



St. Paul Catholic Church and Missions

Iglesia Católica San Pablo y Misiones

4178 Highway 441 South, Douglas, Georgia 31535
 Parish Office Phone: 912-384-3560
 In case of extreme emergency only call: 912-278-1567
Church email: saintpaul@windstream.net
Parish Website: www.stpaulmissions.org

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

St. William Catholic Church

807 S. Merrimac Dr., Fitzgerald

Holy Family Catholic Church

126 Holy Family Rd., Willacoochee

Administration □ Administración

Pastor: Rev. Paul O'Connell

Deacon Ron Milkas

Church Secretary: Janet Benton



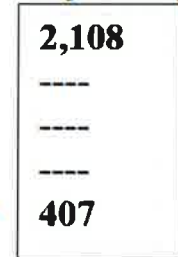
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL (as of 4-18-24)

St. Paul



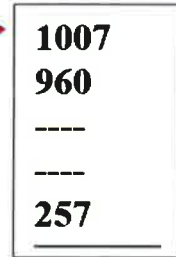
25% of goal

Holy Family



19% of goal

St. William



105% of goal

Please remember to support our ACA.

April 22 – April 28

Tuesday: Mass-12:00pm

Adoration: 11:00-noon, Rosary-11:30am

Wednesday: Mass-12:00pm

Adoration: 11:00-noon, Rosary-11:30am

Thursday: Mass-12:00pm

Adoration: 11:00-noon, Rosary-11:30am

Saturday: Confessions-5:00pm

Sunday:

8:00am - English, Holy Family

9:30am - English, St. Paul

12:00pm - Misa Español, St. Paul

5:00pm – English/Español, St. William

“The Church is a Field Hospital at the scene of a Battle.”
 --His Holiness, Pope Francis

Our Mission Statement
 Declaración de Misión

“La Iglesia es un hospital de campaña en el escenario de una batalla.”
 --Su Santidad, el Papa Francisco



From the
Pastor's
Desk

Pope Francis:

“God loves everyone.”

I imagine a mother Church who embraces and welcomes everyone, even those who feel they are in the wrong and have been judged by us in the past. I think, for example, of homosexuals and transsexuals who seek the Lord but are rejected or persecuted. Many have spoken of *Fiducia supplicans*, the statement from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith on the blessing of couples in irregular situations. I just want to say that God loves everyone, especially sinners. And if my brother bishops, according to their discernment, decide not to follow this path it doesn't mean that this is the antechamber to schism, because the Church's doctrine is not brought into question. Even in the synod on synodality, due to conclude in October 2024, more attention to and acceptance of members of this community and their parents has been requested. They are all children of God and must be welcomed with open arms. This does not mean the Church is in favor of same-sex marriages: we do not have the power to change sacraments created by the Lord. Marriage is one of the seven sacraments and provides only for the union of a man and a woman. Leave well enough alone.

Even while I was archbishop of Buenos Aires, I supported and forcefully defended the value of marriage, and today I still want to emphasize, as I did in the apostolic exhortation *Amoris laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*), that “as for proposals to place unions between homosexual persons on the same level as marriage, there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family,” and it is unacceptable “that local churches should be subjected to pressure in this matter and that international

bodies should make financial aid to poor countries dependant on the introduction of laws to establish ‘marriage’ between persons of the same sex.”

Civil unions are another matter, and on this subject I have said on many occasions that it is right that these people who experience the gift of love should have the same legal protections as everyone else. Jesus often met and spent time with people who lived on the margins of society, who lived in the existential peripheries, and that is what the Church should be doing today with members of the LGBTQ+ community, who are often marginalized within the Church: make them feel at home, especially those who have been baptized and are in every respect among God's people. And those who have not been baptized and would like to be, or who would like to be godfathers or godmothers: let them be welcomed, please; let them follow a careful pathway to personal discernment.

It is important, however, not to scandalize and disorient the faithful. Bishops and parish priests will have the wisdom to consider these matters case by case. We must walk with these brothers and sisters along the path of faith, just as the Synod on the Family asked, strongly condemning discrimination and acts of violence committed against them. Far too often, they are victims of bullying and acts of sheer cruelty. This is another reason why they cannot and must not be excluded, especially by the Church, which unfortunately has often unfairly considered them to be rotten apples.

