



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Diocese of Tyler – Most Rev. Joseph E. Strickland, Bishop
410 N. Alamo Blvd.
Marshall, Texas 75670

Established 1874

Msgr. Zacharias Kunnakkattuthara, Pastor
Rev. Matias Rodriguez, Priest-in-Residence
Magdaleno Aguirre, Felipe Pena,
John Sargent, Santiago Suarez, Deacons

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	12:05 p.m. 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Friday	12:05 p.m. 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Saturday	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday	7:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

SPECIAL MASSES:

1st Saturday - Mass 10 a.m.

DEVOTIONS

Rosary - 30 minutes before Mass

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
or by appointment

BAPTISM - By Appointment.

Prior instructions required. Call 935-2536.

MARRIAGE - Please contact the church office six (6) months in advance.

Adult Faith Formation:

Sundays 8:45 a.m. -10 a.m. St. Joseph School
9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall
Tuesday's 7:00 p.m.

Religious Education

Pre-K-8th grade: Sunday 8:45 - 10 a.m. – School
Grades 9-12: Wednesday's 7 p.m., Youth House

Anyone inquiring about the Catholic Faith
please call the church office.

Mission Statement: *We are a people called together by God, led by the Spirit and nourished by the word and body of Christ. We become the Living Word and Body of Christ through: liturgical and sacramental worship, love of neighbor, respect for life, peace and justice, evangelization and education.*

Ethics: *If you are a victim ... or if you know a victim ...*

The Diocese of Tyler is committed to provide help to anyone who may have been hurt or abused by a priest, deacon, religious, or anyone working in the name of the church.

If you know a minor currently being abused, or in danger, immediately report it to your local police or Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) Promoter of Justice – Rev. Gavin Vaverek, JCL 903-566-2159 confidential line

Email: promoter@dioceseoftyler.org

OFFICE HOURS 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Church Office & Rectory 903-935-2536

FAX: 903-938-1591

E-mail: saintjosephmarshall@yahoo.com

Church Website: stjosephmarshall.org

Facility Scheduling contact the church office.

Staff

Office Administrator Melanie Hughes

Director of Faith Formation Charlotte Smith

Liturgy Nancy Vines

Organist Elaine McMurry

Maintenance Supervisor Dcn. Santiago Suarez

Maintenance Tony Garcia



Second Sunday of Advent/Segundo Domingo de Adviento December/December 10, 2017

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.. – Mark 1:3

Preparen el camino del Señor, enderecen sus senderos. — Marcos 1:3

Mass Intentions

Sat/Sab	12/9	5:00 PM	+Naiff Thomas, Jr. (Mildred Rosencrans)	
		7:00 PM	+Poor Souls in Purgatory (M/M Bernhard Becker)	
Sun/Dom	12/10	7:30 AM	+Sharon Warner (Carl Sperier)	
		10:30 AM	Mass at Marshall Convention Center For All Parishioners	
Mon/Lun	12/11	12:05 PM	+Jackie Carson (Sharon Carson)	<i>St. Damasus I</i>
		5:00 PM	Advent Penance Service	
Tues/Mart	12/12	5:30 PM	-Harold Hale (Legion of Mary)	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
		7:00 PM	Priest's Intentions	
Wed/Mier	12/13	5:30 PM	+John S. Westmoreland (M/M Ranny McMurry)	<i>St. Lucy</i>
Thur/Juev	12/14	12:05 PM	+Tim Morris (Carita McClatchey)	<i>St. John of the Cross</i>
		7:00 PM	Priest's Intentions	
Fri/Vier	12/15	12:05 PM	+Rudy Browder (Harris Family)	
		7:00 PM	Priest's Intentions	
Sat/Sab	12/16	5:00 PM	+Jane Scrivener (M/M Bill Whitis)	
		7:00 PM	Priest's Intentions	
Sun/Dom	12/17	7:30 AM	For All Parishioners	
		10:30 AM	+Royce Plemmons (Mary Lou Plemmons)	
		12:30 PM	+Elvira Diosdado (Legion of Mary)	

