

Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS
510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-3920 • Fax: 936-825-7612

Religious Education: 936-825-1869

After hour emergencies: 936-825-3920

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:15 a.m.-noon & 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday 9:15 a.m-noon

Other times by appointment

Website: www.christourlight.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopéz

Parochial Vicar, Rev. Jorge Cabrera

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER

Nelda Kurten

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sasha Ramirez

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' COORDINATOR / SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Arden, Teresa Morales, Gregorio Gonzalez, Sam Pry, Nelda Kurten

FINANCE COUNCIL

Leonard Busa, Theresa Clark, Teresa Morales, Ann Clark,Carolynn Katkoski

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Dan Busa, Hipolito Olvers, Lupe Diaz, Ofelia Olvera, Toribio Hernandez,
Celia (Rosa) Perez, Jose Murillo, Sr., Ruben Perez

FAMILY LIFE

Joe and Monica Fultz, Robert and Pam Malek, Baltazar and Silvia Regalado

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Michael and Connie Arden, Mitch Kroll,
Gregorio Gonzalez

RE BOARD

President: Jason Katkoski, Vice President: Diane LeFlore,

Secretary: Lucy Coronilla, Dcn Grant Holt, Teresa Morales and Brandi Tejeda.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mike Arden, Larry Busa, Danny Clark, Gary Husfeld, Richard Krolczyk,
and Joe Rangel.

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: (English) 8:00 a.m.

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday 6:00 p.m. (English)

Thursday 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)

ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON

Tuesday & Thursday: 6:10 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10 a.m.

Saturday: 5:15 p.m.

Sunday: 7:15 a.m. & 12:40 p.m.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Thursday and Saturday 5:00-5:45 p.m.

and by appointment 936-825-3920

RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los jueves y los sábado a las 5:00-5:45 p.m.
y por cita 936-825-3920.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: February 4, 2018

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

FEBRUARY 03 & 04, 2018

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

MASS INTENSIONS

MONDAY, FEB. 05 — ST. AGATHA, VIRGIN & MARTYR

No Mass

TUESDAY, FEB. 06 — ST. PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS,

MARTYRS

6:00 PM Eddie † & Henrietta † Prihoda

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 07 — WEEKDAY

8:30 AM Cecil Wilde †

THURSDAY, FEB. 08 — ST. JEROME EMILIANI; ST.

JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, VIRGIN

8:30 AM Nicole Bilnoski †

10:00 AM Torres Family

No Spanish Mass

FRIDAY, FEB. 09 — WEEKDAY

No Mass

SATURDAY, FEB. 10 — VIGIL, 6TH WEEK IN ORDINARY

TIME

6:00 PM David † and Margaret † Sechelski

SUNDAY, FEB. 11 — 6TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM Torres, Rangel and Badobino Families

1:00 PM* People of the Parish

*SPANISH

E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Fr. Jorge: Fr.jorge@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

To e-mail Rel. Ed. asha_ramirez17@yahoo.com

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and **or** articles are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office, faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org

AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. **Announcements are to be submitted in writing** to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodia. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, please notify the parish office, 825-3920.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 05

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 06

6:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 07

6:00 PM Religious Education PK thru 5th Grades

6:30 PM Youth Group Grades 8-12th

7:30 PM Choir Practice, CH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 08

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

No Confessions

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 09

No Events Scheduled

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

5:00 PM Confession, CH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

10:15 AM Religious Education, 6th thru 12th grade



PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or special intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

Sacrament of Baptism Schedule

English Baptism Class Schedule for 2018: 8:30 AM, April 14, July 14 and October 13. For Information, call Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Joe Rangel at 936-672-5566

Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2018: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, January 15 & 22, April 15 & 22, July 16 & 23 and October 21 & 28. For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974

ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. SCHEDULED Baptism will be celebrated once a month every 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM in the Church.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-15; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31 — 11:1; Mk 1:40-45



