

# HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of CORN HILL



Pope Francis  
Vatican City State



Bishop Joe Vásquez  
Diocese of Austin



## First Sunday of Advent

December 2, A.D. 2018

### Mass Schedule & Intentions



Saturday	Dec 1	5:00 PM	†Calvin Blackman, Jr. Ed & Patricia Ziegler family
Sunday	Dec 2	8:30 AM	†Albina Sladeczek †Doris Cole
Sunday	Dec 2	10:30 AM	Pro Populo
Tuesday	Dec 4	7:00 AM	†Milton & Betty Hosek †John & Betty Emge
Wednesday	Dec 5	6:30 PM	†Descendants of Max & Julie Beyer
Thursday	Dec 6	7:00 AM	†Fr. Michal Jadavan †James E. Gavin, Sr.
Friday	Dec 7	7:00 AM	†Virginia McMaster
<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation</b>			
Friday	Dec 7	7:00 PM	†James & Mary Ziegler
Saturday	Dec 8	8:30 AM	Pro Populo <b>(incense)</b>
Saturday	Dec 8	5:00 PM	Liv/Dec Members of KJZT #15 St. Agnes Society †Calvin Blackman, Jr.
Sunday	Dec 9	8:30 AM	†Robert & Leona Brenek
Sunday	Dec 9	10:30 AM	Pro Populo

### Altar Flowers

To donate altar flowers – return an 'Altar Flower Envelope'.

**Remember:** no flowers are needed during the  
Advent or Christmas seasons (Dec 2 – Jan 13).

### Last Week's Collection(s)

Nov 22: Thanksgiving Day: \$2,390.00  
Nov 25: Christ the King: \$4,001.00  
Faith Formation Program: \$1,205.00

### Vocations Crucifix Prayer Campaign

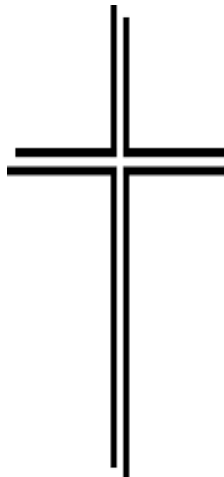
December 2 – 8: James Nemeč  
December 9 – 15: Pinto & Lucille Nemeč

### Rosary for Life

December 2 – 8: Frankie & Betty Ann Vrabel  
December 9 – 15: Brandon & Rosie Fonville

### This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 2: --Hospitality Sunday  
Monday, December 3: --Senior Citizens' Supper  
Tuesday, December 4: --RCIA Class  
Wednesday, December 5: --CCE Classes  
Thursday, December 6: --Pro-Life Rosary & Adoration  
--Pro-Life Group Meeting  
Fri & Sat, December 7 & 8: --Holy Day of Obligation Masses



### † 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, 9 am – 3 pm  
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Klepac (512-863-3020)  
Bulletin Announcement Deadline: Tuesdays @ 3:00 pm  
Weekend Masses: Saturday @ 5:00 pm  
Sunday @ 8:30 am & 10:30 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

Director of Faith Formation: Lucille D'Elia 737-215-1042  
Financial Bookkeeper: Laura Soto 317-767-9782  
Parish Activity Center (PAC) Rentals & Info: Parish Office  
Cemetery Information: Parish Office  
Cemetery Director: Johnny Martinka 512-966-4301  
Cemetery Maintenance: (Position Vacant)  
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 Nemeč 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  
CEF Enrollments: Janine Nemeč 512-289-9242

### Mass Ministry Reminders

#### Wednesday, December 5, 6:30 PM:

Altar Servers: Amy Stefek, Jakob Voigt, Samuel Williams  
Lector: Natalie Mason EMHC: Heuertz  
Gift Bearers: 5/6 Grade

#### Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation

##### Friday, December 7, 7:00 PM:

Altar Servers: Thomas Clawson, Carter Marquis, Lucas Beyer  
Lector: Lupe Bernal EMHC: Brandi Bernal, J & M Heuertz  
Gift Bearers: Tommy & Cindy Sladeczek Head Usher: AJ Batla

##### Saturday, December 8, 8:30 AM: (incense)

Altar Servers: Jakob Voigt, Caleb & Amy Stefek, John Danek  
Lector: Louis Brousseau EMHC: J & C Edgar, Johnny Martinka  
Gift Bearers: Voigt family Head Usher: Jeff Voigt

##### Saturday, December 8, 5:00 PM:

Altar Servers: John & Maria Bruce, Preston Snook  
Lector: Janine Nemeč  
EMHC: Patsy Hightower, Irene Cavanaugh, Keith Youngpeter  
Gift Bearers: John & Kathleen Valenta  
Head Usher: Stephanie Wright

