



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

## DIOCESE OF TYLER

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### Sunday Readings

#### First Reading

Is 40:1-5; 9-11

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:9-14

#### Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

#### Gospel Reading

Mk 1:1-8

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023

Spend time with the Scriptures of

## ADVENT 2023

### 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  
Friday 6:00 pm  
Communion Service

### 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



"The spirit of the Lord God  
is upon me, because the  
Lord has anointed me; he  
has sent me to bring glad  
tidings to the poor"

Isaiah 61:1

"I am the voice of one  
crying out in the desert,  
'Make straight the way of  
the Lord,' as Isaiah the  
prophet said."

John 1:23



**Mondays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Dec 11 & 18**

(Scriptures for the Sundays of Advent 2023)

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

## Second 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:



Krista Lofgren. 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. 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 Sargeant, 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).

**FORMED**

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

### Advent Word Study

## Yakhal: "Hope"



## Yakhal/Hope | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! In this video, we'll explore how biblical hope looks to God's character alone as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

Visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

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



### Special Observances

- Monday:** St. Damasus I, Pope (First Pope to speak of Rome as the "Apostolic See"; encouraged St. Jerome to produce a new translation of the Latin Bible, later to form the main part of the Vulgate.)
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe (Patroness of the Americas; Raised to the rank of Feast for all the countries of the Americas March 25, 1999)
- Wednesday:** St. Lucy, Virgin; Martyr (Patroness of those afflicted with diseases of the eye and associated with the festivals of light, especially in Scandinavia; Patroness of Syracuse and all Sicily)
- Thursday:** St. John of the Cross, Priest; Doctor of the Church (Co-founder of the reformed Carmelite Friars; suffered imprisonment by the unreformed Carmelites; known as the "Mystical Doctor")

### Mass Intentions

- Sat 12/9** Deacon Sam Mullen
- Sun 12/10** Jerry & Vicki Hauck (Ellis Family)
- Mon 12/11** Joanne Sergeant+ (Pat Gallardo)
- Tues 12/12** Mary McGrane+ (M/M McGrane)
- Wed 12/13** Deacon Len Sanchez+
- Fri 12/15** Mrs. Becky Snider+

### PARISH SUPPORT

**Attendance:** 12/3 SAT: 72 12/4 SUN: 70

#### Collections from 12/3 & 12/4:

Offertory	\$ 4,433.00
Building & Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,645.00

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:toddtalk@hotmail.com)

## DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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:** **No 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  
**6:30pm Fr. Kelly & Fr. Demski Advent Confessions**  
**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:** **No Communion Service**  
9:30 am Legion of Mary Meeting  
**Fri 12/22:** **Diocesan and Parish Offices Closed**  
6:00 pm Mass  
**Sat 12/23:** 5:00 pm Mass  
**Sun 12/24:** 9:00 am Mass (**Sunday Obligation**)  
4:00 pm Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord  
(**Christmas Eve Mass**)  
**Mon 12/25:** 9:00 am The Nativity of the Lord  
(**Christmas - Holy Day of Obligation**)  
**Diocesan and Parish Offices Closed**  
**Tues 12/26:** 9:00 am Mass  
No Adoration  
**Diocesan and Parish Offices Closed**  
**Wed 12/27:** **No Mass**  
**Parish Office Closed**  
**Thurs 12/28:** **No Communion Service**  
**Parish Office Closed**  
**Fri 12/29:** **No Mass**  
**Parish Office Closed**  
**Sat 12/30:** 5:00 pm Mass  
**Sun 12/31:** 9:00 am Mass

*Merry*  
**Christmas**  
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## 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 Season Mass Schedule

- Sunday, Dec. 24: 4:00 pm Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord  
Monday, Dec. 25: 9:00 am The Nativity of the Lord  
  
Monday, Jan. 1: 9:00 am Mass  
5:00 pm Mass



### Holy Spirit Catholic Church's Christmas Display

Our 2023 Christmas display is located on the Fitness Walk near the tennis courts on the west side of Holly Lake Ranch. The exhibit will be displayed until early January....check it out!

## Food Ministry

Christmas food items are needed for 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.

**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**

## 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

## “Make Straight Your Path”

By Deacon John

*“Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” – Isaiah 40:3*

When Cindy and I return to Texas from California, we like to take the northern route Interstate 40 to Amarillo and then drop southeast to home. This is the last 7 hours of our 24-hour drive and by then, I’m pretty ready to be done. The most frustrating part of it all is that those 7 hours are about 470 miles in road distance, but as the crow flies, home is only 410 miles from Amarillo. That extra 60 miles is almost a full hour’s worth of driving. It would be so much more comforting if instead of winding around those miles, we just had a straight path from Amarillo to home.

The first line in today's First Reading from the prophet Isaiah has God proclaiming, "Comfort, give comfort to my people." At the time of Isaiah's prophecy, the people of Israel were in captivity by the Babylonians. Isaiah was telling the exiles that God has not forgotten about them, that He will bring them home to Jerusalem. It's a prophecy of comfort and hope. And God did bring them back.

