



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF TYLER

1612 S FM 2869
 Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765
 Phone: 903-769-3235

email: holy.spirit2@yahoo.com
 website: holyspirthollylake.com

Reverend Timothy, John Kelly, STL, D. Min.
 Cell Phone: 903-330-9142
 lismakera@gmail.com

Deacon John Erdag
 Cell Phone: 949-285-5695
 jerdag@hotmail.com

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Is 63:16b-17; 19b; 64:2-7

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80:2-3; 15-16; 18-19

Second Reading

1Cor 1:3-9

Gospel Reading

Mk 13:33-37

First Sunday of Advent
 December 3, 2023

Spend time with the Scriptures of
ADVENT 2023

"Prepare the
 way of the Lord"

Isaiah 40:3

"One mightier than I
 is coming after me.
 I am not worthy
 to stoop and loosen
 the thongs of his sandals."

Mark 1:7



Celebration of the Mass

Saturday 5:00 pm
 Sunday 9:00 am
 Monday 6:00 pm
 Tuesday 9:00 am
 Wednesday 9:00 am
 Thursday 9:00 am
 Communion Service
 Friday 6:00 pm

Adoration

Tuesday 9:45 am - 12:30 pm
 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm
 Sunday Before Mass
 (upon request)
 1st Friday 5:00 - 5:45 pm

Sacrament of the Sick

Offered the first weekend of
 the month during each Mass

Marriage or Baptism

Contact the parish office (6)
 months prior to the anticipated
 date

Mondays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Dec 4 & 11 & 18

(Scriptures for the Sundays of Advent 2023)

Dec 10	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	Mark 1:1-8
Dec 17	Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec 24	2 Samuel 17:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16	Luke 1:26-38

First Sunday of Advent



Pope's December Intention

For persons with disabilities. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Remember the sick of our parish:

Vanessa Bassuk. John & Mary Ott. Linda Hedgecock. Juan & Barbara Delgado. Elizabeth Eagan. John Buchanan. Dale Boman. Avery Boultinghouse. Fr. Lawrence Love, Bishop Joseph Strickland, Fr. Mark Kusmirek. Wanda Burton. Rosemary Seltzer. Elaine March. Mike Jernigan. Libby Paladino. Jo & Doris Hoffman. Roy Marchak. Emly Walker. Jim Hickey. David Borel. Verna Sloan. Mike Stephens. Kathy Bowers. John McGrane. Msgr. Ron Diegel. Richard & Dottie Schuetz. Tom Fabitz. Jodie Woods. Wanda & George Duke. Jean Hamilton. Kathleen Fleming. Jaye Anderson. Greg Mooney. Karee Haney. Charlie Parker. Jacob Stephens. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

Remember the active military of our parish:



Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; Lt. Will Corrigan (Great 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). Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

Special Observances

- Monday:** St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Composed hymns and preached many homilies in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary; last of the Greek Fathers)
- Wednesday:** St. Nicholas, Bishop (Patron of children, bankers, pawnbrokers, sailors, perfumers, brides, unmarried women, travelers, fishermen, dock workers, brewers, poets, and prisoners; also of Russia, Greece, Sicily, Lorraine, and Apulia in Italy where his relics are enshrined in Bari)
- Thursday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Baptized Augustine; along with Sts. Jerome, Augustine, and Gregory I; declared one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church)
- Friday:** THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Patroness of the United States of America, Spain, Tanzania, and The Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Saturday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (Known for his holiness, he devoted himself to the pilgrims who came to see the miraculous image of Mary imprinted on his cloak)

Mass Intentions

- Sat 12/2 Fr. Mike Snider
 Sun 12/3 Mary McGrane+ (M/M McGrane)
 Mon 12/4 Monsignor Ron Diegel
 Tues 12/5 Mary McGrane+ (M/M McGrane)
 Wed 12/6 Fr. Ben Smiley+
 Fri 12/8 Benedict & Marcella Rottinghouse+ (Murfins)

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

MARY

What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Dr. Tim Gray & Dr. John Sehorn

FORMEDNOW

What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



PARISH SUPPORT

Attendance: 11/25 SAT: 66 11/26 SUN: 86

Collections from 11/25 & 11/26:

Offertory \$ 2,416.00
 Building & Maintenance Fund \$ 10.00

DECEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS

2nd & 3rd: "Building & Maintenance Fund"
 9th & 10th: Retirement Fund for Religious
 25th: Caring for Priests Collection

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, you need to be compliant on your ethics and integrity training with VIRTUS.

