

# *St. Stanislaus Catholic Church*

Founded 1866

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

1511 Hwy 90 South

P O Box 210

Anderson, Texas 77830

936-873-2291 Fax 936-873-3304

Email: [ststan@embarqmail.com](mailto:ststan@embarqmail.com)

[www.saintstans.org](http://www.saintstans.org)

Administrator Elias Lopez Pastor

Permanent Deacon Walter Busa

Secretary / Bookkeeper Carol Serres



## **Mass Schedule**

*Sunday 10 AM*

*Saturday 6 PM*

*Weekdays: Wed. & Fri. at Noon*

*Holy Days: See Bulletin*

*Annual Homecoming Bazaar*

*2nd Sunday in October*

*Other Parish Information See Bulletin*

# *Dear Padre*

DECEMBER 17, 2017

*Once again I feel overwhelmed by the commercial hype of Christmas. Any suggestions for keeping a Christ-centered Christmas amid the shopping and gift expectations?*

It's our Advent task to make Christ, Emmanuel, present in our lives. We do this by centering on the love and peace that is within us and offering that to others. By staying centered and at peace, we'll find the Christ Child even in the midst of the mania!

**Take time to pray.** In Advent, church decorations accent the sense of longing during this season. Make it a part of your schedule to stop in daily for quiet time and prayer.

**Spend less money.** Buy fewer gifts, ones that you really enjoy buying. Let your family know that you intend to spend less money and want to enjoy your purchasing experience. Ask them to help you select gifts that have meaning.

**Be inspiring.** Give gifts that focus more on Christ and Christmas. They could be inspirational books, a Christian music CD, or tickets to a Christmas play or concert.

**Start a tradition.** Make it a point to find a new Christmas tradition from a different culture and adopt that tradition for this season.

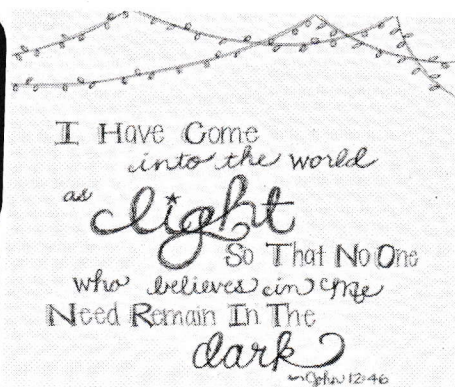
**Volunteer.** Give someone a gift of unexpected kindness, compassion, and unconditional love. Visit the sick, help in a soup kitchen, buy and wrap presents that will be given to the poor.

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**December 17, 2017**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Rejoice in your God,  
the God of hope and light.



Today's readings are readings of hope for a future that is bright with promise. Isaiah announces a year of favor from the Lord in which all manner of suffering is soothed. Saint Paul reminds us to rejoice, to pray always and to give thanks in all circumstances. In John's Gospel, we hear that the Light has come into the world, and it cannot be extinguished.

**Mass Intentions**

**Wednesday December 20th 12:00**

Faye Faust

**Friday December 22nd 12:00**

Maxine Lee & Albert Kimich

**Saturday December 23rd 6:00**

James & Floyd Pasket

**Sunday December 24th 10:00**

Patrick Busa

**Sunday December 24th 4:00**

Antone & Rose Klodzinski  
Bill Walkoviak

**2017 DSF Report**

St. Stanislaus Goal

\$21,000.00

Amount Paid

\$19,025.00

**Under paid \$1,975.00**

Amount Pledged

\$20,392.50

**Under Pledged \$607.50**

**Father Eli**

[lopez.eli68@gmail.com](mailto:lopez.eli68@gmail.com)

[www.houstonvocations.com](http://www.houstonvocations.com)

[www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org)

