



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception

701 Church St., Brenham, TX 77833

www.brenhamcatholic.org

(979) 836-4441

MASS TIMES

Monday	5:30pm
Tuesday	12:15 pm
Wednesday	12:15 pm
Thursday	12:15 pm
Friday	5:30 pm
Sunday Mass	
Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
	7:00pm (Español)
Sunday	8:00 am
	10:30 am
	12:30 pm (Español)

Extraordinary Form Latin

4:00 pm

At Pax Christi Retreat Center - 9300 Hwy
105, Brenham, TX 77833

CONFESSIONS

Weekdays, 30 minutes before Mass.
Saturdays: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

CLERGY

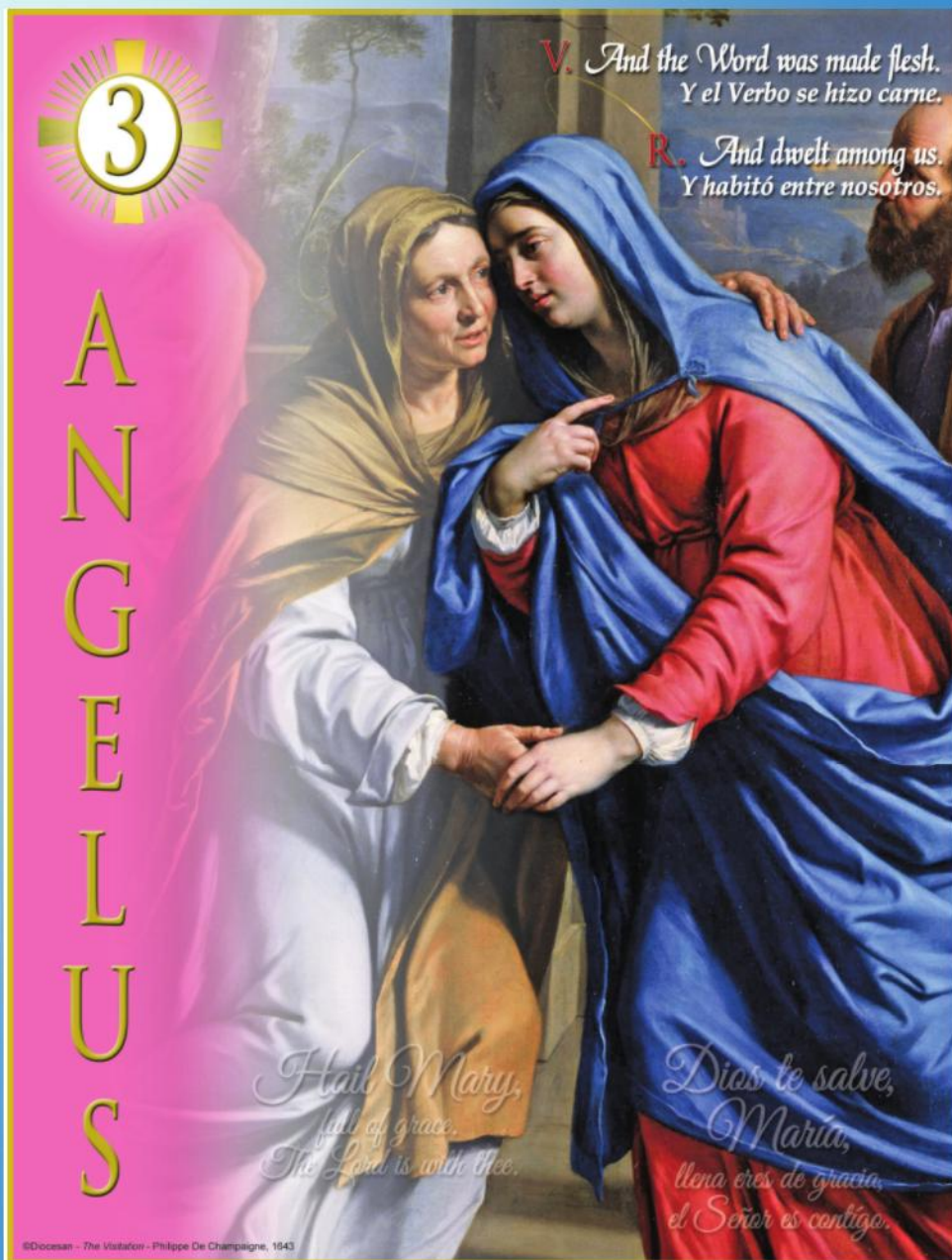
Fr. Everardo Cazares - Pastor
Fr. Juan Jose Diaz, DJ—Parochial Vicar
Deacon Steve Medina
Deacon Allen Prescott
Deacon John Pelletier
Deacon Matthew Jewell

