



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF TYLER

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Sunday Readings

First Reading

Is 61:1-2; 10-11

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50; 53-54

Second Reading

1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel Reading

Jn 1:6-8; 19-28

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 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
Communion Service
Friday 6:00 pm

Adoration

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

Reconciliation

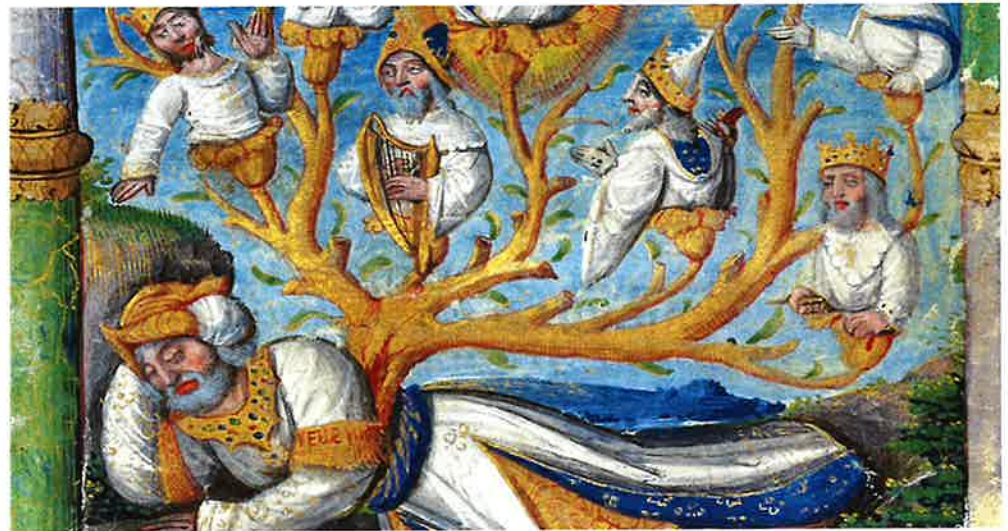
Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm
Sunday Before Mass
(upon request)
1st Friday 5:00 - 5:45 pm

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



O Come, thou root of Jesse's stem

It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be
commander of my people Israel. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will
plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance.

2 Samuel 7:8 & 10

Monday, Dec 18 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

(Scriptures for the Sundays of Advent 2023)

Dec 24 2 Samuel 17:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16 Luke 1:26-38

Third 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:



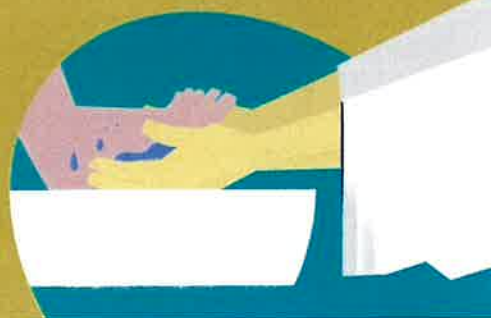
Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; Lt. 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).

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Advent Word Study

Agape: "Love"



Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.

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.



Special Observances

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest; Doctor of the Church (Organized the German Jesuit province and founded several colleges; authored the popular and enduring catechism, "Institutiones Christianae Pietatis"; also known as the "Second Apostle of Germany".



Gaudete Sunday, Third Sunday of Advent

A Joyful Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

Mass Intentions

Sat 12/16 Agnes Laudt+ (M/M Laudt)
Sun 12/17 Rusty & Cooper Anderson+ (Ruddie)
Mon 12/18 Pope Francis
Tues 12/19 Peter McGrane+ (M/M McGrane)
Wed 12/20 Joanne Sergeant+ (Pat Gallerdo)
Fri 12/22 Peter McGrane+ (M/M McGrane)

PARISH SUPPORT

Attendance: 12/9 SAT: 50 12/10 SUN: 89

Collections from 12/9 & 12/10:

Offertory \$ 4,074.00
Building & Maintenance Fund \$ 1,155.00

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

DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat 12/16:** 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**

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

New Year Mass Schedule

Monday, Jan. 1: 9:00 am 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!