Enter Parish code:  
MVMZKF to register

**Liturgical Ministers**

**Saturday December 23rd-6:00pm**

**Lectors:** Delores Posinski & Carolyn Kimich **Rosary:** Delores Posinski  
**E.M.H.C** Charles & Delores Posinski, Michael Wisnoski  
**Altar Servers:** Daylen Wagner, Drew Wagner, Christina Hluchan  
**Ushers:** Darrin Pasket, Danny Pasket, Darrell Wagner, Stephen Pasket

**Sunday December 24th-10:00am**

**Lectors:** Tommy & Barbara Szymczak **Rosary:** Barbara Szymczak  
**E.M.H.C** David Borski, Jim Snow, Marion & Evelyn Szymczak  
Joan Pushee & Robert Maggio (Choir)  
**Altar Servers:** Reece Wroblewski, Ryan Wroblewski, Carter Vezurk, Zane Moriarty  
**Ushers** Jerome Klawinski, James Busa, Don Sowell, Ed Marek

**Sunday December 24th- 4:00pm and Monday December 25th-10:00am**

T B D



## Our Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December

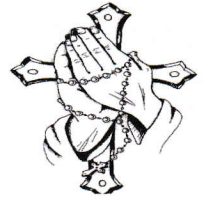
### The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



St Stanislaus Kostka

Pray for us



## 2017 – 2018 Catholic (Ladies) Retreat Theme

### *Ave Crux, Spes Unica: Hail to the Cross, Our Holy Hope*

This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your relationship with God before Lent starts. If you are interested in attending a retreat at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center in Houston on February 23-23, 2018 with a group of ladies from St. Stanislaus, please contact Susan Wisnoski at 936-870-5116 or Joan Pushee at 979-777-3474 and we will help you register or find transportation to this retreat. More information in the back of church.



If you failed to get a copy of our church history book, extra copies are available for \$20 each in the church office. These would make great Christmas gifts.



### New Church Directory

We are working on a new church directory. The photography dates are January 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2:30 to 8:45 and Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00 to 4:15. Photographs will be taken in the parish hall with immediate viewing of digital proofs. Free 8 X 10 portrait and free directory for participating families. Please call the office to schedule your appointment. Please allow 1 hour for your session.



Polish Christmas Bread is available in the back of church.

The world literally grows darker each day this time of the year. But as dark as the world grows, the darkness will not overcome the light. Jesus is the light of the world. He illumines our darkness with his love and truth. We are able to sit in the darkness with confidence that the Lord is with us.



Jesus is  
the Light  
of the  
World



# Welcome to St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

Please contact the parish office if you wish to register or know someone who would like to become a member of our parish. 936-873-2291

**Cemetery Guidelines :** If you have questions or concerns pertaining to the cemetery contact Charles Posinski at 936-873-2113. If work needs to be done on a headstone or grave you must first contact Charles Posinski.

**Altar Society :** St. Stanislaus Altar Society meets the first Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be Thursday January 4th at 6:00 All Catholic ladies are welcome to join us!

**12 Hour Adoration:** Our church is open every Monday 8 am to 8 pm September to May. Everyone is welcome to join in the worship with the scheduled persons.

**Legion of Mary :** Meet every Monday at 6:45 in CCE Building. Visitors will be warmly welcomed.

**Divine Mercy:** Every Friday after the noon Mass . Everyone is welcome to join us.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries :** On the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of every month (Sunday Masses), Fr. Eli will bless anyone with a birthday or wedding anniversary during that month.

**Anointing of the Sick :** Every 3rd weekend of the month, anointing of the sick will be held in the church following the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. Anointing of the sick is for people who are seriously ill or preparing to undergo surgery. It is also for the elderly who are suffering from the infirmities of age.

**Knights of Columbus :** KC Council #4054 meets at the KC Hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm. Please join us. All Catholic men are welcome. Contact Anthony Olivieri at 936-522-8146 for more information.

**Baptism:** Classes are necessary for baptism. Please contact the parish office to make needed arrangements.

**Choir Practice:** Thursdays at 6:30 in the church. Everyone is welcome to join.

**Marriage:** There is a required preparation process that must be completed prior to one being married in the Catholic Church. Please call the office for more information.