Church is open daily from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Pray For Our Sick/ Oremos por Nuestros Enfermos – Jean Sepulvado, Linda Payne Hill, Michael Payne, William Hughes, Jorge Olvera, Ray Busby, Harold Hale, Alvin Ayers, Bobby Kimbrell, Donald Manning, Dr. Carl Turner, Jacqueline Raggio, Nina Bates, Gus Olesch, Carita McClatchey, Stephanie Busby, Crenciana Avellanea Torres, Karen Franklin, Carolyn Pondant, Dorene Rodgers, George Zerucha, James McGregor, Margie Blanz, Beth McCann, Jody McInnis, Pastor Suarez, Fed Williams, Teresa Hernandez, Elena Suarez, Polly O'Bannon, Alice Gardiner, Forrest Stevens, Roberto Alejandro, Renee Wilkerson, Rochelle Frances, Mike Nelson, Betty Black, Charley Ray Furrh, Steve Nanny, Jessica Ward, Maggie Barns, Garret Burton, Tiodolpho Guzman, Lola Duncan, Norris Johnson, Nathan Baltz, Frank Gardiner, Pauline O'Hagan, A.D. Jordan, Jax Ford, Maddison Burt, Judie Newton, Alline McCarty, Rhonda Morris, Gwendolyn O'Neal, and all the sick.

If you know of someone in the hospital please notify the church office. / Si usted sabe de alguien en el hospital, por favor notifique a la oficina de la Iglesia.

****PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF Elvira Diosdado, mother of Salvador Diosdado and all the faithful departed./ Por favor oren por el descanso eterno de todos los fieles difuntos.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND – Mary Y. Alexander, Frank Bailey, Sarah Grubbs, Patricia Jackson, Dorothy Simmons, Agnes Verhalen, Cuisin Reyes, Mary Jo White, Lourdes San Diego. Bob Bahus, Rosa Lee Johnson, Jane Harris, Pet Hooker, Willie Whitaker, Marilyn Dillehay, and Edward Blazek.

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CONTACT INFO

Msgr. Zach 903-724-0865
Fr. Matias Rodriguez 903-522-1184

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY/
Por favor oren por aquellos que están EN EL
SERVICIO MILITAR: Kendall Benton, Juan Carlos Acuna, Aubrey Sperier Arenavas, Bo Dylan Jordan, Brent Westbrook, Heath Zeigler, Desire Robertson, Dominick Pondant, Matthew Kopecky, Gabriel Cantu, Perry Staten, Mary Alder, Alvin Ayers, John Quick, III, Kyrié Lay Redd, James Trachier, Joseph Trachier, Charles R. Heimerdinger, and Salvador Sanchez, Jr

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon/Lun:	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tues/Mart:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Wed/Mier:	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thurs/Juev:	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Fri/Vier:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Sat/Sab:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun/Dom:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE
ADMINISTRACION Y FINANZAS

December/Diciembre 3, 2017 - \$8,581.85
Children's/ Colección de los Niños - \$73.00
Christmas Flowers \$1,479.00

Thank you for your generosity. – Msgr. Zach

2nd Collections – Dec. 10 – Retirement Fund for Religious/Por los Sacerdotes Retirados
Dec. 17 – Building Fund/Por el Fondo de Construcción
Dec 24 & 25 – Seminarians/Por los Seminaristas

LITURGY

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – Dec. 16 & 17

5:00 p.m. – Communion Ministers: Anne & Sandra;
Acolyte: Ziegler.; **Lector:** Cindy; **Video:** Lloyd;
Greeters: Pamela/David

7:30 a.m. – Communion Ministers: Kenneth & Wanda.; **Acolyte:** Ken ; **Lector:** Cissy

10:30 a.m. – Communion Ministers: Mario .; **Acolyte:** Nenninger ; **Lector:** Mary Lou; **Greeters:** M.L. Plemmons/Ranny

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – Every Thursday from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel.

La adoración eucarística - Todos los jueves de 8 a.m. a 7 p.m. en la capilla de adoración.

Adoración Eucarística - Vamos a tener Adoración cada **Primer Viernes de 7:30 p.m. a 6 a.m.** Por favor Pasen una hora con el Señor.

Eucharistic Adoration - every first Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. Please spend an hour with the Lord.

MASS TIME CHANGE – The 6 p.m. Mass for Week day Mass for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday is changed to 5:30 p.m.

MISA en Inglés - El cambio de la hora 6 p.m. de la Misa por semana los lunes, martes y miércoles se cambia a 5:30 p.m.

