroots work of leading people to Christ. Ordained in 1551, he went to live with a community of priests at San Giralomo. He and his associates held conferences in their oratory that gathered people for an evening of study and prayer that climaxed in music or a short pilgrimage to one of the ancient basilicas.

Soon Philip gathered about himself a small group of talented priests that he organized into the Congregation of the Oratory. Philip's informality characterized the foundation. For example, members were not required to take vows, but only to adhere to the gospel. "If you want to be obeyed," quipped Philip, "don't make commandments." Officially recognized in 1575, the Oratory spread throughout the world and attracted illustrious members such as John Henry Newman.

Like his contemporary St. Teresa of Ávila, Philip Neri was a mystic-in-action. He reported that once at prayer in 1544 he saw a globe of fire enter his mouth and set his heart a flame that permanently afflicted him. The saint did his best to hide his mystical phenomena, but sometimes his ecstasies at Mass lasted so long that the acolytes could leave for an hour's break. Philip Neri died on May 25, 1595, active till the end and celebrated as the most popular person in Rome.

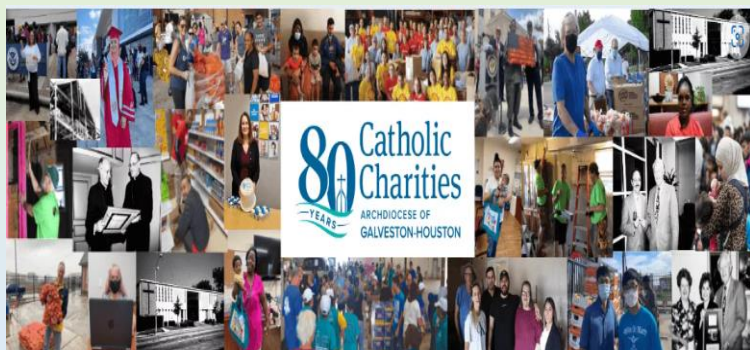
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will strengthen
ministries helping
those in need
through our
Catholic social
service agencies

**Thank
you
for
your
prayers
and
your
generosity**



PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Co-Cathedral
Of The Sacred Heart

10:00 A.M.



Dcn. Zachary



Dcn. J. Serrato



Dcn. Matthew

Fr. Matthew will visit Christ Our Light to celebrate the
6 p.m. Mass on June 10, 2023,
and the 1 p.m. Mass on June 11, 2023.

Demos gracias a Dios y anunciamos la ordenación del
Diácono Matthew Krusleski
a la Orden del Sacerdocio:

10:00 A. M. EL 3 DE JUNIO DE 2023

en la Co-Catedral del Sagrado Corazón
1111 St. Joseph Parkway, Houston, TX 77002.
¡Todos son invitados!

También, el padre Matthew va a celebrar la Misa de 6
p.m. el 10 de junio
y la Misa de 1 p.m. el 11 de junio aquí en la Parroquia
Cristo Nuestra Luz.



CONGRATULATIONS TO

ERNESTO NAVARRO

&

AMBERLY NICOLE MORALES

MAY GOD BLESS YOUR MARRIAGE
&
THE LIFE YOU SHARE TOGETHER

WHY IS MAY CALLED THE MONTH OF MARY?



This is why May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Among Catholics, May is most well-known as “Mary’s Month,” a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Why is that? How did May become associated with the Blessed Mother?

There are many different factors that contributed to this association. First of all, in ancient Greece and Rome **the month of May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime** (Artemis and Flora, respectively). This, combined with other European rituals commemorating the new season of spring, led many Western cultures to view May as a month of life and motherhood. This was long before “Mother’s Day” was ever conceived, though the modern celebration is closely related to this innate desire to honor maternity during the spring months.

In the early Church there is **evidence of a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th of May each year**, but it wasn’t until the 18th century that May received a particular association with the Virgin Mary. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, “The May devotion in its present form originated at Rome where Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, to counteract infidelity and immorality among the students, **made a vow at the end of the eighteenth century to devote the month of May to Mary**. From Rome the practice spread to the other Jesuit colleges and thence to nearly every Catholic church of the Latin rite.”

Dedicating an entire month to Mary wasn’t a new tradition, as there existed a prior tradition of devoting 30 days to Mary called *Tricesimum*, which was also known as “**Lady Month**.”

Various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread during the month of May, as it is recorded in the *Raccolta*, a publication of prayers published in the mid-19th century.

It is a well-known devotion, to consecrate to most holy Mary the month of May, as the most beautiful and florescent month of the whole year. This devotion has long prevailed throughout Christendom; and it is common here in Rome, not only in private families, but as a public devotion in very many churches. Pope Pius VII, in order to animate all Christian people to the practice of a devotion so tender and agreeable to the most blessed Virgin, and calculated to be of such great spiritual benefit to themselves, granted, by a Rescript of the Segretaria of the Memorials, March 21, 1815 (kept in the Segretaria of his Eminence the Cardinal-Vicar), to all the faithful of the Catholic world, who either in public or in private should honour the Blessed Virgin with some special homage or devout prayers, or other virtuous practices.

