



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)

CONFESSIONS

Weekdays, 30 minutes before Mass.

Saturdays: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

CLERGY

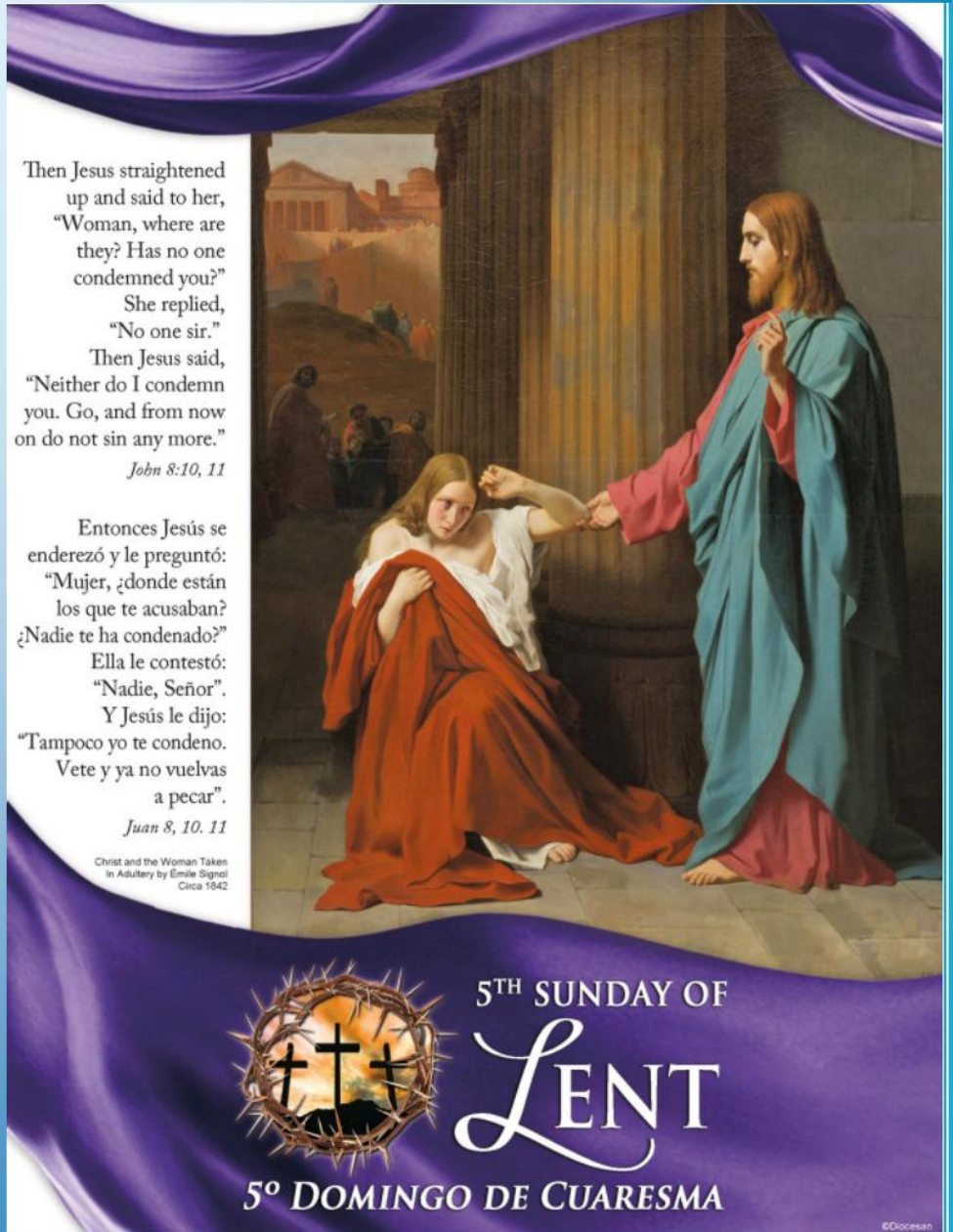
Fr. Everardo Cazares - Pastor
 Fr. Edwin Kagoo—Parochial Vicar
 Deacon Steve Medina
 Deacon Allen Prescott
 Deacon John Pelletier

