



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

The Spirit drove
Jesus out into
the desert,
and he remained
in the desert for
forty days,
tempted by
Satan.

Mark 1:12,13

En aquel tiempo,
el Espíritu impulsó
a Jesús a retirarse
al desierto, donde
permaneció
cuarenta días y
fue tentado por
Satanás.

Marcos 1, 12 y 13

The Temptation of Christ by the Devil
by Felix Joseph Barras, 1880



1ST SUNDAY OF

LENT

1^º DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

©Diocesan

*Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your
covenant. Psalm 25*
*Tus sendas, Señor, son misericordia y lealtad, para los que
guardan tu alianza. Salmo 24*

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS**HORARIO DE MISAS E INTENCIONES****February 19 – February 25, 2024****Monday/lunes—February 19, 5:30 pm**

† Agnes Marie Sophek Sparks

Tuesday/martes—February 20, 12:15pm

† Robert Murski

† Johnnie & Angie Kluck (sent off)

Wednesday/miercoles-February 21, 12:15pm

Living & deceased members of the Wasserman Family

† Aaron David Markizer (sent off)

† Hugh (Buddy) & Bernice Thiel (sent off)

Thursday/jueves - February 22, 12:15 pm

† Louis & Frances Bolcerek

† Sister Ephrem (sent off)

Friday/Viernes - February 23, 5:30pm

† Nora L. Martin

† Alex, Maggie & Eddiw Flisowski (sent off)

Saturday/sábado—February 24, 5:00 pm

† Stanley & Nancy Rybarski

† Kyle Stoner (sent off)

7:00 pm—En Español / In Spanish

Eleazar & Maria Aguado on their wedding anniversary

Sunday/Domingo – February 25, 8:00 am.

Well-being of Mary Ann Medina

10:30 a.m.

Jude Fries on his birthday

† John Bolcerek (sent off)

12:30 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish

Pro Populo

4:00 p.m. - Latin @ Pax Christi Retreat Center

† Agustina herrera Carrillo

***Marriage Banns*****First Bann of Marriage** for

Alex Lee Kwiatkowski & Fatima Remedios Aguado

Amonestaciones de Matrimonio**Primera Amonestación de Matrimonio**

para Alex Lee Kwiatkowski & Fatima Remedios Aguado

If you know of any impediments please call the Church office.

Si usted sabe de algún impedimento por favor comuníquese a la oficina Parroquial

COLLECTION/COLECTAElectronic giving - if you prefer to give electronically, there is a link at www.brenhamcatholic.org*Donación electrónica—para hacer su contribución automáticamente visitar www.brenhamcatholic.org***February 10-11****Weekly budgeted expenses.....\$18,475.00****Weekend collection\$17,910.11****Catholic Universities.....\$1,401.48****Thank you for your generosity! This is how we are doing:****Collection Report
July 2023-June 2024**

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter			To Date
Offertory	\$228,496	\$261,072		\$	\$489,568
Expenses	\$343,858	\$275,252		\$	\$619,110
	-\$115,362	-\$14,180		\$	-\$129,542

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

**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 Por favor contacte a Shirley Rowan.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Calendar March

March



**English Lenten
Retreat**



**Lenten Penance
Service**



**Knight's of Columbus
Fish Fry**



**Spanish Lenten
Retreat**



**Holy Thursday -
Last Supper**



**Good Friday - Live Way
of the Cross**



Easter Vigil



Easter

March 2-3

English Lenten Retreat

March 21, 2024

Lenten Penance Service

March 22, 2024

Knight's of Columbus Fish Fry

March 23, 2024

Spanish Lenten Retreat

March 28-30, 2024

Easter Tridium

This week on St. Mary's campus. February 19 thru February 25, 2024

02/19 Monday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
6:00pm Jesus, Maria y Jose Community Meeting, Cornerstone RM 203
7:00pm Evangelization Retreat Follow Up, PAC Large Meeting Room
7:00pm Seguidoras de Jesus Community Meeting, RE Room 103
7:00 pm Unidos en Cristo Community Meeting, Providence Room 102

