

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CORN HILL



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 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 19	5:00 PM	†Ted & Gabriella Nemeč
Sunday	Dec 20	8:30 AM	Pro Populo
Monday	Dec 21	7:00 AM	†Lorraine Sternadel
Tuesday	Dec 22	6:00 PM	†Leticia Ross
Wednesday	Dec 23	6:30 PM	†Joe & Annie Klepac
Thursday	Dec 24	7:00 AM	†Marie Hrachovy

Nativity of the Lord – Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday	Dec 24	5:00 PM	Pro Populo
		12:00 Midnight	Pro Populo
Friday	Dec 25	8:30 AM	Pro Populo
Saturday	Dec 26	NO MASS	
Saturday	Dec 26	5:00 PM	Pro Populo
Sunday	Dec 27	8:30 AM	†Louis Stojanik



MASS MINISTRY REMINDERS

Christmas: Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 24, 5:00 PM:

Altar Servers: Matthew & Nathan Klepac, Jakob Voigt

Lector: Michael Vrabel

EM's of HC: Patsy Hightower, Irene Cavanaugh, Jennifer Klepac

Gift Bearers: John & Mary Ann Valenta

and 12:00 Midnight: (incense)

Altar Servers: Jamie, John & Jenna Danek, Caleb Stefek

Lector: Leo Bringman

EM's of HC: Ray Nemeč, Lucille Nemeč

Gift Bearers: Ray & Teresa Nemeč

Friday, December 25, 8:30 AM: (incense)

Altar Servers: John & Maria Bruce, William & Joseph Brousseau

Lector: Louis Brousseau

EM's of HC: Pete Zenner

Gift Bearers: Pete & Nancy Zenner

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 26, 5:00 PM:

Altar Servers: John & Maria Bruce, Jakob Voigt

Lector: Janine Nemeč

EM's of HC: Patsy Hightower, Irene Cavanaugh

Gift Bearers: John & Mary Ann Valenta

Sunday, December 27, 8:30 AM:

Altar Servers: Travis Clawson, Carter Marquis, Lucas Beyer

Lector: Henry Taylor

EM's of HC: John & Cynthia Edgar, James Nemeč

Gift Bearers: Tommy & Cindy Sladeczek

EMHC Route: December 27: Ray Nemeč

Please consider being a Lector and/or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. We are in need of more ministers for both weekend Masses. Call parish office.

COLLECTION

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent: \$2,912.25
Priest & Clergy Retirement Fund: \$1,564.02

Thank you for your stewardship!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

This week, the parish office will be open Monday, December 21 – Wednesday, December 23) and will be closed through January 1. We will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 5.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

In this Year of Mercy, the Holy Father has asked that we focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy. You – the parishioners of Holy Trinity – have started off this Jubilee Year with a bang! Thanks to your unending generosity, we received from you and distributed more than 100 gifts to some local families – giving those children a merrier and blessed Christmas. You are a most giving people and we ask God's blessings upon you all!

Food Drive: The collection of food for the Caring Place comes to a close this weekend. The Catholic Union of Texas (KJT Society 55) of Corn Hill thanks everyone who donated food and money to help the needy in our area. God bless you 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: **St. Mary's, Taylor** - Sunday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.; **St. William, RR** - Monday, December 21, 1 - 6 p.m.

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 Bill & Monica Sherek.** Next week, it will be with Kathy Windhauser.

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

RCIA: No class during the holidays. Next class will be held on Tuesday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Discussion: Marriage.

CCE: No class during the holidays. Next class will be held on Wednesday, January 6, from 6:15 – 8:00 p.m.

We will have our annual **RE/CYM 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, 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.

If you would like a **2015 Donation Report** (for tax, or other, purposes), please let us know. If you have received one in the past, you will automatically receive one again. If not, please call or email the parish office to put your name on the list. The reports will be sent out by January 31.

The **2016 Contribution Envelopes** are now available in the foyer of the church. If you want envelopes and don't have a box in there, please sign up on the sheet provided.

The Diocese of Austin is now part of the "Amazon Smile Program". Purchase items online at Amazon.com and they will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible items to our diocese – it's that easy! Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1542827> - sign into your Amazon account and choose the Diocese of Austin as your organization of choice. Support our diocese and share this information with friends and families.

Dear friends in Christ,

Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Today's Gospel is the visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth who is with child. When Mary and Elizabeth see one another, John leaps for joy in the womb of Elizabeth, so close is his salvation, Jesus, in the womb of Mary. This probably happened about 12 days after the angel had visited Mary and she conceived of Jesus in her womb. Mary, Elizabeth, John and Jesus, an encounter of great joy and love. May we experience the same as we come to receive Jesus in Holy Communion and as we encounter Him in each other.

Christmas is just around the corner. Christmas begins the evening of December 24 and continues through Sunday, January 10. Keep your Christmas lights shining brightly all throughout the Christmas Season. Let us celebrate this season in its fullness. During the Christmas Season are several important Feast Days. During the Octave of Christmas, we have The Birth of the Lord on December 25, St. Stephen on December 26, The Holy Family on December 27, The Holy Innocents on December 28, and Mary, Mother of God on January 1. In the remainder of the Christmas Season, we have The Epiphany of the Lord on January 3 and The Baptism of the Lord on January 10. Try to attend as many of these Masses as possible. Of course, December 25, December 27, January 1, January 3 and January 10 are all Holy Days of Obligation, so I will definitely see you at Mass on those days, unless you are traveling out of town. The Lord has given us so much and so many ways in which we can truly experience His love and presence in our life and in the life of our family. Let us accept all He gives us and be united with Him and with one another. Below are a few thoughts about this season:

The Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us. The longings of the patriarchs and prophets are fulfilled. With the shepherds, we hurry to the manger and adore the Incarnate Son of God, who for us and for our salvation descended upon earth. The purpose of the Christmas feast is beautifully expressed in the Preface of the Nativity: "For in the mystery of the Word made flesh a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind; so that as we recognize in Him a God made visible, we may be caught up through Him in love of things invisible."

During the Christmas season, there is an extensive exchange of greetings and good wishes among friends. These greetings are a reminder of those "good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people, for this day is born to you a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11). They are a reminder, too, that all blessings and graces come to us from Christ: "Has He not also with Him given us all things?" (Rom. 8:32).

During the Christmas season, there is also an exchange of gifts. This custom should recall to us that, on this day, God Himself gave to us the greatest of all gifts, His beloved Son: "God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son" (John 3: 16).

The Christmas tree, of which the first-known mention was made in 1605 at Strasbourg, was introduced into France and England in 1840. It symbolizes the great family tree of Christ which through David and Jesse has its roots in Abraham, the father of the chosen race. It is often laden with gifts to remind us that Christmas brought us the priceless gifts of grace and of eternal life. It is frequently adorned with lights that recall to us that Christ is the Light of the world enlightening those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Though not entirely unknown before, the custom of the Christmas Crib was adopted by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio, Italy, on Christmas 1225. It is a concrete and vivid way of representing to ourselves the Incarnation and birth of Christ. It depicts in a striking manner the virtues of the newborn Savior, especially His humility, poverty, and charity.

May your Christmas be filled with the meaning and love it is meant to bring to each of you so that you may experience God's love in its fullness.

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta, farář