



**SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Seymour, Texas

**SACRED HEART
PASTORAL CENTER
206 N. CEDAR ST.
SEYMOUR, TX 76380-2102
OFFICE (940) 889-5252 FAX (940) 889-2136**



**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION
CATHOLIC CURCH**
Megargel, Texas

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: DECEMBER 25, 2022

DEACON JIM NOVAK
Parochial Administrator
Office—940-889-5252 Cell—940-733-3784

FR. BOSE JUJUVARAPU, HGN
Parochial Vicar
940-655-8037

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: (Reconciliation Room)

After each daily noon Mass; Wednesday's 6:30 -7:30 p.m.; Saturday 5 – 5:45 p.m. or by appointment

PARISH LITURGY SCHEDULE:

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: (December 26 – January 01)

Monday: **NO 12:10 PM SERVICE**
Tuesday: **NO SERVICE**
Wednesday: 6:00 PM: Special Healing Intentions for Tommie Crawford by Connie Boone
Thursday: **NO 12:10 PM SERVICE**
Friday: **NO 12:10 PM SERVICE**
Saturday: **NO 8 AM SERVICE**
6:00 PM: +J.T. Bench by Terry & Belinda Bench (New Year's eve-SH)
Sunday: 8:00 AM: For the Special Intentions of Fr. Bose by Andy & Janice Lane (New Year's Day-St. Mary's)
10:00 AM: +Sherry Mae Hons by Larry & Annelle Welch (New Year's Day-SH)

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY FOR THE WEEKDAY MASSES: (December 26 - 31)

Mon.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22
Tues.: 1 John 1:1-4 John 20:1a, 2-8
Wed.: 1 John 1:5—2:2 Matthew 2:13-18
Thurs.: 1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35
Fri.: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Sat.: 1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY): (January 01)

Please prepare for worship by prayerfully reading the Scriptures for next weekend Masses:

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27
Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
Holy Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

At all Masses you should follow safe distancing and sanitize. Face mask/covering **are optional** at all times.

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day...Merry Christmas! (Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 AM, Sacred Heart/Christmas Day Mass
All weekend Liturgies: Christmas at night and Day
All Weekend Liturgies: Presider for Mass – Fr. Lim

Monday, December 26: No Service

Wednesday, December 28: (No Faith Formation – Christmas Break)

6:00 PM, Sacred Heart/Mass followed by Holy Hour Adoration with Benediction concluding at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday: No Service

Saturday, December 31: NO 8 AM Mother Mary Mass (Solemnity of Mary Vigil) (Holy Day of Obligation)

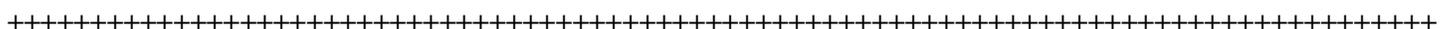
5:45 PM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by 6 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 01: (Holy Day of Obligation) New Year's Day

8:00 AM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Mass (Preceded by Holy Rosary)
9:40 AM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by Mass
All Weekend Liturgies: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
All Weekend Liturgies: Presider for Mass –

Please signup for Flock Notes and also follow us on our Facebook or our website: <https://sacredheartseymour.org/>

For bulletins: go online to <https://sacredheartseymour.org/bulletins>. All past and present bulletins are posted.



SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

ADULTS: If Jesus were to be born today, do you think you would accept him and follow him? Why or why not?

CHILDREN: What could you and your family do for others during the next week to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, CHRISTMAS



Today the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Nativity the Lord, the Birth of Jesus Christ, and the First Day in the Octave of Christmas.** Throughout Advent the Church longed ardently for the coming of our Savior. Today she celebrates His birth with unrestrained joy. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Son of God became man to give us a share in that divine life which is eternally His in the Blessed Trinity. Christmas time begins on December 24 with the first Vespers of the feast and ends on the

feast of the Baptism of Christ. White vestments reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel. – Isaiah 9:5

Prayer: *O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen* - <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar>

Old Calendar: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: December 28th

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before men. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood. Our Christmas joy is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following the Lamb wherever He goes. <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

The Nativity of the Lord-We began Advent with the cry, ‘Come, Lord Jesus’. Now we end it with the joyful shout, Emmanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us.” Reflecting on the historical birth of Jesus, the Church proclaims the truth that God is, and has always been, with his people. And if God is with us, then God is for us. God is on our side. God has no desire to live in houses made of wood, stone or gold. God’s deepest desire is to live in human flesh. Just as God did that in the human flesh of Jesus Christ a long time ago, God continues to do so now in us. Like Mary, we accept God’s invitation, allowing Jesus to become flesh in us, too; to be seen and experienced in good thoughts, good words and good actions, in deeds of loving kindness which bring life, not death, to God’s people.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT!

