



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:**

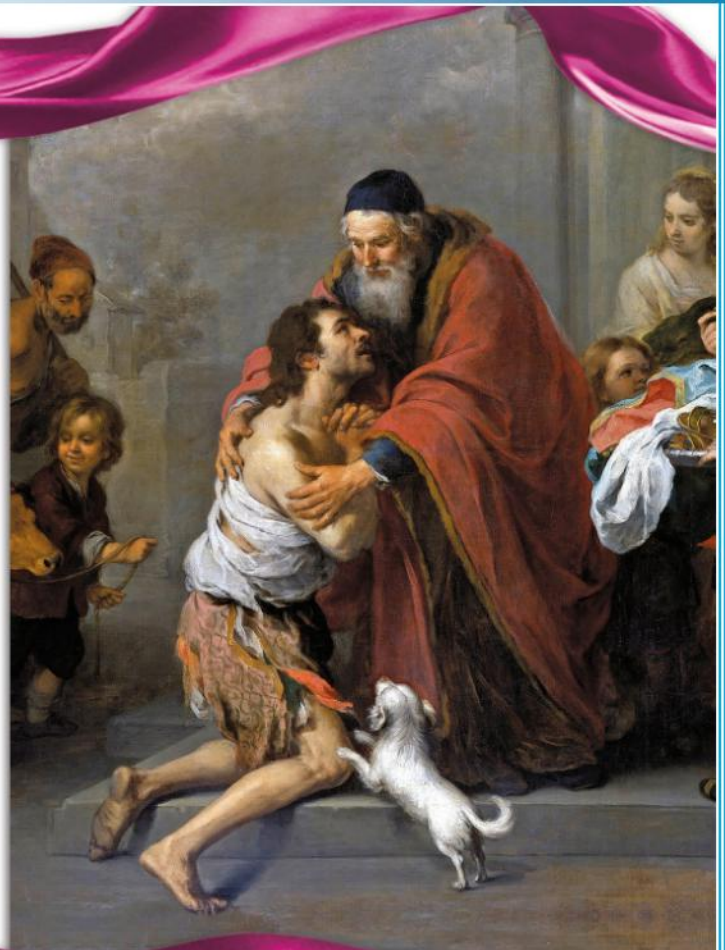
(979) 451-9824

Then let us celebrate
with a feast, because
this son of mine
was dead, and has
come to life again,
he was lost, and
has been found.

Luke 15:23, 24

Comamos y hagamos
una fiesta, porque
este hijo mío estaba
muerto y ha vuelto
a la vida, estaba
perdido y lo hemos
encontrado.

Lucas 15, 23, 24



The Return of the Prodigal Son
by Barolomé Esteban Murillo,
circa 1670



4TH SUNDAY OF

LENT

4^º DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord Psalm 34

Prueben y vean que bueno es el Señor. Salmo 33

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS
HORARIO DE MISAS E INTENCIONES

April 1—April 6, 2025

Tuesday/martes—April 1, 12:15pm

† Dorothea Tucker
Well-being of Rogelio Manzano (sent off)
† Johnny & Polly Spoede (sent off)

Wednesday/miercoles—April 2, 12:15pm

† Alfred & Velma Muegge
† Nancy Manfre (sent off)
Well-being of Janes & Lina Lemon & Family (sent off)
† Tammy Brauner (sent off)

Thursday/jueves - April 3, 12:15pm

† Bertha Rose Geick
† Bennie & Clara Wesneski (sent off)

Friday/Viernes - April 4, 5:30pm

† David & Annie Leibham
† Patricia Hajek (sent off)
† Louise Bolcerek (sent off)

Saturday/sábado—April 5, 5:00 pm

† Lt. Col Daniel Holland

7:00 pm—En Español / In Spanish

Pro Populo

Sunday/Domingo – April 6, 8:00 am.

† Henry Sr. & Louise Krause

10:30 a.m.

† Deborah Schneider

12:30 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish

Miembros de la Comunidad de Evangelizacion

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

† David Jason Roth

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

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

March 22-23

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

Weekend collection\$24,337.89

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 pararegistrarse por favor comuníquese con la oficina al 979-836-4441



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Calendar



March 2025



Youth Group Fundraiser

March 30, 2025
Youth Group Fundraiser

April 2025



Lenten Penance Service

April 3, 2025
Lenten Penance Service

April 4, 2025
Knights of Columbus Fish Fry



Knights of Columbus Fish Fry



First Communions

This week on St. Mary's campus. March 31 thru April 6, 2025

03/31 Monday

8:00am Walk in the PAC, Gym
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, 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, RE AV Room

