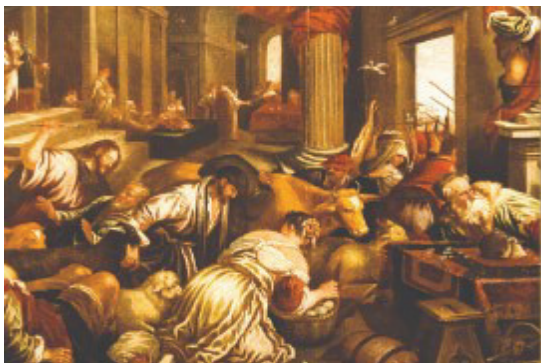


St. Augustine Catholic Church & School

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Tradition



MARCH 7, 2021

*Jesus found in the temple area those
who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,
as well as the money changers seated there.
He made a whip of cords and drove them all out.*

John 2:14-15

FOLLOW CHRIST IN 2021!!

As we approach the halfway point of our Lenten journey, it's a good time to reflect on how we are observing the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and charity. Our Lenten journey is different every year and 2021 is no exception. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we have added challenges of disruption. But as our Lenten scriptures remind us, God is by our side during disruptions and calls us to strengthen our relationship with him as we discern our discipleship. It was only through the disruption of the desert journey that the Israelites come to understand that everything they had – food, water and their very lives – was the gift from God. It was only through the disruption in the temple that Jesus aimed at getting people to recognize that, in Jesus, God was doing something radically new. How has the disruption of COVID impacted our relationship with God?

As you may have heard, the U.S. Supreme Court released a decision related to the resumption of indoor Masses in the state of California, but with certain restrictions. The decision limits the number of persons that can be present at a service and makes it clear that we must follow local health department protocols. In response, the Archdiocese will be releasing a more detailed set of instructions. In the interim, however, it recommends that outdoor Masses are the prudent way to celebrate Mass, if possible. Many churches are continuing to wait until the rate of transmission of COVID in our county has gone down to the point where the county thinks it will be safe to use at least 50% of our building's capacity.

Here at St. Augustine, we are blessed to be able to serve our Parish Family and the larger community with the opportunity to celebrate our faith in as safe a way as possible – through the parking lot Mass. We have found that we can accommodate more parishioners in our parking lot, under COVID protocols, than in the Church. Because our goal is to serve as many of our parishioners as possible, keeping their health and safety foremost in our minds, the parish clergy and leadership team have decided to continue to celebrate the Mass outdoors for the foreseeable future. This decision is also in line with the recommendations of the Archdiocese and Archbishop Gomez, who put the health and safety of the people before anything else. After all, whether we gather to pray in the church building or outside in the parking lot, we, the community of St. Augustine, are the Church. I thank you for your support of our Parish. As always, I invite you to check the St. Augustine website, before you come to Church, for any weather-related changes to our Mass schedules. Rest assured that all of you are in my daily prayers.

Blessings, Fr. Chris

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3850 Jasmine Ave, Culver City (310) 838 -2477 www.st-augustine-church.org

Recognizing the Presence of God

Our Lenten experience began with the marking of our foreheads with ashes to remind us of the urgency of the season, or as Paul says, *behold, now is an acceptable time ... now is the day of salvation*. Today's readings focus on how God manifests his presence and our Lenten challenge both to recognize that presence and reveal it to others.

For the Jewish people at the time of Christ, the Temple was the seat and symbol of the presence of God among them. It was the most important institution, the place where they worshiped God and the "school" from which God instructed his people in the covenant which he had made through Abraham and Moses. The Temple was also the venue of a lucrative money-making operation, intimately tied to the cult of sacrificial offerings mandated by the Mosaic Law. On pilgrimage festivals such as Passover, the Temple was overwhelmed with international visitors, each of whom had to procure suitable offerings for sacrifice. Possessed only of coinage from their particular region, usually marked with the images of idols or rulers, pilgrims used moneychangers to exchange the pagan currency into something acceptable for Temple purposes.

Against this background, *John* relates the incident in today's Gospel. Jesus enters the Temple area and does the unexpected. He overturns the tables of the moneychangers and drives out the vendors, proclaiming *stop making my Father's house a marketplace!* What are we to make of this extraordinarily disruptive event?

