

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of CORN HILL



Pope Francis
Vatican City State



Bishop Joe Vásquez
Diocese of Austin



Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, A.D. 2016



Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday	Dec 3	5:00 PM	†John & Tillie Klepac
Sunday	Dec 4	8:30 AM	Pro Populo
Monday	Dec 5	6:00 PM	Liv/Dec Benefactors of the Czech Seminarian Fund
Tuesday	Dec 6	6:00 PM	Virgil Tonn (healing)
Wednesday	Dec 7	7:00 AM	†Leslie Shaw

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday	Dec 7	6:30 PM	Eileen Freely (healing) INCENSE
Thursday	Dec 8	7:00 AM	Pro Populo
		12 Noon	†Agnes F. Straka
Friday	Dec 9	6:00 PM	†Robert & Leona Brenek
Saturday	Dec 10	7:30 AM	†Joe & Annie Klepac
Saturday	Dec 10	5:00 PM	Kip Heuertz (healing)
Sunday	Dec 11	8:30 AM	Pro Populo

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate Altar Flowers in memory or honor of loved ones, you may do so by turning in an Altar Flower Envelope (by bulletins or from website). **Please Remember:** No flowers are needed during the Advent & Christmas Seasons.

Last Week's Collection(s)

November 24: Thanksgiving Collections: \$658.00
November 27: First Sunday of Advent: \$3,252.00

Parish Prayer Campaign for Vocations

is open to all parishioners. To sign-up, contact the parish office.

December 4 - 10: Andrew & Susan Klepac

December 11 - 17: Louis & Louise Straka

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 4:	--Hospitality Sunday
Monday, December 5:	--Senior Citizens' Supper
	--Men's Prayer Group
Tuesday, December 6:	--RCIA Class
Wednesday, December 7:	--CCE Classes
Thursday, December 8:	--Parish Office Closed
	--Pro-Life Adoration
	--Pastoral & Finance Council Mtgs
Sat/Sun, December 10/11:	--Second Collection
Sunday, December 11:	--Advent Penance Service

✠ Fr. Stephen Nestrta ✠

Address: 8626 FM 1105, Jarrell, Texas 76537

Phone: 512-863-3020

Email: holytrinitycc@yahoo.com

Website: www.holytrinityofcornhill.org

Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 10 am – 3 pm

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Klepac 254-760-4436

Bulletin Announcement Deadline: Tuesdays @ 3:00 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday @ 5:00 pm & Sunday @ 8:30 am

Reconciliation: Sat: 4:00–4:45 pm; Sun: 7:45–8:15 am;
& Wed: 5:45-6:15 pm (or by appt.)

Parish Contacts & Resources

Dir Rel Educ & Bookkeeping: Lucille D'Elia 512-746-4317

Parish Activity Center (PAC) Rentals & Info: Parish Office

Cemetery Information: Parish Office

Cemetery Director: Johnny Martinka 512-966-4301

Cemetery Maintenance: Ken Loudermilk 512-869-7351

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

Finance Council: Tommy Sladeczek 512-746-5881

Pastoral Council: Helen Havelka 512-869-8715

Pro-Life Prayer Group: Chris Garlasco 860-689-3021

Men's Prayer Group: Pete Zenner 512-863-4038

Conf of Christian Mothers: Lucille Nemec 254-527-3615

K.J.T. Society #55: John Danek 512-746-4168

K.J.Z.T. Society #15: Dorothy Klepac 512-746-2902

Catholic Life Insurance #50: Tommy Sladeczek 512-635-3496

Mass Ministry Reminders

Immaculate Conception – Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 PM: INCENSE

Altar Servers: Matthew K, John D, Caleb S, Adelaide B

Lector: Jennifer Klepac

EMHC: Jennifer Klepac, Jim & Mary Margaret Heuertz

Gift Bearers: Confirmation II

Head Usher: A.J. Batla

Thursday, December 8:

7:00 AM: (volunteers requested for all ministries)

Head Usher: Frank Knappek

12 Noon: Lector: Henry Taylor

EMHC: Cynthia Edgar

Head Usher: Donald Tschoerner

Saturday, December 10, 5:00 PM:

Altar Servers: Matthew & Nathan Klepac, Jakob Voigt

Lector: Jennifer Klepac

EMHC: Jim & Mary Margaret Heuertz, Fred Mullenbach

Gift Bearers: Johnny & Bernice Hernandez

Head Usher: Jeff Voigt

Sunday, December 11, 8:30 AM:

