



SAINT FERDINAND
CATHOLIC CHURCH

25 MAIN STREET | BLANCO, TX 78606
(830) 833.5227 | STFERDINANDBLANCO.ORG

PARISH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 25, 2016 | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

THE
NATIVITY OF
THE LORD
2016



Rejoice!



“A LIGHT WILL SHINE ON US THIS DAY:
THE LORD IS BORN FOR US.”

-PSALM 97

IN THIS ISSUE: THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS | NEW YEAR'S EVE AT STF | ST. ANNE'S ALTAR SOCIETY



**“CHRIST REDEEMED US ON THE HARD ARMS OF THE CROSS, AND
HIS KNIGHT WILL NOT SERVE HIM IN ANY OTHER WAY.”**

-SAINT FERDINAND III OF CASTILE

WELCOME VISITORS & GUESTS

Thank you for Celebrating the Mass with us. We are glad that you are here. If you have any questions about our parish or joining the Catholic faith, please contact the Church office for information concerning reception of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick. Parent interviews for Baptism need to be scheduled with the priest six weeks in advance. Marriage Arrangements need to be made with the priest at least six months in advance. Holy Communion can be brought to the sick on request. If you know of anyone in need please call the office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening Mass:

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. (Español)

Sunday Morning Mass:

Good Shepherd (Johnson City): 9:00 a.m.
St. Ferdinand: 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday, 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession

Wednesday, 5 p.m., Saturday, 4 p.m.

Adoration:

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

First Wednesday Healing Mass:

6:00 p.m. with Anointing of the Sick
immediately following

First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart

After 8:00 a.m. Mass

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday:

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:

25 Main St.
Blanco, TX 78606

Phone Numbers:

Main Office: (830) 833.5227
Office Fax: (830) 833-9978

General Information

admin@stferdinandblanco.org

Bulletin Information

bulletin@stferdinandblanco.org

STAFF EMAILS

Rev. Fr. Wade Russell, Pastor

fr.wade@stferdinandblanco.org

James Longoria, PBA, Youth Minister

james@stferdinandblanco.org

Susan Moore, Director of Religious Education

susan@stferdinandblanco.org

Margie Vasquez, Secretary & Bookkeeper

margie@stferdinandblanco.org

Cathy Cudd, Secretary & Communications

cathy@stferdinandblanco.org

For a complete list of ministries, contacts,
and other resources, please visit:
www.stferdinandblanco.org



***“For me, Christmas has always been about this:
contemplating the visit of God to His people.”***

-POPE FRANCIS

Christmas traditions are as varied as the cultures and people that practice them. Christmas celebrations come in all shapes and sizes and unfortunately, the truth about Jesus' birth often gets lost in the stress and busy work that creeps into our lives this time of year. So how do we keep focused on the “Reason for the Season?”

Here in the Texas Hill Country, we aren't immune to the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season. Our traditions and celebrations, although extremely fun, can be overwhelmingly stressful. Sometimes we're so busy being entertained by the season's decorations, parties, and presents, that we lose sight of the simple and humble presence of the Christ Child.

God reminds us that we must not forget the wonderful blessing of simple country living, and consequently, the beauty of a simple faith. Jesus was born in a small quiet town similar to our own. It was in a place like our Hill Country community that God fashioned Himself a human being in its most vulnerable and simple form - a newborn baby. It's here where he waits for us in Mary's arms.

Since her earliest days, the Church has pointed to the simplicity of the Nativity scene as a way of reminding us that Jesus is really all

we need. When we find ourselves scrambling to fill the stockings, trim the tree, baste the turkey, or deck the halls, God waits in a manger and asks us to remember He is the motivation for all of those exciting activities.

No, the Joy of Christmas isn't necessarily found in celebrating a material holiday. Instead, that joy we all long for is found in celebrating the love of a “Father who gave his only Son,” and knowing that our God delights in knowing us so greatly, that ***He became one of us***. It is by this simplest form of love that God rescues us. Sin is vanquished by the Child who will take the crown, the throne, and the cross and bear us and our sins upon his shoulders. The true Joy of Christmas is an invitation to the sacredness and perfection that awaits us in a relationship with Jesus.

It is my prayer this Christmas, that we all experience the Joy of an encounter with Jesus. I pray that when stress overtakes the weakness in our hearts and minds, we might always remember the love and simplicity of a baby born by firelight.

Christ's Blessings & Merry Christmas!

- Fr. Wade

***“It is Christmas every time you let God love
others through you.”***

-ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

ST. ANNE'S ALTAR SOCIETY

St. Anne's Altar Society is a service organization of St. Ferdinand Parish that was formed on March 6, 1955. According to 2017 Chapter President Judy Doherty, the chapter here at St. Ferdinand's currently has more than 30 members. The organization purchases everything used on the altar for the services held both at St. Ferdinand and Good Shepherd Churches. Additionally, the group cares for the linens, priest vestments, server albs, and vessels used on the altar.

