

# ST. CATHERINE of SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH



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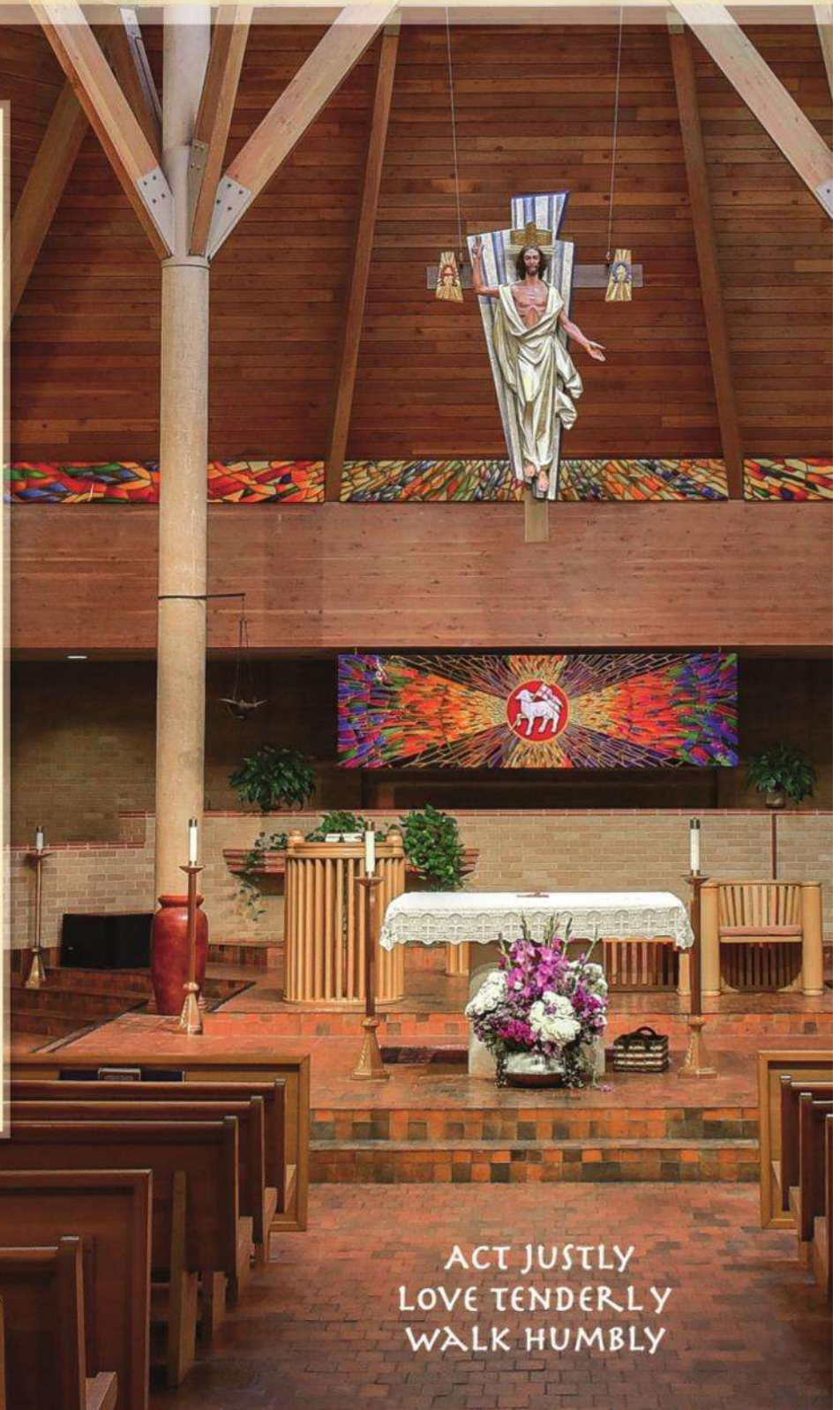
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*Welcome...*



ACT JUSTLY  
LOVE TENDERLY  
WALK HUMBLLY



## From the Pastor's Office

### 1st Sunday of Advent

Jesus speaks to us about the coming of the Son of Man. He tells us to stay awake because we do not know on which day the Lord will come. If I could call Jesus on his cell right now, I would ask him to change these words. "Stay awake" doesn't say it strongly enough. Better to say, "Wake up! Get up out of that bed you lazy good for nothing. Asleep all the time." When was the last time you were fully awake? You go to work asleep. You are on the phone asleep. You eat dinner asleep. You watch TV asleep. If I came into the room and asked what you were watching, the chances are high you would say "I have no idea." We seem to live in a constant twilight zone. We have become programmed to be robots living people's lives. As soon as Thanksgiving came, the majority of you had your Christmas lights on that night. Everything was completely done, finished, and decorated the first night. There is no need to look forward because it is all done. There is no more yearning. The children don't have to get excited

anymore because it is all done, finished, bought, and paid for another year. I remember in my childhood the excitement we felt this time of the year as we watched the Christmas lights being put up. In the weeks of Advent, we loved watching the decorations going up and the stores filling with Christmas anticipation. We loved this time of transition, the expectation. But nowadays it is straight into it. There is no more longing. Christmas is fully decorated on the night of Thanksgiving.

