



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception

701 Church St., Brenham, TX 77833

www.brenhamcatholic.org

(979) 836-4441

MASS TIMES

Monday	12:15 pm
Tuesday	12:15 pm
Wednesday	12:15 pm
Thursday	12:15 pm
Friday	5:30 pm

Sunday Mass

Saturday	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

Rev. Raphael Ezech, MSP - Pastor
Fr. Edwin Kagoo—Parochial Vicar
Deacon Steve Medina
Deacon Allen Prescott
Deacon John Pelletier

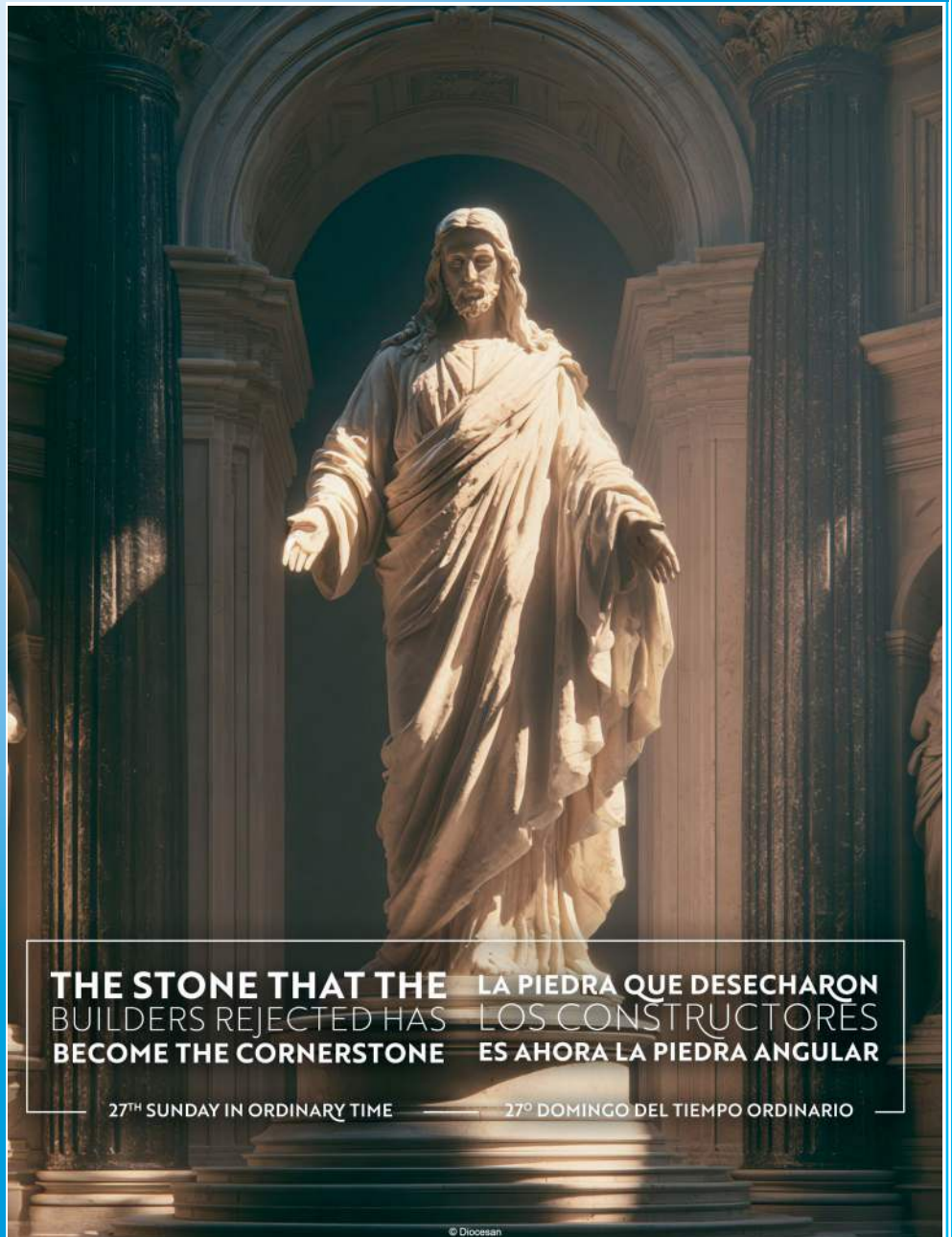
OFFICE HOURS

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

**Emergencies after office hours
phone number:**

(979) 451-9824

Pastoral council email:
Pastoralcouncil
@brenhamcatholic.org



**THE STONE THAT THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS
BECOME THE CORNERSTONE** **LA PIEDRA QUE DESECHARON
LOS CONSTRUCTORES
ES AHORA LA PIEDRA ANGULAR**

