

CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

WEEKENDS

Saturday

Hours: Noon-6:00pm

Mass

5:00pm (English)

Confessions

3:30-4:45pm

Sunday

Hours: 6:30am-7:00pm

Masses

7:00am (English)

9:00am (Vietnamese)

11:00am (English)

1:00pm (Spanish)

5:30pm (English)

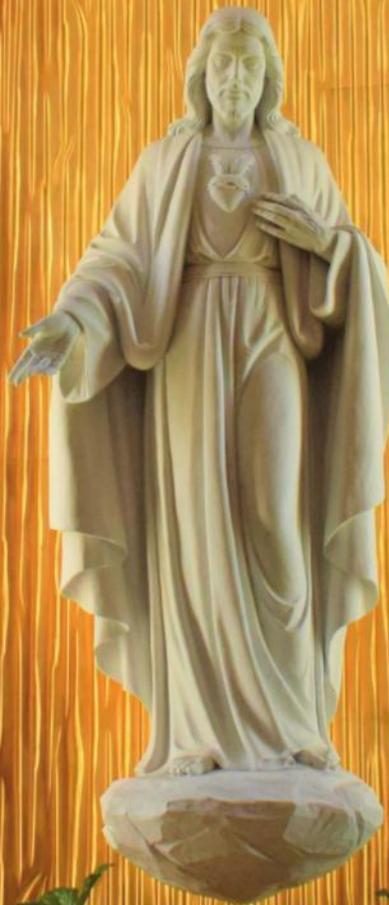
Confessions

8:15-8:45am

10:15-10:45am

12:15-12:45pm

4:30-5:15pm



WEEKDAYS

Monday

Hours: 9:00am-2pm

Mass: 12:10pm (English)

Confessions: 11:30am-Noon

Tuesday

Hours: 6:30am-2pm

Masses: 7:00am & 12:10pm

Confessions:

6:30am-6:50am

& 11:30am-Noon

Wednesday-Thursday

Hours: 6:30am-6pm

Masses: 7:00am & 12:10pm

Confessions:

6:30am-6:50am

& 11:30am-Noon

Friday

Hours: 9:00am-6pm

Mass: 12:10pm

Confessions:

11:30am-Noon

*“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’
and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’”
-Matthew 5:37*

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

RECTOR'S CORNER

February 12, 2023

DSF 2023: God is the Strength of My Heart

Dear Friends in Christ:

Anh chị em thân mến trong Chúa Kitô:

Estimados Amigos y Amigas en Cristo:

As we begin a new Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) Campaign, in 2023 titled “God is the Strength of My Heart”, I am going to again make a bold ask. DSF for us is not just about raising a certain amount of money. This is part of our stewardship as we show not only thanksgiving to God, but justice and charity to our neighbor. **My bold ask: that every single household of this parish participate in DSF 2023.** If this sounds familiar, you are right—I made this ask last year. Some responded while many did not. Nearly 44% of our households contributed to the campaign, but that remains a minority. We are grateful for the generosity of those who gave, but it should not be incumbent upon a minority to support the works of the Church to those in need—the responsibility belongs to us all.

If you have the means, please make a pledge and gift. If your household is facing financial hardship, then make a symbolic (but meaningful nonetheless) gift, even if that is just \$1 or \$5. And then the one universal way everyone, even those without means, can participate: pray for the 60+ ministries supported by the DSF as well as those who be touched by its fruits. This is not just about fundraising—this is about drawing everyone into stewardship and solidarity with the works of the Church for the poor, those in need, and those on the margins.

Our parish goal for 2023 is \$145,000. Last year, for the DSF 2022 Campaign, our parish surpassed our goal of \$141,750 by raising \$225,377, of which all of the excess came back to the parish (a much needed blessing!). However, I want to warn against complacency. In fact, our success was once again artificially boosted early in the cycle with a \$100,000 donation from a very generous non-parishioner. While we are so grateful for that individual’s generosity, we cannot not nor should we rely on a repeat gift of that nature. Without that gift, we would have fallen well short—an amount that the parish would have needed to cover out of its already upside down budget.