OFFICE HOURS

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

**Emergencies after office hours
 phone number:**

(979) 451-9824



Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."
John 8:10, 11

Entonces Jesús se enderezó y le preguntó: "Mujer, ¿donde están los que te acusaban? ¿Nadie te ha condenado?" Ella le contestó: "Nadie, Señor". Y Jesús le dijo: "Tampoco yo te condeno. Vete y ya no vuelvas a pecar".
Juan 8, 10, 11

Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery by Emile Signol Circa 1842



5TH SUNDAY OF

LENT

5^º DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

The Lord has done great things for us: we are filled with joy.

Psalm 126

Grandes cosas has hecho por nosotros, Señor. Salmo 126

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS
HORARIO DE MISAS E INTENCIONES
April 8—April 13, 2025

Tuesday/martes—April 8, 12:15pm
 Well-being of Tyson & Madeline Wieghat
 Well-being of Gerald & Sherry Fries Family (sent off)
 † Florian Bolcerek (sent off)

Wednesday/miercoles—April 9, 12:15pm
 Misael Olivarez on his birthday
 † Victor Guerrero (sent off)
 † Lillian Antkowiak (sent off)

Thursday/jueves - April 10, 12:15pm
 † Willie Kubeczka, Jr.
 † Raymond Kenjura (sent off)
 † Chad Church (sent off)
 † Florian Bolcerek (sent off)

Friday/Viernes - April 11, 5:30pm
 † June Sparks Clark
 † Johnnie & Angie Kluck (sent off)
 † Leonard & Pauline Krotofil (sent off)

Saturday/sábado—April 12, 5:00 pm
 † Wilbert Krause
 † Evelyn Kloesel (sent off)
 † Louise Bolcerek (sent off)
 † Florian Bolcerek (sent off)

7:00 pm—En Español / In Spanish
 Pro Populo

Sunday/Domingo – April 13, 8:00 am.
 † Louise Bolcerek
 † Tammy Brauner (sent off)

10:30 a.m.
 Living & deceased members of John & RosaLee Kenjura
 † Louise Bolcerek (sent off)

12:30 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish
 Animas del Purgatorio

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

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 29-30

Weekly budgeted expenses.....\$18,475.00
Weekend collection\$20,952.05
Catholic Relief Services.....\$2,141.00

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

April Altar care ladies are:

Joni Kloesel*
 Rita Hugo Mary Horak
 Patti Olivarez Lori Watson

If you would like to help with the Altar Cleaning, please contact the church office.

Si le gustaria ayudar con la limpieza del altar, por favor llame a la oficina.

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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Calendar April 2025



CCE Pizza Party



First Communions

April 16, 2025

CCE Pizza Party

April 26-27, 2025

First Communions

May 2025



**Rosary & Coronation
of Mary**



**Catechist Appreciation
Dinner**

May 7, 2025

Rosary & Coronation of Mary

May 14, 2025

Catechist Appreciation Dinner

This week on St. Mary's campus. April 7 thru April 13, 2025

04/07 Monday

8:00am Walk in the PAC, Gym
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Gym
6:00pm St. Teresa of Calcutta Meeting, PAC Small Meeting Room
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

04/08 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
7:00pm Seguidores de Jesus Community Meeting, CR Meeting Room

04/09 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, Church
7:00pm Spanish Choir, Church

04/10 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
7:00pm Amor Hacia Cristo Small Community Meeting, RE Room 202

04/11 Friday

12:10pm Rosary, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Field
4:30pm AMH Daddy/Daughter Dance Set up, PAC All Rooms
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
6:15pm Stations of the Cross, Church
7:00pm Unidos En Un Corazon Small Community Group, CR Meeting Room

04/12 Saturday

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

04/13 Sunday

8:00am English Mass, Church
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

Aviso:

La Santa Misa celebrada en latín según el Misal Romano de 1962, comúnmente conocida como la Misa Tradicional en Latín, dejará de celebrarse a partir del 21 de abril de 2025.

