



# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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DECEMBER 2019

## Growing Up At Christmas in the Czech Culture, Traditions

By Sara Jahns Janak

Growing up as only half-Czech, my family did not celebrate traditions from our heritage when I was growing up. However, the Janak family I married into has a much stronger grasp on Czech Christmas traditions.

Czechs start their Christmas in anticipation of Saint Nicholas Day. Stockings are hung on or before December 6. Saint Nicholas was born in the third century, lost his parents in an epidemic while he was still young, and devoted his life to serving God. Saint Nicholas is known as the friend and protector of all in trouble or need. If you have been good during the year, he leaves apples, oranges, pears, and nuts in the family's stockings. But, if you have been bad, you will be left a lump of coal! In more recent years, he has brought our daughters a small gift or even Christmas-themed pajamas to celebrate the season.

Celebrating Saint Nicholas Day is early in the Christmas season, many Czech traditions happen on Christmas Eve. As my father-in-law, Joe Janak, remembers:

"The Christmas Eve meal would start with soup-chicken noodle soup. Then, we always had fried fish (usually Dad went and

bought redfish). That was a strong Czech custom. We also had fried oysters, french fries, and all the trimmings. The whole family got together then. As a young family, we would always kneel and say a rosary around the tree before opening Christmas gifts. Mom would bake at least one Czech Christmas Bread, Vánočka (special braided sweet bread with nuts, cherries, etc.). She would always have dozens of fruit kolaches and poppyseed rolls freshly baked.

In the 1960s, families would get together and practice singing. On Christmas Eve, they would go caroling at the neighboring homes. I remember them coming to our home. They would usually sing at least one or two songs in Czech, and the rest were popular Christmas songs. In return for gratitude, we would offer them drinks or give them something to eat; we never knew if they were coming over, so we shared whatever we had.

The Christmas cedar tree was harvested from our farm. It was a native cedar tree decorated with chains made from strips of paper glued in links and of course, silver tinsel, lights, and ornaments. We would also make one or several Christmas wreaths out of extra cedar branches and hang them on

the house entrances. We would also make a tabletop wreath of cedar and other ornaments with four candles on it, lighting one per week preceding Christmas for Advent prayers and the Rosary.

We would paint eggshell decorations when we were very young and hung them on the tree. It seems to me we sometimes had mistletoe hanging above one of the doors, too. It should bring good luck. And, if people kiss under it, love will stay with them in the coming year.

As children, we would usually get one toy to play with plus some clothing for Christmas. Adults sipped on eggnog and whiskey,

mixed drinks, or pivo (beer).

In later years, we played taroky, the Czech card game, until it was time to go to Midnight Mass. Sometimes we'd come home and play taroky after Mass until nearly 3:00 a.m.

The Christmas tree would not come down until the Epiphany; the Feast of the Three Kings day January 6. Another tradition I remember well is that my Dad even used chalk to make a unique sign over the kitchen door. It was a reminder of the Wise Men that visited the baby Jesus. It is made from the year split in two with the initials of the Wise Men's names in-between; Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar. It

is still above the kitchen door today as he put it there in about 1980. It looks like 19\*C\*M\*B\*80."

As much as we hold on to traditions or the memories of them, our family is no different than most. Our grandparents or great grandparents were the glue that held many of our family gatherings together. As the years go by and God calls them back home, extended families tend to gather less often during the Christmas season. We are all busy traveling from one side of the family to the other. We feel like we are too pressed for time to make kolaches or Christmas Bread. What I have remembered while reflecting on my father-in-law's memories is that, for the traditions of our heritage to live on, we must take the time to teach our children. Teach them to have patience while the dough rises, teach them to enjoy this time with our families, and teach them to keep the Baby Jesus in their hearts as our Czech descendants did before us. He is, after all, the reason for the season.

### Veselé Vánoce a Šťastný Nový Rok

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*The tradition of leaving your shoes out for St. Nicholas shown here at the right. Sophie and Justin looking through the stuff St. Nicholas left them. Included fruit, saint cards, and some candy.*



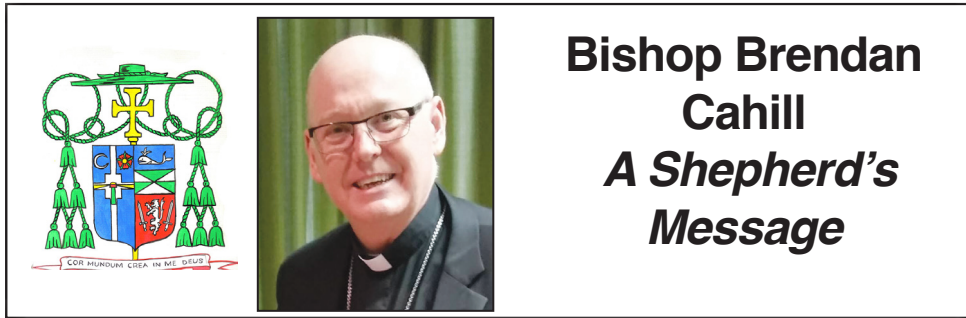
Katie Janda said, "We celebrate Svatý Mikuláš coming! The kids put out their boots, and he brings them apples, oranges, chocolate coins, a prayer card, and a little toy. I also threaten the kids that Čert (the devil who accompanies Sv. Mikuláš) will come and rattle his chains at them if they don't behave...!"

Ashley Knopp said, "We do shoes and in them oranges, candy cane, prayer cards, simple and sweet."

Agnes Minks said, "When I was growing up, over 70 years ago, we always had St. Nicholas come, he brought fruit.

See other Czech Traditions, pg. 17





## Bishop Brendan Cahill *A Shepherd's Message*

### Like the Village Fountain

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A few years ago, someone was preaching about St. John XXIII, and the person quoted some words of the saintly Pope. St. John XXIII hoped for the Church to have a motherly face. He believed that her task was to keep “her arms open to receive everyone” and be a “home for one and all” that “desires to belong to everyone, and in particular she is the Church of the poor, like the village fountain.”

As we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, it remains striking to see that he wasn't born in a palace or castle. Mary gave birth to a Son in a manger, with the just and humble Joseph protecting her and her Child. The beauty of the art and

music that portray this event and the childhood of Jesus shine the mission of the church brightly. We have come to believe that this Child brings hope and healing to the world, and we go out with energy to proclaim the beauty and potential for every child. Like the village fountain, we give water to everyone, with no distinction.

How blessed we are to proclaim this Good News throughout the Diocese of Victoria! All of our work and actions are powerful, and are made even more powerful when connected to the love of God and humanity shining forth from that manger in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

St. John XXIII prayed a simple prayer

every day that kept him connected with Jesus. It was a commitment of 10 things each day and is called the daily Decalogue of Pope John XXIII. I shared this with you before and think this could be a powerful prayer for us as we celebrate the Christmas season and begin to make our commitments for a new 2020:

1) Only for today, I will seek to live the lifelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.

2) Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.

3) Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

4) Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

5) Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is

necessary to the life of the soul.

6) Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

7) Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

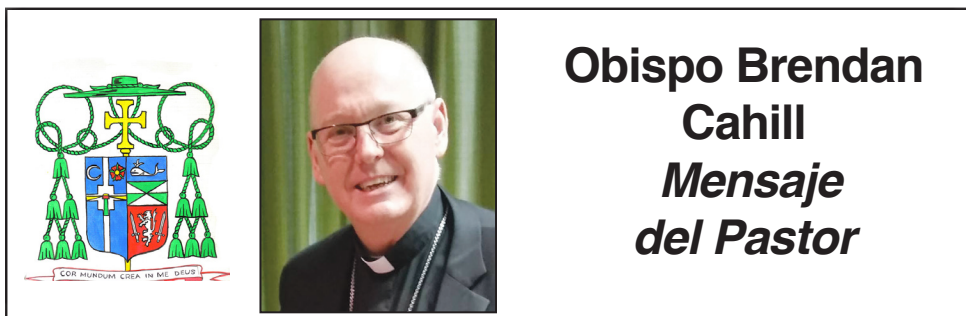
8) Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

9) Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

10) Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for 12 hours, I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

May God bless you and your families with peace and good health this Christmas season, and may we be like the village fountain that gives water to all who are thirsty!

+Brendan



## Obispo Brendan Cahill *Mensaje del Pastor*

### Como la Fuente del Pueblo

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Hace unos años alguien estaba predicando sobre San Juan XXIII y la persona citó algunas palabras del santo Papa. San Juan XXIII esperaba que la Iglesia tuviera una cara maternal. Él creía que su tarea era mantener “sus brazos abiertos para recibir a todos” y ser un “hogar para todos y cada uno” que desea pertenecer a todos, y en particular ella es la Iglesia de los pobres, como la fuente del pueblo “.

Mientras nos preparamos para celebrar el nacimiento de nuestro Señor y Salvador, sigue siendo sorprendente ver que no nació en un palacio o castillo. María dio a luz a un hijo en un pesebre, con el justo y humilde José protegiéndola a ella y a su hijo. La belleza del arte y la música que retratan este evento y la infancia de Jesús iluminan la misión de la Iglesia. Hemos llegado a creer que este Niño trae esperanza y sanación al mundo, y salimos con energía para procla-

mar la belleza y el potencial de cada niño. Al igual que la fuente del pueblo, damos agua a todos, sin distinción.

¡Cuán bendecidos somos de proclamar estas Buenas Nuevas en toda la Diócesis de Victoria! Todo nuestro trabajo y acciones son poderosas, y se hacen aún más poderosas cuando se conectan con el amor de Dios y la humanidad que brota de ese pesebre en Belén hace 2000 años.

San Juan XXIII rezó una oración simple todos los días que lo mantenía conectado con Jesús. Fue un compromiso de 10 cosas cada día y se llama el Decálogo diario del Papa Juan XXIII. Compartí esto contigo antes y creo que esta podría ser una oración poderosa para nosotros mientras celebramos la temporada navideña y comenzamos a hacer nuestros compromisos para un nuevo 2020:

1) Solo por hoy, buscaré vivir este día de mi vida positivamente sin desear resolver todos los problemas de mi vida de una vez.

2) Solo por hoy, cuidaré mucho mi apariencia: me vestiré con modestia; no alzaré mi voz; seré cortés en mi comportamiento; no criticaré a nadie; no pretendo mejorar ni disciplinar a nadie excepto a mí mismo.

3) Solo por hoy, seré feliz con la certeza de que fui creado para ser feliz, no solo en el otro mundo sino también en este.

