

St. Augustine
Catholic Church & School
Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Tradition



*And suddenly there
was a multitude
of the heavenly host
with the angel,
praising God and saying:*

**“GLORY TO
GOD IN THE
HIGHEST.”**

Luke 2:13-14

December 25, 2022 • Christmas

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The Light at the Center of Our Lives

How are a donut, St. Augustine, and Christmas related?

What's at the center of a donut? A hole. Nothing. How often have we experienced a hole or an emptiness in our own lives? Maybe we have felt rejected or excluded. Maybe we have suffered from addictions – power, pride, money, sex, drugs, or alcohol. Maybe we've treated others poorly or with indifference. Maybe we have been judged or criticized unfairly, or worse, maybe we have judged or criticized someone else unfairly. Maybe we have been a source of conflict or division. Maybe we have been an occasion of sin for someone. In any case, the result is the same – emptiness, restlessness, a lack of true peace. A sense that there must be more to life.

We're not alone. St. Augustine felt many of these same things. His life was spent searching for something to fill the void at its center. He tried to find his identity and sense of worth by going along with the crowd and its values -- to the extent of breaking the law by stealing. He tried to find peace and fulfillment in pleasure, in secular success and fame, and in various fads and philosophies. They all failed him and left him in despair, feeling empty and alone. He had no more center than a donut. After thirty years of searching, after thirty years of his mother Monica's prayers, he finally discovered his true identity, worth, and purpose – his center – in the God who created him out of love: *You have created us for yourself O Lord and our hearts are not at rest until they rest in you.*

What's at the center of Christmas? A Child who is the great light seen by a people who walk in darkness. This Child is the light that dispels the shadows. This is the Child who breaks the rod of the stern taskmaster of sin, who lifts from us the heavy weight of our emptiness and despair, who is the source of our peace, the fountain of justice, the wellspring of grace, and, most importantly, the haven in which we find our true rest. Because of this Child, we are no longer *forsaken* or *desolate*. Rather, *the Lord delights in us* and calls us, *my delight, my espoused.*

Paul reminds *Titus* that this same light, this same Christ, is the one who enables us to live in sobriety, who takes away our sins, who empowers us to do what is right and just, who helps us be faithful, who is our center and anchor. This Christ, this light, this child, is the rest we seek, the rest for which we were created, the rest that makes us complete and gives us hope, peace, joy and love. Just ask St. Augustine.

Where do we find this light? We don't. This light finds us. The Christmas Gospels tell us that God comes to us in the most ordinary moments of our lives. He comes in the midst of our daily routines, as he did to Mary. He comes to us in our sleep, as he did to Joseph. He comes to us in our difficulties and troubles, as he did to Mary and Joseph during their difficult stay in Bethlehem at the time of the census by Caesar Augustus. He comes to the rich and the powerful, as he did to the Three Wise Men. He comes to the outcast and the marginalized, as he did to the shepherds in the fields. Just as the Gospels take pains to point out that Christ, the Light of the World, the Word of God, physically came into the world, became flesh, became one of us, at a certain identifiable time in history, so this same Child, this Light, heir to the throne of David the King, but also the divine Word of the Father, comes into our lives in real time. All we have to do is what Mary and Joseph did; all we have to do is say "Yes."

This Christmas Season, let the Light of Christ in. Let this Child, who is at the center of all we believe, enter our hearts and smash the rod of all that oppresses us. Let this Child lift from us the weight of our sins, grace us with his profound peace, fill us with his joy, and most of all, bring us to rest in him.

How are a donut, St. Augustine and Christmas related? From now on, whenever you look at a donut, remember that our lives are not meant to be centered on emptiness. Remember that like St. Augustine, we will never be at rest until our lives are centered on that Child in the manger, until we choose to rest peacefully, joyfully, completely in the God who made us for himself, the God whose sandals we are not worthy to unfasten, the God who is our victory and vindication. For *today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord*. Today, his light shines on us. Today, *all the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God*, and for that reason, *for ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord*.

Christmas blessings, Fr. Chris

Parish Contacts

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Wedding & Quinceañera Coordinator

(310) 838-2477 x211

S.A.V.E.S would like to wish the St. Augustine Community of Faith a Merry Christmas, and is very thankful for the generous Thanksgiving food donations in addition to the overall support through the year. With your help we have been able to continue serving those in need in the neighboring area.



NEW YEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

New Years Day falls on a Sunday this year, and the Parish will observe the usual Sunday Mass schedule. Please take time during your New Years Day celebrations to come and celebrate Mass with us.