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27^º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel. Psalm 80
La viña del Señor es la casa de Israel. Salmo 80

**MASS SCHEDULE AND
INTENTIONS**
HORARIO DE MISAS E INTENCIONES

October 5 — October 11, 2026

Monday/lunes—October 5, 12:15pm

Communion Service
Blessings for Sophia Escobedo on her
Confirmation (sent off)

Tuesday/martes—October 6, 12:15pm

Communion Service
† Members of the Alfred & Mary Nestor/Libbon
families (sent off)

Wednesday/miercoles—October 7, 12:15pm

Communion Service
† Alfred & Velma Muegge (sent off)

Thursday/jueves—October 8, 12:15pm

Communion Service
† Mark Kubeczka (sent off)

Friday/viernes - October 9, 5:30pm

Well-being of Sister Kathleen Skog
† Clarence & Nora Martin (sent off)
† Ron Haren (sent off)

Saturday/sábado—October 10, 5:00 pm

† Gilbert & Willie Mae Motl
† Ricky Wellmann (sent off)
† Lebon & Patsy Parker (sent off)

7:00 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish

For Peace, unity and wisdom for our family

Sunday/domingo—October 11, 8:00 am.

† Bennie & Clara Wesneski

10:30 a.m.

† Ora Nell Murski

12:30 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish

Pro Populo

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*

September 26-27

Weekly budgeted expenses.....\$21,092.00

Weekend collection\$19,487.24



Altar flowers are:

*In loving memory of our parents David and Ann
Leibham.*

-- Given by Barbara, Father David and Mary

Las Flores del Altar son:

En memoria de nuestros padres, David & Ann Leibahm

--Donadas por Barbara, Padre David & Mary

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.***

**COMMUNION SERVICE FROM
OCTOBER 5 – 8 AT 12:15 PM**

**THERE WILL BE NO CONFESSIONS OR MASS ON
THOSE DAYS.**

**SERVICIO DE COMUNIÓN DEL 5 AL 8 DE
OCTUBRE A LAS 12:15 PM**

NO HABRÁ CONFESSIONES NI MISA ESOS DIAS

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Calendar

October 2026



Evangelization Mission Week



Spanish Evangelization
Retreat



Facility Schedule on St. Mary's campus. October 5 thru October 11, 2026

10/05 Monday

6:00am TMIY group, PAC Small mtng room
8:00am Evangelization Mission, PAC All Rooms
12:15pm Communion Service, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Field
6:00pm St. Teresa of Calcutta Meeting, RE Room 103
7:00pm Spanish Marriage Prep Classes, RE AV room
7:00pm Evangelization Mission Talk, PAC Gym

10/06 Tuesday

8:00am Evangelization Mission, PAC All Rooms
10:30am Scripture Study, RE AV Room
12:15pm Communion Service, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Field
6:00pm Choir Practice, Church
6:00pm PCCW Meeting, RE AV Room
7:00pm Evangelization Mission Talk, PAC Gym

10/07 Wednesday

8:00am Evangelization Mission, PAC All Rooms
12:15pm Communion Service, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's PE, Field
4:15pm Religious Education, All Campus
5:30pm Choir Rehearsal, Church
6:00pm MFCC Meeting, RE Room 207
7:00pm Spanish Choir Rehearsal, Church
7:00pm Evangelization Mission Talk, PAC Gym

10/08 Thursday

8:00am Evangelization Mission, PAC All Rooms
10:00am Bella Brigata Bible Study, KC Hall
12:15pm Communion Service, Church
1:00pm At. Paul's PE, Field
6:00pm OCIA, Cornerstone Room 202
7:00pm Evangelization Mission Talk, PAC Gym

10/09 Friday

8:00am Evangelization Mission, PAC All rooms
12:10pm Rosary, Church
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
6:15pm Quinceanera Rehearsal, Church
7:00pm Evangelization Mission Talk, PAC Gym