##### Sunday, December 9, 8:30 AM:

Altar Servers: John Danek, Joseph & Adelaide Brousseau  
Lector: Louis Brousseau  
EMHC: Cynthia Edgar, Ray Nemeč, James Nemeč  
Gift Bearers: Ray & Teresa Nemeč  
Head Usher: Frank Knapek

##### Sunday, December 9, 10:30 AM:

Altar Servers: Jakob Voigt, Samuel Williams, Jarrod Hodgson  
Lector: Monica Sherek  
EMHC: Monica Sherek  
Gift Bearers: Hodgson family  
Head Usher: Bill Sherek

**EMHC to Shut-ins: Sunday, December 9:** Ray Nemeč

The Clerical Endowment Fund (CEF) has special **Christmas Enrollment cards (English & Spanish) for Spiritual Bouquets for the Christmas Season**. Enrollments can be made this weekend, December 1/2, and next, December 8/9, in the foyer of the church after all Masses. The usual offering is \$2 per person, per card, and benefits include prayers and Masses for the year. Enrollments can also be made by contacting Janine Nemecek at 512-289-9242.

All visitors and parishioners are invited to join us today (Sunday, December 2) for **Hospitality Sunday**, in the PAC Bldg, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. We thank the Moravian Club for preparing the breakfast.

Our monthly **Senior Citizens' Supper** will be held this Monday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC Bldg. We appreciate Jennifer, Marla, Debbie & Stephanie for preparing the meal.

**RCIA:** Class this Tuesday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Discussion: Prayer. For questions, contact Lucille D'Elia.

**CCE:** Classes this Wednesday, December 5, at 6:15 p.m. Parents are encouraged to stay and attend Mass (which is always a good example for their children). For program questions, contact Lucille D'Elia.

**\*\*Parents: Please note a CCE calendar change:** the St. Nicholas celebration for Sunday, December 9, has been canceled.

**Adult Faith Enrichment:** Class this Wednesday, December 5, in the PAC Bldg, after the 6:30 p.m. Mass.

**Pro-Life Adoration** this Thursday, December 6, from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the church. Come spend time with the Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

**The Pro-Life Prayer & Awareness Group will meet** this Thursday, December 6. They will begin with a Rosary for Life in the church at 6:30 p.m. and then continue their meeting in the RE Bldg. Everyone is invited to both the Rosary and the meeting.

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation:** Vigil Mass this Friday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. and Mass on Saturday, December 8, at 8:30 a.m.

We will have a **second collection** next weekend (December 8/9) for the **Priest & Religious Retirement Fund**. This collection allows the opportunity to "give to those who have given a lifetime". This annual appeal benefits 32,000 elderly Catholic priests, sisters and brothers whose religious congregations lack adequate retirement funding.

**Food Drive:** Providing help to an area family has never been easier. The KJT is collecting food for the Caring Place, which works with families faced with financial struggles. Drop your non-perishable items in the boxes located in the foyer or at the south entrance of church. A list of needed items can be found on the bulletin tables. Monetary donations are also accepted. Questions, contact Helen Havelka (512-869-8715).

**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 16. All memorials will be announced in the December 23 bulletin.

**Marriage Anniversaries:** If, in 2018, you celebrated your 10, 15, 20, 25, etc., 50<sup>th</sup> 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 fill in all of the information and print clearly** so that we don't misspell your names! Please sign-up by Sunday, December 16. The certificates will be presented on the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec 29/30).

**'Tis the season to help those in need**, and you can do so by visiting our **Angel Tree** (which will be located in the church foyer). To participate, you will get a tag from the tree – purchase the item(s) listed – and then bring them to the church or the parish office – **UNWRAPPED & with the tag - by the due-date of Sunday, December 16.** For questions, contact Debbie Klaus (512-869-7930). Thank you, in advance, for your generosity! (Donations to the Angel Tree will benefit the Annunciation Maternity Home residents and the WCWB (Williamson County Welfare Board) Rainbow Room, which supplies clothing and items needed by children who are removed from unsafe homes.)

The **2019 Collection Envelopes** are available in the church. If you do not have a box in there and want one, please put your name on the list provided. If you are now making your donations online and no longer need a box of envelopes, please let the office know.

If you would like a **2018 Donation Report** for tax, or other, purposes, please let the office know. If you received one this past year, you will automatically receive one again. Reports will be mailed out by January 31.