I believe it is essential today that we abandon the rigidity of the past, and distance ourselves from a Church that points the finger in condemnation. These attitudes have driven the faithful away. It is therefore important to preserve and promote the Faith by placing ourselves close to the people, leaving our embroidery, frills, and lace cuffs in the closet and concentrating instead on the Christian message of compassion and closeness.

--Pope Francis, in *Life: My Story through History*, 2024

Reflexión-- *Dios ama a todos.*

Me imagino una Iglesia madre que abraza y acoge a todos, incluso a aquellos que se sienten equivocados y han sido juzgados por nosotros en el pasado. Pienso, por ejemplo, en los homosexuales y transexuales que buscan al Señor pero son rechazados o perseguidos. Muchos han hablado de *Fiducia supplicans*, la declaración del Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe sobre la bendición de las parejas en situación irregular. Sólo quiero decir que Dios ama a todos, especialmente a los pecadores. Y si mis hermanos obispos, según su discernimiento, deciden no seguir este camino, no significa que ésta sea la antesala del cisma, porque la doctrina de la Iglesia no es cuestionada. Incluso en el sínodo sobre la sinodalidad, que concluirá en octubre de 2024, se ha pedido más atención y aceptación de los miembros de esta comunidad y de sus padres. Todos ellos son hijos de Dios y deben ser recibidos con los brazos abiertos. Esto no significa que la Iglesia esté a favor de los matrimonios entre personas del mismo sexo: no tenemos el poder de cambiar los sacramentos creados por el Señor. El matrimonio es uno de los siete sacramentos y prevé únicamente la unión de un hombre y una mujer. Déjalo en paz.

Ya siendo arzobispo de Buenos Aires apoyé y defendí con fuerza el valor del matrimonio, y hoy todavía quiero subrayar, como lo hice en la exhortación apostólica *Amoris laetitia* (La alegría del amor), que “en cuanto a las propuestas para colocar uniones entre personas homosexuales al mismo nivel que el matrimonio, no hay absolutamente ninguna base para considerar que las uniones homosexuales sean de alguna manera similares o incluso remotamente análogas al plan de Dios para el matrimonio y la familia”, y es inaceptable “que las iglesias locales sean sometidas a ejercer presión en esta materia y que los organismos internacionales deberían hacer depender la ayuda financiera a los países pobres de la introducción de leyes para establecer el 'matrimonio' entre personas del mismo sexo”.

Las uniones civiles son otro asunto, y sobre este tema he dicho en muchas ocasiones que es correcto que estas personas que experimentan el don del amor tengan las mismas protecciones legales que todos los demás. Jesús a menudo se encontró y pasó tiempo con personas que vivían en los márgenes de la sociedad, que vivían en las periferias existenciales, y eso es lo que la Iglesia debería hacer hoy con los miembros de la comunidad LGBTQ+, que a menudo están marginados dentro de la Iglesia: hacerlos sentirse como en casa, especialmente aquellos que han sido bautizados y están en todos los sentidos entre el pueblo de Dios. Y los que no han sido bautizados y quisieran serlo, o quisieran ser padrinos o madrinas: sean bienvenidos, por favor; que sigan un cuidadoso camino hacia el discernimiento personal.

Es importante, sin embargo, no escandalizar y desorientar a los fieles. Los obispos y párrocos tendrán la sabiduría de considerar estas cuestiones caso por caso. Debemos caminar con estos hermanos y hermanas por el camino de la fe, tal como lo pidió el Sínodo sobre la Familia, condenando enérgicamente las discriminaciones y los actos de violencia cometidos contra ellos. Con demasiada frecuencia, son víctimas de acoso y de actos de pura crueldad. Esta es otra razón por la que no pueden ni deben ser excluidos, especialmente por la Iglesia, que desgraciadamente a menudo los ha considerado injustamente como manzanas podridas.

Creo que hoy es esencial que abandonemos la rigidez del pasado y nos alejemos de una Iglesia que señala con el dedo la condena. Estas actitudes han alejado a los fieles. Por lo tanto, es importante preservar y promover la fe colocándonos cerca de la gente, dejando en el armario nuestros bordados, volantes y puños de encaje y concentrándonos en el mensaje cristiano de compasión y cercanía.

