



The Friday E-Pistle

January 4, 2013

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A message from Bishop Vásquez

New Year's message

May Jesus Christ, Son of God and Prince of Peace, dispel the darkness of sin and strife from our world and strengthen our hearts with deeper faith, hope and love.

Priest retreats

Please pray for those priests and bishops who will be on retreat during the first or second week of January, that God may bring us spiritual refreshment and renewal.

Reflection question

Gospel meditation

Please consider using the following question for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 13):

- Luke's Gospel tells the story of the baptism of Jesus. As John the Baptist baptizes Jesus, he hears the voice of God saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Do you know the story of your own baptism? Reflecting on your faith journey since you were baptized, in what ways do you continue to live your baptismal promises?
- El Evangelio de Lucas nos cuenta la historia del bautismo de Jesús. Cuando Juan el Bautista bautiza a Jesús oye la voz de Dios diciendo: "Tú eres mi Hijo amado, en ti me he complacido". ¿Sabe usted la historia de su propio bautismo? Al reflexionar sobre su camino de fe desde que fue bautizado, ¿de qué manera puede continuar viviendo sus promesas del bautismo?

Year of Faith

10 Prayers for the Year of Faith

Catholics can welcome the New Year and deepen their experience of the Year of Faith by strengthening their prayer lives, says the bishop who chairs the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wisc., offers "10 Prayers for the Year of Faith."

1. The Nicene Creed. The Year of Faith is about returning to the foundational teachings of the Church and drawing strength from them. The Creed is the official prayer of the Year of Faith and contains the core of Christian belief.
2. The Lord's Prayer. The Our Father is so central to the faith that it's said at every Mass. The Year of Faith encourages the personal encounter with Jesus Christ and praying the prayer he gave us can bring us closer to him.

3. The Hail Mary. Mary's prayer will always assist Christians and bring them to her son.
4. The Glory Be. This doxology, or short hymn of praise, beautifully captures the essence of our faith in an eternal, Trinitarian God.
5. The Magnificat. The Canticle of Mary in the Gospel of Luke (1:46-55) gives a glimpse of the faith of someone who trusted God so much that he entered the world through her.
6. The Canticle of Zechariah. Also found in Luke (1:68-79), this prayer is a vivid testament of faith from someone experiencing God's goodness at work in the world.
7. The Memorare. Another powerful Marian prayer, the Memorare reminds God's people that Mary is our mother and that we can turn to her with faith and hope.
8. The Acts of Contrition, Faith, Hope and Love. Most people know the Act of Contrition, but the Acts of Faith, Hope and Love are also wonderful for a Christian's prayer life.
9. The Angel prayers. Children learn the prayer to their guardian angel, and adults learn the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. Both are helpful reminders of the need to ask for God's protection and guidance every day.
10. Prayer for the New Evangelization. The purpose of the Year of Faith is to renew and strengthen Catholics in their practice of the faith so that they may inspire the world with their example. This is the New Evangelization.

Prayers can be found in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the USCCB website.

- [USCCB website](#)

Black Catholics

Annual MLK Mass

The Office of Black Catholics of the Diocese of Austin is sponsoring the annual diocesan-wide Martin Luther King Mass at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20, beginning with a prelude at 9:45 a.m. at Holy Cross Parish, 1610 E. 11th St. in Austin. The main celebrant will be Missionary Society of St. Paul Father Basil Aguzie and the homilist will be Deacon Frank Ashley of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in College Station. All are invited to attend.

Annual blood drive

The Office of Black Catholics of the Diocese of Austin is sponsoring the 10th annual "Blood of the Martyrs" Blood Drive in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. See the flier linked below for more information.

Resource Documents

- [Blood drive flier](#)

Pro-Life Activities and Chaste Living

Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day

January 26 is Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day. The day will begin at 7 a.m. at San José Parish in Austin, with a reenactment of the Joyful Mysteries living rosary at 9:45 a.m., Mass at 10:30 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Joe Vásquez, followed by a march to the south steps of the State Capitol, the Texas Rally for Life, and a Party for Life at the University of Texas Catholic Center. T-shirts

are available for purchase using the order form below. T-shirt orders have been extended to Jan. 7.

- [Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day flier](#)
- [Order T-Shirts](#)

Sarah's Hope

Sarah's Hope is a free spiritual support program for couples struggling to conceive or with pregnancy loss. Monthly women's support groups are held on the first Wednesday of the month (rosary at 6:45 p.m., discussion at 7 p.m.) at the Vitae Clinic in Austin, located at 1600 W. 38th St., suite 115. E-mail SarahsHopeAustin@gmail.com or call (512) 736-7334 for more information. Sarah's Hope is not a ministry of the Austin Diocese.

20th Anniversary of Gabriel Project in the Austin Diocese

All are invited to attend a Mass celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Gabriel Project in the Diocese of Austin. Mass will be held Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. in the chapel at St. William Parish in Round Rock, a reception with founding Gabriel Project members will be held in the pavilion immediately following Mass. Light refreshments will be provided.