10/10 Saturday

6:00am Spanish Men's Group, Church
8:00am Evangelization Mission, PAC All Rooms
7:00am Spanish Women's Group, Cornerstone Meeting Room
12:00pm PCCW Rosary Rally, Grotto
3:30pm Confessions, Church
5:00pm Mass in English, Church
5:00pm CRHP Meeting, Cornerstone Room 202
7:00pm Mass in Spanish, Church

10/11 Sunday

8:00am Mass in English, Church
9:15am Religious Education, All Campus
10:15am Spanish OCIA, RE Av Room
10:30am Mass in English, Church
12:30pm Mass in Spanish, Church



Priest Schedule for the weekend of October 10-11

Saturday	5:00pm	Fr. Edwin
	7:00pm	Fr. Raphael
Sunday	8:00am	Fr. Edwin
	10:30am	Fr. Raphael
	12:30pm	Fr. Raphael



Saturday, October 10
12:00 Noon
St. Mary's Grotto
In case of inclement weather it will be held in the KC Hall

2026 Rosary Rally
2026 Cruzada del Rosario
Sponsored by St. Mary's Parish Council of Catholic Women

Through the most holy rosary, we ask Our Lord and Our Lady for the conversion of America, to stop the waves of sacrilege, blasphemy, and anti-religious hatred within our society, and for the end of abortion, pornography, and human trafficking. We offer this in reparation for the countless sins which are committed against God, which cry out for justice and mercy.

Please join us in the public act of prayer and reparation .

With Deepest Sympathy

Fr. Raphael, Fr. Edwin, our deacons, staff and parishioners of St. Mary's offer their deepest and heartfelt condolences to the family of:
 May they rest in eternal peace in the arms of God.

*El Padre Raphael, el Padre Edwin, nuestros diaconos, el personal y los feligreses de St. Mary's ofrecen sus más sinceras condolencias a la familia de:
 Que descansen en paz eterna en los brazos de Dios*



Jacquelin "Jackie" Botello



MAJOR PROPHETS: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
 by Dr. John Bergsma, St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology

Thursdays, 9 weeks,
 Oct. 1 – Dec. 3,
 10-11:30am, KC Hall
 30 min. Video, Round Table Conversations,
 Coffee, & Friends!

FALL Bella Brigata ...beautiful brigade of women

Pray ~ Read ~ Act

(No cost, No prep.
 Q: 713.501.0663 Kathy)

St. Mary's Men's Bible Study

"Genesis to Jesus" by Scott Hahn's St. Paul Center.
 Monday Mornings at 6:00 am in the PAC.
 Breakfast provided.



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.

1 SAMUEL 7:12

"Look back and see how far God has brought you. He helped you, and **He will continue to do."**



St. Teresa of Calcutta Society helps those in need.

For assistance phone

979-525-0090.

Calls remain confidential.

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

St. Teresa of Calcutta

La Sociedad de Santa Teresa De Calcutta

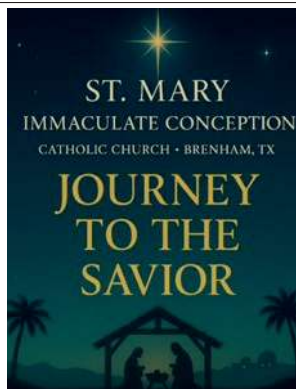
ayuda a esos en necesidad.

Para recibir ayuda llame al 979-525-0090.

Las llamadas se mantienen confidenciales.

"No siempre podemos hacer grandes cosas, pero sí podemos hacer cosas pequeñas con gran amor."

- Santa Teresa de Calcutta



Volunteers are needed to help with the parish's Christmas play, "Journey to the Savior."

Adults and teenagers are encouraged to participate as actors, backstage crew as well as costume, prop, scenery, and snack/meal committees.

Please text or call **Deidra Mearns (979)277-2653** if you would like to be a part of this live presentation or for more information.

Se necesitan voluntarios para ayudar con la obra navideña de la parroquia, "Viaje al Salvador".

Se anima a adultos y adolescentes a participar como actores, personal de producción, vestuario, utilería, escenografía y en los comités de refrigerios y comidas.

*Si desea participar en esta presentación en vivo o para obtener más información, envíe un mensaje de texto o llame a **Deidra Mearns al (979) 277-2653.***



First Communion Parent Meeting

If you're a First Communion Parent, please note the updated meeting date.



Wednesday, October 14th



PAC Gym



6pm - English or 7pm - Spanish

Please note that this is a **MANDATORY** meeting.

