

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

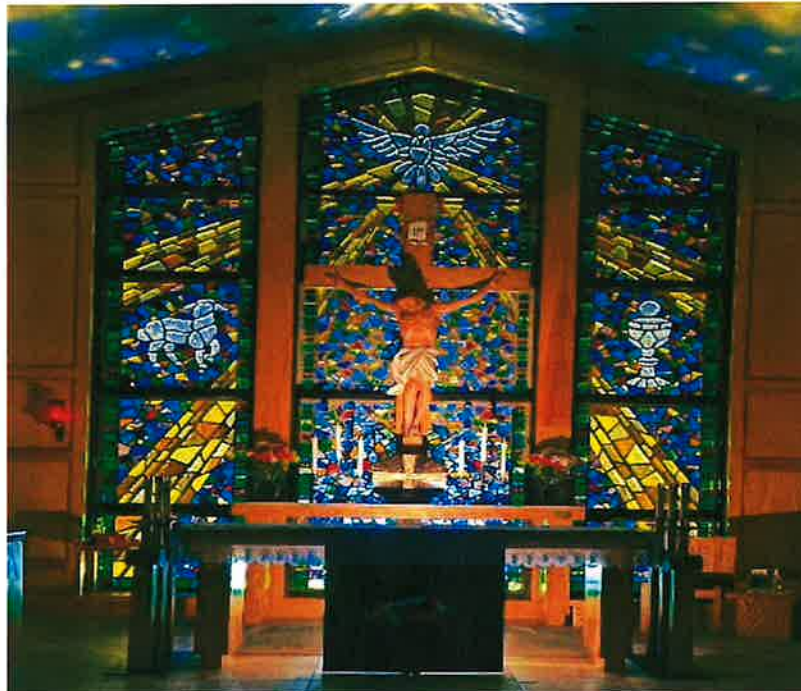
DIOCESE OF TYLER

This week's Celebration of the Mass

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
Monday 9:00 am
Communion Service
Tuesday 9:00 am
Wednesday 4:30 pm
Christmas Carols
5:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 am
Friday 9:00 am

Adoration

Tuesday
9:45 am - 12:30 pm
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm
Sunday Upon request
Weekdays Upon request

Sacrament of the Sick

Offered at first Friday
Mass upon request.

Marriage or Baptism

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

1612 S FM 2869
HOLLY LAKE RANCH, TX 75765

Parish Priest:	Fr. Francis O'Dowd PP; VF	903-769-3235	holy.spirit2@yahoo.com
Deacon:	Dcn. John Erdag	949-285-5695	jerdag@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Bridget Rich	903-769-3235	holy.spirit2@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Kim Sine	903-769-3235	holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

TODAY'S READINGS

1ST READING
IS 7 : 10 - 14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
PS 24 : 1 - 6

2ND READING:
ROM 1 : 1 - 7

GOSPEL:
MT 1 : 18 - 24






With half a year as your Parish Priest, it has become very clear the warm welcome that has been afforded to me. With the multitude of prayers, rosaries, holy hours, novenas, gifts, correction, and steady friendships, one could not ask for anything more. As I share and partake with each parishioner, and visitor, this Christmas at Holy Spirit Parish on the road to Bethlehem and beyond, I wish you have not a "good" but a holy Christmas and, not a "good" but a blessed New Year 2026, for every parishioner, visitor, family member, friends, and neighbors at home and away.


Take the word of God with you as you go and take the seeds of God's word and make them grow..... Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee oh Israel.

