

*I am with you
always,
until the
end of the
world*

MT 28:20b

*Estoy contigo
siempre
hasta el
fin del
mundo*

MT 28:20b

THE
Ascension
OF THE LORD

St. Anthony of Padua Church

5770 N. MAROA AVENUE, FRESNO, CA 93704
559-439-0124 | WWW.STANTHONYFRESNO.ORG

MAY
12
2024

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STAFF
(559) 439-0124

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 439-0124, ext. 104
fatherrob@stanthonyfresno.org

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Parochial Vicar

Fr. Edgar Magana

Deacon Edgar Briseño

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Hispanic Ministries/Ministerios Hispanos
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Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Martha Danks-Ferguson

ext. 114

mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(closed 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for lunch)

BULLETIN/WEBPAGE

Bulletin Editor: bulletin@stanthonyfresno.org

Bulletin inserts are due 4 weeks

prior to publication.

Welcome to St. Anthony of Padua

The Catholic Christian community of St. Anthony of Padua welcomes all to our celebrations of God's love. Through prayer, education, sacraments, caring and stewardship, we strive to serve the needs of God's people and to gain a richer understanding of the Gospel message of love. We invite you to become a part of our "Parish Life."

Your talents are welcome!

Rev. Msgr. Robert D. Wenzinger, Pastor

Please register at www.stanthonyfresno.org.

Thanks for joining us!

TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND IN THE GREEN HYMNAL #916B

Mass Intentions

12

SUNDAY – ASCENSION

8:00 a.m. All Mothers, Living & Deceased

9:30 a.m. All Mothers, Living & Deceased

11:00 a.m. All Mothers, Living & Deceased

1:00 p.m. Todas Las Madres, Vivas y Fallecidas

6:00 p.m. Pro Populo (For the intentions of the parish community)

13

MONDAY

NO MASS

14

TUESDAY

6:45 a.m. † Tony & Elvira Fagundes by Debbie Fagundes

8:00 a.m. † Jesuina Lima by Phil & Dorothy Christensen

15

WEDNESDAY

6:45 a.m. † Annette Amparano by David Choo

8:00 a.m. † Mary Nuñez Marquez by the Nuñez Family

16

THURSDAY

6:45 a.m. † Raymond & Tilly Mora

8:00 a.m. † Willibalda Martinez by Hilda Maroney

17

FRIDAY

6:45 a.m. † Jean Posson

8:15 a.m. † Rose Pardini by Linda Mastro

18

SATURDAY – VIGIL PENTECOST

4:00 p.m. † Charlotte Girado by Ed Girado & Family

5:30 p.m. † Adrian Alvarado su la familia

19

SUNDAY – PENTECOST

8:00 a.m. † Steve Rontell by Harvey Armas

9:30 a.m. Pro Populo (For the intentions of the parish community)

11:00 a.m. † Maria Dolores Garcia by Juan M. Garcia

1:00 p.m. † Carlos Alberto Gallardo, Jr. por Rosa Gallardo

6:00 p.m. Intentions of Jessica Diaz-Hamm by the Diaz Family

The following couples will marry in the coming weeks:

John Korafus & Madison Mora
Jesus & Alejandra Servin
Brandon Cruz & Nicole Rosenhagen

If you know of any canonical reason for them not to be married, please contact the Parish Office.