Mass Intentions



**December 24
to
January 1**

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve - No Intentions

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day - No Intentions

Monday, December 26

5:30 PM - Marina Diga

Tuesday, December 27

5:30 PM - Souls in Purgatory †

Wednesday, December 28

8:00 AM - Souls in Purgatory †

5:30 PM - Sosi Rios †

Thursday, December 29

8:00 AM - Fayez Moutran †

Friday, December 30

5:30 PM - Carmen Palafox, Theresa J. Galvez,
Manuel F. Galvez and Alejandro Galvez

Saturday, December 31

7:00 AM - Porfirio Hernandez †

Sunday, January 1

9:00 AM - Raymond and Margaret Gonzales †

11:00 AM - Diana Escareño †

1:00 PM - Norma Habunal †

5:00 PM - Father Eugene Nkardzedze

Please remember the following in your prayers:

For those who have asked for prayers, for themselves, or for others, especially: Maria Ibarra, Ogenia Sanchez, Nour Sayegh Abukhader, Filomena Combatti Di Santo, Dorothy Hill, Francis Anthony Spinelli, Josepha Lumbao, Dunni Asiru, Carol Dunn, Jennifer Dunn, Kasey Tannert, Ellen Garneau, Thomas Stupakewicz, Cassidy Dunn, Anna Pratt, Marion Spinelli, Pilar Carreon & family, Cecilia Fung, Mariam Sabry & Marc Balatero and the Balatero /Sabry Families, Evelyn Jazwa, Sr. Maria Elizabeth Sorahan, DMJ, Cecilia Bacura, Eugenia Sánchez, Carlos Gilberto Ortega, Wilfred Jayasuriya, James Palomo.

For those who have died, that God will raise them on the last day, especially: Myles Duvernay, Rodolfo Contreras, Rajan Moonesinghe, Namakal Kana, Rita Fernando, Alexander D. Fritado, José Carréon, Sr. Frances Fisher (a.k.a. Clementia Marie), Pat Nitrini, Mechel Stanley, Bennie Fredricks, Gamila Kawough, Said Kawough, George Kawough, Serena Rasiah Sahid, Martha Rodis Arboleda, Adnan Innabi, Julia De la Cruz, Sau Fong Fung, Sandy DiSpirito, Nishantha De Silva, Paul Lee Strand, Jose Zelaya, Raymar Resuello, Ana Zelayandia, Anne Lane, John Hopper II, Rizkalla Adam, Betty Hutchinson, Evelyn Cronin, Andee McLure.

What did St. Augustine say?

"What can be more excellent than prayer; what is more profitable to our life; what sweeter to our souls; what more sublime, in the course of our whole life, than the practice of prayer!"



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10). .

Psalm - The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).

Second Reading - God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel - The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

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.

St. Augustine Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass (in the Church)

- ◆ Mass in English on Sunday @ 9am & 11am & 5pm
- ◆ Mass in Spanish on Sat @ 7pm & Sunday @ 1:00pm

Weekday Mass (in the Church)

- ◆ Mass in English on Mon, Tues Wed & Fri @ 5:30 pm
- ◆ Mass in English on Wed & Thurs @ 8:00 am
- ◆ Mass in Spanish - First Fridays of a month @ 7:30 pm
- ◆ Mass in English - First Saturday of a month @ 8:00 am

Adoration (Holy Hour)

- ◆ Monday—Friday @ 12 noon

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.

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.

Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to stay with us always, until the end of the age.

Reawaken our wonder at His presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. May our hearts burn within us as He opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread.

Give us the eyes of faith to recognize His presence in our brothers and sisters, especially in the face of the poor and the suffering.

Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AS FOLLOWS:

On Friday December 23:

Parish Office will close at 12:00 pm (noon)

From Saturday Dec 24 –Monday Jan 2nd :

Parish Offices are Closed (if you have an important or urgent matter, please call and leave a phone message or e-mail "office@staugustineadla.org")

Tuesday January 3:

The Parish Office will re-open at 9:00am

Regularly scheduled Masses and adoration will continue as planned during this time.

The Parish Office Staff and Clergy wish each of you a Merry and faith-filled Christmas

STEWARDSHIP CORNER *Reflections on Sunday readings in the context of Stewardship.*

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

"...And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...." John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

STEWARDSHIP: A catholic way of life...



Hospitality - Faith - Discipleship

DID YOU KNOW?

