



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

281-463-7878

www.SeasCatholic.org



On the Cover: Icon of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Unknown artist.

Weekday Mass Readings

September 26: Job 1:6-22; Psalm 17;
Luke 9:46-50

September 27: Job 3:1-23; Psalm 88;
Luke 9:51-56

September 28: Job 9:1-16; Psalm 88;
Luke 9:57-62

September 29: Daniel 7:9-14; Psalm
138; John 1:47-51

September 30: Job 38:1-21, 40:3-5;
Psalm 139; Luke 10:13-16

October 1: Job 42:1-17; Psalm 119;
Luke 10:17-24

Pilgrimage with Fr. Lockey

The pilgrimage is for those seeking a time of prayer and fellowship with the saints and Holy Father, strengthening our commitment to strive for holiness and deeper union with God. Come, grow in God with us as we journey through the land and times of the saints. Flyers are in the office. The deadline for registering is October 30. The pilgrimage will be in June, 2017.

What is Hell and Who Goes There?

By Jim Blackburn
Catholic Answers

Our Choice, Not God's

Let's start by defining what Catholics mean by *hell*. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) offers the following explanation: "We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love him. But we cannot love God if we sin gravely against him, against our neighbor or against ourselves . . . To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him forever by our own free choice. This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called "hell" (CCC 1033).

This definition presumes what Christians—indeed, most anyone who believes in God—agree on: that the true life and happiness for which we were created can be found only in God's presence. Separation from God means the loss of that life and happiness and thus results in suffering. This is one reason why hell is always depicted as a place of torment.

But we must understand that hell is a choice. To experience hell, one must die in the freely chosen state of mortal sin. The *Catechism* explains that mortal sin is "sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent" (CCC 1857). Such an act is contrary to the love we owe God so, in essence, the state of mortal sin is the freely chosen state of not loving God. If one dies in such a state, God honors that choice and allows such a soul to remain separated from him.

God did not create hell so much as he allowed for its possibility. By permitting us to love him freely—or not—he allows for the possibility that we will choose to separate ourselves from him. But God does not will this for anyone.

The *Catechism* states, "God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a willful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end. In the Eucharistic liturgy and in the daily prayers of her faithful, the Church implores the mercy of God, who does not want any to perish, but all to come to repentance" (CCC 1037).

A final point before we continue: Hell is indeed eternal because the soul's state at death determines its state for eternity. If person dies in the state of mortal sin, God honors that choice forever. The *Catechism* explains, "If it is not redeemed by repentance and God's forgiveness, [mortal sin] causes exclusion from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of hell, for our freedom has the power to make choices forever, with no turning back" (CCC 1861).

To sum up, "Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, "eternal fire." The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs" (CCC 1035).

Now that we've examined the Catholic understanding of hell, let's take a look at how this understanding developed over time.

Continued on page 12...



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

Every year, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7. Because this observance falls in October, that month has always been dedicated to praying the Holy Rosary and encouraging others to do so. This is therefore an excellent time to become reacquainted with this devotion.

Although all of us are familiar with the Holy Rosary, we may not realize how this feast was instituted. In the late seventeenth century, Christian Europe was living under the threat of invasion from the Ottoman Empire. Christian society had been further weakened by the rise of Protestantism in the north, a series of events that had divided the Church and caused havoc and disunity in Christian society.

In the midst of this disarray, Pope Pius V (later St. Pius), hobbled together a military coalition of small nations, together with Spain. They formed a modest fleet that set out to defend central Europe from invasion from the East. The leader of the armada was Andrea Doria, who had been entrusted with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who had appeared in Mexico just a few decades before.

Pope Pius asked that all of Catholic Europe join in praying the Holy Rosary for victory. Although the Christian fleet was greatly outnumbered, they vanquished the enemy, fatally crippling the capacity of the Ottoman Empire to wage war in Europe and on the Mediterranean Sea. The date of the battle was October 7, 1571.

In thanksgiving for the intercession of the Mother of God, Pope Pius established the Feast of Our Lady of Victory, which was later changed to the Feast of the Holy Rosary.

There is no doubt that the Virgin Mary is a powerful intercessor for us. Let us ask her to help us fight our battles against temptation and sin, so that through her Son, we may always emerge victorious.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephen B. Reynolds

Rev. Stephen B. Reynolds, Pastor

My Sunday homilies are on line at our parish website: www.SeasCatholic.org.