Monthly Memorial Mass



Saturday, May 18 – 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

At our Memorial Mass this month, we will remember those who celebrated their funeral Mass here at St. Anthony of Padua or at St. Agnes Mission Church in May 2023. They are Elvira Razo-Alvarez, Mariano Armendarez Ramirez, Vivian Avants, Peter Cottrell Morris, Daniel Libres Sarabosing, Estrellita Graciosa Sarabosing, Elba Edwards, Valentina Padua Tacata, and Teresa Mary Darby. We will light a candle for each person and invite the family to take it home at the end of Mass as a Memorial of their loved one.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Night Co-Ed Bible Study

Next Session is May 22, 6:30 p.m. in Room 22
 Sami/Dina Shwiyhat and Eliseo/Nivia Cuellar will lead men, women, and couples through the 10-week series: *Jesus: The Way, the Truth and the Life*. Please watch the bulletin for class dates.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

10:00 a.m. in Room 21
 Our study is using the *Mary's Mantle Consecration: A Spiritual Retreat for Heaven's Help* book which is available on Amazon or at www.queenofpeacemedia.com/marys-mantle for those who wish to order a copy.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES TRUCK

SATURDAY, MAY 25/SUNDAY, MAY 26

Knights of Columbus volunteers will be available to accept your nonmonetary donations of nonperishable food, clothing, household goods and more after each of the weekend Masses. Together we make a difference.



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday (Vigil Mass)

4:00 p.m. – English
 5:30 p.m. – Español

Sunday

8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. – English
 1:00 p.m. – Español
 6:00 p.m. – English

Livestream Mass Schedule

9:30 a.m. – English Mass
 1:00 p.m. – Misa Español

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday-Thursday (OLG Chapel)

6:45 a.m. – Daily Mass
 8:00 a.m. – Chapel open until 11:00 a.m.

Friday (OLG Chapel)

6:45 a.m. – Daily Mass
 8:15 a.m. – Followed by Adoration

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday

9:00–11:00 a.m. – Guadalupe Chapel

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. – Chapel Confessionals

Saturday

10:00 a.m. – Chapel Confessionals

ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA



JUEVES – ESTUDIO DE LA BIBLIA

7:00 p.m. en el salón #22
 Acompáñenos para reflexionar en las lecturas de la biblia y el Evangelio Dominical. "Tu Palabra es una lampara a mis pies, es una luz en mi sendero." Salmo 119



SILVER ANGELS MINISTRY

SUMMER LUAU LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

St. Agnes Mission Church Social Hall,

111 W. Birch Steet, Pinedale

St. Anthony and St. Agnes parishioners (50+) are welcome to join us for our monthly luncheon. This month, we are celebrating with Italian food from DiCicco's. Come join us for fun and a good meal! Cost: \$17.00 per person.

Grupo de Oración



JUEVES – GRUPO DE ORACIÓN ENCUENTRO CON DIOS.

Te invitamos al grupo de oración todos los jueves desde las 6:30 p.m. empezando con El Rosario, en la Iglesia de Santa Inés "Ven y llénate del Señor." 111 W Birch Street, Fresno, CA 93650

For more information on parish groups, call the Ministry Office at 439-0124, ext. 106.

Year of Parish Revival

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

We invite you to pray the Revival prayer in silence after Mass in your pew.

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love You. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. And, through the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of sinners. Amen

*¡Oh, mi Dios, yo creo en Ti! ¡Te adoro! ¡Confío en Ti y tu amor! ¡Te pido perdón por los que no creen, no te adoran, no confían en Ti y no te aman!
¡Oh, Santísima Trinidad, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo, os adoro profundamente! Os ofrezco el preciosísimo Cuerpo, la preciosísima Sangre, El Alma y Divinidad de Cristo Jesús, presente en todos los tabernáculos del mundo, en reparación de todos los ultrajes, sacrilegios y la indiferencia con que es ofendido, y por los méritos infinitos del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y del Inmaculado Corazón de María, os ruego por la conversión de los pecadores. Amén*



SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN	
April 21, 2024	\$1,433.81
2023-2024 YTD Total	\$67,791.72
WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY! GRACIAS POR SU CONTINUA GENEROSIDAD	

