

September 1 – September 7

Monday: Office closed-Labor Day

Tuesday: Mass-7:00pm (Spanish)

La Clase de Biblia-7:30pm

Wednesday: Mass-12:00 noon (English)

Bible Study-6:00pm

Thursday: No Mass

First Friday: Mass-12:00 noon (English)

Confessions-6:00pm

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 Mision***

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 31 – September 6**

Sunday, August 31 –12:00 Mass-†Juan Maqueda,
Adan Maqueda

Tuesday, September 2 – For Our Parishioners, Special
Intention

Wednesday, September 3 – †Melissa McEntyre

Thursday, September 4 – The Sick of Our Parish

Friday, September 5 – †Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, September 6 – The 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**



Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Reflection

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With this reflection I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness for my 20th priestly ordination anniversary. I appreciate every word and act of appreciation that many of you have expressed during this week and especially for the celebration on the 27th. It is amazing to see how the Lord always takes care of us and bestows on us more graces than what we deserve. For me it is a privilege to be in this wonderful parish, and I want you to know I feel blessed by my ministry here.

I also want to express my appreciation to all of you who collaborated with the Harvest of Hope Campaign. I was very stunned to see the generosity of both of our communities, even when we have other commitments like the building fund for the St. Paul social hall and remodeling of Holy Family going on right now. I guess it is too early to say, but we are about to become the first parish in Block 2 to pass the goal. I have no words to thank all who participate for this sacrifice you are making for the future of our Church here in South Georgia. Asking for money is never an easy job, but you all understand it is part of the life of the Church, and since we are a mission Diocese we do not have many resources, and it is a sign of our hope and commitment for the present and future of our Catholic Church.

Religious Education is about to start in both communities, and we are very excited about that. We will have Mass on the first day of our catechesis (we Catholics do not use the term "Sunday School" that often), to bless the students and teachers. I want to thank all teachers and organizers (especially the DRE of St. Paul, Ms. Maria Gomez). The Knights of Columbus had their installations last weekend, and we are grateful for their service to our community. We have also started the ministry of John XXIII with the Hispanic community, and we are very thankful for those who have attended the retreats and for the help and support of Ms. Mary Perez. We still have other ministries planning to start soon like the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Once again, I want to ask all of you to continue to pray for our Parish and Mission, and if you have not made a pledge please consider donating to this campaign. Your children and the future of our Catholic Diocese will be very grateful.

God bless you, *Fr. Saimel Perdomo*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

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.



Vigésimo Segundo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario--Reflexión

Queridos Hermanas y Hermanos en Cristo:

Con esta reflexión, quiero expresar mi gratitud a todos ustedes por su amabilidad y consideración con motivo de mi vigésimo aniversario de ordenación sacerdotal.

Agradezco cada palabra y gesto de agradecimiento que muchos de ustedes han expresado durante esta semana, y especialmente por la celebración del día 27. Es asombroso ver cómo el Señor siempre nos cuida y nos concede más gracias de las que merecemos. Para mí es un privilegio estar en esta maravillosa parroquia, y quiero que sepan que me siento bendecido por mi ministerio aquí.

También quiero expresar mi agradecimiento a todos los que colaboraron con la Campaña Cosecha de Esperanza. Me sorprendió mucho ver la generosidad de ambas comunidades, incluso cuando tenemos otros compromisos, como el fondo para la construcción del salón social de San Pablo y la remodelación de la Sagrada Familia, que se está llevando a cabo actualmente. Supongo que es demasiado pronto para decirlo, pero estamos a punto de convertirnos en la primera parroquia del Bloque 2 en superar la meta. No tengo palabras para agradecer a todos los que participan por este sacrificio que hacen por el futuro de nuestra Iglesia aquí en el sur de Georgia. Pedir dinero nunca es fácil, pero todos ustedes comprenden que es parte de la vida de la Iglesia, y como somos una Diócesis misionera, no contamos con muchos recursos, y es una señal de nuestra esperanza y compromiso con

el presente y el futuro de nuestra Iglesia Católica.

