

Third Sunday of Advent

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Barbara Quesada. Rev. Michael Snider. Wilburn Roberts. Ryan Melton. Rebecca Niebrugge. George Bruner. Chase Larsson. Jeff Gibbons. Eric Gray. Myles Acosta. Elise Sugg. Jacob Stephens. Fr. John Lydon. Fr. Joseph Nasser. Fr. Christopher Ruggles. Fr. Tim Kelly. Fr. Steven Duyka. Msgr. Gerald Priest. Jim & Joann Rayl. Rose Kennedy. Judy Fazzio. Marty Blahitka. Carolyn Edwards. Dominic Sosta. Joshua Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda Stephens. Wanda Thompson. Elleana Fritz. Kathryn Allen. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

Father Peter McGrath has been placed in hospice care. Please pray for peace and serenity for him and his family as they enter into a very difficult time.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

Airman First Class Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army(Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Ensign Gary Buchanan; 2nd Lt. Blake Gaughan & Lcpl Mike Buchanan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno USCG (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Emma)

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy. This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

IMPRESSIONABLE

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.—Ancient Chinese proverb

December Pope's Universal Intention: Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith: That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 12/15 5:00pm Mass—Parishioners

Sun 12/16 9:30am Mass—First Responders

Tue 12/18 NO Mass—Fr. Mike has a Dr.'s appt. Adoration 9:30am

Wed 12/19 5:00pm Mass—Deacon William Birdwell+

Thurs 12/20 9:00am Mass—Deacon Ricky Yelverton+

Fri 12/21 9:00am Mass—Holy Souls of Purgatory (Rosary Group)

Sat 12/22 5:00pm Mass—Parishioners

Saturday Confessions are from 4:15—4:45pm

Sunday Confessions are from 8:45—9:15am

PARISH SUPPORT

Required Weekly Funds Offerings

12/08 & 12/09 Attendance

\$ 3,962	Sat.	Sun.
\$ 5,007	83	93

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

Second Reading — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17;Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday:Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday:Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday:ls 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Friday:Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Saturday:1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Sunday:Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45



Please remember Holy Spirit Parish in your Will.



For free information on making a will, finding a lawyer or making a bequest to our parish, please call Mark Henry at the East Texas Catholic Foundation @ 903-534-1077 X 200 or visit www.etclegacy.org.

EVENTS AND NEWS

Dec. Second Collections: 24th & 25th: "Christmas Collection" & "Seminarian Special Collection".

Religious Education

GRADES 1—8

"Faith and Family Life" Class on Wed., Dec. 19th

GRADES 9—12

HSY "Holy Spirit Youth" Group Class on Sun., Dec. 16th at 5:00-6:30pm

Volunteers needed for this coming year to purchase the donuts for after Sunday Masses. Preferably on a quarterly basis or annual. **A BIG Thank you to Bill & Barbara Smith** for the past couple of years of purchasing donuts.

We also need volunteers to pick them up at the donut shop on the corner of 2869 and 14 and serve them. On the first Sunday of the month (when the K of C does not have breakfast), or second, third, fourth or fifth Sunday of each month. A sign up sheet is located in the Narthex.

We would like to thank everyone that provided, picked-up and serve the donuts for this year. Holy Spirit has been so generous with the coffee/donut weeks this year. Many Blessings!!!

Exposition is every Tuesday from 9:30am—4:00pm: "The Eucharist bathes the tormented soul in light and love. Then the soul appreciates these words, 'Come all you who are sick, I will restore your health'." - St. Bernadette Soubirous (Mary visited her many times at Lourdes, France)

2019 Parish Directories are available, please notify Bridget Rich (903) 769-3235, church office. If you did not have your picture taken by Life-touch there is a \$10.00 directory charge to defray our cost to buy extra copies.

Knights of Columbus would like to thank all of you that made food donations. They are able to make-up and deliver "**17 BIG BASKETS**" weighing approximately 60 pounds each full of good wishes for people in need.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sat., Jan., 5, 2019, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Wellspring Spirituality Center.

