THIRD Sunday of Advent

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.

Isaiah 35:1-2

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December 15, 2019

Holy Father	His Holiness Pope Francis
Bishop	The Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.
Pastor	The Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg, M.A.
Deacon	Mr. Alvin Matthys (Retired)
Deacon	Mr. David Valdez
Holy Family Parish Catechetical Leader	Vicki Simper (979) 453-1331
Saint Joseph Parish Catechetical Leader	Dawn Villasana (979) 943-8686

Weekend Masses

- Saturday, 4:30 PM (Holy Family)
- Sunday, 8:00 AM (Saint Joseph)
- Sunday, 10:00 AM (Holy Family)
- Sunday, 12:00 PM (Holy Family) *Traditional Latin Mass*

Confessions

Holy Family Saturday, 3:30-4:20 PM, 15 minutes before weekday Masses & by appointment
Saint Joseph Sunday, 7:30-7:50 AM & by appointment

Baptism

Contact the Parish Office to schedule. Parents & Godparents must have completed a baptismal preparation class within 5 years prior to the baptism. Classes are scheduled the 1st Tuesday of January, April, July, and September.

Marriage

See the parish website for Wedding Guidelines and contact the pastor at least 6 months prior to desired date.

The Emmaus Center—Counseling in the Catholic Tradition

Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. Visit emmauscounselingcenter.com or call (361) 212-0839 for more information or to book an appointment.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

For food and/or other financial assistance, call (979) 533-9494

Holy Family Life Center Rental

Contact Anton Peter at (979) 533-9509

Holy Family Catholic Church and Saint Joseph Catholic Mission Diocese of Victoria in Texas

2011 Briar Lane
Wharton, Texas 77488
† Tel (979) 532-3593
† Fax (979) 532-2781
† Email: office@hfwharton.org

Religious Education Building
† Tel (979) 532-3747

Family Life Center
2009 Briar Lane
† Tel (979) 532-3747
† Website: www.hfwharton.org

Parish Office Hours:
Monday
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Tuesday thru Friday
8:00 am - noon
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

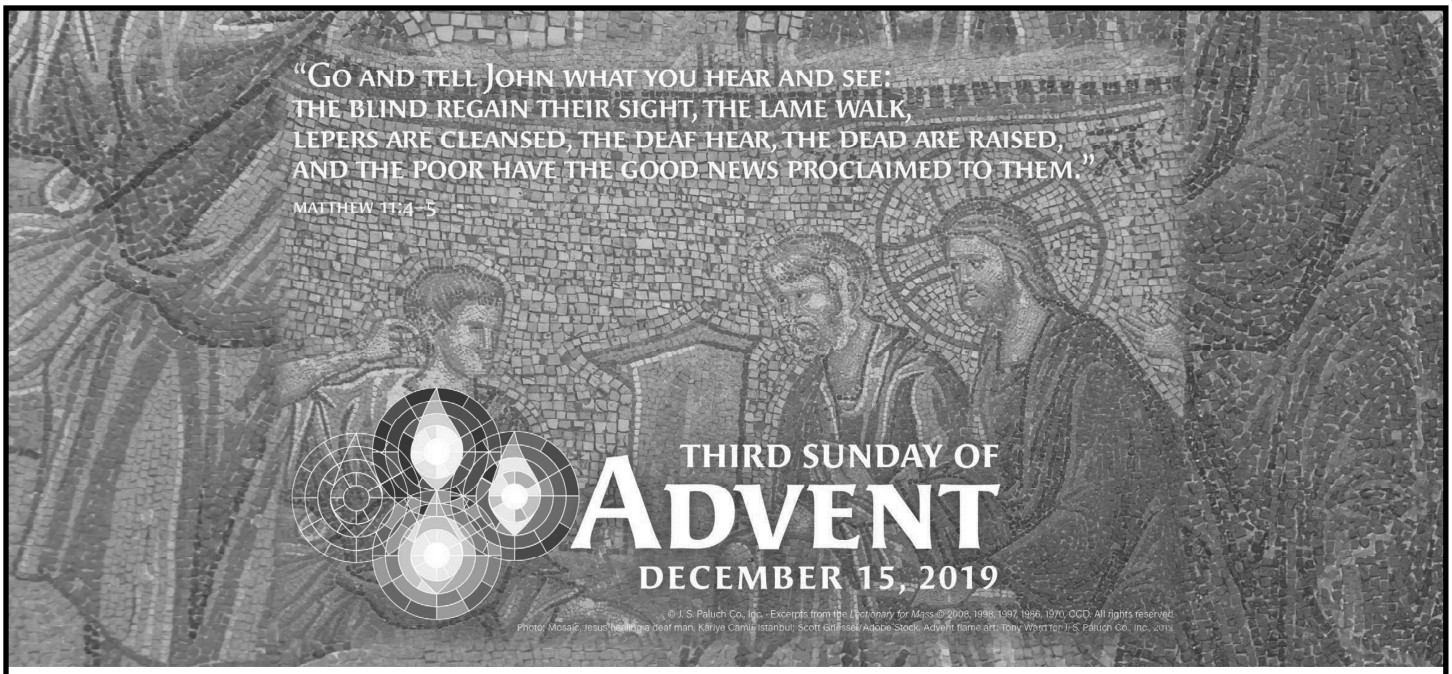

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Photo: Mosaic, Jesus healing a deaf man, Kariye Camii, Istanbul, Scott Griessel/Adobe Stock. Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.

