



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

FOCUS: Rejoice in the Lord always; for indeed, the Lord is near.

As we wait for the coming of the Lord, we prepare our hearts and homes to receive him. As Saint Paul instructs, we prepare with patience and a firm heart. We will know he has come into our hearts and homes when we model true discipleship and work to bring the Good News to those around us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the prophet proclaims the joyful news that God saves his people and gives them great reason for rejoicing. Saint Paul, in the second reading, exhorts the faithful to prepare for the coming of the Lord with patience and a firm heart. In the Gospel, John the Baptist asks if Jesus is really the Messiah, or should they seek another?

Readings for the following Sunday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1) Isaiah 7:10-14
- 2) Romans 1:1-7
- 3) Matthew 1:18-24

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF NOVEMBER 26-27

Sunday Collection.....	\$6,466.00
Loose Collection.....	\$ 591.25
On-line giving.....	\$ 785.00
Total.....	\$7,842.25

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 Foccus	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. 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 , December 13, 2016, Ten Commandments (Diana Pagel)
- Tuesday December 20, 2016, Liturgical calendar (Sr. Frances Cabrini)
- December 21, 2016-Jan. 3, 2017--Christmas and New Year Holidays.

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.

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.

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**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- Saturday, December 24,** (Christmas Eve): Mass at 5:00 p.m. (Christmas Pageant for children - Dec. 24, 4:30 pm before Mass) 12:00 Midnight Mass. (Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.),
- Sunday, December 25,** (Christmas Day): 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

- Saturday, December 31,** Mass at 5:00 p.m. and **Sunday, January 1, 2017** at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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. **Festival Planning Meeting CHANGE-** Our next festival meeting date will be on **Wednesday 12-14-16 at 7:30pm in the Activity Center AV room.**



GABRIEL PROJECT INFORMATION BOARD!!
"A PRO-LIFE MINISTRY/OUTREACH HELPING A MOTHER IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY & HER UNBORN CHILD!"

"AN ALTERNATIVE TO ABORTION"
WE DESPERATELY NEED VOLUNTEERS IN ALL AREAS! BRING YOU YOUR "GOD"

GIVEN TALENTS!!

Greetings to All! With Christmas in the "Air", please open your hearts to our precious little ones! We are in need of "Pack-n-Plays" or perhaps a donation to help purchase one!!

Our next monthly fellowship and general meeting in Victoria will be on Tuesday, December 13 THIS IS OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION to give thanks for all our babies that YOU help! We will have a nice supper and all we ask is that you bring a Baby Gift and your LOVE! We start at 6:30 and we meet at our Storage/Office Space at 101 W. Convent St., Victoria, TX (behind St. Mary's Catholic Church on Main St.)

Come learn and discern Christ Calling for You!!

To volunteer, donate, or questions, please call our toll free number 1-866-627-9243 or Barbara McCain Williams at (361) 649-1612!



"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

SANCTUARY CANDLE

- Dec. 12-18 - In memory of Ernest Innocenti by Mary Ann Innocenti
- Dec. 19-25 - In memory of Bohumil Smolka by Frank Smolka
- Dec. 26- Jan, 1, 2017 - In memory of Hedwig Smolka by Frank Smolka
- Jan. 2- 8 - In memory of Ernest Innocenti by Mary Ann Innocenti
- Jan. 9-15 - In memory of Hazel Schmeltzer by Denise Gainer

ADORATION CANDLE

- Dec. 12-18 - In memory of Ernest Innocenti by Mary Ann Innocenti
- Dec. 19-25 - In honor of Elaine Ratcliff
- Dec. 26- Jan. 1, 2017 - In memory of Bohumil Smolka by Frank Smolka
- Jan. 2-8 - In memory of Ernest Innocenti by Mary Ann Innocenti
- Jan. 9-15- In memory of Earl Schmeltzer by Denise Gainer

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

LECTORS

Saturday, Dec. 17
 5:00 p.m. Emily Janak
Sunday, Dec. 18
 8:00 a.m. Diana Starnes
 10:30 a.m. David Janca

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, Dec. 17
 5:00 p.m. Deacon Koenig, Mary Ann Innocenti, Denise Bednorz, Henry Schramek
Sunday, Dec. 18
 8:00 a.m. Adolph & Nelda Hernandez, Libby Ramirez, Diana Pagel
 10:30 a.m. Deacon Koenig, Bertha McDowell, Clem Cantu, Dee Garza

MASS SERVERS

Saturday, Dec. 17
 5:00 p.m. Tyler & Tanner Coleman
Sunday, Dec. 18
 8:00 a.m. Willie & Alec Immenhauser, Luke Hernandez, Ethan Elliott
 10:30 a.m. Johnna, Julie, Everett Rangnow, John Paul Pilkington

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Saturday, Dec. 17
 5:00 p.m. Frieda Stubbs, Mike McCauley, Carol Wisdom, Judy Jabbour
Sunday, Dec. 18
 8:00 a.m. Henry Petrash, Paul Janacek, Stella Silva, David Johnson
 10:30 a.m. Joe Baugh, Greg Brewer, Greg & Pam Fanelli

All Who wish to be Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Mass Servers and Ministers of Hospitality for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day please call the office by Monday, Dec. 19.

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. 15 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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK
 use Our Lady of Victory Ad



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

Monday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe
 6:30 †Grace Gaffney
 12:05 †Marcus Janak

Tuesday, December 13, Saint Lucy
 6:30 †Annie Matocha Kocian
 12:05 †Richard Fritz (ANNIV)

Wednesday, December 14, Saint John of the Cross
 6:30 †Bohumil Smolka (ANNIV)
 12:05 †U. S. Servicemen J.M.S.F.S. J.

Thursday, December 15
 6:30 †Sharon West Bauer
 12:05 †Alvin Mudd

Friday, December 16
 6:30 †Hazel Schmeltzer
 8:10 †The McDowell Family - Nazareth Academy Children's Liturgy
 12:05 †Chester Paul Lyssy

Saturday, December 17
 7:00 †Cecilia Vrana
 5:00 †Earl Schmeltzer

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent
 8:00 People of the Parish
 10:30 †Dec. Mem. of the Louis & Catherine Sitterle Family

2017 CALENDARS

Calendars compliments of, **Brown's Air Conditioning Co., Ideal Aluminum Siding and Roofing Co., Texas Drive Inn, Margie Neumann, and Arlon & Patricia Zamzow and Anchor Lumber Yard, Inc.** and will be available at all Masses this weekend. We would like to say a Big Thank You to these very generous people! Please pick up only one per Family



Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.

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: December 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.