4) Solo por hoy, me adaptaré a las circunstancias, sin requerir que todas las circunstancias se adapten a mis propios deseos.

5) Solo por hoy, dedicaré 10 minutos de mi tiempo a una buena lectura, recordando que así como la comida es necesaria para la vida del cuerpo, la buena lectura es necesaria para la vida del alma.

6) Solo por hoy, haré una buena acción y no se lo diré a nadie.

7) Solo por hoy, haré al menos una cosa que no me gusta hacer; y si mis sentimientos están heridos, me aseguraré de que nadie se

dé cuenta.

8) Solo por hoy, haré un plan para mí: puede que no lo siga al pie de la letra, pero lo haré. Y estaré en guardia contra dos males: la precipitación y la indecisión.

9) Solo por hoy, creeré firmemente, a pesar de las apariencias, que la buena Providencia de Dios se preocupa por mí como nadie más que existe en este mundo.

10) Solo por hoy, no tendré miedo. En particular, no tendré miedo de disfrutar lo bello y creer en la bondad.

De hecho, durante 12 horas puedo hacer lo que podría causarme consternación si creyera que tuve que hacerlo toda mi vida. ¡Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias con paz y buena salud esta temporada navideña y que seamos como la fuente del pueblo que da agua a todos los que tienen sed!

+ Brendan







## Bishop Cahill's Schedule

<b>December</b>		4:30 p.m. Bishop's Annual Christmas Dinner at the Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
3	6:00 p.m. Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Christmas party at Victoria Country Club, Victoria	
4	8:05 a.m. School Mass and Visit at St. Joseph, Yoakum	17 6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio Morning Air Show
	4:30 p.m. CCD visit at St. Ann, Point Comfort	18 2:30 p.m. Finance Board Meeting at the Chancery, Victoria
6	8:15 a.m. School Mass and Visit at St. Phillip, El Campo	6:10 p.m. CCD Mass and Visit at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
7	11:00 a.m. 1st Profession Ceremony for Cherise Kleka at St. Mary's Catholic Center, College Station	19 4:30 p.m. Supper with IWBS Healthcare Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
8	8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony's ending the 33 days to Morning Glory, Columbus	24 4:00 p.m. Christmas Mass with the IWBS Healthcare Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
	10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Roch ending the 33 days to Morning Glory, Mentz	25 Midnight Christmas Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
9	11:30 a.m. Chancery Staff Advent Retreat	28 Mass with the Carmelites, Meyersville
11	5:30 a.m. mañanitas and Mass with the Missionary Catechists	30 6:00 p.m. Serra Club Christmas Mass and Dinner with seminarians and religious in formation at Holy Family, Victoria
	6:30 p.m. CCD visit at Sacred Heart, Flatonia	
12	5:00 a.m. mañanitas and Mass in celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Santisima Trinidad, Victoria	<b>January</b>
14	Mass with the Carmelites, Meyersville	1 10:00 a.m. Mass – Mary, Mother of God at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
	10:00 a.m. Hispanic Ministry meeting at the Chancery, Victoria	2 10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council at the Chancery, Victoria
		3 Noon Mass and lunch with the Serrans at Colony Creek, Victoria
		4 Mass with the Carmelites, Meyersville

## Letter to the Editor

### Dear Editor,

I am writing because I would like to publicly thank Bishop Cahill for the *Rosary Congress* he organized recently to pray for our hurting Church and our divided Country.

Sad to say, I really doubt that the average Catholic has any idea how serious things have gotten in the Roman Catholic Church. Everything coming out of the Amazon Synod is shocking and angering. This Synod has the potential to cause a schism in the Church. This is unthinkable, but it is becoming more and more probable with what has been reported regarding the Synod. Prelates at the Synod are in favor of married priests, women priests, incorporation of pagan rituals into the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, etc. Answers to legitimate and pointed questions about the workings of the Synod have been vague and guarded (see *The World Over with Raymond Arroyo*). Equally disappointing and angering has been Pope Francis' participation in and apparent acceptance of all the questionable issues being discussed including the tree planting ceremony on Vatican grounds which incorporated pagan worship of nature and the earth. This is outrageous.

Our Country as well is struggling under a constant barrage of hate-filled verbiage and actions. It has reached fever pitch. We have to pray for our beloved Country that it will remain a free nation (we are a republic, not a democracy; we do not want to become socialist or communist), free to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to other nations (including the Amazonian region), and free so we may practice our Catholic faith at home without fear.

We are truly living in an unprecedented time in salvation history. Our Lady of Medjugorje has not been with us for 38 years and counting because things are going well in the Church and the world at large. Now, as

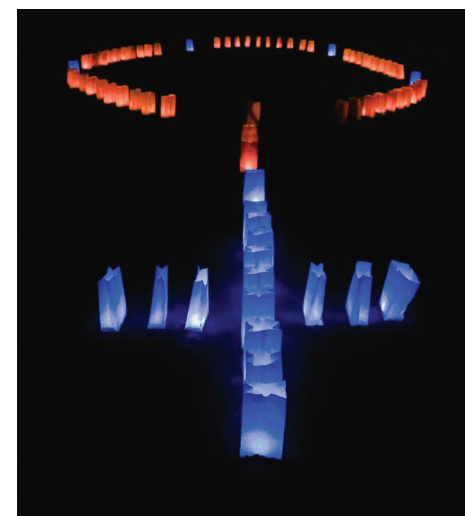
never before, we need to turn to our Blessed Mother and enlist Her heavenly aid through the Rosary and fasting. Our Blessed Mother has asked us to fast on bread and water every Wednesday and Friday, pray the Rosary every day, read Sacred Scripture every day, and go to confession once a month. We can pray the Rosary in our families daily or form weekly prayer groups with neighbors and friends.

Thank you, Bishop Cahill, for your concern and courage in calling for the Rosary Congress. My own parish has participated, and we will all continue to pray for you, the Church, and our Country.

All for Jesus through Mary.

Reene Terrell

El Campo, Texas



**YOUTH PRAY ROSARY TOGETHER—**  
The CCD children of Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Frelsburg held their annual living rosary recently. They lit a luminary representing each bead, as they prayed their way around the rosary.

*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of December:*

Rev. Eliecer Patiño Hurtado	12/01/07	Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah	12/06/97	St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton

*Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of December:*

Rev. Msgr. C.J. Martin	12/01/89
Rev. Msgr. Henry S. Herbst	12/07/94
Rev. Joseph A. Koebel	12/12/05
Rev. Msgr. Alex Kraus	12/19/92
Rev. Msgr. Eustace A. Hermes	12/23/16
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula	12/25/17
Rev. Joseph Leyva	12/31/83

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (*John 11:25-26*)



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**DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH**  
**Periodical postage paid at Victoria, TX and additional Entry Offices**  
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Presidio La Bahia

Up Coming Event:  
*El Soldado de Mexico January 25-26*  
Join reenactors as they recreate elements of Santa Anna’s army circa 1836. For more information visit their Facebook page at Presidio La Bahia - Goliad, Texas

Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3.50 for military personnel, \$2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. Group rates available when reservations are made in advance. Guided tours available to large groups and schools, please confirm in advance. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information, call (361) 645-3752.



How to Support DSA

The Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) is committed to fund administration offices and programs that help bring the light of Christ to each of the priorities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the Crossroads. Evangelization, Marriage and Family, and Human Life and Dignity are a few that Bishop Cahill has chosen to focus on. To support the DSA contact Rene Garcia at (361) 573-0828.

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In Memoriam

Deacon  
Jesus Perez



Deacon Jesus Perez, age 67, of Victoria, passed away on Sunday, November 3, 2019. He was born on March 27, 1952, in Vera Cruz, Mexico to the late Jesus Perez and Leonor Castillo de Perez.

He was ordained as deacon on November 17, 1994. He served the Diocese of Victoria at Ganado, Cuero, Yoakum and Victoria.

He loved to cook and loved his grandchildren dearly. He is survived by his wife, Maria Del Rosario Linares Perez; daughter, Erika Perez-Olguin (Mark) of Victoria; son, Jesus Pablo Perez of San Antonio; brothers, Miguel Angel Perez of Monterrey, Mexico, Jose Manuel Perez of Durango, Mexico; sisters, Concepcion Leonor Perez of Laredo, Mexico, Carolina Perez of Monterrey, Mexico; grandchildren, Jade Alvarado, Mark M. Olguin, Ayden Perez, and Isabella Olguin.

A rosary was recited on Thursday evening November 7. A Mass was celebrated at Santisima Trinidad Church with Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer and Father Jacob Koether, and Deacon Ed Molina officiating. Burial followed at Resurrection Cemetery.

Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The **interest from this amount** is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.  
**Donation Categories: Lector - \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

November 18, 2019

• CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2

*Lector*

In memory of Grace Rigamonti by:  
Barbara and Dan Respondek  
CDA Court St Ann #369  
In memory of Valerie Olsovsky by  
CDA Court St Ann #369  
In memory of Loretta Lawrence by  
CDA Court St Ann #369

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse

*Lector*

In memory of Edwin Fiala, Donald Fiala and Patricia Fiala Thomas by Annie, Helen & Billy Dolezal

• Rev. Charles Sonnier Seminary Burse

*Lector*

In honor of Richard and Ruthie Rouse’s 40th wedding anniversary by Lillie S. Janak

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.  
**Donation categories: Lector – \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

Lector

Paz and Andrea Morales  
*in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales*

David & Mary Kay Price

John & Marlene Hennessey

Janet Holub

E.H. & D.K. Hermansen

Acolyte

Marian Kram  
*in Memory of Deacon Milburn Kram*

Douglas & Marsha Petter

Richard & Alice Cernosek  
*in Honor of Bishop Cahill’s Birthday*

Candidate

Robert & Kathryn Kennedy

Transitional Deacon

~

Priest

Estate of Joseph F. Jakubik, Jr.

To contribute to the Education of Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria  
**Education of Seminarian Fund**  
P. O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903



You Still Have Time  
To Donate!

**WHAT:** Christmas at Sea  
**WHEN:** During month of December

Christmas at Sea coming to the Port of Point Comfort for the first time this year. Christmas at Sea transcends the material things included in the boxes. “It lets the guy far away from home feel remembered,” Rhonda Cummins said.