St. Anne's Altar Society ladies plan, prepare, and serve the food for bereavement meals for family and friends of deceased parishioners after their funeral. St. Anne's members attend the Rosary and offer a Mass intention for the deceased. They also maintain a prayer chain and take requests for prayer from parishioners for family and friends anytime prayer is needed.

St. Anne's Altar Society organizes fundraisers and supports the parish by purchasing things needed around the church campus. Recently the organization made improvements to the Parish Hall, church cry room windows, and made a cash donation to help with the RE building renovation.

Group activities include holding a Rummage Sale each spring to raise money for the Church. Members also make crafts and sell them and, from time to time, host a special meal for the parish after the Sunday Mass. In January the group has plans to begin a rosary making class.

Any lady that is a member of St. Ferdinand Church is welcome to join St. Anne's Altar Society. The group's next meeting is January 5 at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Brunch will be served first and the meeting will begin around 10:20. Meetings include fellowship time, event planning, shared prayer, and a lot of fun!

Judy Doherty joined St. Anne's Altar Society 3 years ago. She thought it would be a good way to meet and be of service to the community of St. Ferdinand and Blanco. Besides being President of St. Anne's Altar Society, she is on the Pastoral Council and the Building and Development Committee. She is also a Lector and Extraordinary Minister. She's on the Board of the Blanco Ministerial Alliance. Judy said, "I love everything I do. My retirement dream was to be in an active church in a quaint little town with a town square. Here we are, dream come true! Join me and let's earn our Angel Wings together."

Judy will be happy to answer any questions and visit with anyone who might be interested in joining. Please call Judy at (281) 850-0247 for more information.



You can visit our statue of St. Anne in the lobby of the church. St. Anne is the mother of Mary and along with her husband Joachim is the patron saint of grandparents!

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST. FERDINAND

Saint Ferdinand III of Castile, in addition to being our patron, was King of Leon and Castile in Spain. He lived from 1198-1252 and was also a member of the Third Order of St. Francis.

He became king of Castile in 1217 and Leon in 1230. His reign is well known for justice and his fight to keep his kingdoms Christian. He is credited for building cathedrals, with several being dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, his patroness.

St. Ferdinand is known to have spent many nights in prayer, and before battles, often urged his men to consecrate themselves to the Virgin Mary. It is said that "the glory of the Church, and the happiness of the people," were the motivating factors of his life.

St. Ferdinand and his wife Beatrice were blessed with seven children. He was canonized in 1617 by Pope Clement X and his feast is May 30. Among others, he is the patron of Spain.



PARISH MINISTRIES & INFORMATION

MASSES & INTENTIONS

Week of December 24 - 31, 2016

Saturday, December 24th 5:00 p.m.

For the repose of the soul of Nell Klepac
offered by her family

Sunday, December 25th 12:00 a.m.

For the parishioners of St. Ferdinand
and Good Shepherd

Sunday, December 25th 9:30 a.m.

For the parishioners of St. Ferdinand
and Good Shepherd

Tuesday, December 27th 12:00 p.m.

No Mass or Communion Service

Wednesday, December 28th 8:00 a.m.

For the repose of the soul of Casey Russell

Wednesday, December 28th

No 6:00 p.m. Mass or Adoration Service

Thursday, December 29th 8:00 a.m.

For the parishioners of St. Ferdinand
and Good Shepherd

Friday, December 30th 8:00 a.m.

For the souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 31st 5:00 p.m.

Birthday Blessings for Lonnie Humrichouse offered
by the parish and for the Repose of the Souls of George
& Elizabeth Reinert offered by Georgeanne Wood

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve Mass:

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. (Español)

New Year's Day Mass:

Good Shepherd (Johnson City): 9:00 a.m.

St. Ferdinand: 11:00 a.m.

COLLECTIONS STATEMENT

Week of December 18, 2016

Thank you for your generosity!

Regular Collection

\$5,221.32

Black Bag

\$448.64

*Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with first fruits of all your produce
Then will your barns be filled with plenty,
with new wine your vats will overflow.*

- Proverbs 3:10

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & MEETING TIMES

St. Anne's Altar Society

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
in the parish hall

Knights of Columbus

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
in the parish hall

Catholic Daughters Of The Americas

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
in the parish hall

St. Ferdinand's Parish Choir

Meets Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.

Call 830-833-4939 for more information.

PRAYER LIST

Our Parish Community offers the gift of prayer. Please pray for parishioners' spiritual, mental and physical needs. Currently, the list is being reset for the new year. If you or someone you know needs prayer in a special way, please email: bulletin@stferdinandblanco.org. Prayer intentions will be listed here for two weeks at a time unless extenuating circumstances warrant further publication. Please join your community in praying for a blessed 2017.

"We, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another."

-ROMANS 12:5

FAITH FORMATION & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Faith Formation Schedule

Please note new class times and holiday schedule!

Pre-K - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning 9:30-10:45 a.m.

