

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of CORN HILL



Pope Francis
Vatican City State



Bishop Joe Vásquez
Diocese of Austin



The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1, A.D. 2017

Happy New Year!

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Saturday	Dec 31	5:00 PM	Bernadette Schwertner (90 th Birthday)
		11:30 PM	For All Souls in Purgatory
Sunday	Jan 1	8:30 AM	Pro Populo (incense)
Tuesday	Jan 3	6:00 PM	†James Denis Grygar
Wednesday	Jan 4	6:30 PM	In Thanksgiving (M.D.K.)
Thursday	Jan 5	7:00 AM	†Robert Ortega
First Friday	Jan 6	6:00 PM	†Olon Montgomery
First Saturday	Jan 7	7:30 AM	Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Saturday	Jan 7	5:00 PM	P.R. (healing)
Sunday	Jan 8	8:30 AM	Pro Populo (incense)

Mass Ministry Reminders

Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 PM:

Altar Servers: Carter Marquis, William Fonville, Jenna Danek, Samuel Williams

Lector: Jennifer Klepac

EMHC: Lucille Nemec

Gift Bearers: 7th Grade

Saturday, January 7, 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, January 8, 8:30 AM: INCENSE

Altar Servers: Thomas Clawson, William & Joseph Brousseau, Heron Rodriguez

Lector: Louis Brousseau

EMHC: Lucille Nemec, John & Cynthia Edgar

Gift Bearers: Richard & Lisa Danek

Head Usher: Frank Knapek

EM to Shut-ins: Sunday, January 8: John Edgar

✠ Fr. Stephen Nestrsta ✠

Address: 8626 FM 1105, Jarrell, Texas 76537

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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

Last Week's Collection(s)

December 25: Nativity of the Lord: (to be announced next week)

Parish Prayer Campaign for Vocations

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

January 1 - 7: Louise Havelka

January 8 - 14: Bill & Monica Sherek

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.

Religious Articles Cabinet

in the foyer of the church, is full of many wonderful items, for all occasions, which are available for purchase. You may contact the parish office, Louise Straka (512-746-5322) or Janine Nemec (512-863-6892), to purchase items, or to have items ordered for you.

CEF – Spiritual Bouquets

make appropriate gifts for any occasion (birthday, anniversary, death, graduations, sacraments, etc). You can contact our parish CEF chairperson, Janine Nemec (512-863-6892), for enrollments any time. Donations given benefit the education of our diocesan seminarians.

This Week at a Glance

Monday, January 2:	--Senior Citizens' Supper
Tuesday, January 3:	--RCIA Class
Wednesday, January 4:	--CCE Classes
Thursday, January 5:	--Pro-Life Adoration
	--Pro-Life Group Meeting
Saturday, January 7:	--Saturday "Christmas" Potluck

Congratulations to all of our couples that celebrated wedding anniversaries this year! No matter what the number of years, you deserve a pat on the back for upholding the sacrament of Marriage! This weekend, at all Masses, certificates will be handed out to those that celebrated their 10, 15, 20, 50th and up. We pray for all married couples, that they may follow the example of Joseph & Mary, in staying true to one another and keeping their marriage sacred. No matter what hardships or problems may come your way – remember that all things are possible with God!

The **Men's Prayer Group** will resume their monthly meetings on Monday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. For more information, contact Pete Zenner (512-863-4038).

Our monthly **Senior Citizens' Supper** will be held this Monday, January 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC Bldg. Thank you K.J.Z.T. #15 for preparing the meal.

RCIA: Class this Tuesday, January 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Discussion: Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick.

CCE: CCE classes this Wednesday, January 4, at 6:15 p.m. For information, contact Lucille D'Elia (htcdre@yahoo.com or 512-318-5149).

Join us for **Pro-Life Adoration** this Thursday, January 5, 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.

The **Pro-Life Prayer & Awareness Group** will meet this Thursday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Everyone is welcome to join them. For information, please contact our Pro-Life Coordinator, Chris Garlasco (cgarlasco@hotmail.com or 860-689-3021).

First Friday & Saturday of the month – January 6 & 7: Mass on Friday at 6:00 p.m. followed by a time of Adoration, our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Benediction. Mass on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. and concluding with our monthly devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by praying the Litany.

