



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1) Isaiah 11:1-10
- 2) Romans 15:4-9
- 3) Matthew 3:1-12

FOCUS: We are called to prepare the way for Jesus.

John the Baptist was called by God to prepare the way for Jesus. He did this by proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Similarly, each one of us is called by God to prepare the way for Jesus. We do this whenever we assist someone in need, visit someone who is sick or lend a listening ear.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading prophesies that the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the promised Messiah, who shall come forth from the line of King David. The second reading from Romans reminds us that by living in love and unity with one another, we glorify God. In the Gospel, John the Baptist preaches in the desert, *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Readings for the following Sunday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1) Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
- 2) James 5:7-10
- 3) Matthew 11:2-11

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF
NOVEMBER 26-27

Sunday Collection.....	\$10,253.00
Loose Collection.....	\$ 696.64
On-line giving.....	\$ 580.00
Total.....	\$11,529.64

DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

Altar Servers	Emily Janak	573-1874
Altar Society	Stella Silva	550-0387
Baptism Prep.	Diana Starnes	550-9533
Bereavement Group	Geraldine Jurica	573-3949
Vacation Bible School	Marie Immenhauser	572-3863
Disciples on the Journey	Pam Fanelli	578-1145
Festival Committee Chairs	Kevin & Joan Pfister	576-9638
Funeral Meals	Adele Donalson	573-4455
Liturgical Ministers	Deacon Jim Koenig	935-3811
Marriage Prep Focuss	Deacon Jim Koenig	935-3811
Music Ministry	Cathy Lowe	935-1068
Natural Family Planning	Annie & David Coffey	579-8464
Adoration Chapel	Germaine Wearden	235-1812
Quilters	Jo Ann Bone	578-7629
RCIA	Sr. Frances Cabrini	573-5304
Religious Education	Diana Starnes	550-9533
Rentals	Deacon Jim Koenig	935-3811
St. Vincent De Paul Society	Faye Culak	649-0614
Wedding Coordinator	Cathy Lowe	935-1068
Weekly Rosary & Divine Mercy		
Cenacle	Tina Rabalais	541-9295

Class Time: 6:00 – 7:15 pm Dec. 7, 14

RCIA (the Rite CCD NEWS: of Christian Initiation of Adults)

The sessions are held in the AV Room of St. Mary's Activity Center from 7:00 -8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, Baptism (Diana Pagel)

Tuesday December 20, 2016, Liturgical calendar (Sr. Frances Cabrini)

December 21, 2016-Jan. 3, 2017--Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Penance Services

Mon. Dec. 12th - 6:30 p.m.- Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

Wed. Dec. 14th, - 6:30 p.m. - Holy Family

Thurs. 15th - 6:30 p.m. - St. Mary's

Saint Pio Prayer Group will meet on the second Saturday of December with Mass at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel followed by prayers in St. Mary's Activity Center AV Room. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

2017 Festival Update-MARK YOUR 2017 CALENDARS
2-12-17 ST. MARY'S FESTIVAL

Our church welcomes and invites all Parish members and all Family and Friends to our 2017 Festival. Be sure to ask your family and friends to mark their calendars as well. We would like the festival to be a special occasion for you, your family and friends to enjoy food, fun, relaxation, visiting and maybe even find that special item to purchase as a gift or for you. We welcome all donations to the Festival. **Our next festival meeting will be on Mon. Dec. 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

Sacred Relics Of The Saints: Treasures Of The Church

Our Lady of Lourdes Church Parish presents a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Saturday December 10 at 6:15 pm (following the 5:00 pm Mass). Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with his very special ministry to teach about these holy objects. He will bring with him over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

CHURCH DECORATING - All parishioners are invited to the decorating party on 12/21/16 at 1:30 PM in St. Mary's Church. We need you to assist in decorating the church for the arrival of our Lord on Christmas Day as we all gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We want to thank all those who were involved in the Harvest Bazaar: JoAnn Bone who manages once a week for the year to get to see to it that the quilters, sewers, crafters, crocheters get it all done; Adele Donalson and her helpers who set-up tables, load/unload/set-out items hauled from the Annex, decorated trees, tables and plants; Susie Stevens and her Kitchen Angels who cooked the ever popular potato soup and all that goes with it and last, but not least, Geraldine Jurica who was in charge of the country store with the jams, jellies, breads, strudels, cookies, candy that our Altar Society ladies made. It takes alot of work and organization to prepare for this annual event; everyone involved in the slightest way is appreciated.

St. Mary's Altar Society

Will meet on Monday, December 12th with a Christmas party at 2:00 p.m. Guests and new members are always welcome. Everyone is asked to bring canned items or cash for the St. Vincent DePaul pantry. Let's share our good fortune at this time of year with those that have not been as Blessed as we all are.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

is a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass of Anticipation is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday Dec. 7 and on Thursday Dec. 8 at 6:30 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.

