

# Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

## OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS

**510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868**

**Phone: 936-825-3920 • Fax: 936-825-7612**

**Religious Education: 936-825-1869**

**After hour emergencies: 936-825-3920**

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

### Monday-Thursday

9:15am - noon & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Friday 9:15am- noon**

Other times by appointment

**Website: [www.christourlight.org](http://www.christourlight.org)**

## PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopéz

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Garry Janota, Permanent Deacon

Russell Pasket, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Ryan Burns, Seminarian in Resident

## ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER

Nelda Kurten

## COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Carolyn Katkoski

## DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC

Susan Russell

## SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Culver (Chairperson), Teresa Morales, Jason Katkoski, Laura Quirino, and Sam Pry

## FINANCE COUNCIL

Teresa Morales, Carolyn Katkoski

## DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Bill Heathcott, Gregorio Gonzalez

## RE BOARD

President: Brandi Tejeda, Vice President: Jessica Herrera

Secretary: Teresa Morales, Board Members: Lucy Coronilla, Jason Katkoski, Allyson Sweeney, Den Grant Holt

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

Deacon Grant Holt, Danny Clark, Richard Krolczyk, and Joe Rangel

## YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Jessica Herrera

## SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: (English) 8:00am

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00pm

## WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

First Saturday 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm (English)

Thursday 6:00pm (Spanish)

## ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:40pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10am

Saturday: 5:15pm

Sunday: 7:15am & 12:15pm

## RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Tuesday, Thursday and

2nd & 4th Saturdays 5:00-5:45pm

and by appointment 936-825-3920

## RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los Martes, jueves y el

segundo y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45pm

y por cita 936-825-3920

**December 19, 2021 - 4th Sunday of Advent**



# Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

December 18 & 19, 2021

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**

No Mass

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

6:00 PM Frank Malek †

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

8:30 AM James Lawrence †

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**

8:30 AM Miss Anne †

6:00 PM\* Isabell Murillo †

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24**

6:00 PM Helen Shibest Noto †

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25**

8:00 AM Special Intention

12:00 PM\* People of the Parish

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM\* Consuelo Quinoney Nunez

\*Spanish

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**

5:00 PM Spanish, Legion of Mary, Cry room, CH

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**

12:00 PM English, Legion of Mary, Cry room, CH

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

7:00 PM Spanish, Choir Practice, CH

Christ Our Light Catholic Church



The Architecture of Galveston - Houston

The Church is open every day from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for people to come stop by and Pray.



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## E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

## BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and **or** articles are to be submitted in **writing** to the Parish Office, or faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org.

**Events, meeting etc. for the Parish Calendar are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office in advance.**

## AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. **Announcements are to be submitted in writing** to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodía. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, **please** notify the parish office, 825-3920.

## Sacrament of Baptism Schedule

**English Baptism Class Schedule for 2021: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, January 8th PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS.** To register please contact Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Lucy Coronilla at 936-419-9296.

**Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2022: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, January 23rd.** For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974



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**ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS** must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. **SCHEDULED** Baptism will be celebrated once a month at 11:30 AM in English every 4th Saturday at 11:30 AM in Spanish following completion of the baptismal classes the prior month **and Fr. Eli has been informed in advance.** The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration. Therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated here.



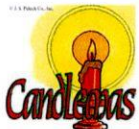


**PRAY for THE CONTINUING  
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF  
the infirmed and homebound  
members of our community.**

Sarafina Alo, Leonard Busa, Andrew Castillo, Jo Ann Clepper, Frank Crouch, Elizabeth Culmer, Herman Culmer, Eva Estrada, Liz Estrada, Lois Finke, Fabryna Hitchcock, Liz Johnson, Rachel Kammel, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kubricht, Glenda Lawrence, John Lawrence, Nancy Lopez, Ramon Mendez, Christian Mills, Leslie Mills, France Munoz, Delia Nunez, Anita Olguin, Julian Olguin, Leona Pasket, Cecelia Pearson, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Irene Ramirez, Lucila Rivera, Zek Rueda, Rosalinda Salazar, Josh Sechelski, Sherrie Shiflett, Dana Sowell, Lydia Torres, Jessie Torres, Robert Mario Torres, Jessie Valadez, III, Crystal Winkler.

Call the parish office when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920.

Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.  
*Thank you.*



**New Memorial Candles**

The new Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.



**YOUR PARISH  
SUPPORT  
SU APOYO  
PARROQUIAL**

**TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:**

**GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE REPOUNDS**

**December 07 & 08, 2021 — Holy Day**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| (19) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks, On Line Giving, Mail Ins, Drop Ins | 1,584.80 |
| Children Offering   | 27.00    |

**December 11 & 12, 2021**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| (73) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks, On Line Giving, Mail Ins, Drop Ins | 4,687.63 |
| Children Offering   | 46.00    |
| II Coll., Maintenance   | 1,495.63 |

Thank you thank you for Mailing, Bringing in, and On Line Giving your Offertory. Baskets will be passed during the Offertory. Baskets will also be passed when we have a II Collection.

