

August 11 – August 17

Tuesday: No Mass

Wednesday: Mass-12:00 noon (English)
Bible Study-6:00pm

Thursday: Mass-7:00pm (Spanish)
Confessions-6:00pm

Friday: Mass-12:00 noon (English)
Mass-7:00pm (Spanish)

Saturday:

5:00pm – Confessions
6:00pm – Vigil Mass (English)

Sunday:

8:00am – Mass, Holy Family (English)
9:30am – Mass, St. Paul (English)
12:00pm – Mass, St. Paul (Spanish)

“All of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as part of it, we belong to each other.” Rom 12:5

**St. Paul Catholic
Church and Mission**

**Iglesia Católica San
Pablo y Misione**

4178 Highway 441 South, Douglas, Georgia 31535

Parish Office Phone: 912-384-3560

Church email: saintpaul@windstream.net

Parish Website: www.stpaulmissions.org

Confessions: Thursday from 6:00-7:00pm,

Saturday 5:00-6:00 at St. Paul, or by appointment

Holy Family Catholic Church

126 Holy Family Rd., Willacoochee

Administration ▢ Administración

Parochial Administrator:

Rev. Saimel Perdomo

Deacon Ron Milkas

Church Secretary: Janet Benton

**MASS INTENTIONS
INTENCIONES DE MISA
August 10 – August 16**

Sunday, August 10 –12:00 Mass-✠Felipe Lopez Sanche

Wednesday, August 13 – ✠Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, August 14 – For Our Parishioners, Special Intention

Friday, August 15 – For the Priests of Our Diocese

Saturday, August 16 – Our Armed Services

Our Mission
Statement
Declaración
de Misión

"Nosotros, siendo muchos, formamos un solo cuerpo en Cristo, y en ese cuerpo cada uno esta al servicio de los demás." Rm 12.5



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

Today's readings call us to be faithful servants of Our Lord.

Scripture tells us to hold fast to what we have. Yet, we are like coral, which in the sea is easily bent. Since we are still in the sea of this world, we are liable to be bent on every side—on one side by divine love, on the other side by empty but seeming goods.

Apparent goods, like little foxes, destroy our vineyard. On the other hand, divine love urges us to make our heart fertile with good works. Thus, we must put our mind to the practice of holy love so those apparent goods will not influence us. God does not will to keep us from being attacked by false goods. Rather, God wills that we practice more fully sacred love through resistance of these false goods. God desires that by combat we may gain victory, and that by victory we may obtain triumph. There are always some false goods such as wealth and honors that arouse avarice in our eyes. If we keep our faith attentive to God's Word, it can distinguish between true goods that we must seek and false goods that we must reject. Our vigilant faith will raise alarm at any false good, however attractive it might appear. Divine love will immediately reject the false, for our faith can make us see true eternal things.

Let us all belong to God in the midst of so much busyness brought on by the diversity of worldly things. Where could we give better witness to our fidelity than in the midst of things going wrong? Difficulties give us an opportunity to practice virtue and trust in God

who desires to help us, if we but ask for assistance. How happy we shall be if we travel through life and leave the arms of Our Lord only to walk and do what we can in the practice of virtue and good works, always holding to the hand of Our Savior!

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales



**Registration for
Religious Education at Holy Family will
be August 24. Classes begin September 7.**



REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Paul's Religious Education Registration will be July through August. Mrs. Maria Gomez will be assisting with registration in the narthex before and between the two Sunday Masses. The cost is \$50 for one child and \$100 for two or more children in the family. Registration, and making a payment, can also be done on our St. Paul Church website. The first day of Religious Education will be September 7; no registration on that day.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Blood Drive Today, Sunday, August 10 from 9:00am-2:00pm in St. Paul's parking lot. Those who donate will receive a \$25.00 gift card, a top handle drinkware, and a wellness check-up. Thank you for your lifesaving gift.



Decimonoveno Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario--Reflexión

Las lecturas de hoy nos llaman a ser fieles siervos de Nuestro Señor.

La Escritura nos dice que nos aferremos a lo que tenemos. Sin embargo, somos como el coral, que en el mar se dobla fácilmente. Como todavía estamos en el mar de este mundo, somos propensos a ser doblegados por todos lados: por un lado por el amor divino, por el otro por bienes vacíos pero aparentes.