02/20 Tuesday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
11:00am Bible study, PAC Small Meeting Room
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Gym
5:00pm WCJ Volleyball Practice, Gym
5:30pm Derkowski Little League Practice, Softball Field
6:30pm Choir Practice, Church
6:30pm English Baptism Class, Cornerstone Room 203
7:00pm Discipulos de Jesus Community Meeting, RE RM 103

02/21 Wednesday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
9:30am Bella Brigata, PAC Small Meeting Room
10:00am St. Paul's PE, Gym
10:30am Staff Meeting, Office Choir/Meeting Room
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15 pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Gym
4:15pm Religious Education, All Campus
4:30pm CCE Ash Wednesday Service, Church
5:00pm WCJ Volleyball Practice, Gym
5:30pm Choir Practice, Choir
6:00pm Pastoral Council Meeting, Office Choir/Meeting Room
6:45pm Wellness Committee, Office Choir/Meeting Room
7:00pm Spanish Choir Practice, Church

02/22 Thursday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
8:45am Walkers Brunch, PAC Large Meeting Room
10:00am Little Rock Scripture Study, KofC Hall
11:00am St. Paul's PE, Gym
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15 pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Gym
6:00pm WCJ Volleyball Practice, Gym

02/23 Friday

10:00am St. Paul's PE, Gym
12:10pm Rosary, Church
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
6:00pm Stations of the Cross, Church

02/24 Saturday

6:00 am Men's Prayer 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, KofC Hall
7:00pm Spanish Mass, Church

02/25 Sunday

8:00am English Mass, Church
9:15am Religious Education, All Campus
9:15am Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary Bible Study, KofC Hall
9:30am First Communion Meeting, Gym
10:30am English Mass, Church
10:30am Spanish RCIA Prep, RE AV Room
12:30pm Spanish Mass, Church
1:00pm WCJ Volleyball Practice, Gym,
3:30pm Wunderlich Little League, Softball Field.
4:00pm Latin Mass, Pax Christi Retreat Center

The most terrible temptation of all... is NOT having temptations.



We are so used to thinking that temptations are bad, and in a way they are... because for what they suggest we do, you can be very sure it will always be something bad. But in the next few lines, I want to try to help everyone discover the *good* part of temptations; not that of falling into them, but of being aware that *experiencing* temptations is a sign that you *are* on the right path.

1st. A Temptation is a sign of freedom, because it means you can choose. Without temptations, it would be something like never having a choice and being condemned to do it anyway. When God created the human being the story from the book of Genesis tells us: seeing that everything was very good, God gave the human being the gift of freedom. What great love God has had for us, because by loving us he has given us the ability to even reject him.

2nd. A Temptation gives us the opportunity to grow and become stronger. That's right, although it may seem ironic, there is nothing that helps you grow in will and freedom *more* than being victorious in every temptation. Without temptations you would not have the possibility of expressing your

freedom and thus, growing in your will. Of course, this is if you choose well! Because, succumbing to temptation means *gradually losing* your willpower. If you fall into an addiction due to having succumbed to temptation too many times, you can even lose your freedom. But speaking of temptation itself, it gives you the opportunity to be stronger or weaker, to be freer or more of a slave. *It will all depend on what you do with it.*

3rd. Temptation is not a sin in itself; on the contrary, it is a sign of being on the right path. Many think that experiencing temptations is *already* a sin and it is not so! No matter how dark and dirty your temptations may be, as long as you remain faithful to God and yourself, it is *not* a sin. Sin is a decision, not a temptation. Jesus himself experienced temptations, but his choices were always love for God and love for men. *Remember:* your decisions are the important ones. **But what happens when I don't experience temptations?**

Careful! It could be that you are going down the wrong path. A simple example that can illustrate this idea is the following: you will not experience the temptation to eat donuts until you go on a diet. When you go on a diet, you become aware of all kinds of temptations, pastries and sweets! But - when

you're not on a diet, you don't even notice those desserts. When we make the decision to be on the right path, to be faithful, that is when resistance appears.