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN – Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m., at St. Joseph School, 2307 S. Garrett St., for children Age 3 yrs. – 8th grade

Formación en la FE PARA NIÑOS - Domingo, 8:30 a.m. a 10 a.m. en la Escuela San José, 2307 S. Garrett St, Para niños de 3 años. - 8º grado

Did you know that our children's Faith Formation is available for children with special needs. Contact Charlotte Smith for more information. 903-935-2536.

¿Sabías que nuestra formación en la fe para niños está disponible para niños con necesidades especiales. Póngase en contacto con Charlotte Smith para más información. 903-935-2536

Sunday Morning Adult – Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., in the Parish Hall in English.

Domingo por la mañana para Adultos, los domingos a las 9 de la mañana, en la escuela, en español.

Sacramental Prep – NO Sacramental Prep for the month of December. Next Sacramental Prep will be January 21, 2018.

Preparación sacramental – NO habrá preparación sacramental durante el mes de diciembre. Siguiendo Preparación sacramental será el 21 de enero de 2018.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS - *Saturday, January 20, at 10 a.m., here at St. Joseph.* All those with special needs and their families are invited to attend this special Mass. There will be a reception immediately after mass in the parish hall. Please call the Charlotte Smith at 903-935-2536 to RSVP to assure enough food.

Necesidades especiales EN MISA - *Sábado, 20 de enero, a las 10.00 horas.* Todas las personas con necesidades especiales y sus familias están invitados a asistir a esta Misa Especial. Habrá una recepción inmediatamente después de la misa en el salón parroquial. Por favor llame al 903-935-2536 Smith en Charlotte a RSVP para asegurar suficientes alimentos.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – RCIA – English - Meets in the classroom behind the auxiliary rectory from 7:00 – 8:15 PM every Thursday until Easter. Spanish – will meets every Tuesday, from 7:30.- 8:15 p.m., in the Nursery.

Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos - RCIA Español - se reunirán todos los martes, de 7:30 p.m. a 9 p.m., en el salon que está debajo de la rectoría. -Inglés - nos reuniremos en el aula detrás de la rectoría auxiliar de 7:00 - 8:15 PM cada jueves hasta Semana Santa.

FAITH FORMATION – continued

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – “PREPARING FOR ADVENT, CYCLE-B” – With Fr. Mitch Pacwa, Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m, in Parish Hall.

Formación en la fe para adultos - "Preparación para el Adviento, ciclo-B" - con Fr. Mitch Pacwa, comenzando el Martes, 5th de diciembre a las 7:00 p.m, en el Salón Parroquial.

December Celebrations

Birthdays

Dec.	10	Brett Wiley
	12	Diane Turner, Tyna Leonard
	14	Mary Aguirre
	17	Tracy Roden
	18	Juan Torres, Ava Ritter
	21	Mary Heater
	28	Brian Darden, Sandi Darden
	29	Sherry Crowell
	30	Billy Redden
	31	Regina Davis

Anniversaries

Dec.	15	Dcn. John & Dcn. Magdaleno, 10 th Anniversary to the Deaconate
	22	Msgr. Zach, 42 nd Anniversary to the Priesthood

Please contact the church office if you would like your birthday or anniversary publicized in the bulletin.

Póngase en contacto con la oficina de la Iglesia si quieres que tu cumpleaños o aniversario sea publicado en el boletín.

Congratulations- Deacon John and Deacon Magdaleno - 10th anniversary of ordination on December 15 and to Msgr Zach - December 22 - 42nd Anniversary to the Priesthood.

Felicitaciones- John Deacon y Diácono Magdaleno - 10^o aniversario de la ordenación sacerdotal, el 15 de diciembre y a monseñor Zach - 22 de diciembre - 42^a aniversario del sacerdocio.

Our Lady of Guadalupe/Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - Please join us on *Sunday, December 10, at 10:30 a.m.*, at the Marshall Convention Center, for the Mass celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe. A meal will be served after the Mass.

Únase a nosotros *el domingo, 10 de diciembre a las 10:30 horas*, en el Centro de Convenciones de Marshall, en la Misa de celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Se servirá una comida después de la misa.

Right to Life - Everyone is invited to the Marion-Harrison County Annual Christmas Banquet – **Monday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall. Please bring a covered dish. Brisket will be provided.

