

# HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH of CORN HILL



Pope Francis  
Vatican City State



Bishop Joe Vásquez  
Diocese of Austin

## First Sunday of Advent

December 1, A.D. 2019

### Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday	Nov 30	5:00 PM	†Johnnie Simek Lauren Buchhorn (for healing)
Sunday	Dec 1	8:30 AM	†Albina Sladeczek †Frank & Anastasia Knapcik
		10:30 AM	Pro Populo
Monday	Dec 2	6:00 PM	Liv/Dec Benefactors of the Czech Seminarian Fund
Tuesday	Dec 3	6:00 PM	†Julia Ray Peterson †Rudolph, Elizabeth, Johnny & Rosalie Vrana
Wednesday	Dec 4	6:30 PM	Confraternity of Christian Mothers †Helen Marie Kreitz
Thursday	Dec 5	7:00 AM	Craig & Krystle †Annie Janish
Friday	Dec 6	6:00 PM	†Fr. Gerry Creedon Fr. Stephen Nestrsta
Saturday	Dec 7	7:30 AM	†Virginia McMaster †LeRoy Tschoerner
Saturday	Dec 7	5:00 PM	†Pete & Eleanora Schwertner †Rosemary Waltman
Sunday	Dec 8	8:30 AM	Pro Populo
		10:30 AM	†Calvin Blackman, Jr. †Toni Vanderloop

### Altar Flowers

To request Altar Flowers, in memory or honor of loved ones, complete and return an 'Altar Flower Envelope' (located by bulletins or from our website).

**Reminder:** No flowers are needed during the Advent or Christmas Seasons (Dec 1 – Jan 12)

### Last Week's Collection(s)

**November 24:** Weekly Collection: \$4,538.05  
Faith Formation: \$1,271.11  
Online Donations: \$ 308.15

### Rosary for Life

**December 1 – 7: Clem & Geri Dauskurdas**  
December 8 – 14: Michael Vrana



We congratulate and welcome  
**Liliana Belle Klepac**  
(daughter of Chris & Kari Klepac)  
into the Catholic Church,  
and the parish family, through  
the Sacrament of Baptism.

### Vocations Crucifix Prayer Campaign

**December 1 – 7: Louis & Agnes Brousseau family**  
December 8 – 14: Louise Havelka

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday in the church from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.

† 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: 3:45–4:40 pm; Sun: 7:30–8:10 am;  
& Wed: 5:30-6:10 pm (or by appt.)

### Parish Contacts & Resources

**Director of Faith Formation:** Lucille D'Elia 737-215-1042

**Financial Bookkeeper:** Steffani Jacobs 512-863-3020

**Parish Activity Center (PAC) Rentals:** 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 512-635-3496

**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 Nemecek 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 Nemecek 512-289-9242

**Marriage Preparation:** Contact the priest before setting a wedding date and at least 9-12 months before the desired date.

**Baptisms:** Classes are scheduled based on need. Contact Lucille D'Elia for questions and requirements (737-215-1042)

### Mass Ministry Reminders

#### Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 PM:

**Altar Servers:** Amy Stefek, Jakob Voigt, Samuel Williams

**Lector:** Janine Nemecek

**EMHC:** Heuertz

**Gift Bearers:** Sacrament 2

#### Saturday, December 7, 5:00 PM:

**Altar Servers:** John & Maria Bruce

**Lector:** Leo Bringman

**EMHC:** Patsy Hightower, Keith Youngpeter, Brandi Bernal

**Gift Bearers:** Billy & Kathy Meissner

**Head Usher:** Stephanie Wright

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

**Altar Servers:** Carter Marquis, Joseph & Adelaide B

**Lector:** Louis Brousseau

**EMHC:** Cynthia Edgar, Pete & Nancy Zenner

**Gift Bearers:** Ray & Teresa Nemecek

**Head Usher:** A.J. Batla

#### Sunday, December 8, 10:30 AM:

**Altar Servers:** Jakob Voigt, Samuel Williams, William F

**Lector:** Monica Sherek

**EMHC:** Monica Sherek, Leslie & Linda Allen

**Gift Bearers:** Hodgson family

**Head Usher:** Bill Sherek

#### EMHC to Shut-ins: December 8: Ray Nemecek

To volunteer for a Mass Ministry, please contact the parish office. All types are very much needed and appreciated.

**Thank you to all who supported the Bake Sale** sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers on November 16/17. Through your generosity, proceeds in the amount of \$740.00 was collected, a portion of which will be sent to Catholic Relief Services, the 2019 Austin DCCW service project.