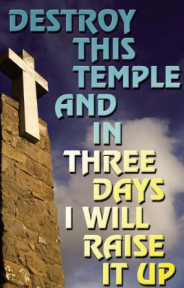
We get a hint of the answer as the Gospel continues. Witnesses demand to know by what authority Jesus acts – they want a sign from him. Jesus gives them a sign – *Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up* – but they completely misinterpret the sign, thinking that Jesus is speaking about the physical Temple. However, *John* reveals the true meaning of the sign – *he was speaking about the temple of his body*. Jesus' actions signify that he is the new Temple. He is the presence of God, not in the symbolic way that the Jewish Temple was, but literally. He is God's Incarnate Word, the Messiah. He is replacing the old system of temple sacrifice with the unique and fully effective sacrifice of himself on the cross. As he will say to the woman at the well, an incident which occurs later in *John* – *the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth*. No longer will people go to the Jerusalem Temple to sacrifice animals and other things in worship of God. Rather, they will gather in the presence of the Holy Spirit to worship God through his Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, the living presence of God among us, who suffered and died for us on the cross, but rose again in glory, defeating death and sin once and for all for those who believe in him. That's not all, however. Through his sending of the Holy Spirit upon his apostles and disciples, through his establishment of his Church, he has made us, the baptized, his living presence in today's world.

This understanding of who we are and what we have become through Jesus profoundly affects our Lenten journey. For if we, the Church, are to be God's living presence in today's world, we must take seriously and live fully the commandments God has given us, the commandments set forth in *Exodus*. Lent must be a time to forsake our idols, those things we want to make into gods, whether it be ourselves and our need to control, or others. We must honor the holiness of the Lord's name and keep holy the Lord's Day, living in gratitude for all that God has done for us, especially in adopting us as his sons and daughters in Christ. We must love our neighbors as ourselves, not in theory, not in words, but in practice, by living out the other commandments God has given us.

To live as Church, to live as a Christian, to live as someone in whom God is present, during this Lenten season, we must also understand that the ways of the world are not necessarily our ways. In the Gospel, Jesus turns the established order upside down. He proclaims that what the world regards as weakness is strength. Love conquers hatred and revenge. Forgiveness can transform the hardest of hearts. Mercy can heal lives broken by sin. Humble service can make brothers and sisters out of complete strangers. *For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.*

Let this Lent be a time to recognize the presence of the living God in our lives, in one another, and in the Church. Let it be a time for revealing that presence to others by the way we live and follow God's commandments and by the way we choose God's ways over those of the world. Let it be a time for acknowledging, along with the psalmist, that *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

Blessings, Fr. Chris



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) or Exodus 17:3-7

Psalm — — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19) or Psalm 95.

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

Gospel — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25) or John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

New Times for Sunday Mass starting Nov (in the Parking Lot)

- ◆ Mass in Spanish on Sunday @ 12:30pm
- ◆ Mass in English on Sunday @ 10am and 3pm

Weekday Mass (in the Parking Lot)

- ◆ Mass in English on Tuesday & Thursday @ 5:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Held in the St. Ambrose & Our Lady of Guadalupe Rooms in the Parish Center, not in the Church)

- ◆ 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Mondays and Wednesdays,
- ◆ 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Saturdays.

For information about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Quinceaneras and other celebrations, please contact the Parish Office (310) 838-2477.

All ministry meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Sacraments of Initiation will occur in November in the parking lot on Saturdays Please contact the Parish office for details.

COVID-19 Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,
we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,
we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult
decisions between food on the table or public
safety,

we pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health
insurance,

we pray that no family will face financial
burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to
immigration status,

we pray for recognition of the God-given
dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,
we pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,
we pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign
of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant
comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

St Augustine Parish Mission Statement

In following the teachings of Jesus Christ, St Augustine Parish lives and radiates the love of God through prayer and action. We strive to accomplish this mission by fostering our Catholic identity, joyfully celebrating the sacraments together as a diverse community, and recognizing and promoting social justice.

Offertory Information during time of limited Masses in the Parking Lot:

We thank you for the many calls of appreciation that we can still gather together as a parish community as best we can. We are grateful for your willingness to support St. Augustine financially during these challenging times. Let me assure you that even though Masses have been limited to the parking lot, certain parish operations, ministries, and expenses have not been suspended and we need your continued support. With this in mind, let me offer you a few of options on what to do with your offertory envelopes:

1. You may mail your offertory envelopes into St Augustine Church. The address appears at the bottom of this bulletin. Or you may drop off your envelopes at the Parish Office.

2. If you feel comfortable, you may move to *Online Giving*. This may be done on a regular basis by creating an on-line account, or you may do a one time "quick give". Please visit our parish website or go to: <https://st-augustine-church.org/online-giving>. Thank you for your support!