PRAY for THE CONTINUING RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF

Sick Relatives & Friends

the infirmed and homebound members of our community. Steve Alvarado, Deborah Allwell, Amy Baldobino, Katherine Berger, JoAnn Clepper, Frank Conte, Minnie Crouch, Sherry Noto Coronado, Taylor Cox, Susie Dominguez, Maria Flores, Charleen Holmes, Ed Huber, Judy Huber, Marion Huber, Joe Imhoff, Eva James, John James, Liz Johnson, Esther Jones, Charlie Kapchinski, Brianna Kelley, Kim Kelly, Landon Kimich, Mary Ann Knowles, Ronny Kurten, Crystal Lane, Leslie Lane, Manuel Lebeck, Ted Loq, Lillian Marcotte, Maria Martinez, June McDonald, Yvonne Meitzen, Valeriano Melchor, Anthony Mendez, Evita Mendez, Beth Minava, Eddie Muston, Fabian Munoz, Trealean Nickerson, Thomas Nobles, Leon Nowak, Julian Olguin, Victor Ostiguin, Howard Owens, Ralf Perez, II, Tanisha Perry, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Rose Betty Piper, Mercedes Rios, Joel Rivera, Irma Salazar, Abby Schoessow, Josh Sechelski, Judy Seigler, Dennis Shive, Dana Sowell, Krysten Sowell, Angie McLaurin Till, Lucy Thompson, Tina Tomczak, Alene Torres, Anastacia Torres, Jesse Valadez, III, Carrie Vega, Amanda Walkoviak, Clara Walkoviak, Debra Wills and Pam Wise. **Call the parish office** when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920. Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, **please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.** Thank you.

In Our Prayers

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEB.

General Intention — UNIVERSAL: Say "No" to corruption. That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist the lure of corruption.



P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration)

We are inviting and highly encouraging everyone to sign-up for our "P.E.R.A." (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration). We are asking everyone to devote ONE HOUR (at least) a WEEK adoring God in the Blessed Sacrament—that is, only asking 168 parishioners to make adoration of God everyday, 24/7! We do this as a Parish Community in response to the teaching of St. John Paul II:

The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."

(Dominicae cenae, 3)

Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024.



New Memorial Candles

The new Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.

YOUR PARISH SUPPORT
SU APOYO PARROQUIAL

TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:

Weekly Offering



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January 27 & 28, 2018

GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS

(89)Offertory Envelopes /Loose Checks	4,092.00
Loose Change	1,026.00
Children's	89.00
Total	5,207.00
Building Fund	27.00
II Coll. Bishops' Fund for Latin America	1,108.08

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time — *"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'" Mark 1:35, 38* In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes—healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.

5º domingo del Tiempo Ordinario — *"Levantándose muy temprano antes del amanecer, salió y se fue a un lugar desierto donde oró...Les dijo: 'Vayamos a las aldeas cercanas para predicar allí también. Para eso he venido'" Marcos 1:35,38* En la lectura del Evangelio de hoy, vemos un ejemplo perfecto de corresponsabilidad. Jesús da su tiempo para hacer todo lo que Dios desea: sanar a los enfermos y predicar. Pero antes que Él comience, Jesús se toma el tiempo para estar a solas con Dios en oración. Es a través de la oración, pasando tiempo con Dios, que encontramos la fuerza para hacer lo que Él desea que hagamos. Asegúrate de encontrar tiempo todos los días para estar con Dios.

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND
Web site is FORMED.ORG

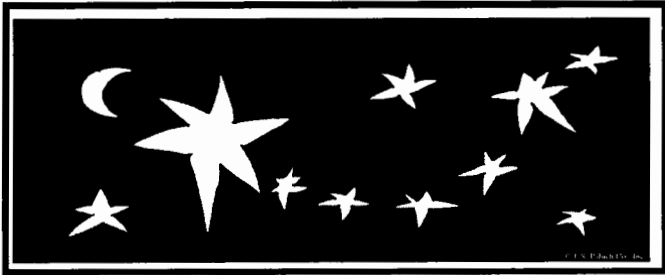
The Parish Code to access the website is **MVMZKF**

Then register to create an account.

NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.

There are 2 easy ways to connect to FLOCKNOTE (pick one):

1. Visit our church at: www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 4, 2018

[The LORD] tells the number of the stars and calls each by name.
—Psalm 147:4

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the month.

MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

- Altar Society—January and July
- Pastoral Council—February and October
- Finance Council—March and September
- R.E. Board—April and August
- Stewardship—May and November
- Choir—June and December

FEBRUARY LECTOR'S SCHEDULE

Saturday 6:00 PM Mass: Linda Lara, February 3rd and 17th. Samuel Pry, February 10th and 24th.

Sunday 8:00 AM Mass: Rebecca Wisnoski, February 4th and 11th. Victor Meitzen, February 18th and 25th.

ONLINE STORE FOR CATHOLIC GIFTS

Go to our website: www.christourlight.org
 Click on: www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store?promoCode=102608"<> img (with a % of your purchase going back as Credit to the parish.



YOUTH MEETING SCHEDULE

Christ Our Light Youth Group Grades 8-12 will meet every 1st Wednesday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Guest Speakers, Food & Games, Bible Study, Praise and Worship and more. To join contact: Joe Rangel (936) 672-5566 or Jessica Herrera (936) 870-8130.

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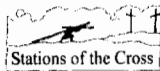
Altar Flowers for 2018 sign up list is in the white binder on the brown shelf in the Narthex of the Church. Sign up for the weekend you would like to place altar flowers in front of the altar.

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FEBRAURY 14 SCHEDULE

- 12:15 PM Liturgy of the Word with Ashes
- 5:00 PM Mass in English with Ashes
- 7:00 PM Mass in Spanish with Ashes



STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAY'S AT 6:00 PM, CHRUCH

- February 16th—Fr. Eli
- February 23rd—Altar Society
- March 2nd—Choir
- March 9th—Legion of Mary
- March 16th—Knight of Columbus, Council #9367
- March 23rd—



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
6:00 pm March 01, 2018
At: St. Stanislaus Church, Anderson



Thank you for your generous support last week of the collection for the Church in Latin America. As a parish we collected \$1,108.08, which will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin American and the Caribbean so that they in turn can share it with others. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give!

Muchas gracias por su generoso apoyo a la Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina la semana pasada. Como parroquia, hemos recaudado \$1,108.08, que serán utilizados para compartir la e con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en América Latina y el Caribe para que ello, a su vez, la compartan con los demás. ¡Si no alcanzaron a dar en la colecta, todavía lo pueden hacer!



The Knights of Columbus Council 9367 (Navasota) will be having their First Friday of Lent Fish Dinner, Friday, February 16, 2018 at the KC Hall on Courtney Road from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Ticket are \$9.00 and available from any KC Member.

One Minute Meditations

St. Scholastica

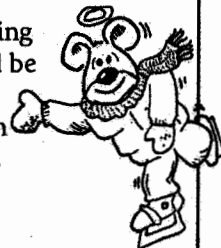
St. Scholastica was the sister of St. Benedict, the founder of the Benedictines. She was born in Italy around 480. She entered religious life and founded an order of Benedictine nuns. Every year, Benedict and Scholastica would meet about spiritual matters. After one of his visits, knowing she would die soon, she begged St. Benedict to stay longer. When he refused, she prayed to God and there was a terrible thunderstorm, forcing Benedict to stay. She died three days later.



Desire for change

When we decide that change in our lives is necessary, we can be impatient for results. Attitudes, outlook, and habits develop over time and will take time to modify. Sometimes our best achievement may be our determination to persevere for change, despite slow progress. Sincere, consistent effort is all that God requires.

"At the evening of life we shall be judged on our love." (St. John of the Cross, *Dichos*)



Goals for the Lenten journey

Lent is our gift from the Church to help us move from one state to another, through conversion to peace and joy at Easter. Consider these goals as you travel your Lenten journey.

Know that you are a sinner. The holiest people are most conscious of their sinfulness. The better we know God and his perfection, the more clearly we see our own faults and sins. The good news? Identifying our sinfulness leads to healing and cleansing.

Listen attentively. Hearing the sound of God's voice during prayer is rare. More often, God inspires us through Scripture, spiritual reading, homilies, prayer meditation. Throughout Lent, use these

opportunities to ask God questions and listen for the answers.