Watch out for fire dangers. Christmas is a popular time to decorate with candles and electric lights, both inside and out of the house. These decorations can be beautiful and festive, but also come with the risk of fires. Parents should make sure to keep candles out of reach of children, and off surfaces where they could be easily knocked over. All lights should be checked for faulty wires or other defective parts that could cause a fire. For more information, read the "Holiday Safety" article on nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?

Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene

Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas crèche, or manger, for Christmas Eve of 1223? He wanted to remind everyone why we celebrate Christmas, the Nativity of the Lord. St. Francis made the nativity scene in the style of a typical Italian manger, familiar to people in the village, in order to make the scene more real to everyone. He wanted everyone know that Jesus was born to be with them, and he wanted all people to recognize themselves in the Nativity scene.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on Christmas Eve or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it is blessed by a parent or another family member with the following prayer.

All make the sign of the cross

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Scripture Reading (select one)

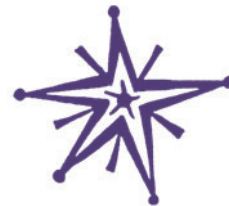
Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15).

Prayer & Blessing

Leader (all join hands):

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.
Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of
the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

All: Amen.



Feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 30, 2022

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday occurring between the Nativity of the Lord (December 25th) and Mary, Mother of God (January 1st). When a Sunday does not occur between December 25, and January 1, this feast is celebrated on December 30. Although major feast days dedicated to each member of the Holy Family exist, the Feast of the Holy Family commemorates their life together and shows us the importance of religious family life.

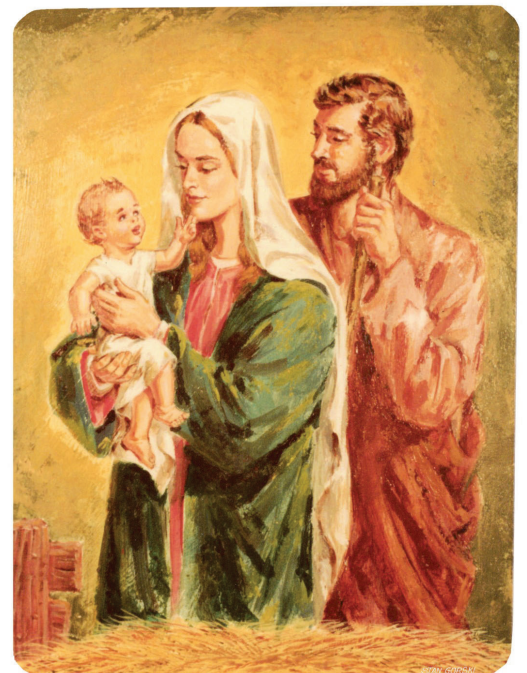
Devotion to the Holy Family began to grow in the 17th century out of a love for Jesus and his family, but it was in the early 20th century that the Congregation of Rites added the Feast of the Holy Family into the general calendar of the Latin Rite. For many of us today, the Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too when we turn to the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families. St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a “family church,” and in doing so, sanctify the family unit.

The experience of the Holy Family cannot but make us think of the many families today in search of peace, serenity and work, but also of those families who live with the apprehension and anxiety of not making ends meet, of unstable marital situations, the fear of illness. What we see during the early years of the Holy Family, including the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the flight into Egypt, and the finding of Jesus in the temple is the fact that they allowed themselves to be guided by God’s powerful hand. This is a lesson for each of us. Today, the Holy Spirit still continues to guide all of us, but we need to listen to the Spirit who speaks in us.

To live the gospel of the family is not easy in today’s society. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-embracing. It is a way that needs to be trusted and undertaken after the example and through the intercession of the Holy Family. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the “gospel of the family” does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tensions, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. But with God’s guidance, families who are challenged and face difficulty can overcome their challenges if they learn how to draw from the example of the Holy Family.

The Feast of the Holy Family is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take this feast to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. We can ask ourselves how we can improve our family life by asking what Jesus, Mary, and Joseph would do in a given situation? We can also use this feast to reflect on what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.

This Christmas Season and always, let us turn to the Holy Family as an example of humility and faith, and ask for guidance and direction in our own journey of discipleship.



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IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD



2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
LEARNING, SOCIAL JUSTICE & ACTION



Ayuda financiera para lograr su sueño de una educación católica en la escuela San Agustín

A pesar de la pandemia de COVID19, nuestros estudiantes de la escuela San Agustín tuvieron un año muy exitoso. ¡Nuestros estudiantes se están convirtiendo en los futuros líderes del mañana, porque disfrutaron de una educación católica de alta calidad y porque las familias están invirtiendo en sus hijos!