Whitehouse: What Better Way to Start the New Year than with a Retreat at Wellspring

Each year at Wellspring, a virtue is chosen for study and reflection. It has become a wonderful tradition that helps us grow in virtue and become virtuous people. Fr. Gus Tharappel has chosen the virtue of hospitality as our virtue for study and reflection in 2019. Hospitality has a way of making strangers into friends, moving people to reach out in service, and challenging all to share their possessions and experiences. Join us for our first retreat of 2019 as we strive to become more hospitable.

All are welcome. No registration is necessary. For more information about our programs and retreats, contact us at 903-839-1280 or retreatsatwellspring@gmail.com or visit our website at www.retreatsatwellspring.com

The **Legion of Mary** encourages all our parish families to participate in a program to honor the **Blessed Mother** by signing up to invite the **Pilgrim Virgin Statue** into your home for a week to pray the rosary. Please contact Esther Coronel @ 903-613-4249 to schedule a week of your choosing.

December News/Events

Sun., Dec. 16th: Christian Initiation with Deacon Sam begins after 9:30am Mass.

"HSY" 5:00-6:30pm.

Wed., Dec. 19th: Grades 1—8 Class 4:00—4:55pm. Mass at 5:00pm.

Sun., Dec. 23rd: No religious education class tonight Grades 9-12

Wed., Dec. 26th: No religious education class tonight Grades 1-8.

Thurs., Dec. 27th: Fr. Mike's 10 Year Ordination Anniversary

Mon. Dec. 24th—Wed., Dec. 26th: Diocese & Church Office closed.

Sun., Dec. 30th: No religious education class tonight Grades 9-12

Mon., Dec. 31st: 5:00pm New Year's Eve Mass

January News/Events

Tues., Jan. 1st: 9:00 am Mass New Years Day—Holy Day of Obligation

Wed., Jan. 2nd: 5:00pm Mass. No religious education class tonight Grades 1-8.

Sun. Jan. 6th: No K of C Breakfast. **Christian Initiation** with Deacon Sam begins after 9:30am Mass. **"HSY" 5:00-6:30pm.**

Wed., Jan. 9th: Grades 1—8 Class 4:00—4:55pm. Mass at 5:00pm.

Sun., Jan. 13th: Christian Initiation with Deacon Sam. And **Apologetics** for all parishioners from 14—99 yrs. old interested in the knowledge of our faith, begins after 9:30am Mass. **"HSY" 5:00-6:30pm.**

Wed., Jan. 26th: 5:00pm Mass. Grades 1—8 Class 4:00—4:55pm

Fri., Jan. 18th: K of C Fish Fry.

2019 Collection Envelopes are available in the hallway leading to the parish hall. They are in alphabetical order. If you do not see your name please leave your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet by the envelopes. Questions, please call Bridget Rich @ 903-769-3235, leave a detailed message on the voice mail.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Dec. 16: Sun. 5:00 pm - St. Joseph, Marshall

Dec. 18: Tue. 5:00pm-St. Matthew, Longview
6:00pm-St. Lawrence, Waskom

Dec. 19: Wed. 5:15pm - St. Mary's, Longview
6:00pm - Imm. Conception, Jefferson
6:00pm - Queen of Angels, Overton

Dec. 20: Thu. 5:00 pm - St. Matthew, Longview

Jan. 5, 2019 Day of Life for Teens—Diocese of Tyler. 8:30am Mass followed by conference in Cathedral Center ending 5:00pm.

Mon., Dec. 24th: 4:30pm Candle light Music, followed by 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Tues., Dec. 25th: 9:00am Mass Christmas Day

Mon., Dec. 31st: 5:00pm New Year's Eve Mass

Tues., Jan. 1st: 9:00am Mass New Years Day—Holy Day of Obligation