La Educación Religiosa está a punto de comenzar en ambas comunidades, y estamos muy emocionados por ello. Tendremos una misa el primer día de catequesis (los católicos no usamos el término "Escuela Dominical" con mucha frecuencia) para bendecir a los estudiantes y maestros. Quiero agradecer a todos los maestros y organizadores (especialmente a la Directora de Educación Religiosa de St. Paul, la Sra. María Gómez). Los Caballeros de Colón tomaron posesión el fin de semana pasado y estamos agradecidos por su servicio a nuestra comunidad. También hemos iniciado el ministerio de Juan XXIII con la comunidad hispana, y estamos muy agradecidos con quienes han asistido a los retiros y por la ayuda y el apoyo de la Sra. Mary Pérez. Todavía tenemos otros ministerios que planeamos iniciar pronto, como la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl.

Una vez más, quiero pedirles a todos que sigan orando por nuestra parroquia y misión, y si aún no se han comprometido, consideren donar a esta campaña. Sus hijos y el futuro de nuestra diócesis católica se lo agradecerán mucho.

Que Dios los bendiga, *Padre Saimel Perdomo*

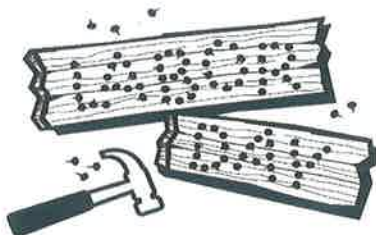


EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

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.

FYI
~FOR YOUR INFORMATION~



Have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day.

NEXT BAPTISM CLASS

The next baptism class is **Wednesday, September 17 at 6:00pm** in the social hall for parents & godparents who want to baptize their child.

LA PRÓXIMA CLASE DE BAUTISMO

La próxima clase de bautismo será **miércoles 17 de septiembre a las 6:00pm** en el salón social para padres y padrinos. Esto es necesario antes de que los padres puedan comunicarse con la oficina para seleccionar una fecha.



AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

St. Paul

FY Offertory Budget	\$305,000.00
Received to date	58,699.00
Received 8-24-25	5,781.00
FY Bldg Fund Budget	144,000.00
Received to date	5,109.00
Received 8-24-25	135.00

Offertory: Holy Family
Sun. (8-24-25): \$359.00

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, Sandye Jarrard, Sr. Sharon McLaughlin, Roxanne Maini, Kayla Marlow, Margaret Milkas, Don Nolan, Malou Navarro, Rachelle Navarro, Ian Nugent, Lou Pierce, David Powell, Tony Sicari, 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



Month of the Our Lady of Sorrows (Mater Dolorosa)

Devotion of the Month

The Church dedicates the month of September to Our Lady of Sorrows, also known as Mater Dolorosa (Mother of Sorrows). This devotion recalls the Blessed Virgin Mary's spiritual martyrdom in virtue of her perfect union with the Passion of Christ. This was her role in salvation history, and what merited her place as the spiritual Mother of all Christians. This is symbolized by a single sword, or seven swords, piercing Mary's suffering heart, as foretold in Simeon's prophecy. Traditionally the Church meditates on the "Seven Sorrows" of our Blessed Mother: the prophecy of Simeon; the Holy Family's flight into Egypt; the loss of the Child Jesus for three days; the meeting of Mary and Jesus as he carried his cross; Jesus' crucifixion and death; Jesus' sacred body taken down from the cross; and Jesus' burial. The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows (Mater Dolorosa) is September 15th.

CELEBRATE



LABOR DAY



DIOCESAN JUBILEE GATHERING

OCTOBER 11, 2025 | SACRED HEART, WARNER ROBINS

Adoration • Talks • Live Music • Activities
Exhibit Tables • Fellowship • Relics
Mass with Bishop Parkes

Fun for the whole family – activities for all ages!

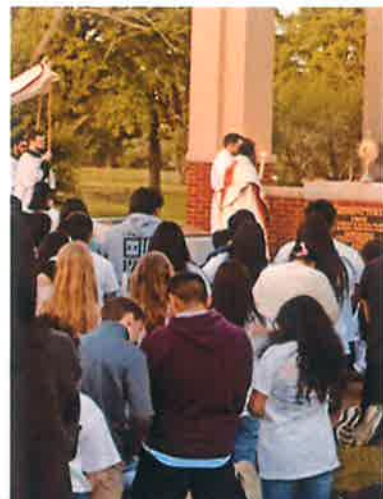
To view the schedule, register to attend, set up
an exhibit table, or carry a procession banner,
scan the QR code or visit **diosav.org/10-11**



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

FREE – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Includes Lunch





CELEBRACIÓN JUBILAR DIOCESANA

11 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2025 | SACRED HEART, WARNER ROBINS

GRATIS – DEBE REGISTRARSE

Almuerzo Incluido

Adoración • Pláticas • Música en Vivo •
Actividades • Mesas de Exhibición • Convivencia •
Reliquias • Misa con el Obispo Parkes
¡Diversión para toda la familia – actividades para todas las edades!