--Papa Francisco, en *La Vida: Mi Relato a Través de la Historia*, 2024

FYI
~FOR YOUR INFORMATION~

***Meeting today after 9:30 Mass ***

Knights of Columbus (Knights of Columbus Room, PAC)
Ladies Auxiliary (PAC)



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

GIFT SHOP

As time approaches for First Holy Communions, Confirmations, and school graduations, don't forget the Knights' Gift Shop in the church narthex. Browse through their wide array of items for a treasured gift.

AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

St. Paul

FY Offertory Budget	\$275,000.00
Received to date	239,025.61
Received 4-14-24	5,051.41
FY Bldg Fund Budget	\$144,000.00
Received to date	33,052.74
Received 4-14-24	277.00

Offertory: St. William

Sunday (4-14-24): \$1,180.00

Offertory: Holy Family

Sunday (4-14-24): \$312.00

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. ¡La comida solo se puede comer en el salón social!

CAPÍTULO PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE NIÑOS

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

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

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

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, April M. Martin (Japan), Michael Martinez, CW3 Jeb S. McKinnon (USA), Martin Rios, Candise R. Rolerson (Wichita Falls, TX), Juan Vargas, Erick Vilches, Octavio Rodriguez, Rolando Chavez.

Pray for us that we may be healed.

Francesco Abbondanza, Liza Agullo, Tullis Allen, Jaedon Arvidson, Brenda Atkinson, James Bookhardt, Ann Branch, Logan Brigmond, Mary Brown, Ernestine Bryant, Steve Bueneing, Ricardo Jose Camarillo, Cindy Carter, Amber Carver, Lee Ann Cash, Toby Cash, Calvin & Gail Carver, Jack Chaney, Rory Chaney, Bill Cummings, Isabel Espinoza, Jerry Feltman, Eloise Ferguson, Demarcus Fields, Fr. Daniel Firman, Donna Friant, Antonio Guerrero, Michael & Michelle Gilliard, Denise Goyette, Amy Paulk Grist, Judy Hackett, Michael Hackett, Robert Hackett, Judy Hattaway, Katrina Havelock, Mary Hayes, Gilbert Hernandez, Jamie Hersey, Debra Heveder, Elaine Hinson, June Houston, Braylynn Hughes, Matthew Humphrey, George Irving, Bill Jacob, Oscar Kirkland, Amanda Knight, Christy Knight, Ann Koch, Stacy Lewis, Tommy Lindsey, Andrew Lott, Roxanne Maini, Aldo Meza, Deacon Ron Milkas, Barbara Miller, Dale Moon, Rachele Navarro, Elaine Newhart, Irene Nolan, Marilyn Perkins, Terry Oates, Bobby O'Neal, D. J. O'Neal, Trisha Pape, Violet Pappy, Karen Paulk, John Pfefferle,
Lou Pierce, Mike Pierce, Cubias Perez, Robin Pierce, Michael Pozzanghera, Dane Pranke, Kenny Purvis, Nicole Rigdon, Johan Saavedra, Tony Scaccia, Betty Spears, Stephanie Stone, Gene Thewes, Caitlin Thurman, Denver Thurman, Pablino Tinajero, Summer Van Hook, Egdal Gonzalez Vazquez, Marissa Vickers, Gene Waldron, Charles Westman, Kathy White, Melissa Williams, Carmen Willis, Warren Winters, A.D. Young, Mary Young



Month of the the Holy Eucharist

Devotion of the Month

The month of April is traditionally dedicated to devotion to Jesus in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The Catholic Church teaches that the Blessed Sacrament is the real and living presence of Christ—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—received into our souls with every reception of Holy Communion. Our Eucharistic Lord is the source and summit of our Christian life, the ultimate proof of His infinite love for us.