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Mass Schedule

Monday—Friday

6:30 a.m. Latin
9:00 a.m. English
7:00 p.m. English

*On Friday, the evening Mass
is in Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt)*

7:30 p.m. Miércoles
en Español

Saturday

7:30 a.m. Latin
9:00 a.m. English

Anticipated Masses

5:00 p.m. English
6:30 p.m. Español
8:00 p.m. Tiếng Việt

Sunday Masses

7:00 a.m. English
8:00 a.m. Latin (FLC)
8:30 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. English
11:00 a.m. Latin (FLC)
12:15 p.m. English
2:00 p.m. Español
5:30 p.m. English
7:30 p.m. Español

Confession

Wednesday

5:45 p.m.—6:45 p.m.

Friday

5:45 p.m.—6:45 p.m.

Saturday

3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

First Friday

8:00 a.m.—8:45 a.m.
5:45 p.m.—6:45 p.m.



Charismatic Prayer Group: September

"A clean heart create for me, O God;
and a steadfast spirit renew within me." (Ps 51:12)

Luke's Gospel proclaimed at the Sunday Masses in September announce themes of preparation, reconciliation and mercy. Christ's words call to us through the ages to have faith and to be ready for the coming of God's Kingdom. If you are looking for more ways to connect your life with your faith, please join us on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Family Life Center Prayer Room for lively praise music, prayer, worship, and sharing God's Word. Fellowship and light refreshments follow.

Sept. 30: Even a small act of faith is very powerful

Note: Discussion topics at our August gatherings are based on the Gospels of: Luke 15:1-32; 16:1-13; 16:19-31; 17:5-10.

October Schedule

"The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; It does not rest until it reaches its goal." (*Sirach 17*)

October 7: Your faith has saved you.

October 14: God will secure the rights of His holy ones who call out to Him day and night.

October 21: I thank You that I am not like the rest of humanity.

October 28: No Meeting (craft show prep)

Note: Discussion topics at our October gatherings are based on the Gospels of Luke 14:25-33; 17:11-19; 18:1-8, 9-14.

Parish Apostolates

Respect Life Committee

For information about upcoming pro-life activities, you are invited to call Lia Mclean at 832-766-2634, or contact her by e-mail: liapmc@gmail.com.

St. Joseph's Freedom Men's Group

We are a confidential support group for men and their families. Our goal is to help develop skills to win the battle against alcohol, chemical, and porn/sexual addiction. Meetings are Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Wife and family member meetings are held upon request on the last Saturdays of March, June, September, and December. More information is available at : [HTTP://saintjosephfreedomgroup.blogspot.com/](http://saintjosephfreedomgroup.blogspot.com/) and st.longinusrr0315@gmail.com

Northwest Ultreya

Deepen your relationship with Christ. Ultreya is part of Cursillo, a Catholic lay movement that offers an opportunity to meet Christ in a more complete way. "Cursillo" means "little course" and provides a lifetime plan for following Christ through prayer, study and action, in friendship with others. We meet at 9:45 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month in the FLC. Contact Duane King 281-615-8942.

Helping Hands Ministry

We assist families in pre-planning for funerals. To schedule an appointment, please call Beth Wood at 281-413-9682. We also sponsor a bereavement support group on the first and third Thursdays, in room eleven of the FLC, from 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. You may contact Deborah Jackson at 281-550-3027 or Gini Buehler at 281-861-6306.

R.C.I.A

Inquiry classes for those interested in learning more about the Catholic Church will take place every Monday at 7:00 p.m. in Room One. Contact Nadia Jara at 281-463-7878, ext. 337, or at njara@seascatholic.org.

Faith Direct: Secure Giving

Join the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. It is secure, convenient and Faith Direct will provide you an offertory card to place in the basket during the collections. There is no cost to you. Sign up today by visiting www.faithdirect.net, our parish code is TX417.



Parish Apostolates

Baby Bottle Project

Help us save unborn babies by helping their mothers choose life! By taking a baby bottle home and filling it with change or bills and returning to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church (office or collection basket) during September. For the past forty years the Maternal Assistance Program has been helping women in crisis pregnancies to choose life for their precious unborn babies. We hope you will join us in this life-saving work.

Marriage Encounter

Do people around you say "Wow what a wonderful and loving couple?" Christian Marriage can be a sign of God's boundless love. Families and communities are blessed when couples live their Sacrament. Work to keep your marriage vibrant. (Suggestion) A Marriage Encounter Weekend can help to put the "Wow" in your marriage. The next two scheduled weekends this year will be Oct. 14 - 16 & Nov. 4 - 6. Find out more or sign up at: www.houstonme.org or call (713) 482-1791.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We have begun! It's not too late to join us. We meet right after the Wednesday morning Mass in the Community Life Center from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please contact Carmen Delgado to register by phone at 281-550-5003, or at duane_carmen@msn.com.



