

St. Mary Catholic Church

Est. 1855

Mission Parish

815 St. Mary's Church Rd.
Fayetteville (near Ellinger)
www.stmaryellinger.com



Weekly Offering: \$ 2,356.00
Online Giving: \$ 589.81
Retired Religious: \$ 806.00

Average Weekly Operating Expenses
\$ 2,635

MASSES

Wednesday at 7:00 a.m.
Tillie Schertz †
Friday at 7:00 a.m.
Mass for Life

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Mass During the Night
Saturday at 11:00 p.m.
For the People
Christmas Day
Sunday at 8:00 a.m.
For the People

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Est. 1870

207 E. Bell St.
Fayetteville
www.stjohnfayetteville.com



Weekly Offering: \$ 5,374.00
Online Giving: \$ 969.93
Retired Religious: \$ 1,389.00

Average Weekly Operating Expenses
\$ 5,087

MASSES

Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
Cyril Kulhanek †
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Otto & Annie Meyer †
Thursday at 7:00 a.m.
Laddie Supak †
Saturday at 7:30 a.m.
Aaron Kimball & Kolton Kimball †

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Vigil
Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
For the People
Christmas Day
Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
For the People



Pope Francis
Vatican City State



Bishop Joe S. Vásquez
Diocese of Austin



St. Martin Catholic Church

Historic Chapel

3490 State Hwy 237
Round Top (near Warrenton)

MONTHLY MASS

Tuesday, January 3 at 8:00 a.m.
For the intentions left on the altar

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. John: Wednesday 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Saturday 8:00-9:00 a.m.
First Fridays 3:00-5:30 p.m.
St. Mary: 30-15 minutes before every
Mass (excluding Holy Days)

Mailing Address and Contact Information

Rev. Steve Sauser, Pastor
pastor@stjohnfayetteville.com

Deacon Robert Jasek

P.O. Box 57

Fayetteville, Texas 78940

Phone: 979-378-2277 Fax: 979-378-4407

Email: stsjm@stjohnfayetteville.com

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 8:30-4:30 (closed 12 to 1 for lunch)

Administrative Staff

Lexus Zika
Sheryl Malinowski
Sue Zapalac

Faith Formation

Lexus Zika lzika@stjohnfayetteville.com

Knights of Columbus

Jim Sula kofc3168@gmail.com

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Suzanne Mattair njm18@flash.net

Marriage preparation: Contact the priest before setting
the date and at least six months before the date desired.

Baptism Preparation Classes will be held on the fourth
Monday of each month. Parents & Godparents must have
attended a Baptism Preparation class within three years of the
Baptism. Contact the parish office to register.

Parish Registration forms available at the entrance of the Church and online.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, AD 2022

PARISH LIFE

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Judy Burklund, Dan Castillo, Rhonda Edwards, Dwight and Sherri Fruge, Dan Hall, Courtney Hare, Bernita Hlinsky, Christine Kaspar, Joyce Keller, Kathy Kneblak, Betty Jean Kulhanek, Alice Malota, Doris Matocha, Helen Mikus, Leo Miller, Avery Nelson, Frank Potts, Kaycee Roesler, Aaron Svrcek, B.J. Vasek, Genelle Wied, and Maggie Williams. *(Though they will remain in our prayers, names will only remain on the prayer list for two months, unless a new request is received.)*

IN MEMORIAM: Our parish families extend sympathies and prayers towards the families of **Waldine Fruge** and **Henry Neville** who died last week. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

WELCOME: St. Mary's parish family would like to congratulate the family of **Harper Kae Jurecka** who was recently born into Our Lord's life through baptism. Harper is the daughter of Paul and Nicole Jurecka. May the Lord be with her family with all His blessings.



FIRST CONFESSION was celebrated last weekend by the 2nd grade Faith Formation students. May these students continue to receive the Lord's grace and blessings as they continue to prepare for their First Communion to be celebrated on **April 30**.

FAITH FORMATION: Classes have been dismissed for the Christmas holidays and will resume on Wednesday, **January 11**.