Live streaming every weekend

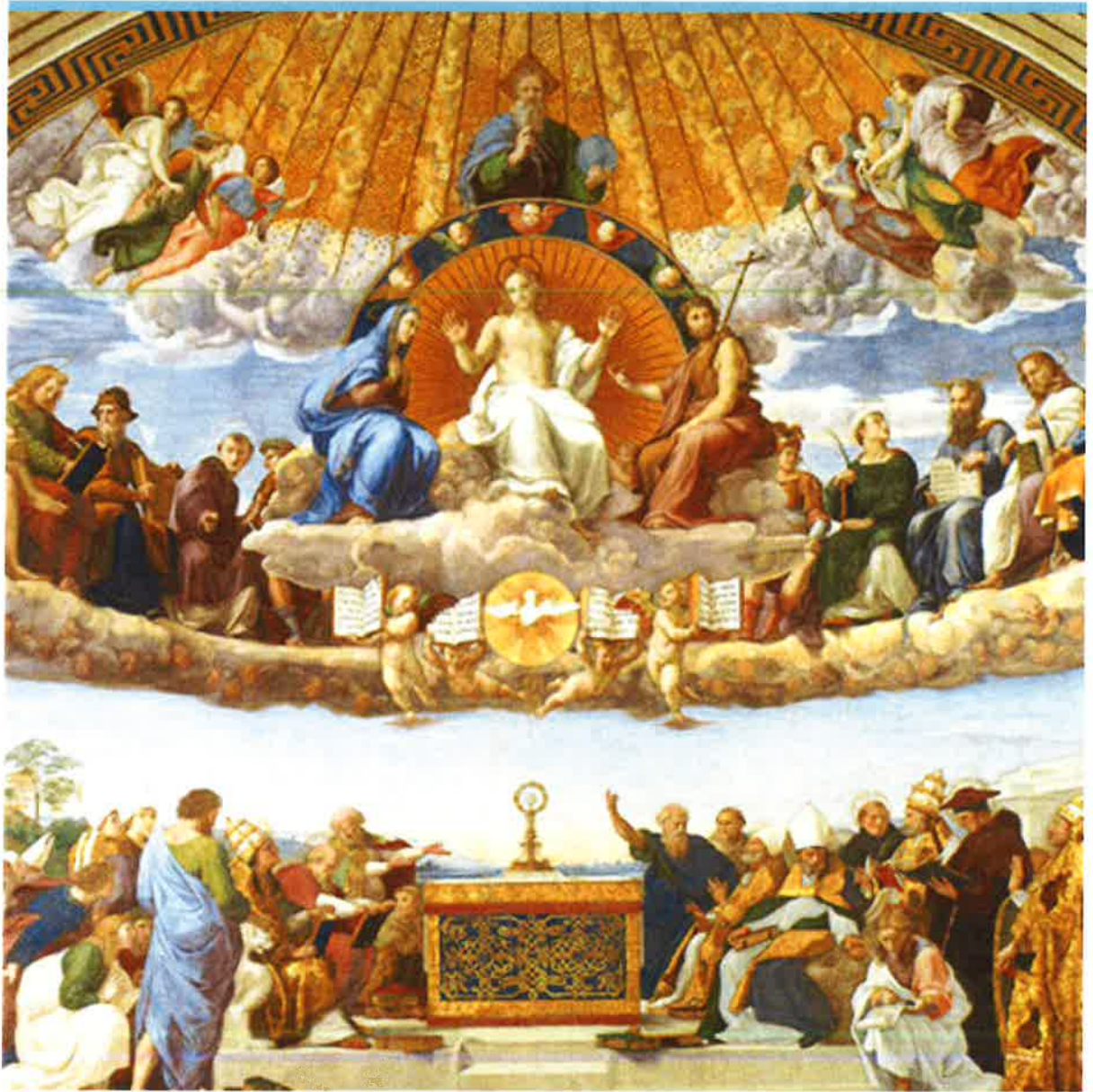


Please join us for live streaming of all weekend masses and ones of special occasions. Live streaming can watched on FaceBook (St Paul Catholic Church) page and our website page, stpaulmissions.org All masses are archieved on our website for viewing anytime.