04/01 Tuesday

8:00am Walk in the PAC, Gym
11:00am Bible Study, PAC Small Meeting Room
11:45am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Gym
5:00pm WCJ Volleyball, Gym
6:00pm Choir Practice, Church
6:00pm PCCW Meeting, PAC Large Meeting Room
7:00pm Seguidores de Jesus Community Meeting, CR Meeting Room

04/02 Wednesday

8:00am Walk in the PAC, Gym
10:00am Rosary Study, RE AV Room
11:45am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Gym
4:15pm Religious Education, All Campus
5:30pm Choir, Office Large Meeting Room
7:00pm Spanish Choir, Office Large Meeting Room

04/03 Thursday

8:00am AARP Tax Service, PAC Large Meeting Room
8:00am Walk in the PAC, Gym
10:00am Bella Brigata, PAC Small Meeting Room
11:45am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Gym
6:00pm RCIA, CR Room 202
6:00pm Penance Service, Church
7:00pm Amor Hacia Cristo Small Community Meeting, RE Room 202

04/04 Friday

12:10pm Rosary, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Field
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
5:30pm KC's Fish Fry, PAC All Rooms
6:15pm Stations of the Cross, Church
7:00pm Unidos En Un Corazon Small Community Group, CR Meeting Room
7:15pm Quinceanera Rehearsal, Church

04/05 Saturday

6:00 am Spanish Men's Prayer Group, Church
7:00am TMIY Men's Group, PAC Small Meeting Room
10:00am Baptisms, Church
1:30pm Quinceanera, Church
3:30pm Confessions, Church
5:00pm English Mass
5:00pm CRHP Meeting, Cornerstone RM 203
7:00pm Spanish Mass

04/06 Sunday

8:00am English Mass, Church
9:00am Pancake Breakfast – Religious Education, PAC All Rooms
9:15am Religious Education, All Campus
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
5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group, PAC All Rooms



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

Will you step inside, or choose to stay outside?



A Story That Never Grows Old: The Eternal Power of the Parable

The parable of the prodigal son is one of the most well-known and often repeated passages in the Gospel. Yet, its message should never lose its strength over time, nor become routine. Just as an overplayed song can lose its charm, this sacred text, in contrast, remains full of life and rich in teaching—especially when we recognize that it reflects our own story. Each of us, at some point in our lives, can see ourselves in one of its characters. For this reason, we are not merely called to read it superficially, but to live it deeply.

The Younger Son: From Physical Hunger to a Hunger for Love

The younger son, a symbol of sin and rebellion, distances himself from his father in pursuit of pleasure and freedom, only to be confronted with the emptiness of his choices. It is only when he feels hunger—not just for food, but for meaning, love, and dignity—that he realizes what he has lost. The Gospel highlights that it was not his adventures that brought him to reflection, but his need. He came to understand that in his father's house there was bread in abundance—a bread that represents true love, the kind not found in fleeting pleasures or empty relationships.

Return and Restoration: A Father Who Embraces Without Question

When the son decides to return, he does not come with demands but with humility. He knows he has failed and only asks to be treated as one of the hired servants. Yet the father surprises him with overwhelming tenderness: he runs to meet him, embraces him, restores his dignity with new clothing, gives him a ring of belonging, and celebrates his return. The message is clear: God does not wait for perfection in order to love us, but for the openness to return. His love does not shame—it restores and dignifies. The banquet is not a reward for merit, but a celebration of love that always awaits.

The Elder Son: The Danger of Self-Sufficiency

The elder son represents those who follow the rules and remain “within,” yet fail to understand the father’s heart. He too is outside—not physically, but emotionally and spiritually. He believes he is right but does not experience love. His pride and judgment toward his brother keep him far from the feast. It is tragic that, though he never left, he has never tasted the joy of forgiveness or the freedom of love. This part of the parable invites us to examine whether, even while thinking ourselves “just,” we may also be in need of entering.

The True Center: The Father's Love

The parable’s teaching is not centered solely on the sons, but on the Father. He represents God, who acts not with pride or calculation, but with mercy and abundant love. His house is not a place of punishment, but of encounter. The father loves both the son who returns and the one who never left, and he desires that both take part in the banquet. This is the true essence of Christian life: to live out of love, not from comparison or resentment. The parable invites each person to stop asking whether they are “right,” and instead to ask whether they are truly letting God satisfy their hunger for love.

