

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of CORN HILL



Pope Francis
Vatican City State



Bishop Joe Vásquez
Diocese of Austin



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, A.D. 2016



Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday	Dec 17	5:00 PM	† Joe & Margaret Vrazel
Sunday	Dec 18	8:30 AM	Pro Populo
Tuesday	Dec 20	6:00 PM	For Life
Wednesday	Dec 21	7:00 AM	† Emil Sherek
Thursday	Dec 22	7:00 AM	Vernon & Jan Hein
Friday	Dec 23	6:00 PM	† Theofil Zurovetz
Saturday	Dec 24	7:30 AM	In Thanksgiving

Christmas Masses

Saturday	Dec 24	5:00 PM	Pro Populo
		Midnight	Pro Populo (incense)
Sunday	Dec 25	8:30 AM	Pro Populo (incense)

Last Week's Collection(s)

December 11: Third Sunday of Advent: \$3,294.36
& Religious Retirement Fund: \$1,799.00

Parish Prayer Campaign for Vocations

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

December 18 – 24: Tim & Gwyn Vrabel family

December 25 – 31: Mark & Debbie Klaus

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday in the church from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Come and spend some time with the Lord.

New Year's: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Eve: Saturday, December 31: 5:00 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.
New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1: 8:30 a.m.

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathies and prayers to the family of **Eileen Freely**, who passed away on December 13. (She is mother to Lucille D'Elia, of our parish family.)
Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.

✠ Fr. Stephen Nestrsta ✠

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: 4:00–4:40 pm; Sun: 7:45–8:10 am;
& Wed: 5:45-6:10 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: Pete Zenner 512-863-4038

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

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 PM:

Altar Servers: Matthew & Nathan Klepac, Jakob Voigt

Lector: Michael Vrabel

EMHC: Jim & Mary Margaret Heuertz, Jennifer Klepac

Gift Bearers: Chance & Monica Snook family

Head Usher: Jeff Voigt

Midnight Mass: (INCENSE)

Altar Servers: Jamie, John & Jenna Danek, Carter Marquis

Lector: Leo Bringman

EMHC: Lucille Nemec, James Nemec, Ray Nemec

Gift Bearers: Ray & Teresa Nemec

Head Usher: Frank Knappek

Sunday, December 25, 8:30 AM: (INCENSE)

Altar Servers: John & Maria Bruce, Caleb Stefek

Lector: Henry Taylor

EMHC: Pete & Nancy Zenner, Jerry David

Gift Bearers: Jerry David

Head Usher: A.J. Batla

EM to Shut-ins: Sunday, December 25: Jerry David

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 18: --Decorate Church

Tuesday, December 20: --RCIA Class

Wednesday, December 21: --NO CCE Classes

--CCM Goody Bag Prep

Thursday, December 22: --Confessions

--Pro-Life Adoration

Parish Office will be closed the week of Dec 26 – 30, for the holidays.
Bulletin deadline for the Jan. 1 bulletin is Wednesday, December 21.

December 17/18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent: The mystery of the Incarnation occurred through Mary and yet, through the Holy Spirit given to us in Baptism and Confirmation, we, too, are called to embody the presence of God. Have we, like Mary, said yes to God? Are we, like Joseph, nurturing and protecting that life within us? As we celebrate this holy season of birth, are we giving birth in our lives to the fruits of God's love: justice, peace, kindness, humility and joy?

The Parish Office will be closed the week of December 26 – 30, for the holidays. **To prepare for this closing, the January 1 bulletin will be done in advance. Therefore, the announcement deadline for the January 1 bulletin is THIS WEDNESDAY, December 21.**

*"Once again, the parishioners of Holy Trinity turned faith into action with our annual **Giving Tree project**. This year, we were able to assist two local families, who have a total of seven young children, and provide them with gifts of clothing, toys and even some holiday food items. We also worked with the Jarrell Food Pantry and helped make Christmas brighter for nine children by responding to their special gift requests. In addition, we helped the Jarrell School's "Fill the Bus" program and provided toys and needed items for children in our local schools. I would like to thank all of our very generous parishioners and friends who supplied what was asked for and even more! Thank you to my wonderful helpers as well...Cynthia Edgar, Debbie Klaus and Gloria Rodriguez. Thanks, EVERYONE, for a job well done!!!" God bless you ... Lucille D'Elia*

Food Drive: The collection of food for the Caring Place comes to an end this weekend. The Catholic Union of Texas (K.J.T. Society #55) of Corn Hill thanks everyone who donated food and money to help the needy in our area. God bless you all.

