

A VOICE CRIES OUT:
IN THE DESERT PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED IN,
EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW.

ISAIAH 40:3-4

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DECEMBER 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

With COVID-19, much time is spent wondering “where did it start?” or “who passed it on to whom?” Though science can tell us much there are many unanswered questions. Today’s Gospel is about as concrete as sacred scripture gets. We know this is the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, which was the first Gospel to be written down in about 70 AD. Unlike Luke and John, Mark does not begin with an infancy narrative of Jesus. He starts by proclaiming the prophecy of Isaiah. This section was written six hundred years before Christ, in another time of great upheaval, as the Israelites were displaced from their homeland during the Babylonian Exile. The first words of Isaiah 40 are “Comfort, comfort, my people.” John the Baptist starts by explaining he is the go-between, sent to “Prepare the way.”

DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

While proclaiming the coming Christ is a thing of joy, John’s words are also harsh, reminding us to repent and prepare. People were threatened by them two thousand years

ago, and some still are today. People can hear them and be turned off by “fire and brimstone,” and none of us like to be told what to do. But think about it. This year, we have all engaged in social distancing and endured hardships to protect our families and others.

Similarly, when you have company coming, you do house cleaning, meal prep, and lots of things to make the place ready for the arrival of your guests—necessary preparation. So we as individuals must make ourselves ready for the coming Christ to reside in us. This may mean repenting for sins, seeking the sacrament of penance, or taking time with a spiritual director. Perhaps it means carving out more times and places for Christ to be born in our hearts or taking on another spiritual practice. Maybe it means simply doing what the psalm asked and using our eyes and ears and mind and heart to seek Christ.

Today’s Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14;
2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. “Mike” Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:

MASS TIMES:

Sat., 5:00PM & Sun., 9:00AM

Tues. - Fri. 9:00AM

CONFESSIONS:

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

Wednesday: 5:00 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.holyspirithollylake.com

holyspirit2@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!

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Ron Szczepanski. Karla Haney. Molly Dunn. Richard Schuetz. Regina Davies. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Elayne Hayes. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Gayle McCloskey. Shay Mikalonis. Dwight Nunley. Wanda & George Duke. Fleming Family. Doris & Jo 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 — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Mass—Intentions

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

Sun 12/06 Karla Haney (Joe Fazzio)

Tue 12/08 Jo & Ray Crowell (M/M Clymer)

Wed 12/09 Chuck Snodgrass+ (Knights of Columbus)

Thurs 12/10 Carlos Gallardo+ (Knights of Columbus)

Fri. 12/11 Deacon Len Sanchez+ (Knights of Columbus)

Sat. 12/12 Karla Haney (Joe Fazzio)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through Oct. 31, 2020:

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

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,703

Attendance 11/28 Sat. 30 & 11/29 Sun. 36

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

The Pantry Committee appreciates the generosity of our parishioners to our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thanks to our Parishioners we delivered 1100 pounds of canned goods, dry food products and \$35.00 gift cards to 20 families at Thanksgiving.

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 Wed. Dec. 9th 9:30—10:30AM. NO CONFESSIONS ON TUES. DEC. 8TH. If you have an emergency and need Fr. Mike call him on his cell # 903-490-3883.

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**

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

With modern technology we are now aware of who enters the building. Give us **BIG SMILE** with your eyes as you enter.



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., Dec. 5th at 5:00pm and Sun., Dec. 6th 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.**

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

All the Masses above will be held in our Parish Hall

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.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 2 December 2020 Edition
(Submission date: 27 November 2020) Submitted by Randy Munoz

Holy Spirit Catholic Church (1612 S. FM 2869). Masses, in the Parish Hall on weekends Saturday – 5:00 pm, Sunday – 9:00 a.m. In the Church, during the week 9:00 a.m.

As mentioned last week, “12 drummers drumming” represented the 12 points of doctrine (from the Apostle’s Creed)) in the Christmas Carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. This was a “code” used by Catholics (persecuted in England during the period 1558 to 1829). The Apostles Creed is a list of tenets held-to by the church at the time – as they currently are today, and proclaims:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Citing an article from Catholicism.org (<https://catholicism.org/the-apostles-creed.html>):

“Tradition has it that each of the Twelve Apostles, including Matthias (who replaced Judas), contributed to the formulation of a profession of Faith that we call **The Apostles Creed**. This was done sometime before they left Jerusalem to teach all nations. Some early writers – Saints Ambrose and Rufinus – maintain that it was composed under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, with each of the Apostles contributing one of twelve articles. It was not written down, but memorized, and that was the way it was throughout the history of the early Church. Catechumens committed the Creed to memory and professed it aloud at their Baptism. ...

‘I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth’ was given by **St. Peter**;
‘And in Jesus Christ His only Son, Our Lord’ by **St. John**;
‘Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary’ by **St. James the Greater**;
‘Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried’ by **St. Andrew**;
‘He descended into hell and on the third day He arose again from the dead’ by **St. Philip**;
‘He ascended into heaven; sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty’ by **St. Thomas**;
‘From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead’ by **St. Bartholomew**;
‘I believe in the Holy Ghost’ by **St. Matthew**;
‘The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints’ by **St. James the Less**;
‘The Forgiveness of Sins’ by **St. Simon**;
‘The Resurrection of the Body’ by **St. Jude**;
‘And Life Everlasting’ by **St. Matthias**. ... “

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 finding 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 Knights of Columbus would like to give parishioners a big thank you for making the Annual Baby Shower another successful project.

Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus Council 15174 recently completed their Annual Baby Shower. Over 100 Items for newborns to toddlers were donated by parishioners of Holy Spirit Catholic Church at an estimated \$2,500.00. The Building Blocks Ministry of Living Alternatives in Tyler, the organization receiving the baby items, offers practical help to young parents that encourages and renews hope for the future during and after periods of unplanned pregnancies. It is a unique earn-while-you-learn program where young moms and dads earn points for going to doctor appointments, attending parenting classes, and meeting with parenting mentors. The items donated will not be given to the young parents. They must use their accumulated points to purchase the items.