To sign up for training, please notify our contact person: Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or email him at: justin.mahaffey@icloud.com

Cenacle of Life: Come join us every Wednesday at 3:00 pm.

Questions call Vicki Hauck 817-637-9382

Legion of Mary— Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

The Holy Spirit Food Ministry: We still need your help in our continuing efforts to provide groceries for needy families of Holly Lake Ranch & nearby communities. We are now seeking volunteers to deliver Christmas boxes to families in need on Dec. 22nd at 9:00am. If interested, please text Bob Mailliard at: 503-559-6022

Interested in volunteering for the Food Ministry. Call or email Bryan Todd at 972-672-4218 or toddtalk@hotmail.com

DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat 12/2:** 9:00 am Communion Service
9:45 Patriotic Rosary
5:00 pm Mass
- Sun 12/3:** 9:00 am Mass
Knights of Columbus Breakfast following Mass
- Mon 12/4:** 11:30 am Advent Scripture Study
6:00 pm Mass
- Tues 12/5:** 9:00 am Mass
9:45 am—12:30 pm Adoration
6:00-8:00 pm Adoration
- Wed 12/6:** 9:00 am Mass
- Thurs 12/7:** 9:00 am Communion Service
9:30 am Legion of Mary Meeting
- Fri 12/8:** **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of obligation)**
9:00 am Mass
6:00 pm Mass
Diocesan and Parish Office Closed
- Sat 12/9:** 5:00 pm Mass
- Sun 12/10:** 9:00 am Mass
- Mon 12/11:** 11:30 am Advent Scripture Study
6:00 pm Mass
- Tues 12/12:** 9:00 am Mass
9:45 am—12:30 pm Adoration
6:00-8:00 pm Adoration
- Wed 12/13:** 9:00 am Mass
6:00 pm Parish Christmas Potluck Dinner
- Thurs 12/14:** 9:00 am Communion Service
9:30 am Legion of Mary Meeting
- Fri 12/15:** 6:00 pm Mass
- Sat 12/16:** 5:00 pm Mass
- Sun 12/17:** 9:00 am Mass
- Mon 12/18:** 11:30 am Advent Scripture Study
6:00 pm Mass
- Tues 12/19:** 9:00 am Mass
9:45 am—12:30 pm Adoration
6:00-8:00 pm Adoration
- Wed 12/20:** 9:00 am Mass
- Thurs 12/21:** 9:00 am Communion Service
9:30 am Legion of Mary Meeting
- Fri 12/22:** **Diocesan and Parish Office Closed**
6:00 pm Mass

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Anyone interested in becoming a lector or sacristan/altar server during the weekday Masses would be greatly appreciated and welcomed.

Please contact Bridget so we can work on group training for set-up, serving, and scheduling.

Thank you for considering this volunteer ministry.

The Food Ministry would like to thank the parish family for all the contributions for our recent food drive.

Our immediate needs are now for Christmas food items to set up our Christmas boxes. Please bring any of the following items: cake mixes and frostings; fruit/pudding cups; canned vegetables; and any other non-perishable item. A collection box will be located in the church hallway or call Bob Mailliard 503-559-6022.

Monetary donation envelopes are located in the Narthex. Please place the envelopes in the collection baskets or give to Bridget in the church office.

Christmas Potluck Dinner Door Prizes

We depend on donations from our parishioners of "goodies to eat" to give away for door prizes at our Potluck Dinner. The following suggestions can be enjoyed by children to adults: Pretzels, *giant* can of popcorn, Christmas cookies, candies, anything Christmassy.

If you would like to contribute a door prize, please contact Melinda Hlavenka 903-769-9139

TOYS FOR TOTS

Sponsored by the Marine Corp League

We are now collecting UNWRAPPED toys for Wood County. A box is located in the hallway outside the Church office. Donations will be picked up December 15th.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Holly Brook Baptist Church is inviting the community to join them for an evening of Christmas with Choir/Children's Choir/Handbells & Drama
Saturday/Sunday
December 9th/10th
6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Children's & Nursing Home Residents Christmas wish lists are on the tree in the Narthex

It has been brought to the attention of the community that a nursing home in the area has some residents who have no visitors at all. This year we have added a simple wish list for those who have no family. When choosing a child, please consider one of these elders also.

