

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time

Sunday, Dec 02, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A sober reckoning

Happy Advent! Although this season shares Lent's purple color, it's not meant to evoke the penitential atmosphere of that other preparatory season. Yet Advent does invite us to a more contemplative mood. Apart from the dizzying holiday pace of December, we make room to ponder a mystery. God is with us: as a baby born to mortal limits, as the boundless Lord of the end times, and as the Spirit that accompanies us right now, through all our days. Our times give us many reasons to be afraid. The perfect love of God-with-us casts out every fear.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 (3).* "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world."

Monday, Dec 03, 2018

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

Dress to impress

One of the founding members of the Jesuits, Saint Francis Xavier (1506-52) is considered to have been one of the greatest missionaries since the apostles. Appointed to re-evangelize portions of the Far East, Francis placed himself with the outcasts, preaching to the sick and dying at hospitals and orphans and slaves in the street. He understood that, were the fire of Christianity to spread through the East, the kindling must begin at the base of society. Rather than arriving like a royal ambassador, Francis clothed himself with rags and made his home in the lowliest shelters. His example shows us how humble appearances can be the greatest tool for bringing the message of Christ to others.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 (175).* "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."

Tuesday, Dec 04, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Your cup will overflow

God does not send us away hungry. Remember this promise of faith the next time you find yourself feeling empty. During times of spiritual dryness, trust that you will eventually be fulfilled. As Saint John Damascene observed, as created beings, humans are subject to flux: "By flux," writes this seventh-century church doctor, "I mean . . .

depletion, for dry things and wet things and spirit suffer depletion, and require repletion." The best thing you can do to restore your soul is to continue to pray and to do good works. As you feed others, you will soon find yourself satisfied as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176).* "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see."

Wednesday, Dec 05, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

On top of the world

"We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop," Martin Luther King Jr. said in his last public speech. "I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land." In scripture, mountains are sacred places; the mountaintop is the epitome of the experiences that show us the glory of God. From that vantage point, everything fades away and we see like God—with a clarity that gives glory and can change the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177).* "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples."

Thursday, Dec 06, 2018

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP
He comes bearing gifts

Saint Nicholas spoke out against heresies and was imprisoned for a time for his beliefs. His faithfulness is exemplary, but charity remains his signature virtue. What started with Nicholas tossing a few bags of coins into a poor family's yard has been transformed over centuries of retelling, embellishing, grafting, and adapting into the magical tales of Ole Saint Nick (Father Christmas, Santa Claus, Kris Kringle), whose yearly ambition is to deliver gifts to every girl and boy. We may not bring out our best robes and a fatted calf for the annual return of Santa, but cookies and milk serve nicely to show our gratitude to Saint Nick for inspiring ole souls of every stripe to be jollier and more generous.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178).* "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

Friday, Dec 07, 2018

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
We're expecting!

Expectant mothers and fathers hear the stories of the coming of the Christ child with new ears. They know what it was

like for Mary, large with child and focused on an inward life; and for Joseph, large with anxiety and focused outward on protecting and providing for this expanding family. Yet even those of us who do not anticipate carrying an infant in our arms anytime soon are Christ-bearers, as Saint Ambrose (c. 340-397) reminds us: "Christ has only one mother in the flesh, but we all bring forth Christ in faith." Prepare a place for the newborn!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179).* "Let it be done for you according to your faith."

Saturday, Dec 08, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Past and present

Advent is a good time to ponder the mysteries of Mary, and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (which celebrates Mary's conception) is a good place to start. According to Pope Pius IX's 1854 solemn decree on the Immaculate Conception, "Mary was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ." Here's the mystery: God preserved Mary from sin through the love of her son. What does this mean? It means that God works in the past as well as the present. It means further that our own past wounds and deeds—which we thought were cast in stone—are available to be transformed, too. What in your past needs healing?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38* "The angel said to her, 'Nothing will be impossible with God.'"

Next Sunday

Sunday, Dec 09, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A guide to keep us safe

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6).* "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Dec. 1-2, First Sunday of Advent

"Listening to the cry of those who suffer violence and are oppressed by unjust systems and structures, and hearing the appeal of a world that by its perversity contradicts the plan of its Creator, we have shared our awareness of the church's vocation to be present in the heart of the world by proclaiming the Good News to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, and joy to the afflicted"

DECEMBER 2, 2018 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(1971 World Synod of Bishops, Justice in the World, 5).

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5:30PM

For the repose of the souls of Henry Sr., and Harriet Adams, Henry Jr., and Lucille Adams, Carroll, Karl Jeffery and David Adams, requested by Jennifer Brooks.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 8:00AM

Repose of the souls of Lorne D. Moran, Rosa, John T., Peter and Ma Moran, Walter and Seline Delphin, Edward and Marion Duncan-Hall, requested by Donald J. Moran.