All parishioners and visitors are invited to our **Saturday “Christmas” Potluck** next Saturday, January 7, in the PAC Bldg after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Bring your favorite dish and/or dessert to share – which you can drop off at the PAC before Mass. Thank you to K.J.T. #55 for hosting.

Our annual January Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, January 22, and this year, the proceeds will benefit the Cemetery Fund. We will have a meal of BBQ Pork with all the trimmings, served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the PAC Bldg. Adults \$9 / Children \$5. To-go plates will be available at the drive-thru. If you would like to help with this fundraiser (set-up, kitchen, etc), please contact the parish office.

Our **Parish Family Christmas Trees** (on either side of the high Altar) have new ornaments that contain the pictures of all the active families in our most recent parish directory. If your photo is not in that book and you would like to be included on the tree, you are welcome to turn one in (the same size as those in the book). For questions, please contact the parish office.

We recently replaced the sound system in the PAC (for \$4,700) and will replace the sound system in the church after the new year begins (for \$12,000). **We would like to thank those who recently gave generous donations (of \$5,000 and \$10,000) to the parish,** which have helped tremendously with the cost of this upgrade. God bless you.

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.

Don't forget to pick up your **2017 Contribution Envelopes** ... the new year has now begun and **there are still quite a few boxes** in the church. If you are not currently receiving envelopes and would like to, write your name on the sheet provided and we will put one out for you.

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.

The **2017 schedule for our parish social events (Senior Suppers, Hospitality Sundays and Saturday Potlucks)** is now available on our website (Parish Events page). If a group of friends / family would like to host one or more of these events, please call the parish office.

Most of us have at least one New Year resolution – if not a whole list of them! Why not add to that list, “become more involved with my parish”?? We are always in need of more Mass ministers (lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Gift Bearers, Ushers, etc). We need more volunteers to help in classrooms or with projects in the CCE Program. We have prayer groups, parish social events, confraternities and more that can always benefit from new members and new perspective. So why not take the time to get involved with one or more of these? None of them require the knowledge of a rocket scientist and most of them take up only one or two days of the month. Yet, all of them increase your love of the Lord and His Church, by gathering with fellow Catholic Christians with the same interests and goals. For information on any of the above and more, please contact the parish office or talk to Fr. Stephen. May God bless you in this New Year!

Dear friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! Hope you are having a joyful Christmas Season. Thank you to all of you for the cards, gifts and tasty treats that I received from you for Christmas. Everything is truly appreciated.

Today we celebrate the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is true that we celebrate the fact that Mary is the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, but today's celebration points to the fact the Jesus is truly divine, that Jesus is God Himself, a divine person. For the first time in the history of humanity, God came down to earth and was born as a little baby in the form of a human person. Mary, not understanding all which was taking place, gave of herself to God so that she may be the mother of His Son. A week ago, on Christmas Eve, we began our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. We heard how the angel had told the shepherds that the Messiah and Lord had been born and that they would find Him lying in a manger. And we, too, like the shepherds who went to Bethlehem filled with curiosity and awe, and found Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in the manger, watched and listened to hear about the birth of the Son of God. The shepherds returned to the fields giving glory and praise to God for all that they had seen and heard. We, too, give glory and praise to God for this great miracle, for giving us His Son. The shepherds left Bethlehem different persons than when they came. They left with a newfound faith and trust in God, filled with the spirit of joy and gladness. As we left Mass on Christmas, we left filled with the spirit of joy and gladness. That is the way we should leave after every Mass that we attend throughout the year. But we must, as the shepherds did, listen, watch, and participate in the event taking place if we are to experience this joy and gladness in our own lives. Then we can leave and proclaim Christ to all people just as the shepherds went giving their report of what they had seen and heard to all the people that they met along the way.