The start of 2017 will mark the twentieth anniversary of Perpetual Adoration here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

We want to hear about your experiences with the Blessed Sacrament. Please share your story, or a brief testimonial, with us at the following e-mail address:

mystoryof.seasadoration@gmail.com

Your experience may be shared with our fellow parishioners in the Bulletin and could encourage others to spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. If you wish to remain anonymous, please request so in your e-mail.



www.SeasCatholicYouth.org



Sunday, September 18, 2016

- Parish Offertory \$ 34,584
- U. of St. Thomas/ Catholic U. 6,966

Diocesan Services Fund (DSF)

- Parish Goal \$270,000
- Pledged-to-date \$174,039
- Paid-to-date \$154,844
- Number of participants 562

Spaghetti Luncheon

Sunday, October 9, 2016

11:000 a.m.—3:30 p.m. in the CLC

Adults: \$8.00

Children under ten years: \$4.00



Los ANUNCIOS de la SEMANA

RICA

Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos

Proceso de preparación para la celebración de los sacramentos del Bautismo, Primera Eucaristía y Confirmación para Adultos. ¿Está pensando en la preparación sacramental de Adultos?

RICA, Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos, es un proceso de discernimiento y preparación para las personas interesadas en aprender más sobre la Iglesia Católica, Para aquellos que nunca han sido bautizados, o han sido bautizados en otras denominaciones, o que han sido bautizados en la Iglesia Católica pero no han recibido los sacramentos de iniciación (Eucaristía y Confirmación). Este es un bellissimo proceso sin ningún compromiso a través del cual se explora lentamente las enseñanzas de la Iglesia Católica y se discierne por varios meses el deseo de hacerse católico.

Si usted está interesado, o un pariente, amigo o compañero que le ha manifestado interés anímelo a comunicarse con: Nadia Jara al 281- 463-7878 ext. 337 njara@seascatholic.org

Sesiones comienzan el 7 de Agosto 2016 a las 12:00 p.m., Salón Prayer Room ¿Le gustaría ser un padrino/madrina para RICA? Inscripción previa

¡Ven a conocer más de la Fe Católica!



Build a house on Solid rock. A foolish person builds on sand. When the rains and floods come, and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash!

Construe la casa sobre la roca. La persona tonta construye sobre la arena. Cuando las lluvias, las inundaciones y los vientos vienen con impetu contra aquella casa, se derrumbara con un golpe poderoso.

Respect and honor the woman in your life. Make them smile, appreciate and acknowledge them today and every day.

Debe respetar y honrar la mujer de tu vida. Debes ser la sonreír, y apreciarla y darle reconocimiento hoy y todos los días.

Legion de Maria: Marlene Rocha 832-410-5273

Grupo de estudio Bíblico en Español

Les invitamos a ser parte de nuestro grupo, que se reúne todos los martes de 1:00-3:00p.m. en el FLC. necesita sino el deseo de conocer más nuestra Fe Católica. Favor de mandar mensaje por texto al 281-620-8308, attn: Guadalupe Ortiz.

¡Gratis! Clases de Ingles para Adultos

Los lunes, el 12 de Septiembre- el 22 de Mayo, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. y 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (Puede empezar cualquier semana). Copperfield Church, 8350 Highway 6 North #C-8 (detrás de Wings 'N More). Contacto: Jan Garza 832-443-4248 o jan.garza@comcast.net. Tiene que tener 18 años o más. No hay servicios de niñera.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN CARISMÁTICO SEAS



Compartiendo el Amor del Padre y nuestra fe en Cristo, bajo la guía y presencia del Espíritu Santo.

Hacia una Espiritualidad de Comunión

Misión: Dar testimonio del papel determinante de los carismas en la predicación del Evangelio y en la construcción de la comunidad cristiana. Facilitar la Educación en la Fe y la Experiencia de Comunidad Cristiana entre Adultos. Asambleas: Todos los Viernes de 7:30 a 9:45 pm., en los salones A&B del Edificio de Vida Familiar (FLC). Todos son Bienvenidos, Contamos con Servicio de Guardería.





De la pluma del Pastor.



Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en el Señor:

Cada año, la Iglesia celebra la fiesta del Santo Rosario el 7 de Octubre. Debido a esta tradición que cae en Octubre, este mes siempre se ha dedicado a la oración del Santo Rosario y animamos a otros a hacerlo. Por lo tanto, este es un excelente tiempo de familiarizarse con esta devoción.