As we kickoff this campaign, I ask you to pray and to give – this is part of our universal vocation. The form of the gift, I leave up to you and God. But may we who have been so blessed share those blessings with those who need them most.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in you! Amen!

Yours in Christ,



Very Rev. Jeffrey L Bame
Pastor & Rector



ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

**His Eminence
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, D.D., S.T.L**
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

Most Reverend Italo Dell’Oro, C.R.S, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop

Chancery Offices

1700 San Jacinto St. Phone: 713-659-5461
Houston, TX 77002 Website: www.archgh.org



CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

Very Reverend Jeffrey L. Bame
Rector & Pastor

Reverend Steven Tran, C.Ss.R.
Parochial Vicar

**Deacon Lynn Carney
Deacon Jose Galvan
Deacon Gil Vela**

**Deacon John Carrara
Deacon Joe Millhouse
Rev. Mr. Thomas Swierc**

Church (Physical)

1111 St. Joseph Parkway
Houston, TX 77002

Parish Offices (Mailing)

1701 San Jacinto St.
Houston, TX 77002

Website: www.sacredhearthouston.org

Email: office@sacredhearthouston.org

Phone: 713-659-1561

Fax: 713-651-1365

Pastoral Council

Email: ccshpastoralcouncil@gmail.com

Chair: Jana Breaux

Lorena Luna

Vice-chair: Phillip Bocoek

Joe Messa

Recorder: Iris Maranon

Wendy Millhouse

Pat Chandler

Christina Ortiz

Bob Horan

Chau Pham

Beth Imperatore

Vanessa Pham

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT Child and Youth Protection



All clergy, employees, and volunteers are required to be compliant with CMG Connect. To report suspected abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy, an employee, or volunteer of the Archdiocese immediately contact Child Protective Services (CPS) at 1-800-252-5400 and the local police department. For confidential victims assistance call 713-654-5799 or e-mail vac@archgh.org.

WWW.SACREDHEARTHOUSTON.ORG/RECTORSCORNER

WORSHIP



WORSHIP is the beginning and end of all things for a Catholic—our Catholic life begins in baptism. It is the source and summit of Catholic life, including that of a parish. We receive from God, and we make offering to God, with our joint participation with Christ in the ultimate offering to God the Father in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. For many, this is all that there is to Catholic life—go to Mass—but it is merely the beginning. By our **WORSHIP** and by our baptism, we **BELONG** to the Body of Christ, are called to **GROW**, to **GIVE** back, and **GO** forth in authentic discipleship. Of course, all of this leads back to **WORSHIP**.

Mass Intentions & Special Intentions: February 11-February 17

Saturday, February 11
5:00pm John & Jess Hagale

Monday, February 13
12:10pm Jessie Doty †

Thursday, February 16
7:00am Jacqueline Jenkins Bennet +
12:10pm Dorothy Dow †

Sunday, February 12
7:00am Intentions of Benjamin G. Johnson
9:00am For Community Intentions
11:00am For the People of the Parish
1:00pm Mocinor Eugene Mwachukwu
5:30pm Bernadine & F.R. Pizzitola †
& For Deceased Clergy of the Archdiocese
(See “Requiescat in Pace” on Page 8)

Tuesday, February 14
7:00am Intentions of Dcn. Carrara
12:10pm Boyd & Debbie Naegeli

Friday, February 17
12:10pm Flora Valdez †

Wednesday, February 15
7:00am Lily Jenkins +
12:10pm Terry Parrett

For upcoming weddings: Jimmy Thai Nguyen & Nancy Nghe (2/18), Willie Weili Hsu & Phoung Ngoc Hoang (2/20), Zaid Thomas Barazi & Macarena Martinez (3/4), Kyle Jeffrey Cowman & Ashlynn Nicolle Rando (3/11)

+ SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME +

Today’s music for Mass breaks open today’s Propers: the Rock of God mentioned in the Introit and the commandments. For OT 6, the Offertory Proper (a scriptural antiphon prescribed in the Missal) is the Benedictus es Domine from today’s Responsorial Psalm (119). In Austin Lovelace’s musical prayer from the Song of the Three Young Men, we recall that through the prophets God promised to save us from those who hate us. The Communion Proper reminds us that in God we are satisfied, and today’s motet implores God’s new commandment to love one another. The organ music today might remind us of various time periods of human conflict still needing the rock of resolution and love – Florence Price was both a pioneering African-American composer and Arkansas church musician worth celebrating in Black History Month, while Mussorgsky’s Promenade calls to mind the current Ukrainian conflict.