**Collection Locations:**  
**VICTORIA**  
Chancery Office, 1505 E Mesquite Lane  
**PORT LAVACA**  
• Our Lady of the Gulf Church  
415 W. Austin St.  
• Russell Cain Real Estate  
2025 N. SH 35  
• The Port Lavaca Wave  
107 E. Austin St.  
**PALACIOS**  
St. John’s Episcopal Church  
301 E. Main St.





## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Hopeful Waiting

I think of Advent as a time of hopeful waiting as we prepare to celebrate the commemoration of the coming of the long-promised redeemer. Just think of the long eons of waiting and suffering from our spiritual ancestors through the ages before He was finally born over twenty centuries ago. How many times the ancient society had forgotten to keep God's commandments uppermost in their minds and their loyalties and actions. However, there were always some heroic religious prophets who spoke out, and sometimes vainly tried to keep them moving towards God. Often the people's wayward ways brought about consequences that led

to chastisements, which ultimately brought about repentance by the multitudes. A loving, forgiving God would then come to their aid and through chosen leaders who guided them along the path to salvation.

Today we have the gift of knowing that the Redeemer has come and remains with us. However, I think that we still have the need for heroic religious prophets (yes, prophets to speak for God) at this time. I often hear older folks making remarks like, "Society surely has changed since I was young" or people of any age wondering, "How is a person to know what to do in this crazy world?" We all have seen decreased attendance at religious

services, lack of respect for persons or life. An attitude that society increasingly accepts philosophies that redirect our focus to be centered on values that do not promote (or might even become a stumbling block for) God-fearing principles.

While I am not planning to dissect society to show why it seems to drift away from the religious fervor that we may have experienced in the past, I do want to remind us of our Baptismal commitment, which is calling us to be prophets who speak for God. What a better time to do this than now during Advent! We can become beacons in the darkness as we shine on the true meaning of Christmas as we prepare for the holiday.

We can imitate St. John the Baptist as a "voice crying out in the desert," announcing the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough

ways made smooth..." (Isaiah 40:3-5) Let us take these words to heart as we prepare for Christmas by making straight his path through

focusing on the spiritual significance of the holiday without getting side-tracked by all the novelties and glitter that beckon our attention. Let us avoid the extravagance that clouds the concept that simple gift-giving is a response to the knowledge that we have been given the greatest gift

possible, God's Son. Let us choose yard and house decorations that remind passers-by of the true meaning of the season; let us remember the poor and lonely; let our Advent practices help us experience the hope and joy that accompanies our anticipation of the celebration of the Nativity of our Redeemer. Let us remind children and grandchildren that we are getting ready for Baby Jesus' birthday. Then watching children excitedly count down the days until Jesus' birthday can boost our own enthusiasm in the days ahead. May you have a hopeful and joyful Advent.



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Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, students portray saints for All Saints' Day, November 1, before Mass. Pictured with the students are Sister Emiliana Grafe and Msgr. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

## Sacred Heart School Celebrates All Saints' Day

HALLETTSVILLE—Why did the Church designate a day to celebrate all Saints? In the early days of the Church, each saint was honored on a special day. Due to the vast numbers being martyred in the first three centuries, there weren't enough days for each to have their special day. The Church also wanted to honor all the saints rather than just the martyrs. In the early 9th century, Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as All Saints Day.

Now the Catholic Church continues to celebrate this feast, remembering all the ordinary people like us who lived their lives according to God's commandments and the Beatitudes that Jesus taught. True to his promise of raising the faithful to new life with him, these people now enjoy the happiness of heaven. They are our role models and can be our heroes. We can imitate them and ask them to intercede for us.

Students at Sacred Heart School honored the Saints before their school Mass on Friday, November 1, 2019. Twenty-eight students, in grades second through fourth, dressed as their patron saint, favorite saint,

or classroom saint.

Seventeen different Saints were represented and recognized by their distinctive clothing and the symbol they carried.

As they processed into Church, the congregation prayed the Litany of Saints. Kenzie C. and Allison C., fifth graders, led the Litany by naming each Saint as they came forward. This helped all to recall many different Saints and to picture how they looked. It was a profound reminder that we all belong to the Communion of Saints. Right now, we are saints in the making so that one day, when God calls us home, we will be ready to join them in glorifying God.

The following students portrayed these Saints: Blessed Virgin Mary - Willow J. and Kristina R.; St. John the Baptist - Edward Lee K.; St. Therese of Lisieux - Adley Z., Khloe O., Max C. and Amryn E.; St. Michael the Archangel - Jacob M., Ethan T., Will H. and Tyler T.; St. Veronica - Kennedy Z.; St. Paul of the Cross - Phillip B. and Gatlin M.; St. Jude Thaddaeus - Macie H.; St. Francis of Assisi - Ben M. and Colsen D.; St. Gemma Galgani - Ainsley D.; St. James the Great - Ty R.; St. Philomena - Ainsley G.; St. Lydia of Thyatira - Lydia K.; St. John Vianney - Grayson W.; St. Elizabeth of Hungary - Emi P. and Kallie L.; St. James the Apostle - Bransen P.; St. Kateri Tekakwitha - Baye S. and Chloe G., and finally Venerable Jeanne Chezar de Matel who is the Foundress of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament who established Sacred Heart School in 1882, and whose Sisters have continued to teach here. Kenzie G portrayed venerable de Matel.

Thanks to Monsignor Peters, teachers and parents, and all who made this beautiful ceremony possible.



### KJT SOCIETY HELPS THE RIDING THERAPY CENTER

—On Saturday, September 21, the KJT Society #42, Wied, helped at the 2nd Annual "Rock It, Don't Knock It" play day. The event held at the Lavaca Expo Center in Hallettsville, benefitting the Riding Therapy Center of Victoria. The play day included poles, straights, cloverleaf, and goat tying. Contestants of all ages vie for belt buckles and the grand prize, a Circle Y Saddle (pictured right), sponsored by KJT Society #43. The saddle had the Riding Therapy Center and the KJT logo imprinted on the leather. A bucket raffle was held in which the society collected over 60 prizes to be given away. The organization raised \$2,000 and could not have done it without everyone's support. Pictured above center is Michelle Olsovsky, director for the Riding Therapy Center, receiving the donation from the KJT members. Wied Society consists of members from Smother's Creek and Hallettsville, who have all consolidated together.



**ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED**—The Knights of Columbus Council #1329 of Victoria, along with the Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 held their Annual Awards Banquet on October 15, at the KC Hall. Knights of the Quarter were Joe Rainosek, Dan Respondek, Alvin Schoener, and Pete Moya. Pete Moya was named Knight of the Year. Families of the Quarter were Steve Motal family, Ernest Rosas family, Felipe Rosales family, and Juan Lara family. The Family of the Year was awarded to Felipe Rosales's family. Pictured (l-r) are Father Christopher Fuchs, Chaplain; Knight of the Year Pete Moya; Grand Knight Mike Nevlud; Family of the Quarter recipient and Deputy Grand Knight Juan Lara; and Knight of the Quarter and Recorder Joe Rainosek.

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**HONORING VETERANS**—St. Philip School, El Campo, held their annual Veteran's Day Program on Monday, November 11. The program, led by Janice Cox, provided a historical overview of important dates read by members of Student Council. Musical selections were also performed by students in each grade level: PK4 sang "Red, White, and Blue", grades K-5 performed a hand routine using colorful gloves (pictured are kindergarten students), while the junior high band, 5th grade recorders, and applied guitar students played many patriotic songs. The program ends with those Veterans in attendance introducing themselves and their branch of service followed by the playing of TAPS.



**JOY FOR SENIORS**—On Thursday, October 31, the Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students from St. Michael School, Weimar, traveled to Parkview Manor Nursing Home to sing Halloween songs and visit with the residents. Students also decorated pumpkins that were donated to Compassionate Providers Service for their Painted Pumpkin Project. The pumpkins were delivered to local nursing homes, hospitals, and to elderly shut-ins.



2019



Vocation Awareness  
Week



**WHAT IS YOUR VOCATION**—On November 5 and 6, 2019, over 200 fifth-graders from the Catholic Schools in the diocese attended Church Vocation Awareness Days at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. The students, pictured above, heard many talks about religious life, the priesthood, and the life of a Missionary. The students visited the Gift Shop and the Hall of Memories at the convent. The day culminated with a Prayer Service that highlights the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Vocation Awareness Days is sponsored by the Victoria Diocesan Vocation Office, the Serra Club of Victoria, the Knights of Columbus Council #1329, the Catholic Daughters of Court St. Ann #369, Rosewood Funeral Home and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

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**CDA YOUNGEST MEMBER HONORS OLDEST MEMBER**—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374, St. Philip in El Campo, celebrated its oldest member's birthday recently. Pictured above, far right, the court's youngest member, 20-year-old Macey Knesek, who presented 100-year-old Julia Baca, center, with two different cheesecakes, her favorite dessert. Mrs. Baca has been a court member for almost 70 years. She also started the cafeteria at St. Philip's Catholic School and managed it for decades, beginning in 1963. Also pictured is Regent Dana Sternadel, left, who organized the visit at the home of member Pat Taylor, Mrs. Baca's daughter (not pictured).

## Catholic Rural Life - Victoria

### December ~ The Blessing of the Night

As the daylight hours give way during the month of December, the night calls forth our attention. In the darkness of night, we gaze into the star-filled sky with wonder.

As we watch and wait for the Light of Jesus Christ during the season of Advent, the darkness of a night can be a powerful setting for prayer.

Wait for an evening when the sky is clear and the wind is still; gather family and friends and walk outdoors. Find a place where the view of the night sky is unobstructed. Invite everyone to join in this Blessing of the Night.



#### Closing Blessing

God of wonder and hope, we thank you for your everlasting presence. Though we feel lonely and estranged at times, you have not abandoned us. You who govern the night, inspire in us a faith like our ancestors of old, a faith that casts off our needless fear and crippling despair.

We ask you to bless us and increase our longing for the fullness of your kingdom, more bountiful than all the stars that cover the sky. Awed by the immensity of this night, may we live as vigilant pilgrims, who are always prepared for when you call us home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Opening Prayer

Lord of Peaceful Night, in your creative wisdom you created light to rule the day and darkness to rule the night. It is the darkness of night that draws our need for the virtues of hope and trust: Remind us to delight in



Annual Public Square Rosary was held in Moulton. Pictured are (l-r) Elizabeth Wenske, who led the rosary, Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck, guest speaker, and Mary Ann Wenske, representing Moulton Christian Mothers' Society.

