



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception

701 Church St., Brenham, TX 77833

www.brenhamcatholic.org

(979) 836-4441

MASS TIMES

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. Edwin Kagoo—Parochial Vicar
Deacon Steve Medina
Deacon Allen Prescott
Deacon John Pelletier

OFFICE HOURS

Monday CLOSED

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am—5:00 pm

Emergencies after office hours phone
number:

(979) 451-9824

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You disregard God's commandment
but cling to human tradition."

Mt 7:8



Ustedes dejan a un lado el mandamiento de Dios,
para aferrarse a las tradiciones de los hombres".

Mt 7, 8

22° DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.
Señor, ¿quién puede hospedarse en tu tienda?
Psalm 15
Salmo 15

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

HORARIO DE MISAS E INTENCIONES

September 3—September 8, 2024

Tuesday/martes—September 3, 12:15pm

Well-being of Pete Irons Family
 † Lumir & Kevin Vacha (sent off)
 † Patricia Hajek (sent off)
 † T.J Knolczyk (sent off)

Wednesday/miercoles—September 4, 12:15pm

† Steve Kasprowicz
 † OraNell Murki (sent off)
 † David Januszewski (sent off)

Thursday/jueves - September 5, 12:15pm

† Kyle Stoner
 † Raymond Kenjura (sent off)
 † Louise Bolcerek (sent off)

Friday/Viernes - September 6, 5:30pm

† Joseph & Mary Januszewski
 † Clara Wesneski (sent off)
 † Theresa Hernandez (sent off)

Saturday/sábado—September 7, 5:00 pm

Elizabeth George on her birthday
 † Leon & Curtis Konieczny (sent off)

7:00 pm—En Español / In Spanish

Pro Populo

Sunday/Domingo – September 8, 8:00 am.

† Michael Raymond Kubeczka

10:30 a.m.

† Kermit Wahrmond

12:30 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish

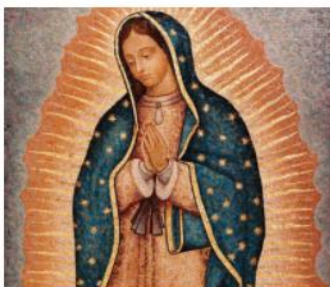
Well-being of the Manzano-Romero Family

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

† Jim Svatek Family

Devoción a la Virgen de Guadalupe

El Movimiento Familiar Cristiano aún tiene semanas disponibles para las familias que gusten llevarse la Virgen de Guadalupe a su hogar.



Si gusta apuntarse para alguna semana favor de comunicarse con Mauricio y Macaria Olivarez o en la oficina parroquial.

COLLECTION/COLECTA

Electronic 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

August 24-25

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

Weekend collection\$15,041.59

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

**Collection Report
July 2023-June 2024**

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	2023-2024
Offertory	\$228,496	\$261,072	\$266,974	\$245,622	\$1,002,164
Expenses	\$343,858	\$275,252	\$274,134	\$300,308	\$1,193,552
	-\$115,362	-\$14,180	-\$7160	-\$54,686	-\$191,388

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.***

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Calendar



September



**Holy Hour
for Vocations**



**KC's Blood
Drive**

September 5, 2024

Holy Hour for Vocations

September 8, 2024

KC's Blood Drive

October



**Holy Hour
for Vocations**



**Evangelization
Mission**

October 3, 2024

Holy Hour for Vocations

October 5-12, 2024

Evangelization Mission Week

October 19, 2024

Evangelization Retreat

October 26, 2024

Day of the Dead Dance



**Evangelization
Retreat**



**Day of the Dead
Dance**

This week on St. Mary's campus. September 2 thru September 8, 2024

09/02 Monday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the PAC, Gym
6:00pm Jesus, Maria y Jose Community Meeting, Cornerstone RM 203
7:00pm Seguidoras de Jesus Community Meeting, RE Room 103
7:00 pm Unidos en Cristo Community Meeting, Providence Room 102
7:00pm Spanish Marriage Prep Classes, RE AV Room
7:00pm Amor Hacia Cristo Small Community Meeting, RE Room 202