Maestros de Ceremonia: Padre Kevin
O'Keefe y Padre John Johnson
Predicadores: Padre Brian O'Shaughnessy
y Madre Adela Galindo, SCTJM

Mesas de Exhibición: Aplica para tener una mesa: ¡para parroquias, ministerios, grupos, negocios de artículos religiosos, tiendas religiosas, y más!

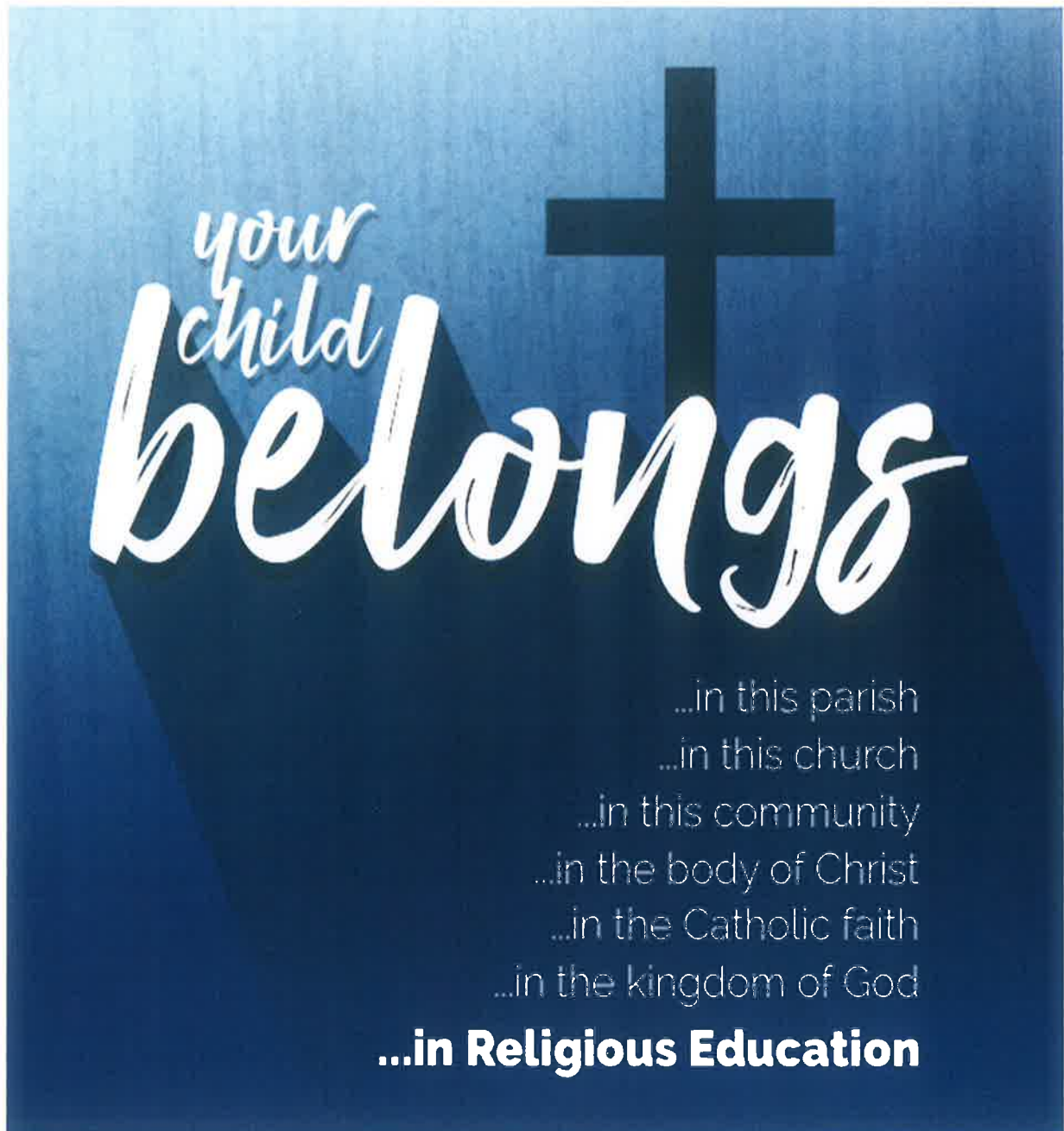
Pancartas para la Procesión: Parroquias, ministerios, y entidades católicas pueden registrarse para participar con su pancarta en la procesión de apertura que dará inicio con la Adoración