OFFICE HOURS

Monday CLOSED
Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am—5:00 pm

**Emergencies after office hours phone
number:**

(979) 451-9824



©Doosen - The Visitation - Philippe De Champaigne, 1643

*My soul rejoices in my God: my soul rejoices in my
God. Luke 1*

Se alegra mi espíritu en Dios mi salvador. Lucas 1

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

HORARIO DE MISAS E INTENCIONES

December 18 – December 24, 2023

Monday/lunes—December 18, 5:30 pm

† G.R. Blasingame, Lee Baca, Jr. & John Baca
† Leon & Curtis Konieczny

Tuesday/martes—December 19, 12:15pm

† John R. Fries Family
† Raymond Kenjura (sent off)

Wednesday/miercoles-December 20, 12:15 pm

† Elmer Faykus
† Cathleen Przyborski (sent off)

Thursday/jueves - December 21, 12:15 pm

† Clarence "Rock" Holder
† Aaron David Markizer (sent off)
† Lillian Antkowiak (sent off)

Friday/Viernes - December 22, 5:30pm

Jaden Alexander Romero Navarrete on his birthday

Saturday/sábado—December 23, 5:00 pm

† Gene Maynard & Dennis Maynard

7:00 pm—En Español / In Spanish

Andrea Gregoria on her birthday

Sunday/Domingo – December 24, 8:00 am.

† Antone Kubeczka

10:30 a.m.

Well-being of AJ, Jacob & Clare Watson

12:30 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish

Irma Manzano on her birthday

4:00 p.m. - Kids Christmas Eve Mass

For our Parish children and grandchildren

6:00 p.m. - English Christmas Eve Mass

For our Brenham Community

8:00 p.m. - Spanish Christmas Eve Mass

For our Hispanic Ministry and families

11:45 p.m. - Midnight Christmas Mass

Pro Populo

COLLECTION/COLECTA

Electronic giving - if you prefer to give electronically, there is a link at www.brenhamcatholic.org

Donación electronica—para hacer su contribución automáticamente visitar www.brenhamcatholic.org

December 9-10

Weekly budgeted expenses.....\$18,475.00

Weekend collection\$24,325.37

Clergy Medical & Retirement\$1,835.00

Thank you for your generosity! This is how we are doing:

Collection Report

July - September

	1st Quarter	October	November		To Date
Offertory	\$228,496	\$77,612	\$77,965	\$	\$384,073
Expenses	\$343,858	\$92,027	\$91,491	\$	\$527,376
	-\$115,362	-\$14,415	-\$13,526	\$	-\$143,303

Offertory is Sunday and Holy Day collection, does not include fundraising, gifts, bequest, Encountering Christ Campaign, or contributions from our ministries.



St. Teresa of Calcutta Society

helps those in need.

For assistance phone

979-525-0090.

Calls remain confidential.

La Sociedad de Santa Teresa De Calcutta

ayuda a esos en necesidad.

Para recibir ayuda llame al **979-525-0090.**

Las llamadas se mantienen confidenciales.

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." - St. Teresa of Calcutta

"No siempre podemos hacer grandescosas, pero sí podemos hacer cosas"



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Calendar, January



7 Blood Drive



27 PCCW Women's
Retreat

February



3 Spanish Couples
Dinner



10 English Date Night
Out

January 7, 2024

Blood Drive

January 27, 2024

PCCW Women's Retreat

February 3

Spanish Couples Dinner

February 10

English Date Night Out

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2024

CRHP Retreat

February 26-28, 2024

Lenten Mission

This week on St. Mary's campus. December 18 thru December 24, 2023

12/18 Monday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
7:00pm Misioneras de Jesus Community Meeting, RE Room 106 Audio/visual
7:00pm Unidos en Cristo Community Meeting Room 102
7:00pm Evangelization Retreat Follow Up, PAC Large Meeting Room

