



St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church

Spirit and Truth Newsletter

2308 3rd Street Huffman TX 77336

November 27, 2022 First Sunday of Advent



Parish Office

Phone: 281-324-1478
Fax: 281-715-5533
parishoffice@stphilip.cc

Mailing Address

PO Box 2363
Huffman, TX 77336

Office Location

2308 3rd Street
Huffman, TX 77336
Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 am-1:00 pm

Bulletin contact

spirit_truth@stphilip.cc

Pastor

Rev. Richard Barker

Mass Times

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 am
Sunday: 8:30 am
Children's Liturgy

Daily Mass

Tues - Fri: 11:45 am
First Sat: 9:00 am

Mary's Blessing Ministry

For financial assistance
please call :
(832) 764-9814

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-3:30 pm
or by appointment

ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Snapshots > Adam's Off Ox

American slang has a long and colorful history. Have you heard the saying, "He doesn't know me any better than Adam's off ox"? It refers to person A speaking about person B in a familiar way, when in fact person A doesn't know person B at all. To be an off ox, then, is to be a stranger to the very person one most needs to know.



A yoke is a piece of shaped wood placed across the necks of paired draft animals enabling them to pull a cart, wagon or plow together. When two oxen are harnessed under one yoke, the driver controls the *lead* ox, in other words, the trained proven animal. The lead ox has a docile temperament. It understands the driver's commands. The "off ox", as one might surmise, is the one that "follows" with little, if any, comprehension about what really is happening.

Sadly, a great many Christians don't know our Lord Jesus any better than *Adam's off ox*. They say *I know Jesus*, but lacking a purposeful relationship with him, they merely know *about* him and very little at that. Being off ox to the Word of the World means they don't know their own selves, who they're supposed to be with or where they ought to go. The clearest evidence that a person lacks a coherent life is revealed in his aimless tracks. No plowed field. No harvest.

Whether hoary Adam owned oxen after being expelled from Eden, we'll never know. We can be sure of one thing, however. Devout Christians are not Adam's off ox in their relationship with God. We hunger to know Jesus, love him and do his will. We delight in shouldering the agreeable yoke of Bethlehem's child, born in a feed trough, surrounded by farm animals. We never forget how Roman centurions yoked Our Lord to the patibulum of a cross. And how he harrowed the Way of Sorrows to make us pure.

By putting our shoulders to the load, we learn to trust God in everything. What does Jesus ask of us? "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." [Mt 11:28-30]

The faithful follower of Christ is not naive and credulous. Neither is he embarrassed by a vulgar stable or ashamed of Golgotha's ghastly cross. Listen to God. Do what God wants. Plow the spiritual field in this advent season. Father Barker
+++



Facebook.com/stphiliphuffmantx



www.stphiliphuffmantx.org



stphiliptheapostlecc

Mass Intentions

Sunday Masses

Saturday, November 26

4:00 pm - People of the Parish

Sunday, November 27

8:30 am - Thomas Asher

11:00 am - People of the Parish

Sunday and Daily Mass intentions are mentioned at every St. Philip Liturgy celebration.

To have a Mass offered, please call our St. Philip parish office at (281) 324-1478. We will let you know what Masses are available in the liturgical calendar.

Altar Flowers Given

Flowers donated by
Gilbert Boudreaux and Family
In Memory of
Doris Boudreaux

Call the parish office at
(281) 324-1478 to schedule a date.



Pray For . . .

Graces, Strength and Healing

Those mentioned in our
Book of Remembrance
Parishioners in need

For the repose of the soul of

The Faithfully Departed

Use our website "prayer request button" or call the office to be added to the "Pray For . . ." list.

Blessing of the Family Christmas Nativity Scene

A common tradition is to place the figures of the Holy Family and the Magi apart from the Nativity set. As Christmas approaches, the figures of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are placed closer and closer to the manger. Following Christmas, the figures of the Magi also move closer and closer to the manger stall, to be placed there on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Gather the family around the Nativity set or Christmas manger scene. Sing together *Away in a Manger* and pray together the Sign of the Cross. Then, offer the following prayer of blessing:

"God of all creation, this Nativity set reminds us of Jesus, whose birth was witnessed by the stars in the sky, and the animals in the field.