Parish Contacts

Pastor:

- Rev. Christopher Fagan
(310) 838-2477 x203

Associate Pastor:

- Rev. Tim Grumbach
(310) 838-2477 x205

In Residence

- Bishop Thomas J. Curry
(310) 838-2477
- Fr. Lawrence Shelton
(310) 838-2477

Deacon & Business Manager

- Rev. Mr. Sonal Seneviratne
(310) 838-2477 x206
Businessmgr@staugustineadla.org

Business Office

businessoffice@staugustineadla.org

Reception/Front desk:

(310) 838-2477 x201

School Principal:

- Dr. Beate Nguyen,
(310) 838-3144

Faith Formation:

(310) 838-2477

S.A.V.E.S.:

- Marie Brown
(310) 838-2702

Knights of Columbus

- John Harrison
(619) 917-0909 / john.amloc@gmail.com

Bereavement Ministry

- Sr. Angela Flavin, RSC
(310) 838-2477 / aflavinrsc@gmail.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

(424) 209-2050

Wedding & Quinceañera Coordinator

(310) 838-2477

Mass Intentions



**March 6
to
March 14**

Saturday, March 6

8:00AM -

Sunday, March 7

10:00 AM - Nadia Kassabgui †
12:30 PM - Alfredo Gutierrez†
3:00 PM - Ginette Caron†

Monday, March 8

5:30 PM - Luz Enriquez Rodriguez †

Tuesday, March 9

5:30 PM - Samir Botros †

Wednesday, March 10

5:30 PM - Denise Irwin †

Thursday, March 11

5:30 PM -

Friday, March 12

5:30PM - Michael Amin †

Saturday, March 13

8:00AM -

Sunday, March 14

10:00 AM - Souls in Purgatory †
12:30 PM - J. Rosario Raya †
3:00 PM - Zakia Azer †

Please remember the following in your prayers:

For those who have asked for prayers, for themselves, or for others, especially: Nishantha Seneviratne, Wilfred Jayasuriya, Jessica Aguilar, Teresa Lopez, Francisco Grambilla, Carlos Velazquez, Trinidad Cabarillo, Francisco Velasquez, Emilio Romo, Luis Garcia, Alberto Miranda, Guillermo Navarro, Tomas Lee, Ramon Reyes, Javier Torres, Rosie Palafox, Sandra Streter, Rodrigo Rangel, Karen Ruiz, Rafael Martinez, Carmen Lamios, Etienne Balatero, Eulogio Felipe, Leo Masatani, Cesar Samoya, Maria Zapata, Francisco Garcia

For those who have died, that God will raise them on the last day, especially: Carlos Alvarez, Antonia Martin, Maria Luz Casares Neira, Jenny Palafox Ramirez, Raymond & Eleanor Palafox, Eulogio Felipe, Prince Adesoji Adesida, JoAnn Childers, Renee Espiritu, Arthur Porter, Edward Jazwa, Sonia Teresa Magdalena Motta, Erlinda Bernabe, Nishan Seneviratne, Ana Escobar, Maria Latin, Norman Mezey, Graciela Perez, Victoria Caruncho, Ana Maria Bravo, Francisco Torres Coronado, Nick Gutierrez, Ove Stomhagen, Josefina Tolentino, Deacon Rafael Victorin, Marcus Ross, Cynthia Jayasuriya, Arthur Golding, Agnes Apolonio,

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We thank God that we are able to celebrate Mass in the parking lot, but we still need your help. We hope that the closure of the Church building will not last long. Regardless of whether we have Mass in the Church or outdoors, we need to be safe and we will have expenses for this purpose. Any financial help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

CHANGE IN WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Beginning the week of March 1st, the weekday mass schedule will be as follows:

- Tuesday @ 5:30pm
- Friday @ 5:30pm

Please visit our website for more information:

www.st-augustine-church.org

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD



2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
LEARNING, SOCIAL JUSTICE & ACTION



SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2021-2022

Are you worried about your child's education? Did the COVID19 pandemic create challenges for your child's faith formation and critical social-emotional learning? Has your son or daughter missed out on a quality Catholic education? If your answer is "yes", we have a solution for you! St. Augustine School has been serving our community for the past 95 years. We are here to ensure that families in our parish and larger community who desire a Catholic education for their child, are able achieve this relevant and urgent goal! We offer equitable access to families who can demonstrate a need-based financial hardship.