A writer in Time magazine said that he lamented the fact that we have no more downtime during the year. We just move from one holiday to the next without a break. Thanks to Hallmark and all that hungry lot, now we have to celebrate their made-up holidays as well. Recently I watched a re-run of the animated movie, "The Incredibles." This is a family of superheroes who have to live in the Superhero Relocation Program, they are hidden in the suburbs. Bob, the husband is bored to death with his insurance job. His wife Helen nags him because he is not paying attention. She reminds him about their child's graduation. Bob

reminds her that it is not a graduation. All he is doing is moving from fourth grade to fifth grade. Then Bob loses it by saying this: "It's psychotic! They keep creating new ways to celebrate mediocrity."

Is this the reason why we have forgotten how to yearn and long for the coming of the Messiah? Will commerce and retail ever give us a break so we can actually wake up? We are entering the season of getting ready for the coming of the Lord. This year, let us acknowledge all the pretense and the phony, the plastic glitter, and the too much of everything. Our Mother the Church invites us to enter a season of reflection and quiet. There is no need to be going crazy and frantic. There is no need to be completely started and finished on the first day. Let's all chill out and be tranquil and easy. Paul says: "Let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

With love, Fr. Pat



**ST. CATHERINE  
of SIENA**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

4800 Convict Hill Rd  
Austin, TX 78749

[www.stcatherine-austin.org](http://www.stcatherine-austin.org)

Administration Office ..... (512) 892-2420  
Community Ministry Office.. (512) 892-2433  
RE Office (Children & Youth) (512) 892-2426  
Fax..... (512) 892-0488  
Staff Email:  
[first\\_name.last\\_name@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:first_name.last_name@stcatherine-austin.org)

### Staff Directory

Pastor..... Rev. Patrick Coakley, M.S.C.  
[patrick.coakley@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:patrick.coakley@stcatherine-austin.org)  
Associate Pastor ..... Fr. Ray (Rayapureddy)  
[ray.pothireddy@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:ray.pothireddy@stcatherine-austin.org)  
Affiliated Priest..... Fr. Lou Brusatti  
[louisb@stedwards.edu](mailto:louisb@stedwards.edu)

### Deacons

Art Cavazos [arthur.cavazos2331@gmail.com](mailto:arthur.cavazos2331@gmail.com)  
Chris Schroeder  
[chris.schroeder@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:chris.schroeder@stcatherine-austin.org)  
Pastoral Associate ..... Pam Neumann  
Business Administrator ..... Sue LeFevre  
Director of Music ..... Eric Paul Carreiro  
Liturgy Coordinator ..... Katheryn Daniel

### Administration:

..... Evelyn Amador, Rossana Barrios, Jo Ann  
..... Campbell, Erin Hummel, Monica Sanchez  
Community Ministries: ..... Rhonda Smith  
Family Ministries: ..... Kendall Antosh  
Preschool Ministries: ..... Camille Parker  
Religious Education (Adult):  
..... Pam Neumann, Jennifer Gamblin  
Religious Education (Children & Youth):  
Marti Salas, Sarah Pedrozo, Danielle Nepustil  
.. Laura Niebauer Palmer, Cynthia Rodriguez,  
Livia Telles-Rodriguez

### Mass Schedule

Saturday ..... 5:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 7:30 am, 9:30 am\*  
..... 11:30 am, 1:15 pm, 5:00 pm  
Monday – Friday ..... 12:00 pm\*  
Tuesday ..... 7:00 pm  
\* Denotes online livestream Masses

### Confession

Saturday..... 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  
Tuesday ..... 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm  
By Appointment..... (512) 892-2420