Junta para Padres de Familia de Primera Comunión

Si eres padre o madre de un niño que se prepara para la Primera Comunión, ten en cuenta la nueva fecha de la reunión.



Miércoles, 14 de octubre



Gimnasio del PAC



6pm - Inglés o 7pm - Español

Tenga en cuenta que esta reunión es **OBLIGATORIA.**



September 27, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

October is both Respect Life Month and World Mission Month. During these weeks, your prayers, witness, and generosity become a visible expression of Christ's love in the world. This is a special time in the Church's year when we celebrate the dignity of every human life—from conception to natural death—and support the Church's missionary work among those most in need throughout the world.

This year's Respect Life theme, "**Mary, Mother of Life**," invites us to reflect on Our Lady's unique role as the Mother of all the living. Through her faithful "yes" to God's plan, Mary teaches us to cherish every human life at every stage and in every circumstance. We ask for her intercession that we may recognize the gift of human life, especially when it is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices. I encourage you to participate in the pro-life initiatives offered in your parish and throughout our diocese. One meaningful way to put our respect for life into action is by supporting the Baby Banks campaign. If your parish participates in this campaign, be assured that every donation, no matter the size, helps local pregnancy resource centers and pro-life parish ministries to provide essential assistance to mothers, babies, and families facing difficult circumstances, offering both practical support and a tangible witness to the dignity of every human person.

This year, World Mission Sunday is especially significant as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926. Under Pope Leo XIV's theme, "**One in Christ, United in Mission**," we are invited to renew our missionary spirit and deepen our awareness that, through Baptism, we are united in Christ and called to share the Gospel with others.

We also give thanks for the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, whose lifelong love for the Church's missions inspired countless people to support missionary work worldwide. During his 16 years as National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, he tirelessly promoted World Mission Sunday and reminded the faithful of their responsibility to support the Church's mission. May his witness continue to inspire us, and may we confidently seek his intercession for the missions today.

Pope Leo XIV understands firsthand the importance of missionary support, having served as a missionary for many years. He has spoken of how essential the assistance provided through World Mission Sunday was to the communities he served. Through this annual collection, Catholics throughout the world help the Holy Father support more than 1,100 missionary dioceses and territories, bringing hope through evangelization, pastoral care, education, and charitable outreach.

I invite you to respond generously to this year's World Mission Sunday collection on the weekend of October 17-18 and to join in prayer for those who proclaim the Gospel throughout the world. At the same time, let us renew our commitment to protecting the dignity of every human life. Together, may we grow in missionary awareness, solidarity, and responsibility as we strive to be truly **One in Christ, United in Mission**.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life, accompany us as we witness to the Gospel with hope, compassion, and generosity. May our love for Jesus Christ and for one another continue to be a sign of hope, both here at home and throughout the world.

In hope, united in Christ's mission, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Austin



27 de septiembre de 2026

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Octubre es tanto el Mes del Respeto a la Vida como el Mes Mundial de las Misiones. Durante estas semanas, sus oraciones, testimonio y generosidad se convierten en una expresión visible del amor de Cristo en el mundo. Este es un tiempo especial en el año de la Iglesia en el que celebramos la dignidad de toda vida humana—desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural—y apoyamos la labor misionera de la Iglesia entre quienes más lo necesitan en todo el mundo.

El tema de Respeto a la Vida de este año, “**María, Madre de la Vida**”, nos invita a reflexionar sobre el papel único de Nuestra Señora como Madre de todos los vivientes. A través de su fiel “**sí**” al plan de Dios, María nos enseña a valorar toda vida humana en cada etapa y circunstancia. Pedimos su intercesión para que podamos reconocer el don de la vida humana, especialmente cuando es inesperada o nos llama a hacer sacrificios. Los animo a participar en las iniciativas provida que se ofrecen en sus parroquias alrededor de toda nuestra diócesis. Una manera significativa de poner en práctica nuestro respeto por la vida es apoyando la campaña de Alcancias del Bebé. Si su parroquia participa en esta campaña, tengan la seguridad de que cada donativo, sin importar su tamaño, ayuda a los centros locales de apoyo al embarazo y a los ministerios parroquiales provida para brindar asistencia esencial a madres, bebés y familias que enfrentan circunstancias difíciles, ofreciendo tanto apoyo práctico como un testimonio tangible de la dignidad de toda persona humana.