La última celebración tendrá lugar el Domingo de Resurrección, el 20 de abril de 2025.

Notice:

The Holy Mass celebrated in Latin according to the 1962 Roman Missal, commonly known as the Traditional Latin Mass, will no longer be offered beginning April 21, 2025.

The final celebration will take place on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.



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

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

“Neither Do I Condemn You”: The Merciful Face of God



An Impossible Judgment: The Trap Set for Jesus

In the episode of the woman caught in adultery, the scribes and Pharisees attempted to place Jesus in an inescapable trap. If He said not to stone her, He would be contradicting the Law of Moses. If He said to stone her, He would be denying His message of love and mercy. Yet Jesus did not fall into the trap. In silence, He bent down and wrote on the ground. Many believe He was writing the sins or names of the accusers. With a single phrase, He dismantled the hypocritical judgment: *“Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone.”* And one by one, they all walked away.

Healing Mercy: Neither Judgment Nor Condemnation

Jesus remained alone with the woman. *“Where are those who condemned you?”* He asked. *“No one has condemned me,”* she replied. *“Neither do I condemn you. Go in peace, and sin no more.”* These words echo within the preacher's heart like an inner healing. They serve as a reminder that God's love does not humiliate or crush—it liberates. He does not condemn us; rather, He invites us to a new life. His mercy is not an excuse for sin, but a fountain from which we can rise again.

Does God Punish or Not? The Image We Hold of Him

Even today, many believe that God punishes. On one occasion during Mass, when I mentioned that “God does not punish,” some of the faithful confronted me with biblical references. However, this is an outdated and incomplete perspective. The full revelation in Jesus Christ presents a God who forgives and embraces. Even Pope Benedict XVI, in response to a devastating earthquake, affirmed: *“God does not punish.”* If there is any punishment, it already fell upon Christ on the cross. Punishment does not come from God but from the natural consequences of our own decisions.

True Judgment: The Consequences of Sin

God forgives, but He does not erase the consequences of sin. A clear example is that of an alcoholic: God may forgive his addiction, but that does not necessarily spare him from cirrhosis, withdrawal, or personal degradation. Likewise, a sinner may be forgiven, yet still bear the marks of his errors. *“Who condemns you?”* —asks Jesus. Ultimately, it is not God who condemns, but each one of us, as we come to recognize our condition and our incompatibility with the fullness of life to which we are called.

Sin Defiles Us... and Also Distances Us

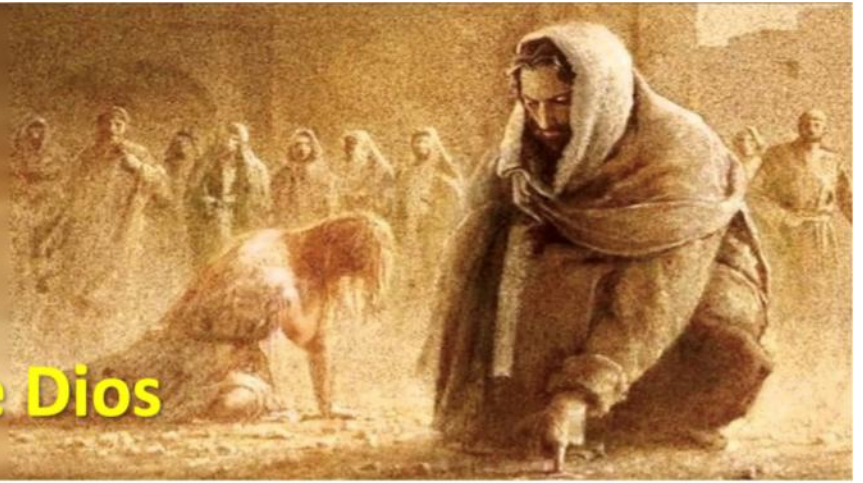
During a retreat, a young man placed his hand in mud as a symbol of sin. When asked to retrieve a fine altar cloth with that soiled hand, he refused: *“I would dirty it,”* he said. No one condemned him—he condemned himself upon recognizing his own state. Such is the dynamic of sin: it prevents us from drawing near to the sacred, not due to divine prohibition, but because we feel unworthy. Only the cleansing bath of God's mercy can purify us. Yet this cleansing requires a commitment: to sin no more.