09/03 Tuesday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the PAC, Gym
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
6:00pm Choir Practice, Church
6:00pm PCCW Meeting, PAC Large Meeting Room
7:00pm Prayer and Life Workshop, Cornerstone Meeting Room
7:00pm Discipulos de Jesus Community Meeting, Cornerstone Room 203

09/04 Wednesday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the PAC, Gym
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15 pm Mass, Church
4:15 pm Religious Education, All Campus
5:30pm Choir Practice, Choir
7:00pm Spanish Choir Practice, Church

09/05 Thursday

8:00am Wellness Ministry Walk in the PAC, Gym
10:00am Staff Meeting, Office Choir/Meeting Room
10:00am Bella Brigata Bible Study, PAC Small Meeting Room
11:45am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
6:00pm Holy Hour for Vocations, Church

09/06 Friday

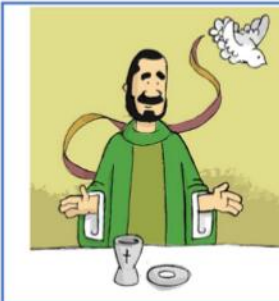
12:10pm Rosary, Church
3:30 AM, PAC All Rooms
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
7:00pm MFCC Welcoming, KofC Hall

09/07 Saturday

6:00 am Men's Prayer Group, Church
7:00am TMIY Men's Group, PAC Small Meeting Room
10:00am Baptisms, Church
3:30pm Confessions, Church
5:00pm English Mass
5:00pm CRHP Meeting, Cornerstone RM 203
7:00pm Spanish Mass

09/08 Sunday

7:00am KC's Blood Drive
8:00am English Mass, Church
9:15am Religious Education, All Facilities
10:30am English Mass, Church
10:30am Spanish RCIA, RE Room 106
12:30pm Spanish Mass, Church
4:00pm Latin Mass, Pax Christi Retreat Center
6:00pm Jr High Youth Night, PAC



The possible presiding priest for this Sunday's masses is:

Saturday Vigil	5:00pm Fr. Edwin
	7:00pm Fr. Everardo
Sunday	8:00am Fr. Edwin
	10:30am Fr. Everardo
	12:30pm Fr. Everardo
	4:00pm Fr. Everardo

About traditions, customs, routines and more...



Reflection on Traditions

Today, as in any era, we are surrounded by many traditions, whether social, cultural, familial, or even personal. It is important to ask ourselves whether the traditions we follow are truly good or not. In the Gospel, Jesus is not evaluating whether the tradition is good or bad. He is not saying that washing hands is wrong. What Jesus emphasizes is that there seems to be a disconnection between the tradition and the hearts of the people. This is evident when Jesus quotes the Old Testament: "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." The problem is not in honoring God with our lips, but rather when the heart is not involved.

The Value of Tradition

Tradition, in general, is something very valuable when it enriches culture, helps us have historical roots, and provides us with an identity. A people without traditions easily dissolves and loses its identity. However, when there is a firm tradition, it is clearer to know who we are and where we want to go. But, if there is no tradition, if there are no roots or culture, we will be empty.

The Danger of Meaningless Traditions

The problem arises when our traditions lack a reason for being or when they take the place of what is most important, which in this case would be the value and dignity of the person. Jesus places all the emphasis on this.

The Focus on the Exterior

I recall when Father Pablo helped me realize that I was too focused on the exterior, instead of what is important: the interior. After observing me several times, he approached me and asked, "Is it true that you don't like the liturgy?" I was surprised and responded that on the contrary, I was fascinated by the liturgy. But he said to me, "I don't think you do because any mistake or error in the liturgy is enough to distract you and cause you to lose focus on what really matters." This helped me to open my eyes and realize where I was placing the emphasis: on the tradition or on the meaning.

As an example the Essence of the Liturgy

Today, as a priest, I have had the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist with many different groups, from ordinary Masses in silence to charismatic Masses with praise and prayers in tongues. I have also celebrated the Mass in Latin, with my back to the congregation, with many rubrics, as well as in monasteries where silence abounds. Once, someone asked me which of all these Masses helped me the most to draw closer to God. I believe the answer does not lie in the external manifestations, but in the interior.