6th-8th Grade

Wednesday Evening 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Primary grades (Sunday classes) will be on Christmas break December 18th and 25th, January 1st and 8th. Classes resume January 15th. Middle School (Wednesday classes) will be on Christmas break December 21st and 28th, January 4th and 11th. Classes resume January 18th.

Catechist Inservice

Wednesday, January 11th

Methodology for Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, or 7-8 from the Echoes of Faith Catechetical Formation Series will be offered Wednesday, January 11, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the RE Building. There will be no regularly scheduled classes this day so that catechists may have the opportunity to attend. Certificates will be awarded for full participation. Please RSVP by phone (830) 833-0444 or by email at susan@stferdinandblanco.org, so that adequate materials will be on hand.

If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

Si no enseñamos a nuestros niños a seguir a Cristo, el mundo les enseñara a no seguirlo.

Please contact Susan in the Religious Education office at (830) 833-0444 if you have any questions about RE. RE Office Hours: Sundays 9:00-10:45 a.m., Wednesdays 2:00-6:30 p.m., or by appointment.

"The parish community must continue to be the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis."

-SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II

YOUTH MINISTRY

RICH Youth Ministry

High School Religious Education

Sunday Evening 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

CHOSEN

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Wednesday Evening 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Please contact james@stferdinandblanco.org to register or for any questions concerning High School age Religious Education classes and activities.

High School grades (Sunday classes) will be on Christmas break December 18th and 25th and January 1st. Classes resume January 8th

DCYC Registration!

*DCYC 2017 will take place January 27-29 in Waco and teens from all over the Diocese of Austin will be in attendance. Registration for RICH youth is open at this time. The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt! More information can be found by visiting: stferdinandblanco.org/youth-ministry or by contacting: james@stferdinandblanco.org **DCYC Registration and \$30 non-refundable deposit are due by December 28, 2016.***

Youth Musicians Needed

*St. Ferdinand and Good Shepherd are in need of youth and young adults to help lead worship at one Mass per month in the upcoming year. No prior liturgical music experience is necessary. Serving in music ministry is a great way to deepen your faith and will definitely be a lot of fun! **Please contact james@stferdinandblanco.org if you are interested in joining.***

PULSE Teen Leadership Group

*Are you looking for ways to grow in your faith? Do you want to put all of those graces you received in Confirmation to work for you and your community? PULSE is hoping to develop effective, holistically Catholic, peer-led ministry leaders among teenagers from ages 14-19 in our community. We need you! **Please contact james@stferdinandblanco.org if you are interested in joining.***

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

TEC: Together Encounter Christ *Eagle's Wings Retreat Center*

Together Encounter Christ (TEC) is a recognized movement of the Roman Catholic Church, offering to youth and young adults an experience of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, who by his death and resurrection gave the hope of everlasting life. TEC is a Catholic sponsored program that provides an experience in Christian Living. TEC calls forth one's goodness for service in the Church and world. TEC is specifically designed for youth who are at least juniors in high school through young adults in their 20s, however anyone 17 years of age or over is highly encouraged to attend.

Registration is currently open for the next TEC Retreat, January 13-15, 2017. Visit www.tecofctx.wordpress.com to register. The retreat fee is \$100 dollars and scholarshipss are available by contacting the parish office or james@stferdinandblanco.org.

Celebrating the Eucharist *Well Springs Retreat Center*

Fr. Jim Harnan's annual retreat at Well Springs Retreat Center in Blanco will be January 13-15, 2017. The subject for this year's retreat is "Celebrating the Eucharist". We will speak on the Eucharist and Scripture, explain the Mass and speak on how not to assist at Mass, view movies on miracles of the Eucharist, discussion groups, Adoration, Reconciliation, etc.

Fee is \$100 per person. Some Scholarships available. Registration forms are available from the ushers. For information call Fr. Jim at (830) 833-4243 or email him at jharnan@yahoo.com.

NYE 2017: YOU'RE INVITED!



Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as members of God's family here at St. Ferdinand Parish Hall when we usher in the New Year 2017 listening and dancing to the sounds of the Texas Reign Band from San Antonio and Canyon Lake.

If you did not get a chance to see them when they were out here in October you are not going to want to miss this opportunity. We will have a champagne toast as the clock strikes midnight and who knows what else. There is no charge to attend.

If you like what we are trying to do and choose to support our efforts to build community we will simply have a Love Offering Basket for any donations you wish to make to cover the cost and help us prepare for our next event.

Doors Open at 8p.m. and the Texas Reign Band kicks off the evening at 9p.m. The Youth Group will be selling set ups and other concession items as a fundraiser so that they may attend DCYC in late January.

-Fr. Wade

(your ad here)

Support Your Parish. Spread Your Message.

Contact the Parish Office today for Business Advertising, Event Advertising, and Memorial Space availability and rates.

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Casey Wayne Russell



- Uncle Wade
(AKA Fr. Wade)



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Sat	8am - 5pm
Sun	8am - 1pm



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