**Reconciliation:** 30 Minutes before weekday Masses ( Please call ahead to let the Priest know)  
5:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays

**RCIA:** Anyone seeking the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) or adult confirmation  
Please call the church office at 936-873-2291



## Readings

### Monday Dec. 18

*Advent Weekday*

Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

### Tuesday Dec. 19

*Advent Weekday*

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a

Luke 1:5-25

### Wed. Dec. 20

*Advent Weekday*

Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

### Thursday Dec. 21

*Advent Weekday*

Sg 2:8-14

Lk 1:39-45

### Friday Dec. 22

*Advent Weekday*

1 Sm 1:24-28

1 Lk 1:46-56

### Saturday Dec. 23

*Advent Weekday*

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24

Lk 1:57-66

### Sunday Dec. 24

*Fourth Sunday of*

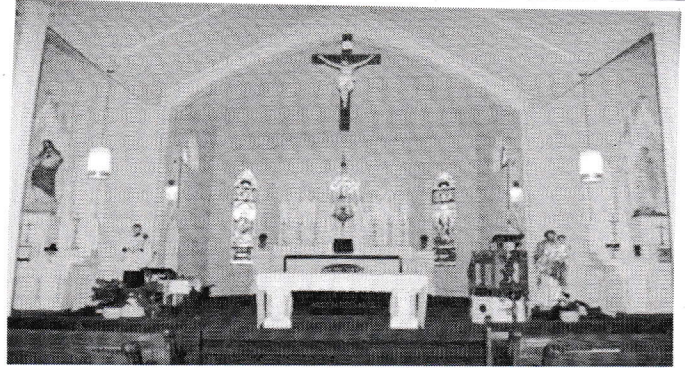
*Advent*

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,

14a, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38



Our Church is open for daily prayer during office hours.

Office hours are Tuesday to Friday 8:00 to 4:00

For information on renting the parish hall,  
please call the office at 936-873-2291

## Please pray for our parish family who are ill and/or homebound.

Lois Barton, Bernice Briers, Betty Busa, Francelle Busa, Michael Busa, Pearl Busa, Christine Bush, Annie Cooper, Margaret Creel, Gary Davila, Patricia Dobyanski, Kari Lynn Eisenman, John Faust, Margaret Fann, Preston Fann, Claudia Gurrola, Meb Hartman, Mark Heymen, George Janacek, Rosalee (Pat) Janacek, Kaudia Johnson, Helen Kimich, Kacy Kitkoski, Kathy Lang, Florence Lara, Katherine Lee, William Lett, Albert Mattern, Russell Mattern, Rosemary Molina, Helen Molitor, Thomas Noble, Joseph Obell, Matthew Oliver, Reagan Oliver, Edward Pasket, Mary Pasket, Barbara Perry, Mary Joel Phillips, Linda Russell, Mike Russell, Kenny Sechelski, Geneva Sicinski, Crista Chiles Skalsky, Alma Smith, La Nell Szymczak, Tonya Taylor, Michael Yanchak.

Please let the  
office know of  
anyone who  
should be added  
or removed  
from these lists.

## Please pray for those in active military duty.

Austin Barnes, Andrew Burzynski  
Don Fontaine, Travis Hayes,  
Cody Klawinsky, Travis Klawinsky  
Matthew Macejewski, John McKnight,  
Phillip Walkowiak



## Upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections:

January 28, 2018  
Bishops' Fund for Latin America

February 4, 2018  
DSF SUNDAY

## Collections

December 9th  
\$ 1,383.00

December 10th  
\$ 3,042.00



## One Minute Meditations

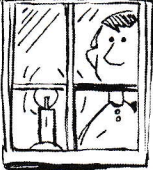

### Why Advent?

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency. It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?" We know Jesus will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.

### Grow in prayer

Our prayer life can mature and grow when we pray for intentions that are outside ourselves. For example, we can pray for the victims of war, the sick, for the people who don't believe in God, and for those in jails and prisons, whether we know them or not. The best kind of prayer is the kind that comes from the heart.