The Importance of the Heart

It does not matter whether we praise God with raised hands or pray in silence; what is important is what is in the heart. Jesus reminds us that we must look at the heart, because if we only focus on the external things, we run the risk of becoming stressed, empty, and having nothing. It is crucial that we reflect on why we attend Mass, why we do what we do, and what is in our hearts.

Conclusion

The traditions we maintain should be in harmony with what we consider most important: love, dignity, and life. If we are more concerned with external norms than with the person, then we behave like hypocrites. Jesus calls us to approach our brothers and sisters from the interior, not from the exterior.

Final Reflection

What is the best prayer? The one offered in a magnificent cathedral or in a simple chapel? That question is mistaken because the best prayer depends on the heart. Let us not worry so much about the exterior, but rather about what we keep within our hearts.

Jr. Everardo Cázares

Sobre tradiciones, costumbres, rutinas y algo más..



Reflexión Sobre las Tradiciones

Hoy, como en cualquier época, estamos rodeados de muchas tradiciones, ya sean sociales, culturales, familiares o incluso personales. Es importante preguntarnos si las tradiciones que seguimos son realmente buenas o no. Jesús, en el Evangelio, no está evaluando si la tradición es buena o mala. No está diciendo que esté mal lavarse las manos. Lo que Jesús subraya es que parece haber una desconexión entre la tradición y el corazón de las personas. Esto se evidencia cuando Jesús cita el Antiguo Testamento: "Este pueblo me honra con los labios, pero su corazón está lejos de mí". El problema no es honrar a Dios con los labios, sino cuando el corazón no lo hace.

El Valor de la Tradición

La tradición, en general, es algo muy valioso cuando enriquece la cultura, nos ayuda a tener raíces históricas y nos brinda una identidad. Un pueblo sin tradiciones fácilmente se diluye y pierde su identidad. Sin embargo, cuando hay una tradición firme, es más claro saber quiénes somos y hacia dónde queremos ir. Pero, si no hay tradición, si no hay raíces ni cultura, estaremos vacíos.

El Peligro de las Tradiciones sin Sentido

El problema surge cuando nuestras tradiciones carecen de una razón de ser, o cuando ocupan el lugar de lo más importante, que en este caso sería el valor y la dignidad de la persona. Jesús pone todo el énfasis en esto.

El Enfoque en lo Exterior

Recuerdo cuando El Padre Pablo me ayudó a darme cuenta de que me enfocaba demasiado en lo exterior, en lugar de lo importante: el interior. Después de observarme varias veces, se acercó y me preguntó: "¿Verdad que a ti no te gusta la liturgia?". Me sorprendí y le respondí que todo lo contrario, que la liturgia me fascinaba. Pero él me dijo: "No creo que te guste, porque cualquier falla o error en la liturgia es suficiente para distraerte y hacer que te desenfoces de lo que realmente importa". Esto me ayudó a abrir los ojos y darme cuenta de dónde estaba poniendo el énfasis: ¿en la tradición o en el significado?

Como un ejemplo descubrir la Esencia de la Liturgia

Hoy, como sacerdote, he tenido la oportunidad de celebrar la Eucaristía con muchos grupos diferentes, desde misas ordinarias en silencio, hasta misas carismáticas con alabanza y oraciones en lenguas. También he celebrado la misa en latín, de espaldas al pueblo, con muchas rúbricas, así como en monasterios donde abunda el silencio. Una vez, alguien me preguntó cuál de todas estas misas me ayudaba más a acercarme a Dios. Creo que la respuesta no está en las manifestaciones externas, sino en el interior.

La Importancia del Corazón

No importa si se alaba a Dios con manos alzadas o si se reza en silencio; lo importante es lo que hay en el corazón. Jesús nos recuerda que debemos mirar el corazón, porque si nos quedamos solo con las cosas externas, corremos el riesgo de estresarnos, vaciarnos y no tener nada. Es crucial que reflexionemos sobre por qué asistimos a misa, por qué hacemos lo que hacemos, y qué hay en nuestro corazón.