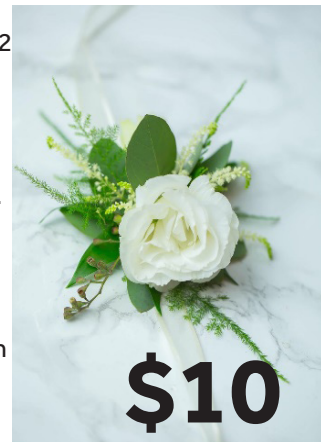
STEWARDSHIP – MANAGING GOD’S GIFTS TO US	
Sharing the Gifts We Have Been Given!	
April 21, 2024	\$25,143.00
Last year’s Plate Income	\$19,382.00
Difference	\$ 5,761.00
Year-to-Date Plate Collection • Colectas Del Año Hasta La Fecha	
July 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024	\$914,803.37
July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	\$751,409.74
Difference	\$163,393.63
WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY GRACIAS POR SU CONTINUA GENEROSIDAD	
	GIVE ONLINE – Easy, Safe, and Convenient: When you give to God, you discover that God gives to you. You can also drop your envelope in the mail slot located in the door on the south side of the Parish Office.

Mother’s Day Corsage Sale



Defending the Dignity of Human Life

The Knights of Columbus Council 6092 will be at the St. Anthony Pavilion after the Masses on **Sunday, May 12th** beginning at 8:00 a.m. until all 200 corsages are sold. Please support life; mothers, babies and the vulnerable through the efforts of Right to Life of Central California.



ST. AGNES MISSION CHURCH

111 W. Birch Street, Pinedale, CA 93650
(559) 439-2100

Sunday 9:00 a.m. English – Mass Intention: Pro Populo (For the intentions of the parish community)

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Español – Misa Intencion: Pro Populo (Por las intenciones de la comunidad parroquial)

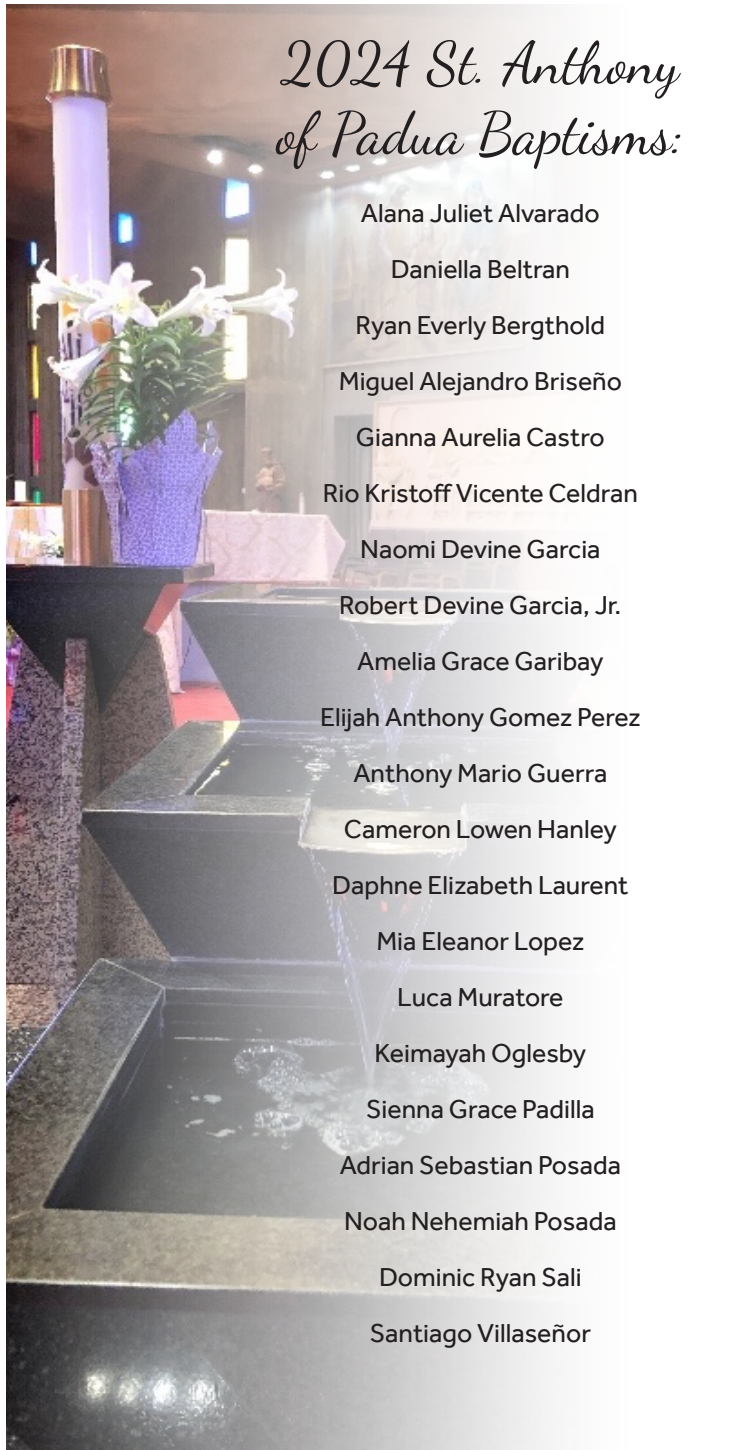
For the following Sacraments, please contact St. Anthony of Padua: Anointing of the Sick • Baptisms • Confession • Funerals • Weddings