CALLING ALL YOUNG VOICES! All youth in grades 2-12 are invited to sing at the St. John Christmas Eve Mass which will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, **December 24**. Sunday practice is scheduled for **TODAY Sunday, December 18** after 10 a.m. Mass. There will be one more practice during the week before Christmas. Please call or text Rachel Schley at (979) 249-7501 for more information.

CONFIRMATION has been set for Sunday, **January 29, 2023** at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Bishop Vásquez will officiate.

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DECORATING: CYM youth will be decorating St. John Church **TODAY Sunday, December 18**, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. All high school students are asked to participate as we set up the manglers and decorate the church for Christmas. Parents are welcome to join; your help will be appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CATECHETICAL RETREAT The Annual Catechist Retreat will be on Saturday, **January 7**, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in College Station from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (includes lunch). The theme of the retreat is "This is my body, given for you." (Luke 22:19) All Catechists, Aides, substitute instructors, and anyone interested in serving in the Faith Formation of children or adults are asked to attend. RSVP to Lexxus at the parish office by **January 4** if you plan to go.

2023 CALENDARS are available at the entrance of Church. This year the calendars were donated by our Fayetteville/Ellinger K.C. council and K.C. Field Agent, Jody Supak. **Thank you, Knights!**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS General Meeting is on Tuesday, **December 20**, at 7:00 p.m. in St. John Parish Hall.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

- **EDUCATION CONTEST:** This year's topics are "We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight" and "When do I have to Lean on My Faith More than Sight?" Students in grades 4-12 and CDA members may enter. Entry forms can be obtained at the entrance of the church. **December 31, 2022** is the deadline for entries. For more info, please contact Suzanne Mattair at 979-249-3901.
- **RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED:** The CDA will have their fundraiser meal and raffle in March. If you wish to donate a raffle prize, please contact Jeanne Schilling at (979) 966-7358 or sign up at the January meeting. Prizes should not be turned in until the day of fundraiser.
- **CDA SCHOLARSHIPS:** Graduating seniors related to a living CDA member in good standing are eligible to apply for the State Scholarship. Local Scholarships are offered to graduating seniors whose mother is a CDA member of Court 1440. Contact Donna Shula at (713) 818-1470 for applications and for more information. Applications are due **January 31**.

ST. MARY'S PARISH ADVENT DINNER IS TODAY Sunday, December 18. Remember that the parish is providing a side of potatoes and the meat. Parishioners are asked to bring either a dessert or an additional type of side dish. The meal will be served at 12:00 noon with social time beginning at 11:00 a.m.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY for members of *both* Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of America will be on Tuesday, **December 27**, at St. John's Parish Hall. The social begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Ladies are welcome to bring desserts. Each person is asked to bring a dry good item for the AMEN Food Pantry, such as cereal, rice, pasta, etc.

ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY CEMETERY COMMITTEES meet on Thursday, **January 12**, at 6:30 p.m. in St. John Parish Hall.

ST MARY'S COUNCIL MEETINGS: The Pastoral Council meeting will be on Thursday, **January 19**, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend. St. Mary's Finance Council will meet on Thursday, **January 26**.

ST JOHN'S COUNCIL MEETINGS: The Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **January 10**, at 6:45 p.m. *Please note the new date!* All parishioners are welcome to attend. The Finance Council will meet Tuesday, **January 24**, at 6:45 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS: It is time, once again, to select new members to our Pastoral Council. The three-year terms for members Leslie Little, Wanda Fritsch, and Jonathan Noska will be expiring after the first calendar quarter of 2023. The other current members are John Kovar, Richard Calloway, Betty Kovar, Michelle Huebner, Willie Socha, and Ed Sulak.

Please submit your nominations for the council by Sunday, **January 1**, to have your nomination entered into the selection that will happen at the council meeting on Tuesday, **January 10**.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES will be distributed at the Masses celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, on **December 31** and **January 1**.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Our supplier is having production troubles, so delivery of the envelopes has been delayed. We hope to have them in and ready to distribute by year's end.