I Desire to Live as a Mature Christian

I now understand that being a Christian does not mean living without mistakes, but rather loving in spite of them. It is like the fable of the chimpanzee and the scorpion: even when love hurts, even when I get stung, I do not stop helping. But I also want to learn, to mature, and to find ways to love wisely—like using a leaf to rescue the scorpion. I do not want to stop loving, but I do want to do so with wisdom. This Lent, rather than analyzing or judging myself, I want to look toward the Father and enter His house. For there—and only there—my heart is truly satisfied, and I discover the true meaning of my life.

Jr. Everardo Cázares



¿Entras o te quedas afuera?

Una historia que no cansa: El poder eterno de la parábola

La parábola del hijo pródigo es una de las más conocidas y repetidas del Evangelio, y sin embargo, su mensaje no debería perder fuerza con el tiempo ni volverse rutina. Como una canción escuchada en exceso puede perder su encanto, este texto sagrado, en cambio, está lleno de vida y de enseñanza, especialmente cuando reconocemos que refleja nuestra propia historia. Cada uno, en algún momento de su vida, puede sentirse representado por alguno de los personajes que aparecen en ella. Por eso, más que leerla superficialmente, estamos llamados a vivirla con profundidad.

El hijo menor: del hambre física al hambre de amor

El hijo menor, símbolo del pecado y la rebeldía, se aleja de su padre en busca de placeres y libertad, pero termina enfrentándose al vacío de su decisión. Solo cuando tiene hambre —no solo de comida, sino de sentido, amor y dignidad— se da cuenta de lo que perdió. El Evangelio resalta que no fueron sus aventuras lo que lo llevó a reflexionar, sino su necesidad. Entendió que en casa de su padre había pan en abundancia, un pan que representa el amor auténtico, el que no se encuentra en placeres momentáneos ni en relaciones vacías.

El regreso y la restauración: un padre que no cuestiona, sino abraza

Cuando el hijo decide regresar, no lo hace con exigencias, sino con humildad. Sabe que ha fallado y solo pide ser tratado como un trabajador más. Pero el padre lo sorprende con una respuesta desbordante de ternura: corre a su encuentro, lo abraza, lo viste nuevamente con dignidad, le da pertenencia y celebra su regreso. El mensaje es claro: Dios no espera perfección para amarnos, sino apertura para volver. Y su amor no humilla, sino que restaura y dignifica. El banquete no es premio por el mérito, sino celebración por el amor que siempre espera.

El hijo mayor: el riesgo de la autosuficiencia

La figura del hijo mayor representa a quienes cumplen

reglas y se mantienen “dentro”, pero sin comprender el corazón del padre. Él también está afuera, no físicamente, pero sí emocional y espiritualmente. Cree tener la razón, pero no disfruta del amor. Su actitud soberbia y su juicio hacia el hermano lo mantienen lejos del banquete. Es trágico que, aunque nunca se fue, tampoco haya experimentado la alegría del perdón ni la libertad del amor. Esta parte de la parábola nos invita a revisar si, aún creyéndonos “justos”, no estaremos también necesitados de entrar.

El verdadero centro: el amor del Padre

La enseñanza no está centrada solo en los hijos, sino en el Padre. Él representa a Dios, que no actúa con orgullo ni contabilidad, sino con misericordia y amor abundante. Su casa no es lugar de castigo, sino de encuentro. El padre ama al hijo que regresa y al que nunca se fue, y desea que ambos participen del banquete. Esta es la verdadera naturaleza del cristiano: vivir desde el amor, no desde la comparación o el resentimiento. La parábola invita a cada persona a dejar de pensar si “tiene razón” y comenzar a preguntarse si realmente está dejando que Dios sacie su hambre de amor.

Quiero vivir como cristiano maduro

Ser cristiano, lo entiendo ahora, no es vivir sin errores, sino amar a pesar de ellos. Es como la fábula del chimpancé y el alacrán: aunque amar duela, aunque a veces me piquen, yo no dejo de ayudar. Pero también quiero aprender, madurar, encontrar la forma de amar sin dañarme, como usando una hoja para salvar al alacrán. No quiero dejar de amar, pero sí quiero hacerlo con sabiduría. En esta Cuaresma, más que analizarme o juzgarme, quiero mirar al Padre y entrar a su casa. Porque ahí, solo ahí, mi corazón se sacia, y encuentro el verdadero sentido de mi vida.

Fr. Everardo Cázares

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD 6PM

SERVICIO PENITENCIAL DE CUARESMA



*Saint Mary
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church*

Holy Thursday - April 17 - Jueves Santo

7:00 p.m. (Bilingual) Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday - April 18 - Viernes Santo

12:30 pm (Bilingual) Live Stations of the Cross

Starts at Education Building

3:00 pm (Bilingual) Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday - April 19 - Sabado Santo

8:30 pm (Bilingual) Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday - April 20

Domingo de Pascua

8:00 am English Mass

10:30 am English Mass

12:30 pm Spanish Mass

4:00 pm Latin Mass at Pax Christi
Retreat Center

"He is not here, for he has risen just as He said"

Matthew 28:6

701 Church St.

(979) 836-4441

www.brenhamcatholic.org



How to Go to Confession...