Aunque todos nosotros estamos familiarizados con el Santo Rosario, no nos damos cuenta de cómo se instituyó esta fiesta. A finales del siglo XVII, la Europa cristiana estaba viviendo bajo la amenaza de invasión del Imperio Otomano. La sociedad cristiana se había debilitado aún más por el surgimiento del protestantismo en el Norte, una serie de acontecimientos que habían dividido a la Iglesia y habían causado estragos y la desunión en la sociedad cristiana.

En medio de este caos, el Papa Pío V (más tarde San Pío), Apelando a una coalición militar de las naciones pequeñas, junto con España. Formó una flota modesta que se dispuso a defender Europa central desde la invasión de Oriente. El líder de la armada fue Andrea Doria, quien salió confiando en una imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe, que había aparecido en México tan sólo unas décadas atrás.

El Papa Pío pidió que toda Europa católica se uniera en el rezo del Santo Rosario por la victoria. A pesar de que la flota cristiana era superada en número, vencieron a los enemigos, paralizando fatalmente la capacidad del Imperio Otomano, peleando la guerra en Europa y en el mar Mediterráneo. La fecha de la batalla fue el 7 de Octubre de, 1571.

En acción de gracias por la intercesión de la Madre de Dios, el Papa Pío estableció la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria, que fue cambiado posteriormente a la fiesta del Santo Rosario.

No hay duda de que la Virgen María es un poderoso intercesor para nosotros. Pidámosle que nos ayude a nuestro campo de batalla contra la tentación y el pecado, por lo que a través de su Hijo, siempre podemos salir victoriosos.

Atentamente en Cristo,

Fr. Stephen B. Reynolds

Fr. Stephen B. Reynolds, Párroco

RCIA

Rite of Christian
Initiation for Adults



Are you discerning a call to the Catholic Church?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is an inquiry process for people who are thinking about the possibility of becoming Catholic. It is for people who have not been baptized, people of other faiths or people who have been baptized Catholic but did not complete the sacraments of Initiation.

This is a beautiful process, with no pressure to commit to our faith community, in which interested persons slowly explore the beliefs of the Catholic Church and discern, over a period of many months, if they desire to become Catholic.

If you are interested, or have a relative, friend or co-worker who has expressed this interest, please encourage them to call:

Nadia Jara
281- 463-7878 ext. 337
njara@seascatholic.org

24th Annual Gingerbread Village

HOLIDAY MARKET & CRAFT SHOW

Saturday
October 29, 2016
9am - 4pm

Featuring Arts, Crafts, Specialty
Foods, Fashion Goods & More!

Located at
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Catholic Church
6646 Addicks-Satsuma
Houston, TX 77084
(In Northwest Houston, approx. 1 mile east
of Hwy 6 between FM 529 & West Little York)

Hosted by SEAS Ladies Auxiliary



Anh Chị Em thân mến trong Chúa:

Hàng năm, Giáo Hội mừng Lễ Thánh Mân Côi vào ngày 7 tháng 10. Bởi vì lễ này rơi vào tháng Mười, tháng đó đã luôn luôn được dành riêng để cầu nguyện Kinh Mân Côi và khuyến khích mọi người làm như vậy. Do đó đây là một thời gian tuyệt vời để làm quen lại với việc sùng kính này.

Mặc dù tất cả chúng ta đã quen thuộc với Kinh Mân Côi, nhưng chúng ta có thể không nhận ra ngày lễ này đã được thiết lập như thế nào. Vào cuối thế kỷ XVII, Những Kitô Hữu Âu Châu đang sống dưới sự đe dọa của cuộc xâm lược từ Đế quốc Ottoman. Cộng đồng Kitô giáo đã bị suy yếu hơn nữa bởi sự nổi lên của đạo Tin Lành ở miền Bắc, một loạt các sự kiện đã chia rẽ Giáo Hội và gây ra sự tàn phá và chia rẽ trong xã hội Kitô giáo.

Ở giữa tình trạng lộn xộn này, Đức Giáo Hoàng Piô V (sau đó trở nên Thánh Piô), tập hợp một liên minh quân sự của các quốc gia nhỏ, cùng với Tây Ban Nha. Họ thành lập một hạm đội khiêm tốn ra khơi để bảo vệ trung tâm Âu Châu trước cuộc xâm lược từ phương Đông. Vị lãnh đạo của hạm đội là Andrea Doria, người đã được dâng hiến trước với một tượng ảnh của Đức Mẹ Guadalupe, đáng đã xuất hiện ở Mexico chỉ là một vài thập kỷ trước.