We will celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** on Monday, December 9. Masses will be held at 12 Noon and at 7:00 p.m. **In preparation, please pray the following prayer, daily, this week (December 1-9):**

***Novena Prayer to Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception***

*Most Holy Virgin, who was pleasing to the Lord and became His Mother, Immaculate in body and spirit, in faith and in love, look kindly on us who implore thy powerful patronage. The wicked serpent, against whom the primal curse was hurled, continues fiercely to attack and ensnare the unhappy children of Eve. Do thou, Mary our Blessed Mother, our Queen and Advocate, who from the first instant of thy conception did crush the head of our enemy, receive these special prayers (**mention your requests here**) that we unite single-heartedly to thine and beg thee to offer at the throne of God. Help us, that we may never fall into the snares that are laid for us, and may all arrive at the port of salvation; and in the midst of so many dangers, may holy Church and the fellowship of Christians everywhere sing once more the hymn of deliverance, victory and peace.*

The **Clerical Endowment Fund (CEF)** has special '**Christmas**' Enrollment cards (**English & Spanish**) for **Spiritual Bouquet Gifts** for the Christmas season. Our parish CEF Chairperson will be available for these enrollments, with the usual \$2 offering, after the Masses this weekend (November 30/December 1) and next (December 7/8) in the foyer of the church. For Christmas, or other, enrollments thereafter, contact Janine Nemecek (512-289-9242).

All visitors and parishioners are invited for **Hospitality Sunday** today (Sunday, December 1) in the PAC Bldg after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. We appreciate the Moravian Club for preparing the breakfast.

Our monthly **Senior Citizens' Supper** will be held this Monday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC Bldg.

**RCIA:** Class this Tuesday, December 3, at 7 p.m. in the church. Discussion: tour of the church. For more information, contact Lucille D'Elia.

**CCE:** Classes this Wednesday, December 4, from 6:15 – 8:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to stay for the 6:30 p.m. Mass. For questions or information about our program, please contact Lucille D'Elia (737-215-1042).

**Pro-Life Adoration** this Thursday, December 5, from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. Come and spend time with the Lord, present in the Holy Eucharist.

Our **Pro-Life Group will meet** this Thursday, December 5. They will pray a Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. in the church and continue the meeting in the RE Bldg afterwards. Everyone is invited for both the Rosary and the meeting.

**Please pray for those receiving their First Reconciliation** next Saturday, December 7. May they experience the love and forgiveness of our Lord in this blessed sacrament.

**Food Drive:** Providing help to an area family has never been easier. The K.J.T. is collecting food for the Caring Place, which works with families faced with financial struggles. Put your non-perishable items in the boxes near the entrance doors thru December 15. A list of needed items can be found on the bulletin tables and monetary donations are accepted. For questions, please contact Kathleen Valenta at 281-507-5636.

**Help those in need by visiting our Angel Tree** in the church foyer. To participate, 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 15. **If giving a gift card, please write the \$ amount on it.** For questions, contact Debbie Klaus (512-869-7930). Donations will benefit the Annunciation Maternity Home residents and 4 area families.

**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 15. All memorials will be announced in the December 22 bulletin.

**Marriage Anniversaries:** If, in 2019, 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. Please sign-up by Sunday, December 15, on the (blue) sheets provided in the foyer of the church and please **print clearly** so that we don't misspell your names! The certificates will be presented on the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family.

**Purchase your Christmas cards and gift bags from our parish youth in support of their attendance of the annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC)!** You can get these items at the CCE office (call or come in during business hours). Contact Lucille D'Elia.

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

**SSCM – Granger** – Sunday, December 1, 6 PM; **St. John Vianney – Round Rock** – Thursday, December 5, 7 PM;  
**St. Mary – Taylor** – Monday, December 9, 6:30 PM; **Holy Trinity – Corn Hill** – Sunday, December 15, 5 PM;  
**St. William – Round Rock** – Monday, December 16, 7 PM; **St. Elizabeth – Pflugerville** – Tuesday, December 17, 7 PM;  
**St. Patrick – Hutto** – Wednesday, December 18, 7 PM; **St. William – Round Rock** – Wednesday, December 18, 1 PM – 6 PM;  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe – Taylor** – Thursday, December 19, 7 PM; **St. Helen – Georgetown** – Friday, December 20, 7 PM

**Dear friends in Christ,**

May the peace and love of our Lord be with each of you. I hope that all of you had a very joyful and blessed Thanksgiving Day. Remember to keep the spirit of thanksgiving in your heart all throughout the year. Always recognize how you are blessed and give thanks to God every day for those blessings.

