

Third SUNDAY of Advent



December 13, 2020

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Many years ago, Canadian singer Ann Murray had a hit song that spoke of her frustrations as she listened to the radio and read the headlines. She sang that "we sure could use a little good news today." It strikes me that this is the message that the readings want us to leave with this week. The Gospel Antiphon proclaims, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor" (from Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4: 18). John the Baptist is here to testify to the light, to the Good News.

WILL THE REAL MESSIAH PLEASE STAND UP?

The Jewish people were waiting for their messiah, they were waiting for a hero. They prodded John several times trying to figure out what his role actually was, and to see what he knew. It became a guessing game. He tried to say nothing, but finally answered in a humble fashion, "I am not he." He baptized with water as a means of leading people to the coming Christ and helping them to prepare.

He somehow avoided the trappings of success that would turn his light on himself. Today he remains a road sign for us, pointing out Christ our Light.

We all want someone to rescue us, and most likely to fix the mistakes and errors that we continue to make as individuals and as nations. Much of that is human nature. Would there be as much fascination with superheroes if this were not the case? How many times do you as an adult turn to your folks for advice, or wish you could talk to a deceased parent? Some need help emotionally, others spiritually, others financially. The reality is that it is tough to get your "ducks in a row" and always has been. Today's encouraging message is for us to always look to the Light for our help. May we always be like John the Baptist and testify how Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been our Savior.

Today's Readings: Is 61:1-2a, 10-1; 1 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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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 AM

Wednesday: 3:00 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

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Fr. Mike Snider

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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!

Third 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. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Judy Fazzio. Marsha & Marty Blahitka. Carolyn Edwards. Joshua & Chase Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda & Mike Stephens. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month. **We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially: Ann Hansen, mother-in-law of Marie Hansen.**

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 Emma). 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

Entrance Hymn: O'Come, O Come Emanuel

First Reading: As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalms: My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading: Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel: I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

Communion: Patience, People

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

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

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

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

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 12/12 Karla Haney (Joe Fazzio)

Sun 12/13 Donald Wehmeyer+ (M/M Murfin)

Tue 12/15 Donald Wehmeyer+ (M/M Murfin)

Wed 12/16 Agnes Laudt+ (M/M Laudt) & Rick & Linda Cashman (M/M Stephens)

Thurs 12/17 NO MASS. Communion Service.

Fri. 12/18 Maryann McGinty+ (Pat Gallardo)

Sat. 12/19 Carlos Gallardo+ (Carmen & Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through Oct. 31, 2020:

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

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,703

Attendance 12/05 Sat. 32 & 12/06 Sun. 48

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 **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

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. 15th & Wed. Dec. 16th 9:30—10:30AM. 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: 12th & 13th: "Retirement Fund for Religious".

**Welcome our new parishioners:
David and Barbara Perez**

**Wishing Fr. Mike a
"Happy 12th Year Ordination Anniversary"
on Dec. 27th**

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. 12th at 5:00pm and Sun., Dec. 13th 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.**

RAFFLE WINNERS

Southwest Airlines : Paul Laudt, son of Gary & Dianne Laudt
Margaritaville Resort Casino : Joel Boultinghouse, son of Richard & Peggy Boultinghouse
James Avery Jewelry: Jess Corrigan
Kiepersol Texas Wine Farm: Debi Nunley

All 100 tickets were sold. Thanks for your help in purchasing the \$10.00 tickets. The proceeds of \$1,000.00 was added to our net profit of our earlier 2020 Raffle.

Results of our 2020 Raffles: NET PROFIT \$ 11,310.30



All 50 ANGELS from our Angel Tree were taken by our wonderful generous parishioners. Jean Kelly is distributing the gifts. A **BIG** thank you for all those that helped. Merry Christmas!!!



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

Parishioners are invited to participate and represent Holy Spirit in this year's Christmas Golf Cart Parade. The **Welcome Committee** will provide candy for you to toss to spectators as well as signs for decorating your golf cart. Be part of a good time. Join us! Contact Connie Boudreaux at 806.341.6321 or conbou@hotmail.com The parade is **Saturday, December 19 at 6pm.** Lining up for the parade begins at 5:30pm by the Pickle Ball courts. Check out the flyer on page 4 to see the fun from last year's parade

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.

**Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 9 December 2020 Edition
(Submission date: 4 December 2020) Submitted by Randy Munoz**

So, how about a few words on Nativity Scenes. (By Abigail James, <https://www.catholic.org>)

The Nativity Scene is a meaningful expression for our religious faith. With it, we provide a captivating visual focus during the Christmas season. To fully appreciate all the Nativity is, it is important to understand its origins and the context [in which] it was created. Nativity Scenes are depicted in many ways and styles, based on cultural and Biblical influences. The 3-dimensional or fine art representation of Christ's birth is created using inspiration from a combination of several Biblical texts. When we look at a Nativity Scene, we see the Christ Child, with Mary, Joseph, animals, (occasionally) the shepherds and the wise men.

Christ Child, in the main role of the Nativity, is found at the center of the scene. Both the Gospel of Luke and Matthew offer an insight into Jesus' earliest life. Luke 2:7 provides one of the most detailed accounts of Jesus' birth. "and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space." While early Christian art tends to show the baby Jesus wearing swaddling clothes, medieval and Renaissance Nativity Scenes, have Jesus wearing little or no clothing. The manger, which is a trough for feeding animals, is often made of wood, filled with hay, and placed on the ground in a stable. Based on what we are told in the Christmas carol "The Friendly Beasts," and the Infancy Gospel of James:18, the stable was most likely located in a cave and "friendly beasts" stood around baby Jesus. The Christmas carol "Good Christian Men Rejoice," sings "ox and [donkey] before Him bow, and He is in the manger now; Christ is born today." The two main animals are never mentioned in the New Testament but are almost always present in Nativity Scenes. Isaiah 1:3 states, "The ox knows his owner, and the [donkey] his master's crib." The ox and the donkey have been included in Nativity art since the very beginning. Even if Mary and Joseph are absent, these two animals are there.

The Gospel of Matthew and Luke both make it very clear that the Virgin Mary is the mother of Jesus. Although Mary was occasionally absent from the earlier Nativity depictions, by the end of the 5th century she is always found next to the manger. On the other side of the manger, Joseph can often be found. The Bible never gives a clear answer on Joseph's age, but based on his statement, "I have sons and am old," we infer that he is older than Mary. In Nativities, Joseph is often seen with grey hair and holding his staff.

The shepherds are mentioned heavily in the Gospel of Luke Chapter 2 verses 8-20. Typically, art historians separated this part of the Christmas story into two different scenes. Nativities often show the shepherds either reacting to the news of the Annunciation or in the act of Adoration.

Gospel of Luke 2:16 reads, "So they [the shepherds] hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger." The Adoration of the Shepherds and the Adoration of the Wise Men are commonly portrayed together in the Nativity, although, many Christians do not believe they visited Jesus at the same time. The story of the three wise men (also known as the "magi") is found in the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12. The three men came from the East to Jerusalem to worship the new "king of Jews." They followed the star shining over the place where the Christ Child lay. Matthew 2:11 reads, "and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh." Though the number of wise men isn't really specified in the Gospel of Matthew, overtime the number became set at three, because it was assumed each man brought forth one gift. The depiction of the wise men ranges from eastern dress and headgear to kings with crowns and elaborate garments. Many modern Nativity Scenes have stuck with the king visual.

Overtime, many different Nativity Scenes have been created. Each one is special in its own way. Oftentimes, the visual aspects of the Nativity relate to the culture of where it was created. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first ever live Nativity scene in 1223 to encourage further worship of Christ. Nowadays, the distinct Nativity Scenes and traditions surrounding them can be found all over the world during the Christmas season. They can be placed in homes, churches, even shopping malls.

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) _____



Holly Lake Ranch
 2nd Annual Christmas
 Golf Cart Parade
 Starts at Pickle Ball Courts
 Sat., Dec. 19th, 2020
 Line up @ 5:30 / Parade begins @ 6pm

Join Holy Spirit
 Parishioners
 Have Fun!!!!

Decorate your golf cart
 The Welcome Committee will provide
 Signs as well as Candy for you to toss
 to spectators.

Be Creative - Enjoy

Contact Connie for details: conbou@hotmail.com
 806.341.6321

