



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

9810 Indiana Ave
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Lubbock, TX 79423

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Website:
www.stjohnbaptistlbk.org

Email:
stjohnbaptistlbk@gmail.com

Pastor: Msgr. David R. Cruz

Business Admin. & Parish Secretary: Evangeline Jimenez

Masses: Sat., 5:00pm (English) & Sun., 10:00am (English)

Confessions by Appointment

Office Hours: Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9:00am - 1:00pm

Tues. & Thurs., 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Rectory (Fr. David's Home):

3323 86th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423

December 6, 2015



2nd Sunday
of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, December 5th:

Mass for the People

Sunday, December 6th:

For victims of violence
in San Bernardino, CA

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Baruch 5:1-9

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things
for us; we are filled with joy!
(Psalm 126:1-6)

Second Reading:

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight His paths: all flesh
shall see the salvation of God.
(Luke 3:4,6)

Gospel:

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Events at SJTB...

Dec. 8th at 5:30pm

Mass in honor of the
Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

Celebrant: Fr. Philip Pasupil (due
to Fr. David's travel schedule)

Dec. 16th at 7:00pm

Children's Nativity Play

Dec. 19th, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Confessions with Fr. David Cruz
& Fr. Jim O'Conner

Dec. 21st at 7:00pm

Parish Penance Service
(*No Individual Confessions*)

Dec. 24th at 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Mass
(*NO CHRISTMAS DAY MASS*)

Dec. 31st at 5:30pm

New Year's Eve Mass
(*NO NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS*)

NOVEMBER OFFERTORY

Total: \$14,503.23

Sunday Collections: \$11,567.93

Saturday Collections: \$2,935.30

*"As each one has received
a special gift, employ it in serving
one another as good stewards of
the grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10)*

NATIVITY PLAY

Wed., December 16th @ 7:00pm

Join us for a play about the
Nativity story presented by the
youth faith formation program.

If you are interested in
participating in the play,
or helping with costumes, props,
hospitality, etc., please fill out a
participation form and return it to
the ushers after Mass

OR contact Michelle McCallick
at 806.543.4742 or
michelle@studiowestid.com



'KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS' POSTER CONTEST

We encourage any children or
youths between the ages of 5 and
14 interested in participating in
the poster contest sponsored by
the Knights of Columbus to partic-
ipate. Registration forms are
available at the office and at the
Greeting Table at the Church.

The winner in each age group will
receive a prize of \$50, and has
the opportunity to move on to
compete in the state and national
competition.

For more information,
please contact our Knights of
Columbus Council at
stjb.knights@gmail.com

PRAYER INTENTION LIST

From Week of November 29, 2015

Healing & Good Health

-Juan Contreras -Jakob Neuber
-Maxine Abeyta -Yajara Marin
-Sylvia Ortiz

General

-Marin Family & Kiko

Eternal Rest

All the faithful departed +

THANK YOU

Please help us thank the youths in our faith formation group that participated in the Food2kids program with the Junior League of Lubbock. The children helped prepare 1,537 food sacks for needy children in the Lubbock Independent School District.

Also, please help us to thank Amy Zientek, Heather Marrs and Susan Miller for coordinating this opportunity for our youth.

If you would like to see pictures of the event, visit our website or Facebook page!

MASS INTENTION

If you would like to dedicate a Mass for a special intention, please contact the parish office to check availability.

A donation will be requested to reserve the Mass.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Are you searching for a way to deepen your reflections and spirituality this Advent season?

Visit our parish website daily to receive free, Advent reflections by Bishop Robert Barron.

The logo features the words "WORD" and "ON FIRE" stacked vertically. "WORD" is in a large, bold, serif font, and "ON FIRE" is in a smaller, bold, serif font below it. A stylized flame is positioned above the letter "O" in "ON".

Dear Friends of St. John the Baptist,

For the past several weeks, we have been drawing inspiration from *The Servant* by James C. Hunter who defines love as "not how you **feel** toward others, but how you **behave** toward others." Previous letters have examined patience and humility. This week, I'd like to focus on 'selflessness'. This is defined as "meeting the needs of others before our own needs" or, as St. Paul says in the scriptures, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves." (*Philippians 2:3*)

Perhaps a good example of selflessness is the recent tradition of 'Giving Tuesday', a special day on the heels of 'Black Friday' and 'Cyber Monday'. Instead of shopping in stores or online for Christmas, people are invited to give to their favorite charity. In place of taking a selfie with their cell phones, they are encouraged to take an 'un-selfie' documenting an act of giving to others on Giving Tuesday. These unselfies are then posted online in order to encourage others to also give. The point is to make Christmas more about *giving* than *receiving*, more about *spiritual* things than *material* things.

This reminds me of the 50th Anniversary of the original television presentation of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. On December 9, 1965, over one half of the population of the U.S. watched *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (of course, there were only three channels back then!). Immediately, people of all walks of life identified with the message and meaning of this animated classic. The Peanuts gang is organizing a Christmas Play with Charlie Brown directing. They insist on an aluminum Christmas tree for the play. But the little tree that Charlie Brown selects is not the beautiful, commercialized tree they had in mind. They moaned and complained that he has done a terrible job, and that Charlie Brown had missed the whole point. But Linus reminds them that the *true* meaning of Christmas is not the commercialization of Christmas. Instead, it has to do with the birth of the savior on the first Christmas night when the angels announced to the shepherds, "Glad tidings of great joy that unto you has been born a Savior. He is Christ the Lord."

What greater reminder could there be for us modern-day Christians about selflessness than the story of Christmas? After all, Christmas teaches us about the unselfishness of God. Think about it: God gave us his only son, allowing him to be born in humble surroundings, and made him like us in all things but sin. It is this unselfish act on the part of a loving God that we remember and celebrate this Christmas and every Christmas. How will we choose to pattern our own lives this Advent based on the Christmas story? Does the story of Christmas and the unselfishness of God teach us to be more giving of our own selves? What will you choose to give to God and to others this Advent and Christmas? What will be your gift?

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. David