Resource Documents

- [Flier for Gabriel Project Mass](#)

Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center

RCIA Retreat

Cedarbrake Retreat Center will host a Day of Reflection for all Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults participants, team members and sponsors on Jan. 19. The retreat begins at 9 a.m. The \$20 registration fee includes lunch. To register, call (254) 780-2436.

Weekly notes

Pope Benedict XVI's prayer intentions

Please consider Pope Benedict XVI's prayer intentions for the month of January:

- That in this Year of Faith Christians may deepen their knowledge of the mystery of Christ and witness joyfully to the gift of faith in him ...
- Que en este Año de la fe, los cristianos se profundicen en el conocimiento del misterio de Cristo y sean testigos gozosos del don de la fe en él...
- That the Christian communities of the Middle East, often discriminated against, may receive from the Holy Spirit the strength of fidelity and perseverance ...
- Para que las comunidades cristianas de Oriente Medio, a menudo víctimas de discriminación, puedan recibir del Espíritu Santo, la fuerza de la fidelidad y la perseverancia...

Bishop Vásquez' prayer intention

Please consider Bishop Vasquez' prayer intention for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 13):

- For all of our godparents, living and deceased, who spoke on our behalf at our own baptism ...
- Por todos nuestros padrinos, vivos y difuntos, que hablaron por nosotros durante nuestro propio bautismo...

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM)

Upcoming EIM Basic and Refresher Workshops

EIM Basic and Refresher Workshops are scheduled on a quarterly basis by the EIM Office, coordinating with the EIM site administrator at parishes, schools and other diocesan agencies. Staff of these sites wishing to host a workshop must coordinate with their EIM site administrator. The EIM site administrator should make all workshop requests on the Workshop Request Table which is sent to parishes/schools a few months prior to each new schedule block. **Additional workshops will not be added to the EIM workshop calendar unless the EIM office determines a particular need.** EIM site administrators may direct inquiries about EIM workshop scheduling to [Emily Hurlimann](#) or [Colleen Schiller](#) in the EIM Office at (512) 949-2400.

To determine which type of EIM workshop you need to attend, please click [here](#). Currently scheduled 1½ hour EIM Refresher Workshops and 3-hour EIM Basic Workshops are listed here:

Date	Time	Location	Phone
Wed, Feb 6, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Louis Catholic School, Waco , Waco	254-754-2041
Thu, Feb 7, 2013	6 to 7:30 p.m.	St. Jerome Parish , Waco - REFRESHER*	254-666-7722
Thu, Feb 7, 2013	7 to 8:30 p.m.	St. Mary Cathedral Parish , Austin - REFRESHER*	512-476-6182
Thu, Feb 7, 2013	6:15 to 9:15 p.m.	St. Mary, Church of the Assumption , West	254-826-3705
Sat, Feb 9, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Joseph Regional Health Ctr, 2801 Franciscan Blvd, Bryan 77802 (Education Ctr - basement rm E-F)	979-776-3988 opt 3
Sat, Feb 9, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	Emmaus Parish , Lakeway - En Español	512-261-8500
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	Ascension Parish , Bastrop	512-321-3552
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Margaret Mary Parish , Cedar Park - En Español	512-259-3126
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Louis Parish , Austin	512-454-0384
Sat, Feb 16, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	St. Anthony Marie de Claret , Kyle	512-268-5311
Mon, Feb 18, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Julia Parish , Austin - En Español	512-926-4186
Sat, Feb 23, 2013	9 a.m. to noon	San Jose Parish , Austin - En Español	512-444-7587

Sat, Feb 23, 2013	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	<u>St. William Parish</u> , Round Rock - <i>En Español</i>	512-255-4473
Wed, Feb 27, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	St. Catherine of Siena, Austin (a regular English-language workshop; also includes sign language interpreter)	512-892-2420
Thu, Feb 28, 2013	7 to 8:30 p.m.	<u>St. Martin de Porres Parish</u> , Dripping Springs - REFRESHER*	512-858-5667
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	1 to 4 p.m.	<u>St. Anthony Marie de Claret</u> , Kyle - <i>En Español</i>	512-268-5311
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	9 to 10:30 a.m.	<u>St. Anthony Marie de Claret</u> , Kyle - REFRESHER*	512-268-5311
Sat, Mar 2, 2013	1 to 2:30 p.m.	<u>St. John the Evangelist Parish</u> , San Marcos - REFRESHER*	512-353-8969
Tue, Mar 5, 2013	6 to 9 pm	<u>St. Jerome Parish</u> , Waco	254-666-7722
Thu, Mar 7, 2013	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	<u>St. Martin de Porres Parish</u> , Dripping Springs	512-858-5667
Mon, Mar 18, 2013	6 to 9 p.m.	<u>St. Joseph Parish</u> , Manor - <i>En Español</i>	512-272-4004

Click here to view [sample bulletin announcements](#) to let parishioners know of these workshops.

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