Right to Life - Todos están invitados al banquete anual de Navidad del Condado Marion-Harrison - **Lunes, 11 de diciembre a las 6:30 p.m.**, en el Salón Parroquial. Por favor traiga un plato tapado. Hecho será proporcionado

CLASES PRE-BAUTISMALES - en español se llevarán a cabo *cada Primer y Tercer Sábado de cada mes de 10 a.m.-12 p.m., en el Salón Parroquial*

Baptismal classes - in Spanish every first and third Saturday of each month, 10 am to 12pm, in the Parish Hall.

CLASES DE QUINCEANERA – *Primer Miércoles de cada mes en el Salón Parroquial a las 7 p.m./ Quinceañera classes - First Wednesday of each month in the Parish Hall at 7 p.m.*

ALL YOUTH Please join us for Game/Movie Nights in the Parish Hall. **From 7-8 p.m.** / Todos los jóvenes por favor únase a nosotros para noches de juego/cine en el Salón Parroquial. de 7-8 p.m.

Wednesday – Grades 9-12

Thursday – Grades 6-8

WORKS OF MERCY

SOUP KITCHEN – Hot meals served Tuesdays 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. **2nd Tuesday: Catholic Daughters**

Cada Martes se sirve comida caliente a partir de las 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. en el Salón Parroquial. **2nd Martes – Catholic Daughters**

FOOD BANK – We need food pantry volunteers from 9:45am until 1pm December 12 -14. Work one or all. We need you. Call Cathy Lay 903 935-4668.

With your generosity we delivered 230 pounds of food to the Food Bank this week. Food Bank items needed: **Peanut Butter, canned tuna, canned vegetables.** Remember the words from Scripture, *“When did we see you hungry Lord....”*

Banco de Alimentos - Productos necesarios: mantequilla de maní, latas de atún, latas de vegetales. Recuerde las palabras de la Escritura: *“Cuándo te vimos hambriento Señor....”*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!! **Mardi Gras 2018 - 25th Anniversary - February 10, 2018.**

MARDI GRAS – PLANNING MEETING – Monday, December 12, 6:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. If you are unable to attend but would like to help, please contact Kathy Sargent at 903-742-9122.

Mardi Gras El 10 de febrero de 2018, será nuestro 25^o aniversario. Venga a formar parte del comité de planificación! El 12 de Diciembre a las 6:15 PM salón parroquial. Si usted no puede asistir, pero le gustaría ayudar, por favor comuníquese con Kathy Sargent en 903-742-9122.



St. Joseph Santa's – We know that this year has been a struggle for many of our parish families. We would like to make sure that our children have a smile on their faces on Christmas morning. If you know of a family needing a helping hand, please contact the church office by December 12, to submit names.

We are collecting monetary donations to help purchase toys, clothes and other items for these families. Please drop off at the church office.

San José Santa's - Sabemos que este año ha sido una lucha para muchas familias de nuestra parroquia. Nos gustaría asegurarnos de que nuestros hijos tengan una sonrisa en sus labios en la mañana de Navidad. Si usted sabe de una familia que necesitan una ayuda, por favor, póngase en contacto con la oficina de la iglesia por el 12 de diciembre, para presentar nombres.

Estamos recolectando donaciones monetarias para ayudar a la compra de juguetes, ropa y otros artículos para estas familias. Por favor, hagalo en la oficina de la iglesia.

COMMUNITY WIDE CHRISTMAS DINNER –

Monday, December 25, at St. Joseph Parish Hall. We will be delivering meals to shut-ins. Last year the cost for the meal was \$2,200.00. Any monetary contributions to help defray the cost of the meal will be greatly appreciated. Sign-up sheets for volunteers can be found on the Baptismal font.

Toda la comunidad CENA DE NAVIDAD - Lunes, 25 de diciembre, en el Salón Parroquial de San José. Estaremos entregando comidas a los necesitados. El año pasado, el costo de la comida fue de \$2,200.00.. Cualquier contribuciones monetarias para ayudar a sufragar el costo de la comida será muy apreciada. Las hojas de inscripción para los voluntarios pueden encontrarse en la fuente bautismal.

ATTENTION HIGH SHOOOL SENIORS – Right to Life of East Texas is offering four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to further their career plans with college, trade school, military or other endeavors. Applications may be picked up at the church office or on-line at www.righttolifeofeasttexas.org Application must be postmarked by **January 26, 2018**.