Grow in authenticity. God created us to become the best possible version of ourselves. Living authentically means saying "yes" to what helps us become that best self and "no" to what doesn't. Starting with Lent, work to acquire virtues – saying, "yes" – and exercise self-control to eliminate bad ones – saying, "no."

Live generously. It is easy to notice what we don't have but Lent invites us to live in gratitude for what we do have. Gratitude then gives rise to generosity – sharing

God's love and gifts with others. Generous people are encouraging, positive, and appreciative. During Lent, notice and appreciate God's gifts and share them with others.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Throughout Scripture, there are references to the prayers for the dead. For example, Judas Maccabeus prayed that fallen soldiers he commanded would be forgiven their sin (2 Maccabees 12:46). Jesus discussed the forgiveness of sins "in this age or the age to come" (Matthew 12:32).

Why do Catholics believe in Purgatory?

All who die in God's friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are assured of Heaven.

Purification after death may be required to achieve the necessary holiness to reach Heaven. The Church calls this state of purification, Purgatory.



How do I know God loves me?

God's love isn't earned and can't be lost. Such an amazing gift almost sounds too good to be true. So, how do we know God's love is real?

He sent his Son to us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

His closest friends told us so. St. Paul said, "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things

to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

He watches over us. "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'... your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well (Matthew 6:31-33).



from Scripture

Mark 9:2-10, The Transfiguration.

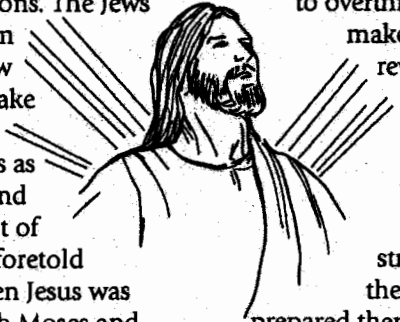
In Jesus' time, Israel was occupied by the Romans. By that point, the Israelites had a long history of being invaded and conquered by other nations. The Jews dreamed of the day when the Messiah would throw off their enemies and make Israel a strong nation.

God established Moses as liberator and lawgiver, and sent them Elijah, the first of the great prophets who foretold Christ's coming. So, when Jesus was transfigured in glory with Moses and Elijah, the Apostles realized that God was revealing Jesus as the Messiah.

Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about his death and Resurrection. Jesus

had warned his disciples that he would suffer and die (Mark 8:31). While everyone was expecting the Messiah to overthrow the Romans and make himself king, Jesus revealed that the Messiah would save his people by his own death and Resurrection.

The Transfiguration strengthened the faith of the Apostles and prepared them for the Passion. The Transfiguration is a reminder that, however difficult this life may be, it is nothing compared to the glory that awaits us in Heaven.



What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?

In Jesus' parable of the judgment of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus lists the ways we can take care of those in physical need: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." (Matthew 25:35).

These are the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to shelter the homeless and to bury the dead. Most importantly, "it is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognize his chosen ones" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2443).

At their heart, the Corporal Works of Mercy are about being aware of others' needs and responding to them. By this, we make our love for God and others visible and effective. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).



Feasts & Celebrations

Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. Ashes from the burnt palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the foreheads as a sign of penance.

Feb. 22 - St. Margaret of Cortona (1297). Born in Italy, St. Margaret ran away to live with a young man and had a son. When her lover was unexpectedly killed, St. Margaret returned home with her young son and became a penitent. Eventually, she joined the Franciscans. She founded the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy to

care for the sick and poor.

February 23 - St. Polycarp (155). Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor. St. Polycarp was a disciple of the Apostle St. John and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He passed on the Apostles' teachings to the next generation of Christians. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to Christianity. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.



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 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Creciendo en la Fe™

Descubriendo esperanza y gozo en la fe católica.

Febrero de 2018

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church

Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

Meditaciones breves

Santa Escolástica

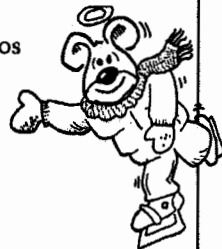
Santa Escolástica era la hermana de San Benito, fundador de los benedictinos. Nació en Italia alrededor del año 480. Se dedicó a la vida religiosa y fundó una orden de monjas benedictinas. Benito y Escolástica se reunían cada año para hablar de asuntos espirituales. Después de una de estas visitas, dándose cuenta de que pronto iba a morir, le pidió a san Benito que se quedara un poco más. Él se negó, pero Escolástica rezó a Dios y se desató una fuerte tormenta que obligó a Benito a quedarse. Murió tres días después.