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of SAVANNAH
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

Para ver la agenda, registrarse para asistir, tener una mesa de exhibición, o tener una pancarta para la procesión, escanee el código QR o visite **diosav.org/10-11**





Religious Education classes begin at 10:45

DRE Maria Gomez



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 Dia 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!



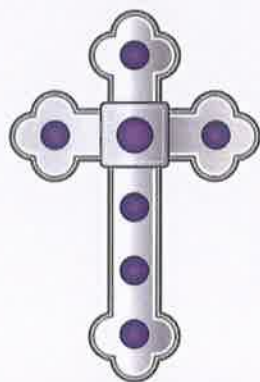
www.stpaulmissions.org



912-384-3560



4178 US Hwy 441 S



**HARVEST
of HOPE**

COSECHA de ESPERANZA

WE PRAY TOGETHER

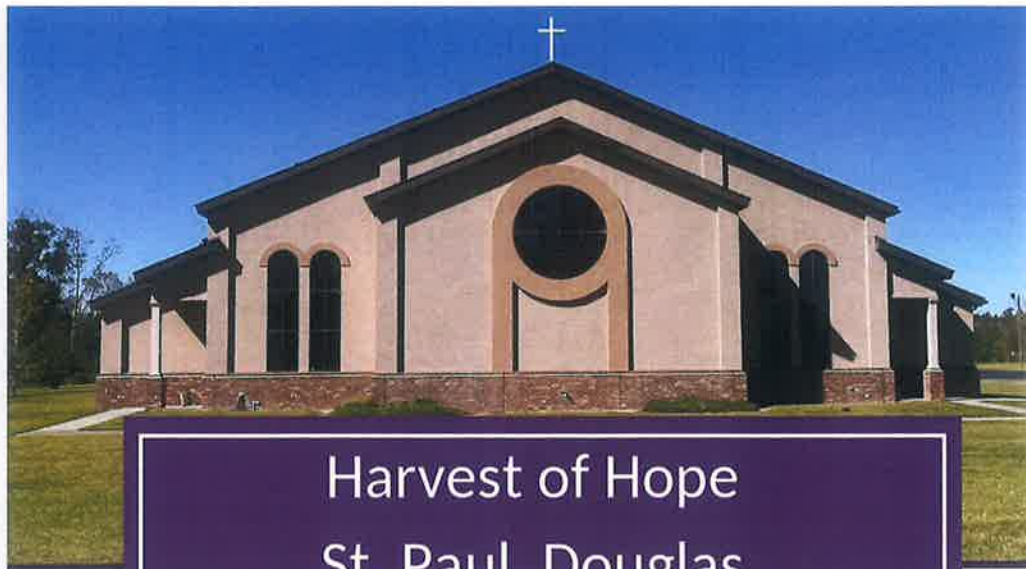
Heavenly Father, who in Your providence have brought us together at this time and in this place, we ask You to guide, inspire, and bless our Diocese of Savannah and the Harvest of Hope campaign.

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*



**Harvest of Hope
St. Paul, Douglas**

Benefits of Harvest of Hope

Once the Annual Catholic Appeal of 2025 is met, every dollar will be split in half. 50% of the funds will stay at St. Paul so we can address our air conditioning, make improvements to our church, and reducing the parish debt. The other 50% will give us a \$30,000 endowment so we can grow in the future, a grant we can apply for to further evangelize our community, supporting our seminarians, and finally, obtaining a plot of land centrally located in Georgia where we can gather as Catholics.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN!

In order to achieve our goal, we will need the support of all families. We are asking each family to please make a 3 year pledge to the Harvest of Hope campaign. Any amount will help.