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**II Collections in December**

**December 25th & 26th — DSF Shortfall of Our Assigned Goal**

**In Our Prayers**

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

SSG Jorge Aguilar, Jr., Alexander Cortez, Jesus Cortez, Spec., Sgn, Jason Malek, Antonio Magallon, Jose Rene Milan, Christopher Munoz, Javier Salinas, Shelby Seale, SSgt Allen Thane

**OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS  
FOR DECEMBER**

**Intention for evangelization — Catechists** Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit



**P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic  
Reparative Adoration)**

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. following the 8:30 AM Masses and will be reposed at 9:00 PM on Wednesdays and Friday and Thursdays at 5:45 PM before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass.*

*The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."*

**Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024 to sign up for a time slot on Thursdays.**

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND**

**Web site is FORMED.ORG**

The Parish Code to access the website is  
**MVMZKF**

Then register to create an account.

**There are 2 easy ways to connect to  
FLOCKNOTE (pick one):**

**NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.**

1. Visit our church at: [www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch](http://www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch)
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.





**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**O LORD of host, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted.**  
**— Psalm 80:15-16**

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the month.

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**Pray for Vocations**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

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**MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE**

If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or Special Intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

**ParishSOFT Giving**      **SIGN UP NOW**  
 Sign Up for Christ Our Light Online Giving Now

**Christ Our Light** now accepts online giving. **Parish Soft** is our parish's online giving program. Enroll at the link below. It is secure and easy to use. You will be able to use **Parish Soft** for normal tithing and special collections throughout the year. Apps are available, so your cell phones/tablets can be used for online giving.

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/dl?uid=chri510191>

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**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
 your grace into our hearts,  
 that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son  
 was made known by the message of an Angel,  
 may by his Passion and Cross  
 be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
 Who lives and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever.

**MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES**

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

- Altar Society—January and July
- Pastoral Council—February and October
- Finance Council—March and September
- R.E. Board—April and August
- Stewardship—May and November
- Choir—June and December

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

**4th Sunday of Advent** *"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." Luke 1:44* When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

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**REFLEXIONES DEL BOLETIN DE CORRESPONSABILIDAD**

**4to. Domingo de Adviento** *"Porque apenas oí tu saludo, el niño en mi vientre saltó de alegría" Lucas 1:44* Cuando escucha la lectura de las escrituras, y del Evangelio en la Misa, ¿usted "salta de alegría"? Si no es así, no culpe al lector o al sacerdote, más bien mire dentro de sí mismo. ¿Qué está haciendo para aumentar su amistad con Jesús? ¿Cómo se prepara para la Misa cada semana? ¿o simplemente se presenta y pretende ser entretenido? Como el Cuerpo de Cristo, somos llamados a ser participantes activos, no solo observadores pasivos.

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**ORACIÓN DE LA SEMANA**  
**Cuarto Domingo de Adviento**

Te pedimos, Señor, que infundas tu gracia en nuestros corazones,  
 para que, habiendo conocido, por el anuncio del ángel, la encarnación de tu Hijo,  
 lleguemos, por medio de su pasión y de su cruz, a la gloria de la resurrección.  
 Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo,  
 que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo y es Dios por los siglos de los siglos.



# 2021 DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2021

DSF Goal \$25,000.00  
Gifts Received \$19,366.00  
59 Donors

**“Walk in the Light of Christ”**

God bless each of you who have so generously responded in support of the 2021 Diocesan Services Fund. If you or your family have not yet responded, please do so today. To give online, please visit [www.archgh.org/dsf](http://www.archgh.org/dsf). Help us attain our parish goal of \$25,000.00

**“Caminar en la luz de Cristo”**

Dios bendiga a cada uno de ustedes que generosamente a respondido al llamado para apoyar el Fondo de Servicios Diocesanos 2021. Si usted o su familia aún no han respondido, por favor háganlo hoy. Para donar en línea, por favor visiten [www.archgh.org/dsf](http://www.archgh.org/dsf). ¡Ayúdenos a alcanzar nuestro objetivo parroquial de \$25,000.00

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## IGNITE

**Ignite Parish Goal \$208,632.00**  
**Gifts Amount Received \$71,320.00**  
**39 Donors**

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December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Lent

### AUDACITY

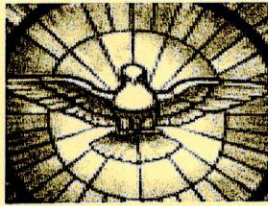
There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted in trust in God. The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.  
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19 de diciembre de 2021 Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