Este año, el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones reviste una importancia especial, ya que celebramos el centenario de su establecimiento por el Papa Pío XI en 1926. Bajo el tema del Papa León XIV, “**Uno en Cristo, Unidos en la Misión**”, se nos invita a renovar nuestro espíritu misionero y profundizar nuestra conciencia de que, por medio del Bautismo, estamos unidos en Cristo y somos llamados a compartir el Evangelio con los demás.

También damos gracias por la beatificación del Arzobispo Fulton J. Sheen, cuyo amor de toda la vida por las misiones de la Iglesia inspiró a innumerables personas a apoyar la obra misionera en todo el mundo. Durante sus 16 años como Director Nacional de las Obras Misionales Pontificias, promovió incansablemente el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones y recordó a los fieles su responsabilidad de apoyar la misión de la Iglesia. Que su testimonio continúe inspirándonos y que acudamos con confianza a su intercesión por las misiones en la actualidad.

El Papa León XIV comprende de primera mano la importancia del apoyo a las misiones, habiendo servido durante muchos años como misionero. Ha hablado de lo esencial que fue la ayuda proporcionada a través del Domingo Mundial de las Misiones para las comunidades a las que sirvió. Por medio de esta colecta anual, los católicos de todo el mundo ayudan al Santo Padre a apoyar a más de 1,100 diócesis y territorios misioneros, llevando esperanza mediante la evangelización, el cuidado pastoral, la educación y las obras de caridad.

Los invito a responder generosamente a la colecta de este año para el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones durante el fin de semana del 17 y 18 de octubre, y a unirse en oración pidiendo por quienes proclaman el Evangelio en todo el mundo. Al mismo tiempo, renovemos nuestro compromiso de proteger la dignidad de toda vida humana. Juntos, crezcamos en conciencia misionera, solidaridad y responsabilidad mientras nos esforzamos por ser verdaderamente **Uno en Cristo, Unidos en la Misión**.

Tengan la seguridad de mis oraciones por ustedes y sus familias. Que la Santísima Virgen María, Madre de la Vida, nos acompañe mientras damos testimonio del Evangelio con esperanza, compasión y generosidad. Que nuestro amor por Jesucristo y por los unos por los otros continúe siendo un signo de esperanza, tanto aquí en nuestro hogar como en todo el mundo.

Con esperanza, unidos en la misión de Cristo, soy

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Monseñor Daniel E. Garcia
Obispo de Austin



**STUDENT
LEADERSHIP
TEAM** *for confirmed*
**11th and
12th graders**

The mission of the Ignite Team is to help confirmed teens develop leadership skills, grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus, and ultimately lead others to Christ.