Readings: #1086

Prelude: Air

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Introit: Esto mihi in Deum (mode IV)

Gregorian Chant

Be unto me a protecting God and a house of refuge, to save me; for you are my support and my refuge; and for the sake of your name you will lead me and nourish me.

Processional Hymn: #683 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

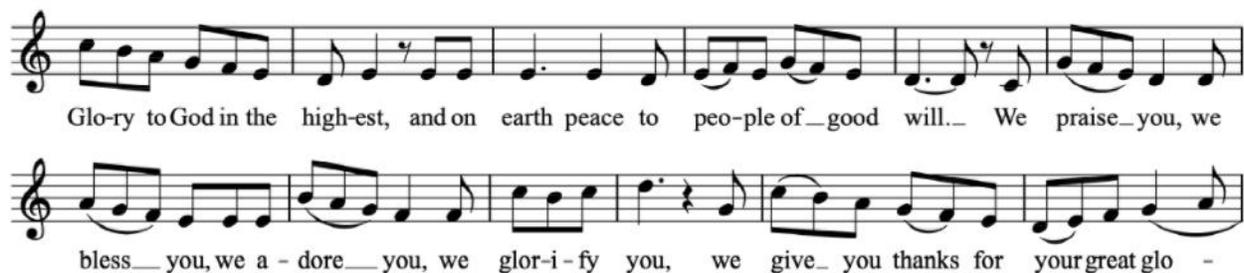
Kyrie (Mass of St. Gregory the Great)

Luke Mayernik (b. 1981)



Gloria (Mass of St. Gregory the Great)

Luke Mayernik



WORSHIP

2

- ry, — Lord God, heav-en - ly King, O God al-might - y Fa - ther.

Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son, — Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,

you take a - way the sins of the world, — have mer - cy on us; —

you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; — you are seat - ed — at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; have mer - cy on us. — For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, — you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, — a - men.

First Reading

Sirach 15:15-20

Psalm 119

Owen Alstott (b. 1947)

Bless - ed are they — who fol - low the law of the Lord!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WORSHIP

Offertory

#785 What Does the Lord Require

SHARPTHORNE

11 AM: Benedictus es Domine

Austin Lovelace (1919-2010)

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers;
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty;
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness;
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim;
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom;
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven,
praised and exalted above all for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

Song of the Three Young Men vs. 29-34

Sanctus (Mass of St. Gregory the Great)

Luke Mayernik

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of Hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Memorial Acclamation (Mass of St. Gregory the Great)

Luke Mayernik

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro - claim your death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

Great Amen (Mass of St. Gregory the Great)

Luke Mayernik

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Agnus Dei (Mass of St. Gregory the Great)

Luke Mayernik

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. grant us_ peace.

Holy Communion

#544 O Sun of Justice

JESU DULCIS MEMORIA

Manducaverunt (mode I)

Gregorian Chant

They ate and were fully satisfied; the Lord gave them all that they desired; they were not deprived of their wants.

11 AM: I Give You a New Commandment

Peter Aston (1938-2013)

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.

If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35

Recessional Hymn: #707 Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

Postlude: Promenade

Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881)

PARISH LIFE



COR AD COR COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

We would like to invite you to be a part of our Cor ad Cor Festival planning and execution team! Help us make 2023 bigger & better!

Contact Steffani Aquila to participate!
saquila@sacredheartouston.org
sacredheartouston.org

RECTOR'S MAILBAG

Join our parish on the Tabella App!

Submit your questions to the 'Rector's Mailbag' small group on Tabella, and each Wednesday Father Jeff will answer them!