### Adoration

Monday - Friday.....9:00 am – 11:30 am  
in the Day Chapel

### Organizations

ACTS..... Gloria Rodriguez 771-6881  
Amigos ..... Sandra Soto 921-2740  
Bridge Club .....Dorothy Pereira 448-0929  
K of C Auxiliary.....Wilma Martinez 565-5372  
K of C Council #8156 .Jim Gamblin 925-8365  
Krafty Ladies .....Rachel Lopez 565-1890  
Ladies Club.....Betty Jo Summers 301-2564  
Lay Dominicans at St Catherine  
..... Christopher Cregar 521-4263  
Lay Missionaries of Charity .. Alison Manzer  
..... 745-7206  
Prayer Shawl Ministry....Kay Head 923-2167  
Prime Timers..... Juanita Josel 394-1254  
St. Vincent de Paul.....Irene Escobedo  
.....550-1560  
Scouts..... David Pesek 970-1218  
Special Needs...Ronnie Bratt (214) 435-9424

**Marriage:** Contact Monica Sanchez at  
[monica.sanchez@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:monica.sanchez@stcatherine-austin.org) or  
(512) 892-2420 at least nine months prior to  
the wedding date.

**Baptism:** Contact Jennifer Gamblin at  
[jennifer.gamblin@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:jennifer.gamblin@stcatherine-austin.org) or  
(512) 892-2420.

**Bulletin:** Send email to Jo Ann Campbell at  
[joann.campbell@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:joann.campbell@stcatherine-austin.org).

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 2

5:00 pm Agnes M. Carreiro †

### Sunday, December 3

7:30 am Msgr. Victor Goertz †

9:30 am Mario Moreno †

11:30 am People of the Parish

1:15 pm Absael Antelo †

5:00 pm Dora Prado †

### Monday, December 4

12:00 pm Marcelino Gutierrez †

### Tuesday, December 5

12:00 pm Ruben & Irma Peña (SI)

7:00 pm Oliver William Jackson †

### Wednesday, December 6

12:00 pm Marina Ruiz †

### Thursday, December 7

12:00 pm Santhimuthu Family (SI)

### Friday, December 8

12:00 pm John † & Mae † Sosnosky

### Saturday, December 9

5:00 pm Joshua Draper †

### Sunday, December 10

7:30 am Julia H. De Los Reyes †

9:30 am Msgr. Victor Goertz †

11:30 am Guadalupe Silva †

1:15 pm Shirley Lott †

5:00 pm People of the Parish

### Monday, December 11

12:00 pm Frank Lindner †

### Tuesday, December 12

12:00 pm Dotty White †

7:00 pm Carmelita Tíña †

### Wednesday, December 13

12:00 pm Rosa Salazar †

### Thursday, December 14

12:00 pm Tommy Lichenstein †

### Friday, December 15

12:00 pm Mariana Jacome † & Valentin Tapia †

† = Deceased

SI = Special Intention

### Poinsettia Flower Memorials

Remember your loved ones by purchasing a Christmas poinsettia to be used in decorating the church during the Christmas season. Anyone interested in remembering a loved one at Christmas with a memorial gift of poinsettias may place the name of the person to be remembered, along with \$12, in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and place in the collection basket or submit online at [stcatherine-austin.org/poinsettia-memorials](http://stcatherine-austin.org/poinsettia-memorials) or scan this QR code. Deadline is Monday, December 11.



## Please pray for

### The Sick

Viola Cleo Bradshaw

Debra Borrego

Robert Cabrera

Mindy Cavazos

Kyle Cravens

Manuel Cruz

Patricia Gerber

Kay Head

Ed Kaloustian

Philomena Leinen

Tracy Leinen

Carolyn Massey

Theresa Massey

Yoli Muniz

John Naftanel

Rose Ogilvie

Ken Otte

Samuel Rios

June Stewart

Betty Stone

Christina M. Tovar

Carol Walschlager

### Our Service Members

Randall Davis

Kevin Goodlett

Josiah Griffin

Louis Hause

Whitman Jones

Susanna Jordan

Ricky Martinez

Michael Mazurek

Robert Monroe

Michael Pace

Nick Rocha

Andrew Sanchez

### The Repose of the Souls of Loved Ones

recently called home by our Savior,

especially **Diane Mock Bily**,

wife of Stephen Bily and beloved staff member;

**Margaret Chase**, mother of Pam Neumann; **Joyce Duffy**;

and **Laine Harris**, wife of Bill Harris.