La Fundación de Educación Católica de Los Ángeles ha anunciado apoyo financiero a los nuevos estudiantes de la escuela San Agustín. Si Ustedes están soñando con que su hijo/hija obtenga una educación católica de calidad en la escuela San Agustín (desde edad preescolar 2+ hasta 8º Grado /Jr.High), lo alentamos a que llame a la oficina de nuestra escuela para buscar acceso a asistencia financiera para el próximo año escolar 2022-2023. Planeamos proporcionar 5 días completos a la semana de instrucción en persona con una opción en línea para las familias que desean aprendizaje a distancia durante esta pandemia global.

¡No nos disculpamos por nuestro deseo de brindar a cada niño/niña la mejor educación católica y la mejor oportunidad para el futuro, independientemente de su raza, religión, género, herencia cultural o capacidad socioeconómica para pagar dicha educación! ¡Lo hemos hecho durante los últimos 95 años y no nos detendremos ahora!

¡La educación católica es asequible y ahora hay asistencia para la matrícula disponible para las familias de las nuevas escuelas para 2022-2023! ¡Por favor refiera a sus vecinos, amigos o díglele a su propia familia extendida lo increíble que es realmente su escuela parroquial! ¡Estamos aquí para servirle a usted, su familia y amigos, sus vecinos, nuestra parroquia y comunidad, para lograr su sueño de una educación católica para su hijo/hija!

MATRÍCULA ESCOLAR 2022-2023

SAS actualmente está aceptando solicitudes para el próximo año escolar 2022-2023

- Edad preescolar con licencia 2+
- Edad preescolar con licencia 3+
- Kindergarten de transición a partir de 4 años
- Kindergarten a partir de 5 años
- Grados 1-5
- Grados 6-8 (secundaria)

**INFORMACIÓN DE
INSCRIPCIÓN
(310) 838-3144**

Correo electrónico mbriseno@sasmail.org
o comuníquese con la
Directora de la Escuela San Agustín, Dr. Nguyen

La luz en el centro de nuestras vidas

¿Cómo se relacionan una dona, San Agustín y la Navidad?

¿Qué hay en el centro de una dona? Un agujero. Nada. ¿Cuántas veces hemos experimentado una ausencia o un vacío en nuestras vidas? Quizás nos hemos sentido rechazados o excluidos. Tal vez hemos sufrido adicciones: poder, orgullo, dinero, sexo, drogas o alcohol. Tal vez hemos tratado a los demás mal o con indiferencia. Tal vez hemos sido juzgados o criticados injustamente o, peor aún, tal vez hemos juzgado o criticado injustamente a otra persona. Tal vez hemos sido una fuente de conflicto o división. Quizás hemos sido una ocasión de pecado para alguien. En cualquier caso, el resultado es el mismo -- vacío, inquietud, falta de paz verdadera. Una sensación de que debe haber más en la vida.

No estamos solos. San Agustín sintió muchas de estas mismas cosas. Pasó su vida buscando algo para llenar el vacío en el centro de su ser. Trató de encontrar su identidad y sentido de valía siguiendo a la multitud y sus valores -- hasta el punto de violar la ley robando. Trató de encontrar la paz y la realización en el placer, en el éxito y la fama seculares, y en diversas modas y filosofías. Todos le fallaron y lo dejaron desesperado, sintiéndose vacío y solo. No tenía más centro que una dona. Después de treinta años de búsqueda, después de treinta años de oración de su madre Mónica, finalmente descubrió su verdadera identidad, valor y propósito -- su centro -- en el Dios que lo creó por amor: *Tú nos has creado para tí, Señor, y nuestros corazones no descansan hasta que descansen en tí.*

¿Qué hay en el centro de la Navidad? Un Niño que es la gran luz que ve un pueblo que camina en tinieblas. Este Niño es la luz que disipa las sombras. Este es el Niño que rompe la vara del severo capataz del pecado, que quita de nosotros el pesado peso de nuestro vacío y desesperación, que es el origen de nuestra paz, la fuente de la justicia, el manantial de la gracia y, lo más importante, el refugio en el que encontramos nuestro verdadero descanso. Gracias a este Niño, ya no estamos abandonados o desolados. Más bien, se alegrará nuestro Dios con nosotros y nos llama, *Mi complacencia.*

Pablo le recuerda a *Tito* que esta misma luz, este mismo Cristo, es el que nos permite vivir en sobriedad, que quita nuestros pecados, que nos capacita para hacer el bien y la justicia, que nos ayuda a ser fieles, que es nuestro centro y ancla. Este Cristo, esta luz, este Niño, es el descanso que buscamos, el descanso para el que fuimos creados, el descanso que nos completa y nos da esperanza, paz, alegría y amor. Pregúntale a San Agustín.