Altar Servers: Thomas Clawson, William & Joseph Brousseau

Lector: Louis Brousseau

EMHC: Lucille Nemec, John & Cynthia Edgar

Gift Bearers: Richard & Lisa Danek

Head Usher: Frank Knappek

EM to Shut-ins: Sunday, December 11: John Edgar

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathies to the family of **Lucille DelSignore** who passed away (she is mother to Stephanie Wright, of our parish family). Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

Catholic Social Teaching Corner: December 3&4 - Second Sunday of Advent: Today's Psalm is "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever." How are we working towards justice and peace today?

The Clerical Endowment Fund (CEF) has special "**Christmas Enrollment**" cards for **Spiritual Bouquet Gifts** for the Christmas season. These enrollments, with the usual \$2 offering, can be made after the Masses this weekend (December 3/4) in the foyer of the church. Christmas enrollments can also be made by contacting our parish CEF Chairperson, Janine Nemecek (512-863-6892).

All parishioners and visitors are invited to **Hospitality Sunday** today (Sunday, December 4) in the PAC Bldg, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Thank you to the Moravian Club for preparing the breakfast.

Our monthly **Senior Citizens'** Supper will be held this Monday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC Bldg. Thank you to the CYM for preparing the meal. All youth, grades 6-12, are invited and encouraged to participate in the preparation and serving of the meal. Please contact Monica Sherek (512-864-4748) if you would like to help.

The **Men's Prayer Group** will meet this Monday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Contact Pete Zenner for information (512-863-4038).

RCIA – Class this Tuesday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Discussion: (tour of the church).

CCE: Class this Wednesday, December 7, from 6:15 – 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Lucille D'Elia (512-318-5149 or htdre@yahoo.com).

The **parish office will be closed** for the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation this Thursday, December 8.

When we have a drive for items to benefit the **Annunciation Maternity Home in Georgetown**, you may wonder what this pro-life apostolate is all about and how do they operate. If so, or to simply show them your support of their efforts, you are invited to attend their **Christmas Open House** this Thursday, December 8, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (come & go). Stop by for a quick tour of their Homes and Education Center, mingle with fellow supporters, and hear about their latest updates. Light food and beverages will be served. RSVP online at www.thematernityhome.org. (3610 Shell Rd. Georgetown)

Join us for **Pro-Life Adoration** this Thursday, December 8, from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. Even if you did not sign-up for a time slot, everyone is welcome to come – when they can and for however long they can stay – to spend some time with Our Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament.

The **Pastoral Council** will meet this Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. All parishioners are invited to attend. The agenda for this meeting is located on the bulletin board for your information and preparation. The **Finance Council** will also meet that evening after the PC meeting.

K.J.T. #55 will meet on Sunday, December 11, in the PAC Bldg, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. They will be having election of officers.

Food Drive: Donating food to help an area family has never been easier. The KJT is collecting food (through Sunday, December 18) for the Caring Place, which works with families faced with financial struggles. Simply drop your non-perishable items in the boxes located in the vestibule or south entrance of church. If making a monetary donation is easier, we'll take it. Contact Helen Havelka (512-869-8715) if you have any questions.

Our **Advent Giving Tree** is located in the foyer of the church. To participate, you will get a tag from the tree – purchase the item(s) listed – and then bring them to the church or the RE Bldg – UNWRAPPED & with the tag - by the due-date written on the tag. For questions, contact Lucille D'Elia (512-318-5149). Thank you, in advance, for your generosity in giving to those in need.

If you would like to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season with beautiful poinsettias --- in memory or honor of loved ones --- you may do so by completing and returning a "Christmas Flower Envelope" (located by the bulletins). Please turn in your envelope by Sunday, December 18. Memorials will be announced in the Christmas bulletin.

Marriage Anniversaries: If, in 2016, you celebrated your 10, 15, 20, 25, etc., 50th or more, wedding anniversary, the Austin DCCW, together with our Bishop, Joe Vásquez, will honor these couples with a certificate. There is a (blue) sign-up sheet in the foyer of the church. Please make sure you **fill in all of the information and print clearly** so that we don't misspell your names! Please sign-up by Sunday, December 18. The certificates will be presented to these couples on the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec 31/Jan 1).