If you plan on giving with cash or check:

- The most important part is writing down your address on the pledge card. You will be getting envelopes sent to your address based on the frequency you choose: Monthly, Quarterly or Annually
- All checks are payable to Harvest of Hope

If you plan on giving through your debit or credit card:

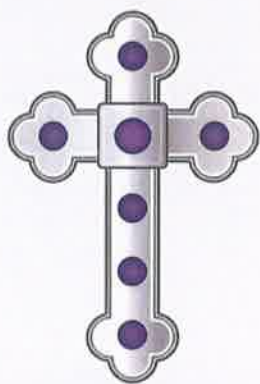
- You must visit diosav.org/hope or scan the QR code
- There is more privacy when a donor goes directly online



For those who would like to give in an unconventional type of manner like IRA, Stock, or Gifts of Property, please grab one of the Big Packets or email Susan Beke at sbeke@diosav.org.

Our Commitment Weekend is August 23-24, bring your pledges that day!

For more information, please contact our campaign director Bryan Bedoya at



**HARVEST
of HOPE**

COSECHA de ESPERANZA

ORAMOS JUNTOS

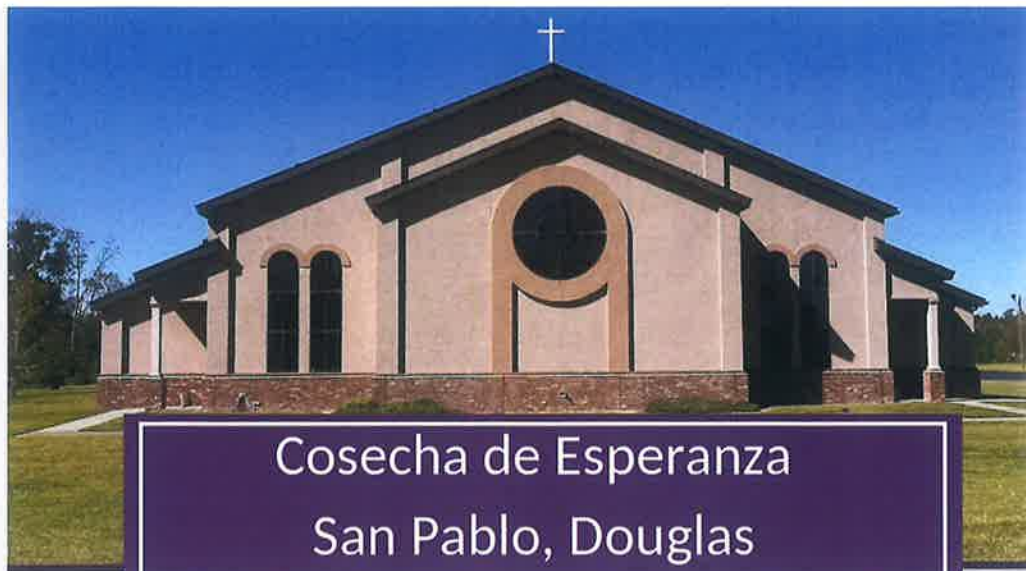
Padre Celestial, que nos has reunido hoy y aquí en Tu providencia, te pedimos guíes, inspires y bendigas nuestra Diócesis de Savannah y la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza.

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.



Beneficios de Cosecha de Esperanza

Una vez que se alcance el objetivo de la Campaña Católica Anual de 2025, cada dólar se dividirá por la mitad. El 50 % de los fondos se quedará en San Pablo para el aire acondicionado, mejoramiento de nuestra iglesia y pagar la deuda de la parroquia. El otro 50 % nos proporcionará un fondo patrimonial de \$30,000 dólares para que podamos crecer en el futuro; una beca que podremos solicitar para seguir evangelizando a nuestra comunidad, apoyar a nuestros seminaristas y, obtener un terreno céntrico en Georgia donde podamos reunirnos como católicos.

¡CÓMO APOYAR LA CAMPAÑA!

Para alcanzar nuestra meta, necesitaremos el apoyo de todas las familias. Pedimos a cada familia que se comprometa a colaborar durante tres años con la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza. Cualquier cantidad será de gran ayuda.

Si quieres hacer un compromiso con efectivo o cheque:

- Lo más importante es anotar su dirección en la tarjeta de compromiso. Recibirás sobres de pagos a su dirección.
- Todos los cheques son pagales a la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza.

