

St. James Catholic Church

A living cell of the Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi

605 S. Alta Vista St. Beeville, Texas 78102

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December 3, 2017 - First Sunday of Advent

Holy Mass

WEEKENDS

Saturday 6:00 PM (Vigil)
Sunday 7:30 AM - Spanish
10:00 AM - English

WEEKDAYS

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday
- 7:00 AM

Tuesday, Thursday
- 5:30 PM

Major Feast Days
(Holy Days):
As announced

CONFESSION

Saturday - 5:00 to 6:00 PM
and by appointment.

Warm welcome NEW PARISHIONERS

St. James parish welcomes all newcomers.
Please contact the parish office to register.



OFFICE HOURS

Mon.- Fri. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Closed 1:00 - 2:00 PM

PAROCHIAL TEAM

Administrator
Rev. PAUL KOTTACKAL

Deacon
Juan Vasquez

Secretary/Director of
Religious Education
Juanita Martinez

Bookkeeper
Veda Lisa Blanton

Parish Council Chairman
Juan Jimenez

Finance Council Chairman
Carlos Salazar Jr.

Eucharist Ministry
Coordinator
Janie Maldonado

Altar Servers Coordinator
Roxanne Salazar

Lector Coordinator
Salvador Andrade

Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight 4th Degree
Albert Garces

Guadalupanas
Pres. Juanita Martinez

Cursillistas Vocal
Angelita Garcia

Faith Ministry
Pres. Yolanda Maldonado

Spanish Choir
Tony De La Rosa

English Choir
Margaret Smith

Bulletin
R. Anthony Hinojosa

Website
Bonnie Salazar, Irene Moreno

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Catholic community of St. James Church is made up of loving and sensitive members seeking to meet their spiritual needs, strengthen their faith, and affirm their continued existence as the church of Jesus Christ today and tomorrow. In their quest to evangelize, it is their mission to assist everyone toward a more abundant experience of the riches of their liturgy and sacraments, and to convince all of Christ's sheep that the Lord's Day is indeed for all.



Pastor's reflection on the First Sunday of Advent

Sorry, not now!

Wal-Mart, perhaps, is the first to announce this year's Christmas in Beeville. At the entrance of this business center they write every day in big letters, the number of days left before Christmas - 2017. For them Christmas is nothing other than another opportunity to increase profit. "... For the children of this world are wiser than the children of light" (Lk.16:8).

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent of the B Cycle of the liturgical year. Advent reminds us about Jesus' historical coming at Christmas and his second coming in Glory. Church focuses more on the latter which needs lot of spiritual preparation because it decides our destiny.

All the Scripture readings of this season are pointing to this reality. Today's Gospel reminds us to be watchful. Our faithfulness to God is the fitting preparation for the coming of the Son of Man. Being faithful will make us worthy to be with him in the Kingdom of God.

Once, a congregation along with their pastor was singing the song, 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.' After a while the sacristan approached the pastor saying, "Yes, the Lord has come; he is waiting for you in the sacristy." The pastor rushed to meet him. Jesus whispered in his ears, "Are you ready to go with me now?" He replied, "Sorry, not now." Having returned to the congregation, as Jesus wanted to meet all the members, the pastor sent them to Jesus one after the other. Jesus asked each one the same question and the answer was not different; and they went on singing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!"

What would be our response to the above question?

Fr. Paul

MEETINGS



GUADALUPANAS:

Will meet on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 PM in the CCE Building.

CURSILLISTAS:

Every Monday (Except the 1st Monday of each month) at 7:30 PM

THE FAITH CHOIR:

Practice on Sundays at 9:20AM in the Choir Loft.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Will meet on Thursday, December 7:00 PM in the CCE Building

SPANISH CHOIR:

Meet every Thursday in the CCD building, Room 1 at 7:30PM.

ALTAR SERVERS:

Every 1st Sunday of the month at 11:45 AM.

FAITH MINISTRY:

Will meet on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 PM in the CCE Building

AUDITORS

Team V, Sunday, December 3

Elfida Garcia, Juanita Cruz, & Angie Garcia

Team I, Sunday, December 10

Janie Maldonado, Sylvia Holmes, & Alice Sanchez

Team II, Sunday, December 17

Amy Gonzales, Diana Barrera

Team III, Sunday, December 24

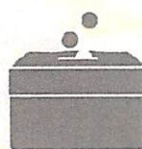
Rosalinda Orozco, Maria Servantes, & Margaret R. Mesquita