Atención Jóvenes Bachilleres - Derecho a la vida de Texas está ofreciendo 4 becas de \$1,000 para graduarse de la secundaria que planean seguir sus planes de carrera en la universidad, escuela de comercio, militares u otras actividades. Las solicitudes se podrán recoger en la oficina de la iglesia o en línea, en aplicación www.righttolifeofeasttexas.org deben ser recibidas para el 26 de enero de 2018.

Holiday Happenings

December

- 10 Second Sunday of Advent**
10:30 a.m.. Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration will be at the Convention Center Bi-lingual, meal to follow. *******There will be no 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Church.**
2:30 p.m. – Nursing Home Ministry at Oakwood House
- 11 6:30 p.m.** - Right to Life Banquet Parish Hall
5-7 pm - Advent Penance Service
- 12 4 a.m.** – Mananitas (Spanish), followed by Dawn Rosary. Breakfast afterwards in the Parish Hall.
7:00 p.m. – **Our Lady of Guadalupe – Mass Spanish**
- 16-24 7 p.m. Los Posadas** – in the Church after Mass.
- 17 3rd Sunday of Advent**
KC Blood Dr., 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., in the Parish Hall.
- 18 7 p.m.** Knights of Columbus –Social and Parish Christmas Party at the KC Hall. Santa will be there.
- 20 Sr. Citizen Lunch – Christmas Gathering at noon, Parish Hall.**

St. Joseph to host the final day of Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace on Monday, Dec. 18, from 8AM – 6PM. At 5PM, the statue custodian will give a talk on Fatima before the 5:30PM Mass. It will be an extraordinary occasion of healing, hope and grace. Please join us that day for prayer and veneration throughout the day, hear the story of Fatima and venerate this beautiful statue that set out from Fatima in 1947 to bring the graces of Fatima to all who might not ever be able to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal. The presence of this special Statue (sculpted according to the description of Sister Lucia, the Fatima seer) is a great gift to our community. Contact the parish office at 903-935-2536 for more information. Learn more about the tour and the statue at www.fatimatourforpeace.com. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, a Public Association of the Faithful under the Vatican.

San José para acoger el día final de Fátima Centenaria en gira en Estados Unidos para la Paz el lunes 18 de diciembre, desde las 8am - 6PM. A las 5PM, de el la estatua custodio dará una charla sobre Fátima antes de las 5:30PM Misa. Será una ocasión extraordinaria de la curación, de la esperanza y de la gracia. Por favor únase a nosotros ese día de oración y veneración a lo largo de todo el día, escuchar la historia de Fátima y venerar a esta hermosa estatua que salieron de Fátima en 1947 para llevar las gracias de Fátima a todos los que podría no ser capaz de realizar una peregrinación a Fátima, Portugal. La presencia de esta estatua esculpida (según la descripción de Sor Lucía, la vidente de Fátima) es un gran regalo para nuestra comunidad. Póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial al 903-935-2536 para más información. Obtenga más información sobre la gira y la estatua en www.fatimatourforpeace.com. Patrocinado por el Apostolado Mundial de Fátima, EE.UU., una asociación pública de fieles en el Vaticano.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

In Mark's gospel the story of Jesus does not begin with his birth. It begins in the wilderness. What is wilderness? In the biblical times a wilderness was a wild, almost treeless area with little vegetation at all, except when a rare rainy season provided temporary pasture land. There were some trees, usually palms in an oasis, or inferior trees like tamarisks, and an occasional bush. But the wilderness was hard pressed to support even its own wildlife, and caravans often perished in the wilderness.

John was an eccentric which means deviating from an established pattern. Isaiah the prophet spoke of "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (40:3) Isaiah was saying, and John understood: "Your true king is coming. Repair, not your roads, but your hearts and your lives." In Mark the story of Jesus begins like this: A voice in the wilderness cries, "Get ready for the One who is coming."

In what wilderness are you living? Is some wasteland the current landscape of your soul, arid, empty and lifeless? Have you lost the vitality of a faith that once gave your life meaning? Are you torn by the ambiguities of your inner world where things are no longer black or white? Are your moral boundaries gone, leaving your existence flat and pointless? Are you despairing over the apparent loss of a once bright future, or over someone's betrayal, or over the burden of some grim necessity? What is the name of your wilderness? Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation" (Jn.16:33) Is there no hope? Is there only wilderness? Can this be all?

