

First SUNDAY of Advent



November 29, 2020

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.

Isaiah 63:19b; 64:2-3

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When Jesus does not speak in eloquent sentences, but barks out imperative statements such as in our Gospel reading today, one can understand the urgency. There is no place for flowery language. "Be watchful! Be alert!" One has a sense that these should be written in bold or all caps! He tells the parable of the homeowner leaving his workers at home, with no knowledge of when he would return. Without phones and texts and travel schedules it could have meant the homeowner was returning sometime in the day, or sometime in the coming month or year. So Jesus is not telling us, "You have to behave for a little bit," but rather, "You must live your life and work like the homeowner is always here. You must always be prepared."

WATCH!

This author was very aware of the language of "master/servant" in the Gospel today and is reading it and praying it in light of discussions on racism in recent months. Perhaps this goes with the last imperative at the end of the parable to "Watch!" This year has taught us to be alert in our actions such

as social distancing, masks, and sanitizing, as well as in our language and even our thoughts. Now how do we apply that to our spirituality, to our faith? For many, due to restrictions on numbers in church, singing, and choirs, this has meant learning to pray in a whole different way. The celebration of liturgy is the same as ever, with its focus always on the Word and the Eucharist, but for those in the pew, or still watching on livestream, the sense of active participation has taken on a very different meaning from how most of us have experienced liturgy in our lifetime. It feels like we have become spectators rather than participants. Perhaps this challenge can move us from complacency in our faith, to rediscover and relate to God in new ways, and call us to be even stronger in our personal faith. We must remain diligent. We must "watch." We must hope. We must love. We must pray.

Today's Readings: Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7;
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:
Rev. Mr. Lee

MASS TIMES:

Sat., 5:00PM & Sun., 9:00AM
Tues. - Fri. 9:00AM

CONFESSIONS:

Tues. & Wed., 9:30-10:00AM
9:30 10:30
9:00 PM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday: 45
minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Holy Spirit

Catholic Church

1612 S. FM 2869

Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765

Church Phone: 903-769-3235

Fr. Mike Snider

Cell Phone: 903-490-3883

www.holyspirthollylake.com

holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home." Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!

First Sunday of Advent

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

Paul Adams. Jess Corrigan, Karla Haney, Molly Dunn, Richard Schuetz, Regina Davies, Jo Hoffman, Tammy Johnson, Carolyn Simmons, Elayne Hayes, Dianne & Gary Laudt, Gayle McCloskey, Shay Mikalonis, Dwight Nunley, Wanda & George Duke, Fleming Family, Doris Hoffman, Jo Ann Crowell, Ann Richardson, Jacob Stephens, Frankie Durst, Mary Margaret Ellison, John Kominis, Ester Coronel, Diane Stanley, Chase Larsson, Elise Sugg, Joann Rayl, Judy Fazzio, Marsha & Marty Blahitka, Carolyn Edwards, Joshua Larsson, Avery Boultinghouse, Wanda Stephens, Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners, Friends and Relatives for one month.

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

New active recruit, Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, 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; 2ndLt. Blake Gaughan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading: God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel: Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 11/28 Deacon Loren Seily (Daughters of Divine Mercy)

Sun 11/29 Shirley Bonicard+ (Carolyn Bonicard) & Connie Grant (Gena Roth)

Tue 12/01 James Hayes+ (Knights of Columbus)

Wed 12/02 Jim Hayes+ (M/M Clymer)

Thurs 12/03 Delbert Laskoskie+ (M/M Clymer)

Fri. 12/04 Wanda Thompson+ (M/M Clymer)

Sat. 12/05 Mary Maguire (M/M Clymer)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through Oct 31, 2020:

Expenditures (excluding parking lot repairs) \$ 3,712

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,703

Attendance 11/21 Sat. 27 & 11/22 Sun. 45

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

We expect to be delivering food to 20 families this year. This drive is above and beyond our weekly food distribution. Below is a list of always needed items.

Canned yams, pumpkin, cranberry sauce, vegetables & fruit, soups (especially hearty soups). Peanut butter. Biscuit & roll mix, powder gravy mixes, instant potatoes, pudding, jello & fruit cups.

Thank you for your generous donations for the thanksgiving holiday boxes and for your continued support for this food drive and our weekly food baskets. Please place donations in the K/C box just before you enter the Parish Hall on or before **12/17/2020**.

If you are unable to deliver your donations, please call or text **Robert Mailliard at 503-559-6022**

We are also looking for volunteers to deliver the food boxes on **12/21/2020**.

MANY BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS
FOR THIS PROJECT

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS



Marie Hansen will provide Christmas Cards with pictures of past Christmas decorations of our Church with envelopes. They sell for the price of 10 for \$10.00 with all money donated to Holy Spirit Catholic Church. **Orders must be in by the 29th of November** and will be **delivered to Church December 5th**.