¿Dónde encontramos esta luz? Nosotros no. Esta luz nos encuentra. Los Evangelios de Navidad nos dicen que Dios viene a nosotros en los momentos más ordinarios de nuestras vidas. Él viene en medio de nuestras rutinas diarias, como lo hizo con María. Viene a nosotros en nuestros sueños, como lo hizo con José. Viene a nosotros en nuestras dificultades y angustias, como lo hizo con María y José durante su difícil estancia en Belén en el momento del censo de César Augusto. Viene a los ricos y poderosos, como lo hizo con los Tres Reyes Magos. Viene a los marginados y los desamparados, como lo hizo con los pastores en los campos. Así como los Evangelios se esfuerzan en señalar que Cristo, la Luz del Mundo, la Palabra de Dios, vino físicamente al mundo, se hizo carne, se hizo uno de nosotros, en un cierto momento identificable de la historia, así este mismo Niño, esta Luz, heredero del trono de David el Rey, pero también la Palabra divina del Padre, llega a nuestras vidas en tiempo real. Todo lo que tenemos que hacer es lo que hicieron María y José; todo lo que tenemos que hacer es decir "Sí".

Esta temporada navideña, deja entrar la Luz de Cristo. Deja que este Niño, que está en el centro de todo lo que creemos, entre en nuestros corazones y rompa la vara de todo lo que nos oprime. Que este Niño aleje de nosotros el peso de nuestros pecados, nos bendiga con su paz profunda, nos llene de su alegría y, sobre todo, nos haga descansar en él.

¿Cómo se relacionan una dona, San Agustín y la Navidad? De ahora en adelante, cada vez que miremos una dona, recordemos que nuestras vidas no están destinadas a estar centradas en el vacío. Recordemos que, como San Agustín, nunca descansaremos hasta que nuestras vidas estén centradas en ese Niño en el pesebre, hasta que elijamos descansar en paz, alegría, completamente en el Dios que nos hizo para sí mismo, el Dios cuyas sandalias no somos dignos de desatar, el Dios que es nuestra victoria y vindicación. Porque *hoy nos ha nacido el Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor.* Hoy, su luz brilla sobre nosotros. Hoy, *los confines de la tierra han contemplado la victoria de nuestro Dios,* y por esa razón, *cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor.*

Bendiciones navideñas, P. Chris

Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia, Diciembre 30 de 2022

La Iglesia celebra la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia el domingo ocurre entre la Natividad del Señor (25 de diciembre) y María Madre de Dios (1 de enero). Cuando no hay un domingo entre el 25 de diciembre y el 1 de enero, esta fiesta se celebra el 30 de diciembre. Aunque existen fiestas importantes dedicadas a cada miembro de la Sagrada Familia, la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia conmemora su vida en común y nos muestra la importancia de la vida familiar religiosa.

La devoción a la Sagrada Familia comenzó a crecer en el siglo XVII por el amor a Jesús y su familia, pero fue a principios del siglo XX cuando la Congregación de Ritos añadió la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia al calendario general del Rito Latino. Para muchos de nosotros hoy, la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia no se trata solo de la Sagrada Familia, sino también de nuestras propias familias cuando recurrimos a la Sagrada Familia como modelo para todas las familias cristianas. San Juan Crisóstomo instó a todos los cristianos a hacer de cada hogar una “iglesia familiar”, y al hacerlo, santificar la unidad familiar.

La experiencia de la Sagrada Familia no puede dejar de hacernos pensar en tantas familias de hoy en busca de paz, serenidad y trabajo, pero también en aquellas familias que viven con la aprehensión y la angustia de no llegar a fin de mes, de situaciones conyugales inestables, el miedo de enfermedad. Lo que vemos durante los primeros años de la Sagrada Familia, incluido el nacimiento de Jesús en Belén, la huida a Egipto y el hallazgo de Jesús en el templo, es el hecho de que se dejaron guiar por la mano poderosa de Dios. Esta es una lección para cada uno de nosotros. Hoy, el Espíritu Santo continúa guiándonos a todos, pero necesitamos escuchar al Espíritu que habla en nosotros.