Conclusión

Las tradiciones que mantenemos deben estar en sintonía con lo que consideramos más importante: el amor, la dignidad y la vida. Si nos preocupamos más por las normas externas que por la persona, entonces nos comportamos como hipócritas. Jesús nos llama a acercarnos a nuestros hermanos desde el interior, no desde el exterior.

Reflexión Final

¿Cuál es la mejor oración? ¿La que se realiza en una catedral preciosa o en una capilla sencilla? Esa pregunta está equivocada, porque la mejor oración depende del corazón. No nos preocupemos tanto por el exterior, sino por lo que guardamos en nuestro interior.

Fr. Everardo Cázares

God purposely created us with differences and designed us to work together. "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12, NIV).

We are one nation, but made up of many different parts – so it's easy to become divided. We hear "us vs. them" rhetoric on TV and in the news. And sometimes we're guilty of buying into it. But we pray against the idea that we cannot work together. We lift up a prayer for government and we pray that, with God's grace, we would work as a nation toward unity.

Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself to walk alongside us as a man. Help our leaders be willing to walk alongside each other, their constituents, and especially the marginalized. Our leaders have different opinions and priorities; give them the wisdom to navigate differences and work together to strengthen our country. Remind us in this election year that You have called Christians to be one body.

BAPTISMS

All forms and required paperwork should be turned in a week before the baptism.

Application can be picked up at Parish office or downloaded from our website.

Baptismal classes are offered monthly.

Please contact the Parish office to register or for more information.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the Parish office at least six months prior to desired date.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK/COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Please contact the Parish office.

QUINCEANERAS

Please contact the Parish office at least 4 months prior to desired date.

Have the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and be enrolled in the Confirmation program.

BAUTISMOS

Todos los formularios y los documentos requerido deben entregarse una semana antes del bautismo.

La solicitud puede recogerse en la oficina parroquial o descargarse de nuestro sitio web.

Las platicas bautismales son ofrecidas mensualmente.

Comuníquese a la oficina parroquial para registrarse o para más información.

MATRIMONIO

Comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al menos seis meses antes de la fecha deseada.

UNCIÓN DE LOS ENFERMOS/COMUNIÓN A LOS ENFERMOS

Por favor, póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial

QUINCEAÑERAS

Contacte a la oficina Parroquial al menos 4 meses antes de la fecha deseada. Tener los Sacramentos de Bautizo, Primera Comunion y estar inscrita en el programa de Confirmacion.



Attention Everyone - Our bulletin representative Rich Suarez will be here in our office the week of September 2nd through September 6th to wrap up ad renewals and to fill in open spaces for the back page of our weekly bulletin. If anyone would like to participate by advertising your business or to simply sponsor a space on the back page please call or email Rich Suarez at 361-585-0882 or rsuarez@diocesan.com

-business ads

-personal ads (In Loving Memory of J.Miller)

-ad sponsor (Compliments of the Miller Family)

Thank you to all who participate in the ad section of the weekly bulletin, it is through the advertising/sponsors that the bulletin is made possible free of cost to the church every week of the year.

Atención a todos - Nuestro representante de la compañía de boletín Rich Suárez estará aquí en nuestra oficina la semana del 2 al 6 de septiembre para finalizar las renovaciones de anuncios y llenar los espacios abiertos en la última página de nuestro boletín semanal. Si alguien desea participar publicitando su negocio o simplemente patrocinando un espacio en la última página, llame o envíe un correo electrónico a Rich Suarez a 361-585-0882 o rsuarez@diocesan.com

-anuncios comerciales

-anuncios personales (En memoria amorosa de J.Miller)

-Patrocinador del anuncio (Felicitaciones de la familia Miller)

Gracias a todos los que participan en la sección de anuncios del boletín semanal, es a través de la publicidad/patrocinadores que el boletín es posible sin costo para la iglesia todas las semanas del año.



ST. MARY'S JH YOUTH NIGHTS Fall 2024

Join us for teen fellowship as we seek to know, serve, and love the Lord. Meet up at the PAC Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00pm.