Đức Giáo Hoàng Piô kêu gọi tất cả người Công Giáo ở Châu Âu tham gia cầu nguyện Kinh Mân Côi cho chiến thắng. Mặc dù hạm đội Kitô giáo đã phải đối chọi với địch quân đông hơn nhiều, nhưng họ đã đánh bại kẻ thù, gây tử vong và làm tê liệt khả năng của Đế quốc Ottoman không thể tiến hành chiến tranh ở châu Âu và trên biển Địa Trung Hải. Trận chiến đó vào ngày 07 tháng Mười, năm 1571.

Để tạ ơn sự cầu bầu của Mẹ Thiên Chúa, Đức Giáo Hoàng Piô thành lập Lễ Kính Đức Mẹ Chiến Thắng, mà sau này được đổi thành Lễ Thánh Mân Côi.

Không còn nghi ngờ rằng Đức Trinh Nữ Maria là đáng cầu bầu mạnh mẽ cho chúng ta. Chúng ta xin Mẹ giúp chúng ta chiến đấu chống lại sự cám dỗ và tội lỗi, để nhờ Con của Mẹ, chúng ta có thể luôn luôn sẽ chiến thắng.

Thân ái trong Chúa Kitô,

Fr. Stephen B. Reynolds

Lighthouse CD of the Week

Our Beautiful End by Matthew Leonard



The son of a Protestant minister, Matthew Leonard is now a Catholic speaker, author, and the Executive Director of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Matthew discusses the nature and role of beauty in life, particularly how it sheds light on the nature of God and assists us in achieving our glorious end, which is heaven itself.

Parishioner Comments: "One of the best talks on Catholic aesthetics I have heard since Fulton Sheen. I hope that many, many will listen, learn and absorb the beauty of God's beauty." "I really enjoyed listening to his explanation of what heaven will be like."

Your generous donations to cover our cost assure continued availability of these wonderful resources!



Wed. mornings 5:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. in the CLC

Invest a little time in yourself to become a better husband, father and spiritual leader in your family! Coffee, juice, donuts & kolaches are served to jump start your morning.

No cost, preparation or outside commitments!
Experience one session! Come, listen and learn!

- This week: From Saint to Scoundrel
- An Athlete's Fall From Grace
- The Fall of the First Man
- The Dignity and Free Will of The Human Person
- The Four Gifts of Man
- The First Temptation
- Fallen Man in a Fallen World
- Losing the First Love

Visit our website at www.paradisusdei.org and click on "Learn More" in the THAT MAN IS YOU section or contact Leon Fontana 713-291-3581 lvfisu@yahoo.com Wherever you are in your spiritual life, Jesus Christ wants to meet you right there and take you further!




That Man is You! is an interactive men's program combining the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of a man fully alive. By honestly addressing the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, That Man is You! seeks to form men who will be capable of transforming homes and society.

WWW.THATMANISYOU.ORG



THE SPIRIT OF NAZARETH

DISCOVER

- The true source of the struggles in the spiritual life and the time honored means for winning the spiritual battle.
- The practical means for developing a prayer life that puts you into communion with God so that you can discern his will in your life.
- A step-by-step guide to developing a "spiritual plan of life" that enables you to make true progress in your spiritual life.
- The grace being offered families to experience the love, peace and joy found within the Holy Family.

PROGRAM DEVELOPER

Steve Bollman

Developer That Man is You!

Founder & President Paradisus Dei

During the Great Jubilee, Steve Bollman experienced a personal call to found a ministry dedicated to the renewal of marriage and family life. In 2002, he set aside his professional interests as an energy derivatives trader in Houston, Texas to found Paradisus Dei. In 2004, Steve developed the That Man is You! men's program, which quickly moved across the country transforming men, marriages and families. Independent research by a Faith Advisor to The Gallup Poll identified it as one of the most life transforming programs ever studied.

Program information

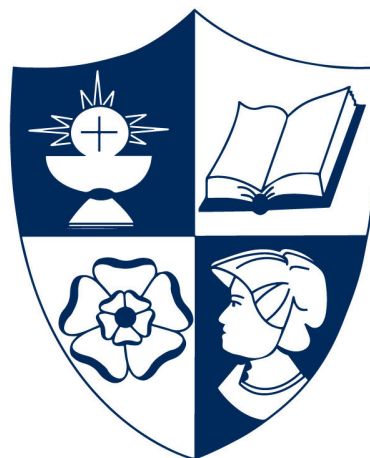
Wednesday Mornings before work
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Community Life Center (CLC)
Beginning September 21, 2016

Schedule

5:30AM - Open for Breakfast
5:50AM - DVD Presentation
6:20AM - Small Group Discussions
6:55AM - Conclusion to start the day

Registration

Register for this free program online at www.thatmanisyou.org or by contacting Leon Fontana at 713-291-3581 or lvflsu@yahoo.com.