The people had been searching and waiting for generations for the Anointed One of God. They knew in their hearts that they needed someone to bring them back, to close the divide that had grown between God and God's people. John's baptism of repentance prepared them for the advent, or coming, of the Christ. John's message of repentance and the demands of faith, of justice, and care for the poor and oppressed, while comforting to the weak and vulnerable, was challenging to those in positions of power. Like prophets before him, he refused to ignore the promptings of God to speak God's word. And like many prophets who preceded him, John was imprisoned and eventually martyred.

We can relate to the people who went out into the desert to be baptized. They heard John's urgent call to repentance and his declaration that the Messiah was coming soon. They heard him express God's care for those who needed it most. They were compelled to hear and respond. Their lives were changed, as their hearts were opened to the reality of God's love to which John so powerfully gave witness.

GOD IS WITH YOU

We too ache for God's healing and peace. We wait for God to break into our lives with love. Who among us has not at times felt weak, feeble, afraid? Take heart, you are not alone. God is with you. God is ready to save us from the darkness of sin and lead us to joy in the presence of God's mercy. This is the message of Advent, and of the whole of the gospel: God desires so deeply to be with us that God came to be one with us in Jesus Christ.

Today's Readings: Is 35:1–6a, 10; Ps 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; Jas 5:7–10; Mt 11:2–11

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"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

(Christmas) Mass Schedule

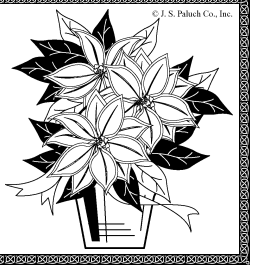
December 24, 4:00 PM, Holy Family
December 24, 7:00 PM, Saint Joseph Mission
December 25, 10:00 AM, Holy Family
December 25, 12:00 PM, Holy Family (*Traditional Latin Mass*)

Blessed Mother Vigil Candle Intentions

In Memory of E.J. "Bubba" Petrash
and
In Celebration of Honey Stavena's Birthday
By Verna Petrash

Holy Family Altar Flowers
In Memory of Bessie Rochen
By Glenn and Sharon Kleas

Saint Joseph Altar Flowers
In Thanksgiving for Family Blessings
By Darrel and Jeanine Kutach



"Blessed by the Best" Cookbook SALE!
Give a great Christmas gift for only $15.
Call Irene at 531-9412 or
stop by the Parish Office during business hours.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16
7:30 am, †Albert and Stazie Horelica

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
5:30 pm, †Joe Macek

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
7:30 am, †E J "Bubba" Petrash

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
7:30 am, †Albert and Stazie Horelica
(Eucharistic Adoration 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
10:00 am, (WNR), †Carol Zepeda

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
6:30 am, †Michael Klima and Frank J Klima

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
9:00 am, (ESL), People and Benefactors of Holy Family Church and Saint Joseph Mission

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
Saint Peter Canisius
4:30 pm, †Becky Petrash Williamson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 am, (STJ) †Tony Villarreal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 am, †Joe Jetelina

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
12:00 pm, (*Latin Mass*) Living and Deceased Members of CLIU Branch #95

All Masses at Holy Family unless otherwise indicated

ADVENT CONFESSION CIRCUIT

Penance

Wed., December 18 - St. John, *New Taiton*
**Confessions begin at 7:00 p.m.*

There will be no
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
on Thursday, December 26.

~*HOLY FAMILY ALTAR SOCIETY CHRISTMAS FLOWERS*
Please complete a donor form and return to Kay Kunkel or parish office; forms are available on the parish website or tables in back of church.