THIS IS YOUR LAST WEEKEND TO:

- Turn in a **Christmas Flower Envelope in memory or honor of loved ones**. Memorials will be announced in the Christmas bulletin.
- Sign up for **Marriage Anniversaries**, if, in 2016, you celebrated your 10, 15, 20, 25, etc., 50th or more, wedding anniversary. 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! The certificates will be presented the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec 31/Jan 1).
- Turn in **Registration Forms for the annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC)** to be held at the Waco Convention Center on January 27-29. Cost is \$100 and includes your hotel stay plus most of your meals. **Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church.** For information, or to turn in registration forms, contact Monica Sherek (512-864-4748).

There is still time to make a good confession before Christmas. The following are opportunities to do so:

St. William – Round Rock – Monday, December 19, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, December 21, 1 – 6 p.m.

We will also have Confessions here this Thursday, December 22, from 3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The **Men's Prayer Group will NOT meet for the rest of this year**. Their next meeting date will be Monday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Contact Pete Zenner (512-863-4038).

RCIA: Class this Tuesday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Discussion: Baptism & Confirmation.

CCE: Due to the holidays, we will NOT have CCE classes on December 21 and 28. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4, at 6:15 p.m. BIG THANKS to Jim & Mary Margaret Heurtz for making Christmas cookies for all the kids this past Wednesday!! What a treat!

The **Confraternity of Christian Mothers will meet this Wednesday, December 21**, at 6:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg to pray the monthly Conference Prayers and prepare Christmas 'Goody Bags'. All ladies are invited to join them.

Join us for **Pro-Life Adoration** this Thursday, December 22, from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. 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.

We are in need of a **Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) Coordinator**. This would be a perfect opportunity for a husband and wife, or maybe a couple of friends who could tag team, to minister to the youth (high school students) of our parish. If you are interested or would like more information, please talk to Fr. Stephen.

The **2017 Contribution Envelopes are 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.

Parish Registration: 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). AND ... if you are a parishioner and you change your address, phone number, etc, please let us know so that our records are up to date. For any questions, don't hesitate to contact the parish office.

If you would like a **2016 Parish Contribution Report** (for tax, or other, purposes), please let the parish office know. If you received one last year, you will automatically receive one again. The reports will be mailed out by January 31, 2017.

Catholic Services Appeal Update for our Parish

Our Parish Goal: \$22,000.00 vs. Our Parish Pledges: \$17,012.26

To date, 81 of 250 of our parish families have made a pledge ... with an average pledge amount of \$210.03.

As you can see, we have not met our CSA goal for this year. Only 81 pledges have been received from our parish.

Let us meet our goal and have 100% participation from our parish. Please make your pledge if you have not already done so.

Dear friends in Christ,

Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Christmas is just around the corner. Christmas begins the evening of December 24 and continues until Sunday, January 9. Keep your Christmas lights shining brightly all throughout the Christmas Season. Let us celebrate this season in its fullness. During the Christmas Season, there are several important Feast Days. During the Octave of Christmas, we have The Nativity of the Lord on December 25, St. Stephen on December 26, St. John on December 27, The Holy Innocents on December 28, The Holy Family on December 30, St. Sylvester on December 31, and Mary, the Holy Mother of God on January 1. In the remainder of the Christmas Season, we have The Epiphany of the Lord on January 8 and The Baptism of the Lord on January 9. Try to attend as many of these Masses as possible. 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.

Have you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) this Advent? You may still do so at St. William in Round Rock this Monday and Wednesday. I will also be hearing confessions here this Thursday from 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Prepare yourself to celebrate the upcoming Christmas Season in its fullness by receiving the love and forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Recently, we had to replace the Sound System in the gym in the PAC. The total cost was about \$4,800.00. We are also having to replace the Sound System in the church. The estimated cost is a little over \$12,000.00. Sound Systems do not last forever. Humidity and other factors can have a harmful effect on the entire system, including the speakers. We are accepting donations to cover the cost. If anyone has anything left over after your Christmas shopping, please consider a donation for these expenses.

In these readings for today, there are four points which I will briefly elaborate upon. First, the readings all point to the fact that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. In the first reading, we hear how the prophet Isaiah says, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child and bear a son and shall name him Immanuel." Isaiah predicts this event to happen in the future and the fulfillment of this prophecy confirms the truths which Isaiah has spoken. Matthew, in his gospel, recalls these words spoken by Isaiah to remind us of this prophecy and that it was fulfilled in the conception and birth of Jesus, by a virgin named Mary. This is important because it stresses the fact that it was by divine initiative, by the Holy Spirit, that Mary conceives Jesus, and not by her relationship with a man. This point emphasizes the divinity of Jesus and the presence of God in all that had taken place. "Immanuel, God is with us."