TRAINING TAKES PLACE



TUESDAY, OCT. 13TH



CORNERSTONE BLDG.
ST MARY'S



6:30PM-8PM



11TH AND 12TH GRADE

**FOR ANY QUESTIONS & TO RSVP:
EMAIL YOUTH@BRENHAMCATHOLIC.ORG**



**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.

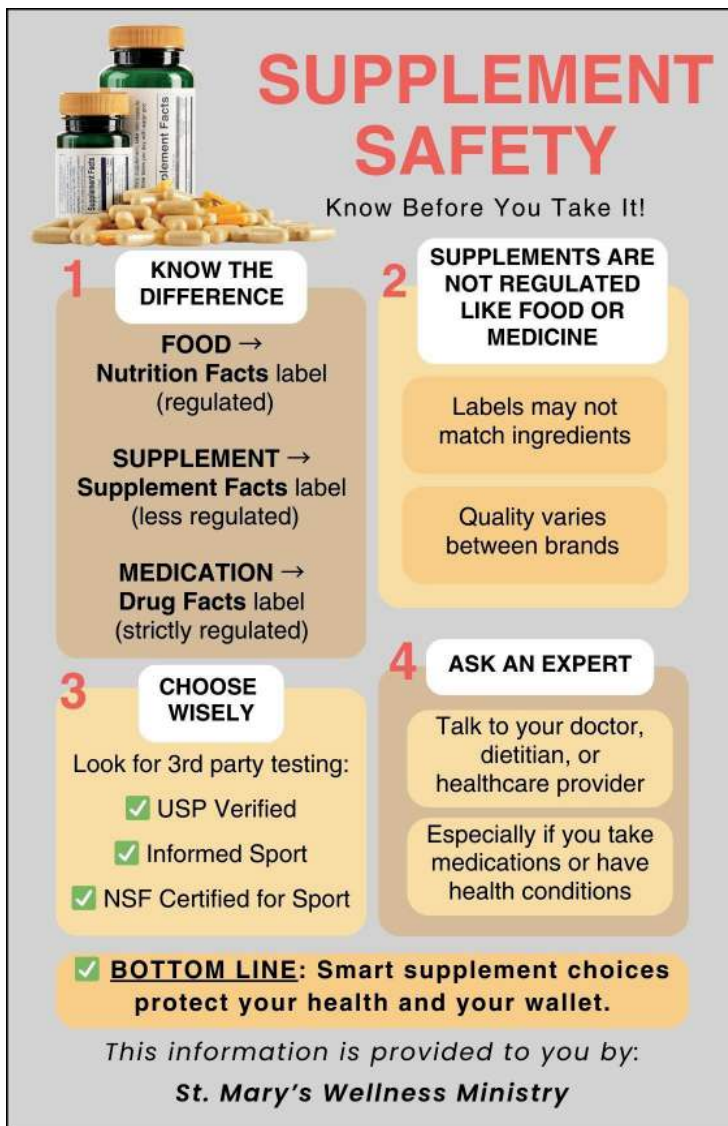
Servicios de Protección Infantil (CPS) txacusehotline.org or **1-800-252-5400**
Diócesis de Austin austindiocese.org/report-abuse o **(512) 949-2447**

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers
and the flowers
fall, but the word
of our God

Endures Forever





SUPPLEMENT SAFETY

Know Before You Take It!

- 1 KNOW THE DIFFERENCE**
 - FOOD** → Nutrition Facts label (regulated)
 - SUPPLEMENT** → Supplement Facts label (less regulated)
 - MEDICATION** → Drug Facts label (strictly regulated)
- 2 SUPPLEMENTS ARE NOT REGULATED LIKE FOOD OR MEDICINE**
 - Labels may not match ingredients
 - Quality varies between brands
- 3 CHOOSE WISELY**

Look for 3rd party testing:

 - ✓ USP Verified
 - ✓ Informed Sport
 - ✓ NSF Certified for Sport

✓ **BOTTOM LINE:** Smart supplement choices protect your health and your wallet.
- 4 ASK AN EXPERT**
 - Talk to your doctor, dietitian, or healthcare provider
 - Especially if you take medications or have health conditions

This information is provided to you by:
St. Mary's Wellness Ministry



SEGURIDAD DE LOS SUPLEMENTOS

¡Infórmate antes de tomarlos!

- 1 CONOCE LA DIFERENCIA**
 - ALIMENTO** → Etiqueta de Información Nutricional (regulada)
 - SUPLEMENTO** → Etiqueta de Información del Suplemento (menos regulada)
 - MEDICAMENTO** → Etiqueta de Información del Medicamento (estrictamente regulada)
- 2 LOS SUPLEMENTOS NO ESTÁN REGULADOS COMO LOS ALIMENTOS O LOS MEDICAMENTOS**
 - Las etiquetas pueden no coincidir con los ingredientes
 - La calidad varía entre las marcas
- 3 ELIGE CON CUIDADO**

Busca pruebas de terceros:

 - ✓ USP Verificado
 - ✓ Informed Sport
 - ✓ NSF Certificado para el Deporte

✓ **EN RESUMEN:** Elegir los suplementos con cuidado protege tu salud y tu bolsillo.
- 4 PREGUNTA A UN EXPERTO**
 - Habla con tu médico, dietista o profesional de la salud
 - Especialmente si tomas medicamentos o tienes problemas de salud

Esta información es proporcionada por:
Ministerio de Bienestar de St. Mary's

☀ ST. BRUNO – A SAINT WHO LOVED QUIET TIME WITH GOD

St. Bruno was born in Germany around the year 1030. He became a priest and a teacher, but he wanted to spend more time praying and listening to God.

He moved to a quiet place in the mountains with a few friends who also wanted to live simply and pray. Together, they started the Carthusian Order, a group of monks who spend much of their time in silence, prayer, and work.

St. Bruno taught that we don't always need lots of noise or things to be happy. Quiet time with God can help our hearts become peaceful and strong.

🙏 *St. Bruno teaches us:* Make time for prayer, listen to God, and remember that you can find Him even in silence.