Healing Through Forgiveness: Freeing Others and Myself

Repeating Jesus' words leads one to say them even to those who have caused harm: *“Neither do I condemn you. Do not hurt me again, but neither do I condemn you.”* In that, we find healing. Forgiveness is not forgetting—it is liberation. The story of the child and the duck illustrates the same truth: as long as we do not confess, we remain slaves to guilt and manipulation. But once we acknowledge our faults, we become truly free. Lent is a time to let ourselves be loved, to forgive, and to be forgiven. God does not condemn us—but He calls us to a life transformed.

Jr. Everardo Cázares

“Tampoco Yo Te Condeno”: El Rostro Misericordioso de Dios



Un juicio imposible: la trampa a Jesús

En el episodio de la mujer sorprendida en adulterio, los escribas y fariseos intentaron colocar a Jesús en una trampa sin salida. Si Él decía que no la apedrearán, iría en contra de la Ley de Moisés. Si decía que la matarían, contradecía su mensaje de amor y misericordia. Pero Jesús no cayó en la trampa. En silencio, se inclinó y escribió en el suelo. Muchos creen que anotaba los pecados o nombres de los acusadores. Con una sola frase desarmó el juicio hipócrita: *“El que esté libre de pecado, que arroje la primera piedra.”* Y poco a poco, todos se fueron.

Misericordia que sana: ni juicio ni condena

Jesús quedó solo con la mujer. “¿Dónde están los que te condenaban?” —le preguntó. “Nadie me ha condenado”, respondió ella. “Tampoco yo te condeno. Vete en paz y no peques más.” Estas palabras se repiten en el corazón del predicador, como una medicina interior. Son un recordatorio de que el amor de Dios no humilla ni aplasta, sino que libera. Él no nos condena, sino que nos invita a una vida nueva. Su misericordia no es una excusa para pecar, sino una fuente para levantarnos.

¿Dios castiga o no? La imagen que llevamos de Él

Aún hoy, muchos creen que Dios castiga. En una ocasión en una misa mencione la idea de que “Dios no castiga”, algunos fieles se me enfrentaron con citas bíblicas. Pero esa es una visión antigua, incompleta. La revelación plena en Jesucristo muestra a un Dios que perdona y abraza. Incluso el Papa Benedicto XVI, ante un terremoto devastador, afirmó que *“Dios no castiga”*. Si existe castigo, ya cayó sobre Cristo en la cruz. El castigo no viene de Dios, sino de las consecuencias de nuestras decisiones.

El verdadero juicio: las consecuencias del pecado

Dios perdona, pero no elimina las consecuencias del

pecado. Un ejemplo claro es el del alcohólico: Dios puede perdonar su adicción, pero no necesariamente lo librará de la cirrosis, la cruda o la degradación personal. De igual manera, quien peca puede recibir el perdón, pero seguirá cargando con las marcas del error. “¿Quién te condena?” —pregunta Jesús—. En el fondo, no es Dios quien condena, sino cada uno al darse cuenta de su situación y su incompatibilidad con la vida plena a la que ha sido llamado.

El pecado nos ensucia... y también nos aleja

Durante un retiro, un joven metió su mano en barro como símbolo del pecado. Al pedirle que tomara un mantel de altar con esa mano sucia, se negó: *“Lo ensuciaría.”* Nadie lo había condenado, él mismo lo hizo al reconocer su estado. Esa es la dinámica del pecado: no nos permite acercarnos a lo sagrado, no por prohibición divina, sino porque sentimos que no somos dignos. Solo el baño de la misericordia de Dios puede purificarnos. Pero esa limpieza requiere un compromiso: *no volver a pecar.*

Sanar perdonando: liberar a otros y a mí mismo

El repetir las palabras de Jesús, comienza a decírselas incluso a personas que te han herido: *“Tampoco yo te condeno. No me vuelvas a herir, pero tampoco yo te condeno.”* Ahí encuentras sanación. El perdón no es olvidar, es liberar. La historia del niño y el pato nos recuerda lo mismo: mientras no confesamos, somos esclavos de la culpa y la manipulación. Pero cuando reconocemos nuestros errores, somos verdaderamente libres. La Cuaresma es tiempo de dejarse amar, de perdonar y de ser perdonado. Dios no nos condena, pero nos llama a una vida transformada.