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas): Amidst the beautiful Christmas readings at today’s Masses is a reading from a small New Testament letter from Saint Paul to his protégé, Titus, read at Midnight Mass. Saint Paul reminds Titus that God has given us a gift in the person of Jesus Christ. This gift represents God’s active presence in our lives and in our world. This gift redeems us from evil and death. This gift purifies us as God’s people. This is a gift that also comes with an expectation: that we receive it with thanksgiving, allow it to transform us into Christ’s image; and from it, learn how to live a life “eager to do what is good.” Take time the next few days to reflect on the marvelous gift we celebrate at Christmas, and how we might become better stewards of this gift.

THANKS – ANGEL TREE DONATIONS:

Thank you again for your donations to the Angel Tree Family. Nearly \$551 was donated and was used to purchase gift cards from United Supermarket, Dollar General, and Bayco’s. The children received many gifts of clothing and toys thanks to your generosity. “Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.” Mt. 25:40

NEW YEAR’S LITURGICAL SERVICES

Reminder: Sunday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God (New Year’s Day) – **A Holy Day of Obligation!** In the Catholic Church, **Holy Days of Obligation** or **Holidays of Obligation**, less commonly called **Feasts of Precept**, are the days on which, as canon 1247 of the Code of Canon Law states; *the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s Day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.*

All are welcome to join us for Schedule of Services at Sacred Heart Church in Seymour and St. Mary of the Assumption in Megargel:

New Year’s Eve/December 31

6:00 PM Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour

New Year’s Day/January 1

8:00 AM Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption in Megargel

10:00 AM Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE FUND DRIVE: Please consider a donation to help our annual drive to raise funds for the Ministerial Alliance. In the month of November and December the community churches ask for your support to replenish our funds so that we can help those needy within our local community. You may simply drop off a donation or place a donation in the weekly collections marked “Ministerial Alliance.” There will be also boxes in our Seymour stores for your convenience.

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP: December 18, 2022

SACRED HEART:

Amount in Checks/Envelopes & Loose: \$ 3,311.00

Youth: \$ 120.00 Special: \$ 30.00 Holy Day: \$ 0

TOTAL: \$ 3,461.00

Envelope Use: 37 Regular; 2 Youth; 2 Special; 0 Holy Day

ST. MARY:

Amount in Checks/Envelopes & Loose: \$ 383.00

Youth: \$ 0 Special: \$ 0 Holy Day: \$ 0

TOTAL: \$ 383.00

Envelope Use: 6 Regular; 0 Youth; 0 Special; 0 Holy Day

Attendance: Sacred Heart – Sat. 82 Sun. 83 St. Mary – Sun 34

SEVEN DAY LIGHTS:

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: For the Alvin & Glenna Jungman Family by Shannon & Barbie Donnell Family, For the Henry & Lillie Mae Novak Family, For the George & Margaret Holub Family, For the Jim & Janice Knezek Family, For Michael Wright & Family.

FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS BY: Kay Flippin, Terry & Belinda Bench, Ricky & Charlotte Wright, Marilyn McGough, Tommy & Donna Carver. **If you would like to contribute to the Seven Day Lights, the cost is \$1 per week. Thank You.**

OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN NOTICES:

Office Hours are Wednesday & Thursday 10am – 3pm. All bulletin notices must be in by **12 noon on Wed.!**

Feast of the Holy Family—December 30th – Day Six



Friday is the feast day of the Holy Family, but also every family's feast day, since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. Today should be a huge family feast, since it is devoted entirely to the Holy Family as a model for the Christian family life. As Rev. Edward Sutfin states: "The children must learn to see in their father the foster-father St. Joseph, and the Blessed Mother as the perfect model for their own mother. The lesson to be learned is both practical and theoretical, in that the children must learn how to obey and to love their parents in thought, word and action, just as Christ was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Helping mother in the kitchen and in the house work, and helping father in his odd jobs about the home thus take on a new significance by being performed in a Christ-like spirit." (*True Christmas Spirit*, ©1955, St. Meinrad Archabbey, Inc.)

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/>

Year-End Giving - As this year draws to a close, you are likely to be reviewing your important financial matters, including your charitable giving for 2022. Now is certainly a good time to think carefully about *what* to give and *when* to give it. It is also an important time to reflect on the call to Stewardship – to give back to God in gratitude. Please remember the parishes, schools and many ministries of the Diocese of Fort Worth now and in the future. Gifts of cash, IRA distributions, securities, insurance policies, bequests, annuities and trusts can make a lasting difference.