### Annual Public Square Rosary Held

MOULTON—A cold and blustery morning greeted Moultonites on Saturday, October 13. Still, the Moulton Public Square Rosary group enjoyed the warmth of St. Joseph's Catholic Church Family Room to gather for their 8th annual rosary. Deacon Kenneth Fishbeck inspired the group with a talk about the Franciscan Crown Rosary. According to <https://franciscanmissionaries.com/7-decade-rosary/>, "One unique devotion of the Franciscans is a seven-decade rosary known as the Franciscan Crown. While the traditional rosary consists of 5 decades which meditate on 15 mysteries (or 20 if you pray the Luminous mysteries) the 7-decade Franciscan Rosary, known as The Franciscan Crown, is a Rosary consisting of seven decades with each decade describing a particular joy from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The story of the Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin dates back to the early 15th century. A pious young man named James had been accustomed to adorning a beautiful statue of Mary with a crown of flowers, which he had picked and woven himself. He later entered the Franciscan Order, but either because of a lack of time or permission, he was no longer able to continue this devotion. Distraught because of this, he decided to abandon the religious life and return to the world.

Our Lady then appeared to him and convinced him not to leave the order. She told him that he should not be downcast because he was no longer permitted to adorn her statue, for she would teach him a way to give her honor, which was much more pleasing and meritorious. Instead of a crown of flowers, which quickly wither, he was to weave a crown of prayers, and these prayers could be offered at any moment. She then taught him the Rosary of the Seven Joys, adding that these prayers would not only form a more acceptable crown, but they would also yield innumerable graces for himself and others."

Elizabeth Wenske led the rosary, with decades said by Janet Raabe, Nancy Sivyer, Kathy Fishbeck, and Karin Filipp. This is the eighth year the Christian Mothers have sponsored the Rosary, in conjunction with American Needs Fatima. Moulton was one of over 20,000 Rosary gatherings throughout the USA on Sunday, October 13. Those present gave their prayer intentions, and the group also prayed for the intentions of the Rosary Congress of 2019: in reparation for the recent scandals in the Church and to beg God's mercy on our country.

Interest was expressed in praying the Franciscan Crown Rosary at a future date. The Christian Mothers thank all those who came out to pray.



Join in listening to Bishop Brendan Cahill every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. on *Relevant Radio Morning Air with John Harper*. Listeners can call

in with questions or comments. You can listen also to past podcast online.

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## What is Advent?

*The following sermon was written by Father Kram from the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle A.*

Advent is now here. The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word ADVENTUM, which means COMING. We are once again officially getting ourselves ready for the December 25 coming of the Lord.

Christ's coming at Christmas certainly is predictable inside or outside of church. You can tell from the advertising and the decoration and the invitations, you can count off the days on the calendar.

Christ has been coming in this way every year for almost 2000 years. Everyone knows the Baby Jesus, and one would have to be rather dull not to have ample warning for that sort of coming.

But the Baby Jesus has long since grown up and fulfilled his earthly mission. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

So we can say without fear of irreverence that the Christmas coming of Christ is more symbolic than real.

But there is another coming of Christ to which we as Christians look forward with Joyful hope, and that is the PAROUSIA, the second coming at the end of this Age. The word PAROUSIA comes from the Greek and means PRESENCE or ARRIVAL, so at Advent we always read Scripture texts having to do with Christ's return.

But the question is, "When will Christ return?" The impression in the early Church seemingly was the PAROUSIA was about to happen, but the attitude was more like an expectation and a hope rather than a solid conviction. St. Paul constantly taught that Christ's followers should live in hope and expectation of his return.

If you read the earlier verses of the 24th Chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, you will see that when the disciples asked Jesus about his return, he said that the Gospel would first be proclaimed everywhere, and that his coming would be like a flash of lightning.

He also said that just as the signs in Nature foretell the obvious approach of summer, so too do the signs in the world foretell his approach.

Then he seemed to say that He would return in the lifetime of his listeners.

Next we hear him saying that no one knows the time except God, and that return would be sudden.

Obviously Jesus did not return during the lifetime of his listeners. It would be hard to believe that Jesus made a mistake. After all, he is a divine person and the matter of his return is important.

Although there is no complete explanation, one explanation is the same statement that Jesus had made about his Kingdom coming into effect within the generation, was mistakenly connected with his SECOND



coming. His Kingdom did come into power very shortly, so any prediction He had made to that effect, did come true.

Another explanation is that when Jesus said that THAT generation would not pass away until all these things had happened, he was referring, not to the end of the world, but to the destruction of Jerusalem, which did happen in the first century.

In summary we can say this about the Second Coming:

- First, Christ will triumph as the King to whom all power in Heaven and on Earth has been given.
- Secondly, his triumph is the climax to-

ward which all creation is now rising.

- Thirdly, as far as the actual event is concerned, the time is known to God alone.
- Fourthly, it will come suddenly and unexpectedly and will bring judgement and separation and gathering in of God's chosen ones.

Therefore, we must always be ready.

Although Jesus did not reveal the time of his coming and did not give a plain-language description of the event, "Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory." That is from the first Advent preface.

*Lord Jesus, thank you for not returning during that first generation, so that our generation too might have a part in your kingdom. Help us to prepare well for our yearly celebration of your first coming at Christmas. Grant that when you return on the last day to judge and separate, and gather in God's chosen ones, we too might be of their number. Amen.*

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Sunday Readings from December 8 - January 5

advent



December 8 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12



December 15 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



December 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit

[www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).

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December 25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord  
(Christmas) - Mass During the Night

Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

December 29 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

January 1 ~ The Octave Day of Christmas  
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the  
Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

January 5 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Amor Meus Spirituality Center  
Hosts Solemn Vespers During Advent

During the season of Advent, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament again invite the public to join them in praying Solemn Vespers or Evening Praise every Sunday of Advent (December 1, 8, 15, & 22) in their chapel at Incarnate Word Convent, 1011 N.E. Water Street, Victoria, from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. in preparation for Christmas.

Solemn Vespers is the Catholic Churches' Liturgical Evening Prayer through which the Church, God's people, gathers to pray for the Church and the world. It is solemn because it consists of praising and thanking God through the chanting of the psalms, through prayers and Scripture reflection. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Evening Prayer.

Advent is the beginning of the Church

year. It gives all an opportunity to prepare for the annual celebration of Jesus' birth.

Both the historical event and the coming of God in the flesh in our lives. It blends themes of expectant waiting and preparation for the joyful celebration of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the return of Jesus as the Second and Final Coming as well as a spirit of repentance. Scripture reflections on each of the four Sundays of Advent will be a part of the prayer service and will follow these themes.



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[www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry)

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**CDA MEMBERS HONOR VETERANS**—Members of Court Sacred Heart of Mother Teresa #2570, Flatonia, gathered before their monthly meeting November 4, with the wreaths that were placed at the three cemeteries in Flatonia, and the church cemetery in Cistern. These wreaths were placed in the month of November to honor the veterans. Live flowers were placed at the Praha Cemetery Memorial at the Veteran's Service on November 10. Louise and Johnny Barcak donated their time and talent to make the wreaths and flowers. Pictured above are LaVerne Syler, Loretta Freytag, Merlene Jurek, Donna Bizzell, Midge Elam, Pam Svatek, Bell Martinez, Angeline Boehnke, Carol Barta, Karen Novak, Janet Stanley, Jeanette Zouzalik, Isabel Garcia, Gretchen Zapalac, Susan Ivey, Dina Ohnheiser, Louise Barcak, Susan Barnes, Bobbie Lemke, Arlene Florus, Loretta Kutac, Ann Bratton, Virginia Olsovsky, and Kathleen Svatek.

**PROVIDING FOR ANIMALS AS ST. FRANCIS**—St. Rose of Lima School held their annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. All types of animals from small dogs to big horses and everything in between, including snakes and birds received a blessing. As a result, the St. Rose Student Council collected three full tubs of pet food, treats, and toys. Later, on November 1, the student council traveled to La Grange to the Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter, so they could drop off all the collected items and a monetary donation. Along with the donations the students gave out treats and love to the animals at the shelter. Pictured is (front) Jamie Lusk of the Animal Shelter; (l-r) Josh V., Grace S., Natalie O., President; Makena K., Treasurer; Wendi D. of the Animal Shelter; Ethan S., Claire O., and Lilly W., Chaplain.



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## Anxiety in Youth, and What We Can Do About It

By:

• **Ashley Silvas**  
(Emmaus Center)  
• **Dr. John Quarry**  
(Office of Catholic Schools)  
• **Shannon Thomas**  
(Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry)  
• **Justin Reyes**  
(Office of Family Evangelization)

According to the Centers for Disease Control CSC, “Mental disorders among children are described as serious. Changes in the way children typically learn, behave, or handle their emotions, causing distress and problems getting through the day[1]. Among the more common mental disorders that can be diagnosed in childhood are attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety, and behavior disorders”. The Child Mind Institute reported in 2015 that nearly one in every four youth in our country had at that time or previously a diagnosable psychiatric disorder. The most common were anxiety-related, responsible for 40%, with the median age of onset being just six years old [2]. Additionally:

- 9.4% of children aged 2-17 years (approximately 6.1 million) have received an ADHD diagnosis. [3]
- 7.4% of children aged 3-17 years (approximately 4.5 million) have a diagnosed behavior problem. [4]
- 7.1% of children aged 3-17 years (approximately 4.4 million) have diagnosed anxiety. [4]
- 3.2% of children aged 3-17 years (approximately 1.9 million) have diagnosed depression. [4]

Young people are dealing with feelings of worry and unease at a more alarming rate than ever before.

### *What’s the difference between “anxiety” and “worry”?*

Oxford defines anxiety as “a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome.” With such a broad definition, clearly, everyone experiences some form of anxiousness more often than likely admitted. Ashley Silvas, M.Ed. LPC, Registered Play Therapist and Director of Clinical Services at the Emmaus Center, explains, “Everyone has anxiety. We get nervous about driving on a busy road, a job interview, or a big test. We typically can manage these types of worries. When our worry and fear take us out of life, then we can attribute that to anxiety.”

### *What can cause anxiety in youth?*

Ashley says that typically, youth who experience anxiety have a caregiver or someone in their lives that also experience anxiety. She further adds, “I have seen anxiety in children as young as three. Separation anxiety is a

in the world of athletics, are lacking. These concerns and obsessions can often lead to food disorders, depression, self-medication, cruelty, panic attacks, and suicide, among other anxiety-laden problems.



measure up to others and their expectations, difficulty in self-regulation, lack of ability to find balance, school shootings, and a myriad of other challenges and burdens that contribute to the overall apprehensions plaguing our youth.