With a similar message, today's Second Reading from the Second letter of Peter is directed at us. It reminds us that Jesus will come again, bringing his Kingdom to fulfillment, and creating “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” Looking forward to that gives us great comfort, because it shows us that our sufferings here on earth have a purpose, and that they will not last forever.

During Advent we reflect upon the memorial of Christ’s Nativity, and also on His Second Coming at the end of time. And we realize that God has not forgotten about us, and He never will. This is a great source of comfort and hope amidst today’s life's trials.

And in our readings, both Isaiah and John the Baptist describe how we can find His comfort – by being ready for His comings. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.” Make straight His paths. What exactly does that mean? After all, Jesus is perfect. His path is already straight, isn’t it? Yes, His path is straight, but our paths to Him aren’t.

According to the prophet Isaiah, our lives are full of valleys and mountains that our paths wind around. These mountains and valleys inhibit God's grace from traveling into our hearts; they are the sins that roadblock our path to finding comfort in God. We must make those paths straight by filling in every valley and making low every mountain and hill.

Consider the valleys to be sins of omission, the things we should be doing but aren't. If we aren't spending at least a few minutes each day in Scripture and prayer with God, we need to fill in that valley. If we frequently miss Mass and Christ in the Eucharist, we need to fill in that valley. If we aren't regularly going to Confession to rejuvenate our souls with God's mercy and forgiveness, we need to fill in that valley.

The mountains are the sinful acts that we’ve committed. If we disrespect God by taking His name in vain or prioritizing false material gods, we need to make low that mountain. If we act in selfish greed, pride, vanity or other self-desires, we need to make low that mountain. If we egotistically choose our own needs over those of others or if we criticize or gossip about others, we need to make low that mountain.

Advent is the season to smooth out and clear up the paths to our hearts. Christ wants to help us do that. Turn to Him in prayer, in contrite repentance, and with firm conviction to change. And make straight your path.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 6 December 2023 Edition  
(Submission date: 1 December 2023) Submitted by Randy Munoz

St. Simon, Surnamed the Zealot, Apostle Author: Rev. Alban Butler  
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/st-simon-surnamed-the-zealot-apostle-5820>  
Feast: October 28

St Simon is surnamed the Canaanite or Canaanite, and the Zealot, to distinguish him from St. Peter, and from St. Simeon, the brother of St. James the Less, and his successor in the see of Jerusalem. From the first of these surnames some have thought that St. Simon was born at Cana, in Galilee: certain modern Greeks pretend that it was at his marriage that our Lord turned the water into wine. It is not to be doubted but he was a Galilean. Theodoret says, of the tribe either of Zabulon or Nephthali. Hammond and Grotius think that St. Simon was called the Zealot, before his coming to Christ, because he was one of that particular sect or party among the Jews called Zealots, from a singular zeal they possessed for the honour of God and the purity of religion. A party called Zealots were famous in the war of the Jews against the Romans. They were main instruments in instigating the people to shake off the yoke of subjection; they assassinated many of the nobility and others in the streets, filled the temple itself with bloodshed and other horrible profanations, and were the chief cause of the ruin of their country. But no proof is offered by which it is made to appear that any such party existed in our Saviour's time, though some then maintained that it was not lawful for a Jew to pay taxes to the Romans At least if any then took the name Zealots, they certainly neither followed the impious conduct nor adopted the false and inhuman maxims of those mentioned by Josephus in his history of the Jewish war against the Romans.

St. Simon, after his conversion, was zealous for the honor of his Master, and exact in all the duties of the Christian religion; and showed a pious indignation toward those who professed this holy faith with their mouths, but dishonored it by the irregularity of their lives. No further mention appears of him in the gospels than that he was adopted by Christ into the college of the apostles. With the rest he received the miraculous gifts of the Holy Ghost, which he afterwards exercised with great zeal and fidelity. If this apostle preached in Egypt, Cyrene, and Mauritania, he returned into the East; for the Martyrologies of St. Jerome, Bede, Ado, and Usuard place his martyrdom in Persia, at a city called Suanir, possibly in the country of the Suani, a people in Colchis, or a little higher in Sarmatia, then allied with the Parthians in Persia; which may agree with a passage in the Acts of St. Andrew, that in the Cimmerian Bosphorus there was a tomb in a "rot, with an inscription importing that Simon the Zealot was interred there. His death is said in these Martyrologies to have been procured by the idolatrous priests. Those who mention the manner of his death say he was crucified. St. Peter's Church on the Vatican at Rome and the Cathedral of Toulouse are said to possess the chief portions of the relics of SS. Simon and Jude. 1

(Taken from Vol. III of "The Lives or the Fathers, Martyrs and Other Principal Saints" by the Rev. Alban Butler.)