**2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE LOCATED IN NARTHEX
THEY ARE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.**

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.

We are now seeking volunteers to deliver Christmas boxes to families in need on December 22nd at 9:00 am. If interested, contact Bob Mailliard (see above).

From the desk of: Fr. Kelly



An Advent reflection for the younger ones among us:

At the end of Advent is Christmas. It is almost here. The word "advent" means "coming". It is the season when we remember the coming of Jesus Christ, God's only son, into the world. Have you ever waited for something for a long time? God's people had been waiting for a very long time for God to send a Savior to them and keep all of his promises. That Savior was Jesus—who was born long ago in a stable in Bethlehem. We see him in Christmas scenes, with his mother, Mary, and Joseph, the lambs, the donkey, and the ox all gathered in that stable to greet him when he came. Next week we will gather to greet him again. The baby Jesus grew up to bring joy and salvation to all of God's people. Yet, that is not all of the good news. It was God's plan to send Jesus to the world twice. He came long ago and he is coming back again. Like the people of Israel, we are waiting for him to come.

Jesus, thank you for coming down into our world! As we learn about your coming, help us to see what you have done for us. Help us to be ready for you to come again. Amen.

Advent Light

By Deacon John

Advent is now half over. Look at our wreath. We have more candles lit than not, and the light from it is getting larger. The Light of the World is getting closer. Soon Christmas will be here, and we'll celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete in Latin means "rejoice". Gaudete Sunday is to give us a little reprieve from our somber Advent season of repentance and to recognize not just the joy of Christ's birth at Christmas, but also the bigger picture of God's love for us. Just a little reality check to help us keep our eyes on the prize.

Today is not the equivalent joy and revelry of Christmas, where we really let it all out. That's why we have a pink-colored candle today. It's lighter than the solemn purple of the season, but still darker from the joyful white candles that we see at Christmas.

But we still reflect on happiness today. The readings from today all promote joy and rejoicing. In our First Reading from Isaiah, we hear, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord", our Responsorial Psalm is the Canticle of Mary, the Magnificat, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior", and the Second Reading is my all-time favorite verse of any of St Paul's Epistles, this one from First Thessalonians, "Rejoice always and pray without ceasing". All these readings bring us to get excited about the anticipation of the Incarnation and the amazing love that God has for us.

But then we come to today's Gospel reading, featuring that stern, strange man in the wilderness – John the Baptist. I don't know about you, but I don't usually think about being joyful when someone is yelling at me to repent of my sins. On the surface, it seems odd that on this day of rejoicing, we'd read about John the Baptist. But then again, the surface can be deceiving.

First, let's remember that John showed us great rejoicing even before he was born. Remember how he leapt in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrived pregnant with Jesus. Through his joy, Elizabeth immediately latched onto that fact, and she recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord. John started his testimony of Jesus in the womb!

But our Gospel reading shows an even greater example of a reason to rejoice, stating John's mission in regards to the Light of Jesus: "He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light." Jesus the true light was coming into the world and John was to let the people know as the "voice of the one who was crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord'." And we rejoice with John over the Light.

But more profoundly, John was saying that the Messiah wasn't simply coming soon, but that the Messiah was already there: "there is one among you whom you do not recognize". The darkness would soon be lifted by the Light.

This is our calling, too, to testify to the Light among us. That even though the rest of society is so excited about Christmas, we know that Jesus is already here. He's here in the needy, the poor, and the marginalized. We find joy in helping them. He's here at Church, both in His Eucharist and His people. We find joy in being here with Him.

It's in seeing His light that we can testify to His light. And it's in our actions, our words and our priorities that give testimony to today's world of the source of our joy – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Look at our wreath. It's symbolic of the coming of the Light of the World. Each week as Christmas draws closer, more candles are lit, and it gets brighter until Christmas Day arrives and all the white candles shine in full glow. But even today on Gaudete Sunday, the wreath with 3 candles lit is showing a glow. The Light of the World may not be fully recognized yet, but we know what John the Baptist tells us.

He is here among us. Rejoice!