Tabella
www.tabella.app

By the grace of baptism, we **BELONG** to the Body of Christ, the Church. We are adopted sons and daughters of God who are built up as a family through the Body and Blood of Christ. This is true in a mystical sense and also in a very human, institutional sense as we belong to the Church and to our parish family.

CONNECT WITH US



Join our parish
Tabella



CCSHhou



CCSHhou



cocathedralofthesacredheart



www.sacredheartouston.org



Clergy and Parish Staff

Caritas Day

Our Annual Day of Lenten Service



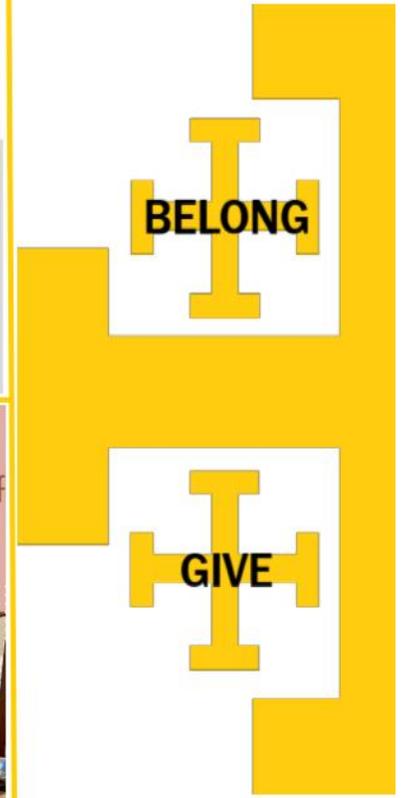
Saturday, March 4, 2023 8am

Sign up for your service project at
SACREDHEARTHOUSTON.ORG/CARITASDAY



In January our parish collected 173 boxes of cereal for Ronald McDonald House!

THANK YOU!

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for supporting the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. In addition to our Parish Offertory Box and Poor Box found in the back of the church, you can donate via Faith Direct using our parish code TX363 at www.faithdirect.net.

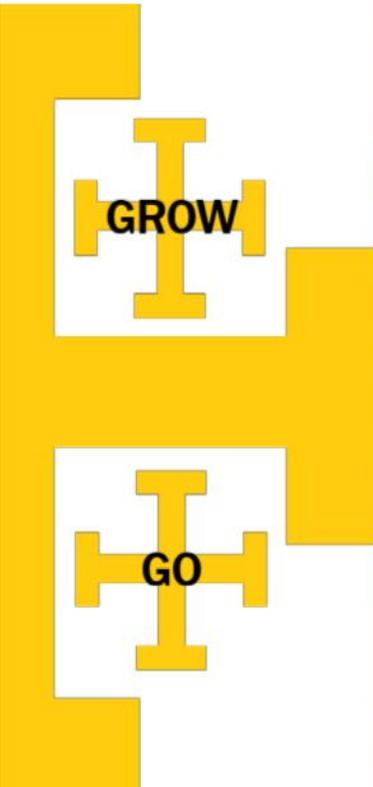
2/5/23 Offertory:	Collected: \$26,496	Budgeted: \$32,000	(\$5,504)
2022-23 YTD:	Collected: \$809,133	Budgeted: \$1,024,000	(\$214,867)
2022 DSF Gifts:	Paid: \$6,182	Goal: \$145,000	(\$138,818)/4.2%
DSF Participation:	Donors: 16	Families: 792	2%

The more we grow in our Catholic faith, the more we realize how blessed we are and how in turn we are called to **GIVE**. We come to realize that all that we are and all that we have is a gift from God. We are called to give back to God and our neighbor in practical charity and true stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

WWW.SACREDHEARTHOUSTON.ORG

PARISH LIFE

Incorporated into the Life of Christ and His Church by the grace of baptism and the sacraments, we are called to **GROW** in virtue, prayer, and knowledge. God continues to sow the seed and asks us to nurture what has been sown so that we can grow into Christian maturity and bear fruit more abundantly.



