

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CORN HILL



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, A.D. 2015

✠ Fr. Stephen Nestrta ✠

8626 FM 1105, Jarrell, Texas 76537

Parish Office: 512-863-3020 **Rectory:** 512-863-0401

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Klepac (254-760-4436)

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bulletin Announcement Deadline: Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

Email: holytrinitycc@yahoo.com **Website:** www.holytrinityofcornhill.org

DRE/Bkkpng/Ministry: Lucille D'Elia 512-746-4317; htcdre@yahoo.com

PAC Rentals: Carrie Vieira: 979-318-0731 or htcpac@outlook.com

Cemetery Committee Chair: Johnny Martinka: 512-966-4301

Cemetery Maintenance Contact: Ken Loudermilk: 512-869-7351

Music Ministry / Choir: Ronnie Simek: 512-630-5074

Finance Council President: Tommy Sladeczek: 512-746-5881

Pastoral Council President: Pete Zenner: 512-863-4038

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Sat: 4:15–4:45 pm; Sun: 7:45–8:15 am; Wed: 5:45-6:15 pm

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday	Dec 12	5:00 PM	†Maxine Davis
Sunday	Dec 13	8:30 AM	Pro Populo
Monday	Dec 14	7:00 AM	Marshall & Brielle Cooke
Tuesday	Dec 15	6:00 PM	†Mary Conlee
Wednesday	Dec 16	6:30 PM	Mary (Kohoutek) Tschoerner (for healing)
Thursday	Dec 17	7:00 AM	†Lucy Cook
Friday	Dec 18	6:00 PM	†Gus Richards
Saturday	Dec 19	7:30 AM	†Dottie Lyssy
Saturday	Dec 19	5:00 PM	†Ted & Gabriella Nemec
Sunday	Dec 20	8:30 AM	Pro Populo



MASS MINISTRY REMINDERS

Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 PM:

Altar Servers: John B, Carter M, Lucas Beyer, William Fonville

Lector: Janine Nemec

EM of HC: J or M Heuertz

Gift Bearers: 6th Grade

Saturday, December 19, 5:00 PM:

Altar Servers: Matthew & Nathan Klepac

Lector: Jennifer Klepac

EM's of HC: Debbie Klaus, Keith Youngpeter, Fred Mullenbach

Gift Bearers: Bill & Linda Montreuil

Sunday, December 20, 8:30 AM:

Altar Servers: Thomas Clawson, Caleb Stefek, William Fonville

Lector: Nancy Zenner

EM's of HC: Pete Zenner, Jerry David

Gift Bearers: Tommy & Cindy Sladeczek

EMHC Route: Sunday, December 20: Jerry David

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may donate flowers for the Altars in loving memory or honor of loved ones by turning in an 'Altar Flower Envelope' (located by bulletins or from website). Remember, no flowers are needed during the Advent or Christmas Seasons.

COLLECTION

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent: \$5,853.20
Immaculate Conception: \$1,343.00

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 13:	--Giving Tree Donation Deadline --EMHC Meeting after Mass --KJT #55 Meeting --Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Hour --Advent Penance Service
Tuesday, December 15:	--RCIA Class --DCYC Registration Forms Due
Wednesday, December 16:	--CCE Class
Thursday, December 17:	--Pastoral Council Meeting

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, writes: "The Church has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of her own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy". In the Bull of Indiction *Misericordiae Vultus*, he also writes: "On the same Sunday [Third Sunday of Advent], I decree that in every local church, at the cathedral – the mother church of the faithful in any particular area–or, alternatively, at the co-cathedral or another church of special significance, a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year." Therefore, the blessing of our front doors will take place at the beginning of our 8:30 a.m. Mass today. The cloth around our front door signifies to all that it is the Holy Door and the yellow color is that of the Vatican flag. The banner hung by the door represents and reminds us daily that this is the Year of Mercy and that the Lord's Mercy is available to all.



The motto and the logo of the Year of Mercy come together to offer a synthesis of the ideal underlying the Jubilee Year. The motto, *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36), serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38). The logo represents an image very dear to the early Church, the love of Christ who brings the mystery of his incarnation to fulfillment with the redemption. The logo has been conceived in such a way that the Good Shepherd touches humanity's flesh so deeply and with such love as to bring about a radical change. One feature of the logo which cannot fail to emerge is how, having raised humanity onto his shoulders in a gesture which demonstrates extreme mercy, the eyes of the Good Shepherd and those of Adam become united so that Christ sees through the eyes of Adam, and vice-versa. Every man and woman thus discovers in Christ, the new Adam, his or her own humanity and the future to come, contemplating in the eyes of Christ the Father's love. The scene is set within a mandorla (an almond shape), a device dear to early and medieval iconography, which underlines the presence of the two natures–divine and human–in Christ. The three concentric ovals, progressively lighter in color as they extend towards the outer edge, suggests the dynamic by which Christ carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

Advent is a time of Reconciliation and we should make a good confession in preparation for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Here are some Advent Penance Services for this opportunity:

Holy Trinity of Corn Hill - Sun, Dec 13, 5:00 p.m.; St. Mary's, Taylor - Sun, Dec 20, 7:00 p.m.; St. William, RR - Mon, Dec 21, 1 - 6 p.m.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rev. Jerry Smith, retired priest of the Diocese of Austin, who died this week. May he rest in peace.

The CYM would like to thank everyone for donating and/or purchasing goods at their Bake Sale. Thanks to your generosity, they made a profit of \$556 which will support their stewardship projects and activities.