## Collection Amounts

**Sunday, November 12** .....\$35,698\*

\* includes \$11,692 in online donations

**Children's Collection** .....\$135

**Second Collection: St. Vincent de Paul** .....\$11,764\*

\* includes \$6,617 in online donations

**Sunday, November 19** .....\$31,655\*

\* includes \$12,430 in online donations

**Children's Collection** .....\$142

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development** .....\$3,813

**Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 23** .....\$1,156

**Sunday, November 26** .....\$22,721\*

\* includes \$8,652 in online donations

**Children's Collection** .....\$101

## Sanctuary Lamp & Adoration Candles

### Week of November 19 (correction)

- **St. Joseph Shrine** - donated by **Guy & Letha Bradley** in loving memory of Randall Joseph Foppiano

### Week of December 3

- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine** - donated for a special intention
- **Sacred Heart Shrine** - donated by **Ref Tringali** for a special intention for Puying/Becky Babar

### Week of December 10

- **Adoration Chapel** - donated by **My Van-Dinh** in celebration of Stephanie Li-Diaz's birthday
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine** - donated by **Debbie Gereszek** in loving memory of Guadalupe Moody

## Liturgy

**Happy New Liturgical Year!** Today is the first Sunday of Advent, a day on which we focus on God's message of hope. As followers of Jesus, we imitate Him. Jesus was always hopeful and spread the gift of hope to others. Our hope is in God and in the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



**We are offering the following opportunities to celebrate a hope filled Advent at St. Catherine:**

- **Advent Parish Penance Service** this Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. immediately following our 7:00 p.m. Mass. The service will include an opportunity for individual confessions with our parish priests or with a visiting priest from the diocese.
- **Immaculate Conception Masses:** Vigil Mass on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, December 8, at noon. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass** on Saturday, December 9 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Our annual Mass for the Feast of Our Lady will feature a dramatization by our Amigos Club of the appearance of the Virgin Mary to St. Juan Diego.
- **The Telling of the Christmas Story**, Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Church. Come listen and participate in the Christmas story. Children can come dressed in simple costumes like angels, shepherds and kings.

### Advent Penance Services at Area Churches

In addition to our Advent Parish Penance Service this week, there are other local Advent Penance services in surrounding areas:

- Wed., Dec. 6      Emmaus Catholic Church      6:00 p.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 7    St. Paul Catholic Church      6:30 p.m.
- Fri., Dec. 8      St. Peter the Apostle Church      4:00 p.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 14   St. John Neumann Church      6:00 p.m.
- Fri., Dec. 15      San Francisco Javier Parish      5:00 p.m.

Visit [austindiocese.org/advent-penance-services](http://austindiocese.org/advent-penance-services) for a full list of Advent Penance Services in the Diocese of Austin.

## Music Ministries

**ATTENTION MUSICIANS!** Our upcoming Christmas Masses and other events are in need of guest singers and instrumentalists! If you play an instrument or sing and would like to help, visit [stcatherine-austin.org/music-ministry-christmas-signup](http://stcatherine-austin.org/music-ministry-christmas-signup) or scan this QR code for more information and to sign up to volunteer. For any questions, contact Eric Carreiro, Music Director, at [music.office@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:music.office@stcatherine-austin.org) or (512) 892-2420, or stop by and see him after Mass.



## Adult Faith Formation

**The Art of Being Catholic:** Have you been thinking about the Catholic Church? Are you curious about what Catholics believe, how we pray, and how we relate to the world? Join us on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in the Cenacle. Contact Pam at [pam.neumann@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:pam.neumann@stcatherine-austin.org) to find out more.

### RCIA Sponsors Needed

We need a few more sponsors to accompany people inquiring about the Catholic Church. There is no need to teach, the gift of your presence is the most important thing. To get involved, contact Pam at [pam.neumann@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:pam.neumann@stcatherine-austin.org).

### RCIA Hospitality

This week's refreshments and Ministry Minute will be provided by the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary and next week's host will be the Music Ministry. God bless you for your kindness!

### Senior Ministry: Advent and Christmas Celebration

Join us on Thursday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the Cenacle for an Advent and Christmas Celebration with words of wisdom from Fr. Lou Brusatti and music with Eileen Webb.

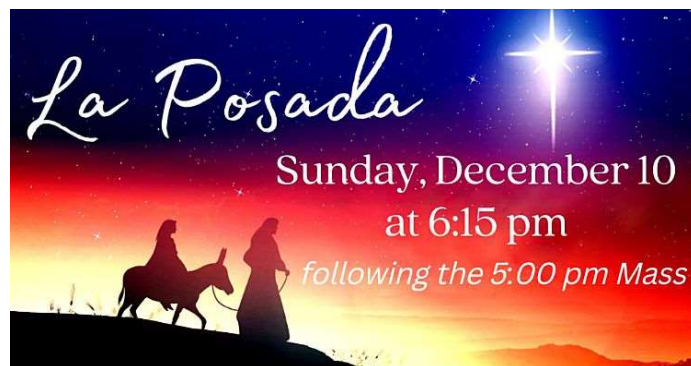
### Adult Confirmation Classes

Have you been baptized Catholic, received your first Communion but were never Confirmed? Our Adult Confirmation class meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Contact Pam at [pam.neumann@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:pam.neumann@stcatherine-austin.org) or Jennifer at [jennifer.gamblin@stcatherine-austin.org](mailto:jennifer.gamblin@stcatherine-austin.org) for details.