**The Season of Advent – our time of preparation for the birth of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ – begins this weekend. Below are several opportunities to cleanse your heart, mind and soul, through the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Penance.**

**SSCM – Granger** – Sunday, December 2, 6 PM; **St. John Vianney – Round Rock** – Tuesday, December 4, 7 PM;

**St. Mary – Taylor** – Monday, December 10, 6:30 PM; **St. Joseph – Manor** – Tuesday, December 11, 7 PM;

**Holy Trinity – Corn Hill** – Sunday, December 16, 5 PM; **St. William – Round Rock** – Monday, December 17, 7 PM;

**St. Patrick – Hutto** – Tuesday, December 18, 7 PM; **St. William – Round Rock** – Wednesday, December 19, 1 PM – 6 PM;

**Our Lady of Guadalupe – Taylor** – Thursday, December 20, 7 PM; **St. Helen – Georgetown** – Friday, December 21, 7 PM

### Dear friends in Christ,

May the peace and love of our Lord be with each of you. Congratulations to Bishop Daniel Garcia of the Diocese of Austin who has been appointed by the Vatican as the Bishop of Monterey, California. May God's blessings and protection be with him during this time of transition. He will be greatly missed in our diocese.

**Next Saturday is a Holy Day of Obligation as we celebrate The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Mass will be on Friday evening, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday morning, December 8, at 8:30 a.m. To fulfill your obligation, you need to attend one of the Holy Day Masses and one of the weekend Masses as well.

Today we begin the holy Season of Advent. Most of you have already made your plans for family gathers and events during this season and during the upcoming Christmas Season. During the next four weeks we will be preparing ourselves for the celebration of the Birth of the Lord at Christmas. The Christmas Season begins on the evening of December 24 and continues until Sunday, January 13, when we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. So, after Christmas Day on December 25, please do not say that Christmas is over, because, it has actually just begun. Too many Catholics and other Christians have given into the secular celebration of Christmas, a celebration that is completely absent of the presence of Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate. Don't fall into this trap. Celebrate these special seasons as they are meant to be celebrated. Celebrate Advent as a time of preparation, make a good confession. Our Penance Service will be on Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 pm. Also, try to spend extra time in prayer with your family.

During the Season of Advent, we usually begin decorating our homes for Christmas. I encourage you to leave your tree and decorations up and your Christmas lights shining until the end of the Christmas Season, January 13. Let us truly celebrate Christmas during the *entire* Christmas Season. I also encourage parish organizations to have their Christmas parties during the Christmas Season and not during Advent. In the USA, Santa Claus has only become an advertising gimmick. Instead of Santa coming to our parties, we should live the truth of our faith and have St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, come to our celebrations. He is the one who brought gifts to the poor and needy of his day. Our faith is filled with wonderful traditions that have been handed down to us these past 2000 years. The more we present our faith in the spirit and truth it is meant to teach, the more people will have a conversion of heart and think about the faith they have received.

In today's first reading from Jeremiaah, Judah and Jerusalem had been conquered, and the best and the brightest had been taken into exile in Babylon. Jeremiaah placed Judah's downfall on one central factor - it has lost its religious center. Because the Jews were dominated by Assyria, they had begun to give up their unique religious celebrations of faith in favor of accommodating with society. After almost 40 years of calling Judah back to its faith and true religious practices that had real meaning, Jeremiaah had begun to realize that following Yahweh was possible. Jeremiaah experienced many setbacks in being a prophet. But yet he realized how much he and his people needed God and God's help. In today's first reading, Jeremiaah reminds a defeated, suffering people that God's promise to them is that He will be faithful. He will raise up those that do what is right and just.

The birth of Jesus was God's promise. But we can see how we, like the people of Judah, have begun to surrender our religious celebrations in favor of civil celebrations, especially Christmas. We, too, our surrendering our unique identity as Christians. Therefore, we cannot afford to overlook the season of Advent.

Christmas can wait. Right now we must remind ourselves how badly we still need God. If Christ is to come again, as is suggested in the Gospel, do we know what we want of Him? Or have our hearts "become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life"? Advent is our time to be on the watch. To ignore Advent, and not remind ourselves that we need God, will bring destruction as foretold by Jeremiaah. To see the need for God is to bring true meaning of Christmas into our lives. During Advent, as we remind ourselves that Christ is to come again, we cannot afford to be engulfed in drunkenness and worldly cares or tangled in Christmas lights. We must be caught being true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Here is a brief reflection on this holy season of Advent: Adventem! Čekáme na Ježíše, ano, má přijít, neotálí, nezpzdí se, nemusíme se znejistěle „křečovat“, jestli náhodou „nezapomněl“ – ale přitom... nikde. Kde je? Ale mám-li žhavou touhu ho vidět, pak „jsem celý bez sebe“, nedám se naplnit nějakými náhražkami (tak jako nás televize nebaví, když co nevidět má přijít návštěva). Nemám chuť ani energii se zabývat jinými záležitostmi – to nejdůležitější je... že má přijít! Konečně!