Theologian Paul Tillich said faith means believing that in every human situation there is what is called, "a saving possibility." Jesus did not stop with tribulation. He said, "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." The God of the Bible makes the wilderness a meaningful place, an Exodus journey. The God of Bible brings life out of a tomb. Ours is a God of saving possibilities. Because this is true, a voice may still be heard in the wilderness, in your wilderness. It is the voice that calls us to prepare for the One who is always coming.

Mark says this is "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ" In the wilderness, a voice, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." The Gospel does not begin on today's front page, where on what Caesar does makes headlines. The Gospel does not begin in Washington's corridors of power, where Herod and Pilate still call all the shots. The gospel begins in the wasteland of your own wilderness. Everything about God's coming into the world was contrary to what people expected. It is still true. The real Christmas begins in your wilderness, with an unlikely, unexpected voice, sometimes only a small voice. It is rarely heard by eager ears, but always by open and loving hearts.

Your friend in Jesus,
Msgr. Zach

Desde el escritorio del Pastor

Queridos amigos,

En el evangelio de san Marcos la historia de Jesús no comienza con su nacimiento. Comienza en el desierto. Qué es el desierto? En los tiempos bíblicos un desierto era una zona agreste, casi sin árboles con poca vegetación, excepto cuando una rara temporada de lluvias caen en las tierras de pasto. Había algunos árboles, generalmente en un oasis de palmeras, árboles como inferiores o tarajes, y ocasionalmente un arbusto. Pero el desierto era difícil admitir incluso su propia vida silvestre y caravanas a menudo perecieron en el desierto.

Juan era un excéntrico que significa apartarse de un modelo establecido. El profeta Isaías habla de "la voz de uno que clama en el desierto: Preparad el camino del Señor, enderezad calzadas en la carretera del desierto para nuestro Dios." (Isaías 40:3) estaba diciendo, y Juan entendió: "El verdadero rey está por venir. Reparallan, no sus caminos, pero sus corazones y sus vidas." En Marc la historia de Jesús comienza así: una voz en el desierto elama, "Prepárese para el que está por venir."

¿En qué desierto está viviendo? Algún terreno baldío es el paisaje actual de tu alma, áridos, vacíos y sin vida? Usted ha perdido la vitalidad de la fe que una vez dieron su vida sentido? Está desgarrado por las ambigüedades de su mundo interior, donde las cosas ya no son blanco o negro? Son sus límites morales que ha ido, dejando su existencia plana y inútiles? Estás desesperado por la aparente pérdida de, un futuro brillante, o una vez más, alguien que te traicionó, o a través de la carga de algunos gan necesidad? ¿Cuál es el nombre del desierto? Jesús dijo, "en el mundo tendréis aflicción" (Jn.16:33) no hay esperanza? Sólo hay desierto? Esto puede ser todo?

El Teólogo Paul Tillich dijo, fe significa creer que en cada situación humana existe lo que se llama, "una posibilidad de ahorro." Jesús no se detiene con la tribulación. Él dijo, "en el mundo tendréis aflicción, pero confiad: yo he vencido al mundo". El Dios de la Biblia hace del desierto un lugar significativo, un camino de éxodo. El Dios de la Biblia trae la vida fuera de una tumba. El nuestro es un Dios de las posibilidades de ahorro. Porque esto es verdad, una voz todavía puede ser escuchada en el desierto. Es la voz que nos llama a prepararse para el que siempre está llegando.

Marco dice que esto es " del evangelio de Jesucristo" en el desierto, una voz, "preparad el camino del Señor." El Evangelio no comienza hoy en la página frontal, donde en lo que César no llega a los titulares. El Evangelio no comienza en los pasillos del poder de Washington, donde Herodes y Pilato todavía se dan todos los gritos. El evangelio comienza en la soledad de su propio desierto. Todo acerca de la venida de Dios en el mundo era contraria a lo que la gente espera. Todavía es cierto. La verdadera Navidad empieza en el desierto, con un improbable, voz inesperada, a veces sólo una pequeña voz. Rara vez es escuchado por oídos ansiosos, pero siempre por abrir, corazones amorosos.

Su amigo en Jesús,
Mons. Zach

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