### VALOR

Hay un espíritu de valor en nuestras lecturas de hoy. En una época de injusticia y amenaza de invasión, el profeta Miqueas valientemente anuncia que el Dios del insignificante Israel hará surgir a un líder de un lugar tan remoto como Belén, y este líder traerá justicia y paz a todo el mundo. En el Evangelio, Isabel y María, mujeres marginadas, celebran osadamente que sus hijos serán instrumentos de Dios y que cambiarán al mundo. Sabremos que este valor está enraizado en la confianza de Dios. El autor de la carta a los hebreos describe la obediencia fiel de Jesús. A María se le muestra como el ejemplo de la confianza fiel en Dios. Esta es la forma en que a menudo Dios parece obrar, en las personas ordinarias y marginadas de nuestro mundo. Aquellos que parecen débiles han aprendido a confiar en la fuerza de Dios. Ellos tienen el valor de convertirse en instrumentos de la paz y justicia de Dios.  
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God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C**

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.



# THE SEASON OF *Christmas*

## LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The Coronavirus pandemic has starkly reminded us of the ever-encroaching reality of death and the need for a more faith-inspired hope for new life. The story of God and ourselves both in the Bible and in our own daily lives, is constructed around the surprising moments when God's holiness touches us and changes everything.

And as we have "seen the light at the end of the tunnel" of the pandemic, from our darkness we can better appreciate the Christmas proclamation that Christ "The true light, which enlightens every one, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him" (John 1:9-10).

Now we celebrate the invincibility of God's Light. God has freely chosen to come from beyond our world to be present in our world and act in its history. Although God promises to be with us, in reality this abiding divine presence was (and is) always rather elusive and never under our control. God does not just want to be with us in some external way, but wants to come to dwell within us—the real

meaning, of "sanctifying grace," God's own life through the Holy Spirit throbbing now within us, enlivening us and preparing us for an eternal life with God.

The New Testament authors stressed Christ's abiding presence with us. Matthew described Jesus as "Emmanuel, God with us" (1:23) and reminded us that Christ is present whenever we gather in his name (18:20) and will be with us always (28:20). Luke illustrated the hidden presence of the risen Christ as a mysterious stranger who explained scripture and shared bread (24:13-36). John described the abiding presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit or Advocate (Paraclete) (14:26) who continues in us the presence of the absent Jesus. Paul described the Christian community as those incorporated into the body of Christ (Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 10:17, 12:12-27) here on earth who continue his ministry and mission of serving God's presence in our world by working with God to transform our world from a place marred, disordered and dominated by Satan and evil powers into a world characterized by God's rule.





# THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

As the familiar 18th century English Christmas carol reminds us, the Christmas Season, also known as *Christmastide*, is not just one day but a 12 day celebration. In the Church's liturgical year, Christmas day was the first of the 12 days. The last night, twelfth night, is January 5, the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6. Today, the final Sunday of the Christmas Season celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. Clearly, Christmas is meant to be not just a celebration of the baby Jesus or Jesus' birthday but a summary of our lives in relation to God's intimate, incarnate presence with us today.

In the early Eastern Church, the Epiphany was the primary celebration of both Jesus' birth and his manifestation to the world. It was associated with the winter solstice when the sun's light began to be renewed for another year. In the Roman West in the 3rd century, the celebration of Jesus' birth was shifted to December 25 to compete with the pagan festival of the "unconquered sun" (*natalis solis invicti*) and the time until Epiphany became the Christmas Season. From the 4th century on, Christmas, with its focus on Christ's incarnation as a truly human person like ourselves, grew in popularity until today it often surpasses Easter in the popular imagination.



## The Christmas Story in the Gospels

After centuries of preparation, at God's appointed time (around 4 BC), the drama of Christ's incarnation began to unfold in the tiny, out of the way village of Nazareth in the hilly northern part of the Holy Land called Galilee.

The accounts of Jesus' birth are found in chapters 1–2 of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Although they relate the story in different ways, Matthew concentrating on Joseph and his dilemma about accepting Jesus as his son and Luke concentrating on Mary and her willing participation in God's plan for salvation, both Gospel writers stress that Jesus was not just another human child born to human parents but the unique son of God born through the agency of God's active power, the Holy Spirit.

Both Gospel writers stress that the infancy story of Jesus is really a miniature version of the rest of the Gospel: Jesus comes into our world—and into each person's life—and each one must then decide to respond either positively with acceptance or negatively with hostility. So Joseph and Mary, their relatives Elizabeth and Zechariah, the shepherds and the magi recognize Jesus as God's son sent for salvation. But threatened by this new-born king, King Herod and the Judean Jewish leaders respond with hatred and try to murder him. Similarly, each of us must also decide how we will respond to Christ's presence in our lives today.