### *What can we do about it?*

There are several “quick wins” a family can take. Ashley recommends building strong relationships with children and teens, so they have someone they can count on and confide in. The first step is making time. In a recent “Family Needs Survey” of the diocese, respondents said the #1 issue facing families is overly demanding schedules, followed by overuse of technology. “We’re so busy families aren’t making time for each other, and the little time we have we’re giving to our phones,” says Justin Reyes, Director of Family Evangelization. “I recommend making family dinner a priority with phones off-limits, and having your child involved in only 1 or 2 programs or activities.” Shannon Thomas, Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, adds, “We want for our kids to be able to do everything, and we see everyone else on social media doing it

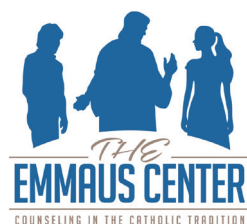
*Anxiety in Youth, see pg. 13*

### *What areas of life can anxiety impact?*

According to Ashley, school performance, social interactions, and family relationships can all be affected. “I see children and teens that display bouts of anger due to being so worried all the time. It is so much easier to show the emotion of anger than fear or sadness because each of those emotions makes one vulnerable. This in turn can have an impact on the people youth allow in their lives.” Current input from our local Catholic school administrators confirms that this dilemma affects the youth throughout our entire school system; early childhood classes, elementary, middle school, and high school students are sharing their sense of anxiety about various issues. These include stresses from home, social media bullying issues, academic concerns, sports-related worries, depression, self-esteem, peer pressure, friendships, attempts to

form of anxiety seen in children this age. It typically is managed with parental help. Still, if help is not present, separation anxiety can turn into social anxiety and then fear of many things outside of a child’s immediate world. School pressures, social media, parent pressure, active shooter drills, friends, bullying, family changes such as finances, divorce, and moving, are other potential causes.” Perhaps the fast-paced societal realities have contributed to the anxiousness that overwhelms our students and families alike. Social media has allowed us to communicate so readily with our local and global communities in a way that has never before been so accessible. That accessibility has brought with it many positive and negative outcomes. For example, young girls and ladies are worried about their looks compared to runway models. While young boys and men are concerned that their appearance and acceptance by others, especially

### The Emmaus Center



The Emmaus Center in Victoria, provides individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized support groups from a Catholic perspective. At this time, there is a waiting list. You can place your child on the waiting list to be seen when a counselor becomes available, or you can receive a referral to another agency if needed.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (361) 212-0830.

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## March for Life, 2020 “Life Empowers”

The theme for the March for Life 2020, is: “Life Empowers” it is meant to be a healing remedy for the wounded mothers who have believed the deceptive message coming from the abortion industry! That message of, freedom from pregnancy and freedom from the child within. This message is so destructive in so many ways. To destroy a life does not empower a woman, but only degrades and hurts her and all involved in the process as well as our whole world. The message of the theme is that, the Life of a child Empowers!, Pro Life is Pro-Woman! Being a mother is a gift, something to be proud of not to be ashamed of.

We would encourage anyone who has been through the trials of abortion and has a message of healing and forgiveness to share her story with the public so others may know the truth of abortion.

We need to speak out about the confusing messages the abortion industry and others are giving to women.

This theme aims to change hearts and minds to make abortion unthinkable in our culture!

Our President is willing to stand for protecting life!!

As President Trump has stated: “Every life is worth protecting, every child is a sa-

cred gift from God”

“This Movement is founded on love and the dignity of every human life.”

Each year around January 22, on the anniversary of Roe v Wade, Americans rally in Washington DC and all over the United States to testify to the God-given Right to Life of every human being.

The March for Life is the world’s largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. It will be held on January 24, 2020 in Washington, DC.

There will also be a March for Life in Austin on January 25, 2020.

The 33rd annual March for Life in Victoria will be on January 30, 2020.

Please join us to show your commitment to the Right to Life Movement.

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in downtown DeLeon Plaza, the March will begin

at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a flashlight. We will recite a rosary and walk to Our Lady of Sorrows Church where we will have our guest speaker. Those who cannot walk can meet at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. There will be transportation back to DeLeon Plaza.

All denominations and everyone who is Pro-Life is encouraged to come!

This year we will have a national speaker following the March. She is also speaking at the Rally in Washington DC. She has a very powerful story you don’t want to miss!

**MARCH FOR  
LIFE  
2020**

**Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Washington, D.C.

**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
#WhyWeMarch | MarchForLife.org



## Anxiety in Youth, and What We Can Do About It

*Continued from pg. 12*

all. The fear of missing out is a real fear for our youth. We can help by not expecting our kids to do it all, helping them to realize what’s most important.”

Catholic communities are blessed to have opportunities for spontaneous and memorized prayers that are credited with bringing calm and reassurance to our students, parents, and staff members alike. One such prayer is the “Serenity Prayer,” which reminds us to seek the gifts of serenity, courage, and wisdom to stave off feelings of isolation, trepidation, inadequacy, and anxiety. The Emmaus Center and other similar counseling /therapy pro-

grams, early skills in social-emotional learning, local priests and religious, and hotlines are available to offer comfort, support, and guidance for a great many of these ills and challenges. Moreover, open communication, unconditional love and acceptance, genuine care and concern, gentleness and kinder spirits, and resisting the temptation to rush to judgment are just some of the tools that should be readily available for our use.

Additionally, Ashley recommends grounding exercises, such as asking children to tell you five things they see, four things they can touch, three things they hear, two things they smell, and one thing they taste. This can help bring youth back to the present moment and out of an anxious state. She also recommends journaling through words or pictures or uses the Pixel Thoughts app to get anxious thoughts out of mind to “see” and work through them.

If you believe your child or teen may need additional support, The Emmaus Center is here to help, offering counseling and play therapy. At this time, there is a waiting list. Still, they can place your child on the waiting list to be seen when a counselor becomes available, or you can receive a referral to another agency if needed. Learn more at [www.emmauscounselingcenter.com](http://www.emmauscounselingcenter.com).

Finally, as the Holy Scripture reminds us, the very manner in which Jesus often greeted his followers was one of comfort and serenity. He said, “Peace be with you.” With that simple greeting, Jesus was providing, perhaps, the most effective antidote to today’s troubling trials...find in him a peace that surpasses all understanding.

## Bishops Urged to Heed Pope’s Call: Listen to and Accompany Young People

BALTIMORE (CNS)—The day after the U.S. bishops were encouraged at their Baltimore meeting to bring young people back to the church, they were urged to also pay more attention to and support the teens and young adults among them in parishes and church programs.

To help them do this, they were advised November 12 to use “Christus Vivit” (“Christ Lives”) – Pope Francis’ reflection on the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment – as their guide.

“‘Christus Vivit’ is a call to action for everyone in the life of the church regardless of our age,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, a delegate to last year’s Synod of Bishops on young people.

In remarks on the second day of the

bishops’ November 11-13 meeting, he acknowledged that many in the room might feel uncertain about how to respond to and help young people in the church, but he said they can find encouragement from the pope’s message and, in particular, his sentiment that young people are the church’s hope.

The pope’s apostolic exhortation – which is both a letter to young people about their place in the church and a plea for older members to encourage them – was described by Bishop Caggiano as a call to action and a moment of grace that “we should not and cannot allow to slip away.”

For starters, he said his fellow bishops should read the pope’s document “from cover to cover and engage in dialogue” about it with church leaders on the diocesan and parish level as a way to enrich church

ministries and outreach.

So the bishops would not just take his word for it, Bishop Caggiano also introduced two young adults to them who gave their insights on the pope’s document.

Brenda Noriega, coordinator of young adult ministry for the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, told the bishops she was grateful for “Christus Vivit” because it provided a foundation for her work. She said one of her favorite parts of it is where the pope responds to the frustrations of many young people and reminds them that God loves them and that they matter.

She said she finds hope with pastors who are willing to listen to young people and “accompany us on the journey like spiritual fathers.”





## Reforma de inmigración: entre prioridades del nuevo presidente de USCCB

Por Chaz Muth  
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS)—No sorprende a cualquiera que ha seguido al arzobispo de Los Ángeles José H. Gómez, que la reforma de inmigración esté al frente de su lista de prioridades como presidente recién electo de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU.

“Es algo en lo que he estado trabajando por casi 25 a 30 años”, dijo el arzobispo Gómez a Catholic News Service (CNS) durante la reunión general de otoño de los obispos de Estados Unidos del 11 al 13 de noviembre en Baltimore.

El 12 de noviembre, el cuerpo de los obispos lo eligió como su líder por un periodo de tres años y es el primer latino en asumir la presidencia de la USCCB. El arzobispo Gómez ha servido como vicepresidente de la conferencia desde 2016. Sucede en la presidencia al cardenal Daniel N. DiNardo de Galveston-Houston. Su gestión empezó al concluir la reunión.

Para el pastor de 67 años de la arquidiócesis más grande de EE.UU., la enseñanza católica es la que impulsa la defensa de los derechos de los migrantes, fundamentada en los principios bíblicos de acoger al extranjero y defender la dignidad de los inmigrantes y refugiados como hijos de Dios.

De hecho, los obispos de EE.UU. han establecido como una de sus principales prioridades la reforma de inmigración y los

derechos de migración por muchos años. Los obispos han discutido con la administración Trump por sus políticas para los solicitantes de asilo en la frontera.

El papa Francisco también ha hecho de los derechos de los migrantes una prioridad durante su papado.

Este tema también es muy personal para el arzobispo Gómez, quien nació en Monterrey,

Tanto las administraciones de Bush como la de Obama, intentaron sin éxito que se apruebe una reforma de inmigración en el Congreso para facilitar que los inmigrantes migren legalmente a los EE.UU.

Los obispos de EE.UU. estuvieron en conversaciones con previas administraciones para desarrollar lo que consideran que es una solución humana al debate de inmigración.



*El arzobispo José H. Gómez de Los Ángeles, presidente electo de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU., y el presidente saliente, cardenal Daniel N. DiNardo de Galveston-Houston, sonríen durante la asamblea general de otoño de la USCCB en Baltimore el 13 de noviembre de 2019. (Foto CNS-Bob Roller)*

El arzobispo Gómez dijo que continuará conversando con el presidente Donald Trump, cuya administración ha sido criticada por los defensores católicos por su política de separar familias en la frontera, sus restricciones a los inmigrantes que buscan asilo y una propuesta para reducir más el número de refugiados que son aceptados en Estados Unidos.

