

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of CORN HILL



Pope Francis
Vatican City State



Bishop Joe Vásquez
Diocese of Austin



Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, A.D. 2018



Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday	Dec 15	5:00 PM	Pro Populo
Sunday	Dec 16	8:30 AM	†Frances Nemec †Msgr. Gideon Stram
Sunday	Dec 16	10:30 AM	†Johnnie Simek †John & Betty Emge
Monday	Dec 17	7:00 AM	†Frank Stastny A.W. (for healing)
Tuesday	Dec 18	6:00 PM	†Frances Kajs †James E. Gavin, Jr.
Wednesday	Dec 19	6:30 PM	†Stanley Havelka †Jerome Tobolka
Thursday	Dec 20	7:00 AM	†Juanita Pena †Baby Emge
Friday	Dec 21	6:00 PM	†Angela Danek †Liv/Dec Members of Viktorin family
Saturday	Dec 22	7:30 AM	Marshall, Brielle & Conner Cooke †Greg Maney
Saturday	Dec 22	5:00 PM	Pro Populo
Sunday	Dec 23	8:30 AM	†Tommie Rose Martine †Mary Conlee
Sunday	Dec 23	10:30 AM	†Bill Klepac †Joseph T. Gavin

Altar Flowers

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

Remember: no flowers are needed during the Advent or Christmas seasons (thru January 13).

Last Week's Collection(s)

December 8: Immaculate Conception of Mary: \$1,655.50
December 9: Second Sunday of Advent: \$6,361.42
and ... Priest & Religious Retirement Fund: \$2,461.00

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

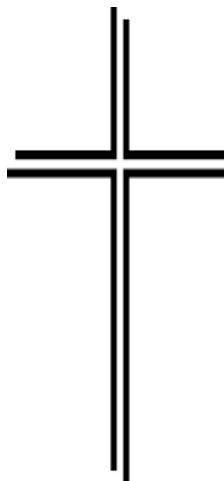
Every Thursday in the church from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Come spend some time with the Lord!

Vocations Crucifix Prayer Campaign

December 16 – 22: Josh & Steffani Jacobs
December 23 – 29: Helen Havelka

Rosary for Life

December 16 – 22: Jeff & Stephanie Wright
December 23 – 29: Tim & Gwyn Vrabel



† Fr. Stephen Nehrsta †

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 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
CEF Enrollments: Janine Nemec 512-289-9242

Mass Ministry Reminders

Wednesday, December 19, 6:30 PM:

Altar Servers: Caleb Stefek, Martin Ortiz, Abby Hodgson
Lector: Zenner
EMHC: Zenner
Gift Bearers: Sacrament 2

Saturday, December 22, 5:00 PM:

Altar Servers: John & Maria Bruce, Preston Snook
Lector: Janine Nemec
EMHC: Jim & Mary Margaret Heuertz, Keith Youngpeter
Gift Bearers: Mark & Debbie Klaus
Head Usher: Howard Mertink

Sunday, December 23, 8:30 AM:

Altar Servers: John & Jenna Danek, Caleb & Amy Stefek
Lector: Chris Stefek
EMHC: James Nemec, Ray Nemec, Monica Sherek
Gift Bearers: Richard & Lisa Danek
Head Usher: AJ Batla

Sunday, December 23, 10:30 AM:

Altar Servers: Jakob Voigt, Samuel Williams, Abby Hodgson
Lector: Zenner
EMHC: Pete & Nancy Zenner
Gift Bearers: Hodgson family
Head Usher: Frank Knapek

EMHC to Shut-ins: Sunday, December 23: Monica Sherek

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 16: --K.J.T. #55 Meeting
--Advent Penance Service
Tuesday, December 18: --RCIA Class
Wednesday, December 19: --CCE Classes
--Adult Faith Enrichment
Thursday, December 20: --Pro-Life Adoration
--Pastoral Council Meeting

“We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts during Rosie’s illness. We are pleased to say that Rosie is, at this time, cancer free! Your love and support toward our family throughout this difficult time has been a blessing.”
~~Brandon & Rosie Fonville family

Thomas Bloomer, of our parish family, has been receiving treatments for cancer, including a bone marrow transplant, and needs your prayers for healing.