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all
the saints,
whatever good you do and suffering you endure,
heal your sins,
help you grow in holiness,
and reward you with eternal life.
Go in peace.

—*Rite of Penance*, no. 93

- 1 PREPARATION:** Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer, and reflect on your life since your last confession. How have you—in your thoughts, words, and actions—neglected to live Christ’s commands to “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37, 39)? As a help with this “examination of conscience,” you might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (Ex 20:2-17; Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; or Lk 6:20-26).
- 2 GREETING:** The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.
- 3 THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:** Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [*give days, months, or years*] since my last confession.”
- 4 CONFESSION:** Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: “I am sorry for these and all my sins.”
- 5 PENANCE:** The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.

- 6 ACT OF CONTRITION:** After the priest has conferred your penance, pray an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more. A suggested Act of Contrition is:

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

(*Rite of Penance*, no. 45)

- 7 ABSOLUTION:** The priest will extend his hands over your head and pronounce the words of absolution. You respond, “Amen.”
- 8 PRAISE:** The priest will usually praise the mercy of God and will invite you to do the same. For example, the priest may say, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.” And your response would be, “His mercy endures for ever” (*Rite of Penance*, no. 47).
- 9 DISMISSAL:** The priest will conclude the sacrament, often saying, “Go in peace.”

If it has been a while since your last confession, remember, “Do not fear” (Is 41:10). The priest will help guide you. And feel free to take this how-to guide with you! (For more information, visit www.usccb.org/confession.)

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Como Confesarse...

La pasión de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, la intercesión de la santísima Virgen María y de todos los santos, tus buenas obras y tus sufrimientos, te sirvan para remedio de tus pecados, aumento de gracia y recompensa de vida eterna. Vete en paz.

—Rito de la Penitencia

1 PREPARACIÓN: Antes de irte a confesar, dedica algún tiempo a prepararte. Comienza con una oración y luego reflexiona sobre tu vida desde la última confesión. ¿De qué forma —en tus pensamientos, palabras y obras— has dejado de vivir los mandamientos de Cristo de “amar al Señor, tu Dios, con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con toda tu mente,” y “amar a tu prójimo como a ti mismo?” (Mt 22:37, 39). Como una ayuda a este “examen de conciencia” podrías revisar los Diez Mandamientos o las Bienaventuranzas (Ex 20:2-17; Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; o Lc 6:20-26).

2 SALUDO: El sacerdote te dará la bienvenida. Puede ser que rece una pequeña bendición o lea un pasaje de la Escrituras.

3 LA SEÑAL DE LA CRUZ: Juntos, tú y el sacerdote, harán la Señal de la Cruz. Entonces podrás comenzar tu confesión con estas u otras palabras similares: “Bendígame, Padre, porque he pecado. Hace ya [se da el número de días, meses o años] desde mi última confesión.”

4 CONFESIÓN: Confiesa todos tus pecados al sacerdote. Si no estás seguro de que decir, pídele al sacerdote que te ayude. Cuando hayas terminado, concluye con estas u otras palabras similares: “Me arrepiento de estos y de todos mis pecados.”

5 PENITENCIA: El sacerdote te sugerirá una penitencia. La penitencia puede ser una oración, un acto de misericordia o una obra de caridad. También podrá aconsejarte sobre cómo puedes vivir una vida cristiana mejor.

6 ACTO DE CONTRICIÓN: Luego que el sacerdote te haya conferido la penitencia, reza un Acto de Contrición, expresando pena por tus pecados, y tomando la decisión de no volver a pecar. El Acto de Contrición puede ser este:

Dios mío,
me arrepiento de todo corazón
de todo lo malo que he hecho
y de lo bueno que he dejado de hacer.
Porque pecando te he ofendido a ti,
Que eres el sumo bien
y digno de ser amado sobre todas las cosas.
Propongo firmemente, con tu gracia,
Cumplir la penitencia,
No volver a pecar y evitar las ocasiones de pecado.
Perdóname, Señor,
por los méritos de la pasión
de nuestro salvador Jesucristo.

(Rito de la Penitencia)

7 ABSOLUCIÓN: El sacerdote extenderá sus manos sobre tu cabeza y pronunciará las palabras de absolución. Tu responderás “Amén.”