Please mail any correspondence, contributions, Mass intentions to: St. Anthony of Padua – 5770 N. Maroa Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704

Sacraments & Pastoral Support..... Chris Shiveley (559) 439-0124, ext. 103
cshiveley@stanthonyfresno.org

Director of Religious Education..... Phyllis Carmona

“Christ has made my soul beautiful with jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him Whom the Angels serve.” – St. Agnes



2024 St. Anthony of Padua Baptisms:

- Alana Juliet Alvarado
- Daniella Beltran
- Ryan Everly Bergthold
- Miguel Alejandro Briseño
- Gianna Aurelia Castro
- Rio Kristoff Vicente Celdran
- Naomi Devine Garcia
- Robert Devine Garcia, Jr.
- Amelia Grace Garibay
- Elijah Anthony Gomez Perez
- Anthony Mario Guerra
- Cameron Lowen Hanley
- Daphne Elizabeth Laurent
- Mia Eleanor Lopez
- Luca Muratore
- Keimayah Oglesby
- Sienna Grace Padilla
- Adrian Sebastian Posada
- Noah Nehemiah Posada
- Dominic Ryan Sali
- Santiago Villaseñor



**EASTER
VIGIL 2024
SACRAMENT RECIPIENTS**



**ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO –
VISALIA**

**2024 Priest Ordination – Saturday, May 25
at St. Charles Borromeo**

There will be no Confessions at St. Anthony of Padua on Saturday, May 25.

Please continue to pray for Deacon Herman (Hermenejildo Cabrera) and his classmates as they prepare for this joyous occasion and the beginning of their priestly ministry.

FIRST MASS OF THANKSGIVING

AS YOU SHARED IN HIS VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
THROUGH YOUR PRAYER AND SUPPORT,
SO, ST. PETER'S PARISH COMMUNITY &
THE CABRERA FAMILY INVITE YOU TO JOIN

Father Hermenejildo L. Cabrera

ST. PETER PRINCE OF THE APOSTLES CATHOLIC CHURCH
870 N. LEMOORE AVE
LEMOORE, CA 93245

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

AT 3:00 P.M. (Bilingual)

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

DINNER RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER 1st MASS

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 18TH @ 559-572-4028

Celebrado by José Olvera Espinoza "Los padres del celebrante después de la misa nueva" 1897.