With warm regards,
Fr. Francis O'Dowd

Church Organizations


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|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Financial Council | Charlie Clymer |
| Pastoral Council | John Rigney |
| Knights of Columbus | Jerry Hauck |
| 4th Degree Knights | Gary Laudt |
| Legion of Mary | Marge Clymer |
| | Jane Bidlack |
| | Bob Mailliard |
| Food Pantry | |
| Music Ministry | |
| Rosary Makers/Prayer Blankets | Carol Szczepanski |
| Cenacle of Life | Vicki Hauck |
| Funeral Preparations | Deacon John Erdag |

 **Remember the sick of our parish:** Sharon Ryan; Marge & Charlie Clymer; Mary Langhoff; Lillian Speights; Rebecca Niebrugge; Claire Sullivan; Kirk Wilder; David Barber; Elaine Arellano; Marissa Cowles; Judy Terry; Randy Munoz; Jess & Eva Corrigan; Elaine March & Rosemary Seltzer; Maureen Tucker; Patrick Wood; Margaret Smith-Cauley; Elmer Mulhollon, Roland & Pat Schmeier, Barbara Schneider; Helene Kaczowka; Emly Walker; Cindy Sue Erdag; Joe Bonneville; Joe Fazzio; Juan & Barbara Delgado; Avery Boultinghouse; Jo & Doris Hoffman; Roy Marchak; David Borel; Verna Sloan; Mike Stephens; Kathy Bowers; Msgr. Ron Diegel; Chris & Dave Paape; Richard Schuetz; Jodie Woods; Jean Hamilton; Kathleen Fleming; Jaye Anderson; Karee Haney; Charlie Parker; Jacob Stephens.

 **Remember the active military of our parish:** Senior Chief Petty Officer, James Nichols, (Nephew of Dcn John & Cindy Sue Erdag). Cody Mitchell, LTJG Navy (Son-in-law of Stan & Terrie Evans). Ben Clymer, Sr Airman USAF (Grandson of Charlie & Marge). Captain Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno AMT 2nd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

PARISH SUPPORT			
Attendance:	12/13	SAT: 72	12/14 SUN: 80
Collections from 12/13 - 12/14			
Building & Maintenance	\$	735.00	
Offertory	\$	2,612.57	
Votive Candles	\$	32.00	
Flowers	\$	250.00	
Retirement Fund For Relig	\$	542.00	
DECEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS			
12/6 & 12/7: Building and Maintenance Fund			
12/13 & 12/14: Retirement fund for Religious			
12/25: Caring for Priests			
Thank you for your generous contributions. Please remember Holy Spirit Catholic Church in your Will.			



		Mass Intentions
		
Sat	12/20	+John McGrane (Nitja)
Sun	12/21	+Rusty and +Cooper Anderson (Ruddie)
Tues	12/23	Aidan Hauck (Knights of Columbus)
Wed	12/24	Rev. Michael Snider (Knights of Columbus)
Thurs	12/25	Ariel Cortez (Carolyn Aucoin)
Fri	12/12	Rebecca Niebrugge (M/M Clymer)





Holy Spirit Food Ministry

Due to increased costs of groceries, the Food Ministry is in need of non-perishable food donations. If you can contribute, place donations in the box outside the church office. Or, for monetary donations, use a Food Ministry Donation Envelope, available in the basket in the narthex. All contributions are greatly appreciated and serve to help people in need at HLR and its surrounding community.

If you of a resident in need, please obtain their name and phone number. Please provide their information to: Bob Mailliard (504-559-6022)

4th Sunday of Advent

I V E M M A N U E L
 S P I R I T Z H W H
 A F U L F I L L A Q
 S D U P M U S U W M
 D A S B I N L O B H
 D N G I R D A W N X
 R G D R Z L Q M V L
 E E U T W I F E E I
 A L M H R N I H M P
 M R B P C H I L D D

Birth
 Child
 Spirit
 Angel
 Dream
 Wife
 Son
 Name
 Fulfill
 Emmanuel



SUNDAY KIDZ

©Diocesan



Special Announcements

- After Mass today, please pick up your 2026 Offertory Envelopes in the narthex of the church. Also, you can pick up your 2026 calendars.
- On Wednesday (12/24) and Thursday (12/25), there will be two collections. The first collection will be our weekly offertory and the second will be for "Caring for the Priests".
- Starting in 2026, Mass intentions will "open" quarterly. Therefore, on Monday, December 29th, Father will open the requests for Mass intentions for Jan 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026.
- Bishop Gregory Kelly will celebrate a Mass to close the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope in the Diocese of Tyler on December 28th at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler.