In 1945, Pope Pius XII **solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st**. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary.

The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honor our heavenly mother.

Aleteia. Philip Koloski-2018

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL YEAR OF PARISH REVIVAL

June 11, 2023 – July 17, 2024

The second phase will foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit.



10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

July 17 – 21, 2024
Indianapolis, Indiana

Will You Be There?

Join your Catholic brothers and sisters as we encounter the living Jesus Christ, experience profound renewal, and are sent out on mission for the life of the world.

At this historic event, more than 80,000 Catholics of all ages will gather in Indianapolis to reconsecrate their hearts to the source and summit of our faith.

MAKING HISTORY THE FIRST NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN 83 YEARS

This is a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church. We are expecting tens of thousands of pilgrims—but space is limited. Jesus Christ will be there. Will you? **Parish registration starts today at shepherd@christourlight.org**



The Ascension: The Church, the Body of Christ

This Eucharistic Prayer Companion is designed to help you spend 30 minutes to an hour in meditation and silent prayer with Jesus during Eucharistic adoration. Even if you cannot be physically present in a church or adoration chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, you can unite yourself spiritually to Jesus in the Eucharist as you spend this time in prayer.

THE GRACE I SEEK: to believe that Jesus wants me to be part of his living Body, the Church.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Jesus, the Lord of Life, has given himself to you in the Eucharist. He is gazing upon you, his beloved child, with great love at this very moment. Pause for a few moments and allow yourself to rest in his loving gaze. Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

ASK FOR THE GRACE: Jesus, help me to believe that you have a place for me in your living body, the Church.

MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER INTERCESSIONS — *Read slowly, allowing your senses to help you enter into this moment of the Mass. Let the Holy Spirit fill your heart with his divine grace, that the hidden mystery from this moment in our memorial of Christ's sacrifice may be revealed more abundantly to you.*

Words cannot express the deep experience of your spirit as you participate in Christ's sacrifice. You become aware of your participation, in time, in the worship of eternity. You see the priest, you are aware of the assembly gathered, and of the angels and saints. Yet, even this is not enough. Now you join yourself earnestly in intercession—for the Pope, for your bishop, for the clergy, and for the whole Church around the world. You pray for a reunion of all the Father's scattered children and for the dead. In this Mass, the love of the Heart of Jesus is fully revealed—his sacrifice once and for all. You sense your own heart being drawn up into the very same desire of Jesus, and realize you, too, thirst for the complete and total communion Jesus promised, "that when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (Jn 12:32)

FOR REFLECTION — *Allow yourself to reflect for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.*

How can your own silence and interior composure (settled-ness) help you enter deeply into the mystery of the Body of Christ? How can your union with the assembly at Mass not be a distraction from Jesus but an opportunity for deeper communion through, with and in Jesus? How can your own *ars celebrandi* (art of celebrating/participating) in Mass help reveal the mystery of the worship of the body (us) for the head (Jesus)?

GOSPEL MEDITATION — *Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this passage.*

All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18–20)

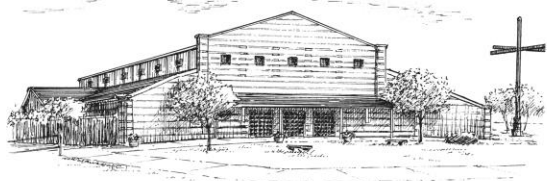
FOR REFLECTION — *Allow yourself to reflect for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.*

Jesus' parting words to his disciples are words of missionary sending. He wants everyone to be part of his body, the Church. As you sit in silence with Jesus, ask him to help you embrace more deeply your place in his Mystical Body and be filled with zeal for inviting others to be part of his body, the Church.

Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER — Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Ascension)

SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire to participate fully, actively and consciously in the Church, the Body of Christ.



The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston

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RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL MEN
ST. MARY'S SEMINARY
JUNE 6-7 OR JULY 8-9

Glimpse of Life in Community
July 7 - 16, 2023
Galveston
10-day session for young women (ages 20-30) who are discerning or are open to religious/consecrated life.

EXPLORE
RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL MEN
ST. MARY'S SEMINARY
JUNE 6-7 OR JULY 8-9

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT
JULY 21-23, 2023
ST. MARY'S SEMINARY

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Café Catholica 2023

RISE UP

"Mary arose & went with haste."
LUKE 1:39

Schedule:
5:15 PM - Confession
6:15 PM - Mass
7:15 PM - Dinner
8:15 PM - Talk

Location:
St. Anne Church
2140 Westheimer Rd.
Houston

archgh.org/cafecatholica

Q&A
with Cardinal DiMarzio
Daniel Cardinal DiMarzio, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
July 10

SPIRIT NIGHT
Rise & Run: Living Christy in Friendship & Dining
Brian Butler, Co-Author of "The Body for Jesus"
July 17

Decisions, Direction & Discernment:
How Mary, Joseph, & the Saints can help
Paul George, Author & National Speaker
July 24

Open to all young adults
ages 18-39
Online option available.
Café Connect discussion groups available.
Register Online