Columbian Squires Victoria #2366 will be selling homemade stew by the Quart **Sunday Dec. 11 from 10:00 am till 1:00 pm. Where:** KC Hall 3610 N. Ben Wilson Street **Cost: \$10/Quart** Tickets may be purchased at St. Mary's Rectory or from Joe Rainosek at 361-550-3113 or Donald Shellenbarger 361-649-9956. Proceeds to benefit various youth projects.

"Christmas flower donations are now being accepted.

Donation forms are located on the back pews of the church as well as on the back table in the Chapel. Your donations will enable us to decorate beautifully for the birth of Christ. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Altar Society. Thank you for your generosity



There will be No Baptismal Classes for the month of December the next one will be on Jan. 15.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LECTORS

Saturday, Dec. 10
5:00 p.m. Emily Janak

Sunday, Dec. 11
8:00 a.m. Diana Pagel
10:30 a.m. Corinne Copeland

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, Dec. 10
5:00 p.m. Carmen Galvan, Richard & Karen Evans, Mary Ann Innocenti

Sunday, Dec. 11
8:00 a.m. Silver & Emily Garza, Geraldine Jurica, Howard Pagel
10:30 a.m. Heather Zamykal, Lucinda Cavazos, Joan Saski, David Janca

MASS SERVERS

Saturday, Dec. 10
5:00 p.m. Anthony & Gabby Galvan

Sunday, Dec. 11
8:00 a.m. Mariah, Alexa & Ginna Morria, Caitlin & Catherine Alstrom
10:30 a.m. Thomas Copeland, Zackary Zamykal, Eduardo Rodriguez

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Saturday, Dec. 10
5:00 p.m. Denise Gainer, Frank Smolka, Bobby & Barbara Baca

Sunday, Dec. 11
8:00 a.m. Roy Jurica, Paul Janacek, Stella Silva, Leslie Smolik
10:30 a.m. Dennis & Linda Lala, Laszlo Nemes, John Cavazos

PARISH CHOIR: regular practice after the 8:00 am Sunday Mass, 9:15-9:45 a.m. in St. Mary's Church.

QUILT AND CRAFT CORNER will meet on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Altar Care for December will be - Stella Silva

Grief Group: An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Catholic Church, in the Conference Room, at 7:00 pm, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Before attending please call Sharon at 578-7572.



Giving Tree Project

Thank you to everyone who took an ornament off the Christmas Giving Tree again this holiday season. Please return wrapped gifts to St. Mary's Church by Sun. Dec. 11. Tags should be securely taped to the gifts. We are again asking for gift cards for the junior high and high school students.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Ann #369, will hold the monthly meeting on Monday Dec. 5, 2016, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Members are reminded to bring oral hygiene items (toothpaste, brushes, floss, etc.) for Casa Juan Diego, a state MOM project. Business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., following prayer service at 6:10 p.m. New members are always welcome.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK
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Saturday, December 3, Saint Francis Xavier
7:00 †Sharon West Bauer
5:00 †Jodie Vahalik

Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 †Robert Moore
10:30 People of the Parish

Monday, December 5
6:30 †Fred Buckert
12:05 †George B. Sartor

Tuesday, December 6
6:30 †Mary Haas
12:05 †Adison Nichole Lucas

Wednesday, December 7, Saint Ambrose
6:30 †George Smajstrla
12:05 †Annie & Edgar Hollas
6:00 People of the Parish

Thursday, December 8, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
6:30 Grace Silva
8:10 †Mary Ann Otto - Nazareth Academy Children's Liturgy
12:05 †O. D. Rosse

Friday, December 9
6:30 †Evelyn Kolle
12:05 †Sam Hyak

Saturday, December 10
7:00 †Noreen Pfister
5:00 †Vivian Tyng

Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 People of the Parish
10:30 †Chad Slavik



Your donation works for aging religious. "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to work." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center

As we, the **Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament**, continue our Celebration of 150 Years here in Victoria, we invite you to an **OPEN HOUSE** at 1101 N. E. Water Street on December 17, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. All are welcome!
Advent Vespers: November 27, December 4, 11, & 18th from 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Incarnate Word Convent Chapel. This liturgical evening prayer of the church focuses on praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day and offering praise to God. Solemn evening praise closes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

GUIDED ONE-DAY ADVENT RETREAT: December 10, 2016—9:30 am-3:30 p.m. Deacon Leo Sharron from St. Michael's in Cuero will present a day retreat entitled, My Soul in Stillness Waits at Incarnate Word Convent 1101 N. E. Water Street in Victoria. All are welcomed.
Incarnate Word Convent 1101 N. E. Water St. Victoria - 361-575-7111.