St Paul Catholic Church and Missions

4178 US HWY 441 S
Douglas, GA 31535



What Your 2024 Gift Supports

25% | EVANGELIZATION

- Formation and Catechesis
- Black Catholic Ministry
- Cultural Engagement
- Fellowship and Life
- Lay Ministry

25% | RURAL MISSION PARISHES

22% | VOCATIONS

- Seminarian Education
- Office of Vocations
- Office of Permanent Diaconate

8% | CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- Catholic Scholarship Fund
- Program Services
- Youth & Young Adult Ministries

7% | SOCIAL SERVICES OUTREACH CENTERS

5% | STEWARDSHIP

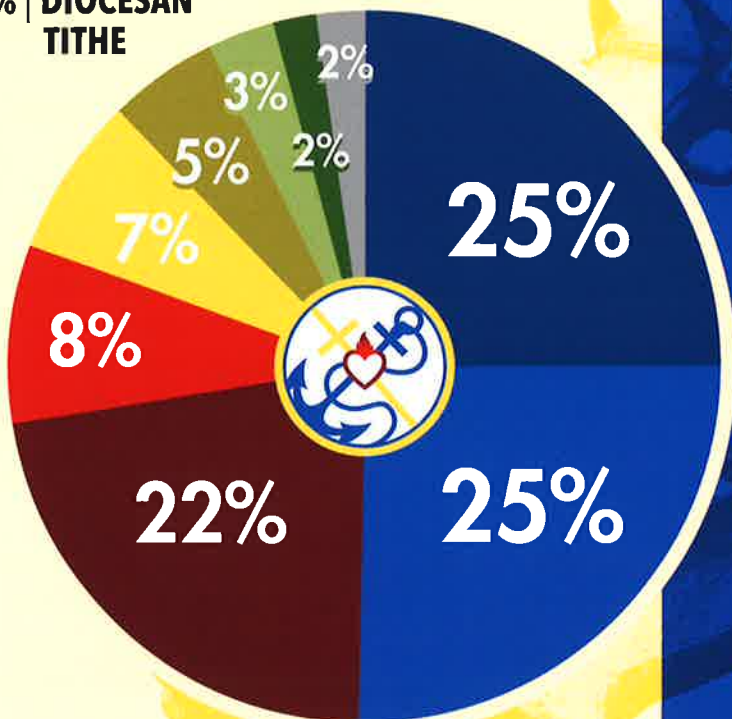
3% | CANONICAL MINISTRIES

- Tribunal Office
- Archives
- Child & Youth Protection

2% | CHAPLAINCY

- Prison
- Hospital
- Port

2% | DIOCESAN TITHE



Te Deum Circle

Te Deum [laudamus] (Latin: O God, we praise You) is an ancient liturgical hymn of joy and praise to the Holy Trinity. It is traditionally sung as an offering of thanksgiving to God for a special blessing, as well as on December 31 in gratitude for God's gifts during the year.

Gratias Agimus Tibi

(We Give Thanks to You)

Consecutive donor every year for 5+ years

Benefit: A thank you card from Bishop Parkes for being a leader in the Diocese

Laudamus Te

(We Praise You)

Donors \$2,000-\$4,999

Benefit: All of the above, including an invitation to a private Mass and Reception with Bishop Parkes

Benedicimus Te

(We Bless You)

Donors \$5,000-\$9,999

Benefit: All of the above, including a special annual gift

Adoramus Te

(We Adore You)

Donors \$10,000-\$14,999

Benefit: All of the above, including a family photo with Bishop Parkes at the private Mass and Reception

Glorificamus Te

(We Glorify You)

Donors \$15,000+

Benefit: All of the above, including a personal dinner with Bishop Parkes



"I am the Youth Minister and Co-Director of Religious Education. My presence is important because we teach the Faith to our children and help them become like disciples of Jesus. With your contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal, we can keep guiding the future of our church in our Catholic faith."

Mayra Morena
Our Divine Savior, Tifton

"I work as the parish secretary, but I got my start as a catechist and then the Director of Religious Education. I have been a lector and coordinator of our Youth Ministry Program. My presence in my ministries is so vital because I not only grow in my own Faith, but I get to share the Good News of Jesus with others and help them to know, to love, and to serve Him. Your gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal helps us spread the Good News to all of the people we come in contact with, especially those who are most in need of His message and love."