Los bienes aparentes, como pequeños zorros, destruyen nuestra viña. Por otro lado, el amor divino nos insta a fecundar nuestro corazón con buenas obras. Por lo tanto, debemos dedicarnos a la práctica del amor santo para que esos bienes aparentes no nos influyan. Dios no quiere evitar que seamos atacados por falsos bienes. Más bien, Dios quiere que practiquemos más plenamente el amor sagrado mediante la resistencia a estos falsos bienes. Dios desea que mediante el combate obtengamos la victoria, y que mediante la victoria obtengamos el triunfo. Siempre hay algunos bienes falsos, como la riqueza y los honores, que despiertan avaricia en nuestros ojos. Si mantenemos nuestra fe atenta a la Palabra de Dios, esta podrá distinguir entre los bienes verdaderos que debemos buscar y los bienes falsos que debemos rechazar. Nuestra fe vigilante nos alertará ante cualquier bien falso, por atractivo que parezca. El amor divino rechazará de inmediato lo falso, pues nuestra fe puede hacernos ver las cosas verdaderas y eternas.

Pertenecemos todos a Dios en medio de tanto ajetreo provocado por la diversidad de las cosas mundanas. ¿Dónde podríamos dar mejor testimonio de nuestra fidelidad que en medio de las dificultades? Las dificultades nos

brindan la oportunidad de practicar la virtud y confiar en Dios, quien desea ayudarnos, con solo pedirle ayuda. ¡Qué felices seremos si caminamos por la vida y dejamos los brazos de Nuestro Señor solo para caminar y hacer lo que podamos en la práctica de la virtud y las buenas obras, siempre de la mano de Nuestro Salvador! *Oblatos de San Francisco de Sales*



La inscripción para Educación Religiosa en Holy Family será el 24 de agosto. Las clases comienzan el 7 de septiembre.



EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa de San Pablo serán del 13 de julio a agosto. La Sra. María Gómez asistirá con las inscripciones en el nártex antes y entre las dos misas dominicales. El costo es de \$50 por un niño y \$100 por dos o más niños en la familia. La inscripción y el pago también pueden realizarse en el sitio web de la Iglesia de San Pablo. El primer día de Educación Religiosa será el 7 de septiembre; no se aceptan inscripciones ese día.

Campaña de Donación de Sangre Domingo, 10 de Agosto, 9:00-2:00

Campaña de donación de sangre de Iglesia de San Pablo patrocinada por Knights of Columbus. Aquellos que donen recibirán una tarjeta de regalo de \$25.00, una vaso con asa superior, y un chequeo médico. Brinde el don de la vida.

FYI
~FOR YOUR INFORMATION~

NEXT BAPTISM CLASS--TODAY

The next baptism class is **Today, Sunday, August 10 after the 9:30 Mass (10:30-10:45)** in the social hall for parents & godparents who want to baptize their child.

LA PRÓXIMA CLASE DE BAUTISMO

La próxima clase de bautismo será **el hoy, domingo 10 de agosto, después de la misa de las 9:30 (10:30-10:45)** para padres y padrinos. Esto es necesario antes de que los padres puedan comunicarse con la oficina para seleccionar una fecha.

Catechists' Meeting, Aug. 24

St. Paul's catechists will meet Sunday, August 24 after the 9:30 Mass (approx. 10:30) in the Social Hall. Fr. Perdomo will speak and all catechists should attend.

Reunión de Catequistas, 24 de agosto

Los catequistas de San Pablo se reunirán el domingo 24 de agosto después de la misa de las 9:30 (aprox. 10:30) en el Salón Social. El Padre Perdomo dará una charla y todos los catequistas deben asistir.



AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

St. Paul

FY Offertory Budget	\$305,000.00
Received to date	38,508.00
Received 8-3-25	6,790.00
FY Bldg Fund Budget	144,000.00
Received to date	4,239.00
Received 8-3-25	1,814.00

Offertory: Holy Family

Sun. (8-3-25): \$305.00

OUR WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR ARMED FORCES**

Jose Bardomiano, Brenda Contreras, Sgt. Blake Downs (N. Carolina), MSgt. Emmanuel Gamboa (New Mexico), Kristopher Lentz (Fort Campbell, Kentucky), April M. Martin (Japan), Michael Martinez, CW3 Jeb S. McKinnon (USA), Martin Rios, Candise R. Rolerson (Witchita Falls, TX), Juan Vargas, Erick Vilches, Octavio Rodriguez, Rolando Chavez