MASSES OF THANKSGIVING

ST. RITA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

**1051 S. MORRISON ST
TULARE, CA 93274**

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024. AT 12 P.M. IN SPANISH

JESUS NAZARENO CATHOLIC CHURCH

TICUITACO, MICHOACÁN, MEXICO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024 AT 3 P.M.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

**5770 N. MAROA AVE
FRESNO, CA 93704**

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024.

AT 11 A.M. IN ENGLISH & 1 P.M. IN SPANISH

Parish Ministry Guide –

Christ said, "I have come to serve, not to be served."

The prayers during the Mass invite us to offer our prayers and gifts to the Lord. Liturgical Ministry calls the faithful to be part of the Mass. We all feel unworthy to serve, just as Christ's disciples, who were fishermen before Christ called them. Is Christ calling you?

ALTAR SERVER

We invite parents of youth (4th grade and up, who have received their First Holy Communion) to prayerfully consider the unique opportunity for your child to grow closer to Our Lord and His Church as an Altar Server. You can register online at stanthonyfresno.org/ministries/, then click on Altar Servers or call the Parish Office at 439-0124 for more details.



SERVIDOR DE ALTAR

Invitamos a los padres de los jóvenes (de 4º grado en adelante, que hayan recibido su Primera Comunión) a considerar en oración la oportunidad única de que su hijo crezca más cerca de Nuestro Señor y de Su Iglesia como Monaguillo. Usted puede registrarse en línea en stanthonyfresno.org/ministries/, luego haga clic en Altar Servers o llame a la oficina de la parroquia en 439-0124 para más detalles.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Considered the unique honor to offer the "Body of Christ" to the faith community. Ministers are commissioned by our pastor to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Candidates should be 18 years of age and be in full communion with the church (all sacraments).



MINISTROS DE LA EUCARISTÍA

Se considera el honor único de ofrecer el "Cuerpo de Cristo" a la comunidad de fe. Los ministros son comisionados por nuestro párroco para asistir en la distribución de la Sagrada Comunión en la Misa. Los candidatos deben tener 18 años de edad y estar en plena comunión con la iglesia (todos los sacramentos).

LECTORS

Do you remember the joy of reading to your children before bed? If so, chances are you're a Lector candidate. Persons, 5th grade and older, who have made their First Holy Communion with good reading skills can serve as a Lector at Mass.



LECTORES

¿Recuerda la alegría de leer a sus hijos antes de dormir? Si es así, lo más probable es que usted sea un candidato a Lector. Las personas, de 5º grado en adelante, que han hecho su Primera Comunión con buenas habilidades de lectura pueden servir como Lector en la Misa.

Interested Lector and Eucharistic Minister candidates should contact Martha in the Parish Office at 439-0124, ext. 114 or by email. *Los candidatos Ministerio Eucarístico y lectores interesados deben contactar a Martha en la oficina parroquial al 439-0124, ext. 114 o por correo electrónico.*

USHER & GREETER MINISTRY

Are you the type to get to church early? Why not join the Usher Ministry and greet your fellow parishioners as they enter the church? Ushers assist with the collection and act as Eucharistic Guards during Communion. Join the team and serve when you can. Call the Parish Office at 439-0124, ext. 106 for more details or complete the Volunteer Registration at www.stanthonyfresno.org/ministries.



MINISTERIO DE UJIERES Y SALUDADORES

¿Eres de los que llegan temprano a la iglesia? ¿Por qué no te unes al Ministerio de Ujieres y saludas a tus feligreses cuando entran en la iglesia? Los ujieres ayudan con la colecta y actúan como guardias eucarísticos durante la comunión. Únase al equipo y sirva cuando pueda. Llame a la oficina parroquial al 439-0124, ext. 106 para obtener más detalles o complete el registro de voluntarios en www.stanthonyfresno.org/ministries.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Are you a Eucharistic Minister who is being called to serve the members of our parish who are unable to come to Mass on Sunday due to illness or other limitation? We are looking for Eucharistic Ministers who are willing to take Holy Communion after Mass to the members of the parish who are Homebound. If you are interested, please contact the Office of Ministry at 439-0124, ext. 106.