The authentic Catholic life leads us not to membership and disjointed action, but to discipleship and to mission. The act of divine worship ends with the dismissal to **GO** forth. We are sent, as another dismissal formula says, to go and glorify the Lord with the entirety of our lives and to make disciples of others.

PRAYER | TRANSFORMATION | BEAUTY

Adoration by Candlelight

At the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
1111 St. Joseph Pkwy, Houston, TX 77002
7:30 pm, Tuesday Evenings
Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 13, Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21

Music from 1000 years of the Catholic treasury provided by Schola Cantorum of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

FAMILY CONNECT SUNDAY

LENT

FEBRUARY 19
3:30 - 5:00 PM
CATHEDRAL CENTRE
-4TH FLOOR

Your whole family is invited to join us for an afternoon of activities and crafts as we prepare our hearts for the Lent Season.

CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE

REMINDERS

- Parents or designated adults must always remain with the child(ren).
- Families do not have to be registered in Faith Formation.

DAILY REFLECTIONS

Join our 'Daily Reflections & Homilies' group on the Tabella app to receive Father Jeff's Daily Reflections & Sunday Homilies. The Tabella App also provides popular podcasts such as *The Bible In A Year*, *The Catechism In A Year*, *Catholic Answers*, *Ask Father Josh*, and *His Beloved Catholic Podcast*. Visit Tabella.App for more.

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

Silent Retreat

February 26th, 2022

St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Dr.
Houston, TX 77024

A one-day silent retreat for young adults who want to learn how to make a decision with God.

REGISTER HERE:

HOUSTON VOCATIONS
SACRAMENTARY OF SACRAMENTS HOUSTON

Capture my Heart

Day Retreat for High School Girls

Feb 18, 2023
9:00am - 5:00pm

Villa de Matel
6510 Lawndale St
Houston, TX 77023

REGISTER HERE

A day of community, prayer, delicious food, and time with religious sisters and consecrated women!

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

For parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Requiescat in Pace

For the recently deceased: Msgr. Fred O’Conner †,

For Deceased Clergy of the Archdiocese (February 11-17): Msgr. Joseph H. Crosthwait (†2011), Msgr. J. J. Tydlacka (†1978), V. Rev. Walter Fraher, M.S. (†1951) Rev. Joseph Klobouk (†1957), Rev. Fabian Stindle (†1957), Rev. John Zimmer, C.Ss.R. (†1978), Rev. J. J. Costello, C.S.B. (†1906), Rev. Richard Johnson, C.Ss.R. (†1988), Rev. Carlos Ferguson (†2001), Rev. D.F. Berberich (†1916), Rev. Emil Landry (†1951), Rev. E. C. Fowler (†1979), Rev. Aureliano Santa-Olaya (†2018), Rev. William Frankenberger, C.S.B. (†2022), Rev. Theodore Greyenbuhl (†1879), Rev. Bruce H. Noble (†2017), Rev. Alvin Sinasac, C.S.B. (†2022), Dcn. Francis Silver (†1993), Dcn. Arturo Gomez (†2002)

DSF GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART

MINISTRY **SERVICE** **EDUCATION**

“What we cannot do as individuals, we can do through the big heart of the Archdiocese in our DSF-supported ministries.”

- Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston



Give online at give.archgh.org
or scan here to give:



AYUDA DE ADORACIÓN

MISA DE 1 PM

Introit

Sírveme de defensa (modo VI)

Janet Gorbitz

Sírveme de defensa, Dios mío, de roca y fortaleza salvadoras. Tú eres mi baluarte y mi refugio, por tu nombre conduceme y guíame.

Sal. A ti, Señor, me acojo, no quede yo nunca defraudado: ¡tú que eres justo, ponme a salvo!

Entrada

#712 Dichosos

Orlando Rodríguez

#4 Kyrie (Misa San José)

Mary Frances Reza

#5 Gloria (Misa San José)

Mary Frances Reza

Liturgia de la Palabra

Primera lectura

Sir 15, 16-21

Salmo 118

C. Angelyn Jáuregui



Segunda lectura

1 Co 2, 6-10

Evangelio

Mt 5, 17-37

Ofertorio

#660 Bendigamos al Señor

Pierre de Corbeil

Aclamaciones Eucarísticas

#109 – 112 Misa Melódica

Alejandro Mejía

Santa Comunión

Manducaverunt (modo I)

Canto Gregoriano

Comieron y quedaron completamente satisfechos; el señor les dio todo eso desearon; no fueron privados de sus necesidades.