~*SAINT JOSEPH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS*
Please pick up a Flower Donation envelope on the back table in church. ***Note**: print intention on back*

OUR GIFTS TO GOD ~ *November 2019*		
HOLY FAMILY		**SAINT JOSEPH**
$17,216.38	Regular Collection	$3,854.00
$967.00	Building Fund	-0-
$207.00	DSA	$572.00
$1,009.78	SHARE/SVdP	$382.56
$1,903.00	All Saints Day	$187.00
$473.00	Archdiocese/Military	$180.00
$885.00	CCHD	$330.00
$22,661.16	**TOTAL**	**$5,505.56**

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 16: Catholic Daughters Pre-Christmas Social (KC Hall)
Dec 18: Saint Joseph Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner
Dec 22: No RCIA
Dec 22: SHARE - Second Collection
Dec 24-26: Parish Office Closed
Dec 25: The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas) *- Holy Day of Obligation*
Dec *26:* No Adoration
Dec 29: No RCIA
Dec 29: Saint Vincent de Paul - Second Collection
Dec 30: Deadline to sign up for Disciples on the Journey (Lent 2020)
Jan 1: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God *- Holy Day of Obligation*
Jan 1: Parish Office Closed
Jan 7: Baptism Preparation Class (Pre-Registration Required)
Jan 7: HF Fellowship Meeting
Jan 8: *HF/SJ* Religious Education Classes Resume
Jan 9-12: Men's ACTS Retreat (Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center, Weimar)
Jan 12: SHARE - Second Collection
Jan 14: Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting
Jan 19: Saint Vincent de Paul - Second Collection
Jan 19: Saint Joseph Breakfast Sunday
Jan 20: Catholic Daughters Monthly Meeting (KC Hall)
Jan 22: Parish Office Closed for Training

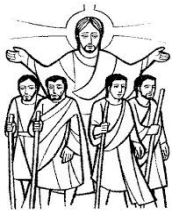
SAINT JOSEPH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, Dec 18, 2019
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Please bring a main dish and side (or dessert) for your family plus one! If you have any questions, please call Dawn Villasana at 979-943-8686.

NOTE to CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS attending the annual *CDA Christmas Party*:
Please bring at least 2-3 dozen cookies in a gallon Ziplock bag (no cans) for area Nursing Home residents. Sugar-free cookies (labeled) are appreciated.
Also, bring non-perishable food items for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

LENT 2020 ~ DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY



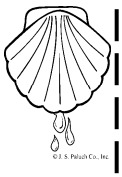
Anyone wanting to form a *Disciples on the Journey* Lenten faith sharing group should let the Parish Office know before **December 30, 2019** so that a sufficient number of booklets may be ordered. The Parish Office will need to know how many booklets will be required per group. The parish will cover the cost of the booklets.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

A **NEW** "Prayers for the Sick" list will be published in the **January 5, 2020** parish bulletin. Please contact the parish office to **RENEW** or **ADD** your friends and loved ones to the monthly "**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**" list at 532-3593 or bulletin@hfwharton.org. Our goal is to keep the sick list as current as possible.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Holy Family Religious Education (CCD) Bldg
For parents & godparents; pre-registration is REQUIRED. Contact Delores Kocian at: (979) 532-3593 or dkocian@hfwharton.org

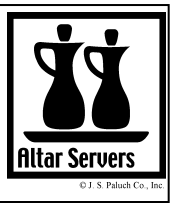


Men's ACTS Retreat applications for *January 9-12, 2020* are available in back of the church.

ALTAR SERVERS

December 22

M & D Zarate
K Salas



CHURCH CLEANERS

DECEMBER:
Lupe Quintanilla,
Rosalie Svatek, Barbara Cunningham

JANUARY: Linda Buenger,
Dolores Koenig, Pat Abbott

ON THE PROPER RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The universal practice of the Roman Catholic Church is to receive Holy Communion (the Sacred Host) on the tongue.

Rome, however, granted an indult in 1977 to Roman Catholics in the United States to receive Holy Communion in the hand.

If you choose to receive Holy Communion in the hand, you must:

1) Bow to our Lord truly and really present in the Sacred Host;
2) Extend **BOTH** hands with the palm of your writing hand facing upward underneath your other hand;
3) Answer "Amen" after the minister says "The Body of Christ";
4) Consume the Sacred Host **IMMEDIATELY** (never "travel" with it) by picking up the Sacred Host with the fingers of your writing hand and putting the Sacred Host in your mouth.

If you choose to receive the Precious Blood (when offered), you must:

1) Bow to our Lord truly and really present in the Precious Blood;
2) Answer "Amen" after the minister says, "The Blood of Christ";
3) Receive the communion chalice with **BOTH** hands;
4) Consume only a small sip of the Precious Blood;
5) Return the communion chalice to the minister with **BOTH** hands.
6) **NOTE**: Communicants are **NEVER PERMITTED** to self-communicate or intinct the Sacred Host into the Precious Blood by themselves (cf. *USCCB Committee on Divine Worship Newsletter*, Vol. XLV, January 2009).

"A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible" (*Code of Canon Law*, Canon 916) (cf. *Guidelines for the Reception of Communion*, © 1996, USCCB).

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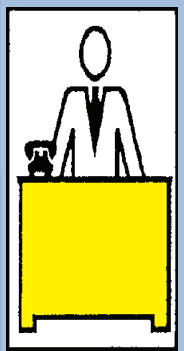
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