La Iglesia Católica sí defiende el derecho de una nación a asegurar sus fronteras, pero la mayoría de los migrantes del mundo están dejando su tierra natal para escapar de la guerra, la violencia y la extrema pobreza --dijo--.”Hay muchísimo sufrimiento. La mayoría de ellos vienen a nuestro país porque quieren sacar adelante a sus familias”.

Antes de los testimonios verbales del 12 de noviembre sobre el programa Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia en la Corte Suprema de EE.UU., el arzobispo Gómez dijo que “no hay duda” sobre las cuestiones jurídicas y constitucionales “planteadas por DACA y cómo fue promulgado”.

“Pero tenemos que estar claros: El futuro de estos jóvenes adultos nunca debió haber llegado a las cortes en primer lugar”, escribió el arzobispo en una columna el 6 de noviembre en *Ángelus*, el periódico en internet de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles. “Y no habría ocurrido, si nuestros líderes en Washington simplemente hicieran a un lado sus intereses políticos y se unieran para corregir el obsoleto sistema de inmigración de nuestra nación”.

### Passion Play Pilgrimage

**September 29 –  
October 8, 2020**

Travel to visit Germany,  
Poland & Czech Republic

Highlights Attending:

- Oberammergau Passion Play (performed every 10 years);
- Mass at Our Lady of Victory to view the Jesus, Infant of Prague Statue;
- Shrine of Divine Mercy
- Mass near the Tomb of St. Faustina
- Birthplace of St. John Paul II

For a copy of the itinerary,  
Contact Dora Silva  
(361) 550-0103 or

To obtain an itinerary  
visit the following website  
[www.littleflowerpilgrimages.com/tour-index](http://www.littleflowerpilgrimages.com/tour-index)

México, y eventualmente migró a EE.UU., donde ha servido como obispo auxiliar en la Arquidiócesis de Denver, arzobispo en San Antonio y últimamente como arzobispo en Los Ángeles.

“Es realmente parte de mi vida”, dijo. “Tengo familiares y amigos ... en ambos lados de la frontera. Así que creo que es importante para nosotros comprender que todos somos hijos de Dios. Si trabajamos juntos, podemos encontrar una solución para esta realidad y elaborar un claro, simple y buen sistema de inmigración que pueda suplir las necesidades de las personas de ambos lados”.

La violencia y la pobreza en su país, ha sido un factor determinante para los centroamericanos que buscan asilo en los EE.UU., pero el arzobispo Gómez señala que la inmigración no es solo un asunto estadounidense --es una preocupación global.

Según las estadísticas reportadas por el Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados, para finales del 2018, “70.8 millones de individuos se han visto obligados a desplazarse a nivel mundial como resultado de la persecución, conflictos, violencia o violaciones a los derechos humanos”.



### Reporting Procedures for Suspected or Known Sexual Abuse of a Minor (person under 18 years of age) or Vulnerable Adult by a Member of the Clergy

#### Contact:

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within **48 hours**, at (800) 252-5400, [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org), or local police department. **If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

and

- Vicki Pyatt, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org).

or

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828. Written allegations can be mailed to Office of the Bishop, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 marked “Personal and Confidential”.



If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials.  
For assistance contact Vicki Pyatt at (361) 827-7186 or [pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org).





**EMBRACING GOD'S FAMILY**—This year's Catholic Conference Lucia Baez Luzondo was the keynote speaker in English and Spanish. She said, "We are made in the image and likeness of Christ. But we sometimes fail ourselves because we want something different for us. We want to look different, but our image is a reflection of who Christ wants us to be. Our main purpose of being is to evangelize to others because as we are baptized. Whatever our position or level of instruction, we are all a part of evangelization. For holiness is nothing, other than charity to live in full; charity is love in action. Our mission begins in the family, and our family is the path to holiness." Throughout the day, there were various workshops opportunities for parents, catechists, and liturgical ministers. Bishop Brendan Cahill had a question and answer session. Also included were multiple venders and informational booths.



**ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER**—God's Embrace Ministries (GEM) celebrates Mission with their 3rd Annual Fundraiser. The mission of God's Embrace Ministries is to motivate the Catholic faithful to become ardent disciples of Jesus Christ. On Friday, November 8, nearly

100 guests gathered to celebrate and support GEM at the 3rd annual benefit dinner. Father Wayne Flagg was the emcee for the evening, and Father Felix Twumasi gave the final blessing. Those in attendance enjoyed a social hour and dinner. The evening also included a silent and live auction with many items and vacation getaways from generous donors and supporters of GEM. Dr. Michael Fonseca addressed those in attendance with a reflection on Psalm 67, which could be described as a missionary psalm. The psalm begins with the request of a great blessing of the book of Numbers: "May God be gracious to us and bless us: may his face shine upon us." Pictured are board members (l-r) DeeAnn Hooper, Eamon McCourt, Father Wayne Flagg, Cherrie Fonseca, Michael Fonseca, Ed Mazoch, and Ralph Schmidt. Anyone interested in scheduling a retreat or speaking engagement can contact GEM's offices (979) 561-8883; [www.godsembrace.org](http://www.godsembrace.org); or email [info@godsembrace.org](mailto:info@godsembrace.org).

## Kolbe Group Hosts Prison Retreat

**CUERO**—The Kolbe Prison Ministries Core Team hosted a fall retreat November 7-10 at the Clarence N. Stevenson Prison Unit in Cuero. Seventy-six offenders participated in the crusade at the male facility. The volunteer team hosting the event was composed of twenty-seven men from the Dioceses of Victoria and San Antonio.

Assisting with the spiritual needs of the attendees was Deacons Terry Brennan

and Mike Tankersley. Priests for the event included Father Paul Raaz of Gonzales, Father Jacob Mendoza of Cuero, Father Jacob Koether of Victoria, and Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer.

Over the past nine years the semi-annual retreat has reached over 1200 offenders at the Prison and included 250 volunteers from the Diocese of Victoria.

**MILESTONE CELEBRATED**—St. Mary's Christian Mother's Society in Nada celebrated its 120th anniversary on Sunday, October 27, with a Mass. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Mass with Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, pastor, concelebrating.



## SRC Director Retires, New Director Named



Deacon Joe Duplan and his wife Mary Lou have served the Diocese of Victoria for the past seven years at the Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC). Deacon Joe retired as director on November 7, as they return to League City. He said, "Mary Lou and I are so grateful to Bishop Fellhauer and Bishop Cahill for the opportunity to work at the SRC. We have met many wonderful people from the Diocese of Victoria and making many friends. We will miss you all, especially the Order of Deacons and their wives. We also enjoyed meeting all of the priests." Mary Lou said, "It was a gift that God bestowed on us." They leave with sadness yet happiness to see what God has in store for them.



Matthew Boyle accepted the position director for the Spiritual Renewal Center for the Diocese of Victoria on November 4. After graduating from high school, Matthew enlisted in the Navy. He served on the USS Mt. Baker from Charleston, South Carolina. Matthew traveled to the Mediterranean and all over the Indian Ocean during the Persian Gulf War. After serving his country, he attended Southwest Texas State University (SWT), where he received his Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences with a major in Nutrition and Foods. Matthew was accepted into Sam Houston State University. He received his Masters of Arts in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in Nutrition. He and his wife Hope teach CCD at Holy Family, Victoria, while also serving as Extraordinary Minister and Home Bound Minister. Matthew has served as ACTS Core Facilitator, ACTS Director, and on many ACTS retreats in numerous capacities. He and his wife have one son Joshua. On November 4, 2019, Matthew accepted the position as Director of the Spiritual Renewal Center. He is very humbled and excited to be able to care for a center that is near and dear to not only his heart and his family's heart but to all who have a shared spiritual experience that has changed their lives as well. He is looking forward to serving in this ministry where his faith life and professional life are now together as one. You can reach Matthew at (361) 572-0836 or email: [mboyle@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:mboyle@victoriadiocese.org).





HOPE

Week 1

Candle Name: Prophet's Candle  
Candle Symbolizes: Hope  
Reminds Us: Jesus is coming

Verse: Romans 15:12-13

Prayer: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessings upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who living and reigns forever. Amen.

PEACE

Week 4

Candle Name: Angel's Candle  
Candle Symbolizes: Peace  
Reminds us: The message of the angels:  
"Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Verse: John 3:16-17

Prayer: O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness my hasten what our sins impede. Who living and reigns forever. Amen.

JOY

Week 3

Candle Name: Shepherd's Candle  
Candle Symbolizes: Joy  
Reminds Us: The Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

Verse: Luke 2:7-15

Prayer: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who living and reigns forever. Amen.

FAITH

Week 2

Candle Name: Bethlehem Candle  
Candle Symbolizes: Faith  
Reminds Us: Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

Verse: Luke 3:4-6

Prayer: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who living and reigns forever. Amen.



## Help Your Children Prepare For Christmas During The Advent Season

Here are some practical ways that you can prepare to fully celebrate Advent with your kids. Remember, you don't have to do it all—just choose a few practices to focus on, and see whether they work for your family.

### 1. Get or make an Advent wreath

The Advent wreath is one of the most familiar and beloved symbols of Advent. Children love lighting the candles, one each week, as a way of counting down the time until Christmas. Darkening the room and praying by candlelight is also a good way to signal to children that we are entering a very special time.

### 2. Bless your Advent wreath

On the first Sunday of Advent, be sure to bless your Advent wreath. Use the blessing provided by the U.S. Catholic bishops at their Advent website.

### 3. Set up a nativity scene

St. Francis had the brilliant idea to create a scene depicting the nativity of Jesus as a way of teaching the people about the meaning of the Incarnation. Displaying a nativity scene (or manger set) in your home during Advent is a great way to remind everyone (not just little kids) about the true meaning of Christmas: the Creator of the universe entering into creation in order to save it. Here are a few ideas for

ways to use your nativity scene:

- Setting up the manger is a great activity for the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving. When you set it up, don't put out the baby Jesus; save that until Christmas Eve (or morning).
- Some families like to have the baby Jesus appear in the manger overnight on Christmas Eve. That way, everyone can stop by the manger to greet the baby Jesus before opening presents.
- You can also wait to put out the wise men. When you do put them out (perhaps on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent), consider placing them someplace far away from the manger, moving them a little bit closer every day until they "arrive" on the Feast of the Epiphany.
- Another custom is to cut up small snips of paper to be "hay" for the baby Jesus; place the hay in a little bowl or cup near the manger. Every time your younger children do a good deed, they can place a piece of the hay in the baby Jesus' bed to get it ready for his arrival.
- Use the manger set to tell the Christmas story to little children as the story unfolds in the Sunday and weekday readings throughout Advent. For example, hold the Mary and angel figure as you paraphrase the reading about the Annunciation.