Today we begin the holy Season of Advent. Most of you have already made your plans for family gatherings 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 12, 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 and spend extra time in prayer with your family. Many parishes have Penance Services with many priests present to hear confessions. Please check the Penance Schedule listed in this bulletin and make a good confession before Christmas.

During the Season of Advent, we usually begin decorating our homes for Christmas. I always recommend that you wait until the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, before you turn on your Christmas lights. Also, I encourage you to leave your tree and decorations up and your Christmas lights shining until the end of the Christmas Season on January 12. 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 during the past 2000 years. The more we present our faith in the spirit and truth it is meant to be presented in, the more people will have a conversion of heart and think about the faith they have received.

Today's readings speak to us about the fulfillment of God's promise to His people. This is in reference to the coming of the Messiah. This promise has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born of the virgin, Mary. We await the final establishment of the Kingdom as we prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of Jesus on the great day of the final Resurrection. Our Gospel reading today, taken from the Gospel of Luke, encourages us to be vigilant and to wait with great expectation, preparing ourselves through prayer, so that we are strong in our faith so that we can persevere in living our life in Jesus until He returns in glory. In Advent we prepare not only for the birth of Jesus, but also for His ultimate return when all will be made new.

**K úvaze:** I pro mnohé z nás toto adventní období přichází "nečekaně jako zloděj": dostali jsme se do určitého koloběhu povinností a starostí, které nás uspaly a uvedly do letargie. Letargie nezájmu "o něco dalšího", které přece jen nemůžeme pojmout do svého života, tak naplněného od rána do večera. Nezájmu "o něco nečekaného a nového", protože jsme si dokázali vytvořit "fungující životní styl", denní či týdenní rozvržení úkolů. To "nečekané" by mohlo přinést zmatek, chaos, nejistotu v našem zaběhlém systému! A proto tento advent může být nepohodlný: vyzývá nás, abychom se odpoutali od "svých systémů", od svých běžných schémat uvažování. Vyzývá nás k přehodnocení žebříků vlastních "problémů": nejdůležitějším problémem nejsou ty běžné každodenní starosti, ale připravenost na příchod onoho "zloděje". Shon a hektičnost vytlačily tento problém na vedlejší kolej, pokud ne úplně: "zloděj" nepřichází, budme nohama na zemi, žijme přítomnost! A advent najednou převrací naše "rozumné" priority. Přichází s výzvou: On přichází! Nečekaný a nepohodlný zloděj přichází! A nejen že přijde "jednou", ale dokonce už teď!

Někteří z nás už asi měli nepříjemnou zkušenost se zloději: nečekaně byli okradeni v obchodě či v autobuse. Znenadáni a náhle. Stejně tak nečekaně přichází "onen zloděj": najednou, bez upozornění. Přibližuje se pokradmo, potichu. Jeho příchod se nedá předem odhadnout. Jeho přítomnost bývá nepovšimnuta. A kdo nevnímá "přítomnost zloděje", nechává se okrást! Okrást ne jeho obratnou rukou, jako spíš vlastní nečestností: on totiž nepřichází, aby okradl, ale aby obohatil. Může se však nechat obohatit jen ten, kdo má otevřené oči a otevřenou ruku. On se k nám přibližuje při běžných událostech: když kráčíme po ulici či nakupujeme v obchodě, když sledujeme televizi či mluvíme s dětmi. Necháme se okrást?

**Primer Domingo de Adviento:** "Esperar activamente al Señor significa no dejarnos adormecer por puros intereses privados en nuestras casas y apartamentos, pero donar nuestra atención, tiempo y talentos. Esto implica compartir nuestras fortalezas y aceptar nuestras debilidades en nuestras parroquias, escuelas, comunidades de trabajo y en la sociedad," dijo el Cardenal Joseph Bernardin ¿Cómo podemos "esperar activamente" la llegada de Cristo durante este Adviento?

Don't forget to mark your calendars to attend Mass on Monday, December 9. **It will be the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day.** Mass will be at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm.

May all of you have a very blessed Advent Season.

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

# Advent Expectation, Hope, and Healing

Kathleen Beckman

**In the season of Advent**, each of us may ask ourselves: what do I expect? Advent starts a new liturgical year full of possibilities to deepen our spiritual perspectives and closeness with God. Advent season invites us to awaken new hope in God's plan and promises. Advent can be a season of healing through deeper awareness that the Christ Child desires to be born anew in you. The Savior arrives to save, heal, and deliver you. His coming is profoundly personal. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

The Incarnation was the fulfillment of the ancient expectancy of a Messiah, healer and deliverer of his people. The Catechism teaches, "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming" (524).