Please return gifts to the church by December 10th.

Second Annual Parish Christmas
Potluck Dinner
Wednesday, December 13th, 6:00 pm

Bring Your Favorite Dish
Knights of Columbus
furnishing meats
Sign up poster in Narthex

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

December 8th.

frk/2004

Mary as the model for the perfect Disciple and as model of the Church

Mary is Mother of the Church, yet she is not greater than the Church. Augustine's words are: "Holy is Mary, blessed is Mary, but the Church is greater than the Virgin Mary. Why? Because Mary is only a part of the Church; she is only a Member, an important member, a most excellent member, nevertheless only a member of the whole body. If she is only a member of the body, then the body is more than the member." ¹

"It was St. Ambrose of Milan who said, '*Maria est typus ecclesiae*.'² St. Augustine developed this crisp dictum of his spiritual father³ and beloved doctor.⁴ The Bishop of Hippo compares the motherhood of the faithful in the mystical body of Christ to motherhood of Mary. On account of this function of giving birth to new members of the body of Christ, the Church is most like to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who bore the physical body of Christ.⁵ Mary was a mother and a virgin, and a mother according to the flesh, but she was also mother according to the spirit. According to spirit she was an active member of the mystical body of Christ and cooperated in bringing spiritual life to others. She was not in spirit a mother of Christ, our head, because she was born of Him in spirit. All who believe in Christ, and she belongs to these, are called children of the Spouse.⁶ She is, however, in spirit the mother of Christ's members, because she has cooperated in charity and thus participated in bringing a rebirth to the members of Christ's body.⁷"

In 72A, 7 Augustine explains Christ's saying that the ones who sit before him listening to him preach and who obey his commands are his mother and his brothers. Augustine interprets this as

¹ Sermon Denis XXV (Morin, Augustine. Sermon, p. 163)

² Ambrose, Exposition on the Gospel of Luke, II,7; II.57.

³ Contra Jul Pel., I,3,10. PL 44, 645) quem veneror ut patrem'.

⁴ Contra Julian Pelagius, I,9,44. PL 44,671 'doctor meus'.

⁵ De Symboli. (Morin, Augustine. Sermon, p. 448)

⁶ Matthew 9:15

⁷ Sermon 191,2,3.

a reaffirmation by Christ that the Virgin is the prototype for all who believe and obey. She has already proven herself to be the perfect disciple. She was his disciple even before the Incarnation, accepting without question the commands and the demands of God. So when Jesus says that the ones who hear and obey his words are his mother and his brothers, he is referring to Mary who already has shown that she hears and obeys.

“Didn’t the Virgin Mary do the will of the Father? I mean, she believed in faith, she conceived by Faith, she was chosen to be the one from whom salvation in the very midst of the human race would be born for us; she was created by Christ before Christ was created in her. Yes, of course, the Virgin Mary did the Will of the Father.”

Augustine then explains that the greatest joy of the Virgin was to hear the words of her Son and to obey them. She was therefore a perfect disciple, and a model for all Christians.

“It means more to Mary to have been a disciple of Christ than to have been the mother of Christ. It means more for her, an altogether greater blessing, to have been Christ’s disciple than to have been Christ’s mother. That is why Mary is blessed, because even before she gave him birth, she bore her teacher in her womb.”

Augustine quotes Luke’s Gospel to support this claim. When a woman cries out to Jesus that the womb that bore him was blessed, he replies that the really blessed are the ones who hear the Word of God and keep it. (Luke 11: 27,28)

“Coming of the Lord”

By Deacon John

“Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!” – Isaiah 64:4

With a lot of recent events occurring in the world, I’ve had several people asking me about the end of time. Many of my evangelical friends have strong feelings that we’re in the “last days”; it’s almost an obsession for them. That’s not all that surprising to me, though. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus’ promise to come back.

But I almost always respond to them with the warning to not get so wrapped up in predictions and speculation, but instead work on getting prepared for His coming. However imminent that might be. Instead of being weighed down and distracted by the issues of the world, we must be alert and ready at all times.