8 ALABANZA: El sacerdote acostumbra a dar gracias por la misericordia de Dios y te invitará a que tú hagas lo mismo. Por ejemplo, el sacerdote podría decir: “Dad gracias al Señor porque es bueno.” Y tu respuesta puede ser, “Porque es eterna su misericordia” (Rito de la Penitencia).

9 DESPEDIDA: Muchas veces el sacerdote concluye el sacramento diciendo: “Vete en paz.”

Si ha pasado mucho tiempo desde tu última confesión, recuerda, “No tengan miedo” (Is 41:10). El sacerdote te ayudará y guiará. Y ¡no dejes de llevarte esta guía! (Para más información, visite www.usccb.org/confession.)

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Lenten Fish Fry



Friday, April 4th, 2025 5:30 pm

Saint Mary's Catholic Church PAC

Sponsored BY



Council 3287

Please Join us for our annual Fish Fry

All Parishioners Are Invited

Meal is free, we will serve until we run out.

Desserts and Drinks also served

Donations accepted

Únase a nosotros en nuestra cena anual de pescado frito

Todos los feligreses están invitados

La comida es gratuita y la serviremos hasta que se acabe.

También servimos postres y bebidas

Se aceptan donaciones



High School Youth Service Night

9th-12th grade

Teens from St. Mary Youth Ministry
will join Gather-n-Grace to serve
dinner to our community!

Monday, April 7

**Fireman's Park Pavilion
Brenham, Texas**

Arrive at 5 p.m. for set up.

Dinner will be served 5:30-7.

We will stay after to help clean up.

Scan the QR code to R.S.V.P.



his father was filled
with compassion
su padre se enterneció
profundamente

Let's Pray

Together

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.

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



DEACON'S CORNER

Do Catholic Believe in Cremation Continued

From last week - The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.” Burial at sea is allowed as long as the cremated remains are placed in a heavy container that will sink to its final resting place at the bottom of the ocean. The container must not be constructed to disintegrate at a future date, releasing the ashes. The church forbids scattering ashes at sea or over any other body of water.

There is a problem that new age ideas have taken hold in modern times. People have come to see scattering of their ashes as allowing a “fusion” of them with nature, or that death is a form of liberation from the body. These ideas flirt with new age religion and are not Catholic. Ashes cannot be scattered because it gives the appearance of “nihilism.” (The doctrine that nothing actually exists or that existence or values are meaningless.)

Another tradition for dealing with cremated remains is to divide them up among family members. Many family members wear cremation jewelry to honor their loved ones. The Catholic Church also frowns on this practice. After all, they argue, the cremated remains are a representation of the whole body. No one would chop an arm or a leg from a corpse to keep in their homes as a reminder or a way to honor their dead loved one.

To sum up – The Church requires that cremated remains not be kept with family members, remains to be buried or put in a columbarium and the Catholic Church forbids the scattering of cremated remains.

Deacon Al

RINCON DEL DIACONO

¿Creen los católicos en la cremación? (Continuación)

De la semana pasada: Los restos cremados deben ser enterrados en una tumba o en un mausoleo o columbario. La práctica de esparcir los restos cremados en el mar, desde el aire o por tierra, o de conservarlos en casa de un familiar o amigo del difunto, no constituye la disposición reverente que exige la Iglesia. El entierro en el mar está permitido siempre que los restos cremados se coloquen en un contenedor pesado que se hunda hasta su lugar de descanso final en el fondo del océano. El contenedor no debe estar construido para desintegrarse en el futuro, liberando las cenizas. La Iglesia prohíbe esparcir cenizas en el mar o sobre cualquier otra masa de agua.

Existe el problema de que las ideas de la nueva era se han arraigado en la actualidad. La gente ha llegado a considerar que esparcir las cenizas permite una “fusión” de estas con la naturaleza, o que la muerte es una forma de liberación del cuerpo. Estas ideas se asemejan a la religión de la nueva era y no son católicas. Las cenizas no se pueden esparcir porque da la impresión de “nihilismo”. (La doctrina de que nada existe realmente o que la existencia y los valores carecen de sentido).

Otra tradición para tratar los restos cremados es repartirlos entre los familiares. Muchos familiares usan joyas de cremación para honrar a sus seres queridos. La Iglesia Católica también desaprueba esta práctica. Después de todo, argumentan, los restos cremados son una representación del cuerpo completo. Nadie amputaría un brazo o una pierna de un cadáver para guardarlo en su casa como recordatorio o como forma de honrar a su ser querido fallecido.

En resumen: la Iglesia exige que los restos cremados no se conserven con los familiares, que se entierren o se coloquen en un columbario, y prohíbe la dispersión de restos cremados.

Diácono Al



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