On the eighth day, Mary and Joseph brought the child for his circumcision and to give him the name of Jesus as the angels had instructed them. Only many years later would Mary come to realize the meaning of this name, Jesus, which means "Yahweh saves", as she witnessed His death and resurrection. But, as today's gospel says, she treasured and reflected on these things in her heart during her lifetime, wondering what they meant, wondering what God had in His plans for her and for this little baby, Jesus. As we know, Mary had a great faith and trust in God, but I am sure she had her moments of uncertainty, maybe even doubts, as to the way in which God was working in her life. Though Mary was the Mother of God, the Mother of Jesus, she was still human and experienced the same feelings and emotions that each one of us experience. Yet she relied totally on God to guide her each day of her life and trusted that God would be with her as He promised. And, as we know, there were many difficult times in their life after the birth of Jesus. Joseph, Mary and Jesus had to rush into Egypt to escape the slaughter of the baby boys as commanded by Herod. And I am sure that there were many moments in their lives as Jesus grew as a boy and young man in which Mary and Joseph had many frightening experiences with their son, just as any parents have with the raising of children. There cannot be anything more frightening than losing and searching for your son for three days as Mary and Joseph did when they finally found Jesus in the Temple. I imagine that they, as any parent, experienced feelings of joy at the finding of their son, but yet at the same time, they experienced some anger at Jesus for having strayed away from them. But yet they pondered at Jesus' words "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" They must have been totally confused as to what was going on. Just think of some of the things your children tell you and how you are left confused by what they say. Sometimes they will leave you speechless. Then during the lifetime of Jesus, during his preaching and ministry to the people, his teaching the apostles, his arrest, suffering and death, during all those times of uncertainty, Mary continued to trust in God that all would work out according to His will. And then the joy and happiness which Mary must have experienced at the resurrection of Jesus only for Him to leave her again as Jesus ascended into heaven. These must have been great moments of joy and sadness which Mary experienced only to end with that great heavenly joy, which Mary experiences of being united with her Son after her own assumption into Heaven. This is the same joy that we hope to experience after our own death and resurrection. The joy of being in the presence of God and of being united with our friends and relatives who have died and gone before us to that heavenly kingdom.

The birth of Jesus brought about a new beginning in the life of Mary, Joseph, and of the whole world. This one event changed their lives and our lives forever. No single event or person has had such an impact on the world and the lives of all people as did the person of Jesus. Our whole calendar and recording of history revolves around the birth of Jesus. The dating of the years is even divided between B.C., Before Christ, and A.D., Anno Domini, In the Year of the Lord. This is all because Jesus is truly the Son of God, the Son of Mary.

Just as Jesus changed the lives of Mary, Joseph and all the people He met, He will change our life as well. He changed the life of the shepherds after they visited Him in Bethlehem. If we allow Him Jesus will also change each one of us every time we come to receive Him in the Eucharist, in Holy Communion. As we begin this New Year, what changes will we allow Jesus to make in our lives? Will we be like Mary and Joseph and totally commit ourselves to serving God each day and say as Mary said, "Let it be done to me according to your word"? As we begin the New Year, I ask that each of you do something different than you have been doing in your life. It may be praying more with your family at home during the year. You might want to begin spending time during the week in prayer before His presence in the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament or coming to spend some time in Adoration on Thursdays of each week. Or maybe you could commit yourself to attending daily Mass. Each of us could commit ourselves to spending more time with our families and being nicer to our parents, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. We could try to be more helpful at home and try to love one another more in the example given to us by Jesus Christ. Before you decide on what you want to do I ask that you spend time in prayer to be sure it is what God wants you to do. For just as He guided Mary and Joseph, He will guide and protect you as long as you have faith and trust in Him. He will certainly make our times of trial and suffering easier to bear and our times of joy even more joyous.

So, as we begin the New Year let us pray to Mary, the Mother of God, that she will pray for us and assist us in living a life of faith and trust in her Son, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Are your Christmas lights still shining? The Christmas Season continues until Sunday, January 9, 2017. Keeps those lights on until the end of the Christmas Season to give witness to the true Light of the world, Jesus Christ.

May all of you continue to have a very blessed Christmas Season and a Happy, Healthy, Holy, Joyful New Year of AD 2017.

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta, farář

December 31 / January 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Today we celebrate Our Blessed Mother, Mary. She said “Yes” to the Lord with faith in His plan. May we all have such faith and love for our Father.