*"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).*

## Advent is preparing for something wonderful

Advent is a gift from the Catholic Church to let us know something wonderful is going to happen at Christmas. Yet in our impatience to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Try taking it one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, and rejoice at the miracle of Christ's wonderful birth ...

### Week One – Wait.

Whenever you find yourself waiting for something this week, think of the fact that you are also waiting for Jesus to come. Ask him what you need to do to be ready for his arrival.

### Week Two – Hope.


This week remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious than we can imagine. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

### Week Three – Prepare.

Look for ways to prepare your heart for Christmas. Go to Confession to ready your soul for God's grace. Reconcile with anyone you need to in order to increase your peace.

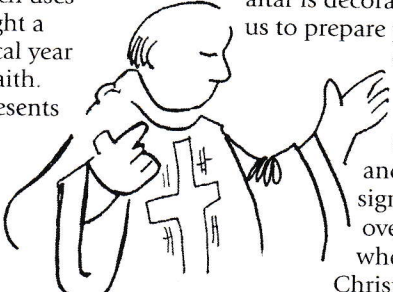
### Week Four – Rejoice.

Sing "O Come, O Come Emanuel" at the top of your voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write out a list of all the things in your life for which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Catholic Church uses visual aids to highlight a season of the liturgical year or a mystery of the faith. Purple - violet - represents a time of penance and preparation. During the weeks of Advent, the priest wears violet vestments and the altar is decorated with violet to remind us to prepare penitentially for Christ's coming.



## Why is purple the color of Advent?

On the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), rose vestments and altar cloths are used to signal that Advent is almost over. This is a happy time when we anticipate the joy of Christ's coming.



## Five ways to keep the season peaceful

Without our really knowing or intending it, the joy of Christmas can get lost in the wrappings and trappings of a hectic holiday. That's why the Church created Advent as the season for quiet and joyful preparation. Here are some ways to help savor the spirit of the season.

**Plan ahead.** Try to anticipate and avert the usual holiday problems. Sit feuding relatives at opposite ends of the Christmas dinner table. Plan how to handle guests who smoke.

**Stay within your budget.** Try postponing shopping as long as you can. You won't have the luxury of time to overbuy.

**Stockpile gifts.** Afraid of getting a gift without having one to give in return? Wrap and set aside a few extra batches of Christmas cookies just in case.

**Make time for personal prayer.** Throughout the season, make time for peaceful meditation and prayer – even if it's only a few minutes a day. Not only will it help defuse the tension, you'll be less frazzled when Christmas arrives.

**When in doubt, sing.** If you find your patience and good cheer running out, sing your favorite Christmas carol – the louder, the better. A little silliness might be the best antidote to holiday stress.

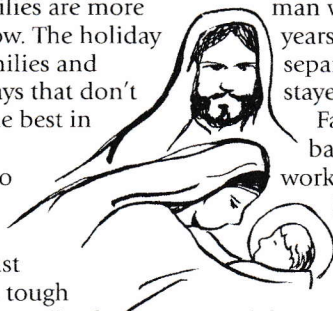


from **S**cripture

### Luke 2:41-52, Families aren't always holy.

Perhaps there is no time during the year when our families are more challenged than now. The holiday brings together families and their baggage in ways that don't always bring out the best in us.

Perhaps it helps to remember that the Holy Family was a real family just like ours. They had tough times, too. There was talk of divorce when Joseph found out Mary was pregnant. Then they had trouble finding a place for Mary to give birth. Immediately afterwards, the family



fled to a strange land because a mad man wanted Jesus killed. Twelve years later, he and his parents were separated for three days when he stayed behind at the temple.

Families have good times and bad, and it takes every member working together to make a healthy family. One gift that strengthened the Holy Family was their cooperation with grace – the gift of God's divine life. How does that look in our own families? For a start, try for harmony in your family this year, and love them as a Holy Family, even if not everyone is singing along.