Then I remind them that God has never been someone we figure out but is Someone who reveals Himself to us. It’s wiser to work more on figuring ourselves out, than to guess about Him.

Today begins the liturgical season of Advent. It’s a time intended for us to direct our hearts and minds to Christ’s coming into the world. Both the anniversary of our Lord’s Incarnation at Christmas, and also His return, His second coming at the end of time. And both times, our Lord arrives in ways that no one expects.

Today’s Sunday Mass readings hammer down that point. In our first reading Isaiah was hoping the Lord would “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.” Instead, our Lord was born a baby in a cave, hidden to most of the world. A lot of knowledgeable people in the Lord’s time were clueless about the time and way in which He would come.

In our time we have 20-20 hindsight to recognize, and even understand, how and why Jesus revealed Himself to us born in a cave incarnate of the Virgin Mary. And we accept this amazing salvific gift that our God gave to us with immense gratitude. With joy, we excitedly look forward every year to celebrating the anniversary of His Nativity.

In His Second Coming, Jesus has promised that another great gift will be given to His faithful servants when He returns – eternal life with Him in His heavenly kingdom. And like His Christmas gift, we look forward to it with tremendous excitement and anticipation.

But just like the people of His time, we are clueless about when that will happen. In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus warns us to “Be watchful. Be alert.” We know how the story ends, so there is no spoiler alert needed there. He will come again. And He reveals this because He wants us to look forward to it. But He also reminds us to always be ready for it because He won’t reveal the time.

This time of year, we’re inundated with messages and activities of Christ’s birth. Those started right after Halloween, and it seems like we can’t go anywhere now without being reminded of Christmas. And it’s good to get excited about His first coming, “God with us”. But it can also distract us from Advent.

Don’t let that happen. Like His first coming at Christmas, we should be just as excited for His second coming. But we need Advent to help us be prepared for it. To pray and reflect on what it means in today’s Gospel to be a servant in charge of His home, accomplishing each of our own work. To help us remain watchful and alert. To figure ourselves out instead of guessing about Him. And then be ready to receive His next gift of His Second Coming.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 29 November 2023 Edition
(Submission date: 24 November 2023) Submitted by Randy Munoz

St. James, the Lesser (the Son of Alphaeus), https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=356
Feastday: May 3. Patron: of Hatmmakers.

James the Less (Greek: Ἰάκωβος ὁ μικρός Iakōbos ho mikros) is a figure of early Christianity, one of the 12 chosen by Jesus. He is also called "the Minor", "the Little", "the Lesser", or "the Younger", according to translation. He is not to be confused with James the Great (also called "James the Elder"). He is identified by some as James, son of Alphaeus and as James, brother of Jesus, thought of by Jerome and others as really the cousin of Jesus. James the Less has traditionally been commemorated along with St. Philip in the Western Christian calendars. In the Roman Catholic Church their feast day was observed on May 1 until 1955, when it was moved to May 11 to accommodate the Feast of St Joseph the Worker on May 1. A later revision of the calendar moved the feast back to May 3. In many other churches (for example, the Church of England) the feast has never moved from May 1. ... He was the author of the first Catholic Epistle, was the son of Alphaeus of Cleophas. His mother Mary was either a sister or a close relative of the Blessed Virgin, and for that reason, according to Jewish custom, he was sometimes called the brother of the Lord. The Apostle held a distinguished position in the early Christian community of Jerusalem. St. Paul tells us he was a witness of the Resurrection of Christ; he is also a "pillar" of the Church, whom St. Paul consulted about the Gospel.

According to tradition, he was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, and was at the Council of Jerusalem about the year 50. The historians Eusebius and Hegesippus relayed that St. James was martyred for the Faith by the Jews in the Spring of the year 62, although they greatly esteemed his person and had given him the surname of "James the Just." Tradition has always recognized him as the author of the Epistle that bears his name. Internal evidence based on the language, style, and teaching of the Epistle reveals its author as a Jew familiar with the Old Testament, and a Christian thoroughly grounded in the teachings of the Gospel. External evidence from the early Fathers and Councils of the Church confirmed its authenticity and canonicity. The date of its writing cannot be determined exactly. According to some scholars it was written about the year 49 A.D. Others, however, claim it was written after St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans (composed during the winter of 57-58 A.D.). It was probably written between the years 60 and 62 A.D.