ATTN: ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! The annual **Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC)** will be held at the Waco Convention Center on January 27-29, 2017, and you are invited! Cost is \$100 and includes your hotel stay plus most of your meals. **Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church and are due by December 18.** For information, or to turn in registration forms, contact Monica Sherek (512-864-4748).

The **2017 Contribution Envelopes are now available** in the foyer of the church. If you are not currently using these envelopes and would like to, please write your name on the sheet provided and we will put one out for you.

****Please remember, your status as a registered parishioner (or member) of our parish is dictated by the following: completing and turning in a Registration Form (located by bulletins or from our website) to be kept on file in the parish office, your spiritual and physical contributions to the parish, and your financial contributions to the parish (either by check or by contribution envelope).**

If you are new to our parish and would like to become a member, please complete and turn in a Registration Form (yellow sheets by the bulletins, or print one from our website). For any questions, don't hesitate to contact the parish office.

Men's discernment dinners are for single Catholic men (high school-adult) with openness to discerning a priestly vocation. The evenings include dinner and evening prayer with discussions about the priesthood, seminary and discernment. Dinners are on separate Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The high school men's group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Religious Education Building of St. William Parish in Round Rock. The group for men 18 and older meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the St. Charles Borromeo House of Discernment at 905B Duncan Lane in Austin. For more information, visit www.austinvocations.com; date exceptions will be posted online.

Retreat designed for men discerning priesthood: The annual Heart of Jesus Men's Discernment Retreat will be held Dec. 16-18 at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. This retreat is for Catholic men (ages 17 to 45) with openness to a priestly vocation and at varying stages of discernment. The weekend will include silence, prayer, meals and talks by priests and seminarians. This is a great opportunity to spend time with other men who are seeking God's will for their lives. Men are invited to discover the key to their identity as a man and their vocation in the Heart of Jesus. For more information, visit www.austinvocations.com or contact the Vocations Office at (512) 949-2430.

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist will host **Texas Vocations Day 2016** on Saturday, December 10, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Convent in Buda. Young women between the ages of 16 and 32 are invited to come and learn more about the sisters and religious life. The cost is \$25 per person. For more information, e-mail Mao-tx@sistersofmary.org or visit www.sistersofmary.org.

Please take the time to make a good confession during Advent. The following are several opportunities in our area:

SSCM – Granger – Tues, Dec 6, 7 PM; **Holy Trinity – Corn Hill** – Sun, Dec 11, 5 PM; **St. Mary – Taylor** – Sun, Dec 11, 6 PM
St. Joseph – Manor – Wed, Dec 14, 7 PM; **St. John Vianney – Round Rock** – Thurs, Dec 15, 7 PM
St. William – Round Rock – Mon, Dec 19, 7 PM and Wed, Dec 21, 1 PM – 6 PM

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are at the Second Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus and also for the Second Coming of Jesus. One of the themes in today's first reading, taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, and also today's gospel reading, is that of fear. However, this fear is not one which should make a person feel threatened or scared. It is a fear which should heighten our reverence and respect for God and for all that is sacred. Webster's dictionary defines fear as: "a profound reverence and awe, especially toward God." This is a fear which reminds us that God is great and glorious, all-powerful and mighty, and that we should worship Him and give Him all glory, honor, and praise. This is a reverential fear which ought to inspire us to be a godly people. This is the kind of fear that will be a sign of the presence of the spirit in the Messiah, as Isaiah says in today's first reading: "a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight will be a fear of the Lord."

John the Baptizer certainly tried to instill fear in his followers and the religious leaders of his time by declaring: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." "...The chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." This really got their attention. As you know, the chaff is the so-called trash that is left over after the grain has been sifted. It is not good for anything but to be thrown away. John the Baptizer is not telling us this to scare us, but only to bring to our attention the need for us to reform our lives and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Savior. And this is what this Advent Season is all about -- preparing ourselves for the birthday of Christ and for His Second Coming.