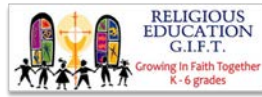


MINISTERIO DE LOS CONFINADOS EN CASA

¿Es usted un Ministro Eucarístico que está siendo llamado a servir a los miembros de nuestra parroquia que no pueden asistir a Misa el domingo debido a una enfermedad u otra limitación? Estamos buscando un Ministro Eucarístico que esté dispuesto a llevar la Sagrada Comunión después de la Misa a los miembros de la parroquia que están en sus hogares. Si está interesado, comuníquese con la Oficina del Ministerio al 439-0124, ext. 106.

We Need You...

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Faith Formation & Sacrament

Preparation for Grades K through 6th

FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION & SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Classes are in session, Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Additionally, Second Year students and parent(s) attend one Thursday per month at 6:30 p.m.

Registrations available on our website: stanthonyfresno.org

For more information or to volunteer in children's ministry, contact Mary Briseno at (559) 439-0124 ext. 113 or by email: mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org

EDGE

2023-2024 for Grades 6th through 8th

Director, Sharon Christison, ext. 117, schristison@stanthonyfresno.org

Catholic Youth Ministry Sessions are Tuesday Evenings in Room 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Register at www.stanthonyfresno.org. Click on Faith Formation tab and scroll down to click one of the EDGE options.

EDGE is a Catholic youth group that is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents. As young adolescents, they are trying to figure out who they are and what they believe. Youth can prepare for sacraments of Baptism and First Communion while attending Edge.



LIFETEEN High School Youth Ministry

2023-2024 for Grades 9 through 12

Director, Sharon Christison, ext. 117, schristison@stanthonyfresno.org

LifeTeen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church. LifeTeen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. We create a dynamic space where the youth can develop friendships with their peers, learn more about their faith, and encounter Jesus in the Sacraments.



First Year Confirmation:

Confirmation is a two-year program for High School students who are sophomores and older. Confirmation candidates usually meet Sunday evenings with our Life Teen Youth Group. Meetings would consist of attending the Life Teen 6:00 p.m. Mass and then the Life Night until 8:30 p.m.

Second Year Confirmation:

Confirmation 2 is open to juniors and seniors who have completed their first year of preparation. Second-year sessions are on Sunday evenings. LifeTeen Life Nights began in September for all high school teens. Invite a friend and grow together.

RCIA: RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS
Tuesdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m. St. Anthony Conference Room (aka Donut Room)

Director, Martha Danks-Ferguson

439-0124, ext. 114; mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org

See our website to register: www.stanthonyfresno.org

Click on *Faith Formation* or scroll down to the RCIA icon.

We welcome adults seeking any of the Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist

New folks are welcome to join us any time during the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha by phone or email.

GIFT EDUCACION RELIGIOSA

Formación de Fe y Preparación Sacramental para niños del Kinder – 6to grados

PRIMERA RECONCILIACION, PRIMERA COMUNION, Y SACRAMENTOS DE INICIACION

Las Clases son los domingos a 3:00 p.m. Adicional, en el Segundo Año escolar los estudiantes y sus padres asisten a un jueves por mes a las 6:30 p.m.

Inscripciones disponibles en nuestra página web: stanthonyfresno.org

Para mas información o para ser voluntario en el ministerio de niños, comuníquese con Mary Briseno al (559) 439-0124 ext. 113 o por email: mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org



CONFIRMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

Para Jóvenes Bilingües en High School



¡INSCRIPCIONES!

Las inscripciones para la confirmación en español ya están abiertas. Visite nuestra pagina de web a stanthonyfresno.org o escanee el QR Code al lado para registrarse.

LAS CLASES COMENZARON EN EL MES DE AGOSTO, 2023.

Para más información comuníquese con el Diacono Edgar al 439-0124, ext. 111 o ebriseno@stanthonyfresno.org.