(Invite children to decorate the manger scene.)

May this manger scene remind us to prepare room for Jesus to come into our home and into our hearts each and every day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN." (Provided by RCL Benziger)



Christmas Mass Schedule

Tues, Dec 20 - Fri, Dec. 23 11:45 am Daily Mass

**Sat, Dec 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Vigil
(No Confessions)**

**Sun, Dec 25 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass
11:00 am Christmas Day Mass**

Mon, Dec 26 No Daily Mass

Tues, Dec 27 No Daily Mass

Fri, Dec 30 11:45 am Holy Family Mass

**Sat, Dec 31 4:00 pm Mary, Mother of God Vigil
(Confessions 3pm-3:30 pm)**

**Sun, Jan 1 8:30 am Mary, Mother of God
11:00 am Mary Mother of God**

Parish Office Schedule Updates

Please note, Fr. Barker will be out of the office on the following dates:

+ Friday, December 9

+ Thursday, December 15

The parish office will be closed on the following dates:

+ Thursday, December 8

+ Monday, December 26 - Tuesday, December 27

Do you need more information on any of our Spirit and Truth articles?

Our parish website includes additional Spirit and Truth newsletter information. We regularly update our ministry pages so check it out!

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH FAMILY AT ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE

When our patron saint, Philip the Apostle, invited a friend to meet Jesus, he said simply, *Come and see*. [Jn 1:46] This is our welcome to you. Come and see our faith family!

We invite all the people of our parish, our visitors and guests to experience the parish life of our Catholic community. Learn more about joining our St. Philip parish by contacting our parish office at 281-324-1478 or parishoffice@stphilip.cc.

St. Philip Ministry News

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." [Isa 6:8]

Ministry meetings held at St. Philip Parish Hall or classrooms. (Contacts: pick-up flyer at church entrance)

Knights of Columbus Meetings on the 3rd Thursdays, 6:30pm. Watch Ministry News for the next KofC event. Thanks to all of our new members who participated in our recent membership drives.

Children's Liturgy Program Sundays at the 8:30 am Mass. We follow the CCE Calendar (dates can be found on our parish ministries calendar. Any parishioners who may be interested in getting involved, please contact Jessica, jmarrs7@hotmail.com.

Mary's Blessings Ministry Christmas for Kids gifts due before Dec. 16th. Call 432-267-5459 for information.

The Women's Guild Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10 am.

St. Philip CCE Classes are in full swing! Registration is on-going on the St Philip website.

Liturgical Ministers Please join our team of lay readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EOMs). You will be happy you did! Please contact Tim Logsdon, tlogsdon@stphilip.cc

St. Philip Choir Come and sing for the Lord; ability to read music is not a prerequisite. Talk to us after Mass!

Primetimers (over 55 always welcome!) Harris County precinct 3 provides our buses at the May Community Center in Huffman. Keep checking Ministry News for our next outing.

Usher Ministry Talk with a St. Philip usher before or after Mass to learn more about our amazing ministry that supports our St. Philip liturgy.

Ministers to the Homebound Please contact Kathy O'Donnell, kod333@comcast.net for more information about homebound ministry training and how to begin bringing Communion to the homebound.

Safe Environment training is required for participation in St. Philip ministries. Contact the Parish office for information.

Christmas for Huffman Children

The family names are provided to us by the counselors at the elementary schools and are available to anyone in the parish who would like to provide Christmas for these children.

If you or several friends would like to sponsor a family we will give you options as to how large a family you want to assist.

The gifts must be delivered before December 16th so that any delivery problems can be solved while school is still in session. Please contact Sammy or Mary Denard at 432-267-5459, and God bless you for reaching out to those in need.



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 8

Mass Time: 7:00 pm

(No 11:45 am Daily Mass)