Deseo de cambio

Cuando decidimos que es necesario un cambio en nuestras vidas, nos impacientamos por conseguir resultados. Las actitudes, la perspectiva y los hábitos se desarrollan con tiempo y modificar todo ello lleva también tiempo. A veces nuestro mayor logro puede ser nuestra resolución de perseverar para cambiar, a pesar del lento progreso. Dios sólo requiere esfuerzo sincero y constante.

"En el ocaso de nuestra vida seremos juzgados en el amor".
(San Juan de la Cruz, Dichos)



Metas para el viaje cuaresmal

La Cuaresma es el regalo que la Iglesia nos hace para ayudarnos a pasar de un estado a otro mediante la conversión a la paz y la alegría en la Pascua. Tengan en cuenta estas metas durante su viaje cuaresmal.

Reconozcan que son pecadores. Las personas más santas son las más conscientes de sus pecados. Cuanto mejor conocemos a Dios y su perfección, con más claridad vemos nuestras propias faltas y pecados. ¿Qué ganamos con esto? Nos recuperamos de nuestros pecados y nos purificamos sólo si identificamos nuestras faltas.

Escuchen con atención. Es raro oír el sonido de la voz de Dios cuando rezamos. Pero con frecuencia Dios nos inspira mediante las Escrituras, las lecturas espirituales, las homilias y la meditación.

Usen estas oportunidades durante la Cuaresma para hacerle preguntas a Dios y escuchar sus respuestas.

Crezcan en autenticidad. Dios nos creó para que demos lo mejor de nosotros mismos. Vivir con autenticidad implica decir "sí" a lo que nos ayuda a alcanzar ese grado de excelencia y "no" a lo que no lo hace. Esta Cuaresma esfuércense en adquirir virtudes—decir "sí"—y en ejercitar el autocontrol por eliminar malos hábitos—digan "no".

Vivan con generosidad. Es fácil ver lo que no tenemos, pero la Cuaresma nos invita a vivir con gratitud por lo que tenemos. De la gratitud nace la generosidad, el compartir con los demás el amor y los dones

de Dios. Las personas generosas son alentadoras, positivas y agradecidas. Durante la Cuaresma presten atención a los dones de Dios, agrádecenlos y compártanlos con los demás.



¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

Encontramos en las Escrituras referencias a las plegarias por los muertos. Por ejemplo, Judas Macabeo rezó para que se perdonaran los pecados a los soldados caídos que habían estado a sus órdenes (2 Macabeos 12:46). Jesús explicó qué pecados serían perdonados y cuáles no "ni en este mundo ni en el otro" (Mateo 12:32).

¿Por qué creen los católicos en el Purgatorio?

Todos los que mueren en la amistad de Dios, pero lo hacen imperfectamente purificados, tienen el Cielo asegurado. Quizá se requiera purificación tras la muerte a fin de conseguir la santidad necesaria para alcanzar el Cielo. La Iglesia llama Purgatorio a esta etapa de purificación.



¿Cómo sé que Dios me ama?

El amor de Dios no se gana y no se pierde. Este asombroso don parece casi increíble de lo bueno que es. Así que, ¿cómo sabemos que el amor de Dios es real?

Nos envió a su Hijo. *"Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo el que crea en él no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna"* (Juan 3:16).

Sus amigos más íntimos nos lo dijeron. San Pablo dijo: *"Pues estoy seguro de que ni la muerte ni la vida de*



los ángeles ni los principados ni lo presente ni lo futuro ni las potestades ni la altura ni la profundidad ni otra criatura alguna podrá separarnos del amor de Dios manifestado en Cristo Jesús Señor nuestro" (Romanos 8:38-39).