St. James addresses himself to the "12 tribes that are in the Dispersion," that is, to Christians outside Palestine; but nothing in the Epistle indicates that he is thinking only of Jewish Christians. St. James realizes full well the temptations and difficulties they encounter in the midst of paganism, and as a spiritual father, he endeavors to guide and direct them in the faith. Therefore, the burden of his discourse is an exhortation to practical Christian living.

New Testament

In the New Testament, the name "James" identifies multiple men. James the Less is named only in connection with his mother "Mary", who is also the mother of Joseph, who is called Joses by Mark (Joseph and Joses are variants of the same name). There are four mentions:

"Mary, the mother of James and Joseph" (Matthew 27:56);

"Mary, the mother of James the younger and of Joses" (Mark 15:40) ("James the younger" here has also been translated "James the less");

"Mary, the mother of James" (Mark 16:1 and Luke 24:10).

This "Mary" may have been Mary of Clopas, mentioned only in John 19:25. It is unlikely to be Mary the mother of Jesus since she is not identified as Jesus' mother but only called the mother of James the Less and Joseph/Joses. In Matthew 27:56, she is clearly distinguished from the mother of James, son of Zebedee.

Identification as James the brother of Jesus

According to Jerome, James the Less is identified with James the brother of Jesus and with James, the son of Alphaeus. Jerome first tells that James the Less must be identified with James, the son of Alphaeus. No one doubts that there were two apostles called by the name James, James the son of Zebedee, and James the son of Alphaeus... The only conclusion is that the Mary who is described as the mother of James the Less was the wife of Alphaeus and sister of Mary the Lord's mother, the one who is called by John the Evangelist Mary of Clopas, whether after her father, or kindred, or for some other reason. After that, James the Less being the same as James, the son of Alphaeus, Jerome describes in his work called *De Viris Illustribus* that James "the brother of the Lord" is the same as James, son of Alphaeus:

James, who is called the brother of the Lord, surnamed the Just, the son of Joseph by another wife, as some think, but, as appears to me, the son of Mary, sister of the mother of our Lord "Mary of Cleophas" of whom John makes mention in his book.[John 19:25] Thus, Jerome concludes that James the Less, James, son of Alphaeus and James the brother of Jesus are one and the same person.

According to the Golden Legend, which is a collection of hagiographies, compiled by Jacobus de Voragine in the thirteenth century: James the Apostle is said the Less, how well that he was elder of age than was St. James the More. He was called also the brother of our Lord, because he resembled much well our Lord in body, in visage, and of manner. He was called James the Just for his right great holiness. He was also called James the son of Alphaeus. He sang in Jerusalem the first mass that ever was sung therein, and he was

first bishop of Jerusalem. The same work adds "Simon Cananean and Judas Thaddeus were brethren of James the Less and sons of Mary Cleophas, which was married to Alphaeus."

Identification as James, the son of Alphaeus

The title, "the Less", is used to differentiate James from other people named James. Since it means that he is either the younger or shorter of two, he seems to be compared to one other James. In the lists of the twelve apostles in the synoptic Gospels, there are two apostles called James, who are differentiated there by their fathers: James, son of Zebedee, and James, son of Alphaeus. Long-standing tradition identifies James, the son of Alphaeus, as James the Less. James, son of Zebedee, is then called "James the Great" (although that designation does not appear in the New Testament). Some propose that Alphaeus was the same man as Cleophas or at least the husband of Mary Clopas.

....
Papias of Hierapolis, who lived circa 70–163 AD, in the surviving fragments of his work Exposition of the Sayings of the Lord relates that Mary, wife of Alphaeus is mother of James the Less: Mary, mother of James the Less and Joseph, wife of Alphaeus was the sister of Mary the mother of the Lord, whom John names of Cleophas.

Therefore, James, son of Alphaeus would be the same as James the Less. In Catholic tradition, James's mother is none other than Mary of Clopas who was among the women at the foot of the Cross of Jesus, weeping. For that reason, and given the fact that the Semitic word for brother is also used for other close relatives, James son of Alphaeus is often held as a cousin to Jesus. He is also thought by some to be the brother of Matthew the Apostle, since the father of both was named Alphaeus (compare Mark 2:14 and 3:18).