#710 Felices

Santiago Fernández

Salida

#633 Himno de Alegría

HYMN TO JOY



COMUNIDAD HISPANA



Bienvenidos a la Co-Catedral del Sagrado Corazón - una parroquia de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston ubicada en el corazón del centro de Houston. Además de ser una catedral y un centro de la actividad arquidiocesana, somos una parroquia que sirve a la gente del centro de Houston, Midtown, visitantes y viajeros. Sea cual sea su origen, ¡bienvenido!

Para registrarse como parte de nuestra familia parroquial y recibir nuestras comunicaciones con informes sobre la parroquia, visite el Rincón del Rector en línea o llame a nuestra oficina parroquial durante la semana al 713-659-1561.



MISIÓN PARROQUIAL DE CUARESMA

Descubre nuestra historia como católicos, como Iglesia en Texas y Houston, y como parroquia. Esto nos llevará a la reflexión espiritual sobre nuestra identidad y misión como católicos y hacia dónde vamos desde aquí.



Inglés

Febrero 25
9am-4:30pm
5:00pm Misa de Vigilia



Español

Febrero 26
10am-12:30pm
1:00pm Misa en español



Vietnamita

February 26
9:00am Misa vietnamita
10:30am-1:00pm



PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN Y PROGRAMA COMPLETO
SACREDHEARTHOUSTON.ORG/MISSION

CO-CATEDRAL DEL SAGRADO CORAZÓN

1701 SAN JACINTO ST.
HOUSTON, TX 77002

DSF DIOS ES LA FUERZA DE MI CORAZÓN

MINISTERIO

SERVICIO

EDUCACIÓN

“Lo que no podemos hacer como individuos, podemos hacerlo a través del gran corazón de la Arquidiócesis en nuestros ministerios apoyados por DSF.”

- Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Arzobispo de Galveston-Houston

LA ARQUIDIOCESIS DE GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Dona en línea en dar.archgh.org o escanee aquí para donar:

UN MENSAJE DEL DIÁCONO GALVÁN

Un poco de Humor:

Una niña le pregunta a su mamá, “mamá, ¿me puedes dar un dólar para darle a un señor que está pidiendo allí en la esquina?” La mamá le dice, “muy bien hija, siempre hay que ver por los necesitados. Ten el dólar para que se lo des al señor”. Cuando la niña regresa, su mamá le pregunta, “¿Y ese cono con nieve, de donde lo sacaste?” La niña le dice, “el señor me lo dio, para eso pedía el dólar”.

REFLEXION:

El evangelio de hoy nos previene de algo muy importante en la vida de todo cristiano. Nos indica que no es suficiente las practicas externas o sea nuestras acciones y comportamientos. Dios quiere que todo nuestro ser sea suyo. Yo siempre eh escuchado que Dios no pide mucho, sino que lo pide todo, que todo nuestro ser este inspirado por el amor. Dios lo quiere todo, hasta nuestros pensamientos, nos dice el Evangelio. Todo debe ser penetrado por la ley del amor, que es la ley del Reino de Dios. Como la mujer del cuento, ella piensa en la ayuda que necesita el hombre y no como la niña que tenía un interés en conseguir algo. Cuando actuamos por amor, no nos fijamos en lo que puedo adquirir, sino en ayudar donde se necesite. Dar con alegría, nos dice San Pablo en 2Cor. 9:7, esto es lo que agrada a Dios.