12/19 Tuesday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
11:00am Bible study, PAC Small Meeting Room
11:00am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church, gym
5:00pm WCJ Volleyball Practice, Gym
6:30pm Choir Practice, Church
6:30pm English Baptismal Class, Cornerstone Meeting Room
7:00pm Seguidores De Jesus Community Meeting, RE Room 106

12/20 Wednesday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
10:00am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
10:30am Staff Meeting, Office Choir/Meeting Room
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15 pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
5:00 pm WCJ Volleyball Practice, Gym
5:30pm Choir Practice, Church
7:00pm Spanish Choir Practice, Church

12/21 Thursday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
9:00am Wellness Walking Group Brunch, PAC Large Meeting Room
10:00am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15 pm Mass, Church
2:00pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
5:30 pm Spanish Altar Server Training, Church
6:00pm Spanish Baptismal Class, RE Room 106
6:00pm WCJ Volleyball Practice, Gym

12/22 Friday

12:10pm Rosary, Church
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
7:00pm Guiados por el Espiritu community meeting, RE Room 106 Audio/visual

12/23 Saturday

6:00am Men's Spanish group, Church
7:00am TMIY Men's Group, PAC Small meeting room
3:30pm Confessions, Church
5:00pm English Mass, Church
5:00pm CRHP Meeting, PAC Large Meeting Room
7:00pm Spanish Mass, Church

12/24 Sunday

8:00am English Mass, Church
10:30am English Mass, Church
10:30am RCIA Prep, RE Room 106
12:30pm Spanish Mass, Church
4:00pm Kids Christmas Eve Mass, Church
6:00pm English Christmas Eve Mass, Church
8:00pm Spanish Christmas Eve Mass, Church
11:45pm Midnight Christmas Mass, Church.



Who are you?

I remember one of my first philosophy classes, the teacher, to make us think and go beyond the obvious, asked us: Who are you? Faced with the silence of the class, he turned to one in particular to ask, who are you? The classmate answered with his name, and the teacher responded by saying that he had not asked his name, but rather who he was. He went on to the next one and asked the same question, and the answers varied, saying where they lived, what they did, and that they were children of such people, to which the teacher responded with the negative, "I don't care." I did not ask your job, whose children you are, or where you live... but who are you?

John's way of life had to raise this question: who are you? Mark, for example, tells us how John lived: "he wore a camel's foot garment and ate locusts and wild honey" (Mk 1:6). His clear rejection by society was a big question that one day had to be clarified: who are you? That is to say: why do you live the way you live, speak what you speak, and do what you do?

It is the authorities who ask questions. His question is not simple curiosity nor does it seem to be the spontaneous desire for conversion that the crowds felt upon hearing him. They question because they want to know what authority is behind John, or in other words, who and why he could compete or overshadow their authority. This explains the reason for the question they ask him in Jn 1:25, in today's gospel: "Then why do you baptize, if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

The Baptist's response is strange, without a doubt, for those Pharisees. I am a voice, he tells them. A terribly abstract way of referring to oneself. But not just any voice; It is the voice that Isaiah announced, the one that proclaims redemption after the exile.

Isaiah spoke of rectifying the paths so that the glory of God may shine (Is 40:3ff). The wonderful spectacle that was to take place on that straight path was the victory step of the people returning from exile. The reality was quite different. The Jews returned from their exile to Babylon, but in humble and precarious conditions, and with a broken heart, as the books of Ezra and Nehemiah well describe.

This context allows us to glimpse the force of the Baptist's word: he says that it is that voice that was not heard in that return. He then says that the glory that did not shine at the return of Babylon is now ready to shine before all peoples. So if the authorities are worried and want to know what they are facing, let them understand that it is God Himself who is behind all this. Those authorities are not what Isaiah announced; Its power is provisional and will be tarnished. The message is clear.

John's words at the end of today's gospel are an act of humility but also, if we think about it, a warning. If John, the rebel, the untamed one of the desert, is so small before the one who comes, who is coming, for God's sake?

Isaiah said: "The Lord will bring forth righteousness and praise before all nations" (Is 61:11). So God takes our story seriously. Life is not a loot for the benefit of the strongest. No man can believe himself indefinitely as the lord and master of other men. Vanity gives way and recedes; God's justice shines. What a beautiful vision of Advent.

And who are you? Why do you do what you do? What moves you to do what you do?

Fr. Everardo Cázares

¿Quién eres tú?