SACRAMENTOS PARA ADULTOS

Adultos mayores de 18 años interesados en los Sacramentos de Primera Comunión, Confirmación o Bautismo hablar con Hermana Edith, ext. 122 o sisteredith@stanthonyfresno.org.

LECTIONARY STUDY – (Rowdies' – Women's Bible Study) with Martha – Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will delve into the readings for the upcoming weekend and prepare our hearts to receive the Good News anew.

MISSION

Reflection on Mark 16:15-20

This feast of the Ascension, along with next Sunday's feast of Pentecost, calls us to our mission: empowered by God's Spirit, we are to "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." We live in this "in-between" time – after the Ascension of Jesus and before He comes again. We have the promise of Jesus, that He is with us always, and remains in us; this makes our mission doable!

We will always encounter difficulties in this mission. Mark's mention of handling serpents, drinking deadly things, and combating demons is a sure reminder of this. These activities, and the dangers they pose, may not be part of our mission strategy when we set out, but these and all difficulties were foreseen by Jesus, and He has equipped us to face and overcome them, by the help of His grace and the promise of His faithfulness.

The feast of the Ascension brings to mind for me some lyrics from one of my favorite hymns, *O God Beyond All Praising*: "And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still."

~ Fr. Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, May 12, 2024

The Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Eph 1:17-23
Mk 16:15-20

Monday, May 13, 2024

Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 19:1-8
Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Saint Matthias, Apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Jn 15:9-17

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Easter Weekday
Acts 20:28-38
Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Easter Weekday
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
Jn 17:20-26

Friday, May 17, 2024

Saint Paschal Baylon
Acts 25:13b-21
Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Ps 11:4, 5 and 7
Jn 21:20-25

Access Daily Readings from
the New American Bible,
Revised Edition (NABRE) online at
<https://bible.usccb.org>

SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON

Saint of the Day: May 17

Patron Saint of: Eucharistic Congresses and Societies Shepherds

In Paschal's lifetime the Spanish empire in the New World was at the height of its power, though France and England were soon to reduce its influence. The 16th century has been called the Golden Age of the Church in Spain, for it gave birth to Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Peter of Alcantara, Francis Solano, and Salvator of Horta.

Paschal's Spanish parents were poor and pious. Between the ages of seven and 24, he worked as a shepherd and began a life of mortification. He was able to pray on the job and was especially attentive to the church bell, which rang at the Elevation during Mass. Paschal had a very honest streak in him. He once offered to pay owners of crops for any damage his animals caused!

In 1564, Paschal joined the Friars Minor and gave himself wholeheartedly to a life of penance. Though he was urged to study for the priesthood, he chose to be a brother. At various times he served as porter, cook, gardener, and official beggar.

Paschal was careful to observe the vow of poverty. He would never waste any food or anything given for the use of the friars. When he was porter and took care of the poor coming to the door, he developed a reputation for great generosity. The friars sometimes tried to moderate his liberality!

Paschal spent his spare moments praying before the Blessed Sacrament. In time, many people sought his wise counsel. People flocked to his tomb immediately after his burial; miracles were reported promptly. Paschal was canonized in 1690 and was named patron of eucharistic congresses and societies in 1897.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament occupied much of Saint Francis' energy. Most of his letters were to promote devotion to the Eucharist. Paschal shared that concern. An hour in prayer before our Lord in the Eucharist could teach all of us a great deal.

Read the full article: "Saint Paschal Baylon" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-paschal-baylon/ (Accessed April 26, 2024).

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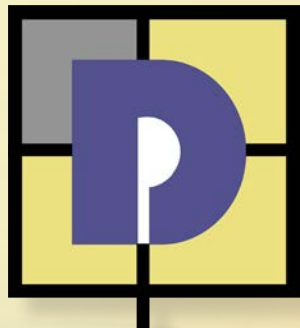
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