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Annual Fund

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School thanks you for your continued support to the Annual Fund/Lighting the Way Campaign. This year we have teamed up with Faith Direct to give you an easier way to donate to the school. You can now enroll online to give a monthly contribution and/or a one-time gift. To give to SEASCS please visit www.faithdirect.net, enter code TX417 and search for SEASCS Annual Fund. All gifts are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please email info@faithdirect.net.



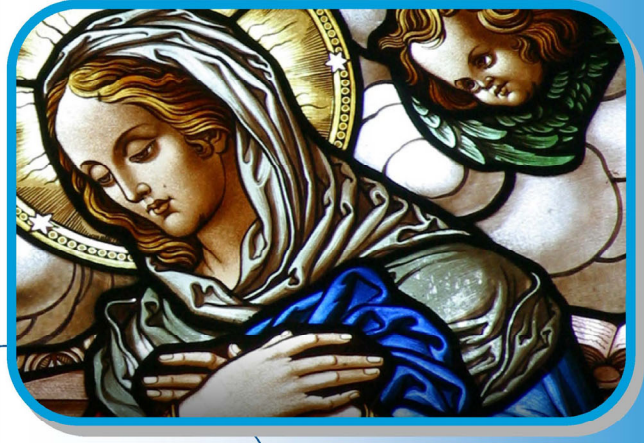
You are invited to watch the SEASCS soccer teams play St. Anne at home Tuesday, September 27th. The games begin at 4:30 p.m. Afterwards join us for Spirit Night at Fuddrucker's Copperfield for burgers and shakes. They will donate 20% back to our school between the hours of 4-10 pm. We appreciate your support!



Myriam Dinner 2016

*An evening with
Sisters of the Archdiocese*

*For High School Girls
who are interested in or
want to learn about religious life*



Friday / Oct. 14
6:30pm-9:30pm
6:00-6:30 - Arrival & Check-In

Held at:

*The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word,
The Villa de Matel,
6510 Lawndale, Houston, TX 77223*

*Registration Required:
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Due to member vacations, reporting of our August activity is delayed. It will be forthcoming within the next couple of weeks. So, instead we would like to share with you the three essential elements to which members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are drawn to this ministry:

Spirituality: To bear witness to Christ and His Church by showing them the faith of Christians and inspiring them to work for the good of humanity.

Friendship: To bring together men and women of good will and assisting them, by mutual example and true friendship, in drawing nearer to the Divine Model by fulfilling His essential precept, namely the love of God in the person of others.

Service: To establish a personal contact between its members and those who suffer, to bring to the latter the most efficacious and charitable aid possible, and to promote self-sufficiency.

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Continued from page 2...

A Brief History of the Afterlife

Before Jesus' time it seems that God had not yet clearly revealed much about hell.

Even so, evidence shows that at least some Jews believed in an eternal afterlife which was good for some, bad for others. For example, Daniel records, "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2).

The Hebrew word *Sheol* and the Greek word *Hades* were often used by the Jews to refer in general to "the abode of the dead." These words are sometimes loosely translated into English as "hell" (e.g., in the King James Version of the Bible), however, in these instances, the word may refer to either the abode of the damned or the abode of the just, or it may broadly refer to both. Similarly, the Greek words *Phulake* and *Paradaiso* may be translated as "hell."

Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to understand this better as it gives us insight into the afterlife as it was understood in Jesus' time (see Luke 16:19-31).

From this parable it seems that all who died prior to Jesus' Resurrection went to "hell" (*Hades*); however, the just went to a particular part of hell referred to as "Abraham's bosom" where they would be comforted until the gates of heaven were opened while the damned went to a place of torment. A great chasm separated these two parts of hell and no one in either part was in heaven.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "Scripture calls the abode of the dead, to which the dead Christ went down, "hell"— *Sheol* in Hebrew or *Hades* in Greek—because those who are there are deprived of the vision of God. Such is the case for all the dead, whether evil or righteous, while they await the Redeemer: which does not mean that their lot is identical" (CCC 633).

A good example of this general rendering of the word "hell" is found in the Apostles' Creed which states that, after Jesus' crucifixion and death, "he descended into hell." How are we to understand this?