### Q & A What is a traditional Advent Wreath?

The wreath is an ancient symbol of victory, in this case paying tribute to Christ's victory over sin. Candles in the wreath symbolize the light of Jesus' arrival which brought us out of the darkness of sin.



Three purple candles represent penance, sorrow, and longing expectation. The pink candle, lit on the third Sunday, is a reminder to rejoice, or in Latin "gaudete." That's why it is called Gaudete Sunday. It's the Church's way of letting us know that the best is yet to come.

Light one candle each night during the first week, two candles the second week, etc. Say a few prayers and read a passage from the gospel according to St. Luke to tell the scriptural story of the nativity. Take turns leading family prayers of hope and thanksgiving.

If hectic holiday schedules keep you from gathering as a family each night, be flexible about when you light the wreath. Try breakfast time, after school, or whenever you are all in one place at the same time.

## Use Advent well

Many of us look forward to Christmas all year but let Advent pass unnoticed. This quiet season can't compete with the lights, the joy, and the excitement of Christmas. Instead, why not use this year's season of Advent to prepare for Christmas? Look beyond what your eyes can see to focus on your inner preparations.

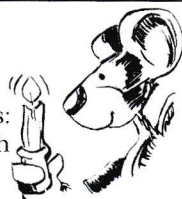
**Keep watch.** Jesus is coming.

We know this because we celebrate his coming every Christmas. He will also come again in glory but we don't know when that will be. Advent reminds us to always be prepared for the coming of Christ. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Matthew 3:3)."

**Give the gift of yourself.** This year

prepare the one gift for Jesus that he truly wants: YOU. Jesus thought each of us was worth love and his life. To him, we are a gift from the Father (John 17:24). Prepare yourself during Advent so that when he unwraps your gift on Christmas morning, it is the very best you have to offer — your love.

**Break down barriers.** Let go of anything that stands between you and your faith. Perhaps you have a bad habit or a companion who is a poor influence. Take the opportunity during Advent to make things right. Ridding yourself of opportunities for sin will help you be ready to greet the Savior when he comes.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

December 2017

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church

Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. John of the Cross

Raised by his mother after his father's death, St. John

studied

with the Jesuits in Spain. He entered the Carmelite Order in 1563. St. John led a much-needed reform of the Order, encouraging more prayer and simplicity. His reforms were not always popular. He was jailed in a tower for almost a year, yet some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came from this experience.

He was a close friend of St. Teresa of Ávila.

**"I am with you always."**

Sometimes God can seem distant and silent. Yet, he promised to stay with us always (Matthew 28:20). The same God who came to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago still comes to us now to live in our churches and our hearts. Today, be mindful of God's loving presence. Ask him to help you grow closer to him.

*"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).*



## A holy Advent leads to a joyful Christmas

During Advent, we wait for the gift of pure love. Taking time each day this season to create moments of watchful silence and thoughtful preparation will lead to real joy at Christmas.

### Watchful silence.

*"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him" (Psalm 62:5).*

God does not shout. He speaks quietly and softly, in a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:11-12). It isn't always heard in the rush of daily life but in the silence of our hearts. During Advent, slow down, quiet down and listen for the still small voice of God.

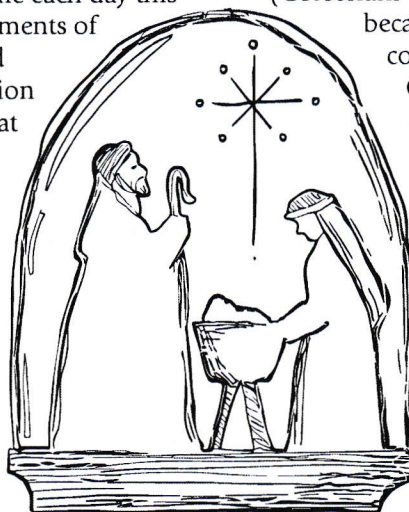
**Prepare.** *"Continue steadfastly in prayer,*

*being watchful in it with thanksgiving" (Colossians 4:2).* We fall into sin

because our hearts are not continuously turned to God. When we confidently turn to him each day, he will give us the protection and strength we need to withstand the darkness of sin. God does not expect us to be perfect but he does want us to be a little better today than the day before. Regular Confession is indispensable.