Upcoming retreat at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton - “Women of Faith,” a day of reflection, will be held on Monday, January 16, at the Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Belton. Participants will spend this day reflecting on the gifts of five women (Sojourner Truth, Thea Bowman, Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman) whose courageous actions impacted the world. Their fearlessness and faithfulness changed lives because they embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Come and learn about these incredible women; who they were and what they did. Beverly Collin will facilitate this day. The cost is \$40 and includes lunch. To register or for more information, visit www.cedarbrake.org or contact Cedarbrake at (254) 780-2436 or email: cedarbrake@austindiocese.org.

Men’s discernment dinners are for single Catholic men (high school-adult) who are open 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.

The **annual Mass celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King** will be celebrated on Sunday, January 15, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary Cathedral in Austin. Bishop Joseph Perry of the Archdiocese of Chicago will be the main celebrant of the Mass. For more information, contact Johnnie Dorsey at johnnie-dorsey@austindiocese.org or (512) 217-9616.

The Office of Black Catholics of the Diocese of Austin will sponsor the **14th annual “Blood of the Martyrs” Blood Drive** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The blood donation campaign will be held on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Blood and Tissue Center van will be parked on Chalmers Street between 8th and 11th streets on the Campus of Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, to accommodate those who want to give blood. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, have a photo ID and provide a Social Security Number at the time they donate. Advance sign-ups are being taken, so if you wish to donate blood or if you have any questions, contact Johnnie Dorsey at johnnie-dorsey@austindiocese.org or (512) 217-9616.

Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day is Saturday, January 28. The day will begin with a prayer vigil to end abortion at Planned Parenthood (201 E. Ben White Blvd. in Austin). The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will then be prayed at 9:15 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Austin followed by Mass at 10 a.m. with Bishop Joe Vásquez. Everyone will proceed to the March for Life at 18th and N. Congress Ave., which begins at 1 p.m., then the Rally for Life starts at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Luisa De Poo at (512) 949-2487 or luisa-depoo@austindiocese.org

Ascend: An Emerging Leaders Program – The Austin Diocese is now accepting applications for the Ascend class of 2017. Approximately 30 young adults will be selected to participate in a series of retreats and evening courses between February and April. The Ascend class of 2017 will be empowered to make a lasting contribution by practicing applied leadership skills so that they may exercise their faith in positions of leadership in the church as well as in their homes, communities and careers. Applications are due by Friday, February 10, at 5 p.m. For complete information about Ascend, including the program calendar, application and FAQs, visit www.austindiocese.org/ascend.

Rosary prayed every Sunday in Kyle – Fatima Trinitarian 20 Decade Rosary is prayed every Sunday at 5 p.m. at St. Anthony Parish in Kyle (except on national holidays). Participants celebrate the centenary of Our Blessed Mother's appearances at Fatima outlining the path to personal and world peace. Rosaries and material are distributed each week. Those arriving are invited to choose and pray one decade as we journey. In pleasant weather, participants walk, sit, kneel, stand and/or sing an antiphon outside; if there is inclement weather, prayer is inside. No registration is necessary. This is coordinated by Father Robert Becker. For more information, call (512) 268-1325.

Rosary presentation in West – Father Robert Becker will present "The Rosary: History, Theology and Peace" on Tuesday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary, Church of the Assumption, in West. This is a presentation that Father Becker has developed in honor of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. Materials and rosaries will be available; however, the rosary will not be prayed during the presentation. No registration is required.

Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary - The 33 days of preparation prayer for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary begins on Monday, February 20. In Fatima, Our Lady said, "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." On this 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, join people throughout the diocese for 33 days of preparation prayer for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. Prayers begin on February 20 and are done privately in one's home using the consecration preparation book. **Visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org by January 25 to receive the free Montfort preparation prayer book by mail and for more information.**

The Diocese of Austin is committed to preventing harm from happening to any of our children or vulnerable adults. If you are aware of sexual or physical abuse and/or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult, state law requires you to report that information to local law enforcement or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at (800) 252-5400 or www.dfps.state.tx.us. Additionally, if the suspected abuse is by clergy or an employee or volunteer of any diocesan parish, school or agency, a Notice of Concern should be submitted to the diocesan Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Office at (512) 949-2400. The Notice of Concern can be found at www.austindiocese.org (click on REPORT ABUSE OR AN EIM CONCERN). Reports may be made anonymously.