

Stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42



1st Sunday of Advent

On the eve of the birth of Christ by Michael Rieser, 1869 © Diocesan

SAINT MARY CHURCH

912 W. Cherry Avenue • Orange, Texas 77630 • 409-883-2883 • office@stmaryorange.org

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YOUTH DIRECTOR: PATRICIA DALEO

ST. MARY CEMETERY: 883-7390
DIRECTOR: JUAN CANTU



CELEBRATION OF MASS:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 P.M.

Sunday: 10:00 A.M.

Weekdays: 5:00 P.M. Tuesday
8:30 A.M. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the last Sunday of the month at the 10:00 A.M. Mass. Parents must be registered, participating members in the Parish for at least six months and have attended an instructional class held on the first Sunday of the month at 1:00 P.M. To pre-register for this class, please call the Parish Office at 883-2883.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Diocesan Guidelines require initial interview with the Priest to be held at least six months prior to the wedding. One must be a registered, participating member of the Parish at least one year prior to the wedding or registered with your family of origin.

Pray for Vocations

Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42

God calls us to be vigilant,
ready to respond to
His invitation.

Could He be stirring your
heart toward priesthood
or consecrated life,
to serve His Church
with unwavering
dedication?

Stay awake to His call
through prayer.



Talk to a priest or contact Fr. Rodel Faller at the Vocations Office by calling 409-924-4361 or by emailing: vocations@dioceseofbmt.org.

DEAR PADRE

Is Advent a penitential season?

Strictly speaking, the penitential times in the Church are “every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent” (*Code of Canon Law*, 1250). Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s First Coming is remembered, and this remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. (See *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 39.) While Advent is more anticipatory than penitential, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.” Although, historically, Advent was similar to Lent as a forty-day period of prayer and fasting, it was less severe than the season preceding Easter, and it lacked uniformity in the Western Church. The Eastern Church still begins the Nativity Fast on November 15, while in the Western Church, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.

Regardless, the significant focus of Advent is our Lord’s coming (*adventus* in Latin). The Church reflects this anticipation of Advent through such practices as limiting floral arrangements in the sanctuary, simpler liturgical music, and omitting the Gloria at Mass until Christmas. We can also reflect the anticipation of Advent through such spiritual practices as participation in works of charity, moderation in shopping, celebration of the sacrament of penance, fasting on Fridays, and prayerful contemplation on our Savior’s Incarnation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

St. Mary Youth Group meetings are held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Youth Director, Patricia Daleo 409-656-9259

Good News

This is the first Sunday of Advent, and the excitement is palpable. Writing 800 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah sounds like breaking news: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” The psalmist announces we are already there: “And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.” Saint Paul tickles our fancy with another whole round of “revelation” yet to come “on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Only Jesus himself seems a little cautious: “Be watchful! Be alert!” The Lord “is coming,” but he’s not here yet. Leave it to Jesus to force the paradox for which Advent seems to have been created: Jesus is present, but we dare not “sleep,” lest we miss him!

How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the “Merry Christmas!” / “Happy Holidays!” debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there’s no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries to slow us down and encourage a little reflecting to prepare the way, led by John the Baptist. So let’s keep waiting; let’s hold on to our peace. Christmas Eve will be here soon enough. But let’s not be too austere. A full menu of holiday parties and concerts and family feasts can legitimately “anticipate” Christmas. Let’s cheer each other: Merry Advent!

MIGUEL DULICK

First Sunday of Advent TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

“People in love make signs of love,” wrote our bishops in a document guiding the renewal of liturgical music. They were not merely urging us to sing at Mass, but suggesting that the song itself is a sign of the love of Christ. Love never expressed dies, as we know from experience. Flowers for no special reason, a caress, a hug, a turn around the dance floor, a note on the pillow or in the lunchbox, the aroma of fresh bread in the kitchen, all are signs of love’s vitality.

A significant treasure in our Catholic tradition is the place of the sacraments as signs of Christ’s love. We can trace the sacraments back to scriptural sources, through centuries of history. They are woven through family tradition and our own life story. Sacraments are the way Christ makes signs of love for the Church. For twenty centuries, God has spoken to us in the arena of the sacraments, and we have responded.