Samozřejmě že čekání na Krista neznamená... dát výpověď v práci, přestat doma vařit a pomáhat dětem s úkoly... Taková „nedbalost“ by nebyla dobrou přípravou na tu návštěvu všech návštěv. Spíš... nenechat se pohlit a zaplnit tím, co se v našem životě děje. To nejdůležitější... má teprve nastat!

Please pray for all the priests of the Diocese of Austin as we have an Advent Day of Prayer together this Tuesday, December 4.

Please check this bulletin for the Penance Services that have been scheduled at various parishes in our deanery. Try to attend with your family together to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation sometime during the Advent Season.

May all of you have a very blessed Advent Season.

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

## **Advent Prepares Us for the Light of Christ**

(the 2018 Season of Advent is celebrated December 2 thru December 24)

The events that come to mind when we say “Christmas” are so tremendous that their commemoration cannot be celebrated in a single day each. Weeks are needed: first, weeks of preparation, of becoming attuned in body and soul, and then weeks of celebration. This process goes back to an age when people still had time — time to live, time to enjoy.

In our modern day, we face the puzzling fact that the more time-saving gadgets we invent – the more buttons to push in order to ‘save hours of work’ — the less time we actually have. We have no more time to read books; we can afford only digests. We have no time to walk a quarter of a mile; we have to hop into a car. We have no time to make things by hand; we buy them ready-made. This “hurry up, let’s go” atmosphere does not provide the necessary leisure in which to anticipate and celebrate a feast. Stop! Let us learn again to live each day as it is meant – a celebration of life, given to us by God – and live each day in a holy manner.

During the holy Season of Advent, we prepare ... for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, which occurred more than 2,000 years ago, by His birth in Bethlehem ... and we prepare to celebrate with family and friends, offering gifts of love and hospitality – just as the Wise Men did on that wondrous night so long ago.

Christmas is the celebration of the Light of Christ being brought to all in this world through the birth of our Lord, and it is a light that should shine from each of us in all that we do and say. Celebrating Advent, as family, and with friends when possible, is a good way to strengthen and brighten this Light to make it all the more meaningful on Christmas morning and all the days of our lives. See next week’s bulletin for several ideas and ways you can celebrate Advent in a meaningful way!

## **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

(December 8)

St. Ann conceived Mary, not by the power of the Holy Spirit as Jesus was conceived, but by normal means. However, when she was conceived in her mother’s womb, Mary was without the stain of original sin. This was a special grace granted by God. Truly, this was what God had willed for all mankind, as it was with Adam and Eve, who were also without sin. However, sin entered the world when Adam and Eve fell from grace and because of that, we are born with the stain of their sin.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, is also the Savior of His mother. He saved her from sin before she was born, at the moment of her conception in St. Ann’s womb. In doing so, He also prepared her womb for His Presence. Jesus, who made all things (Jn 1:2), created His own mother, creating her perfectly pure and sinless. He later, under the power of the Holy Spirit, dwelled in that flawless womb under her Immaculate Heart. To prepare her for her role as mother of the Savior, “Mary was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role” (*Lumen Gentium* 56).



In the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we praise and thank God for his love and graciousness to Mary whom He had prepared to be the Mother of his Son. And we thank Mary for her generous and courageous acceptance of God’s invitation, “I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said.” (Lk 1: 38)

In the second reading from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, Paul recalls the free and loving choices of God: of the Jewish people to prepare for and await the coming of the Messiah and of Paul himself, the Christians in Ephesus and all who share Christian faith to “receive grace and peace from God our Father,” “chosen in Christ before the creation of the world.” (Eph 1: 1, 3)

God’s love and invitation to Mary are similar to God’s love and invitation to each one of us, “chosen by Him in Christ before the creation of the world.” God invites and asks us to respond generously to Him and to partner with him in whatever He has planned for each one of us.

In the same way that the angel assured Mary, “Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you,” God tells us not to fear to respond to him and assures us of his help and grace. God tells us not to fear in loving and serving Him and our neighbor for love of God.

And we also have the love and support of our loving Mother, “**Holy Mary, conceived without original sin, pray for us.**”