St. John Maria Vianney says about it: "How pitiful we will be if we are not ferociously harassed by the Devil! Everything indicates that we are friends of the Devil: he lets us live in a false peace and lulls us to sleep with the pretext that we have recited some pious prayers, given some alms and caused less damage than others. According to that criterion, my dear brothers, if you were to ask, for example, a cabaret regular if the Devil tempts him, he would simply respond that the Devil does not bother him at all. Ask a vain young woman what her struggles are like and she will tell you, laughing, that she doesn't have them, that she doesn't even know what it's like to be tempted. "Here it is, my dear brothers, the most terrible temptation of all, which is not to have temptations."

We may be good people, but can we be better? Let us set our ideals higher and be more aware of the temptations that will prevent us from growing as true Christians.



Jr. Everardo Cázares

La tentación más terrible de todas, que es no tener tentaciones.

Estamos tan acostumbrados a pensar que las tentaciones son malas, y en cierta forma lo son pues lo que nos sugieren hacer siempre será algo malo, eso lo tenemos muy claro. Pero quiero en pocas líneas tratar de que descubramos un aspecto bueno de tener tentaciones, no de caer en ellas, sino de ser conscientes de que experimentar tentaciones es signo de ir por buen camino.

1º. La tentación es un signo de libertad, porque significa que puedes elegir. Sin tentaciones, sería algo como no tener opción y estar condenados a hacer lo mismo. Cuando Dios creó al ser humano, nos cuenta el relato del libro del Génesis, al ver que todo estaba muy bien Dios le dio al ser humano el regalo de la libertad. Que amor tan grande nos ha tenido Dios, pues al amarnos nos ha dado la capacidad de incluso poder rechazarlo.

2º. La tentación nos da la oportunidad de crecer y ser más fuertes. Así es, aunque parezca irónico, pero no hay nada que te ayude más a crecer en voluntad y libertad que el salir victorioso en cada tentación, sin las tentaciones no tendrías la posibilidad de expresar tu libertad y con ello de crecer en tu voluntad. ¡Claro está, Si eliges bien! porque sucumbir a la tentación, es perder poco a poco tu fuerza de voluntad y si se cae en

una adicción por haber sucumbido tantas veces a la tentación, se puede incluso perder la libertad. Pero hablando de la tentación en sí misma, ésta te brinda la oportunidad de ser más fuerte o más débil, de ser más libre o más esclavo. Todo dependerá de que haces con ella.

3º. La tentación no es pecado en sí misma, al contrario, es un signo de ir por buen camino. Muchos piensan que experimentar tentaciones ya es pecado y no es así, no importa que tan oscuras y sucias puedan ser tus tentaciones, mientras permanezcas fiel a Dios y a ti mismo, no es pecado. El pecado es una decisión, no una tentación. Jesús mismo experimentó tentaciones, pero sus elecciones siempre fueron el amor a Dios y el amor a los hombres. Recuerda tus decisiones son las importantes.

Pero, ¿qué pasa cuando no experimento tentaciones?

¡Cuidado! Puede ser que estes yendo por mal camino. Un sencillo ejemplo que puede ilustrar esta idea es el siguiente, tu no vas a experimentar la tentación de comer donas, hasta que te pones a dieta. Cuando te pones a dieta, te haces consciente de todo tipo de tentaciones, pastelillos y dulces... pero cuando no estas a dieta, ni cuenta te das de esos postres. Cuando tomamos la decisión de

subir es cuando la resistencia aparece. St. Juan Maria Vianney, dice al respecto: "¡Cuán dignos de lástima seremos si no somos acosados ferozmente por el Diablo! Todo indica que somos amigos del Diablo: nos deja vivir en una falsa paz y nos adormece con el pretexto de que hemos recitado algunas piadosas oraciones, dado algunas limosnas y causado menos daño que otros. Según ese criterio, mis queridos hermanos, si se le preguntara, por ejemplo, a un asiduo del cabaret si el Diablo le tienta, respondería simplemente que no le incordia en absoluto. Preguntad a una joven vanidosa cómo son sus luchas y os dirá riendo que no las tiene, que ni siquiera sabe lo que es ser tentada. Aquí está, mis queridos hermanos, la tentación más terrible de todas, que es no tener tentaciones."