St. Augustine School (SAS) is a school family rich in global cultural heritage and socio-economic diversity. We proudly uphold a legacy of high academic expectations led by a caring, professional faculty and experienced staff. SAS motivates every child to unfold their full human potential. All faculty, administration and staff are trained in safeguarding our children, and we are fully committed and compliant with the Archdiocesan requirements to protect our children in a safe learning environment.

Our curriculum is saturated with our prayer, faith and Catholic traditions, complementing your family's desire to educate your child as a faith-filled, young leader in our world. St. Augustine School is also a leader in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in its unique solutions-based curriculum addressing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Our service to our community and humanity is best captured in "Local Action = Global Impact!" Our students enjoy a research-based curriculum with innovative teaching strategies that empower every child to become a young leader who think critically and creatively about the future, and their role in it.

St. Augustine School's proven traditions of excellence in educational leadership and our innovative strategies to unfold the full human potential serve our community, allow you as parent and primary educator to invest in your child's future and faith formation.

LICENSED PRESCHOOL:

- Licensed Preschool Age 2+
- Licensed Preschool Age 3+

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

- Transitional Kindergarten Age 4+
- Kindergarten Age 5+
- Grades 1-2

MIDDLE GRADES:

- Grade 3-5

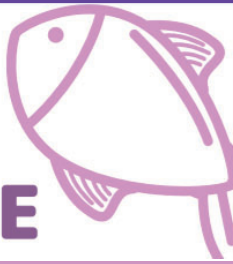
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

- Grades 6-8
- Graduates of St. Augustine School receive a Diploma of Catholic Elementary Education
- Many of our graduates continue to receive advanced/honors placement and valuable scholarships to Catholic High Schools

ENROLLMENT INFO (310) 838-3144

Email mbriseno@sasmail.org or contact Dr. Nguyen, Principal

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday
during Lent

Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit uscgb.org.

Abstinence Ash Wednesday Good Friday Ages 18-59 Copyright © 2021, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

U.S. Bishop Chairmen for Doctrine and for Pro-Life Address the Use of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine

WASHINGTON— On March 2, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine recently approved for use in the United States.

"The approval of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine for use in the United States again raises questions about the moral permissibility of using vaccines developed, tested, and/or produced with the help of abortion-derived cell lines.

"Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines raised concerns because an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them, but not in their production. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, was developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines raising additional moral concerns. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has judged that 'when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.' [1] However, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's.

"While we should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies stop using abortion-derived cell lines, given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good."

U.S. Bishop Chairmen for Doctrine and for Pro-Life

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As we journey through Lent and come closer to Holy Week, the Parish Hospitality Ministry would like to invite you to volunteer and help at our Weekday and Sunday Masses, especially for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. If you would be interested in helping set up for mass in the parking lot, or directing traffic, please contact one of our current volunteers with your contact information and our Hospitality Team will contact you. Thank you.



Stations of the Cross

Join us for mass in the Parking Lot on Fridays during Lent at 5:30 pm and then stay on to pray the stations of the cross in English at 6:15pm Please contact the GRUPO coordinator whose name is listed in the back of the bulletin for information on the Spanish Stations of the Cross.

LENT 2021 | Reflect. Repent. Restore.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 7 Third Sunday of Lent In today's first reading, we are reminded of the Ten Commandments. Which commandment do you struggle with the most? Aim for one small improvement this week.	March 8 "The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ." <i>(Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, no. 9)</i>	March 9 Today is the memorial of St. Frances of Rome, who organized a women's religious order—the Oblates of Mary—and was known for her great charity. In her honor today, let us pray for those in consecrated life.	March 10 Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father, have mercy on us. <i>(Litany of the Sacred Heart)</i>	March 11 During Lent we often pray the seven penitential psalms, like this one, "Out of the depths I call to you, LORD; / Lord, hear my cry! / May your ears be attentive / to my cry for mercy." <i>(Ps 130:1-2, NABRE)</i>	March 12 "When we begin to separate people in our thoughts for unjust reasons, when we start to see some people as 'them' and others as 'us,' we fail to love." <i>(Open Wide Our Hearts, USCCB)</i>	March 13 In Lent, we are called to renew our baptismal commitment. We recall those waters in which we were baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.
March 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent The Fourth Sunday of Lent is the midpoint and known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare means "rejoice" and the Church expresses hope and joy in the middle of our penitential Lenten practices.	March 15 "In every act we do, in every step we take, let our hand trace the Lord's cross." <i>(St. Jerome, Letters, 22.37)</i>	March 16 "A clean heart create for me, O God / and a steadfast spirit renew within me." <i>(Ps 51:12, Lectionary)</i>	March 17 Today is the memorial of St. Patrick, the "apostle to Ireland"! He wrote, "Our way to repay God is to exalt him and confess his wonders before every nation under heaven." <i>(St. Patrick, Confession, 3)</i>	March 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem honored today was known for his "Catechetical Instructions." Give thanks for the catechists in your community and all they do to educate children and adults alike.	March 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph In celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, we pray today for all fathers, that through the example of St. Joseph, they may fully embrace their vocation and accept the privilege and responsibility of caring for their children as St. Joseph cared for Jesus.	March 20 Today is the first day of spring! "Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us." <i>(Pope Francis, Laudato Si', no. 160)</i>