Fr. Everardo Cázares



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



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.

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



St. Teresa of Calcutta Society helps those in need.

For assistance phone **979-525-0090**.

Calls remain confidential.

La Sociedad de Santa Teresa De Calcuta 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

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

HIGH SCHOOL
SENIOR
BREAKFAST

MAY
18
2025

SAVE THE DATE

High School seniors
from Brenham and Burton

Honored at the
8:00a.m. mass

Breakfast to follow for
seniors and their
families at KC Hall

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and purity.

-1 Timothy 4:12-



Awaiting a New Bishop

How long does it take to name a new bishop?

Pope Francis will select our new bishop, with the consultation process usually taking several months. Recalling when Bishop Aymond was named Archbishop of New Orleans in August 2009, the Diocese of Austin was without a bishop for the first time in its history. Msgr. W. Michael Mulvey served as diocesan administrator for several months before he was appointed Bishop of Corpus Christi in January 2010. Finally, on March 8, 2010, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez was installed as the fifth bishop of Austin.

Who will lead the diocese until we have a new bishop?

As required by Canon Law, the College of Consultors—a group of appointed Diocese of Austin priests—appointed a Diocesan Administrator within eight days of Archbishop Vasquez's installation in Houston. Father James Misko has been appointed to this role.

What are the responsibilities of a Diocesan Administrator?

The Diocesan Administrator, Father James Misko, possesses many of the same responsibilities as a diocesan bishop, but with certain limitations, particularly regarding decisions with long-term financial implications, the ordination of priests and deacons, and the appointment of pastors. A key aspect of this period of Sede Vacante is that the diocesan administrator governs with the mind of the previous bishop and, during this time, makes as few innovations to the overall mission of the diocese as possible.

Does the Diocesan Administrator role remain when a new bishop is appointed?

The Office of the Diocesan Administrator will end when the new bishop takes canonical possession of the diocese during the Mass of Installation or Ordination, typically occurring within two months of the Holy Father's appointment of the new bishop.

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Esperando Un Nuevo Obispo

¿Cuánto tiempo se tarda en nombrar a un nuevo obispo?

El Papa Francisco seleccionará a nuestro nuevo obispo, y el proceso de consulta suele durar varios meses. Recordando el nombramiento del Obispo Aymond como Arzobispo de Nueva Orleans en agosto de 2009, la Diócesis de Austin se quedó sin obispo por primera vez en su historia. Monseñor W. Michael Mulvey se desempeñó como administrador diocesano durante varios meses antes de ser nombrado Obispo de Corpus Christi en enero de 2010. Finalmente, el 8 de marzo de 2010, el Obispo Joe S. Vásquez fue investido como el quinto obispo de Austin.

¿Quién dirigirá la diócesis hasta que tengamos un nuevo obispo?

Según lo exige el Derecho Canónico, el Colegio de Consultores —un grupo de sacerdotes designados por la Diócesis de Austin— nombró a un Administrador Diocesano ocho días después de la investidura del Arzobispo Vásquez en Houston. El Padre James Misko ha sido designado para este cargo.

¿Cuáles son las responsabilidades de un administrador diocesano?

El Administrador Diocesano, Padre James Misko, posee muchas de las mismas responsabilidades que un obispo diocesano, pero con ciertas limitaciones, en particular en lo que respecta a decisiones con implicaciones financieras a largo plazo, la ordenación de sacerdotes y diáconos, y el nombramiento de párrocos. Un aspecto clave de este período de Sede Vacante es que el administrador diocesano gobierna con la mentalidad del obispo anterior y, durante este tiempo, introduce las mínimas innovaciones posibles en la misión general de la diócesis.

