

# St. Jerome Catholic Church

## December 19, 2021

9820 Chapel Road, Waco, Texas 76712 • Church Office 666-7722

### Celebrations

#### Mass + Liturgy Schedule

##### **Weekend Masses— Held in Main Church Sanctuary**

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm (Rosary said at 4:25pm)  
Sunday 8:30 am, 11:00 am (Livestreamed) 5:00 pm

##### **Weekday Masses—**

Tues.— Mass 5:30pm  
Wed.— Mass 8:30am (Adoration from 5-7pm)  
Thurs.— Mass 5:30pm  
Friday — Mass 12:15pm

#### Sacraments and Prayer

**Baptism Class** Every first Monday, 6:30pm-8:30pm. Call the office to Register.

**Reconciliation** Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm during Adoration  
Saturday 3:30pm-4:30pm before 5pm Mass  
(All confessions heard in Confessionals by West Entrance)

**Marriage:** Contact Father James at least six months in advance.

**Wedding Coordinator, Ivette Torres.** Email [stjeromewedding@gmail.com](mailto:stjeromewedding@gmail.com) for more info regarding your wedding!

**Anointing of the Sick—** First Friday of the Month after the 12:15pm Mass

**Rosary Third Sunday of the Month** at 8:00am + Friday at 11:45am

**Divine Mercy Chaplet Second Sunday of the Month** at 8:05am & 10:35am

**St. Jerome Columbarium:** [columbarium@stjeromewaco.org](mailto:columbarium@stjeromewaco.org) for more info!

**Prayer Line:** Susan Voneida, 254-644-7857 [svoneida@hotmail.com](mailto:svoneida@hotmail.com)

#### **Pastoral Council** [pastoralcouncil@stjeromewaco.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@stjeromewaco.org)

Ron Woodard	Pedro Reyes	Holly Bennett
Shawn Bailey	Amy Rhoades	Ed Rogers (chair)
Kyle Lewie	Dalene London	John Mayer

#### **Parish Leadership Team**

Raymond Curtice	Deacon Greg George
Angela Daly	Emily Hunter
Mark Falsone	Linda Smith

**Bulletin Deadline:** Noon on Friday. Submissions can be sent to [secretary@stjeromewaco.org](mailto:secretary@stjeromewaco.org). Submissions will appear for at least 2 weeks.

**St. Jerome LIFETEEN/Youth Group:** [stjilifeteen@stjeromewaco.org](mailto:stjilifeteen@stjeromewaco.org)

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday thru Friday: 830am-4:00pm

**Connect with St. Jerome online!**



@stjeromewaco



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



### Mission Statement:

To experience Christ's love and saving presence in our local community.

**Pastor:** Rev. James Ekeocha

### **Parish Staff**

Rae Carter, Greg George, Ray Jones, *Deacons*

Carl London, *Operations Manager*

Rita Figueroa, *Administrative Assistant*

Louie Leanos, *Secretary*

Mark Falsone, *Bookkeeper*

Liz Rogers, *Music Director*

Angela Daly, *Coordinator, Little Lions Ministries*

Whitney Godfrey, *Director, Youth Ministry*

Betsey Wechter, *Coordinator, Elementary Faith Formation*

Jonathan Godfrey, *Coordinator of Worship*

Eppie Ellis, *Facilities Assistant*



<b>Saturday</b>		<b>December 18, 2021</b>
5:00pm	†	Edward & Evelyn Podsednik
<b>Sunday,</b>		<b>December 19, 2021</b>
8:30am		For the People
11:00am	†	Harry Treese
5:00pm		Brian Elias
<b>Tuesday,</b>		<b>December 21, 2021</b>
5:30pm	†	Sam Hurst
<b>Wednesday,</b>		<b>December 22, 2021</b>
8:30am	†	JoAnn Clafferty
<b>Thursday,</b>		<b>December 23, 2021</b>
5:30pm	†	Bob O'Beirne
<b>Friday,</b>		<b>December 24, 2021</b>
5:00pm	†	Dr. George F. Nixon, Jr
7:00pm		For the People
12:00 am	†	Rev. Dennis C. Vellucci
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>December 25, 2021</b>
9:00am	†	Mike & JoAnn Clafferty
<b>Sunday,</b>		<b>December 26, 2021</b>
8:30am		Bill & Jane McBride
11:00am	†	Gina Rovedo Marra
5:00pm		For the People

*The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for  
Harry Treese*

### OFFERTORY & GIFT COLLECTION

**Due to the holiday schedule, contributions will  
be recorded in the next bulletin.**

*Thank you for your generous support of Saint  
Jerome Catholic Church. Your contributions are  
vital for our shared mission as a parish!  
May God bless you, Fr. James*

### Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

**Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
**Monday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56  
**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66  
**Friday:** *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79  
**Saturday:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25/*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
**Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

### SICK IN OUR PARISH

Lisa Alcorn, Eileen Bentsen, Elizabeth Berger, Debbie Braswell, Helena Bravo, Paulette Caldwell, Rob Chapman, Michael & Lori DiDonato, Debbie Flores, Donna Fitzpatrick, Jacky Fortenberry, Faith Fortenberry, Denne Freeman, Alice Gallagher, Len Gano, Mark Henry, Mike & Ann Marie Hillman, Janet Jenkins, Deacon Ray Jones, Carl & Billie Kathryn Kuhnle, Maggie Kruger, Ray Lyons, Linda McDorman, Michael Moore, Kaisley Noelle Moss, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Kallie Roy, Kathy S., Betsy Schwager, Elly Smallwood, Melissa Reicher, Mike Wardlaw

**Flowers this weekend are dedicated to  
the Mercado Family at the Blessed  
Joseph Statue.**

### Scripture Study w/ Deacon Greg

Join us to learn about Holy Scripture every Wednesday from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. We will meet in A&J Hall. We use the New American Bible, Catholic edition. Everyone is invited to participate. Please contact Deacon Greg George at 254-424-3061 for further information. We are excited and eager to see you there! If you are unable to join us in person, a zoom link is available, please contact Deacon Greg to obtain it.

Dear people of God at St. Jerome!

St Gregory of Nyssa once said, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy state, didn't it move God to descend to human nature and not just visit it, but "pitched His tent amongst us." As such, we can rightly say that Christmas is the great feast of God's mercy. Seeing humanity lost and wandering in exile of pain and suffering, God did something daring and endearing. In his Son Jesus Christ, He physically entered our world. As espoused by John the evangelist, *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14)* And *"to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God."* (John 1:12) Friends, that's our Christmas joy. That's our Christmas song.

How wonderful it is that Jesus is an immeasurable gift of God at Christmas. It is so refreshing for us to believe and accept this gift within us, and also to know that each and every one of us is a gift too. To this world, each of us is a gift. God gives us Christ that in us we may replicate him to the world. I mean, in this world we have a mission to accomplish; an honorable task to fulfill. This is pretty much possible if we make a total embrace of Christ the Lord within us.

Brothers and sisters, when we accept and stand on this promise and gift of God the Father, truly, we will experience the power of being a son and a daughter of the living God. So arise and do not be afraid to receive Jesus the Lord in your life. After all, God became a helpless child so we would not fear him. Who can fear a little child? Wouldn't we rather have the joy and comfort of embracing a harmless child? Remember, *"to those who accept him he gives power to become children of God."*

Thank you for your consideration of this important gift and truth. I wish you and your dear ones a joyous Christmas!

*Fr. James*

### **EIM Notice**

The online EIM refresher course will no longer be available starting January 1, 2022. If you are in need of an EIM refresher, you may use the online option through 12/31/2021. After this date your only option will be to attend an in-person workshop. If you are not sure if you need a refresher, please contact Mark Falsone in the Church office.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Children's Christmas Play

3:30 pm-4:00 pm

Children's Christmas Mass

4:00 pm

Christmas Vigil Mass

7:00 pm

Christmas Midnight Mass

12:00 am

Christmas Day Mass

9:00 am

No 5:00 pm Mass

### **Pastoral Council Discernment**

Would you or someone you know in the Parish like to join our Council? We are looking for several new members to join for a 3-year term! Now is the time to prayerfully consider whom you would like to nominate. Qualified candidates should be at least 18 years old, Baptized and an active member of the parish for 1 year. Details on the process will follow in the coming weeks. Orientation will be on January 27th. Discernment will be February 3rd.

### **Baby Banks**

Are you doing something special for Advent as we prepare for the coming of the infant Jesus? We are having a Mini Baby Bank Campaign during Advent. There will be a few banks available in the narthex (foyer) as you enter the church via the main entrance. What a great way to help your children get ready for their Savior by helping unborn babies arrive just as Jesus did. Please return the banks to the narthex on Dec. 26 - The feast day of the Holy Family. Thank you!

### **MOSTJ World Famous Pancake Breakfast**

The Men of St. Jerome World Famous Pancake Breakfast will not be served Sunday January 9th since the parish Epiphany luncheon will be served that day. The MOSTJ pancake breakfast will return Sunday February 13th.