

There will be **signs**
in the **sun**, the **moon**,
and the **stars**,
and on earth nations
will be in dismay.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1) Jeremiah 33:14-16
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
- 3) Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

FOCUS: The Jesus who is born in time and history is also the Christ who will come in glory to judge all.

The season of Advent begins with a call to perseverance and vigilance as we prepare to celebrate not just the historical event of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, but our

central belief that Christ will come again in glory to judge all humanity. Our readings are chosen to help us reflect on this great truth and be prepared for the coming of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In a time of great upheaval and chaos for Israel, Jeremiah reassures the people of better days to come, when a descendent of David will rule them with integrity and honesty. Looking forward to the return of Christ in glory, Saint Paul reminds us that we must strive for true holiness now. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that no matter what befalls us in this life, we are to have confidence in him, the Son of Man.

Reading for the following Sunday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1) Baruch 5:1-9
- 2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
- 3) Luke 3:1-6

**THE FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

The Feast is one of 6 *Holy Days of Obligation* in which all Practicing Catholics are required to attend. The Mass Schedule is as follows:

Mass of Anticipation

- 6:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7

Mass of the Day

- 9:00 a.m. Sat., Dec. 8

The 4:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil

Mass only fulfills your Sunday obligation.

Please mark your calendars to attend Mass twice this upcoming weekend.

Blessed Mother, pray for us!



**Concert to Benefit
Repairs to the Organ**

Christmas Concert & Sing-a-Long:

"for kids from 1 to 92"

December 15th * 6:30pm * St. Mary's Hall

This is the second concert in a series of musical events produced to raise funds for the repair and maintenance of the church organ. Seasonal music for the entire family will be provided by St. Mary's Church Choir, Victoria College Choraliers, Victoria College Voice Students and you. In addition to secular and sacred choral music of the season, the audience can join in the fun by singing with the choir; songs including "Deck the Halls", "Silent Night", "Joy to the World", "Winter Wonderland" and of course, "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

A punch & cookie reception with special treats for the children will follow the concert.

Admission is free, but donations benefitting organ repairs will be gratefully accepted.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
Penance Services**

**Tues. Dec. 4th 6:30 p.m.—St. Patrick's
Bloomington**

**Tues. Dec. 11th 6:30 p.m. - Our Lady of
Victory Cathedral**

**Mon. Dec. 17th 6:30 p.m.—Our Lady of
Victory Cathedral**

Thurs. Dec. 20th- 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's

**RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of
Adults) Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7:00– 8:30
Baptism**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Masses For The Week

Saturday, December 1

7:00 Juliet M. Rangnow
4:00 †Jodie Vahalik

Sunday, December 2, First Sunday of Advent

8:00 People of the Parish
10:30 †Dennis Ohrt

Monday, December 3, Saint Francis Xavier

6:30 †Sharon West Bauer
12:05 †Raymond Leita

Tuesday, December 4

6:30 †Helen Stuekerjuergen
12:05 †U. S. Servicemen J.M.S.F. S. J.

Wednesday, December 5

6:30 †May Moscatelli
9:30 † Francis Boldt– Courtyard Nursing Home
12:05 †Walter Stevens

Thursday, December 6

6:30 Prayer and Communion Service
12:05 Prayer and Communion Service

Friday, December 7, Saint Ambrose

6:30 Grace Silva
12:05 James Walker Gann
6:00 Edie & Erol Tucker 50th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday, December 8, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 People of the Parish
4:00 †Vivian Tyng

Sunday, December 9, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 People of the Parish
10:30 Darrell Wayne Gann

LECTORS

Saturday, December 8

4:00 p.m. Faye Culak

Sunday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Diana Starnes
10:30 a.m. David Janca

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, December 8

4:00 p.m. Diana Starnes, Becky Coleman
Denise Bednorz, Emily Migl

Sunday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Geraldine Jurica, Adolph
Hernandez, Howard Pagel, Diana Pagel
10:30 a.m. Corinne Copeland, Kevin & Joan
Pfister, Clem Cantu

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Saturday, December 8

4:00 p.m. Denise Gainer, Frank Smolka,
Larry & Linda Luna

Sunday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Roy Jurica, Bohumil Vrana, Paul
Janacek, Stella Silva
10:30 a.m. Dennis & Linda Lala, Joe Baugh,
Laszlo Nemes

MASS SERVERS

Saturday, December 8

4:00 p.m. T. Coleman

Sunday, December 9

8:00 a.m. L. Hernandez, J. P. Pilkington
10:30 a.m. M. Barton, E. Rodriguez, S.
Verastegui

PARISH CHOIR: Regular practice after the 8am mass on Sundays. The choir also practices on Thursday evenings in the church from 5:30p to 7:00p in preparation for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter services. Anyone interested in participating in music ministry is encouraged to join the choir.



Congratulations to Edie & Erol Tucker on
their 50th Wedding Anniversary on
December 7.

Support our Victoria Squire Circle 2366 by purchasing a quart of our fabulous Kettle cooked stew
\$10/Quart pre-sale only
When...Sunday, December 9th
from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Where...Knights of Columbus Hall
3610 N. Ben Wilson St.
Tickets may be purchased at St. Mary's Rectory

Opening Soon!

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel will open on *December 13th*. Bishop Brendan Cahill will formally Bless the chapel and expose the Blessed Sacrament following the Noon Mass. All parishioners are invited, more details to follow.

ADORERS NEEDED

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel has a few more adoration slots available. Please consider spending even 30 minutes with Jesus, inviting a friend, or a non-Parishioner.