For the next year of “Treasure” essays, we will explore the story of sacraments: their sources, their signs and rituals, and the way Christ nurtures and sustains us as we encounter him, the companion on our journey who loves us and faithfully makes signs of that love.

—Rev. James Field

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 29, 4:30 p.m.

+Manuel Lopez
+Larry Payne

Sunday, September November 30, 10:00 a.m.
St. Mary Parish Family

Tuesday, December 2, 5:00 p.m.

Devotional to Our Lady of Perpetual help after Service
+Rena Richardson

Wednesday, December 3, 8:30 a.m.

+Deborah Bussell

Thursday, December 4, 8:00 a. m.

Vicki Jowers

Friday, December 5, 8:30 a.m.

(Holy Hour 7:30 — 8:30 a.m.)

(9:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration)
+R.M. Lincecum

Saturday, December 6, 4:30 p.m.

+Darrell G. Hanks
+Oran Credeur

Sunday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.

St. Mary Parish Family

November 30—December 6
Chapel Sanctuary
Lee Usie



PRAYING FOR THE SICK.....

It is our responsibility in the Lord to remember the sick who are especially close to the Redeemer in their suffering. In the listing below you will find the names of those who have requested our prayerful intercession.

Bob Morgan, Jay & Mary Broussard, David Derosier, Beth Ann Clark, Lyndia Patronella, Kathy Fuqua, Denese Bass, Robert Marroquin, Michael Anderson, Marie Cormier, David Waller, Joan Gunn, Charissa Broussard, Vivian DeJohn, D. Thomas Abshire, Jr., Jennifer Hinson, Joshua Bergeron, Pat Seay, Michael Savigano, Lisa Hamerly, Susan Morris, Jim Jones, Carolyn Smith, Brian McCall, Tammy Norwood, Aimee Tait, Lisa Pitre, Marie Theresa Adames, George Mason, "Tacky" Stringer, Evelyn Giarratano, Joel Rivera, Camilo Molins, Milton Westbrooke, Lynne Theriot, Wayne Lofton, Karen Ball, David Lester, Walter & Yvonne Trahan, Debra Harrington, Mandy McDaniel, Brenda Hill, Bonnie Buford, Angela Dean, Janie Bauman, Felix Anderson, Mary Carolyn James, Letitia Calderon, Jeanette Burleson, Faye Richard, Cheryl Boyd Simar, Doris Toups, DeAnn Lumpkin, Glenn McGuire, Kayden James, Rocky Breaux, Lydia Wolfford, Kim Berlinger, Brenda Lancelose, Troy Dore, Jack Spears, Kathleen Ramirez, Claire Howard, J.C. Russo, Paul Vandermaas, Jr., Joyce Broussard, Patty Stout, Sharon Fontenot, Donna Richard, Lillie Bourge

May they be touched by the healing hand of the Divine Physician, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and restored to the full and active life of our Church community and their families. (If you or someone you know should be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish Office).

November 30—December 6

WEDNESDAY

Religious Education Classes begins 5:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
PreK — 8th grade . High School 6:30— 7:30 p.m.

Soup Kitchen serves at 11:30a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Council 1680 5—8 p.m.

Thursday

Altar Society Meeting 5:00 p.m.

December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation
Masses 8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

ST. MARY

November 22—23

ENVELOPES.....	\$ 6,149.00
LOOSE.....	\$ 666.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 6, 815.00

Thank you for your continued support

Scripture Readings For the Week of November 30, 2025

Sunday	First Sunday of Advent Is 2:1-5; Ps 122, 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rm 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44
Monday	Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8



Please Pray for Service Men & Women

Garrett Jackson, Chris Rose, Kaden Baugh, John Lucky LeGault, Sheldon Becker, Bo McDaniel, Samantha McNamara, Taylor Doucet, Michael A. Peveto, Michael & Brooke Chalambaga, Troy Thomasse, John Ardoin III, Charles Moody, William Travis Johnson, Charlee Thousand, Greg Lewis, James Dupre, Richard Powell, Brian Stancoven, Austin Chesson, Colis Dunham, Joseph Brown, & Nicholas Perez, Alec Doolittle, Nathan Hughes, Devin Waller, Colby Hughes. Brenden Fenter, Braelyn Fenter, Blaycie Fenten

St. Mary's Sunday Bulletin

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