### 4. Bless your nativity scene

Once you've set up your nativity set, bless it during your family prayer time using the Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene provided by the U.S. bishops.

### 5. Have an Advent Tree

Do you set up your Christmas tree the weekend after Thanksgiving, then take it down on New Year's Day? This year, try waiting to fully decorate your tree until Christmas Eve. Instead, let your bare tree be an "Advent Tree," a symbol of our waiting for the coming of Christ.

This doesn't mean that you have to leave the tree completely bare. You can put on a single string of lights during the first week of Advent, then add another string of lights every Sunday until Christmas. Some families also add one decoration per day during Advent.

If you go this route, you may also want to keep your Christmas tree up for the whole Christmas season, which ends at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (the weekend after Epiphany, in mid-January).

### 6. Make a Jesse tree

Another Christmas-tree alternative during Advent is to make a Jesse tree, which is a tree decorated with ornaments based on symbols of Old Testament events preparing for the coming of Christ. It might include an ark or rainbow to depict Noah and the

flood, for instance, and a ladder to represent Jacob's ladder.

### 7. Look ahead to the feasts and celebrations of Advent

There are quite a few important (and fun) feasts and celebrations during the Advent season. Look ahead to see what's coming up so you can plan small celebrations throughout the season. Here's what's coming up:

• *December 3—Feast of St. Francis Xavier*  
Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), and led an extensive mission to proclaim Christianity throughout Asia.

• *December 6—Feast of St. Nicholas*  
Saint Nicholas, a bishop who lived during the third century, is the original "Santa Claus." On the feast of St. Nicholas, children leave their shoes by the door for St. Nicholas to fill with candy (often foil-wrapped chocolate coins). This tradition recalls the story of how St. Nicholas secretly provided the dowry for young maidens so they could get married.

This feast day is also a good opportunity to tell kids the true story of "Santa Claus." Find out five ways to celebrate the feast with your kids. Then head over to the Saint Nicholas Center, which has every imaginable resource on the original St. Nicholas.

*See Help Your Children Prepare, pg. 17*





## Help Your Children Prepare For Christmas During The Advent Season

*Continued from pg. 16*

• **December 8—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation in the United States, commemorates the immaculate (“stainless”) conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is not about Mary’s conception of Jesus. Find out how to explain the Immaculate Conception to your kids.

• **December 9—Feast of St. Juan Diego**

St. Juan Diego is the peasant to whom the Virgin Mary appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

• **December 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

On the morning of December 9, 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to a Mexican peasant named Juan Diego at a place called the Hill of Tepeyac (now part of Mexico City). Speaking to him in his native Nahuatl language, Mary identified herself as the “mother of the very true deity” and asked for a church to be built at that site in her honor. Juan Diego finally convinced skeptical Church authorities of the truth of the message by producing an armful of out-of-season roses from the folds of his tilma (a simple outer garment); an image of the Virgin Mary as a young, pregnant native woman miraculously appeared on the tilma as well. The image has been preserved to this day, and draws millions of pilgrims every year. Find out how to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with your kids.

• **December 13—Feast of St. Lucy**

Lucia of Syracuse (283–304) was a young Christian martyr. Later accounts of her martyrdom included a story about her eyes getting gouged out; that, along with the date of her feast, led to the celebration of her feast as a festival of light, especially in Scandinavian cultures. There, a young girl dressed in a

white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. It is said that to vividly celebrate St. Lucy’s Day will help you survive the long, dark winter days.

• **December 14—Feast of St. John of the Cross**

John of the Cross, together with St. Teresa of Avila, reformed the Carmelite order in the sixteenth century. He is also well-known for his spiritual writings, which had an enormous impact on the development of the Catholic contemplative tradition.

• **December 16—Las Posadas**

Las Posadas is a nine-day celebration that had its origins in Spain, but is now widely practiced in Latin America. Posadas means “lodging”; the celebration is chiefly a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging in Bethlehem, and underlines the Christian importance of offering hospitality.

You can find out more about Las Posadas at Wikipedia.

• **December 16—Christmas Novena**

Pray a special Christmas Novena beginning nine days before Christmas.

• **December 17—O Antiphons**

The O Antiphons are sung or recited during the last seven days of Advent (from December 17 through December 23) as part of the Liturgy of Hours. Each hymn begins with the interjection “O” followed by a title for Christ, e.g., O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dayspring, O King of Nations, O God-with-Us. You can find the O Antiphons online.

*(Above information was from <https://teachingcatholickids.com/8-practical-ways-to-get-ready-for-advent/>)*



## Czech Tradition at Christmas, New Year

*Continued from pg. 1*

Here are some excerpts from a paper Willa Mae Cervenka of West, wrote for the Vestnik: Bones left from the Christmas Eve meal were buried under fruit trees in the orchard to assure a plentiful crop; attending midnight Mass was a must. Many people walked long distances to get there. Along the way they sang Christmas carols.

On New Year’s Eve, no one ate poultry or

any other feather source food because they do not want their good luck to fly away with the old year. The menu was ham or pork and always lentil beans. The beans symbolized good fortune in the coming year.

Then, as the old saying goes, “Whatever you are doing on New Year’s Day, you will be doing all year long.”

## Rejoice In All Circumstances

**By Father John Catoir**

“Rejoice in all Circumstances,” I agree with St. Paul, because my Faith urges me to believe everything that JESUS taught. When I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in His only begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, I believe firmly in the truth of his words, “I have come that your joy may be full, that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

I believe Jesus always told us the truth. Let’s ponder this together. Here’s how I approach this issue. Based on the words

of JESUS, which were reaffirmed by St. Thomas: “The center of the personality is in the will.” Modern psychology agrees with both of them, so I have concluded that it is possible to put on the will to be grateful and joyful in all circumstances.

In spite of sad feelings we can choose joy over sorrow even in emotionally down times. Mourning the dead can be done with the focus on the eternal joy of heaven. Many find this impossible, and I understand their doubts, but thoughts can really control feelings. We can focus on the truth that heaven is a better place to be. In the long run, Joy

prevails over sorrow. Of course, many lack the faith to rise above their feelings, but as I’ve mentioned so often, the will has the power to control our thoughts.

If we have any hope of being a person of honor and dignity, we must follow the path toward holiness. Take a little time to think about this. The thoughts we think control the emotions we feel, which eventually control the actions we perform. We need to accept Christian ideals as worthy goals. Of course, we are weak and sinful. Of course, we need Divine help and mercy. Mediocrity is the human condition but Christ called us

to perfection; therefore, holiness is not only possible, but it is our destiny.

When Jesus said, “Love one another, as I have loved you,” He knew we could rise to the challenge with the help of His grace. Wherever there is love, there is service, and wherever there is service there is sacrifice, which often involves suffering. Jesus died on a cross to save our souls for heavenly bliss. It’s all one-belief system.

*I believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen*





## Minnesota high school prepares for beatification of one of its own

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS)—A man who scrubbed toilets and shoveled sidewalks at Cretin-Derham Hall High School is on his way to becoming a saint, and the school is celebrating his beatification by elevating his presence on campus and connecting students to his legacy. Christian Brother James Miller taught at then-Cretin Hall in St. Paul from 1966 to 1971 and again from 1979 to 1980, teaching Spanish, founding the soccer team and serving as maintenance supervisor. Brother Miller was martyred in 1982 -- at age 37 -- during the Guatemalan Civil War. Three hooded men found him on a ladder repairing a wall and shot him. Many assume he was killed because he fought to keep his students from being forced into the military. Pope Francis officially recognized Brother James as a martyr last year, clearing the way for beatification. He will be beatified on Dec. 7 in Guatemala, a ceremony that four members of Cretin-Derham will attend, including President Frank Miley. Reminders of the late teacher pop up throughout the school. The chapel is being renamed in honor of “Blessed Brother James”; staff is working with the archdiocese to make the rededication official. The school commissioned a bronze statue of him that was recently installed in the courtyard, which is also being renamed after him.

## Author: Everyone needs ‘time for silence,’ prayer amid busyness of life

WASHINGTON (CNS)—For Kathryn Jean Lopez, her new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living” is a comprehensive collection of prayers that offer love, support and guidance to withstand the world’s challenges. “Wherever you are, you can take some time to get to know God better, which is really my prayer for this book, that it essentially helps people and helps them to respond to God’s will for them,” Lopez said. Lopez is a senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review Online and a nationally syndicated columnist. Lopez’s 365-page book contains short daily meditations and prayers that require readers to carve out a few minutes of each day. Lopez pulled inspiration from her colleague Gary Jansen’s book titled “The 15-Minute Prayer Solution.” In the book, Jansen mentions that 15 minutes equates to only 1% of the day. “I can give God at least 1% of my day to exclusively focus on God,” Lopez told Catholic News Service. She understands, however, that setting aside specific time for prayer and reflection is challenging, especially for mothers with young children whose quiet and alone time may be extremely limited.