## Family Faith Formation

### La Posada on Sunday, December 10 at 6:15 p.m.

All families are invited to attend the Posada, the Bethlehem walk with Mary and Joseph as they look for a room for baby Jesus to be born. This will be an outdoor event in the evening, so please dress accordingly and bring a flashlight if you have one. The evening will conclude with treats in the Pomegranate Café.





## Community Ministries

### **Last Weekend to Donate to the Giving Tree!**

Our Giving Tree donations are down this year. Please prayerfully consider donating to help area children in need this Christmas by Monday, December 4. There is a QR code on the Giving Tree table that will take you to our online donations. You may also place cash, checks or gift cards in the box on the table or bring them to the office. Scan this QR code to donate today!

Thank you for your generosity.



### **Understanding and Healing Grief Presentation on December 7**

Delve deep into the essence of grief, understand its intricacies and unravel the process of acceptance and moving forward. Explore profound topics, from beliefs about death and dying to the nuanced differences between sadness, grief, and depression. Discover strategies to understand and navigate complicated grief, and learn the invaluable wisdom of preserving your identity amidst loss. Join us in this empowering journey toward renewal. Thursday evening, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cenacle. For any questions, please contact Rhonda Smith at [rhonda.smith@catherine-austin.org](mailto:rhonda.smith@catherine-austin.org).

### **Caregiving Café –Support Group for Caregivers**

This is free and all family caregivers are welcome. Join us for educational presentations by professionals & insightful conversations on topics that are important to you. Please RSVP to Lynn Greenblatt at [ccafemail2@gmail.com](mailto:ccafemail2@gmail.com) or (830) 837-3162. We will only meet once this month on Thursday, December 14, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Pomegranate Café.

**Freeze Shelter Volunteers Needed:** St. Catherine's belongs to the Oakhill Community Alliance, a group of south Austin churches and non-profits who operate a freeze shelter for the homeless each winter. The shelter is located at Oakhill United Methodist Church and/or Austin Oaks Church. We need volunteers to help set up, serve dinner, help in the kitchen/hang out in the evening, stay overnight, serve breakfast, and clean up the next morning. You can help in any area you want. If you're new, don't worry, because we always have experienced volunteers on shift, and it's never, ever a solo act. For questions or more information, contact Rhonda at [rhonda.smith@catherine-austin.org](mailto:rhonda.smith@catherine-austin.org).

**Attention Bridge Players:** The Bridge Club meets in the Parish Center on Mondays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Experienced players are always welcome.

**Mobile Loaves & Fishes:** This ministry meets at St. John Neumann on the 3rd and 4th Saturdays of every month. If you are interested in joining, please make sure your EIM Certification is up to date, and send email to Rhonda Smith at [rhonda.smith@catherine-austin.org](mailto:rhonda.smith@catherine-austin.org).

**Donations Needed:** You may leave your donations in the east entry wicker basket or take to Community Ministries Office.

- **St. Catherine's Gabriel Project** needs diapers sizes 3-6.
- **Freeze Shelter supplies needed:** clean blankets, coats, scarves, hats, gloves, hoodies, new men's and women's underwear, socks and shoes.
- **Men's white tube socks needed:** Our supply has dwindled and winter is upon us. We desperately need these socks for our homeless neighbors. We give the socks away at our freeze shelter and also make hygiene kits with them for our Mobile Loaves & Fishes teams.
- **Fabric Needed for Baby Blankets (cotton and other fabrics):** We have several ladies who create beautiful blankets for baby's and young children. We donate these handmade blankets to Carrying Hope ([carryinghope.org](http://carryinghope.org)), an amazing organization that helps foster children, and for nursing home residents in wheelchairs to use as lap blankets. If you have fabric you aren't using, please consider donating it.

## Creative Ministries

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

If you know of someone in need of prayer (grieving, illness, new baby, etc.), contact Kay at (512) 923-2167 or [scprayershawl@yahoo.com](mailto:scprayershawl@yahoo.com) for a complimentary prayer shawl. Our next meeting is on Thursday, December 14, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in room 231-232 in the Parish Center. Experienced crocheters and knitters are always welcome.

## Family Ministries

### **P.E.P. Talks**

Parents of Elementary and Preschoolers are invited to discuss relevant parenting topics and share our parenting wisdom with one another over coffee and pastries. Children are welcome. We'll meet on Thursday, December 14, at 9:15 a.m. in the Pomegranate Café.