K.J.T. #55 will meet today (Sunday, December 16) in the RE Bldg after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. All members are encouraged to attend.

We will have our **Advent Penance Service** today (Sunday, December 16) at 5:00 p.m. (4 priests will be available). An ‘enhanced’ version of the **Examination of Conscience** is available on the bulletin tables for your use in preparing for confession.

This Sunday, December 16, is your final opportunity to:

---give to the K.J.T. #15 Food Drive --- the KJT would like to thank everyone who donated food and money. You have certainly made a difference in the lives of those in need in our area. God bless you all.

---donate for our Christmas season poinsettias --- in memory or honor of loved ones --- by completing and returning a “Christmas Flower Envelope” (located by the bulletins). Memorials will be announced in the December 23 bulletin.

---sign-up for a 2018 Marriage Anniversary Certificate --- on the blue sheet in the foyer of the church. Please fill in all of the information and print clearly. The certificates will be presented on the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec 29/30).

---donate items for our Angel Tree --- for questions, contact Debbie Klaus (512-869-7930).

RCIA: Class this Tuesday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. Discussion: Sacraments. For questions, contact Lucille D’Elia.

CCE: Classes this Wednesday, December 19, at 6:15 p.m. Parents are encouraged to stay and attend Mass (which is always a good example for their children). For questions, contact Lucille D’Elia.

Adult Faith Enrichment: Class this Wednesday, December 19, in the PAC Bldg, after the 6:30 p.m. Mass.

Pro-Life Adoration this Thursday, December 20, from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the church. Come spend time with the Lord, present in the Holy Eucharist.

The **Pastoral Council will meet** this Thursday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. All parishioners are invited to attend. The meeting agenda is posted on the church bulletin board for your information and preparation.

Confraternity of Christian Mothers: Preparation of Christmas Goody Bags is scheduled for this Thursday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the RE Bldg. No business meeting will be held, but we will pray the monthly Confrence Prayers and make tentative plans for the Austin DCCW Board Meeting coffee/lunch we provide. All members are encouraged to attend.

We will have a **Faith Formation Collection** next weekend, December 22/23, to help fund our religious education programs for all ages.

The **Parish Offices will be closed for the holidays** during the week of December 24 – 28, and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2. Bulletin announcements for the December 29/30 bulletin are due by Wednesday, December 19, at 3:00 p.m.

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 – then check back the next weekend for your box. 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.

Looking for a good Christmas gift for a friend or family member? We still have Holy Trinity Cookbooks – containing more than 600 recipes - for \$10/book. Contact Marla Tonn (512-863-0755) or the parish office to purchase.

The **Annunciation Maternity Home** in Georgetown is **accepting donations of used and unwanted vehicles in any condition**. Your gift helps struggling, single mothers on their journey to independence. To learn more, visit www.thematernityhome.org/vehicles, or email: donate@thematernityhome.org.

Opportunities in the area for Advent Penance Services:

St. William – Round Rock – Monday, December 17, 7 PM and Wednesday, December 19, 1 PM – 6 PM;
St. Patrick – Hutto – Tuesday, December 18, 7 PM; **Our Lady of Guadalupe – Taylor** – Thursday, December 20, 7 PM;
St. Helen – Georgetown – Friday, December 21, 7 PM



Christmas Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass: Monday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
Mass during the night: Monday, December 24, 12:00 Midnight
Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25, 8:30 a.m.

Preparing Our Hearts for *Christmas*

You would have to live in a cave to not know that Christmas is coming. The day after Thanksgiving, almost everyone is preparing. Shopping for presents, putting up trees, sending cards, making cookies, and hosting parties. In some churches and Christian homes the Advent Wreath will come out, maybe a Jesse Tree, and the Christmas trees and ornaments may be added weekly to slowly emphasize the Light of Christ coming into the world. The Season of Advent is a time of busy preparation and one that even the secular world will not let us forget.

So much of the love for Christmas has to do with family, giving, beauty and the longing for joy and peace in the world. These are all good things and I believe the desire to start celebrating Christmas earlier than we should has to do with people's lives lacking these simple things at other times of the year. People desire the love and goodness that so many enjoy at Christmas time.