He Descended into Hell

St. Peter tells us that Jesus "went and preached to the spirits in prison" (1 Pet. 3:19). "Prison" (Greek, *Phulake*) here refers to hell in the general sense of the place where departed souls rested prior to Jesus' opening the gates of heaven. The *Catechism* explains that "he descended there as Savior, proclaiming the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there" (CCC 632).

After his death Jesus descended into hell to deliver the righteous who awaited him. The *Catechism* explains, The frequent New Testament affirmations that Jesus was "raised from the dead" presuppose that the crucified one sojournd in the realm of the dead prior to his Resurrection. This was the first meaning given in the apostolic preaching to Christ's descent into hell: that Jesus, like all men, experienced death and in his soul joined the others in the realm of the dead. But he descended there as Savior, proclaiming the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there . . . It is precisely these holy souls, who awaited their Savior in Abra-



ham's bosom, whom Christ the Lord delivered when he descended into hell. Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him" (CCC 632-633).

I should also note there that "Abraham's Bosom" was sometimes referred to by the Jews as "Paradise" (Greek, *Paradiso*). This might explain why Jesus told St. Dismas, the good thief, "you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). A *Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture* explains, "'Paradise' . . . signified for the Jews the abode of the blessed. Here, if taken literally in its context, it signifies primarily the limbo of the just, to which Christ's soul was presently to descend" (968).

So the word hell can be understood and used in a variety of senses. We also can see how our understanding of the concept of hell has developed over time. But what about hell as we commonly understand the term today: the eternal abode of the damned—the freely chosen state of eternal separation from God? Does Scripture support such an idea?

But the eternal nature of hell is stressed in the New Testament. For example, in Mark 9:47–48 Jesus warns us, "[I]t is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." And in Revelation 14:11, we read: "And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever; and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

Hell is not just a theoretical possibility. Jesus warns us that real people go there. He says, "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who

find it are few" (Matt. 7:13–14).

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, 'eternal fire.' The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs" (CCC 1035).

In his 1994 book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, Pope John Paul II wrote that too often "preachers, catechists, teachers . . . no longer have the courage to preach the threat of hell" (p. 183).

Concerning the reality of hell, the pope says, "In point of fact, the ancient councils rejected the theory . . . according to which the world would be regenerated after destruction, and every creature would be saved; a theory which abolished hell. . . . [T]he words of Christ are unequivocal. In Matthew's Gospel he speaks clearly of those who will go to eternal punishment (cf. Matt. 25:46). [But] who will these be? The Church has never made any pronouncement in this regard" (pp. 185–6).

Thus the issue that some will go to hell is decided, but the issue of who in particular will go to hell is undecided.

NIHIL OBSTAT: I have concluded that the materials presented in this work are free of doctrinal or moral errors.

Bernadeane Carr, STL, Censor Librorum,
August 10, 2004

IMPRIMATUR: In accord with 1983 CIC 827 permission to publish this work is hereby granted.

+Robert H. Brom, Bishop of San Diego,
August 10, 2004





MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Monday, September 26

- 6:30 a.m. ✕ Dominic Martone
 9:00 a.m. Katrina Ruth Vera (birthday)
 7:00 p.m. ✕ Isabel Orozco

Tuesday, September 27

- 6:30 a.m. ✕ N.D.H.S. Class of '64
 9:00 a.m. ✕ Gaudencio C. Quinonez
 7:00 p.m. Ryan Naulty (healing)

Wednesday, September 28

- 6:30 a.m. ✕ N.D.H.S. Class of '64
 9:00 a.m. ✕ Jose Manuel Rodríguez
 7:00 p.m. ✕ Anthony Conguista
 7:30 p.m. Intention of Celebrant

Thursday, September 29

- 6:30 a.m. Priests of F.S.S.P.
 9:00 a.m. ✕ Jorge A. Rojas
 7:00 p.m. ✕ Madge LeBlanc

Friday, September 30

- 6:30 a.m. Priests of F.S.S.P.
 9:00 a.m. Gihen Rodriguez
 7:00 p.m. ✕ Ruth M. Rodriguez

Saturday, October 1

- 7:30 a.m. ✕ Angel Hair Design Clients
 9:00 a.m. ✕ Frank & Josephine Coselli
 5:00 p.m. ✕ Mark Oates
 6:30 p.m. ✕ Ubaldo Garcia
 8:00 p.m. ✕ John Mary Nge Nguyen
 Theresa Ngo Nguyen