Second...the readings emphasize the fact that Jesus fulfills prophecy by being a descendent of David. Joseph was a descendent of David and Joseph passes on this line of royalty to Jesus by being Jesus' foster father. Therefore, Jesus inherits the physical ancestral blood of David even though Joseph was not the biological father. This makes Jesus not only the physical descendent of David, but his spiritual descendent as well. "Immanuel, God is with us."

Third...the readings want to stress the miraculous conception of Jesus. Many of the important figures of the Old Testament, such as Samson, Isaac, and John the Baptizer in the New Testament, were conceived in some miraculous way, which was meant to show the people that the child was chosen by God. "It is by the Holy Spirit that she [Mary] has conceived this child," by the Spirit of God. So Jesus, the Son of God, was chosen for a specific mission, and that was to be our Savior. "Immanuel, God is with us."

Fourth...the readings also emphasize the importance of being a faithful servant of God. Each person, whether it be Isaiah, St. Paul, Joseph, or Mary, are examples of good and faithful servants of the Lord. They were willing to remain faithful to God, no matter what other people said about them. You can imagine all the gossip which was spread throughout the town where Mary and Joseph lived and also that which was probably said about them at the local synagogue by the Pharisees and Sadducees. You can be sure that Mary was accused of having an affair with someone and that she and Joseph had to endure many unwarranted accusations. There were people back in those days that were just as evil and slanderous as many people of today. However, Joseph and Mary, having full trust and confidence in God, were willing to endure all that was needed so that God's plans could be fulfilled. They were, and continue to be, faithful servants of God... dedicated to giving witness to the presence of God in the world. "Immanuel, God is with us."

All of us, by virtue of our baptism, are called to be servants of God. As servants, we are to give our whole self to God, not expecting anything in return except eternal life with Him. In last weekend's gospel, we heard Jesus explain how John the Baptizer was given the special mission of preparing the way for Jesus. We, too, are given a special mission and that is to prepare the way for the second coming of Jesus. When we strive to be good and faithful servants of God, then we accomplish that mission in our own unique way. All of us, being servants of God, are given a task, as St. Paul says many times, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. We can do this only if we have a close relationship with God. With a close relationship with God, we accomplish our mission in life and are prepared for the coming of Christ. "Immanuel, God is with us."

By our active participation at Mass and through our own prayer life, we come to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas and the love God has for us, which He so perfectly expressed by sending us His Son, Jesus Christ. "Immanuel, God is with us."

May all of you have a most blessed week.

Fr. Stephen Nerssta, farář

What is Christmas all about?

The story is told of a mother who was very busy getting ready for Christmas. The mad rush of the season was on. One day, hurrying from store to store, 'breaking tackles' with last-minute shoppers, she lost her little boy. Frantically retracing her steps, she found him two blocks back with his pug nose flatly pressed against a frosted plate-glass window. When he saw his mother, he exclaimed, "Look mom, it's Jesus! See the Baby Jesus on the hay!" The mother jerked him away saying, "We don't have time for that!"

What a shame! That sword of sorrow that pierced the heart of Jesus must symbolize, to some extent at least, the people who spend inordinate hours gift-hunting, decorating lavishly, planning and attending Christmas parties, mailing large numbers of Christmas cards, or even baking or cooking too much. All of this activity, however, can distract us from the real meaning of Christmas. People can become so preoccupied with preparations that they lose sight of the Star of Bethlehem.

Really, what is Christmas all about? It is God breaking into human history in a decisive and unique way. It is the Father offering His Son as the light of our life. It is God puncturing history; the eternal all-mighty God entering time and the human condition!

The Scripture readings in the Christmas Masses indicate that the Son of God came as the light to remove the darkness, to reconcile the lost and the least, the forgotten and the forlorn, the high and the mighty.

At Bethlehem, God brought joy to the sad, hope to the despairing, courage to the fearful, peace to the disturbed, love to inspire all the living. This is what Christmas really is!

What about us? Bethlehem seems so far away. Geographically it is not so far, maybe a long day's flight. Spiritually, however, we might be far away. How far are we from repentance and faith, decision and dedication? How far are we from trading fear for faith, hatred for love, uselessness for purpose and physical death for eternal life?

The other day I was going through some papers and I came across this Christmas prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson. It would seem to be a good way to end my Christmas message.

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus - that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be with our loved ones and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Keep Christ in Christmas!