¿Se mantiene el rol de Administrador Diocesano cuando se nombra un nuevo obispo?

El cargo de Administrador Diocesano terminará cuando el nuevo obispo tome posesión canónica de la diócesis durante la Misa de Instalación u Ordenación, que normalmente ocurre dentro de los dos meses siguientes al nombramiento del nuevo obispo por parte del Santo Padre.

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Prayer for a New Bishop

Almighty and ever living God, grant our Holy Father, Pope Francis, wisdom in discernment as he chooses a new bishop for this local Church.

By your divine providence, grant us a shepherd, after the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, whose benevolent care and kindly zeal will strengthen the people of God by the light of the Gospel and the power of the sacraments.

Lord, as you now prepare to call our new bishop to the Diocese of Austin, give him courage and generosity to respond with a spirit of joyful hope.

Invoking the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oracion por un Nuevo Obispo

Dios todopoderoso y eterno, concede a nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco, sabiduría para discernir al elegir un nuevo obispo para esta Iglesia local.

Por tu divina providencia, concédenos un pastor, según el corazón de Jesús, el Buen Pastor, cuyo cuidado benévolo y celo bondadoso fortalezcan al pueblo de Dios con la luz del Evangelio y el poder de los sacramentos.

Señor, al prepararte para llamar a nuestro nuevo obispo a la Diócesis de Austin, dale valentía y generosidad para responder con un espíritu de gozosa esperanza.

Invocando la intercesión de nuestra patrona, Nuestra Señora de la Inmaculada Concepción, te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.



**Ethics & Integrity
in Ministry**

Preventing Abuse and Providing Healing

Mandatory Reporting of Abuse

Texas State law **requires** any adult citizen to report suspicions of abuse and-or neglect to the police or to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

If church personnel are involved, also notify the church and/or use the Notice of Concern so the appropriate steps can be taken to protect and to heal.

Child Protective Services (CPS)

txacusehotline.org or **1-800-252-5400**

Diocese of Austin

austindiocese.org/report-abuse or **(512) 949-2447**

Reporte Obligatorio de Abuso

La ley del estado de Texas requiere que cualquier ciudadano adulto informe sobre sospechas de abuso y/o negligencia a la policía o al Departamento de Servicios Familiares y de protección de Texas.

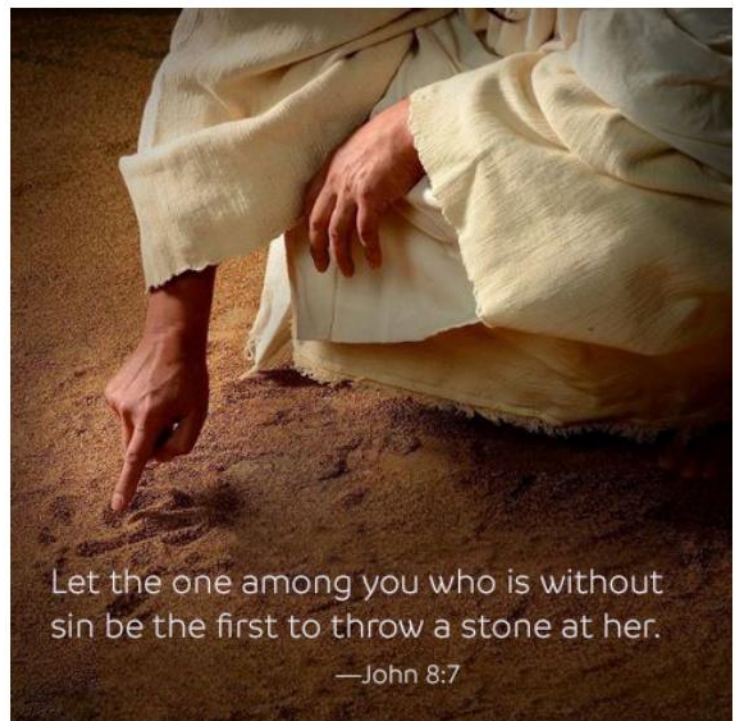
Si el personal de la Iglesia esta involucrado, también notifique a la iglesia y/o use el Aviso de Preocupación para que se puedan tomar los pasos correspondientes para proteger y sanar.