Vivir el evangelio de la familia no es fácil en la sociedad actual. Sin embargo, en el Evangelio encontramos el camino para vivir una vida hermosa a nivel personal y familiar, un camino ciertamente desafiante, pero atractivo y que abarca todo. Es un camino que hay que confiar y emprender siguiendo el ejemplo y por intercesión de la Sagrada Familia. Hay momentos felices y tristes, serenos y difíciles en cada familia. Así es la vida. Vivir el “evangelio de la familia” no nos exime de experimentar dificultades y tensiones, de encontrarnos con momentos de agradable fortaleza y de dolorosa debilidad. Pero con la guía de Dios, las familias que enfrentan desafíos y dificultades pueden superar sus desafíos si aprenden a inspirarse en el ejemplo de la Sagrada Familia.

La Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia es un buen momento para recordar la unidad familiar y orar por nuestras familias humanas y espirituales. También podemos aprovechar esta fiesta para reflexionar sobre el valor y la santidad de la unidad familiar y para evaluar nuestra propia vida familiar. Podemos preguntarnos cómo podemos mejorar nuestra vida familiar preguntándonos qué harían Jesús, María y José en alguna situación. También podemos usar esta fiesta para reflexionar sobre lo que estamos haciendo para promover la familia dentro de nuestras propias culturas, vecindarios y comunidades.

Esta Navidad y siempre, volvamos a la Sagrada Familia como ejemplo de humildad y fe, y pidamos guía y dirección en nuestro propio camino de discipulado.



Bendición de un belén en casa

Es laudable la costumbre de instalar en las casas y en las iglesias un “nacimiento”, que recuerda y ayuda a vivir el misterio de la Navidad. Para dar más sentido religioso o para significar su inauguración puede hacerse un rito de bendición, que signifique el comienzo de las solemnes fiestas navideñas.



Bendición de un pesebre o belén de Navidad

Dios de todas las naciones y pueblos,
desde el principio mismo de la creación
has hecho manifiesto tu amor:
cuando nuestra necesidad de un Salvador era
grande
, enviaste a tu Hijo a nacer de la Virgen María.
A nuestras vidas trae alegría y paz,
justicia, misericordia y amor.

Señor,
bendice a todos los que miran este pesebre;
que nos recuerde el humilde nacimiento de Jesús,
y eleve nuestro pensamiento a él,
que es Dios-con-nosotros y Salvador de todos,
y que vive y reina por los siglos de los siglos.

Amén.

¿SABÍA USTED?

Cuidado con los peligros de incendio. La Navidad es una época popular para decorar con velas y luces eléctricas, tanto adentro como afuera de la casa. Estas decoraciones pueden ser muy bonitas y festivas, pero también conllevan el riesgo de incendios. Los padres de familia deben asegurarse de mantener las velas fuera del alcance de los niños y fuera de las superficies donde puedan darse vuelta fácilmente. Todas las luces deben revisarse en busca de cables defectuosos u otras piezas defectuosas que puedan provocar un incendio. Para obtener más información, lea el artículo en inglés, “Holiday Safety” (Seguridad durante las fiestas navideñas) en nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?



LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura - Verá la tierra entera la salvación que viene de nuestro Dios (Isaías 52:7-10).

Salmo - El mundo entero ha visto la salvación de Dios (Salmo 98 [97]).

Segunda lectura - Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su Hijo, la imagen fiel de su ser (Hebreos 1:1-6).

Evangelio - El Verbo se hizo carne; y todos recibimos de él en una sucesión de gracias sin número (Juan 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

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LOS MINISTERIOS QUE HABLAN ESPAÑOL SE REÚNEN EN LÍNEA

Durante la pandemia, varios de los ministerios de la Parroquia de St. Augustine de habla hispana se reunían en línea. La mayoría de los ministerios ahora se reúnen en la Parroquia. Para obtener la ubicación de una reunión ministerial específica, comuníquese con los coordinadores del ministerio, de la siguiente manera:

El grupo de oración

se reúne los viernes de 7:30 pm. a 9:30 pm. - Presencial en la parroquia

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 pm. a 9:30pm. - vía zoom

Contactos a llamar para dar información:
Sergio y Roció Vega – (310) 895-3125

Ministerio de jóvenes

se reúne los jueves de 8:00 pm. a 9:00 pm. —Presencial en la parroquia

Contactos a llamar para dar información:
Rodolfo y Estela Contreras – (310) 841-5950

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