The problem with all of this merry making and festivity is that it's happening at the wrong time. Advent is indeed a time of preparation but even more important than getting our shopping list checked off and planning the perfect meal is how we have prepared our souls, how we have prepared our hearts to receive the baby Jesus as our King on Christmas Day.

We must remember that as Christians we do not celebrate Advent or Christmas out of sentiment over the Lord's birth. The reality is this: just as we are truly present in heaven at Divine Liturgy (Mass) we are also truly present at the feasts we celebrate. God of course is outside of time and it is His life that we are sharing in when we participate in the sacraments and the liturgical calendar of the Church. Participation in His life means we are mystically present at the birth of the Messiah. Advent is meant to place us in the time before He was born. The entire Old Testament is a story of preparation. God was preparing His chosen people to give to the world first, Mary—the summit of the Jewish people, and then the fruit of her womb—Jesus Christ.

So how can we prepare our hearts and lives to receive the baby born in the lowly manger on Christmas Day? The best way to do this is the same way Christians have been preparing for major feasts for centuries: through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

--Pray Add more prayer to your life, especially with family, and attend Mass more often if possible. Prayer changes us. Prayer makes way for the Lord to come into our hearts and draw us closer to Him. We are invited each year to grow deeper in our relationship with God. Prayer is key to this growth. Prayer can also include the Sacrament of Penance. Making a good Confession can open your heart to be filled with the love of the Christmas season and make it all the more meaningful.

--Fast There is a hunger inside all of us that food alone could never satisfy. We try very hard during the holidays to meet that satisfaction in some way. As we all know, that 'fix' never lasts. Fasting from certain foods can help us to understand that God alone fills our deepest desires and needs.

--Almsgiving In giving to the needy, we really want to make an effort to dig deep, to make sacrifices, and reach out to our neighbor. Acts of charity should be the fruit of our prayer and fasting efforts. Give to a food, coat, or blanket drive. Don't forget: acts of charity also include hospitality. People can be very lonely this time of year, reaching out and inviting them to our homes for a meal and company is very important. Reach out to the young couple at church, or the family who would love a night out, and don't forget your priest, or simply a friend or family member you haven't spent a lot of time with. Both almsgiving and hospitality can make a positive difference in other's lives.

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are already on the Third Sunday of Advent. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! The Lord is near!" (Philippians 4:4,5) This verse is taken from today's entrance antiphon and from today's second reading. It expresses the theme of this Sunday's readings and the reason we call this Sunday "Guadete Sunday".

To help you with your final preparations for Christmas, we have an Examination of Conscience on the bulletin tables to assist you as you prepare to go to Confession. Please plan on going to Confession sometime before Christmas, either here, or at one of our neighboring parishes. It is one of the best ways that you can prepare your soul to celebrate the birth of the Savior. In doing so, you are giving our Lord a great gift, the gift of yourself. Our Penance Service will be today, Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m. Please take advantage of this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

"Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice!" Today's readings ring out with thoughts of joy and rejoicing. These should be our thoughts as we come to the middle of this Season of Advent. But you may be asking yourself "How can I be filled with joy and happiness when there is so much trouble in the world, conflict within my family, when people are homeless, starving, out of work, unable to keep their families fed, when people are unable to buy Christmas presents for their family? Or maybe someone in your family is ill or has died recently? How can I find joy and happiness in my life in times like these?" As you ask yourself these questions I ask that you keep in mind today's second reading which is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. St. Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison, while he was being persecuted. The reason that he is able to find joy in his situation, as he explains, is that "The Lord is near." This is the same reason for our joy in this Advent Season that the Lord is near. We should be filled with joy knowing that the Lord is near, that he is walking with us in our moments of difficulty, just as a shepherd guides and protects his sheep. Just knowing that the Lord is with us, that he is close to us, in those times of difficulty is reason enough to rejoice.