Prayers for Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD as he prepares for Heart Surgery, requested by Chris and Kaye Crawford.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 10:00AM

Thanksgiving Mass for Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Aniekwu and Family.

For the Repose of the souls of: Marian and Howard Charles, Gloria Glover, Marian, Andrew and Barney Jackson, Carl Brown Jr., and Carl Brown, Sr. requested by Brent and Frances Brown.

TUESDAY, Noon Mass, December 4th

Repose of the souls of Edward Fenton, Dina, and Rupert King, Adri and David Martin, and Curtis Byer, requested by Selwyn King

WEDNESDAY, Mass, December 5th

Repose of the souls of Albert, Willetta, and Elmer Wallace, Charles, Viola, Freddie, Bertha, Weldon, Peggy and Jack Davis, requested by Jerry and Jackie Wallace

THURSDAY, Noon, Mass, Dec 6th

Repose of the souls of, aborted babies, requested by Ed. and Elina Mullen

FIRST FRIDAY, MASS 6:30pm Dec 7th

Repose of the souls of Marie, Carmen, Barbara, George, Margaret Mary, and Edward Albert Mullen Sr., requested by Ed and Elina Mullen

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2, 2018

Mass 8:00AM
Rosary 9:30AM
Mass 10:00AM
Revival 6:00PM

Monday Dec 3, 2018

Revival / Reconciliation 6:30PM

Tuesday Dec 4, 2018

Noon Mass
Revival 6:30PM

Wednesday Dec 5, 2018

Noon Mass

Thursday, Dec 6, 2018

Noon Mass
Choir 6:00PM

Friday Dec 7, 2018

First Friday Mass 6:30pm

Saturday Dec 8, 2018

The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary. MASS-10:00AM Vigil Mass 5:30PM

Weekend November 24/25, 2018

ATTENDANCE

VIGIL MASS 21
SUNDAY
8:00 am 56
10:00 am 182
1:30 pm 67

Weekend November 24/25, 2018

OFFERTORY \$2341.27
Children 27.00
E-GIVING 1115.23
IGBO Mass 164.00
SVDP (E-GIVING) 25.00
SVDP 322.00
Gift Store 30.00
ACTS 565.00

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas Lunch will be Sunday, December 23, 2018, 1:30PM; at Pappadeaux's (Research Blvd location), cost \$45.00 per person, includes drink and dessert, cash bar is available.

Menu will be in next week bulletin, for your choice of Entrée, But most importantly!

"Save The Date"

IGBO MASS JANUARY 27, 2019

Next IGBO Mass, is Sunday, January 27, 2019, 1:30pm. Help spread the news. All Catholics are welcome.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

"The Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry is in need of volunteers. This ministry helps the poor and needy with rent, utilities and food. Please consider joining the Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry, contact Tina Frank at 512-965-5949 or church office for additional information."

TRAVELING CHALICE

Thank you to these families who have received the Traveling Chalice into their homes and prayed for vocations for one week: The Michel Ukanda Family, Alice and Ron Scharfe, Tina and Tony Frank, Debbie Ruiz, and The Patrick Onyenaka Family, The Agwuncha Family, Marie Thompson and Ed and Elina Mullen. This Sunday, the Traveling Chalice will be returned by Ed and Elina Mullen and received by Johnnie and Dean Dorsey.

ADVENT REVIVAL 2018

Sunday December 2nd to Tuesday December 4th. Revivalist: Fr. Giles

Conwill, Ph.D. -Retired Priest of San Diego Diocese -Former Professor and Chairman of the History Department of Morehouse College in Atlanta -Former Director of Office of Campus Ministry at Xavier University in New Orleans - Winner of Interdenominational Sermon Writing Contest sponsored by Los Angeles Times and The Upper Room Publishing Co. (500 entrants) -Inducted into The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION

We cordially invite you to join us for food, fellowship, and fun at the Second Annual Courageous Conversation Christmas Social to be held [on Friday, December 7th after 6:30pm Mass](#) at Holy Cross. It will be a pot luck dinner and we ask everyone to bring their favorite side dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert to share. Joyce James Consulting, will provide the meats. Since we are the hosts, we are looking for volunteers to help with set-up and especially cleanup. Please contact Vicki Lott if can help.

Thanksgiving Bags

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary thank for your generosity. 47 bags of food were donated by parishioners that were distributed to a Holy Cross parishioner, the St. Vincent DePaul Ministry and the Blackland Neighborhood Center for families in need to have Thanksgiving meals.



CONSIDER HOLY CROSS IN YOUR WILL

Call the Church Office 512 472 3741