Sharon Carson
St. Benedict the Moor, Savannah



"I am in my fifth year of the Deaconate program. As a volunteer at the Christian Service Center, I help provide food to the needy and those on the fringes of society. My presence is important to offering assistance and comfort to the underprivileged and those who suffer from poverty. The Annual Catholic Appeal

is about serving your neighbor and serving God. Your gift is an opportunity to show the humanity of Jesus to our community."

Hoa Nguyen
Sacred Heart, Warner Robins

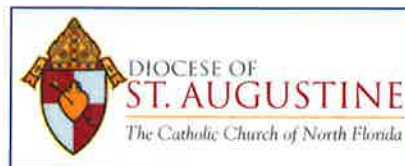
"As the Director of Religious Education, my presence is important because I model for my students what it means to live by Gospel values and what it means to believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports my ministry and with your contributions we can keep building the Kingdom of God."



Sheryl Dasinger
St. John the Evangelist, Valdosta

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

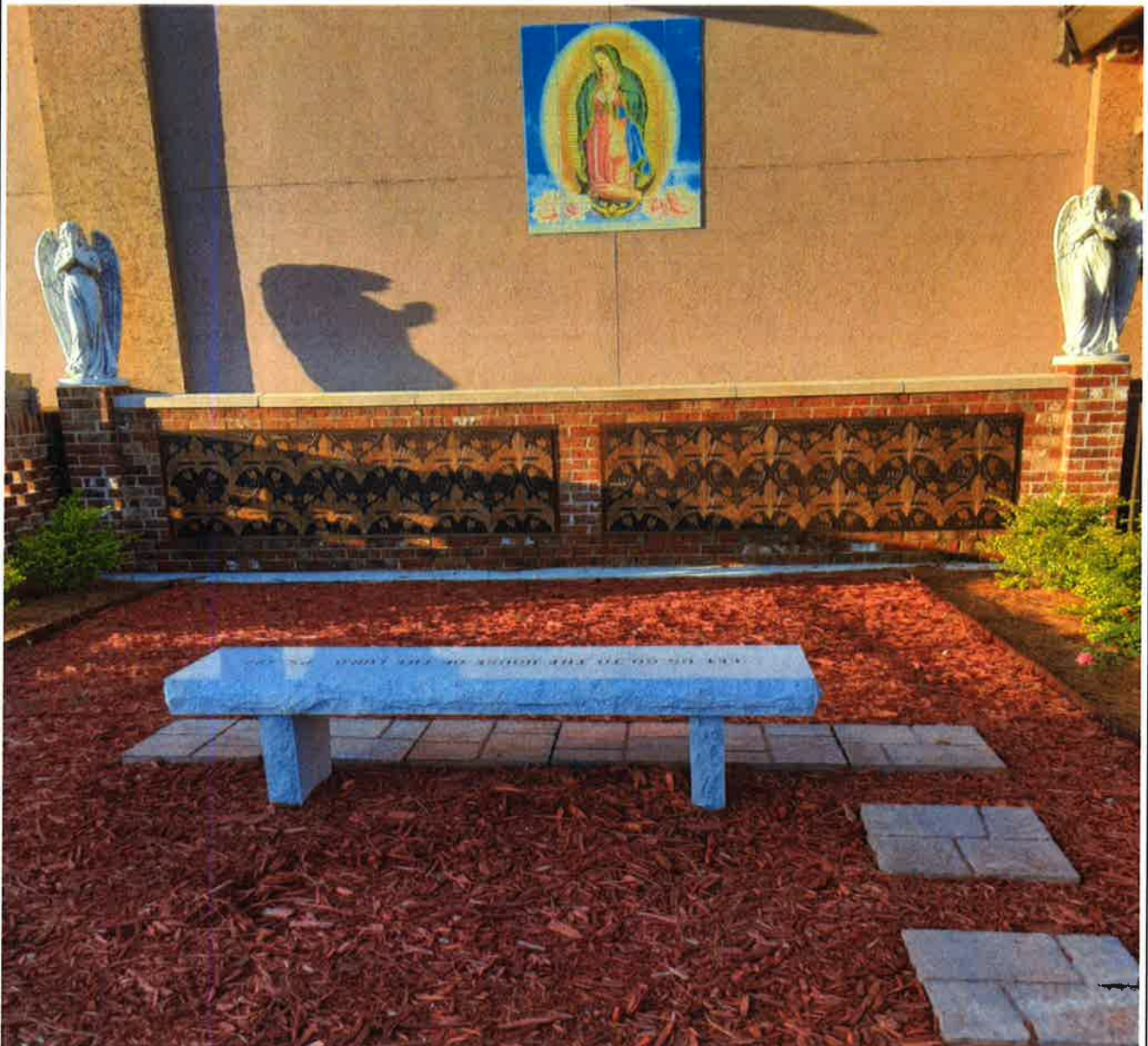
- Meet with the Priest is who is to perform the ceremony
- Bring Baptism and Confirmation certificates
- Must complete a pre-Cana (marriage) class either through the Diocese of Savannah, Arch-Diocese of Atlanta or the Diocese of St Augustine.
- Complete all necessary forms
- At least one of the witnesses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