First, let's consider the experience of expectation and preparation. Think of a couple expecting a child, a person waiting for the results of an exam, someone expecting the arrival of a friend, the anticipation of someone meeting a loved one. According to Pope Benedict XVI, "We could say that man is alive so long as he expects, so long as hope remains alive in his heart. Men and women can be recognized by their expectations, and that our moral and spiritual stature may be measured by what our hopes are."

Advent is an opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ as Lord of our life. Oftentimes in the lives of the saints we read of how they made "acts of oblation" during Advent or Lenten retreats. I find this to be very efficacious because with each passing year, I'm changed, and circumstances of my life are different also. Therefore each "act of oblation" or "re-consecration" of myself to the Lord, brings a fresh offering with new perspective of self-offering. In preparing for Christmas we have weeks to reset our spiritual life. Likely, this won't happen if we don't prioritize our time spent with the Lord. The Church's liturgy certainly helps us to focus.

The liturgical readings of the First Sunday in Advent remind us of three points: 1) In those days, my people will live in safety (Jer. 33:14-16); 2) Paul prays for Christians to grow in fervor and holiness (I Thes. 3:12-4:2); and 3) Preparing for the final day when Christ will come as a Judge (Lk 21: 25-28). It is beautiful to reflect on how, with Christ, we can live in the safety of divine love, grow in holiness, and therefore, be prepared for the final day when we will give an account to God, and hopefully be with him eternally in heaven.

Secondly, let's consider the experience of hope. Hope is the theological virtue "by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (C 1817). The arrival of the Christ Child moves us in a uniquely human and mystical way. The gift of the Incarnation awakens us to the transcendence of God; the beauty of Incarnate Love. Saints such as St. Theresa of Avila speak of our need to love the humanity of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word. The Christ Child touches our humanity as only a little baby can.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, "The Child Jesus points us to this primal truth of human existence: we must be born again. We must be accepted, and we must let ourselves be accepted. We must transform our dependency into love and become free therein. We must be born again, laying aside our pride and becoming a child. In the Child Jesus we must recognize and receive the fruit of life. This is what Christmas brings to us: new life!"

The expectancy of any child requires due diligence, practical, and spiritual preparation. The expectancy of the Christ Child requires the same so that we may deeply experience the Nativity as a joyful, liberating conversion of heart. To the degree that we make room in our hearts, and order our lives to Christ, we will experience His birth as new life within. He alone is the fulfillment of all our desires.

Thirdly, let's consider how Advent season presents an occasion for healing. Advent is considered a penitential time with an opportunity to turn away from any darkness (sin, vice) in our lives. It's the coming of Christ as the light of the world that overcomes the darkness. Advent invites us to ponder the past, present, and future so we become more aware, and grateful for the Child Jesus who redeems our past, present, and future. His Presence means that our Divine Physician has come. If you are in need of healing, physical or spiritual, bring your desire to the Crib and the Cross. They are joined mystically together by the scarlet love of the Lamb of God whose life and blood wash you clean.

Reflecting on the Christ Child can awaken the child within us. Healing can occur when we strive for spiritual childhood. The Christ Child comes to identify with human limitations and makes himself dependent upon a human mother and father. He teaches us how to trust in the Eternal Father and the divine will that is all goodness.

Meditating on the beauty of the details of the Nativity can also be a healing exercise if we conclude that the Holy Family is our family too. Yes, you are a cherished member of their family and their mission includes you.

Silence, prayer, Eucharistic life, Confession, *lectio divina*, all of these can lead to inner healing. Often it happens that when a person seeks the Church's help for a diabolical disturbance in his or her life, part of the process of deliverance and healing is what is called a "thirty day prescription" which is basically a rule of life, a regimen of spiritual exercises. Oftentimes, after thirty days of living an intentional spiritual life, the person is delivered without the need of the exorcist. It's not surprising because Christ is the chief exorcist; the closer you are to him, the freer and happier you become. The Christ Child is the undoing of the devil.

The vulnerability of the Christ Child often allows us to become more vulnerable and thus, the closed, guarded chambers of our hearts are pried open by the rush of divine love.

**Let us pray for one another** –that we not be robbed of the transformative possibility that Advent holds. Let us enter into this new liturgical year with holy daring, and expectations of miracles, divine surprises, transformation. Let us prepare well that our joy may be complete when we receive our newborn King and celebrate His birth. Let us draw closer to the Christ Child through dedicated spiritual preparation and expectancy.