SEPTEMBER 8
OCTOBER 20
NOVEMBER 10 6th-8th grade

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." | TIM 4:12

For More Information
www.brenhamcatholic.org
Email Contact
youth@brenhamcatholic.org



Last week Altar Flowers were:

*In honor of Louis & Rosa Bugaj.
Given by Bill & Shirley Rowan*

Las Flores del Altar de la semana pasada fueron:

*En honor de Louis & Rosa Bugaj.
Donadas por Bill & Shirley Rowan*

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

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





THAT MAN IS YOU!

is an interactive men's program combining the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive. By honestly addressing the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, That Man is You! Seeks to form men who will be capable of transforming homes and society.



St. Mary's TMIY Registration



THE VISION OF MAN FULLY ALIVE

FEATURING 8 DYNAMIC PRESENTERS!

DISCOVER:

- Eight new speakers, new personalities, and new topics, while still building on the foundation of the three base years of TMIY formation.
- The path to authentic spiritual freedom, the beauty of the Eucharist, and the power of the Holy Spirit in action from a passionate and dynamic Franciscan Friar.
- A deeper understanding of each of the four gospels from one of the best theologians in the world.
- An epic real life story from the underground mafia of London to the heights of spiritual freedom.
- The secrets of superabundant relationships from one of the world's experts on purity and chastity.
- The meaning of manhood through the example of Jesus Christ.
- The personal journeys and spiritual implementation from three men who have over 25 years of combined TMIY experience and contemplation.
- A systematic and yet uniquely personal plan to every man, no matter where they are in their spiritual life.

SPEAKERS:



PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Saturday mornings
Starting September 7th
St. Mary Immaculate Conception
701 Church St., Brenham, TX
Parish activity Center (PAC)
(E. Germania @ S. Park St.)

SCHEDULE:

7:00 Breakfast
7:30 Presentation
8:00 Small Group
8:30 Dismissal

REGISTRATION:

For more information, please reach out to Yaseen Owen at 832-686-5984 yaseenowen@yahoo.com. Scan the QR Code above to register.

WWW.TMIY.ORG

PARADISUS DEI



How does our parish attract inquires each year who consider Becoming Catholic?

The short answer is you! When any parish has many inquiries year after year, it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit as parish members open their hearts to welcome others. Members of a welcoming and evangelizing community take seriously their call to share the Divine message of salvation. It happens in parish families, in the workplace, in gathering of friends and neighbors, and in our everyday contacts. Give thanks to God as he continuously strengthens each of us who seek to do His will in offering a gentle, humble, and clear welcome to the Catholic faith.

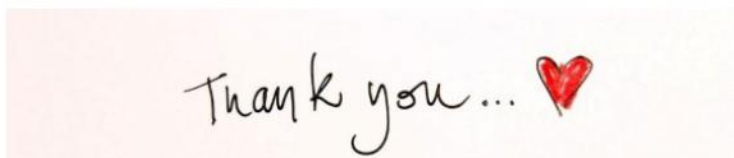
Do you know someone that is interested in the Catholic faith? Sessions will be starting in September, for more information please call the office at (979) 836-4441; ask for Michael or email : mike@brenhamcatholic.org

"Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."(Mark 16:15)

Did You Know?

CCE has begun here at St. Mary's. We are always trying to improve the safety of our campus and enhance our security. Thanks to a generous donation from the Konieczny Family Reunion Committee, we were able to add several (5)cameras in buildings housing our classrooms, add a monitoring screen in the Religious building; improve our fire alarm system in the Education building, and increase the monitoring capabilities in our Parish Office.

Thank you Konieczny Families.



¿Sabías Que?

El Catecismo ha comenzado aquí en St. Mary's. Siempre estamos tratando de mejorar la seguridad de nuestro campus y mejorar nuestra seguridad. Gracias a una generosa donación del Comité de Reunión Familiar de la Familia Konieczny, pudimos agregar varias (5) cámaras en los edificios que albergan nuestras aulas, agregar una pantalla de monitoreo en el edificio de educación religiosa; mejorar nuestro sistema de alarma contra incendios en el edificio de Educación Religiosa y aumentar las capacidade de monitoreo en nuestra Oficina Parroquial.

Gracias familias Konieczny.





Altar Flowers are:

In thanksgiving to God for my 30th birthday and to ask God to allow me to continue watching my children grow. Given anonymously.