Quizás seamos buenas personas, pero, ¿podemos ser mejores? Entonces pongamos nuestros ideales más altos y seamos más conscientes de las tentaciones que nos impedirán crecer como verdaderos cristianos.

Jr. Everardo Cázares

Lenten Retreat

A new life in the Spirit

Take advantage of this moment of grace to have an encounter with the Love that God has for you.

For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed, but my
steadfast love shall not depart from
you, and my covenant of peace shall
not be removed Is 54:10



Lenten Retreat at St. Mary Parish in Brenham, TX
In collaboration with CarisMission TX, the retreat of
New Life in the Spirit, will be held in English.

Saturday March 2, 2024 9:00am - 4:00pm at the PAC
Sunday, March 3, begins with mass at 8:00 am in the
Church and continues in the PAC until 2:00 pm

Donation \$20.00

Please register in the parish 979-836-4441

Blessings,
Deacon
on your

25th

ORDINATION

Anniversary



Years of service to God.
Nourishing so many
hearts in need.
Guiding those souls
whose faith recedes.
Embracing your
parish so they too may
see how His love is truly
meant to be.

Blessings, Deacon John,
on your Silver Jubilee

Retiro de Cuaresma Metanoia

Ven y descubre el poder de nuestras
palabras y pensamientos.
Un cambio que todos necesitamos.

"Hágase en vosotros según vuestra fe." Mt 9,29



Lugar:

En el PAC de la Parroquia St. Mary,
Immaculate Conception Catholic
Church, en Brenham TX 701 Church St.

Fecha: 23 de Marzo, 2024

Hora: 8:00am – 4:00pm

Donación: \$20.00



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 grandes cosas, pero sí podemos hacer cosas pequeñas con gran amor." - Santa Teresa de Calcutta

Perpetual Adoration

Spend time with the Blessed Sacrament 24/7

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with him and make your soul everlasting more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth.

"Blessed Teresa of Calcutta"

For more information or to sign up please contact the office at 979-836-4441

Adoración Perpetua

Pasa tiempo con el Santísimo Sacramento 24/7

El tiempo que pasas con Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento es el mejor tiempo que pasarás en la tierra. Cada momento que pases con Jesús profundizará tu unión con él y hará que tu alma sea eternamente más gloriosa y hermosa en el Cielo, y ayudará a lograr la paz eterna en la tierra.

"Santa Teresa de Calcutta"

Para mas información o para registrarse por favor comuníquese con la oficina al 979-836-4441

Congratulations to the newest member of the Body of Christ / Felicidades al nuevo miembro del Cuerpo de Cristo



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Ruth Baca

Who received the sacrament of Baptism on February 3, 2024

Quien recibió el Sacramento del Bautismo el día 3 de Enero del 2024

Emiliana Marin

Who received the sacrament of Baptism on February 10, 2024

Quien recibió el Sacramento del Bautismo el día 10 de Enero del 2024

We also congratulate their parents and godparents.

También felicitamos a sus padres y padrinos.

Do You Hunger for Holiness?

We are starting a new semester on January 20th that will help prepare us for Lent and Easter. Come join fellow Catholic men that have a similar desire to be better husbands, fathers, friends, and authentic holy 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 Yaseen Owen at 832-686-5984 for information.