### A PRAYER FOR ENLIGHTENMENT

Look upon us, O Lord,  
hear and enlighten us.  
Show us your very self.  
Take pity on our efforts  
and strivings toward you,  
for we have no strength without you.  
Teach us to seek you,  
and when we seek you  
show yourself to us,  
for we cannot seek you  
unless you teach us,  
nor can we find you  
unless you show yourself to us.  
Let us seek you in desiring you  
and desire you in seeking you,  
let us find you by loving you,  
and love you in finding you.  
—*St. Anselm of Canterbury*

### MASS READINGS FOR CHRISTMASTIDE 2021-2022

#### Christmas Day (Dec 25)

Is 52:7-10  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18

#### Holy Family (Dec 26)

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
Col 3:12-21  
Lk 2:41-52

#### Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1)

Nm 6:22-27  
Gal 4:4-7  
Lk 2:16-21

#### Epiphany (Jan 2)

Is 60:1-6  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

#### Baptism of Jesus (Jan 9)

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22





DECEMBER 24, 2021 FROM 12-2PM

*Matthew 25:35-40*

*Join us!*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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IN NEED OF A  
CHRISTMAS EVE MEAL?  
JOIN ST. STANISLAUS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR  
LUNCH AT THE PARISH  
HALL.

1511 TX-90  
Anderson, TX 77830

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FOR INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN  
HELP OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
DONATE PLEASE CONTACT  
JENNI ABRAHAM AT 979-229-2360 OR  
CHRISTIE LEMAN AT 281-705-4550



# Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

## Sharing the Christmas Story

The season of Advent has provided opportunity for us to reflect on God's great love for us fallen sinners that has caused him to send his very own Son who came for the ungodly, even for those who will never acknowledge his sacrifice and who reject his free gift of salvation.

Along with the joy that we have in our Savior, especially at this time of the celebration of his birth, the knowledge that not all experience this joy brings a sorrow to us as it does to the heart of our Lord.

Just as God in his love sent his Son into this world to save the lost, so we are now sent to tell others of that love. Our church's mission is to follow Paul's admonition to Timothy:

*"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."*

1 Timothy 4:13, 16

Together we preach and teach the Word from the pulpit and through our Bible classes. Together we strive to live as Christ would have us live, persevering by grace, in order that we might bring glory to God and extend his Kingdom. We are grateful for this partnership in the Gospel and for your gifts of time, talents, and financial resources that you so willingly share in order to carry out God's work on earth. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

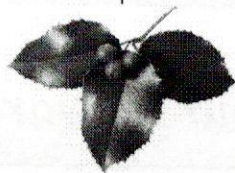
## Giving to Jesus

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year because we get the opportunity to celebrate the wondrous gift of God's Son, Jesus. Because of God's gift to us on the very first Christmas, Christmas has become a gift-giving season. With so many people to give gifts to such as sons and daughters, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandpas, etc., it is difficult to find the right gift for everyone. God has no such problems. He knew exactly what each person needed. In fact, he knows our needs better than we know them, and he knew them before we were ever born. And the timing of his most indescribable gift was perfect.

*"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." Galatians 4:4*

How do we respond to what God has given us? Shouldn't we be asking, "What have I given to him?" Certainly, we don't go to the malls to shop for Jesus. The greatest gifts we can give him are not found there anyway. The best gift that we can possibly give him is our hearts and to show him our love by faithfully and obediently doing what he asks of us. God is pleased when we allow him to work through us as channels of his love to others. We will remain his channels when we stay focused on the most indescribable gift, the gift of Jesus.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and make Jesus the reason for our joy





## Tell the Good News

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in him. Today this celebration is heralded back in October, or at least November, by merchants filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, cards, and all the trappings of Christmas.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in an inn.

There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw

the angels with “. . . the glory of the Lord [shining] around them ”

They heard the message the angels brought:

*“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord ... you will find a baby ... lying in a manger.”*  
Luke 2: 9, 11, 12

They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it.

*“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”*  
Luke 2:17-18

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? *“All who heard it were amazed,”* Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and *“spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this child.”*



*Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!*



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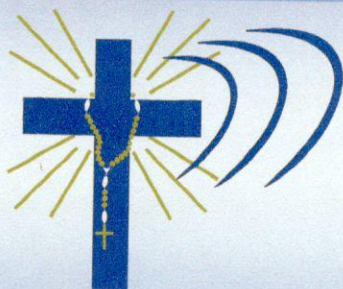
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## WHY IS IT

A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas bathes in an ADVERTISED shower shaves with an ADVERTISED razor brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED soap puts on ADVERTISED clothes drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then . . . . refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale.

## WHY IS IT?