Fear does play a part in our Christian life. John the Baptizer instilled fear in the people so that they would prepare themselves for the coming of Christ. We also need a wholesome fear, not a fear of panic, terror or fright, but a holy fear of an awesome God, so that we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into the lives of all of us who profess Jesus as our Savior. This is not just a time of preparation for the receiving of gifts, not just a time for a break with Jim Beam or Jack Daniels, and not just a time to receive the latest gadget or toy. No, it is a time to prepare ourselves for Jesus Christ. This time before Christmas is a time to mend our ways and to regain the virtues of honesty, chastity, charity, prudence, or whatever virtue we may have lost. It is a time to take seriously the call of John the Baptizer to reform our lives and to return to a reverence and respect for God. True fear is rooted in a respect for the designs of God, a reverence for the way things ought to be. This Advent is a time to let God take control of our lives and to stop doing whatever pleases us and to do that which pleases God.

In these days of preparing to celebrate the Christmas mystery of the birth of Jesus Christ, may we be blessed with this fear of our Lord and give Him the glory, honor, and praise that He deserves. And, may we strive to remain faithful to Jesus all the days of our life so that we can receive Him into our hearts and souls with great joy ... at Mass, at His coming at Christmas, and at His second coming.

In this bulletin, you will find the list of Penance Services for our Deanery. Our Penance Service will be next Sunday, December 11, at 5:00 pm. Please take the advice of St. John and make a good confession before we celebrate Christmas.

This Thursday, December 8, we celebrate a Holy Day of Obligation as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Immaculate Conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. All Catholics should attend Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation. Let us gather together to reflect upon how Mary was prepared from the time of her conception in the womb of her mother to be the mother of the Savior. Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States. Our Masses will be on Wednesday, December 7, at 6:30 pm and on Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 am and 12:00 noon.

May the peace and love of our Lord be with you in this holy season.

**In Christ,
Fr. Stephen Nestrta, farář**

Mary's Immaculate Conception

This Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Many people do not quite understand what the Immaculate Conception of Mary is about. We hope this article will give you a better understanding of Mary's Immaculate Conception.

"We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful." *Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX solemnly defining the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 1854.*

In essence this means that Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Ann, without the stain of Original Sin. Everyone else, except for Jesus, is born with the stain of Original Sin. This is washed away when we are baptized.

Even though this teaching was not defined and made into a dogma of our faith until 1854, it always was a teaching of the Church. This can be seen as written by the Fathers of the Church:

- - Implicitly found in the Fathers of the Church in the parallelism between Eve and Mary (Irenaeus of Lyons, 140-202);
- - Found in the more general terms about Mary: "holy", "innocent", "most pure", "intact", "immaculate" (Irenaeus of Lyons, 140-202; Ephraem of Syria, 306-373; Ambrose of Milan, 373-397);
- - Explicit language: Mary - free from original sin (Augustine of Hippo, 395-430 to Anselm of Normandy, 1033-1109);
- - Eastern Church: celebrated a Feast of the Conception of Mary in the 8th to the 9th Century;
- - Western Church: celebrated a Feast of the Conception of Mary in the 12th Century;
- - A record of the feast in the 11th Century in Great Britain; in the 12th Century in Normandy, France, Germany, Italy and Spain in the 12th Century (Bernard of Clairvaux, 1090-1153);

Now the Church continues to elucidate the scriptural basis of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. There are two passages in Scripture which point us to this truth. We look first at Genesis 3.15, in which we see the parallel between Mary and Eve of which the early Church Fathers already spoke: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." The Jews saw this passage as referring to the struggle between Christ and Satan, and so the Church sees in "the woman" a prophetic foreshadowing of the Virgin Mary (Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, # 55). If there is to be complete enmity between the woman and the serpent, then she never should have been in any way subject to him even briefly. This implies an Immaculate conception.

We can also reason from the text of Lk 1:28,30,37 in which the angel calls her "full of grace". In this verse we can see even more strongly the complete enmity with the serpent--for God's grace is completely opposed to Satan's reign. But if Mary was "full of grace," it seems that she must have been conceived immaculate. Even though Mary was full of grace at the start of her life, yet she could still grow, for, as it were, her capacity for grace could increase.

In general, a soul will grow in proportion to these things: (1) The greater the dignity of the person, the greater the merit. In her case, the dignity of Mother of God is the highest possible for a creature. (2) The greater the work, the greater the merit: her cooperation in the redemption was the greatest work possible to a creature. (3) The greater the love, the greater the merit. Love of God means the attachment of our will to His. Her will adhered supremely, with no obstacle at all, so that even ordinary household duties, which she saw as the will of the Father for her, were supremely valuable. If only all of us could view our daily tasks and duties with this attitude and with such faith.