Feast Day: October 6



SAINT BRUNO

☀ SAN BRUNO – UN SANTO QUE AMABA LOS MOMENTOS DE TRANQUILIDAD CON DIOS

San Bruno nació en Alemania alrededor del año 1030. Se ordenó sacerdote y maestro, pero deseaba dedicar más tiempo a la oración y a escuchar a Dios.

Se mudó a un lugar tranquilo en las montañas con algunos amigos que también anhelaban una vida sencilla y la oración. Juntos fundaron la Orden Cartuja, una comunidad de monjes que dedican gran parte de su tiempo al silencio, la oración y el trabajo.

San Bruno enseñó que no siempre necesitamos mucho ruido ni cosas materiales para ser felices. El tiempo de quietud con Dios puede ayudar a que nuestros corazones encuentren paz y fortaleza.

🙏 *San Bruno nos enseña:* Dedica tiempo a la oración, escucha a Dios y recuerda que puedes encontrarlo incluso en el silencio.

Fiesta: 6 de octubre



Bury the dead, part 1

DEACON'S CORNER

One of the corporal works of mercy is to bury the dead. Some people take this as a philosophical idea that we should let go of things past that no longer matter, but this should be taken quite literally. Many of us don't like to think about the reality of death and that often lead us to avoiding, not only any planning for our own demise, but even of supporting others who are having to deal with the loss of a friend or family member. This wasn't always the case. In the past, communities came together when someone died and offered condolences and support to members who were in grief. Supporting others at times of loss is an important part of living a Christian life, and so I'm spending the month examining some of the reasons why we seem to avoid the topic of death, try to explain why it's important that we not do so, and explain some of the Church's teachings on end-of-life issues.

As the psalmist says, "God, grant me wisdom, that I may know the shortness of my life." We are all going to die at some point and once you accept that reality, you find yourself making much better decisions on how you live. After all, the quality of a life is not measured in years. It's measured in relationships, with God, with family and friends. Many of the saints lived very short lives, but they are now with God in heaven. If your only goal in life is to not die, then you are guaranteed to fail at the only goal you had in your life. You should choose better goals.

Above all, accepting the reality that this life will end should cause you to focus on the eternal things that truly matter, not the passing things of this life. It puts into perspective the relative importance of Church, family, sports, entertainment, etc. None of these things are necessarily bad, but they are not equally important. Next week we will discuss funerals, and why they are important.

Blessings and peace, Deacon Steve

RINCON DEL DIACONO

Enterrar a los muertos, parte 1

Una de las obras de misericordia corporales es enterrar a los muertos. Algunos lo interpretan como una idea filosófica, como dejar ir lo que ya no importa, pero esto debe tomarse literalmente. A muchos no nos gusta pensar en la realidad de la muerte, lo que a menudo nos lleva a evitar no solo planificar nuestro propio final, sino incluso apoyar a quienes sufren la pérdida de un amigo o familiar. No siempre fue así. Antiguamente, las comunidades se unían cuando alguien fallecía y ofrecían condolencias y apoyo a quienes estaban de duelo. Apoyar a los demás en momentos de pérdida es una parte importante de la vida cristiana, por lo que este mes me dedicaré a examinar algunas de las razones por las que solemos evitar el tema de la muerte, a explicar por qué es importante no hacerlo y a explicar algunas de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre el final de la vida.

Como dice el salmista: «Dios, dame sabiduría para que comprenda la brevedad de mi vida». Todos vamos a morir algún día, y una vez que aceptas esa realidad, empiezas a tomar mejores decisiones sobre cómo vivir. Después de todo, la calidad de una vida no se mide en años, sino en relaciones: con Dios, con la familia y los amigos. Muchos santos vivieron vidas muy cortas, pero ahora están con Dios en el cielo. Si tu único objetivo en la vida es no morir, entonces tienes garantizado el fracaso. Deberías elegir mejores objetivos.

Sobre todo, aceptar la realidad de que esta vida terminará debería llevarte a centrarte en las cosas eternas que realmente importan, no en las cosas pasajeras de este mundo. Te ayuda a poner en perspectiva la importancia relativa de la Iglesia, la familia, los deportes, el entretenimiento, etc. Ninguna de estas cosas es necesariamente mala, pero no todas son igual de importantes. La próxima semana hablaremos de los funerales y por qué son importantes.

Bendiciones y paz, Diácono Steve



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