Email Marie Hansen at sisters39802@gmail.com or call 214-282-5349.

Dispensation: The entire diocese of Tyler remains dispensed from the Sunday and holy day Mass obligation until further notice.

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An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

CONFESSION Tues., Dec. 1st 9:30—10:30AM. NO CONFESSION ON WED. DEC. 2ND. If you have an emergency and need Fr. Mike call him on his cell # 903-490-3883.

**Donations to Knights of Columbus
Baby Shower**



The Knights of Columbus Council 15174 thanks all who have deposited items in the portable play pen. And for making monetary contributions to Living Alternatives, with Building Blocks. After, the Living Alternatives pick up the donated items and the monetary contributions the Knights of Columbus will give a update in our next bulletin.

December Second Collections: Dec. 5th & 6th: "Building & Maintenance Fund." 12th & 13th: "Retirement Fund for Religious".

While the hospitals have enough capacity at this moment, they do not have enough critical care staff to manage the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases that are coming in.

Bishop Strickland is requesting that you offer your prayers for physicians, nurses, and health care workers during this time—for their protection and for the needs of our hospitals.

Reminder: Bishop Strickland has instructed all persons to wear facial masks during liturgies in the Diocese of Tyler.

Temporary Weekend Mass held in parish hall: Sat., Nov. 28th at 5:00pm and Sun., Nov. 29th at 9:00am.

Protocols for weekend Masses:

1. **Limitations on Attendance:** Limited seating maximum 81 seats are available. In order for the households to maintain at least 6-foot separation.
2. **Wear a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
3. **No socializing** in the parish hall. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed. Enter & exist double glass doors into the parish hall to the left of the overhang.
4. **Chairs** set-up 6-foot separation. Please **DO NOT MOVE CHAIRS.**

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed. from 3:30—4:30pm.** Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki 817-637-9382**

**Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass Tues. Dec. 8th at 9:00 AM**



**Mass of Anticipation:
Mon., Dec. 7th at 5:00 PM**

ANGEL TREE: Please choose an angel card or two from the tree located in the hallway at the entrance of the parish hall. Instructions will be on each angel card.



Please wrap the gifts, place angel card on gifts and returned to the angel tree no later than Sunday, Dec. 6th by 9:30am. Questions call Jean Kelly 903-857-9868.



Thurs., Dec. 24th: 4:30pm Candle Light Music, follow by 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass.

Fri., Dec. 25th: 8:30am Christmas Music, follow by 9:00am Mass Christmas Day

**New Year's Eve; Mass of Anticipation:
Thurs., Dec. 31st: 5:00pm**

**New Year's Day; Holy Day of Obligation
Fri., Jan. 1st: 9:00am Mass**

The **Welcome Committee** thanks everyone who donated Halloween candy for the upcoming Holly Lake Ranch Christmas Golf Cart parade. Mark your calendar for the **parade on Saturday, Dec. 19th at 6pm.** More information to follow.

Weekday Mass Times held in church: Tues. — Fri. at 9:00am.

Protocols for weekday Masses:

1. **Wearing a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
2. **No socializing** in the Narthex. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed. Enter & exit same set of double glass doors into the church through the overhang.
3. **In church alternating every other pew.** Households must maintain at least 6-foot separation.
4. **Limited seating maximum 31.** In order for the households to maintain at least 6 feet separation.

RAFFLE

Since the Covid virus required us to eventually cancel the Casino Night fundraising event, we had several very nice prizes ready to be won by some lucky Casino winners which, unfortunately, most have expiration dates. The fund raising committee has decided that the fairest way to handle the situation would be to have another raffle with a very limited number of tickets available to give ticket purchasers an unbelievably good chance of winning one of the prizes. The raffle is being timed to allow those winners to utilize the prizes as Christmas gifts, if they wish.

Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold at a cost of \$10.00 per ticket. This will allow an additional \$1000.00 to go to the Church, assuming we sell all of the raffle tickets. There will be no expenses since we will be printing the tickets in-house.

The tickets will be available after Mass **starting Saturday, November 28th** and also in the **Church office from Tuesday, December 1st through Friday December 4th. Also, after Mass December 5th and 6th.** Please call the office before coming to the church office on the weekdays 903-769-3235 to make sure tickets are available. Remember only 100 tickets will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

Drawing will be December 6, 2020, immediately after the 9:00 AM Mass.