The Way of the Cross: Praying the Psalms with Jesus

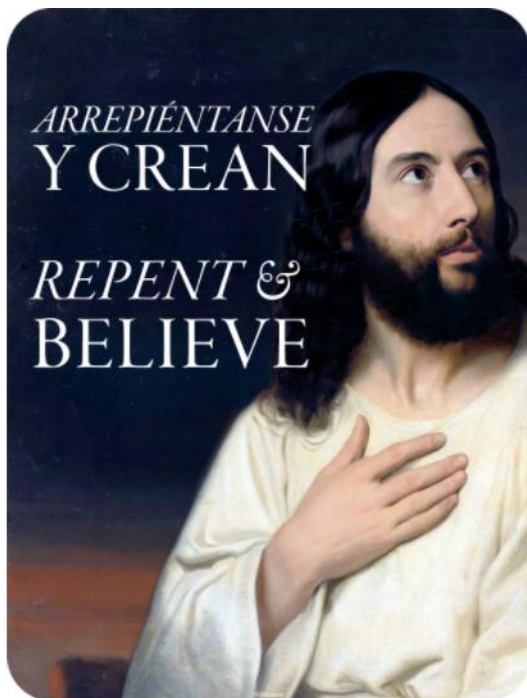
by Fr. Toup Scension

Lenten Study, Feb. 14 – March 20

9:30-11:30, PAC small meeting room

Bella Brigata

(rsvp: Kathy 713.501.0663)



Join us between the masses for the DVD series
 "The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary."
 Journey to the Holy Land to the sites the mysteries took
 place, and learn the power of the rosary and how to pray it
 like never before.

**Schedule: Sundays 9:15-10:15 in the Knights of Colubus
 Hall**

February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17, Conclusion April 7
 To learn more and view the



trailer, go to
therosaryseries.com
 Let this be your spiritual and
 prayer discipline for Lent!

AARPSM Tax-AideTM

This year AARP Tax-Aide will again be providing free local
 tax preparation at St. Mary's church in Brenham.
 The appointment dates include **Feb 29, March 7 & 21 and
 April 4** from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM.
 Please call St. Mary's office to schedule your appointment
 at (979) 836-4441.
 Forms and additional information for the tax preparation
 appointment are available ahead of time at the Church
 office.

Este año, AARP Tax-Aide volverá a ofrecer preparación de
 impuestos locales gratuita en la iglesia de St. Mary en
 Brenham.

Las fechas de las cita incluyen el **29 de febrero, el 7 y 21
 de marzo y el 4 de abril** de 9:30 a.m. a 2:30 p.m.
 Llame a la oficina de St. Mary para programar su cita al
 (979) 836-4441.

Los formularios y la información adicional para la cita de
 preparación de impuestos están disponibles con
 anticipación en la oficina de la Iglesia.



Come pray the Rosary with us every
 Friday at 12:10 pm in the Church.

**Acompañenos a rezar el Rosario en inglés
 con nosotros todos los viernes a las 12:10
 pm en la Iglesia.**



NEXT AVAILABLE **BAPTISMS/** **SIGUIENTES** **BAUTIZOS** **DISPONIBLES**

March 2 & April 6-
 English—10:00 a.m.

2 de Marzo & 6 de Abril -
 Español—11:00 a.m.

Next available class/ **Siguiente clase disponible**

Tuesday, February 20- English
 6:30 p.m.

Jueves, 21 de Marzo - Español
 6:00 p.m.

For more information and
 requirements, please call the church
 office.

Para mas información y
 obtener los requisitos, por
 favor llame a la oficina parroquial

Please call Church Office at (979) 836-4441 to register for classes and baptisms

Introductory Note



Let us look to the example of the Good Samaritan. Jesus' parable summons us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our respective nations and of the entire world, builders of a new social bond. This summons is ever new, yet it is grounded in a fundamental law of our being: we are called to direct society to the pursuit of the common good and, with this purpose in mind, to persevere in consolidating its political and social order, its fabric of relations, its human goals.

(Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 66)

As Catholics and Americans, we are blessed to be able to participate in our nation's political and public life. Our freedoms respect the dignity of individuals and their consciences and allow us to come together for the common good. Election seasons, therefore, should contain a sense of gratitude and hope. Our love for this country, our patriotism, properly impels us to vote.

But increasingly, it seems, election seasons are a time of anxiety and spiritual trial. Political rhetoric is increasingly angry, seeking to motivate primarily through division and hatred. Fear can be an effective tool for raising money. The most heated arguments online often get the most clicks. Demonizing the other can win votes.