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 13 December 2023 Edition
(Submission date: 7 December 2023) Submitted by Randy Munoz

St. Jude: Faithful Servant and Friend of Jesus FR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/st-jude-faithful-servant-and-friend-of-jesus.html>

Why is St. Jude the Apostle, the one [we petition] in times of hopeless causes? Before delving into the question at hand, let us first investigate what we know about St. Jude. Unfortunately, sacred Scripture does not provide many details about the life of St. Jude. Most importantly, he is listed as one of the Twelve Apostles called by our Lord, Jesus: "At daybreak, He called His disciples and selected 12 of them to be His apostles: Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter, and Andrew, his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who turned traitor" (Lk 6:13-16; confer also Acts 1:13). In both the Gospel of St. Matthew (10:2-4) and Mark (3:16-19), the name "Judas" (i.e. Jude) does not appear in the list of the Apostles, but rather the name "Thaddaeus"; some speculate that Thaddaeus was used to distinguish Jude from the betrayer Judas Iscariot. (Note that "Judas" is the Greek form for the English "Jude.") Nevertheless, both names, Jude and Thaddaeus, refer to the same person, and oftentimes one will hear St. Jude Thaddaeus. Our liturgical tradition also reflects this point: The Latin text of Eucharistic Prayer I in the Mass uses the name Thaddaeus, while the English text uses the word Jude in the listing of the Apostles.

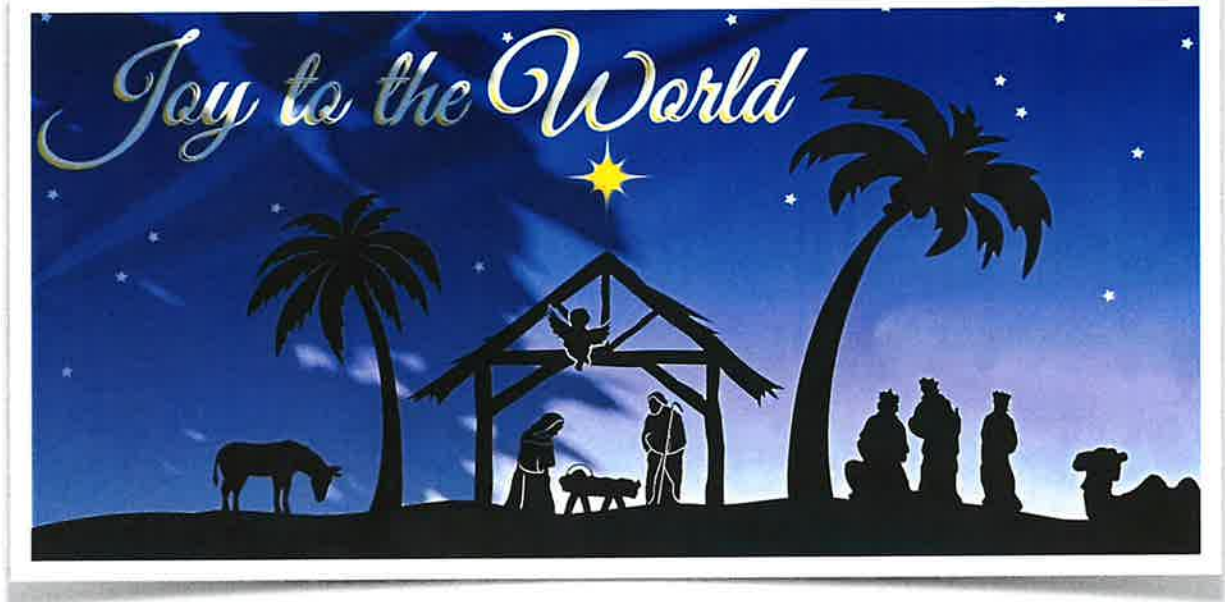
Traditionally, St. Jude was the author of "The Epistle of Jude," found in the New Testament. Some scholars in recent times have disputed whether the Apostle St. Jude was in fact the author Jude of this letter. Rather than plunge into all of those arguments, lets recount briefly the traditional evidence supporting St. Jude as the author. The Muratorian Fragment (c. AD 155) provides one of the earliest listings of those writings that could be read at Mass because they were of apostolic authorship and free of heresy or error. These works would later be included in the canon of the New Testament. The Muratorian fragment lists The Epistle of Jude as one of those accepted writings, thereby attesting to the authorship of the Apostle St. Jude. However, to accept this point stirs up another question: Why then does the author of the epistle identify himself as the "brother of James" (Jud 1), referring to the Apostle St. James the Lesser? In the listing of the 12 Apostles cited above, Jude is identified as "the son of James," and St. James the Lesser is identified as "the son of Alphaeus." The problem lies in the translation from the Greek text of the Gospel into English. Returning to the original Greek text of the Gospel of St. Luke, one does not find the word son either in reference to "James son of Alphaeus" or "Judas son of James"; rather, the literal translation would be "James of Alphaeus," and "Judas of James." (The same is true of the Latin Vulgate text.) So what are the actual relationships?