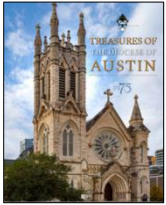
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, AD 2022

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL: Thank you to everyone who has already pledged a gift. We are still working toward both parishes' goals of 100% participation. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully consider how you can best support the CSA and the vital programs and ministries it funds in our diocese. Please complete and return your pledge card—even if you can only pray for the appeal this year—in the collection basket or the mail. You can also make a secure gift online at austindiocese.org/csa.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Because of you, our elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests will have help with the care they need. They are grateful for your generosity. The collection for St. Mary totaled \$806, and for St. John totaled \$1,389. God bless you for your kindness!

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed in observance of New Year's Day on Friday, **December 30**. Contact the parish office by noon, Thursday, **December 22**, with any items for the bulletin.

CLERICAL ENDOWMENT FUND CHRISTMAS CARDS are a good way to remember someone at Christmas and support the CEF. Purchase cards at the parish office, at Fayetteville Bank, or after Mass at St. Mary's every second Sunday. For more info, call Donna Shula (979) 378-2749, or Margaret Kubala (979) 378-2877.



COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: *Treasures of the Diocese of Austin*

Commissioned by Bishop Joe S. Vásquez in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Austin, this beautifully bound book captures the history and images of our vast diocese. From its earliest days – when residents, settlers, and newly arrived migrants came to Texas, building towns and living their Catholic faith – to the present day, this almost 300-page book tells the history in text and photos. Pictures of all parishes, missions, convents, schools, hospitals and more live in this compilation. *Treasures of the Diocese of Austin* is a keepsake book and will be a wonderful addition to every home. You may purchase one after all Sunday Masses this weekend or at the parish office, Tuesday through Friday. Cost is \$40.00 each.

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Dec. 17-18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

The mystery of the Incarnation occurred through Mary, and yet through the Holy Spirit given to us in Baptism and Confirmation, we too are called to embody the presence of God. Have we, like Mary, said yes to God? Are we, like Joseph, nurturing and protecting that life within us? As we celebrate this holy season of birth, are we giving birth in our lives to the fruits of God's love: justice, peace, kindness, humility and joy?

Dic. 17-18 Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

El misterio de la Encarnación ocurrió a través de María, y a través del Espíritu Santo que nos es dado durante el Bautismo y la Confirmación, también estamos llamados a personificar la presencia de Dios ¿Hemos nosotros, como María, dicho que sí a Dios? ¿Somos como José, alimento y protección de la vida dentro de nosotros? Mientras celebramos esta temporada santa de nacimiento ¿estamos dando a luz en nuestras vidas los frutos del amor de Dios: justicia, paz, amabilidad, humildad y gozo?

ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY PARISHES WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS by gifting you the book, *Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life*. Please take a book found in the baskets located at the church entrance.

YOU CAN NOW JOIN DAILY MASS FROM THE DIOCESE OF AUSTIN via livestream each weekday that the Pastoral Center is open Go to www.austindiocese.org/watch to pray with us as we celebrate the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and the Proclamation of God's Word, in the Immaculate Conception Chapel of the Diocese of Austin. Tune in on weekdays at home, at your desk or via mobile device.

COME PRAY WITH US! Prayer is powerful! Bring your intentions and come pray the Rosary at St. Mary on **Mondays at 6:00 p.m.** and/or at St. John on **Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.**

OTHER NEWS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING: At Catholic Charities of Central Texas, our licensed counselors focus on the social, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of our clients. Our Counseling Services offers individual, couples, and family counseling, as well as play therapy, trauma therapy, and solution-focused grief therapy on a sliding fee scale to those looking for help and support with a variety of issues. For more information, visit <https://ccctx.org/counseling-services> or call (512) 651-6150.

THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR podcast (with Fr. Mike Schmitz) will be introduced by Ascension Press on January 1, 2023. With this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

If you have ever wanted to understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape your life—this podcast is for you! Find it on any podcast app, on YouTube, or just by clicking this link: www.ascensionpress.com/pages/civ-registration-parish

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES WITH YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING ON AMAZON! Visit smile.amazon.com, sign in to your Amazon account, and select **St. John** Catholic Church, Fayetteville or **St. Mary** Catholic Church, Ellinger as your organization of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the parish you choose at no cost to you.

TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. In Fatima, Our Lady said, "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." Please join thousands of faithful throughout the Diocese of Austin for 33 days of preparation prayer for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. Prayers begin on **February 20** and are done privately in our homes using the consecration preparation book. Please visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org by **January 18** to receive your FREE Montfort preparation prayer book by mail and to obtain more information.

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, AD 2022**

ST. JOHN LITURGICAL DUTIES

LECTOR

Saturday (5:00 p.m.) – Mary Keilers

Sunday – Nikki Beseda

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday (5:00 p.m.) – Pat Geistmann(H), Wanda Fritsch(H),
Joan Malota(C), Sharon Martinek(C)

Sunday – Jeanne Schilling(H), Kayla Kaspar(H),
Lori Spiess(C), John Spiess(C)

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday (5:00 p.m.) – Abigail Taylor, Jacob Nigh,
Trace Chovanec

Sunday – Luke Beseda, Mackayla Griffin, Scotti Beseda

GIFT BEARERS

Saturday (5:00 p.m.) – Bradley Malota Family

Sunday – Rick Schilling Family

ALTAR DUTY FOR DECEMBER: Sara Vandel,
Rachel Kubala, Dawn Supak, Madeline Kovar

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday – Erwin Kovar, Betty Kovar, Ronnie Chernosky,
Robert Janish

Sunday – Kenneth Noska, David Bertsch, Lee Matocha,
John Spiess

ST. JOHN CONTACTS

Pastoral Council Chair	Leslie Little
Finance Council Chair	Steve Pavlicek
St. John Altar Society	Madeline Kovar
Pro-Life Coordinator	Nikki Beseda
K.J.Z.T.	Mary Jane Toddy
Hall Rental	Parish Office
Cemetery	Ronald Kramr

LAST ADVENT RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES

Rockdale	Monday	December 19	6:00 p.m.
Giddings	Friday	Dec. 23	6:00 p.m.

How is God Calling YOU?

God has given a special vocation, a unique mission, to each person. It lies within the soul, waiting to be discovered. The realization of one's vocation can occur at different stages in one's life. For some, it is an easy and almost effortless discovery. For others, it can be a long and arduous search.

The word "discernment" comes from the Latin "discernere" which means "to separate." When one is "discerning", it means he or she is taking time apart in order to pray, think, reflect, and discover the unique plan God has for his or her life.

It is important that we pray daily for the discernment of our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and fellow parishioners that they will be open to God's call, whether to consecrated life, to the priesthood, or to sacramental marriage.

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord directed him." Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at (512) 949-2430 or via email at vocations@austindiocese.org.

ST. MARY LITURGICAL DUTIES

LECTOR

Saturday (11:00 p.m.) – Alfred Ermis

Sunday – L.J. Korenek

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday (11:00 p.m.) – Donna Shula, Lee Roy Shula

Sunday – Jo Ann Divin, L.J. Korenek

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday (11:00 p.m.) – Briana Dybala

Sunday – Luke Korenek

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday – James Wunderlich, Anton Becka, Lee Roy Shula,
Alfred Ermis

Sunday – Jim Sula, Bradley Divin, Donnie Becka, James Korenek

ST. MARY CONTACTS

Pastoral Council Chair	Joe Lamer
Finance Council Chair	Ed Alvarado
St. Mary Altar Society	Donna Shula
Pro-Life Coordinator	Aimee Korenek
K.J.Z.T.	Mary Vrazel
K.J.T.	James Korenek
Hall Rental	Parish Office
Cemetery	Vlasta Korenek

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m. at St. John

Mass During the Night - 11:00 p.m. at St. Mary

DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary

10:00 a.m. - St. John

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

DECEMBER 31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE

Vigil Masses - 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary

- 6:00 p.m. at St. John

JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary

10:00 a.m. - St. John

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7

Vigil Masses - 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary

- 6:00 p.m. at St. John

JANUARY 8

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary

10:00 a.m. - St. John

Fourth Sunday of Advent



The cases of Mary and Bethlehem in the readings of today show us that God often chooses very weak and unlikely human instruments from a very lowly and unlikely background to fulfill His plan. Never think that you are not good enough to be used by God!