**Pray for us that we
may be healed.**

Mary Bodnar, James Bookhardt, Benny Carino, Toby Cash, Kristin Perry Crosby, Maria Gomez, Gilbert Hernandez, Larry Hinson, Pong Holton, Tina Hoover, Sr. Sharon McLaughlin, Roxanne Maini, Kayla Marlow, Margaret Milkas, Don Nolan, Malou Navarro, Rachelle Navarro, Ian Nugent, Lou Pierce, David Powell, Tony Sicari, Dr. Concordio Ursal, Gene Waldron, Ramona Witthoft, A.D. Young, Mary Young

PLEASE REMEMBER:

No Food to be eaten in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, Day Chapel or Main Church—food may only be eaten in the Social Hall.

No hay Comida Para comer en las aulas, los pasillos, los baños, la capilla diurna y la iglesia principal--solo en salón social.

CAPÍTULO PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE NIÑOS

Visite la página Web de la diócesis para leer el código: www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection o 888-357-5330.

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Visit website: www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection
Or call 888-357-5330 to report knowledge of abuse.

Live streaming every weekend



Please join us for live streaming of all weekend masses and ones of special occasions. Live streaming can watched on FaceBook (St Paul Catholic Church) page and our website page, stpaulmissions.org All masses are archieved on our website for viewing anytime.



St Paul Catholic Church and Missions

4178 US HWY 441 S
Douglas, GA 31535



AUGUST

Month of the Immaculate Heart

Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Devotion of the Month

The Church dedicates the month of August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is a dogma of the Catholic faith that Mary is the Immaculate Conception; that is, in preparation for the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity in her womb, she was conceived without the corruption of sin through the foreseen and infinite merits of her Son, Jesus Christ. Over the centuries, as saints and theologians reflected on how Mary pondered and treasured the sacred events from the life of Christ in her holy heart, as attested in Scripture, her pure heart was recognized as something to be imitated. Devotion to Our Lady's purity of heart began to flower—so much so that in the 17th century, St. John Eudes promoted it alongside the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion rose to a new level after the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, when Mary revealed an image of her Immaculate Heart to Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco.



CCD ADMISSIONS

Period 2025 - 2026

Register in person every Sunday in July and August from 10:30 - 12 noon in the lobby.

Info:

- No registrations on the first day of CCD.
- If space available you may register after the first day of CCD.
- First day of CCD is Sept. 7

Registration:

- \$50 per child or \$100 per family
- Kindergarden-Adult.
- We also offer classes for children who have taken the sacraments.

Join St Paul CCD!



www.stpaulmissions.org



912-384-3560



4178 US Hwy 441 S



**INSCRIBETE
HOY**

Fecha de limite antes
del 24 de agosto

admisiones para catequesis para 2025-2026

Regístrate personalmente todos los domingos
de julio y agosto de 10:30 a 12 medio día en
el lobby.

Information:

- No hay inscripciones el primer día de catequesis..
- Si hay espacio disponible, puede registrarse después del primer día de catequesis.
- Primer Día de clases es el 7 de septiembre

Registracion:

- \$50 por niño o \$100 por familia
- Kinder a Adultos.
- También ofrecemos clases para niños que han hecho los sacramentos

Unete a la catequesis de San Pablo!