The prizes are:

1. Southwest Airlines

Four one-way passes (expires April 22, 2021)
Total value: \$800.00

2. Margaritaville Resort Casino, Bossier City, LA

Two-night stay and dinner for two the the World Tour Buffet (expires April 24, 2021)
Value \$300.00

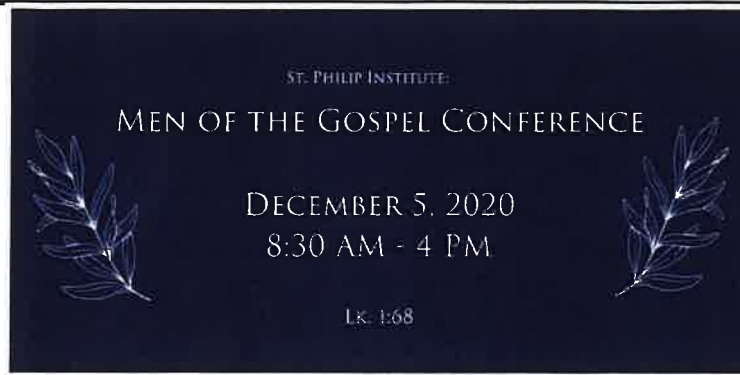
3. James Avery jewelry

Sterling Silver Heart Drop 18inch Necklace and matching Heart Drop, hoop earrings
Value \$250.00

4. Kiepersol Texas Wine Farm, Tyler, Texas

Guided "Tour and Tasting" for up to six people (expires April 25, 2021)
Value \$120.00

Remember **all** of the proceeds of this raffle go to the Church, so we expect to sell all 100 tickets very quickly. When they are gone, they are gone.



I am writing to share this information about our first men's conference, which will be hosted on December 5th. There is limited seating available in Tyler as well as a live-stream option. Thanks for sharing and for all the work you do for the Diocese!

In the New Testament, the narration of the birth of Jesus centers around three figures which all serve, in their own ways, as icons of authentic masculine spirituality: St. Gabriel the Archangel, St. Zechariah, and St. Joseph.

This Advent, the St. Philip Institute will sponsor our first men's conference, dedicated to exploring the theme of what it means to be a man of the Gospel. Talks will center on these three figures and how we can learn from their example to become living witnesses of Christ in an era of confusion and doubt.

Join us in Tyler (limited in-person tickets available) or via live stream for talks by Jesse Romero, Doug Barry, and the Papal Ninja, Sean Bryan. Register on line at <https://stphilipinstitute.org/>

God Bless!

Luke Arredondo, PhD

Director of Faith Formation

St. Philip Institute of Catechesis and Evangelization

So, do you ever wish God would just talk to you sometimes?

You do? Great! Let's get together and talk about it. (He already talks to you, you know. One way is through our Bibles.)

We would like to offer a weekly, on-ongoing course of Scripture Study for men only; women only or co-ed. And we need your input to determine exactly how, what, and when we will make this available to you. Please fill out the mini form below and drop it into the collection basket or email me (email address below). Please do not fill out the form unless you are serious about participating. After we tabulate and collate the information you provide for us, we will report our findings and offer suggestions for the "preferred" Scripture Study. The sooner we receive your input, the sooner we can announce your preferences and our plan to accommodate them. If you require any additional information please feel free to contact randymunoz80@hotmail.com.

When would you like to meet? (Check one day and one time)

Sunday _____ Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____

Morning _____ Evening _____

Men only _____ Women only _____ Co-Ed _____

What would you prefer for a format?

Structured (specific scriptures and formal study guides – Little Rock, etc.) _____

Unstructured (pick a book and go) _____

The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas (<https://www.catholic.org/advent/advent.php?id=2>)

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" ... To most it's a delightful non-sense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. ... Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829 (when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England), were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get a person imprisoned, ... hanged, or ... drawn and quartered, ... The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The **partridge** in a pear tree is **Jesus Christ**, the Son of God. (In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem – "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling!" – Matthew 23:37)

Two Turtle Doves are **The Old and New Testaments**

Three French Hens are **Faith, Hope and Charity**, the Theological Virtues

Four Calling Birds are the **Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists**

Five Golden Rings are **The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch"**, which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

Six Geese A-laying are the **six days of creation**.

Seven Swans A-swimming are the **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit** (per The Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them.); **The Seven Sacraments** are Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Eucharist, Holy Orders, Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick).

Eight Maids A-milking are the **eight Beatitudes**

Nine Ladies Dancing are the **nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit**. * {The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Triune God (the Most Holy Trinity) and St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians, provides a list of nine fruits of the Spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22,23). These fruits emanate (proceed) from the Holy Spirit; they reveal what the Holy Spirit is like. They serve as the Spirit's character traits and because the Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity, and because the three persons are one, the fruits of the Spirit reveal what God is like. ... Wherever the Holy Spirit receives welcome and cooperation, the fruits expand and intensify. It may be a person or any size group, ... a married couple, a family, a school, a business, an organization, a nation or the Church. Whenever an individual or a group follows the prompting of the Holy Spirit, ... the fruits increase, but when the Spirit is opposed, these fruits diminish or vanish altogether.}

Ten Lords A-leaping are the **Ten Commandments**

Eleven Pipers Piping are the **eleven faithful apostles**

Twelve Drummers Drumming are the **twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed**



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