The "James" referred to in the Letter of Jude is St. James the Lesser (not the brother of St. John), who was a cousin of Jesus (Mt 13:55, noting brother used as an all-encompassing term for any male blood relation). Since in the listing of the Apostles in the Gospels of St. Matthew and Mark, the name Thaddaeus follows immediately that of "James, of Alphaeus," the traditional conclusion is that Thaddaeus and James are related. Thaddaeus, remember, is the other name for St. Jude. Therefore, the author of the epistle is the same Jude who is the brother of James the Lesser. For good reason then, the Douay Rheims Bible correctly translated the listing in Luke 6:13-16 as follows: "James, the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who is called Zelotes, and Jude, the brother of James." Another reason St. Jude identified himself as "the brother of James" at the beginning of his epistle may be because the Apostle St. James the Lesser was the well-known Bishop of Jerusalem; therefore, the relationship attests to the apostolic authorship of the epistle and dispels any confusion with Judas Iscariot. ... thus St. Jude is the Apostle, the brother of St. James the Lesser, the cousin of Jesus, and the author of the New Testament Epistle of Jude ...

St. Jude does have one recorded spoken verse in the Gospel of St. John. At the Last Supper, he asked Jesus, "Lord, why is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" (Jn 14:22). Our Lord then spoke of how anyone who loves Him will be true to His word, in turn His Heavenly Father will love him, and together they will send the Holy Spirit. The Epistle of Jude is similar to the Second Epistle of Peter. Some scholars date the letter to about AD 70. St. Jude encourages the community to "fight hard for the faith," and warns against false teachers. He challenges the early faithful: "Grow strong in your holy faith through prayer in the Holy Spirit. Persevere in Gods love, and welcome the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ which leads to life eternal. Correct those are confused; the others you must rescue, snatching them from the fire" (20-22).

Tradition says that after the resurrection, St. Jude Thaddaeus retrieved our Lords burial cloth, which many believe to be the Shroud of Turin. He eventually brought it to Edessa in present day Turkey. From there, he traveled into the area of Armenia. The Armenian Rite traces its origins to St. Jude Thaddaeus. St. Jude then preached the gospel in Mesopotamia where he was joined by St. Simon. From there, they did missionary work in Persia, where they suffered martyrdom. St. Jude was beaten to death with a club; St. Simon was sawed into pieces. (Their feast day is Oct. 28.) So why is St. Jude Thaddaeus the patron saint of desperate causes? The traditional reason is rather simple: When one hears the name Judas (Latin and Greek) or even Jude (English), one immediately thinks of Judas Iscariot who betrayed our Lord. Therefore, a person had to be desperate to invoke his name. Being so seldom invoked and revered, St. Jude is ready and waiting to hear the prayers of those who call upon him. Ironically, he is probably the Apostle who is invoked the most in prayer, and the most memorialized in churches with statues or other artwork.

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*May God fill your hearts with Love
and your lives with Praise
as you celebrate this Christmas season.*

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

1612 FM 2869 Holly Lake Ranch, TX

www.holyspirithollylake.com

Sunday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve	4:00 pm	Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
Monday, Dec. 25th Christmas Day	9:00 am	The Nativity of the Lord
Monday, Jan. 1st New Year's Day	9:00 am	Mass

Merry Christmas