www.stpaulmissions.org

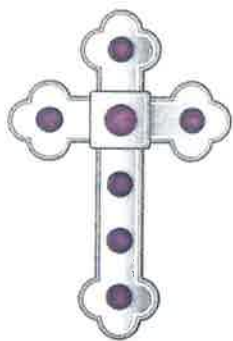


912-384-3560



4178 US Hwy 441 S

CAMPAIGN NEWS



HARVEST of HOPE COSECHA de ESPERANZA

WE PRAY TOGETHER

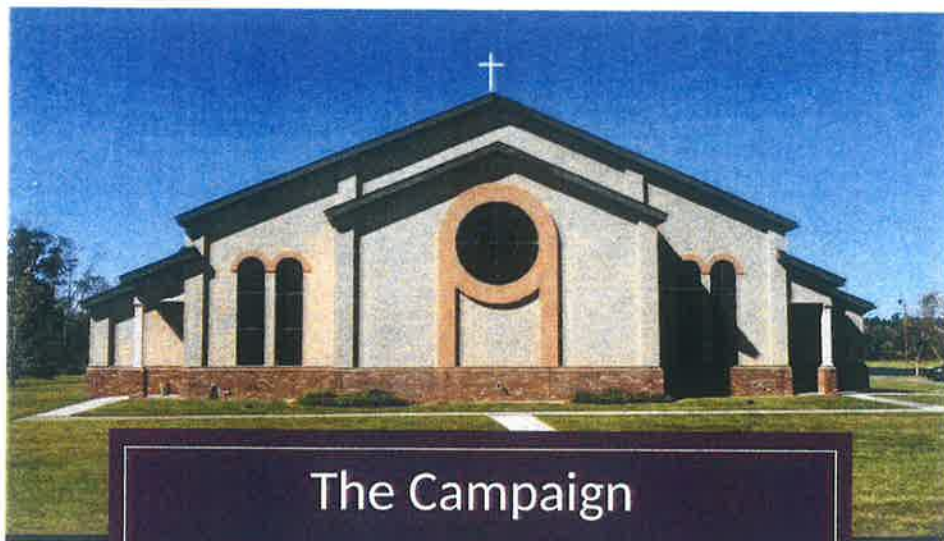
Heavenly Father, who in Your providence have brought us together at this time and in this place, we ask You to guide, inspire, and bless our Diocese of Savannah and the Harvest of Hope campaign.

Provide us, Your children, with the rich soil of faith, hope, and love, that the seeds we are planting now will bear abundant fruit for generations.

As we work together for the full coming of Your kingdom, O Lord, may we find a new way of belonging to You and to one another, rejoicing always in Your generosity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Planting seeds for the future of
the Diocese of Savannah*



The Campaign Harvest of Hope is Kicking Off at St. Paul!

WHY A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

The decision to conduct a capital campaign is based on feedback from you, the faithful of the Diocese of Savannah. Born in the Reflect+Renew+Rejoice listening sessions, each portion of the campaign fulfills a need for the diocese now, and plans for our future.

THE BENEFITS OF HARVEST OF HOPE

The Harvest of Hope campaign is structured so that each parish retains 50% of all funds raised up to their campaign goal once the 2025 Annual Appeal target is met. This allows each parish to complete repairs, plan for their future and enhance their ministry and outreach. The other 50% will support 4 elements:

- Create a \$30,000 endowment for every one of our parishes and missions
- Establish endowments for seminarian education and vocations
- Establish grants where parishes can apply for funds to help with any type of evangelization
- Secure funding for a centrally-located tract of land within the diocese

Harvest of Hope will be part of growing the investment in our parish. Here at St. Paul, we know we have a number of projects that will need to be completed in the upcoming years:

- Air Conditioning System
- Church Improvements
- Payment of Parish Debts

For more information, please contact our campaign director Bryan Bedoya at 512-608-1360 or bbedoya@guidanceingiving.com



HARVEST
of HOPE
COSECHA de ESPERANZA

ORAMOS JUNTOS

Padre Celestial, que nos has reunido hoy y aquí en Tu providencia, te pedimos guíes, inspires y bendigas nuestra Diócesis de Savannah y la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza.

Otorga Señor a Tus hijos, el terreno rico de la fe, esperanza y el amor, para que las semillas que sembramos hoy den frutos abundantes para las generaciones venideras.

Mientras trabajamos juntos por la venida plena de Tu reino, Señor, que encontremos una nueva forma de ser para Ti y para los demás, regocijándonos siempre en Tu generosidad.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo Nuestro Señor. Amén.

Sembrando semillas para el futuro de la Diócesis de Savannah.



Inicio de la Campaña Cosecha de Esperanza en San Pablo

¿POR QUÉ UNA CAMPAÑA CAPITAL?

La decisión de llevar a cabo una campaña capital se basó en la respuesta de ustedes, los fieles de la Diócesis de Savannah. Nacida en las sesiones de consulta Reflexión+Renovación+Regocijo, cada parte de la campaña resuelve una necesidad actual de la diócesis y también planificará nuestro futuro.