WWW.SACREDHEARTHOUSTON.ORG



CỘNG ĐOÀN VIỆT NAM

Thân ái chào mừng quý ông bà và anh chị em đã đến với cộng đoàn Việt Nam tại nhà thờ Chánh Toà Thánh Tâm của Tổng Giáo Phận Galveston-Houston. Vì là nhà thờ chánh toà và cũng là giáo xứ, đây cũng là chung tâm điểm các sinh hoạt trong tổng giáo phận. Cách riêng, cộng đoàn Việt Nam tại đây là một trong những cộng đoàn Việt Nam tiên khởi trong tổng giáo phận. Để gia nhập giáo xứ, xin vui lòng liên lạc với văn phòng những ngày trong tuần ở số điện thoại 713-659-1561

CHÚA NHẬT TUẦN VI MÙA THƯỜNG NIÊN NĂM A



Thứ Tư Lễ Tro:
Ngày 22 tháng 2
7:00 PM



Tĩnh Tâm:
Ngày 26 Tháng 2
9:00 AM - Thánh Lễ
10:30- 1:00PM
Cơm Trưa và Tĩnh Tâm
Người lớn và giới trẻ

Thánh Valentine

Happy Valentine's Day



Vào thời Trung cổ, hoàng đế Claudius muốn xây dựng một đội quân hùng mạnh. Ông muốn tất cả đàn ông phải tham gia vào đội quân. Nhưng đa số người dân không muốn chiến tranh, họ không muốn phải chém giết lẫn nhau và phải rời xa gia đình mình. Đã có rất nhiều người không nhập ngũ. Điều này làm hoàng đế Claudius rất giận dữ. Ông ta cho rằng nếu những người đàn ông không lấy vợ thì họ sẽ không phản đối việc tham gia vào quân đội.

Thế là vị hoàng đế Claudius II quyết định không cho phép bất cứ một người đàn ông nào được kết hôn. Những thanh niên trai tráng rất tức giận với cái luật mới này của ông ta. Valentine cũng không ủng hộ luật này. Bởi vì, ông là một linh mục và công việc yêu thích nhất của ông là se duyên cho các cặp tình nhân. Vậy là, sau khi hoàng đế Claudius ban hành điều luật của người thì ông vẫn tiếp tục đứng ra tổ chức các đám cưới và tất nhiên là một cách bí mật. Mà điều này lại dường như là rất thú vị. Ông đã tổ chức đám cưới trong một không gian nhỏ với một cây nến chỉ có cô dâu, chú rể và ông ấy. Ông thì thầm đọc những lời nguyện cho đám cưới trong những tiếng bước chân rình rập của những tên lính hoàng đế.

Vào một đêm khi đang làm đám cưới cho một đôi tình nhân thì ông nghe thấy tiếng bước chân. Thật là kinh hoàng, nhờ ơn Chúa mà đôi tình nhân đã kịp trốn thoát, nhưng ông đã bị bắt (có lẽ tại bước chân của ông đã không còn nhanh nhẹn như trước đây). Valentine bị đưa ra tòa và bị kết án tử hình. Những ngày còn lại trong tù chờ án tử ông cố gắng sống một cách vui vẻ. Mọi việc thật là tuyệt vời. Rất nhiều thanh niên đã đến nhà tù để thăm ông. Họ ném hoa và những lá thư qua cửa sổ cho ông. Họ muốn ông biết rằng họ sẽ luôn luôn tin vào tình yêu. Một cô gái em của người cai tù được anh trai cho phép cô vào nhà tù thăm ông. Họ đã ngồi và nói chuyện với nhau hàng giờ liền. Cô gái đã giúp ông luôn giữ vững được tinh thần. Vào ngày ông phải lên đoạn đầu đài, ông đã chuyển một lá thư cảm ơn đến cô gái vì tình bạn và lòng trung thành mà cô gái đã dành cho ông và ký dưới bức thư dòng chữ: "Tình yêu của Valentine dành cho con".

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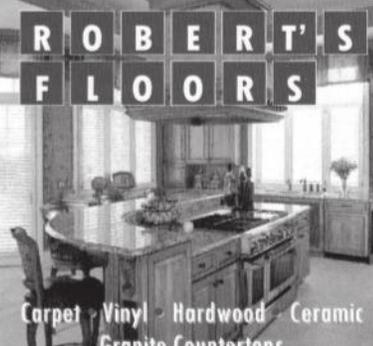
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