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



I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead... and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

JOHN 10:16

Living with Our Instincts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We live with a maze of instincts—some from the dark side and some from the light. In her book *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson describes how cultures tend to consign certain individuals to the bottom of the social ladder. She specifically compares the caste system in India with how the Nazis sought to suppress and eliminate Jews and with the way blacks were oppressed by slavery and even in our own time. She describes the instinct in every society to relegate others to a lower class, always seeking to ensure that we are not at the bottom. This instinct can come from the dark side of people.

There is also an instinct for goodness to others, an instinct of light—to recognize everyone as brothers and sisters. As Saint John notes, “we are God’s children now”

(1 John 3:2). It is the voice of the Shepherd instilled in the human spirit that calls us into one fold, the voice of God urging us to healing goodness.

It is the dark side that nurtures white supremacy. It is the light that enables us to see beyond the color of our skin. It is the dark side that excludes those who seem different. It is the light that welcomes and offers hospitality. It is the dark side that succumbs to fear. It is the light of God’s love that confronts the wolves of hate and urges us to follow. There is always tension between darkness and light. ✨

Reflect

How does the voice of the Good Shepherd call you to reject the dark and embrace the light?

Dear Padre,

My son was raised Catholic and still claims he is Catholic, but he and his wife go to a Protestant church. How should I deal with my frustration?

Many parents and grandparents today share your frustration. They raised their children Catholic, maybe even sent them to Catholic schools, but the children have grown up and chosen not to continue to be faithful Catholics. A recent survey showed that nine out of ten people say they believe in God, but often they are not committed to a single religion or house of worship. About

half of the people questioned attend religious services less than once a month, or never. The loyalty to one Church that was evident in our own lives, or in our parents' and grandparents' lives, is lacking in today's people under age fifty-five.

What can one do about this situation? Certainly pray for your children and continue to give a good example through your own loyalty to the Catholic Church and attendance at Sunday Mass. Invite your son and his wife to attend with you when they visit. As your children age, they may become more interested in your family's history and traditions, and the religion of their childhood may again appear attractive. Try to be patient and continue to pray that your children will return to the Church of their roots. ●



M-PRODUCTION / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY

April 22
Easter Weekday
Acts 11:1-18
Jn 10:1-10

TUESDAY

April 23
Easter Weekday
Acts 11:19-26
Jn 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY

April 24
Easter Weekday
Acts 12:24-
13:5a
Jn 12:44-50

THURSDAY

April 25
*St. Mark,
Evangelist*
1 Pt 5:5b-14
Mk 16:15-20

FRIDAY

April 26
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:26-33
Jn 14:1-6

SATURDAY

April 27
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:44-52
Jn 14:7-14

SUNDAY

April 28
*Fifth Sunday
of Easter*
Acts 9:26-31
1 Jn 3:18-24
Jn 15:1-8



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Christ's love is not selective; it embraces everyone.... He is everyone's shepherd. Jesus wants everyone to be able to receive the Father's love and encounter God....The Father entrusts everyone to Jesus the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for everyone. Brothers and sisters, Jesus defends, knows and loves all of us.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 25, 2021

ZVONIMIR ATHLETIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

Timely Topics Viewed with a Catholic Perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions.

Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.