LOS BENEFICIOS DE COSECHA DE ESPERANZA

La campaña Cosecha de Esperanza está estructurada de tal manera que cada parroquia se queda con el 50% de todos los fondos recaudados hasta su meta parroquial una vez que se haya cumplido con la Campaña Católico Anual del 2025. El otro 50% se destinará para 4 elementos:

- Crear un fondo patrimonial de \$30,000 dólares para cada una de nuestras parroquias y misiones
- Establecer fondos patrimoniales para la educación de los seminaristas y las vocaciones
- Establecer becas donde las parroquias puedan solicitar fondos para ayudar con cualquier tipo de evangelización
- Comprar terreno céntrico en la diócesis

Cosecha de Esperanza será parte del crecimiento de la inversión de nuestra parroquia. Aquí en San Pablo, sabemos que tenemos una serie de proyectos que necesitan ser completados en los próximos años:

- Sistema de aire acondicionado
- Mejoramiento de nuestra Iglesia
- Pago de deuda parroquial

Para más información, póngase en contacto con nuestra directora de la campaña Bryan Bedoya en el 512-608-1360 o bbedoya@guidanceingiving.com



DONATE BLOOD

St. Paul Catholic Church
Sunday, August 10
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$25 eGift Card**
- **Top Handle Drinkware**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



Appointments are encouraged, please visit **oneblood.org/donate-now** and use **sponsor code 26942**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

oneblood
Share your power.



DONE SANGRE

St. Paul Catholic Church
Domingo 10 de agosto
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Todos los donantes reciben*:

- **Un certificado de regalo de \$25**
- **Vaso con asa superior**
- **Un exam de salud** que incluye presión sanguínea, temperatura, pulso, nivel de hierro y colesterol.

Realidad: Sólo el 3% de los que son elegibles donan sangre.

Donantes
Reciben

\$25
eGiftCARD

TARGET
Walmart
amazon
...and more!

- MÁS -



- MÁS -



Se recomiendan citas, por favor
visite **oneblood.org/donate-now** y
use el **código 26942**

SE REQUIERE IDENTIFICACIÓN.

*Una oferta por donante. No tiene valor monetario. No es transferible. Los regalos pueden variar. Para más detalles por favor visite oneblood.org/details.

oneblood
Share your power.