### **Playdates with Jesus**

Our weekly playtime meetup continues every Friday at 10:00 a.m. on the playscapes, skipping Thanksgiving week. These will continue through December 15. Come out with your little ones to enjoy time with other families and a short devotion.



## Preschool Ministries

### *December at the Preschool*

As we enter the festive month of December, the air is filled with excitement and anticipation, especially for our young learners. In our classrooms, we are gearing up for a month of wonder, activity, and reflection as we delve into the themes of gifts, talents, and the true meaning of Christmas.

This month we will focus on exploring and celebrating each child's unique gifts and talents. We believe in fostering community and responsibility by discussing how these gifts can help others. As part of this exploration, we engage in various activities, including playing with nativity sets, retelling the Christmas story in our own words, and acting it out with friends. These activities spark creativity and deepen our understanding of the significance of the holiday season.

In our **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** program, our three-year-olds and Pre-K classes are delving into the religious aspects of Christmas. Lessons include the Annunciation to Mary, the symbolism of Advent, the genuine story of the Birth of Jesus, and the narrative of the Adoration of the Shepherds. Through these teachings, we aim to provide a meaningful and immersive experience that connects our students with the spiritual essence of Christmas.

We encourage our young learners to recognize and appreciate the gifts bestowed upon them by God. This holistic approach to education, combining both secular and spiritual elements, contributes to a well-rounded understanding of the Christmas season.

As we embark on this festive journey, we wish all our families a December filled with joy, learning, and the true spirit of Christmas.

## General Parish

### *Prime Timers (age 50+)*

Come Celebrate the Season at the **Buon Natale Festa** at Milano Café (4601 Southwest Pkwy) on Wednesday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. Their menu boasts homemade pasta and delicious desserts. RSVP to [primetimers20@gmail.com](mailto:primetimers20@gmail.com) by Monday, December 11. Don your holiday apparel and come gather together with fellow parishioners and friends and enjoy a delicious lunch, with fun, fellowship, and holiday music. Bring your holiday spirit and a pen, wear your holiday sweater, hat, tie, scarf, etc., and bring a Christmas Card with the name of your favorite charity written inside for the Charity Exchange. Include their address or web link. Pick up the *Prime Timers EVENTS* or check the parish website for full details.



### *Knights of Columbus Pecan Sales and Monthly BBQ*

- **Pecans are Back!** The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their Annual Pecan Fundraiser in the Courtyard the first 3 weekends in December.
- **Monthly BBQ will be held on Sunday, December 17** in support of the Catholic Build of Habitat for Humanity. Stop by the Courtyard after the 7:30 a.m. Mass.

### *Parish Blood Drive, Saturday, December 9*

The next parish blood drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 8156, will be held on Saturday, December 9, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the West parking lot. Please eat prior to donation and bring a photo I.D. Questions? Contact Crespín Guzmán at [manguzc45@gmail.com](mailto:manguzc45@gmail.com).

## Out of Parish


### *The Heart of Jesus: Discernment Retreat for Men*

Men of the parish, have you considered whether God might be calling you to the priesthood? Join Fr. Greg Gerhart, the Vocation Director of the diocese, for **The Heart of Jesus: A Discernment Retreat for Men**. The retreat will include time for prayer, spiritual conferences on discernment and vocations, and opportunities to speak with priests, seminarians, and other men discerning their vocation. The retreat will take place on December 12-13 at Cedarbrake Renewal Center in Belton, and is open to single men who are 18-40 years old. Register today at [austinvocations.com](http://austinvocations.com)

*"Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do Your will."*

## HEART of JESUS

a 3-day discernment retreat for men



**December 12-13, 2023**  
**Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center**  
**Temple, TX**





### UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

#### ***Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Saturday, December 9***

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, December 9 at the 5:00 p.m. This annual Mass for the Feast of Our Lady will feature a dramatization of the appearance of the Virgin Mary to St. Juan Diego by our Amigos Club. Music will be provided by Mariachis. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served after Mass.

#### ***La Posada, Sunday, December 10 at 6:15 p.m.***

St. Catherine's will host La Posada after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. All families are invited to attend the Posada, the Bethlehem walk with Mary and Joseph as they look for a room for baby Jesus to be born. This will be an outdoor event in the evening, so please dress accordingly and bring a flashlight if you have one.

#### ***Christmas in Siena Celebration, Friday, December 15 6:30 p.m. in Johnson Hall***

Please join the Community of St. Catherine of Siena for our annual Christmas Celebration in Johnson Hall. Enjoy a Christmas Sing-a-long with St. Catherine's Orchestra and Singers, led by Eric Carreiro. Please bring a finger food or dessert to share. We'll have a Wine Bar in the Café, so bring your favorite wine to share. Everyone is invited! This is a free event, no RSVP required.