ALTAR SOCIETY DONATIONS:

Your Altar Society made donations to Fr. Bose’s, Deacon Jim’s and Fr. Lim’s favorite charities as a Christmas gift from our parish. Fr. Bose’s was to Heralds of Good News Mother Theresa, Deacon Jim’s was to the Ministerial Alliance and Fr. Lim’s was to the Angel tree. We wish them all a Blessed New Year!

PRAY FOR RAIN FOR OUR FIELDS, CROPS, RANGELANDS AND RESERVOIRS!

JANUARY 2023 MINISTERS LIST

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS—Sandy Lane

To be announced later

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS—3rd & 5th SUNDAYS

To be announced later

MONEY COUNTERS—Dcn Jim Novak

Jerry Kuhler, Cody & Audra Wright, & Greg Knezek

LECTORS—Janice Vita Thornhill

Saturday	Sunday
Kay Flippin	Greg Knezek

USHERS—Terry Bench

Saturday	Sunday
Danny Lane	Greg Hertel
Michael Lane	Adam Hertel
Shannon Donnell	Damon Hertel
Glenn Peters	

FLOWERS—Donna Carver

07/08—Margie Barton & Teresa Hunt
14/15—Charlotte Wright & Sandra Pavur
21/22—Lucia Rangel & Maria Avila
28/29—Bethany Campbell & Frankie Holub

ALTAR SERVERS—Cathy Hostas

Saturday	Sunday
07—Knox & Slayton	08—Bryson, Jackson & Mason
14—Madeline & Cooper	15—Jacqueline, Case & Ean
21—Hagan & Graceyn	22—Sam, Braelyn & Harper
28—Slayton & Cooper	29—Angelina & Kryslyn

SERVE THE POOR THROUGH THE 2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL: A CALL TO GRATITUDE:

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” – 1 Peter 4:10 - Through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we express our gratitude for God’s love in our lives by making a sacrifice to share what we have received with others, especially the poor and marginalized receiving assistance from Catholic Charities. Thanks to you our **Sacred Heart parish** has **pledged \$ 16,213.75** from **54 families**. We are striving for 100 percent participation. We are counting on every family to make a commitment in order to reach our **parish goal of \$18,500**. Please complete and return the commitment form that was mailed to you or donate online at bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal (case sensitive). Your gifts before December 31 may be eligible for charitable deductions on your taxes.

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION: Thanks to you our **St. Mary of the Assumption parish** has **pledged \$ 4,163.25** from **13 families**. We are striving for 100 percent participation. We are counting on every family to make a commitment in order to reach our **parish goal of \$4,200**. Please complete and return the commitment form that was mailed to you or donate online at bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal (case sensitive). Your gifts before December 31 may be eligible for charitable deductions on your taxes.

THANK YOU AGAIN HOLUB TIRE - 2023 CALENDARS!

Once again we give our appreciation to the George & Margaret Holub Family who work so hard at Holub Tire for their annual contribution to both of our parishes by providing us with our new 2023 “Feasts and Saints” Religious Calendars. Thank you!

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: LAY LEADERS, PRIESTS, DEACONS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE!

2023 COLLECTION ENVELOPES:

If you have not picked up your box of envelopes or if you did not have a box to pick up, please come by the office. We still have **12 boxes** at the office not picked up. All family members of our Parish should have a box of envelopes.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, CHRISTMAS -

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...” JOHN 1:14
God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn’t about the material gifts we receive; it’s about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

Contact Information for Seminarian Trent Barton:

You can mail him at 401 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20017 or email him at: Trent.barton@fwdioc.org. Please continue to keep him in your daily prayers.



SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Whenever you are ill or have been hospitalized, please call for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick immediately.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Rick Kieschnick, Briley Hostas, Melvin Kuhler, Cindy Cuba Boone, Carolyn Bertschy, Bessie Casillas, Joe Saitta, Jr., Donna Hampton, Cathy McElroy, Cora Shelton, Mary Myers, Olivia Wright, Keaton Hehl, Stella Glass, Bernie Thomas, Josiah Decker, Sheila Helton, Ofelia Garcia, Johnny Joe Pechacek, Michael Rodriquez, Bryker Fontenot, Adaline Urbanczyk, Kayley Lowder, Ralph Veitenheimer, Cheryl Hopkins, Cathi Patterson, Genevieve Hrcirik, Hailey Glass, Debbie Turner, Teagan Matthews, Christina Lambert, Hannah Green, Jim Cuba, Sharon Wright, Arleen Kuhler, Abigail Novak, Braxton Pierce, Andrew Amador, Billie McGough, Jason Gilley, Margie Psencik, Theresa Bruggeman, Andrea Sanchez, Ellen Schaefer Bruggeman, Machele Hass, Melvin Motl, Jeanie Evans, John Helton, Charlene Gajdos, Bart & Margarita Martinez, Emma Allbritton, Donovan Muharib, Blaise Decker, Rosario Cruz, Frank Garcia, Jr., Dorothy Matus, Karla Parker, Jeanelle Howell, Trina Hostas, Richard Latham, Coy Jakubicek, Arya Myers, Keely Willden, Larry Ballard, Michelle Martin, Donna Anders, Michael Wright, Ricky Wright, Judy Horn, Bill Harmel, Nick Bryant, Linda Willis, Ricky Moorhouse, Korbett Loftin, June Hrcirik, Cori Bohanon, Bobby Bohanon, Earl Carver, Tony Leal, Connie Rodriguez, Helen Rodriguez, Marilyn McGough, Mary Ann Redder, Mike Sullivan, Chris Christian, Charles Wright, Patsy Sosolik, Troy Glass, Justin Walker, Scott Christian, Judy Wheeler, Lane Hrcirik, Tamara Gann, Dale Peterson, Sharon Welsh Boyd, Anne Marie Vita, Billy Mac Howe, Deven Hall, Kim Novak, Lizzie Smith, Henrietta Styles, James Styles, Barbara Coltharp, Gary Coltharp, Jerry Kuhler, Deacon Jim Novak, Pat McWhorter, Frances Brown, Vivian Steinbach, Ashley Felty & Tommie Crawford.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Ryan Holman, John George, Kyle Matus, Andrew Gelb, Tai Bandy, James Crawford, Sam Atwood, Josh Wright, Chance Freeman, Wayne Howard, Corey Bailes, Mitchell Lee, Zachary Hamilton, Trey Matus, Julien M. Wright, Donovan Palacios, Carson Pope & Isaak Estraca. *Please call the office to update the prayer list for those to be added or removed.*

Who Staged the First Nativity Scene?

It's nearly impossible to go through December without seeing at least one nativity scene, whether it's a set of ceramic figurines in a private home, a life-size tableau in front of a church, or a cast of actors in a children's pageant. And rarely does a year go by that these representations of Jesus, Joseph, Mary, the three wise men, some shepherds, and miscellaneous barn animals go unmolested by vandals or unchallenged by lawsuits. Why do people put up crèches at Christmastime, anyway?

Blame St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis' nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death. According to Bonaventure's biography, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about “the babe of Bethlehem.” (Francis was supposedly so overcome by emotion that he couldn't say “Jesus.”) Bonaventure also claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously acquired the power to cure local cattle diseases and pestilences. While this part of Bonaventure's story is dubious, it's clear that nativity scenes had enormous popular appeal. Francis' display came in the middle of a period when mystery or miracle plays were a popular form of entertainment and education for European laypeople. These plays, originally performed in churches and later performed in town squares, re-enacted Bible stories in vernacular languages. Since church services at the time were performed only in Latin, which virtually no one understood, miracle plays were the only way for laypeople to learn scripture. Francis' nativity scene used the same method of visual display to help locals understand and emotionally engage with Christianity.

Within a couple of centuries of Francis' inaugural display, nativity scenes had spread throughout Europe. It's unclear from Bonaventure's

account whether Francis used people or figures to stand in for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, or if the spectators just used their imagination, but later nativity scenes included both *tableaux vivants* and dioramas, and the cast of characters gradually expanded to include not only the happy couple and the infant, but sometimes entire villages. The familiar cast of characters we see today—namely the three wise men and the shepherds—aren't biblically accurate. Of the four gospels in the New Testament, only Matthew and Luke describe Jesus' birth, the former focusing on the story of the wise men's trek to see the infant king, the latter recounting the shepherds' visit to the manger where Jesus was born. Nowhere in the Bible do the shepherds and wise men appear together, and nowhere in the Bible are donkeys, oxen, cattle, or other domesticated animals mentioned in conjunction with Jesus' birth. But early nativity scenes took their cues more from religious art than from scripture.

What about those nativity plays that children often perform at Christmastime? They are an obvious outgrowth of the miracle plays of the Middle Ages, but the reason children (rather than adults) perform in them isn't clear. However, it's possible the tradition stems from the Victorian Era, when Christmas was recast in America and England as a child-friendly, family-centered holiday, instead of the rowdy celebration it had been in years past. - Bruce Forbes of Morningside College