Jubilee 2025

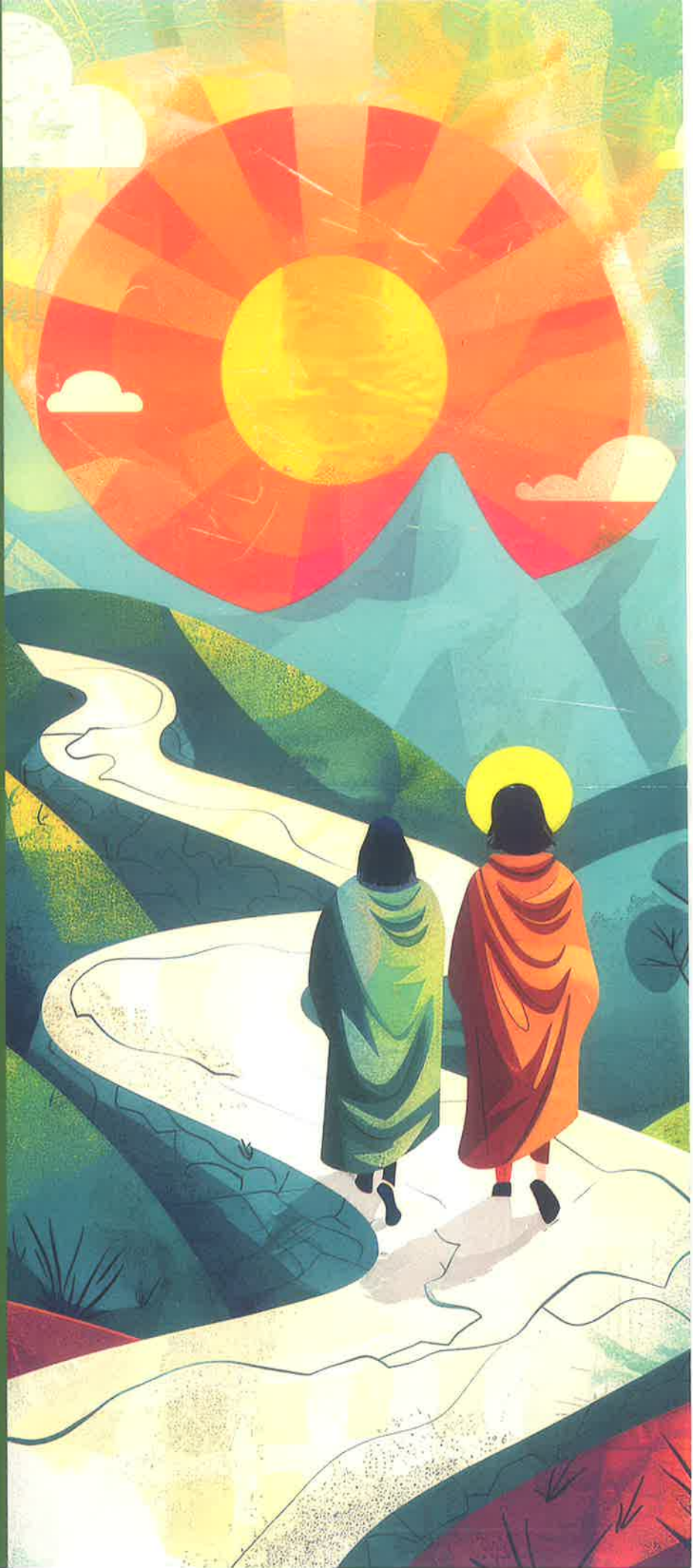
We Are Pilgrims of Hope

On May 9, 2024 Pope Francis solemnly announced that the Church's Jubilee year 2025 "will be a Holy Year marked by a lively experience of grace and an opportunity to be renewed in the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth, where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises."

"Hope is the virtue that gives inward direction and purpose to the life of believers so that we may bear credible and attractive witness to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts; that our faith may be joyful and our charity enthusiastic; and that each of us may be able to offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed, in the knowledge that, in the Spirit of Jesus, these can become, for those who receive them, rich seeds of hope."

Our Pilgrimage Journey to and with Jesus

A pilgrimage is both an outer journey to a sacred place, and an inner journey to meet Christ and deepen our relationship with him. Thus Pope Francis desires that this Jubilee Year be a time "to encourage and sustain the hope that guides our steps towards the goal of a genuine, personal encounter with the risen Lord Jesus, who is not only the destination of our earthly pilgrimage but also a constant presence in our lives. I invite everyone to place their trust in the Lord who not only guides us, but is God-with-us, who loves us and walks with us in every circumstance of life. He shows us the path of love, lifts us up when we fall and supports us in our labors, opens our eyes to see our wretchedness and that of the world, but at the same time fills us with hope."



THE MEANING OF THE JUBILEE LOGO: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The official logo of the 2025 Jubilee Year shows four colorful pilgrims, who symbolize all of humanity coming from all directions on their common journey to Christ. As they embrace each other in unity, the figure in front grasps the cross, which is the sign of our hope that united with Jesus we will also move through our death to new life. The elongated cross also changes at its base into an anchor, which was an ancient sign of hope because sailors used the anchor to stabilize ships during storms. So during the challenges of our daily lives and the events of the wider world symbolized by the rough waves beneath the pilgrims, hope keeps us focused on the goal of our pilgrimage to draw ever closer to encounter the Risen Christ.



WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

The jubilee year (from the Hebrew word *yobel*, meaning horn, which was blown to proclaim the year's beginning) is an ancient Jewish tradition (see Leviticus 25:8-17, 29-31) of pardon and reconciliation celebrated every 50 years (after a "sabbath of sabbaths," 7 x 7 years) when the community imitated God's mercy and forgiveness by forgiving debts and by each family returning to its own land and not cultivating it that year.

This jubilee tradition was first adapted for Catholics in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII as a universal "year of forgiveness of all sins." Since that time the "ordinary" jubilee years have usually been at 50 or now 25 year intervals (the last was in 2000), with other "extraordinary" jubilee years declared for special reasons like that of Mercy in 2015. Jubilee years are characterized especially by prayer, good works, pilgrimages to sacred sites (especially Rome), cultural events and special indulgences for those who participate.

THE HOLY DOOR OF ST. PETER'S

Since the 1500's, the ceremonial opening at St. Peter's Basilica of the usually locked massive bronze Holy Door (also called the "Door of the Great Pardon" since its 16 panels portray various biblical scenes of sin and redemption) begins each Jubilee Year. After reciting specific prayers and invoking the Holy Spirit, the Pope pushes open the door and enters the Church, inviting pilgrims likewise to renew their spiritual journey and cross the threshold.