#### ***Telling of the Christmas Story, Sunday, December 17 3:00 p.m. in the Church***

Come listen and participate in the telling of the story of Jesus's birth. Children can come dressed in simple costumes like angels, shepherds, and kings so they can be part of the story. Everyone is invited to this beloved event!

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday, December 24 Vigil Masses  
4:00 PM\*, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Midnight Mass

*(Christmas Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.)*

Monday, December 25, Holy Day Mass  
10:00 AM\*

*\* denotes live-stream Masses*

### DAILY MASSES

*(Regular Weekday Schedule)*

Dec. 26\*, 27, 28, & 29 - 12:00 PM

*\* NO Reconciliation or Evening Mass on Tues., Dec. 26*

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday, December 30

Reconciliation 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Mass 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 31

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM\*, 11:30 AM

1:15 PM, 5:00 PM

### 2024 MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, January 1

Mary, Mother of God

10:00 AM

Tuesday, January 2

*(Regular Mass and Reconciliation Schedule resumes)*

12:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Reconciliation 6:00 - 6:45 PM

**The Parish Offices will be closed  
December 21 through January 4.**



*In Loving Memory*  
**DIANE MARIE MOCK BILY**

November 19, 1960 - November 15, 2023

It is with deep sadness that we announce that long-time staff member, Diane Bily, passed away on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. She will be deeply missed by everyone on the parish staff, as well as the parish community. Please keep the Bily family in your prayers. May she rest in peace.

**For Diane: A personal tribute from Fr. Pat**

Diane came to work in St. Catherine's around the same time I began as Associate Pastor. Very quickly she showed herself to be very competent and reliable. On lots of occasions when you called St. Catherine, it was Diane you were speaking to. As the years passed Diane proved invaluable to us all at the office and her special talent was to guide and direct couples who were planning to get married. At a distance you could see that Diane was meticulous at her job. In a second, she would go to her computer and with the press of a button she had all the details on screen. Diane always spoke lovingly about her childhood on the family farm. It turns out she had names for all the animals. I used to tell her that she reminded me of Anne of Green Gables. Her childhood sounded idyllic and happy. Diane regarded our parish staff like her second family. She became very involved in parish life, and she got much enjoyment from her participation in the Women's ACTS Community. A couple of years ago, Diane's father died. Around the same time, Rhonda Smith's husband died. Diane and Rhonda were friends and they grieved together. During that time, I was due to have a vacation. I like to go to London on vacation because I lived there for many years. I had the bright idea that I might invite Diane and Rhonda to take the trip with me. On the way to London, Diane told me all about how excited she was because it turned out she was a great fan of Harry Potter. Very quickly I knew where to take her. We headed for King's Cross Station, Platform 9  $\frac{3}{4}$ . Just in case you get the wrong idea, this is a tourist attraction. It is not real. But, die-hard Harry Potter fans want to visit their shrines. At the site they had a sign up on the wall telling us the name of the platform. Halfway into the wall was a luggage trolley, like magic. We stood at the rope line where perfectly sane people stood waiting for their official photo. Then it was Diane and Rhonda's turn. They put a Hogwarts scarf around her neck. Diane was all shy with so many people watching. I shouted to remind her that nobody knew her in London. With that, the photographer said "smile." Diane flung her arms into the air with a big, exaggerated smile and the happy memory was captured. Because Diane was the nice farm girl I had to teach her how to survive in an urban setting. We stood in the underground waiting for our train in the rush hour. People squished everywhere. Then the train arrived and people got off. Diane, ever the lady stood back to let them depart. Then the mad dash began to get on board before the train departed in half a minute. Diane stood back and said to everyone, "Oh no, after you." Those of you in the know recognize that this is not the way you conduct yourself on a train platform at rush hour. I pushed her on board before the train left us on the platform. What fun we had. We are all going to miss Diane. At the end she died with her family and friends near. If there be a platform 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  in Heaven, I can assure you Diane will be there. God bless you.



*With love to Diane, from all of us,  
Fr. Pat*







It has been so difficult for all of us to say goodbye to our wonderful co-worker and friend, Diane. We have shared ministry for so many years I can't imagine life in the parish without her. She was always helpful in so many ways. Even when I came back from my own health challenges she would always make sure I had what I needed, big or small. She has been a blessing to so many parishioners and staff members.