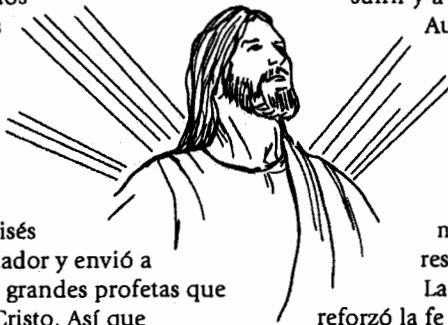
Él nos cuida. *"No anden, pues, preocupados diciendo: ¿Qué vamos a comer?, ¿qué vamos a beber?, ¿con qué vamos a vestirnos? ...pues ya sabe su padre celestial que tienen necesidad de todo eso. Busquen primero el Reino de Dios y su justicia, y todas esas cosas se les darán por añadidura"* (Mateo 6:31-33).

de las **E**scrituras

Marcos 9:2-10, La Transfiguración

En tiempos de Jesús, Israel estaba ocupado por los romanos. A lo largo de la historia los israelitas ya habían sido invadidos y conquistados por otras naciones. Los judíos soñaban con el día en que el Mesías expulsaría a sus enemigos y haría de Israel una nación fuerte.

Dios estableció a Moisés como liberador y legislador y envió a Elías, el primero de los grandes profetas que anticipó la llegada de Cristo. Así que cuando Jesús se transfiguró gloriosamente con Moisés y Elías, los Apóstoles se dieron cuenta de que Dios estaba revelando que Jesús era el Mesías.



Moisés y Elías hablaron con Jesús de su muerte y su resurrección. Jesús había advertido a sus discípulos que iba a sufrir y a morir (Marcos 8:31).

Aunque todo el mundo se esperaba que el Mesías expulsaría a los romanos y se haría rey, Jesús reveló que el Mesías salvaría a su pueblo mediante su muerte y resurrección.

La Transfiguración reforzó la fe de los Apóstoles y los preparó para la Pasión. La Transfiguración nos recuerda que, por difícil que sea esta vida, es enorme la gloria que nos espera en el Cielo.

P & R

¿Qué son las obras corporales de misericordia?

En la parábola del juicio de las ovejas y los cabritos (Mateo 25:31-46), Jesús hace



una lista de las maneras de cuidar a los que tienen necesidades físicas: *"Porque tuve hambre, y me dieron de comer; tuve sed, y me dieron de beber; era forastero, y me acogieron..."*

(Mateo 25:35).

Éstas son las obras corporales de misericordia: dar de comer al hambriento y dar de beber al sediento, vestir al desnudo, visitar a los enfermos y socorrer a los presos, dar posada al necesitado y enterrar a los muertos. Es importante recordar que "Jesucristo reconocerá a sus elegidos en lo que hayan hecho por los pobres" (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, #2443*).

La esencia de las obras corporales de misericordia es el imperativo de ser conscientes de las necesidades de los demás y actuar en consecuencia. Así logramos que nuestro amor a Dios y los demás sea visible y eficaz. *"En verdad les digo que cuanto hicieron a uno de estos hermanos míos más pequeños, a mí me lo hicieron"* (Mateo 25:40).

Fiestas y celebraciones

14 de febrero – Miércoles de Ceniza. Primer día de Cuaresma. Las cenizas resultantes de quemar las palmas del anterior Domingo de Ramos se bendicen y se colocan en la frente como señal de penitencia.

22 de marzo – Santa Margarita de Cortona (1297). Nacida en Italia, santa Margarita se escapó de la casa familiar para vivir con un joven con el que tuvo un hijo. Cuando inesperadamente su amante fue asesinado, santa Margarita regresó a la casa paterna con su joven hijo y se hizo penitente. Finalmente ingresó en la orden franciscana. Fundó la Confraternidad de

Nuestra Señora de la Misericordia para cuidar a los enfermos y a los pobres.

23 de febrero – San Policarpo (155). Obispo de Esmirna, Asia Menor, san Policarpo era un discípulo del apóstol san Juan y amigo de san Ignacio de Antioquía. Transmitió las enseñanzas de los Apóstoles a la nueva generación de cristianos. Se ocupó lealmente de sus feligreses a pesar de estar rodeado de paganos y de un gobierno opuesto al cristianismo. Antes de sufrir el martirio dio gracias a Dios por hacerlo digno de morir como mártir.



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