**Celebrate.** We were created to have a mutual,

loving relationship with God. In fact, he loves us so much that he sent his Son to show us, tell us, and die for us. Celebrate our love story on Christmas with Mass and joy.



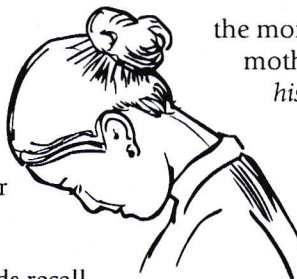
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics bow during the Nicene Creed?

When we proclaim our belief that God's Son was "born of the Virgin Mary and became man," we bow out of reverence for the mystery that made our salvation possible (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #461). These words recall

the moment when Mary became the mother of Jesus, who would, "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

This is an amazing truth – out of love of us, God became man, died for our sins, and rose from the dead.





## Share the Christmas gift of love

At Christmas time, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. To help, remember that Jesus came to us out of love and wants us to find ways to share his love with others. *"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you"* (John 15:12).

Ultimately, Christmas is about love.

**Comfort those who suffer.** This time of year highlights financial struggles and hardships. Offer the gift of love by calling your parish office or Catholic Charities (800-919-9338) to learn how

you can help others in need.

**Offer the gift of yourself.** The holidays can be sad for those who are alone. Spending time with someone else – especially when you don't have much to spare – is one of the most precious ways to show you care.

**Forgive.** There is no better time to offer forgiveness to someone who has wronged you or to ask it of someone you may have hurt. Forgiveness is a powerful form of love in action.



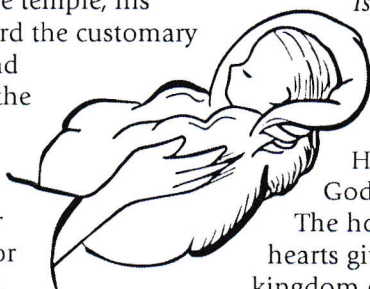
### from Scripture

#### Luke 2:22-40, Look for the Lord

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable and his family was quite ordinary. When it came time to present Jesus in the temple, his parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb and gave two pigeons as the offering of the poor instead. As faithful Jews, they did what was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized him as the Messiah. Inspired by the Holy

Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus was to be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).



Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know him, to receive him, and to be happy with him forever.

### Q & A How can I reduce stress this Christmas?

Christmas celebrates the amazing fact that God's Son became one of us to win

us eternal life. It's not always easy to focus on the Good News while shopping, wrapping, baking, rushing, and entertaining. Try these tips for a more joyful Christmas holiday:

**Set limits.** Stick to your spending limits when buying gifts to avoid sticker shock after the holidays. Be choosy about which invitations to accept so that you aren't exhausted when Christmas arrives.

**Focus on prayer.** Whether it's praying a decade of the Rosary, reading Scripture, or spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in church, daily prayer is a necessity not a luxury.

**Prepare your heart.** Make an examination of conscience and go to Confession. Experience God's mercy as the priest absolves your sins.

**Make it last.** For Catholics, Christmas isn't just one day – the season lasts until January. Celebrate The Holy Family (December 31st), The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1st), The Epiphany (January 7th), and The Baptism of the Lord (January 8th).

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### Feasts & Celebrations

**Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1854).** On this day, we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin. In addition to attending Mass, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way to celebrate.

**Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego, also Native American. She asked that the bishop of Mexico build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses to the bishop as a sign. When the

roses were emptied from his tilma (cape), it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**Dec. 16 – St. Adelaide (999).** A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide had to escape from a murderous plot for the throne. She was rescued by the Holy Roman Emperor, King Otto of Germany. She married him and upon his death ruled for their young son, Otto II. As queen of Germany she was known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.







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