Si quieres hacer un compromiso con su tarjeta de débito o crédito:

- Hay que visitar diosav.org/hope o escanear el código QR
- Hay más privacidad cuando un donante va directamente en línea



Para aquellos que deseen realizar donaciones de forma menos convencional, como cuentas IRA, acciones o donaciones de propiedades, por favor, recojan uno de los paquetes grandes o envíen un correo electrónico a Susan Beke a sbeke@diosav.org.

¡Nuestro fin de semana de compromiso es el 23-24 de agosto, comprométase!

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



RAFFLE CONTEST



SUPPORTING BUILDING FUND

NOVEMBER 8, 2025

1ST PLACE - \$500 GIFT CARD
2ND PLACE - \$300 GIFT CARD
3RD PLACE - \$100 GIFT CARD

DONATION:
\$2 EACH
3 FOR \$5

ST PAUL'S COLUMBARIUM

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

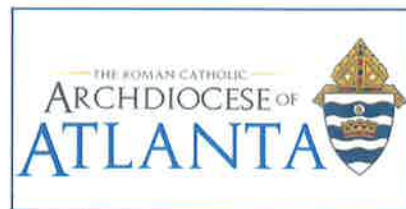


“LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD”

P.S. 122

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

- Meet with the Priest is who is to perform the ceremony
- Bring Baptism and Confirmation certificates
- Must complete a pre-Cana (marriage) class either through the Diocese of Savannah, Arch-Diocese of Atlanta or the Diocese of St Augustine.
- Complete all necessary forms
- At least one of the witnesses **must be** Catholic.





Life Out of Focus

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I found myself angry the other day, as we all do, I suppose, whenever we put our foot in our mouth, or forget about an important engagement, or scramble whatever it was we had hoped would be picture-perfect. What I had scrambled was a homily. For some reason, the image came out wrong, or the example did not fit, or it just did not come together the way I had hoped. And I was angry with myself to the point that it caught me off guard. It was an unexpected glimpse of what I didn't want to admit: the fact that the way people might perceive me as a preacher had taken on more importance than preaching God's word. Life had gotten out of focus. A perspective had been lost.