CUARESMA 2021 | Reflexiona. Arrepiéntete. Restaura.

DOMINGO	LUNES	MARTES	MIÉRCOLES	JUEVES	VIERNES	SÁBADO
7 de marzo Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma La primera lectura de hoy nos habla de los Diez Mandamientos. ¿Cuál de los mandamientos demanda más esfuerzo de tu parte? Esta semana, trata de hacer una pequeña mejora.	8 de marzo "La obligación de la Iglesia de participar en la formación del carácter moral de la sociedad es un requisito de nuestra fe. Es una parte esencial de la misión que hemos recibido de Jesucristo." <i>(Formando la Conciencia para ser Ciudadanos Fieles, no. 9)</i>	9 de marzo Hoy es el memorial de santa Francisca Romana, quien organizó una orden religiosa de mujeres—las Oblatas de María—y era conocida por su gran caridad. Hoy, en su honor, oremos por aquellos en la vida consagrada.	10 de marzo Corazón de Jesús, Hijo del Padre eterno, ten misericordia de nosotros. <i>(Letanía del Sagrado Corazón)</i>	11 de marzo Durante la Cuaresma rezamos frecuentemente los siete salmos penitenciales , como este: "Desde lo más profundo te invoco, Señor, / ¡Señor, oye mi voz! / Estén tus oídos atentos / al clamor de mi plegaria." <i>(Salmos 130:1-2)</i>	12 de marzo "Cuando en nuestra mente empezamos a separar a las personas por razones injustas, cuando empezamos a ver a algunos individuos como 'ellos' y a otros como 'nosotros,' hemos dejado de amar" <i>(traducción libre).</i> <i>(Open Wide Our Hearts, USCCB)</i>	13 de marzo En Cuaresma estamos llamados a renovar nuestro compromiso bautismal. Recordamos aquellas aguas en las cuales fuimos bautizados en la muerte de Cristo, morimos al pecado y al mal y empezamos una nueva vida en Cristo.
14 de marzo Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma El Cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma es el punto medio y se le conoce como el domingo Laetare. Laetare significa "regocijo" y la Iglesia expresa esperanza y alegría en medio de nuestras prácticas penitenciales de Cuaresma.	15 de marzo "En toda acción, en todo desplazamiento, la mano ha de trazar la señal de la cruz." San Jerónimo, <i>Cartas</i> , 22.37	16 de marzo Crea en mí, Dios mío, un corazón puro, / y renueva la firmeza de mi espíritu." <i>(Salmos 51:12)</i>	17 de marzo ¡Hoy es el memorial de san Patricio, el "apóstol de Irlanda"! Él escribió: "Nuestra manera de recompensar [a Dios] es de exaltarlo y confesar sus maravillas ante cada nación bajo el cielo." <i>(San Patricio, Confesiones, 3)</i>	18 de marzo San Cirilo de Jerusalén, a quien honramos hoy, era conocido por sus "Lecturas Catequéticas". Da gracias por los catequistas en tu comunidad y por todo lo que hacen para educar tanto a niños como a adultos.	19 de marzo Solemnidad de San José En celebración del Año de San José, hoy oramos por todos los padres, para que mediante el ejemplo de san José, puedan abrazar plenamente su vocación y aceptar el privilegio y la responsabilidad de cuidar a sus hijos así como san José cuidó a Jesús.	20 de marzo ¡Hoy es el primer día de la primavera! "Somos nosotros los primeros interesados en dejar un planeta habitable para la humanidad que nos sucederá." <i>(Papa Francisco, Laudato Si', no. 160)</i>

¡SIGAN A CRISTO EN 2021!