## Response to migration is sign of character, pope says in Thailand

BANGKOK (CNS)—Calling migration “one of the principal moral issues” facing humanity today, Pope Francis thanked the government and people of Thailand for the way they’ve welcomed migrants and refugees, but he urged greater efforts to protect migrants and poor Thais from human trafficking. Migration movements around the globe “are one of the defining signs of our time,” the pope said Nov. 21 during a meeting with government officials, civic leaders and members of the diplomatic corps in Bangkok’s Government House. “The crisis of migration cannot be ignored,” the pope said. “Thailand itself, known for the welcome it has given to migrants and refugees, has experienced this crisis as a result of the tragic flight of refugees from nearby countries.” According to the 2019 report of the U.N. working group on migration in Thailand, of the 64 million people living in Thailand, 4.9 million are non-Thais, an increase of 1.2 million people in five years. The largest groups come from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

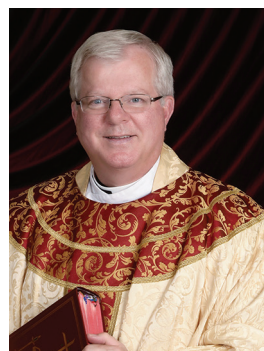
## Having a friend who is poor will help you get to heaven

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The poor are the church’s treasure because they give every Christian a chance to “speak the same language as Jesus, that of love,” Pope Francis said, celebrating Mass for the World Day of the Poor. “The poor facilitate our access to heaven,” the pope said in his homily Nov. 17. “In fact, they open up the treasure that never ages, that which joins earth and heaven and for which life is truly worth living: love.” Thousands of poor people and volunteers who assist them joined Pope Francis for the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. After the liturgy and the recitation of the Angelus prayer in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis hosted a luncheon for 1,500 of them while thousands more throughout the city enjoyed a festive meal at soup kitchens, parish halls and seminaries. Served by 50 volunteer waiters in white jackets, the pope and his guests in the Vatican audience hall enjoyed a three-course meal of lasagna, chicken in a mushroom cream sauce with potatoes, followed by dessert, fruit and coffee. To speak Jesus’ language, the pope had said in his homily, one must not speak of oneself or follow one’s own interests but put the needs of others first. “How many times, even when doing good, the hypocrisy of ‘I’ reigns: I do good, but so people will think I’m good; I help, but to attract the attention of someone important,” Pope Francis said. Instead, he said, the Gospel encourages charity, not hypocrisy; “giving to someone who cannot pay you back, serving without seeking a reward or something in exchange.”

## New USCCB president is ‘man of the new evangelization’ and trusted leader

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—If Father Jose H. Gomez needed any encouragement in becoming a bishop, the timing was probably enough. The day of his appointment as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Denver, Jan. 23, 2001, came exactly a year after the death of his mother, Esperanza. According to his sister, Maricarmen Celaya, his mother’s illness decades earlier led the young Jose to a deeper relationship with Christ in prayer. His mother eventually recovered, but the experience marked him for life, and eventually led him to answer the call to the priesthood, Celaya believes. “It was too much of a coincidence for that to happen to him on that day,” said Celaya. If he needed any encouragement upon being elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops nearly 20 years later, the overwhelming majority of bishops who elected him on the first ballot -- 176 out of the 238 who cast votes -- and the standing round of applause that followed, also was probably enough. Their Nov. 12 vote at the USCCB’s fall assembly in Baltimore made the Mexican-born archbishop of Los Angeles the first Latino to hold the highest leadership position in the U.S. Catholic Church.

## Pope appoints Arkansas priest to be bishop of Shreveport, La.



WASHINGTON (CNS)—Pope Francis has appointed Msgr. Francis Malone, a pastor and the chancellor for ecclesial affairs in the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, to be the bishop of Shreveport, Louisiana. Bishop-designate Malone, 69, has held the post of chancellor since 2008. He also is pastor of Christ the King Parish in Little Rock. In Shreveport, he succeeds Bishop Michael G. Duca, now head of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was installed Aug. 24, 2018. The appointment was announced in Washington Nov. 19 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. The Diocese of Shreveport is in the state of Louisiana and has a total population of 812,200 of which 41,335 are Catholic. Bishop-designate Malone’s episcopal ordination and installation Mass will be celebrated Jan. 28 in the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans in Shreveport. The Diocese of Shreveport has a Catholic population of 41,335 out of a total population of 812,200.



**PAPAL VISIT**—A man attends Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in National Stadium in Bangkok Nov. 21, 2019. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

## Jesuit school students arrive once again to push for action in Washington

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS)—Each year, the students flock to a hotel just outside of Washington. Like migrating birds signaling winter, you can tell the time of year by the arrival of the high schoolers, college students and young alumni from Jesuit universities around the country. They’re the type who scream with joy listening to an 80-year-old nun and snap their fingers as they approve of something they’ve heard in the crowded ballroom of the Gateway Marriott in Arlington, where the event known as the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice has taken place the past few years. This Nov. 16-18, the event tied record attendance as more than 2,000 participated in two days of lectures about social justice – from immigration to poverty to climate change – and a visit to Congress on the third day of the event, as the Ignatian Solidarity Network, which organizes it, sought to inform and encourage them to be active participants in matters that affect the poor and marginalized in the U.S. and elsewhere. “We come together this weekend to reflect on the realities of the world, and to do the work of transforming structures through participation in public dialogue, where decisions are made,” said Chris Kerr, the solidarity network’s executive director. Those realities include racism, xenophobia, mistreatment of the Earth and marginalization of people because of their gender, sexual identity, immigration status and other forms of injustice, Kerr said. On Nov. 17, attendants listened to teens Juan Pablo Torrecillas and David Quezada, who live “binational lives” in the border cities of Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico, serving food and spending time with migrants at a soup kitchen run by the Kino Border Initiative. The organization is associated with the Society of Jesus in the U.S. and Mexico, the Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist, and the dioceses of Tucson, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico.





## Meals • Picnics and More

### December

**Victoria**—Bishop's Dinner at the Spiritual Renewal Center, Saturday, Dec. 14, at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy an evening of food, fun and fellowship including Mass. For reservations and more information call (361) 572-0836.

### Up Coming Events

**El Campo**—Patricia Talbot to speak at St. Robert Bellarmine on Feb. 2, 2020, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. She will speak on a call to true conversion. More information in the next issue.

### Pilgrimages

For more pilgrimages, see **Journeys of Faith with Ceci** on pg. 10 and **Passion Play Pilgrimage** on pg. 14.

## Masses • Retreats and more

**Edna**—St. Agnes Church, will sponsor a "Celebration of Life" program for all denominations, for the youth, parents, ministers, and general public of Jackson and surrounding counties on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, at the Jackson County Services Building (411 North Wells Street), from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The Program will show the importance and need for respect, dignity, and justice for all of human life. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information contact (361) 782-2933.

**ACTS Retreats**—Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should email dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org.

### Amor Meus

Contact: Sr. Digna Vela or Sr. Emilie Eilers  
(361) 575-7111 / e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com  
website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org  
IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria

**Spiritual Direction:** Amor Meus offers opportunities for guidance and discussion of one's spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors.

**Private / Directed Overnight Retreats:** Renew, reflect and relax! Enjoy the peaceful accommodations at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center. Whether you prefer one day or a few days overnight, an individual retreat can be created to fit your needs.

See page 10 for Amor Meus Events for December.

### God's Embrace

For more information call (979) 561-8883  
e-mail: info@godsembrace.org  
website: www.godsembrace.com

**Upcoming Events:** Weekly Prayer: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Adoration in GEM Chapel, Tuesdays, noon-3:00 p.m.

## Ministries • Ongoing Activities

**Catholic Family Services**—To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at [www.nacflm.org](http://www.nacflm.org).

**Courage**—Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, Encourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For more information, visit [www.couragerc.net](http://www.couragerc.net).

**Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria**—An organization staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A free pregnancy test is offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. They are a sister organization to the Gabriel Project. New volunteers are welcome. For more information call (361) 575-6171.

**Emmaus Center**—Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available on request. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830. For more information see pg. 12.

**Engaged Encounter—2020 Dates:** Jan. 24-26, April 17-19, June 5-7, Sept. 18-20, and Nov. 13-15, registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 or visit [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

**Gabriel Project**—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. **Victoria:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer (361) 676-3264 or [lisa\\_heysquierdo@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com); **DeWitt County:** Meets the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. (during the school year) at the Yorktown Public Library, 103 W. Main St. (78164); the coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith (361) 491-0067; **Lavaca County:** Meets 6:00 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at (361) 798-3579 for dates and location. See ad on pg. 6.

**Grief Ministry**—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months have passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

**i.d.9:16 Ministry**—For adults in their 20s-30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with the 6:00 p.m. daily Mass, dinner, a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan followed by fellowship. Childcare is available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For more information or to RSVP for events, email [id916victoria@gmail.com](mailto:id916victoria@gmail.com).

**Incarnate Word Prayer Group**—Praise and worship on Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or [amormeus@yahoo.com](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com).

**Mothers of Grace**—A new mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at [book.leslie@gmail.com](mailto:book.leslie@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/](http://www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/).

**Natural Family Planning**—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or [susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com).

**Raphael's Refuge**—RR's mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. **UPCOMING EVENT:** Feast Day of the Holy Innocents on Saturday, December 28. A rosary will be prayed at 10:15 a.m., followed by Christmas carols. The Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill as the main celebrant will begin at 11:00 a.m. Following the service, on the porch there will be light refreshments. For more information, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021, (361) 258-1514, or visit [www.raphaelsrefuge.org](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org).

**Retrouvaille**—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

*The Chancery  
will be closed  
for the Christmas and  
New Year Holidays from  
11:30 a.m., December 20  
through January 1,  
and will reopen  
January 2, at 8:30 a.m.*

**Merry Christmas and  
A Blessed New Year**

**Feliz Navidad y  
Un Bendito Año Nuevo**

**Submit  
Calendar of Events to  
[lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org)**





Merry Christmas and a  
Blessed New Year from the

Có một Giáng  
sinh vui vẻ và  
một năm mới  
may mắn.

Chancery Staff of the  
Diocese of Victoria

Que tengan  
una feliz  
Navidad y un  
bendito año  
nuevo.

BISHOP BRENDAN CAHILL  
BISHOP EMERITUS DAVID FELLHAUER  
REV. GARY JANAK  
REV. MSGR. JOHN PETERS  
REV. MATTHEW HUEHLEFELD  
REV. TOMMY CHEN  
SR. ROSARIO RESENDEZ, IWBS  
TONY MARTINEZ  
MELISSA SALINAS  
JERI JOSEPH

ZOILA SHOEMAKE  
RENE GARCIA  
SHERRY KAINER  
JUSTIN REYES  
CHRIS ALVAREZ  
BRUNILDA ORTIZ  
ANGELA MARTINEZ  
BRENDA MORALES  
WENDY EGGERT  
SHANNON THOMAS

CLAUDIA CONTRERAS  
REGINA JANAK  
DR. JOHN QUARY  
JANIE CARRALES  
GARY RANGNOW  
ALICE CAPELO  
MELISSA PERALES  
VICKI PYATT  
VICTORIA ROCHA

ALONG WITH THE STAFF AT  
THE EMMAUS CENTER  
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER  
PRESIDIO LA BAHIA