The **K.J.T. #55 will meet today** (Sunday, December 13) in the RE Bldg after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. They will have election of officers.

Year of Mercy: We will have a Holy Hour with the Divine Mercy Chaplet today (Sunday, December 13) at 4:00 p.m. in the church (followed by our Advent Penance Service at 5:00 p.m.).

The following are all due TODAY --- Sunday, December 13:

--**Advent Giving Tree** items. For information, contact Lucille D'Elia (512-318-5149)

--**Christmas Flower Envelopes** for donations for our poinsettias. Your memorials will be announced in the December 20th bulletin.

--**Marriage Anniversaries.** If, in 2015, you celebrated your 10, 15, 20, 25, etc., 50th or more, wedding anniversary, sign-up on the blue sheet in the foyer. **Please Print Clearly!** Certificates will be presented on the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family (December 26/27).

The **Holy Trinity Parish Prayer Campaign for Church Vocations** is open to all parishioners. To sign-up, contact the parish office. **This week, the crucifix will be with Louise Havelka.** Next week, it will be with Bill & Monica Sherek.

If any high school students are interested in attending DCYC on January 29-31, the registration forms are due by Tuesday, December 15. Cost is \$75 and includes your hotel stay and most of your meals. To turn in your forms or for more information, contact Monica Sherek (512-864-4748).

RCIA: Class this Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Discussion: Baptism & Confirmation.

CCE: Class this Wednesday, December 16, from 6:15 – 8:00 p.m. For all CCE information, contact Lucille D'Elia (512-318-5149).

Fr. Stephen will celebrate **Mass at the Will-O-Bell Nursing Home in Bartlett** this Thursday, December 17, at 10:00 a.m.

The **Pastoral Council will meet** on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. All parishioners are invited. The agenda for this meeting is posted on the bulletin board for your information and preparation.

Food Drive Ends Next Sunday, December 20: You can help area families have a Hunger-Free Christmas by placing a non-perishable item in the food drive boxes located near the vestibule and south entrance of the church. Every can, box or bag of food makes a difference. Monetary donations are also accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Havelka (512-869-8715).

The **Confraternity of Christian Mothers** will not have a business meeting in December. However, they will meet on Monday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the RE Bldg, to prepare Christmas 'Goody Bags' and to pray their monthly Conference Prayers.

We will have our annual **RE Fundraiser** on Sunday, January 17. If you would like to make a donation to help defray the cost of supplies, envelopes are available on the bulletin tables. We will also have a **Silent Auction** during the fundraiser meal. If you would like to donate items for the auction, please contact Lucille D'Elia (512-318-5149 or htcdre@yahoo.com). Please also contact Lucille if you would like to help in any way with the fundraiser.

We would like to thank Providence Funeral Home in Taylor for generously donating 50 of their 2016 calendars for our parishioners.

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are already on the Third Sunday of Advent. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! The Lord is near!" (Philippians 4:4,5) This verse is taken from today's entrance antiphon and from today's second reading. It expresses the theme of this Sunday's readings and the reason we call this Sunday "Gaudete Sunday." To help you with your final preparations for Christmas, we have an Examination of Conscience on the bulletin tables to assist you as you prepare to go to Confession. Please plan on going to Confession sometime before Christmas, either here or at one of our neighboring parishes. It is one of the best ways that you can prepare your soul to celebrate the birth of the Savior. In doing so, you are giving our Lord a great gift, the gift of yourself. Our Penance Service will be today, Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 pm following our Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Hour which begins at 4:00 pm. Please take advantage of this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As part of your Jubilee Year observance, you may want to reflect upon the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Do you fulfill these in some way on a regular basis in your life? Attached to this bulletin is a pamphlet about the Jubilee Year to help you better understand what it is all about and to help you participate in the reception of graces that it has to offer. During this Jubilee Year, you are encouraged to visit the churches that have been designated as pilgrimage sites. The following parishes have been designated as pilgrimage sites: Holy Trinity of Corn Hill, Sacred Heart in Waco, St. Joseph Mission in Mason, St. Mary in College Station, and St. Mary Cathedral in Austin. By making a pilgrimage to one, some, or all of these churches, you can gain an indulgence. An indulgence is partial or plenary in as far as it frees from the temporal punishment due to sin either partly or totally. The faithful can gain partial or plenary indulgences for themselves, or apply them for the dead by way of intercessory prayer. Conditions for the indulgence include the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences, that is, that the person truly repents of their sins, goes to confession, receives the Eucharist, makes a profession of faith, and prays for the Pope and his intentions.

In today's Gospel, we hear people ask St. John "What should we do?" He tells them to do what they should be doing according to their faith...share with the person who has none...be generous to others...do not cheat anyone...do not steal from others...do not falsely accuse anyone...do not spread rumors...do not gossip...be satisfied with your wages...do not be greedy...in other words, be faithful to God and to His Law. Jesus and His Church continue to tell us the same message today. Are we listening? Are we trying as much as we should be to do what the Lord is asking of us through His Church? Jesus makes it very clear that, if we are to be His disciples, we cannot just do our own thing. We have to do what He asks us to do; otherwise, we will not be counted among those in His Kingdom. Do we take this seriously? Or, do we think that what Jesus asks is only for everyone else but not for me? Those who make themselves to be their own authority do not do what Jesus asks of them. They really are not listening. Only if we are trying to do what Jesus asks of us can we really be filled with the joy that this "Gaudete Sunday" is meant to portray.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near." May this joy be yours in these final days of Advent.

May you have a blessed Third Week of Advent.

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta, farář