A medida que nos acercamos al punto medio de nuestro viaje cuaresmal, es un buen momento para reflexionar sobre cómo estamos observando las prácticas cuaresmales de oración, ayuno y limosna. Nuestro viaje cuaresmal es diferente cada año, y el año de 2021 no es una excepción. Con la pandemia COVID-19, tenemos desafíos y perturbaciones adicionales. Pero como nos recuerdan nuestras Escrituras cuaresmales, Dios está a nuestro lado durante los trastornos y nos llama a fortalecer nuestra relación con Él como discernimos nuestro discipulado. Fue sólo a través del trastorno del viaje por el desierto que los israelitas llegan a entender que todo lo que tenían – comida, agua y sus propias vidas – era el don de Dios. Fue sólo a través del comportamiento perturbador de Jesús en el Templo que la gente fue capaz de reconocer que, en Jesús, Dios estaba haciendo algo radicalmente nuevo. ¿Cómo ha impactado la perturbación de COVID nuestra relación con Dios?

Como habrán oído, la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos publicó una decisión relacionada con la reanudación de las Misas interiores en el estado de California, pero con limitaciones. La decisión puso una limitación al número de personas que podrían estar presentes en un servicio y dejó claro que deben seguirse las restricciones de los departamentos de salud locales. En respuesta, la Arquidiócesis dará a conocer un



conjunto más detallado de instrucciones. Mientras tanto, sin embargo, recomienda que las Misas al aire libre sean la forma prudente de celebrar la Misa, si es posible. Muchas iglesias continúan esperando hasta que la tasa de transmisión de COVID en nuestro condado haya bajado hasta el punto en que el condado cree que es seguro tener el uso de al menos el 50% de la capacidad de nuestro edificio.

Aquí en San Agustín, tenemos la bendición de poder servir a nuestra familia parroquial y a la comunidad más grande con la oportunidad de celebrar nuestra fe de la manera más segura posible, a través de la Misa al aire libre. Hemos descubierto que podemos acomodar a más feligreses en nuestro estacionamiento, bajo los protocolos COVID, que en la Iglesia. Debido a que nuestro objetivo es servir a tantos de nuestros feligreses como sea posible, manteniendo su salud y seguridad en lo más importante en

nuestras mentes, el clero parroquial y el equipo de liderazgo han decidido seguir celebrando la Misa al aire libre en el futuro previsible. Esta decisión también está en línea con las recomendaciones de la Arquidiócesis y el Arzobispo Gómez, quienes antepongo la salud y la seguridad de la gente, ante todo. Después de todo, ya sea que nos reunamos para orar en el edificio de la iglesia o fuera en el estacionamiento, nosotros, la comunidad de San Agustín, somos la Iglesia.

Les agradezco su apoyo a nuestra Parroquia. Como siempre, les invito a consultar el sitio web de San Agustín, antes de venir a la Iglesia, para cualquier cambio relacionado con el clima y nuestros horarios para las Misas.

Finalmente, asegúrense de que todos ustedes están en mis oraciones diarias.

Bendiciones, P. Chris

**DESTRUYAN
ESTE
TEMPLO
Y YO
LO
CONSTRUIRÉ
EN
TRES
DÍAS**

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Dios entrega los mandamientos al pueblo por medio de Moisés (Éxodo 20:1-7 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) o Éxodo 17:3-7

Salmo — Señor, tú tienes palabras de vida eterna (Salmo 19 [18]) o Salmo 95 (94).

Segunda lectura — Pablo proclama a Cristo crucificado; Cristo es el poder y la sabiduría de Dios (1 Corintios 1:22-25) o Romanos 5:1-2, 5-8

Evangelio — Jesús echa a los mercaderes del templo y predice su resurrección (Juan 2:13-25) o Juan 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 40-42].

Salmo responsorial: *Leccionario Hispanoamericano Dominical* © 1970, Comisión Episcopal Española. Usado con permiso. Todos los derechos reservados.

Reconocer la presencia de Dios

Nuestra experiencia cuaresmal comenzó con la marca de nuestras frentes con cenizas para recordarnos la urgencia de la temporada, o como dice Pablo, *ahora es el tiempo favorable ... ahora es el día de la salvación*. Las lecturas de hoy se centran en cómo Dios manifiesta su presencia entre nosotros y nuestro desafío cuaresmal tanto para reconocer esa presencia como revelarla a los demás.