Recuerdo una de mis primeras clases de filosofía, el maestro para hacernos pensar e ir mas allá de las obviedades, nos preguntó ¿quien eres? Ante el silencio de la clase se dirigió a uno en particular para preguntarle, ¿quien eres? El compañero contesto con su nombre, y el maestro le respondió diciendo que no había preguntado su nombre, sino que quien era. Paso al siguiente y realizo la misma pregunta, y las respuestas fueron variando, diciendo en donde Vivian, que era lo hacían, a que se dedicaban, que eran hijos de tales personas, a lo que el maestro respondía con la negative de, no te pregunte tu oficio, ni de quien eres hijos, ni de donde vives... sino ¿quien eres?

La forma de vida de Juan tenían que suscitar esta pregunta: ¿quién eres? Marcos, por ejemplo, nos dice cómo vivía Juan: "llevaba un vestido de pie de camello; y se alimentaba de langostas y miel silvestre" (Mc 1,6). Su claro rechazo con la sociedad era una gran interrogante que un día tenia que aclararse: ¿quién eres?, es decir:

¿por qué vives como vives, hablas lo que hablas y haces lo que haces?

Son las autoridades quienes mandan preguntar. Su pregunta no es simple curiosidad ni parece ser el espontáneo deseo de conversión que las multitudes sintieron al oírle. Interrogan porque quieren saber qué autoridad está detrás de Juan, o con otros términos, quién y por qué podría hacer competencia o sombra a la autoridad de ellos. Esto explica la razón de la interpelación que le hacen en Jn 1,25, del evangelio de hoy: "Entonces ¿por qué bautizas, si no eres el Mesías, ni Elías, ni el profeta?".

La respuesta del Bautista es extraña, sin duda, para aquellos fariseos. Soy una voz, les dice. Un modo terriblemente abstracto de referirse a sí mismo. Mas no cualquier voz; es la voz que anunció Isaías, aquella que proclama la redención después del destierro.

Isaías hablaba de rectificar los caminos para que brillara la gloria de Dios (Is 40,3ss). El espectáculo maravilloso que debía darse en esa camino recto o era el paso de victoria del pueblo que vuelve del destierro. La realidad fue bastante distinta. Los judíos volvieron de su destierro a Babilonia, pero en condiciones humildes y precarias, y con el corazón abatido, como lo describen bien los libros de Esdras y Nehemías.

Este contexto nos permite entrever la fuerza de la palabra del Bautista: él dice que es esa voz que en aquel retorno no se dejó oír. Dice entonces que la gloria que no brilló en el retorno de Babilonia ahora se apresta a lucir ante todos los pueblos. De modo que si las autoridades están inquietas y quieren saber a qué se están enfrentando, que entiendan que es Dios mismo quien está detrás de todo esto. Esas autoridades no son lo que anunció Isaías; su poder es provisorio y quedará empañado. El mensaje es claro.

Las palabras de Juan al final del evangelio de hoy son un acto de humildad pero también, si lo pensamos bien, una advertencia. Si Juan, el rebelde, el indómito del desierto, es tan pequeño ante aquel que viene, ¿quién viene, por Dios?

Isaías dijo: "el Señor hará brotar la justicia y la alabanza ante todas las naciones" (Is 61,11). Entonces Dios toma nuestra historia en serio. La vida no es un botín para provecho de los más fuertes. Ningún hombre puede creerse indefinidamente señor y dueño de otros hombres. La vanidad cede y retrocede; la justicia de Dios brilla. ¡Qué hermosa visión de Adviento.

Y tu ¿quien eres? ¿Por qué haces lo que haces? ¿Qué te mueve a hacer lo que haces?

Fr. Everardo Cázares



The fourth Sunday of Advent,
December 24th, is still Advent and
is a day of obligation.

Masses as usual:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. (Vigil)

7:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. (Spanish),

This year Christmas December 25th falls on a Monday, which means that it can be celebrated from Sunday afternoon, but be careful! The mass on the fourth Sunday of Advent is still obligatory, so look closely at the mass calendar and choose the times that best suit you to fulfill the Sunday and Christmas masses.

Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24th

4:00 pm – Kids English

6:00 pm – English

8:00 pm – Spanish

11: 45 pm – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Monday December 25th

10:30 am – English

12:30 pm - Spanish

4:00 pm – Latin at the Pax

Christi Retreat Center



Día de Reflexión

EL PEQUEÑO CAMINO

Mujeres que viven confiadas en el amor misericordioso de Jesús

*Donna Hughes, presidenta del Consejo Diocesano de Mujeres Católicas de Austin,
y la Oficina Diocesana de Vida, Matrimonio y Familia
se han asociado para brindar días para reflexionar sobre el papel indispensable
de la mujer en la misión de la Iglesia (cf. Apostolicam Actuositatem, 1).
Todas las mujeres están invitadas a participar en esta Jornada de Reflexión.*

Parroquia Santa Teresa

1212 Lucky Street, Bryan

Lunes, 18 de diciembre

5 p.m. a 9 p.m.

LA VELADA COMENZARÁ CON MISA | COSTO \$10 | CENA INCLUIDA

Para obtener más información o registrarse, visite
www.austindiocese.org/dia-de-reflexion



LUISA DE POO

Directora, Vida, Matrimonio y Familia



REV. EVERARDO CAZARES

Pastor, Santa María en Brenham



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**Marriage Recognition Certificates Sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women
and signed by Bishop Vásquez**

Marriage recognition certificates are available for couples celebrating wedding anniversaries between February 14, 2023 and February 14, 2024. If you have been married 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 years or more, please call the Church office and give us your names, the date of your marriage, and your phone number and email. The deadline to turn this is January 29th, 2024.



**Certificados de Reconocimiento para Matrimonios Patrocinados por el Consejo
de Damas Católicas y firmados por el Obispo Joe Vásquez**

Los certificados de reconocimiento de matrimonio están disponibles para las parejas que celebran aniversarios de bodas entre el 14 de febrero de 2023 y el 14 de febrero de 2024. Si ha estado casado 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 años o más, por favor llame a la oficina de la Iglesia y dénos sus nombres, la fecha de su matrimonio y su número de Teléfono y correo electrónico. La fecha límite para llamar es el 6 de enero de 2024.

Pastoral Council

If you have any comments, questions or concerns that you would like the Pastoral Council to go over during our monthly meetings, please send them to our email pastoralcouncil@brenhamcatholic.org
We will be monitoring the email constantly!

Consejo Pastoral

Si tiene alguna pregunta, comentario o preocupación que le gustaría que se comentara en nuestras reuniones mensuales del consejo pastoral por favor mandelas a nuestro correo electrónico

Pastoralcouncil@brenhamcatholic.org

Estaremos checando el correo constantemente!



St. Mary's Prayer Line

If you or a loved one needs prayers, call, text, or email:

Shirley Rowan at 979-421-3332 or

Shirley.rowan@att.net

If you would like to become a Prayer Warrior please contact Shirley Rowan.

Linea de Oración de St. Mary's

Si usted o un ser querido necesita oraciones, llame, mande un mensaje de texto o correo electrónico:

Shirley Rowan al 979-421-3332 ó

Shirley.rowan@att.net

Si usted gusta ser un Guerrero de oración porfavor contacte a Shirley Rowan.



An invitation to join other Catholic men that desire to be better husbands, fathers, friends, and authentic men of God.

Join us in the PAC on Saturday from 7:00—8:30 am for free breakfast! Click on the QR code to register.

Contact Yassen Owen at 832-686-5984 for information.

*I will Praise your name,
For you have done wonderful
things...*

Join us for a Christmas Bella Brigata...a beautiful brigade. Inspired by St. Catherine of Siena.

Scripture ~ Inspiration ~ Support

Every Wednesday in the KC Hall from
9-10:30 am

Rsvp: Kathy 713.501.0663

Call or text



BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Brenham

Sunday, January 7
8:00 am - 12:30 pm
Parish Activity Center

Contact Larry Alexander (281) 948-9117
(l.alexander1955@gmail.com)

Promotion:
Commit For Life HOODIES!!

CLAIM YOURS HERE:



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.



Diego, blood recipient

Third Sunday

Behold, I am sending
my messenger ahead of
you; he will prepare
your way before you.

Matthew 11:10



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Go to <https://cflxpress.giveblood.org/> and complete
the same day as your appointment.

Altar Flowers

Beginning December 17th a sign-up sheet will be posted
in the back of the Church for those wishing to donate
the weekly altar flowers.