Merry Christmas from the Holy Spirit Catholic Church Office Staff!



SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest (Dean of Philosophy and Professor of Theology at the University of Cracow; noted for his austerity, humility, and charity toward the poor; a patron of Poland.)

Friday: St. Stephen, The First Martyr (One of the seven deacons of the Acts of the Apostles; first disciple to be martyred; mentioned in the Roman Canon.)



ADVENT CALENDAR 2025

Week 4

21 Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, light all three violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and pray that the light of Christ will enter your heart so that you may share the warmth of God's love with those you meet.

22 Monday

"Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others, whoever they may be with their needs and troubles, to touch our heart. That is what makes us neighbors to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers. In the end, love prevails, and proves more powerful than evil and death."

Pope Leo XIV, Homily
July 13, 2025

23 Tuesday

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

24 Wednesday

In the bustle of Christmas celebrations, take a moment of silence to reflect on the gift of Jesus' Incarnation and to prepare to receive his Body and Blood of the Holy Eucharist.

25 Thursday

And the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14





The Twelve Days of Christmas (The Faith Hidden in Song)



During the early 1500 to 1829 Catholicism was proscribed throughout England and Ireland and people were forbidden to practice their faith openly during this period. They were forced to practice their religion thru song. Two Jesuits wrote *The Twelve Days of Christmas* in the late 1500s. It was to comfort persecuted Catholics in England and Ireland. The carol may sound nonsensical, but it is, in fact, like a catechism in code. This song was developed to communicate their gift of faith in coded lyrics. The 12 days run from 25 December (Christmas) to January 6 (Epiphany). The "True Love" refers to God. The repetition of the melody signifies God's continual renewal of God's continual renewal of his gifts.

A Partridge is the symbol of Christ. The partridge will feign injury to protect nestlings that are defenseless, just as we are before Satan without Christ. A pear tree is the symbol of salvation of humanity, just as the apple tree signifies human downfall.

Two Turtle Doves symbolized the Old Testament sacrifice offered by even the poorest of people in Israel (with which Christ as "redeemed" by His parents at His presentation in the Temple).

Three French hens, valued for their beauty and rarity, symbolize the gifts of the Three Wise Men, as also the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Four calling birds represents the four Major Prophets and the four Evangelists, the former announcing His coming and the later proclaiming His message.

Five Golden rings represent first and foremost precious Crucifixion Wounds of Christ (to which there had long been great devotion, and thus the reason for the change in melody at this point), as also the perfect circle of faith: God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for each other. The number five refers as well to the five obligatory sacraments (Baptism, Penance, the Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, and Extreme Unction) as also to the five books of the bible, which make up the Pentateuch, also known as the Law, in the Old Testament.

"Six geese a laying" represent the six days of creation.

"Seven swans a swimming" are the seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost and the seven Works of Mercy (there are seven works of Corporal Mercy and seven of Spiritual Mercy).

"Eight maids a milking" are the eight beatitudes preached by Christ in the sermon on the Mount, as well as the eight occasions during the year that were proscribed at the time for the reception of the Holy Eucharist.

"Nine Ladies dancing" are the nine ranks of angel choirs, the Spirits who surround the Throne of God.

"Ten lords a leaping" represent the Ten Commandments.

"Eleven pipers playing" are the eleven surviving Apostles proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus.

"Twelve drummers drumming" are the twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament and the twelve points of the Apostle's Creed. They symbolize also the Twelve Tribes of Israel, the twelve Apostles (their number being restored after Pentecost), as also the twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost, Who came down at Pentecost. Twelve is also the Scriptural number representing completeness and fairness.