Para el pueblo judío en la época de Cristo, el Templo era la sede y símbolo de la presencia de Dios entre ellos. Era la institución más importante, el lugar donde adoraban a Dios y la "escuela" de la que Dios instruyó a su pueblo en la alianza que había hecho por medio de Abraham y Moisés. El Templo también fue el lugar de una operación lucrativa de hacer dinero, íntimamente ligado al culto a las ofrendas de sacrificio impuestas por la Ley Mosaica. En festivales de peregrinación como la Pascua, el Templo fue inundado por los visitantes internacionales, cada uno de los cuales tuvo que adquirir ofrendas adecuadas para el sacrificio. Poseído sólo de monedas de su región particular, por lo general marcado con las imágenes de ídolos o gobernantes, los peregrinos utilizaron cambistas de dinero para cambiar la moneda pagana en algo aceptable para los propósitos del Templo.

En este contexto, *Juan* relata el incidente en el Evangelio de hoy. Jesús entra en el área del Templo y hace lo inesperado. Vuelca las mesas de los cambistas y expulsa a los vendedores, proclamando *¡no conviertan en un mercado la casa de mi Padre!* ¿Cómo vamos a entender este evento extraordinariamente perturbador?

Obtenemos una pista de la respuesta a medida que el Evangelio continúa. Los testigos exigen saber por qué autoridad actúa Jesús. Quieren una señal de él. Jesús les da una señal – *destruyan este templo y en tres días lo reconstruiré* – pero malinterpretan completamente el signo, pensando que Jesús está hablando del Templo físico. Sin embargo, *Juan* revela el significado verdadero del signo – *él hablaba del templo de su cuerpo*. Las acciones de Jesús significan que él es el nuevo Templo. Él es la presencia de Dios, no de la manera simbólica que era el Templo Judío, sino en realidad. Él es la Palabra Encarnada de Dios, el Mesías. Está reemplazando el viejo sistema de sacrificio del templo con el sacrificio único y plenamente efectivo de sí mismo en la cruz. Como le dirá a la mujer en el pozo, un incidente que ocurre más tarde en *Juan* – *pero se acerca la hora, y ya está aquí, en que los que quieran dar culto verdadero adorarán al Padre en espíritu y en verdad*. La gente ya no irá al Templo de Jerusalén para sacrificar animales y otras cosas en adoración a Dios. Más bien, se reunirán en presencia del Espíritu Santo para adorar a Dios a través de su Palabra Encarnada, Jesucristo, la presencia viva de Dios entre nosotros, que sufrió y murió por nosotros en la cruz, pero se levantó de nuevo en gloria, derrotando la muerte y el pecado de una vez por todas para aquellos que creen en él. Sin embargo, eso no es todo. A causa de su envío del Espíritu Santo sobre sus apóstoles, discípulos y nosotros; a causa de su establecimiento de su Iglesia, nos ha hecho, los bautizados, su presencia viva en el mundo de hoy.

Esta comprensión de lo que somos y lo que hemos llegado a ser a causa de Jesús afecta profundamente nuestro viaje cuaresmal. Porque si nosotros, la Iglesia, queremos ser la presencia viva de Dios en el mundo de hoy, debemos tomarnos en serio y vivir plenamente los mandamientos que Dios nos ha dado, los mandamientos establecidos en *Éxodo*. La Cuaresma debe ser un tiempo para abandonar a nuestros ídolos, esas cosas que queremos convertir en dioses, ya seamos nosotros mismos y nuestra necesidad de controlar, u otros. Debemos honrar la santidad del nombre del Señor y santificar el Día del Señor, viviendo en gratitud por todo lo que Dios ha hecho por nosotros, especialmente al adoptarnos como Sus hijos e hijas en Cristo. Debemos amar a nuestros vecinos como a nosotros mismos, no en teoría, no en palabras, sino en la práctica, viviendo también los otros mandamientos que Dios nos ha dado.

Vivir como Iglesia, vivir como cristiano, vivir como alguien en quien Dios está presente, durante esta época cuaresmal, también debemos entender que los caminos del mundo no son necesariamente los nuestros. En el Evangelio, Jesús pone patas arriba el orden establecido. Proclama que lo que el mundo considera debilidad es fuerza. El amor conquista el odio y la venganza. El perdón puede transformar el corazón más duro. La misericordia puede sanar vidas rotas por el pecado. El servicio humilde puede hacer hermanos y hermanas de los extraños completos. *Porque la locura de Dios es más sabia que la sabiduría de los hombres, y la debilidad de Dios es más fuerte que la fuerza de los hombres*.