It happens to us all in the course of our lifetimes,

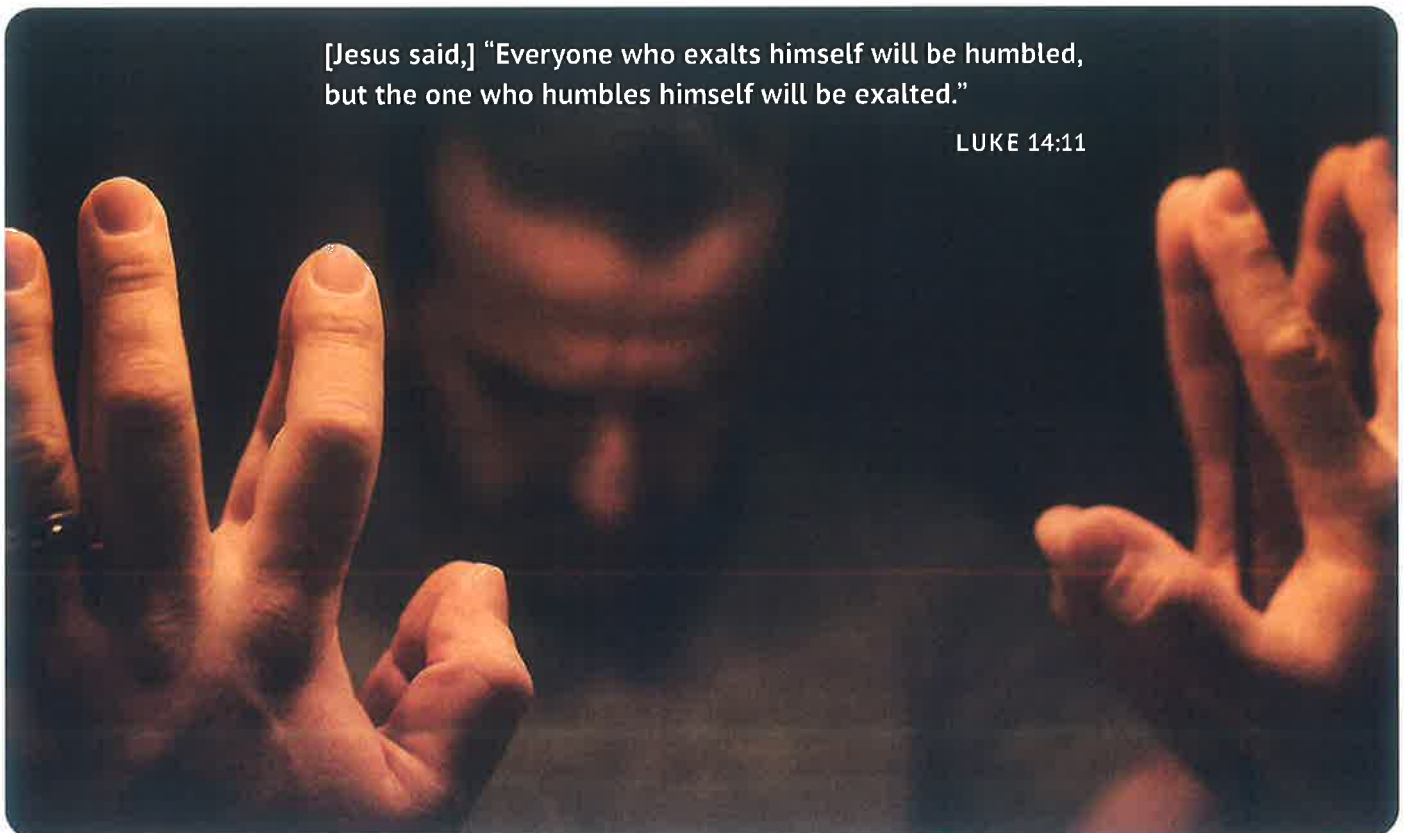
and more than once. Grades become more important than learning, or being right more important than the relationship, or the address of where we live more important than the people living together. It happens between parent and child when a parent places greater significance on the son's or daughter's profession than on that son's or daughter's happiness. Like in the parable of Jesus, where we sit at table takes on greater meaning than the people who gather or the meal that is shared. That is what pride does. It distorts what is real and shifts the focus of life to ourselves. The antidote? A prayerful awareness of who we are and who God is. ●

Reflect

What is more important to me than it should be?

[Jesus said,] "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

LUKE 14:11



Dear Padre,

Is it sacrilegious to throw away a sacramental?

"Sacramentals do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that the sacraments do, but by the Church's prayer, they prepare us to receive and dispose us to cooperate with it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1670). Therefore, sacramentals confer grace through the Church's power of prayer and, if blessed, should not be thrown away but burned and/or buried. If the object has not been blessed, it can be discarded; however, it could also be donated to a Catholic ministry (school, prison, hospital, etc.) that would benefit from its distribution. (If a religious object was included in an unsolicited appeal letter from a charitable organization, it is safe to assume that it was not blessed.)

If the object is worn or broken, it should be substantially altered so that it loses its form as a sacramental and then returned to the earthly elements. For example, a worn scapular should be burned and the ashes buried; a damaged statue should be further broken into smaller fragments and buried. A European tradition on the Vigil of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 23) is to burn old sacramentals in bonfires and bury the ashes. Burning and/or burial respects the sacred nature once held by these items and prevents their adaptation for trivial use. Reverence and discretion are proper for whatever method of disposal. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**To follow [Jesus]...means
"carrying one's cross":
shouldering, like him, one's
own burdens and those of
others, making one's life
a gift, not a possession,
spending it in imitation
of his own generous and
merciful love for us. These
are decisions that engage
the totality of our lives.**

**HOMILY, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 4, 2022**

GOOGLE GEMINI



Monday

September 1

Weekday

1 Thes 4:13–18

Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday

September 2

Weekday

1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11

Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday

September 3

*St. Gregory the
Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church*

Col 1:1–8

Lk 4:38–44

Thursday

September 4

Weekday

Col 1:9–14

Lk 5:1–11

Friday

September 5

Weekday

Col 1:15–20

Lk 5:33–39

Saturday

September 6

Weekday

Col 1:21–23

Lk 6:1–5

Sunday

September 7

*Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Wis 9:13–18b

Phlm 9–10, 12–17

Lk 14:25–33