A partir del 17 de diciembre

La hoja de inscripción se publicará en la parte trasera de
la Iglesia para aquellos que deseen donar las flores del
altar semanal.



DEACON'S CORNER

Today we celebrate Gaudette (Rejoice) Sunday the Third Sunday of Advent. Advent is a penitential season of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. But this weekend we take a respite from the more somber and penitential aspects of Advent. The music is more joyful. The candle on the Advent wreath and the clergy vestments are rose colored instead of purple. Why rejoice? Our entrance antiphon says ***we rejoice because the Lord is near.***

The Lord is near. This is exactly what John the Baptist is proclaiming in today's Gospel. He denies that he is the Christ or Elijah (who would come to prepare the way of the messiah) or the prophet that Moses said would come and that the people would listen to (Deut 18:15). Remember that Elijah and Moses did come at Jesus' Transfiguration; a sign to the apostles to strengthen them during Jesus' passion and death. To show that Jesus was the messiah.

Instead John says ***I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.*** In this quote from the prophet Isaiah (chapter 40) Isaiah announces that God will restore and save Israel and the entire world. He will shepherd his people. John is saying that Isaiah's prophecy is now coming true. ***The Lord is near!***

Make straight the way of the Lord! In ancient times roads were cleared and made straight and hills lowered to prepare for the procession of a King. John is echoing Isaiah's prophecy that a King is coming. That King is Christ, the messiah. Jesus fulfills all the Old Testament prophecies. He is the one long awaited who will bring salvation to the world.

This King to come is so majestic, so royal, so important, so caring, so powerful, so holy that John is not worthy untie the King's sandals, a duty that slaves performed. We echo that sentiment before communion when we say ***Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

The Lord is near! Thanks be to God! Let us Rejoice in the Lord always...***let us say rejoice!!***

Deacon John

RINCÓN DEL DIÁCONO

Hoy celebramos el Domingo Gaudette (Alégrate), el Tercer Domingo de Adviento. El Adviento es una época penitencial de preparación para la venida de Cristo en Navidad. Pero este fin de semana nos tomamos un respiro de lo más aspectos sombríos y penitenciales del Adviento. La música es más alegre. La vela de la corona de Adviento y las vestimentas del clero son de color rosa en lugar de morado. ¿Por qué alegrarse? Nuestra antífona de entrada dice que ***nos regocijamos porque el Señor está cerca.***

El Señor está cerca. Esto es exactamente lo que Juan el Bautista proclama en el Evangelio de hoy. Él niega que él es el Cristo o Elías (que vendría a preparar el camino del mesías) o el profeta que Moisés dijo que vendría y que el la gente escucharía (Deuteronomio 18:15). Recuerde que Elías y Moisés vinieron en la Transfiguración de Jesús; una señal a los apóstoles para fortalecerlos durante la pasión y muerte de Jesús. Para mostrar que Jesús era el mesías.

En cambio, Juan dice: ***Soy la voz del que clama en el desierto: enderezad el camino del Señor.*** En esta cita de el profeta Isaías (capítulo 40) Isaías anuncia que Dios restaurará y salvará a Israel y al mundo entero. El pastoreará a su pueblo. Juan está diciendo que la profecía de Isaías ahora se está cumpliendo. ***¡El Señor está cerca!***

¡Enderezad el camino del Señor! En la antigüedad, los caminos se despejaban y enderezaban y las colinas se bajaban para prepararse para la procesión de un Rey. Juan se hace eco de la profecía de Isaías de que vendrá un Rey. Ese Rey es Cristo, el Mesías. Jesús cumple todas las profecías del Antiguo Testamento. Él es el tan esperado que traerá la salvación al mundo.

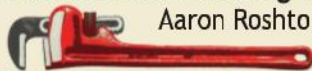
Este Rey venidero es tan majestuoso, tan real, tan importante, tan bondadoso, tan poderoso, tan santo, que Juan no es digno de desatarle las Sandalias de rey, deber que cumplían los esclavos. Nos hacemos eco de ese sentimiento antes de la comunión cuando decimos Señor, no soy Digno de que entres bajo mi techo, pero sólo di la palabra y mi alma será sanada. ***¡El Señor está cerca!.*** ¡Gracias a Dios! Regocijémonos en el Señor siempre... digamos regocijémonos!!

Diacono John



Brenham and surrounding areas

Aaron Roshto TMPL #40427

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