St. Paul reminds us in today's second reading that being close to God requires that we start thinking about Christ, without whom our lives are really meaningless. If we start thinking about Christ, who is our Savior, we will stop thinking about ourselves. All we have to do is to rely on God by presenting our needs to Him, as St. Paul writes. It is not necessary for us to agonize and worry over our problems. All we have to do is to rely on the Lord in the firm belief *that He does provide*. We should not let anxiety and worry overpower us. The only way to rid ourselves of anxiety and worry is by way of Christian joy, Christmas joy. Just as the angels announced to the shepherds with the words "Fear not," so too does the Lord announce to each of us "Fear not, for I am with you." This is what we celebrate on Christmas Day, God coming among us as a man in the person of Jesus Christ. God made Himself known to us in a way that He had never done before. He came to live among us in order to show us His love for us. This is why we are able to proclaim with great excitement "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and holy one of Israel." as we heard in today's Responsorial Psalm. However, we can only rejoice and be glad if we keep Jesus Christ at the center of our Christmas celebration.

One of the reasons that many people do not find joy in Christmas is that Christ is not at the center of their Christmas holiday. Those who only see Christmas as a day off from work or a day to give and receive presents, they are going to be very disappointed in Christmas and will probably end up feeling sad, lonely or depressed, as if Christmas was just another day in their life. This is the kind of Christmas that television presents to us. Television, especially the commercials, tell us that we must buy a lot of gifts for people and also receive a lot of gifts if we are going to have a happy Christmas. But, we must move beyond this vision of Christmas and celebrate it because of the special gift given to us by God, that is, the birth of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

How can we acquire a true perspective of Christmas and come to the knowledge and conviction that Christmas means peace and security and freedom from fear in the certainty that the Lord provides? How can we come to realize this when we are faced with struggles, difficulties, loneliness, the need to pay bills, family worries, and other feelings of uncertainty? In order to do this we must recall today's second reading and the gospel reading. The message here is that we will find peace and joy within ourselves by reaching out to others. When we do this we come to realize that the Lord does provide for all our needs. At Christmas do we give gifts to others only so that we will get a gift in return or just because someone is giving us a gift and we would feel guilty if we did not give them something? When we give freely and reach out and help those in need and by living as the Lord commands us to live, it is only then that we experience that Christmas joy. This joy can then be felt all throughout the year by the way we give of ourselves to the service of others. It is at those times that we truly feel the presence of the Lord in our life. In the Gospel reading the crowd asks John "What should we do?" John answers their question by saying: Give your coat and food to those who have none. To the tax collector John says, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." And to the soldiers John replies, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." These words are not only meant for those to whom John was speaking, they are also meant for each of us. John is asking each of us to be honest, to help others, and to do all of our work for the service of God, no matter what kind of work we do. If we do these things, then we will truly experience Christmas joy and be living in the presence of the Lord.

Living in the presence of the Lord means living in the state of grace. There is no joy and there can be no inner happiness unless our conscience is clear with the Lord. This means that a good Advent confession is essential to our rejoicing in the Lord. This is the way to assure ourselves of a real and lasting Christmas happiness. The source of true joy and happiness is Christ the Lord; this is our faith. Our joy is secured in the Manger of Bethlehem, where the angel said to the shepherds: "I bring you good tidings of great joy..." (Luke 2:10). So, this Christmas let us "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel," Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here is a brief meditation on the Gospel:

Já nejsem... ten, který vás zachrání! Já nejsem Mesiáš! Jan Křtitel jasně a bez okolků vyznal, že on není tím, koho Židé čekali. A právě k němu vzhlíželi s nadějí, že by to mohl být on! Ale Jan Křtitel odmítl mesiánské pokušení, komplex "zachránce". Toto jeho odmítnutí mesiánského poslání vyžadovalo hlubokou pokoru a pravdivost.

Jan Křtitel nepodlehł mesiánskému komplexu... nýbrž evangeliu! Hlásal totiž, že tento Zachránce teprve přijde! Nemusíme tedy složit ruce v klín a resignovaně čekat na smrt (až to vše "konečně" skončí) – radostně můžeme čekat... ne na smrt, ale na Krista! Přijde... a jeho ruka není krátká na spasení (Iz 59,1) – a dokonce ani tam, kde my sami a jiní "kvazimesiášové" na to mají "krátkou ruku".

(From Pastorage.cz)

May you have a blessed Third Week of Advent.

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta, farář