



## St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

9810 Indiana Ave  
Suite 150, Mailbox #4  
Lubbock, TX 79423

Phone: 806-771-2673  
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Website:  
[www.stjohnbaptistlbk.org](http://www.stjohnbaptistlbk.org)

Email:  
[stjohnbaptistlbk@gmail.com](mailto: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 20, 2015



4th Sunday  
of Advent

#### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Saturday, December 19th:**

Mass for the People

**Sunday, December 20th:**

Pedro & Anita Acosta +  
(Eternal Rest)

#### TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Micah 5:1-4a

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us  
see your face and we shall be  
saved. (Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

Second Reading:

Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Behold, I am the handmaid of the  
Lord. May it be done to me  
according to your word.

(Luke 1:38)

Gospel:

Luke 1:39-45

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING EVENTS AT SJTB



**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)



#### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

#### YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Youth Faith Formation Classes  
(CCE) will not meet  
on December 23rd or 30th.  
Classes will resume on  
January 6th.

#### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



The parish office  
will be closed  
Wed., Dec. 23rd -  
Fri., Dec. 25th  
in observance  
of Christmas.

The parish office will also be  
closed Wed., Dec. 30th -  
Fri., Jan. 1st in observance of  
the New Year Holiday.

#### YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT

**Who?**

SJTB Middle School & High School  
Youth

**What?**

Pizza and a Movie:  
*The Polar Express*

**When?**

Sun., December 20th at 5:30pm

**Where?**

St. John the Baptist  
Catholic Church

For more information or to RSVP  
please email Heather Marris at  
[heathermarris@live.com](mailto:heathermarris@live.com)

#### 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.

## PRAYER INTENTION LIST

From Week of December 13, 2015

### Healing & Good Health

-Juan Contreras     -Jakob Neuber  
-Maxine Abeyta     -Yajara Marin  
-Joe Porras         -Michelle Divarez  
-Michael D. Reyna   -Ortiz Family  
-Anita Garcia     -Gonzalez Family  
-Nancy Sanchez     -Garza Family

### General

-Mary Eva Laque     -Larry McCall  
                          -Maria Saucedo  
-Juanita Saucedo (Birthday)  
-Victoria DeLeón (Birthday)  
-Jose & San Juanita Valenciano  
                          (Anniversary)

### Eternal Rest

-Andres & Margarita DeLeón +  
-Antonio & Luis Valenciano +  
-All the faithful departed +

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*I said a Christmas prayer for you  
Because the season's near.*

*I didn't ask for riches,  
But for gifts so much more dear.*

*I asked for joyful gatherings  
With your family all around,  
And for carols to inspire you  
With their old, familiar sound.*

*I asked for quiet moments  
In your heart on Christmas morn,  
For a special time to celebrate  
The Savior who was born.*

*I asked for friends to wish their best  
That you might know they care.*

*I asked for peace and love and hope,  
And I know God heard my prayer.*

*~ Nancy Brummett*

## OFFERTORY GIFT PRESENTERS

If you and your family are interested in presenting the offertory gifts to the altar during Mass, please visit with the Ushers before or after Mass to sign up.

Dear Friends of St. John the Baptist,

For the past few weeks, I have been reflecting on a quote from *The Servant* by James T. Hunter, where he defines love as "not how we **feel** about others, but how we **behave** towards others." Some of the behaviors he mentions include patience, humility, and selflessness. If you have been reading this letter, you know that we have reflected on each of these attributes. Today we come to the end of this four-part series, and I invite you to reflect on forgiveness.

One of my favorite saints, St. John Vianney, who was known during his lifetime as a great pastor of souls, defined forgiveness in this way, "If the sinner goes further astray, this tender Father does not stop offering him his forgiveness. It isn't the sinner who comes back to God to ask for forgiveness for himself, but it is God, himself, who runs after the sinner, and makes him come back to him. His greatest pleasure is to forgive us...Our sins are grains of sand next to the great mountain of God's mercies...How great is God's bounty: his good heart is an ocean of mercy; such great sinners as we are, never have to despair about our salvation." How true that our sins amount to grains of sand next to the mountain of God's mercy and salvation! Isn't the purpose of this Year of Mercy to remind us just how merciful God is to all sinners? On December 8th, the beginning of the Jubilee year, Pope Francis put it this way, "How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment **before** we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy... We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event, God's judgment will always be in the light of his mercy."

The question is: how does all this tie into forgiveness? In the first place, we are reminded that Jesus came to reveal to us a forgiving father. As John Vianney says, it is the father who runs after the sinner, when the sinner strays. Secondly, we are reminded that, just as God forgives our faults and failings, so must we be willing to forgive others. Nowhere is this made more clear than every time we pray the Our Father, which says, "...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..." If we truly believe this prayer, we will try to put it into practice, by expressing and showing our forgiveness to others, even when they disappoint us, even when they hurt us. Is there a better time of year to forgive than at Christmas? In the Gospel according to Matthew, it is said about the Savior, "...you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) How comforting and how reassuring that it is this Jesus who wants to be born once more into our hearts. May we all experience his mercy and forgiveness this Christmas Season, and may that love and mercy radiate forth from each of us to all the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. David