My heart goes out to her family and friends – this sudden loss of a wonderful, helpful and caring woman of God is so sad. Rest in peace, Diane. — Pam Neumann

You, my sweet friend, are truly one of God's masterpieces. I am so blessed and grateful to be able to call you my friend. I frequently feel like I am the one lost sheep that God left the ninety-nine to come running after. He knew exactly where I needed to be, at St. Catherine's, surrounded by some of His brightest lights on earth...and you Diane, have been a beacon of His light for me. Your quiet wisdom, your compassionate ear, and your strong faith were so humbly and easily given. I will especially miss just spending simple moments with you, filled with storytelling and laughter. I know the tears will continue to come, but I will still choose to smile whenever I think of you, sweet friend. As one of my favorite Seuss-isms says, *"Don't Cry Because It's Over, Smile Because It Happened."* Thank you God, for letting Diane "happen" in my life. Love you now and forever, sweet friend.

— Jennifer Gamblin



I miss you and will hold you close in my heart always. Rest in peace my dear friend.

—Rhonda Smith





In this life, Diane was among the finest, most principled, truly Christian people I have known, let alone had the privilege of working with. She witnessed with her whole self to her life with God and to what it means to follow Jesus. Unfailingly proud of her husband, her children and her heritage, to know her in daily life was to witness a deeply committed wife, mother and daughter.

As a coworker and partner in ministry, she was always a leveling presence. Often the first voice you would hear when calling the parish office and the voice on our office's recorded greetings, she was exactly the kind of person you would want people to meet first when contacting your organization. The same can easily be said for her ever-diligent efforts in the care and handling of parish affairs. Diane didn't do things halfway; though she was great on the phone, she never 'phoned it in.' Though she experienced and was privy to no small amount of drama, she was never one to impose drama on others. Though she might in conversation ask one to forgive her for complaining, Diane was anything but a complainer. She bore the events of life with gentle determination, surrender to God, dignity and courage, from the more ordinary days before her illness through many hardships great and small, right through until the last time I saw her. I know Diane is with God. I pray God will console and sustain Steve, their children and all of her family.

I will miss and love Diane always as my sister and friend in Christ, and I dearly hope we will see each other again in the unending joy of Heaven. God bless and keep you, Diane. — *Eric Carreiro*

Diane was more than a colleague; she was a friend to everyone. Her friendly demeanor made every encounter pleasant, and her smile could brighten even the gloomiest days. She made everyone feel valued and appreciated by offering a welcoming smile or extending a helping hand. Her ability to remain calm in life's storms was a source of inspiration to us all, a reminder of the strength found in tranquility. One couldn't help but be touched by the genuine joy that lit up Diane's face whenever she spoke about her family. Her love for them was evident in every story she shared, and it served as a testament to the beautiful person she was inside and out.

As we mourn the loss of Diane, we remember the laughter she brought, the order she instilled, and the love she shared. Rest in peace, dear Diane. You will be deeply missed, but your legacy of kindness and love will continue to inspire us all. — *Camille Parker*



I have had the privilege to work with Diane for several years. She has been the heart of the parish office. I will always remember her welcoming smile when I walked into the office. She was so kind, helpful, and wise and I will miss our conversations. Rest in peace, my sweet cherished friend. — *Jo Ann Campbell*



I had the privilege of working with Diane for almost a year. During that time she was a wonderfully kind and compassionate co-worker. Diane possessed so much institutional knowledge about the workings of St. Catherine's, and she was always generous in sharing helpful tips with me. From our conversations I knew that we had some things in common, and now that I've gotten to hear stories about Diane from her family I know even more connections that we shared that I wasn't aware of before. I wish that there had been more time for me to build my relationship with Diane, but I'm not sure how long would have been enough. So I thank God for the time I had to get to know and learn from Diane, and I will do my best to use those lessons to imitate her example of self-giving service to the community of St. Catherine's. Rest in peace, dear Diane, you are loved and missed. — *Katheryn Daniel*





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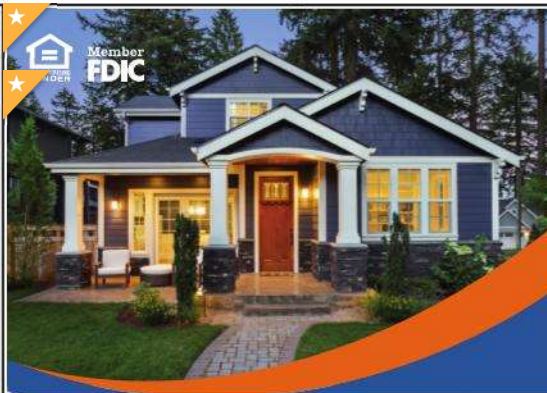
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