The opening of the Holy Door invites the faithful to embark on a journey of even deeper faith. Crossing the threshold of the door is a powerful act, inspired by Jesus' words in John 10:9, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." This passage highlights the transformative experience of entering through the Holy Door, symbolizing the decision to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The door serves as a physical and spiritual gateway, leading pilgrims into the sacred space of the church and inviting them to renew their commitment to their faith.

2025 JUBILEE PRAYER PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a
new heaven and a new earth, when,
with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. *Amen.*



For more information on the 2025
Jubilee Year of Hope and how you may
participate more fully see the Vatican's
official website at
www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html

ST PAUL'S COLUMBARIUM



*St Paul now offers a
serene and sacred place
for deceased loved ones.*



“LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD”

P.S. 122



Life Is a Game of Golf

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When the British colonized India, they brought with them the game of golf.

A worse hazard than sand traps turned out to be monkeys. Wherever the ball landed, a monkey would run onto the fairway, pick it up, and drop it somewhere else—from the fairway into the rough, out of a sand trap onto the green, from the green back onto the fairway. The Brits tried everything to keep the monkeys off the course—fences, sirens, booming noises. Nothing worked. In the end, they ended up changing the rule book: play the ball where the monkey drops it.

The scriptures today tell of people who lived with an openness to wherever it was that God would take them. They played the ball wherever the monkey dropped it. It is the story of the Hebrews enslaved in Egypt when they were about to be led out into a God-knew-where desert. It is the story of aged Abraham and Sarah, called to travel to an alien land and then into parenthood in their old age. Faith is not trusting that God will always take us to where we want to be; it is trusting that wherever it is that God takes us will ultimately bring us into fuller life. So, watch and be ready to recognize the coming of God. It may be in times of darkness for you (as when the master comes late at night, says Luke's Gospel) or when you find yourself in an "alien land," a place in life you've never been before. ●

[Jesus said to his disciples,]
"For where your treasure is,
there also will your heart be."

LUKE 12:34



Reflect

What surprising places has God led me?

Dear Padre,

Where did the Virgin Mary spend her last days on earth? Ephesus or Jerusalem?

Shortly before Jesus died on the cross, he entrusted his widowed mother to the protective care of John the Evangelist. (See John 19:26–27.) Accordingly, when John lived his final years in Ephesus, it is believed that Mary also spent her last days nearby in a modest stone dwelling, before being assumed body and soul into heaven “to be preserved from the corruption of the tomb” (Pope Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus*, 1950). Moreover, it is likely in Ephesus (present-day Turkey) where the tradition of Mary’s Assumption started.

Pope Benedict XIV (1740–1758) declared Ephesus was “where the Blessed Mother...proceeded from this life into heaven.” More recent popes, such as Paul VI in 1967 and John Paul II in 1979, prayed in this venerable home, known as Mother Mary’s House.

However, close to Gethsemane in Jerusalem is the Basilica of the Tomb of Mary from the fifth century. It is built around an ancient crypt where Mary’s body was believed to have been laid before it was assumed into heaven.

While both Ephesus and Jerusalem claim to be the location where the Virgin Mary spent her last years on earth, experts contend the latter is the older tradition and the more credible place. Even if Mary temporarily left Jerusalem, it is probable she returned to the land of her birth and resided there at the end of her earthly life. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**And at the end of our
life, [the Lord] will call us
to account for the goods
he has entrusted to us....
We have received so
much: life, faith, family,
relationships, work, but
also the places where we
live, our city, creation....
[A]re we guardians of all
that has been given to us?**

**ANGELUS, ROME,
AUGUST 7, 2022**



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday

August 11
St. Clare, Virgin
Dt 10:12–22
Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday

August 12
Weekday
Dt 31:1–8
Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday

August 13
Weekday
Dt 34:1–12
Mt 18:15–20

Thursday

August 14
*St. Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr*
Jos 3:7–10a, 11, 13–17
Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday

August 15
*The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a,
10ab
1 Cor 15:20–27
Lk 1:39–56

Saturday

August 16
Weekday
Jos 24:14–29
Mt 19:13–15

Sunday

August 17
*Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*
Jer 38:4–6, 8–10
Heb 12:1–4
Lk 12:49–53