Las Flores del Altar son:

En accion de gracias a Dios por mi 30vo cumpleaños y para pedir a Dios me permita seguir viendo a mis hijos crecer. Given anonymously.

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Brenham

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

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

PROMOTION: FREE SOCKS!!!

CLAIM YOURS HERE:



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.



Anthony, blood recipient



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



Mysterium Tremendum!

Join Us for *Bella Brigata* ~Fall~
(A Beautiful Brigade)
Scripture ~ Inspiration ~ Support

Thursdays, Sept. 5 – Nov. 14
10:00-11:45, PAC Small Meeting Room

Holy is His Name DVD series by
Dr. Scott Hahn

(St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology)
Catechesis, Coffee, & Conversation for
Women

Questions: 713.501.0663 (Kathy)



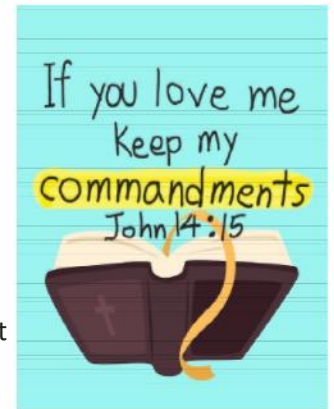
EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

Save lives on the go with



Complete your Health History Interview before you come in for your donation.

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



DEACON'S CORNER

In our first reading Moses has given God's commandments to the Hebrews. He tells them to not add to or subtract anything from these commandments.

Unfortunately, as time went on, the Pharisees ignored Moses' directive and began to add many of their own human traditions, called the Oral Law e.g., ritual washing of cups, plates and hands and many other things to the Law of Moses. Isaiah (29:13) reprimanded the Jewish leaders for doing this; for worshipping God with their lips but not their hearts by substituting human law for God's Law. One commentary states that the people were listening to their politicians rather than to the prophets. In the Gospel Jesus reprimands the Pharisees for doing exactly the same thing, i.e., adding human traditions to the Law of Moses. The Pharisees complain that Jesus' followers eat with unclean hands. They accuse the disciples not of poor hygiene but of religious laxity in not following the human precepts of the Oral Law elevating human law to God's commandments and honoring God with their lips but not their hearts. Do we ever do this? Do we ever elevate our own decisions, opinions or practices over God's commandments? Whose advice do we follow in making decisions? What politicians do we listen to? Is our heart aligned with God or are we just giving God lip service?

Peace be to you.

Deacon John

RINCON DEL DIACONO

En nuestra primera lectura, Moisés ha dado los mandamientos de Dios a los hebreos. Les dice que no agreguen ni resten nada a estos mandamientos.

Desafortunadamente, a medida que pasó el tiempo, los fariseos ignoraron la directiva de Moisés y comenzaron a agregar muchas de sus propias tradiciones humanas, llamadas Ley Oral, por ejemplo, el lavado ritual de tazas, platos y manos y muchas otras cosas a la Ley de Moisés. Isaías (29:13) reprendió a los líderes judíos por hacer esto; por adorar a Dios con los labios pero no con el corazón al sustituir la ley de Dios por la ley humana. Un comentario afirma que la gente escuchaba a sus políticos más que a los profetas. En el Evangelio, Jesús reprende a los fariseos por hacer exactamente lo mismo, es decir, añadir tradiciones humanas a la Ley de Moisés. Los fariseos se quejan de que los seguidores de Jesús comen con las manos sucias. Acusan a los discípulos no de falta de higiene sino de laxitud religiosa al no seguir los preceptos humanos de la Ley Oral, elevando la ley humana a los mandamientos de Dios y honrando a Dios con los labios pero no con el corazón.

¿Alguna vez hacemos esto? ¿Alguna vez elevamos nuestras propias decisiones, opiniones o prácticas por encima de los mandamientos de Dios? ¿Qué consejo seguimos al tomar decisiones? ¿A qué políticos escuchamos? ¿Está nuestro corazón alineado con Dios o simplemente estamos hablando de Dios de labios para afuera?

Bendiciones y paz, Diácono Steve.



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