Sunday, October 2

- 7:00 a.m. ✕ Cath. Life #87 members
 8:00 a.m. Pro Populo
 8:30 a.m. Pro Populo
 10:30 a.m. ✕ George & Claire Connolly
 ✕ George & Frances Parrish
 11:00 a.m. ✕ Ruth & Arrel Carrier
 12:15 p.m. ✕ Daniel J. Tearpock
 2:00 p.m. ✕ Meliton Colima
 Maria Trinidad Garcia
 5:30 p.m. ✕ Mary Leitko
 7:30 p.m. ✕ Roman Aguirre

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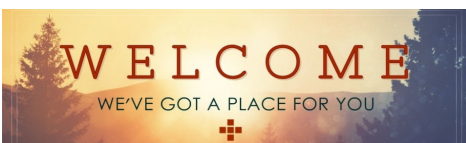
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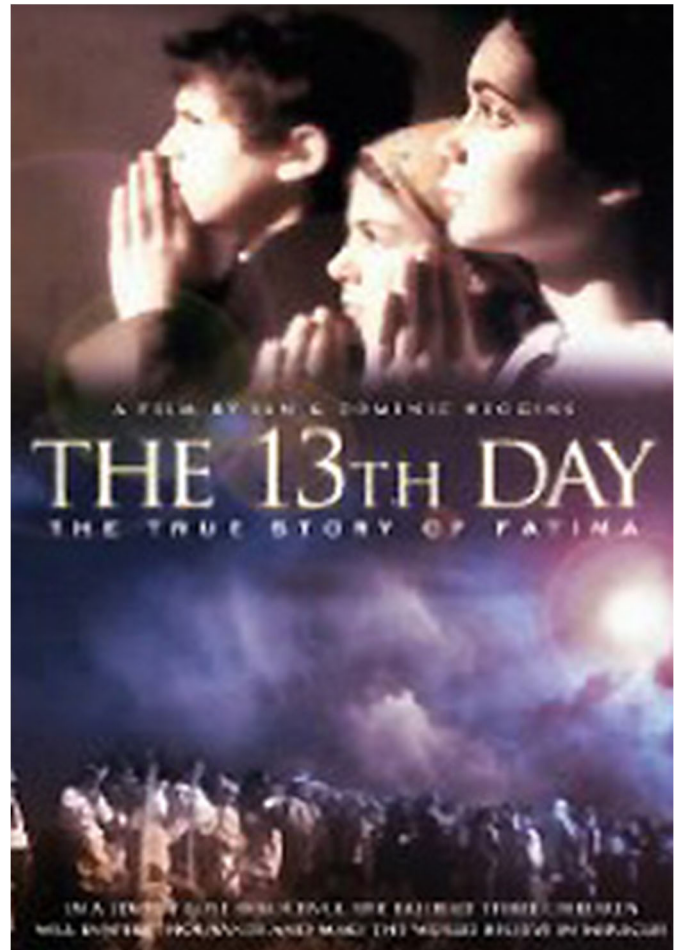


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If you know anyone who is sick or in need of prayer support, please call 281-463-7878.

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All submissions must be an **MS Word** document (no PDF files), using Century Gothic font, size 9. Please **do not** use any other formatting (i.e., all caps, bold, italics, underlining, colored text, text boxes, etc...). Graphics and photos are subject to editing.

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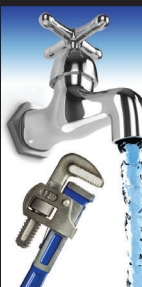
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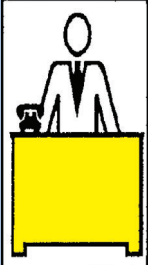
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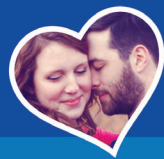
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St. Thérèse of Lisieux

October 1

Thérèse felt an early call to religious life, and overcoming various obstacles, in 1888 at the early age of 15, she became a nun and joined two of her elder sisters in the cloistered Carmelite community of Lisieux, Normandy. After nine years as a Carmelite religious, having fulfilled various offices such as sacristan and assistant to the novice mistress, and having spent her last eighteen months in Carmel in a night of faith, she died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty-four.

From her spiritual autobiography:

"Martyrdom was the dream of my youth and this dream has grown with me. Considering the mystical body of the Church, I desired to see myself in them all. Charity gave me the key to my vocation. I understood that the Church had a Heart and that this Heart was burning with love. I understood that Love comprised all vocations, that Love was everything, that it embraced all times and places...in a word, that it was eternal! Then in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: O Jesus, my Love...my vocation, at last I have found it...My vocation is Love!"



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