Team IV, Sunday, December 31

Juanita Martinez, Teodora Galvan, & Virginia Quintanilla

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 26, 2017



Envelope collection \$1,710.83

Loose collection \$ 479.89

Total \$2,190.72

MASS INTENTIONS



Sat. December 2

7:00 AM +Londa Trial by Paul Trial

6:00 PM +Londa Trial by Paul Trial

+Delia Arriola by Paul & Debbie Heard

+Ofelia G. Garcia by Jan & Longie Berdan

Sunday, December 3

7:30 AM +Jesusa Casarez in memory of her 2nd Anniversary by her Daughters

+Anna Maria Garcia in memory of her 1st Anniversary by her Nieces

+Isidro Cruz by his Family

+Susana Ramon in memory of her Anniversary by her Family

+Alma Laxson in memory of her Anniversary by her Family

10:00 AM +Hector Arrisola in memory of his Wedding Anniversary

by Gilbert & Amy Gonzales

+Father Stephen Devine by Margaret Smith

+Martin Maldonado in memory of his Anniversary by his Family

Monday, December 4

7:00 AM + Londa Trial by Paul Trial

Tuesday, December 5

5:30 PM + Londa Trial by Paul Trial

Wednesday, December 6

7:00 AM + Londa Trial by Paul Trial

Thursday, December 7

5:30 AM + Londa Trial by Paul Trial

Friday, December 8

7:00 AM + Londa Trial by Paul Trial

Saturday, December 9

7:00 AM + Londa Trial by Paul Trial

6:00 AM + Guadalupe & Santiago Villarreal

by Richard & Rosalinda Espinosa

+ Ofelia G. Garcia by M/M Joe Gonzales

Sunday, December 10

7:30 AM + Francisco "Tony" Guerrero by Alice Cantu

+ Hector Arrisola by his wife

LECTORS

Saturday, December 2

6:00 PM Salvador Andrade

Sunday, December 3

7:30 AM Angie Garcia

10:00 AM Janie Maldonado

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 2

6:00 PM Juan Jimenez

Luis Hernandez

Sunday, December 3

7:30 AM Susana Martinez

Shirley Martinez

10:00 AM Martha Cuellar

Joe Gomez

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 2

6:00 PM Alizabeth Martinez

Natalie Rodriguez

Sunday, December 3

7:30 AM Serena Garza

10:00 AM Autumn Rodriguez

Brandon Guerrero

PRAY FOR THE SICK



With caring and compassion, we pray for:

Jewelina Beth Gonzalez, Rosa Orozco, Christopher Cardenas, Anthony Angel Cardenas, Guadalupe Benavides, Isabel Garcia, Albert Cardenas, Jr., Jim Nelson, Joe Adrian Moya, Catherine McKeown, Johnny Lee Lopez Sr., Mickey Wilson, Kristina Elena Garcia, Eva Dominguez, Chris Ulmer, Roxann Gleason, Frank Riojas, Delfina Huerta, Jessie Riojas, Joe Anthony Martinez, Armando B. Perez, Lino Garcia, Katy Rendon, Denice Hadwin, Geneive S. Trevino, Patty Stone, Ascension Carrizales, Lupe Abrigo, Lulu Martinez Watson, Tabitha Rendon, Mary Longoria, Jessie Martinez Jr., Jaime Salinas, Roman Flores, Santos Lopez, Caroline James Ries, Edward Silva, Dalia A. Salazar, Nene Trevino, Julia Ramos, Adrian Sampayo, Aurelio Guajardo, Tonya Sciba, Kenneth Sciba, Nieves Moreno Jr., Jessica Arrisola, Mary Carrizales, Norma Delgado, Juanita Maldonado, Dora Lopez Bernal, Richard Espinosa, Emo Aleman, Roger Cano, Robert Hernandez, Nieves Cardenas, Elena Garza, Domingo Garcia, Laurie Lawrence, Angie Garza, Mary Jane Lowry, Anselmo Garcia, Jr. and to all at Christus Spohn. Please call the office to add or to remove names from the prayer list.
Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Knights of Columbus – Angel Tree

Share the Hope of Jesus with a hurting child in the community during the Christmas season. The St. James Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring the Angel Tree Christmas Program. If you would like to help sponsor a child, please contact Albert Garces at 361-319-6808. Thank you for your support.

Second Collection

Next weekend, December 10, 2017 there will be a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religions. Please be generous in supporting this Ministry.

BAPTISMAL REQUIREMENTS

Parents - need to be registered members of St. James.
Godparents - need to have received the sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation and, if married, need to have been married in the Catholic Church. To register for the Baptismal Class, please bring the birth certificate of the person being baptized.



ABISHAG KING DAVID'S BEDWARMER

1 Kings 1:1-41

When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. So his attendants said, "Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm." Abishag a beautiful young girl was brought to the king. She took care of the king, and waited on.

David grew weaker. As they lay together, David and Abishag spoke at length of the days happenings. She knew his devotion to his Lord well. Her respect and awe of the King abounded. One day Bathsheba King's wife came into the room when Abishag was ministering to him. She bowed down before him and begged him to listen. Bathsheba was distraught because David's son, Adonijah was acting as King avoiding his brother Solomon. David had promised the kingship to Solomon alone, and Bathsheba wanted David to declare him as his successor publicly.

Abishag was present when the King called priests and prophets to anoint Solomon. Adonijah was afraid of Solomon. But Solomon was wise enough not to kill his brother. He pardoned and sent him home safe.

Months passed and the aged man began to fail. He knew his time was now short. So he called his son Solomon, the new King, before him and instructed him of his duties. He ordered Solomon to serve God faithfully, and rule as an honorable man who would leave an unforgettable legacy.

Soon after this tirade, David died. Abishag continued to stay in David's bedroom. But one cunning man had a plan, and it involved Abishag. It was Adonijah who went to the King's widow Bathsheba and requested her to tell Solomon to allow him to marry Abishag. But this made Solomon furiously angry. He understood that if Adonijah had King David's concubine Abishag, he would strengthen his claim to the throne.

Abishag was terrified because if he married her he would take her virginity. She would have to leave the haven of David, and go to Adonijah's house. If Solomon thought she was a traitor, she would be killed. She prayed for truth and justice to prevail.

And it did. Solomon got her brother killed. Abishag continued to live in King David's palace. She never married. She remains forever known as the girl who warmed the body and the heart of a monarch.

Fr. Paul Kottackal

She is funny!



A woman is talking to God. "God, how long is a million years?" God answers, "To me, it's about a minute." "God, how much is a million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny." "God, may I have a penny?" "Wait a minute!" God promised.

ADVENT WREATH

by Mary Fairchild



What Is the Advent Wreath?

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, four or five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services.

Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th-century Germany among Lutherans and Catholics.

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath Candles

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath.

Each week of Advent on Sunday, a particular Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14, NIV)

This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger:

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12, NIV)

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle," and it represents joy:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:8–11, NIV)

The fourth and last purple candle, often called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13–14, NIV)

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow:

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18, NIV)

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