We propose once more the moral framework of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* precisely as pastors, inspired by the Good Samaritan, with the hope of binding these wounds and healing these bitter divisions. This document is not based on personalities or partisanship, the latest news cycle, or what's trending on social media. Instead, it reflects the perennial role of the Church in public life in proclaiming timeless principles: the infinite

worth and dignity of every human life, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity. Not sure what these mean? We invite you to read a copy of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* and learn more.

Allowing your conscience to be stretched and formed by these reflections can give you peace! They point to Jesus' challenge to show mercy to those in need, just as the Good Samaritan. As Pope Francis writes, "Here, all our distinctions, labels and masks fall away: it is the moment of truth. Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others?" (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 70). Let this be in our hearts when we talk about politics and make political choices.

Some might be tempted to say: yes, of course, we will be the ones who help by promoting good and opposing evil. But when confronted with so much good at risk and so much evil, it is a great challenge to avoid fear and anger. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent priority because it directly attacks our most vulnerable and voiceless brothers and sisters and destroys more than a million lives per year in our country alone. Other grave threats to the life and dignity of the human person include euthanasia, gun violence, terrorism, the death penalty, and human trafficking. There is also the redefinition of marriage and gender, threats to religious freedom at home and abroad, lack of justice for the poor, the suffering of migrants and refugees, wars and famines around the world, racism, the need for greater access to healthcare and education, care for our common home, and more. All threaten the dignity of the human person.

So *precisely how* we promote good and oppose evil is an essential part of answering the Lord's call, of being a disciple. As St. Paul reminds us:



Never let evil talk pass your lips; say only the good things men need to hear, things that will really help them. Do nothing that will sadden the Holy Spirit with whom you were sealed against the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, all passion and anger, harsh words, slander, and malice of every kind. In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ (Eph. 4:29-32).

Thus, Pope Francis exhorts us to “genuine dialogue and openness to others,” by which we may “be frank and open about our beliefs, while continuing to discuss, to seek points of contact, and above all, to work and struggle together” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 203). This applies to the faithful both as voters and as candidates—we must consider not only candidates’ positions on these issues, but their character and integrity as well.

How can we meet this challenge? Again, St. Paul gives us a way: Put on “the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16). Take time away from social media and spend time with Holy Scripture and the Blessed Sacrament. Turn off the TV and the podcast, and listen in silence. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter, a crisis pregnancy center. Serve the poor, the needy, the outcast. Pray often, letting faith inform your political participation.

Participation in political life also requires judgments about concrete circumstances. While the bishops help form the laity in accordance with basic principles, they do not tell the laity to vote for particular candidates. On these often complex matters, it is the laity’s responsibility to form their consciences and grow in the virtue of prudence to approach the many and varied issues of the day with the mind of Christ. Conscience is “a judgment of reason” by which one determines whether an action is right or wrong (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). It does not allow us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere “feeling.” Conscience—properly formed according to God’s revelation and the teaching of the Church—is a means by which one listens to God and discerns how to act in accordance with the truth.¹ The truth is something we receive, not something we make. We can only judge using the conscience we have, but our judgments do not make things true.

It is our responsibility to learn more of Catholic teaching and tradition, to participate in Church life, to learn from trustworthy sources about the issues facing our communities, and to do our best

to make wise judgments about candidates and government actions.

We must also seek wisdom, as Holy Scripture instructs:

Wisdom from above is first of all innocent. It is also peaceable, lenient, docile, rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds that are its fruits, impartial and sincere. The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace (Jas. 3:17-18).

The teachings of the Church, moreover, offer a vision of hope, where justice and mercy abound, because God is the infinite source of all goodness and love. With this wisdom and hope, we can find a way to bend down as the Good Samaritan did, through the fear and divisions, to touch and heal the wounds.

May God bless you as you consider and pray over these challenging decisions. May God bless our nation with true wisdom, peace, and mutual forgiveness, that we may decide together, through our democratic processes, to uphold the dignity of life and the common good.

This bulletin insert along with five others was approved by the body of U.S. bishops in November 2023. Find this and more complementary resources at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

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¹ *Gaudium et Spes* (*The Church in the Modern World*), no. 16. See also, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1785.