Servicios de Protección Infantil (CPS)

txacusehotline.org or **1-800-252-5400**

Diócesis de Austin

austindiocese.org/report-abuse o **(512) 949-2447**



Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.

—John 8:7



DEACON'S CORNER

I once had three young ladies who reported to me, two were programmers and one was a business analyst; but all three had worked as waitresses before. They were discussing the practice of tipping and were all in agreement that 18% was a minimum that people should tip. I told them I always tipped 18%, plus 2% if I thought that the service was good and an extra 1% if the waitress was blond. Unsurprisingly, the two former waitresses who were brunettes were outraged that I would adjust my tip for such a frivolous reason. (The third was blond and had no problem with my method of tipping.)

I allowed them to be annoyed with me and to complain for two days and then I asked them why they were upset. They had already agreed that 18% was a fair tip and I would have given them 20% for good service. Why should they be upset if I choose to give another 1% for a silly reason. They said it wasn't fair to servers who weren't blond. I said that anytime you are generous with someone, you are being unfair to everyone else.

I then asked if they were opposed to generosity.

What my two co-workers were really upset about, is that they were not sharing in someone else's good fortune. This is the sin of envy and is one of the deadly sins. Because of our brokenness, due to the fall of man, we all experience the temptation to fall into this sin. People who are focused on 'fairness' struggle with the parable of the vineyard, where the people who showed up at the last hour received the same payment as the people who had worked all day. We might think this isn't fair, because they didn't work as long as the others. But Jesus is warning us we should not let the good fortune of others bother us. Envy just hurts us, making us unhappy and resentful for no reason.

We should all be relieved that God doesn't want to give us what we deserve to be fair; because if that were true, nobody would be going to heaven. Instead, let us be happy that God is generous and merciful and wants to give us much more than is fair. He wants to give us eternal life.

Blessings and peace, Deacon Steve

RINCON DEL DIACONO

Una vez tuve tres chicas jóvenes a mi cargo: dos programadoras y una analista de negocios; pero las tres habían trabajado como meseras. Estaban hablando sobre la práctica de dar propinas y todas coincidieron en que el 18% era el mínimo. Les dije que siempre daba el 18%, más un 2% si el servicio me parecía bueno y un 1% adicional si la mesera era rubia. Como era de esperar, las dos exmeseras, que eran castañas, se indignaron de que ajustara mi propina por una razón tan frívola. (La tercera era rubia y no tenía ningún problema con mi método de propina). Les permití que se enfadaran conmigo y se quejaron durante dos días, y luego les pregunté por qué estaban molestas. Ya habían acordado que el 18% era una propina justa y que les habría dado el 20% por un buen servicio. ¿Por qué iban a molestarse si decidía dar otro 1% por una razón absurda? Dijeron que no era justo para meseras que no eran rubias. Dije que cada vez que eres generoso con alguien, eres injusto con los demás.

Entonces les pregunté si se oponían a la generosidad.

Lo que realmente molestaba a mis dos compañeros era no compartir la buena fortuna de los demás. Este es el pecado de la envidia y es uno de los pecados capitales. Debido a nuestra fragilidad, debido a la caída del hombre, todos experimentamos la tentación de caer en este pecado. Quienes se centran en la justicia tienen dificultades con la parábola de la viña, donde quienes se presentaron a última hora recibieron el mismo pago que quienes trabajaron todo el día. Podríamos pensar que esto no es justo, porque no trabajaron tanto como los demás. Pero Jesús nos advierte que no debemos dejar que la buena fortuna de los demás nos moleste. La envidia simplemente nos lastima, haciéndonos infelices y resentidos sin razón.

Todos deberíamos sentirnos aliviados de que Dios no quiera darnos lo que merecemos para ser justos; porque si eso fuera cierto, nadie iría al cielo. En cambio, alegrémonos de que Dios es generoso y misericordioso y quiere darnos mucho más de lo que es justo. Quiere darnos la vida eterna.

Bendiciones y paz, Diácono Steve



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