Que esta Cuaresma sea un tiempo para reconocer la presencia del Dios viviente en nuestras vidas, en los demás y en la Iglesia. Que sea un momento para revelar esa presencia a los demás por la forma en que vivimos y seguimos los mandamientos de Dios y por la forma en que elegimos los caminos de Dios sobre los del mundo. Que sea un momento para reconocer, junto con el salmista, que *Señor, tú tienes las palabras de vida eterna*.

LOS MINISTERIOS QUE HABLAN ESPAÑOL SE REÚNEN EN LÍNEA

Durante la pandemia, varios de los ministerios de la Parroquia de San Agustín que hablan español se reúnen en línea. Para obtener el enlace Zoom para una reunión específica del ministerio, póngase en contacto con los coordinadores del ministerio, de la siguiente manera:

El **grupo de oración** se reúne los viernes de 7:30 p.m. a 9:30 p.m.

Contactos a llamar para dar información:

Alberto y Rebeca Martínez – (310) 936-0278

Arturo y Lulú Quintero – (310) 936-2893

Ministerio de matrimonios se reúne los martes de 7:30 p.m. a 9:30 p.m.

Contactos a llamar para dar información:

Florencio e Isabel Olivera – (310) 692-3993

Sergio y Rocio Vega – (310) 895-3125

Ministerio de jóvenes se reúne los jueves de 8:00 p.m. a 9:00 p.m.

Contactos a llamar para dar información:

Luis y Lupita Torres – (310) 839-4769

Andrea Correa – (310) 850-5398

Los Presidentes de los Comités de Doctrina y Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB se Pronuncian Sobre el Uso de la Vacuna de Johnson & Johnson contra el Covid-19

WASHINGTON— El 2 de marzo, el obispo Kevin C. Rhoades de Fort Wayne-South Bend, presidente del Comité de Doctrina y el arzobispo Joseph F. Naumann de Kansas City en Kansas, presidente del Comité de Actividades Pro-Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), emitieron una declaración sobre la vacuna Johnson & Johnson contra el COVID-19, recientemente aprobada para su uso en Estados Unidos.

“La aprobación de la vacuna de Johnson & Johnson contra el COVID-19 para su uso en Estados Unidos vuelve a plantear interrogantes sobre la permisibilidad moral del uso de vacunas desarrolladas, probadas y/o producidas con la ayuda de líneas celulares derivadas del aborto.

Las vacunas de Pfizer y Moderna generaron preocupación debido a que se utilizó una línea celular derivada del aborto para probarlas, aunque no en su producción. Sin embargo, la vacuna de Johnson & Johnson se desarrolló, probó y se produce con líneas celulares derivadas del aborto, lo que genera preocupaciones morales adicionales. La Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe ha juzgado que ‘cuando las vacunas contra el COVID-19, que son éticamente irreprochables no están disponibles..., es moralmente aceptable recibir vacunas contra el COVID-19 que han utilizado líneas celulares de fetos abortados en su proceso de investigación y producción’. [1]

Sin embargo, si se puede elegir entre vacunas contra el COVID-19 igualmente seguras y efectivas, se debe elegir la vacuna con la menor conexión con las líneas celulares derivadas del aborto. Por lo tanto, si la persona tiene la capacidad de elegir una vacuna, se debe elegir entre las vacunas creadas por Pfizer o Moderna, en vez de la producida por Johnson & Johnson.

Mientras que nosotros debemos seguir insistiendo en que las empresas farmacéuticas dejen de usar líneas celulares derivadas del aborto, dado el sufrimiento que está causando esta pandemia a nivel mundial, afirmamos nuevamente que vacunarse puede ser un acto de caridad que responde al bienestar común”.

Los Presidentes de los Comités de Doctrina y Actividades Pro-Vida

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Para aquellos que son particularmente vulnerables,
oramos por su seguridad y su protección.

Para todos los que experimentan miedo o ansiedad,
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Para las familias afectadas que se enfrentan a
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mesa o la seguridad pública, oramos por políticas
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adecuado, oramos para que ninguna familia se
enfrente sola a cargas financieras.

Para aquellos que tienen miedo de acceder a la
atención médica debido a su estatus migratorio,
oramos para el reconocimiento de la dignidad dada
por Dios para todos.

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Para los funcionarios públicos y los responsables de
la toma de decisiones, oramos pidiendo sabiduría y
guía.

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