Mark Your
Calendar!

ST. MARY'S YOUTH NIGHTS

Join us for teen fellowship as we seek to
know, serve, and love the Lord. Meet up
at the PAC!

9th-12th

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

**SUNDAY, FEB 24TH
6PM-8PM**

6th-8th

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH

**SUNDAY, MAR 3RD
6PM-8PM**

There will be...

DINNER – COMMUNITY – PRAYER – FUN

(Bring a friend!)

**"LET NO ONE HAVE
CONTEMPT FOR YOUR
YOUTH, BUT SET AN
EXAMPLE FOR THOSE
WHO BELIEVE,
IN SPEECH, CONDUCT,
LOVE, FAITH AND
PURITY." 1 TIM 4:12**

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WE NEED YOU



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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 mándelas a nuestro correo Electrónico Pastoralcouncil@brenhamcatholic.org
Estaremos checando el correo constantemente





Deacon's Corner

First the Fastin then the Feasting



Sister Teresa of Avila was once criticized by another member of her order when visiting nobility because she was indulging in rich foods and other luxuries provided by their host. She replied that there was a time for fasting and a time for feasting and this was a time for feasting.

Now that we have begun the season of Lent it's a time for fasting; a time to deny ourselves some of the pleasures of this world, to strengthen our faith, and focus on the trials that are to come. Just as Jesus was driven out into the desert by the Spirit as kind of a basic training. To spend time alone to toughen him up for the trials that were to come.

The Church gives us seasons for both fasting and feasting and we appreciate the feasting of Christmas and Easter more intensely because of the fasting that we do in Advent and Lent. Just as life has both suffering and joy and the joy is more appreciated because of what we endure when we suffer. But the fasting is for the feasting, not the other way around. We don't start with the feasting and then do the fasting.

In life, work should come before play, or both will suffer. The temptation for children is to put off their homework until late on Sunday, so they can play Friday night and Saturday. But the play is not as much fun because of the nagging thought of the work that was put off, and the work is less good because it is rushed and last-minute. Far better is life when we first do the work, looking forward to the play that will follow, and then enjoy the playtime with no worries for any work left undone.

Blessings and peace, Deacon Steve

Primero el Ayuno y luego el Banquete.

La hermana Teresa de Ávila fue criticada una vez por otro miembro de su orden cuando visitaba a la nobleza porque ella estaba disfrutando de ricas comidas y otros lujos proporcionados por su anfitrión. Ella respondió que había un tiempo para ayunar y un tiempo para festejar y que éste era un tiempo para festejar.

Ahora que hemos comenzado la temporada de Cuaresma es tiempo de ayunar; un tiempo para negarnos algunos de los placeres de este mundo, fortalecer nuestra fe y centrarnos en las pruebas que están por venir. Así como Jesús fue expulsado al desierto por el Espíritu como una especie de entrenamiento básico. Pasar tiempo solo para fortalecerlo para las pruebas que estaban por venir.

La Iglesia nos da tiempos tanto para el ayuno como para el banquete y apreciamos el banquete de Navidad y Pascua más intensamente por el ayuno que hacemos en Adviento y Cuaresma. Así como la vida tiene tanto sufrimiento como alegría y la alegría se aprecia más por lo que soportamos cuando sufrimos. Pero el ayuno es para el festejo, no al revés. No comenzamos con el banquete y luego ayunamos.

En la vida, el trabajo debe preceder al juego, o ambos se verán afectados. La tentación de los niños es posponer su tarea hasta tarde el domingo, para poder jugar el viernes por la noche y el sábado. Pero el trabajo no es tan divertido por el pensamiento persistente del trabajo que se pospuso, y el trabajo es menos bueno porque se apresura y de última hora. Mucho mejor es la vida cuando hacemos el trabajo primero, esperando con ansias el trabajo que seguirá, y luego disfrutar del tiempo de diversión sin preocuparte por ningún trabajo pendiente.

Bendiciones y paz, Diácono Steve.



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