Available Adoration Hours:

Mon. 12:30 pm, 3 pm
Tues. 10 am
Wed. 7 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm
Thurs. 7 am, 9 am, 10 am, 2 pm, 3 pm
Fri. 8 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12:30 pm,
1 pm, 2 pm 5 pm

Thank you to all who have chosen a Holy Hour.

*"The time I have spent before the tabernacle is
the best spent time of my life."*

St. Catherine of Genoa

If interested, please contact *Cindy Brewer* at 361-571-6510 or leave a message at the church office at 361-573-4328.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP
NOV. 17-18**

Sunday Collection.....	\$ 3,882.00
Loose Collection.....	\$ 760.00
On-line giving.....	\$ 640.00
Total.....	\$ 5,282.00

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS St. Mary's Altar Society is now accepting donations for Christmas Flowers. Any donation made in honor of or memory of your loved one(s) is accepted. Forms and envelopes are located on the back of the last pew on either side of the church. Please complete and return in the collection basket, to the church office, or mail to the address shown on the envelope. Please assist in decorating our church for the arrival of Baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

Donations received after Thursday, December 20th will not be published in the Christmas Weekend Bulletin insert.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court St. Ann #369, will hold the monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 3, 2017, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The evening will start with prayer at 6:10 p.m., followed by the business meeting. The evening will conclude with a Christmas gift exchange. Those choosing to participate are asked to bring a gift in the \$5.00 range. Don't worry if you don't have time to shop—many of us have that "special something" around the house that needs a new home! Membership in CDA is open to Catholic women age 18 and over. Give yourself a Christmas gift of membership in one of the largest organizations of Catholic women.



QUILT AND CRAFT CORNER
Interested in learning how to quilt or craft?

Come meet on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the Annex. The Altar Society Quilters are looking for old or broken jewelry or one of a kind pieces. You can bring the items to the office or there is a box in the entrance to the church. **They are looking for men and women who like to do craft items. Come and check out the group.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CCD NEWS:

Classes: Dec. 5 & 12

Dec. 5 - Adoration and Benediction in the Church 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited to come; students, parents, grandparents, friends, etc. It is a great way to slow yourself down and enjoy the season.

Giving Tree Project

Thank you to everyone who took an ornament off the Christmas Giving Tree this holiday season.

Please return wrapped gifts to St. Mary's Church by Sun. Dec. 9. Tags should be securely taped to the gifts. **Monetary donations are also**

St. Mary's Altar Society will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the activity center. Guest are always welcome. Everyone is asked to bring canned items or cash for the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Coffee, doughnuts and fruit will be served on Sun. Dec. 16 after the 8:00 a.m.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center Guided One-Day "Look Who Is Coming" (Advent Theme) presenter, Mary Frazier

Saturday, December 8, 2018 - 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Guided Retreats include at least two reflections, ample time for personal prayer, walking and reflecting. A box lunch is available. \$25.00 Suggested Donation or Love offering. Incarnate Word Convent 1101 N. E. Water Street Victoria, TX 361-575-7111. We invite those attending to join the Sisters for their 8:30 am Mass in the Convent Chapel.

January 19, 2019—God Works with our Hands: Knitters, Crafters, Quilters; etc. Sister Roselle Haas, rc Reflectively working with your hands helps you discover the stillness within. Listen to God as you explore the spirituality of crafting. A box lunch is available. \$25.00 Suggested Donation or Love offering. Incarnate Word Convent 1101 N. E. Water Street Victoria, TX 361-575-7111.

We invite those attending to join the Sisters for their 8:30 am Mass in the Convent Chapel.

August 22nd-August 31st
2020 Passion Play at Oberammergau
10 Day Pilgrimage to Poland, Czech Republic & Germany
With Bishop Brendan Cahill as spiritual Director



For information contact: Susan DeBartol at 888-843-7373/ susan@littleflowerpilgrimages.com or Dr Gloria Amelda Gonzalez at [361-549-9147](tel:361-549-9147)/ dr.gloria@suddenlink.net

Reservations must be made by
31 December 2018

Solemn Advent Vespers: December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Incarnate Word Convent Chapel 1101 N. E. Water Street, Victoria. Solemn Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church. This prayer focuses on praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day and offering praise to God. Vespers closes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



Knights of Columbus Council #1329 Bingo Night.

Every Wednesday evening; Hall opens 6:00 pm; Bingo Games 7:30 pm until 10:00 pm. \$10.00 per Bingo sheet pack for 10 games. Food and drinks available. Location is Airline at Ben Wilson. Proceeds benefit various council charity projects. For info, call the hall Wednesday evening at 575-9214. Come out, have fun and meet friends!

Come and See! Single Catholic women 18 to 40 years of age are invited to come meet nuns (Sisters) and examine their call to make Jesus, the Incarnate Word, known and loved. Explore your own call to follow Jesus through marriage, single state, or religious life on December 8-9, 2018 and/or January 19-20, 2019 at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, Texas (361) 575-7111 or email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com. See www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information.

HAVE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MARK YOUR 2019 CALENDAR FOR

**St. Mary's 2019 Family Festival-
Sunday February 10, 2019**

Live Auction Items – Please be on the lookout for items for the live auction, take advantage of the holiday sales and pick up at least one nice item to be donated for the Live Auction or Silent Auction. This is our biggest money maker for our church, please support the festival and make it the best we have ever had. Live Auction questions? Please call Maggie Schaar 361-212-2452 or email maggieschaar@yahoo.com. Thanks so much for your support.

At this time we are asking for prizes for bingo.

We welcome all parishioners as we prepare to have our BEST festival yet. If you are interested in helping in any way or have questions, please call Kevin or Joan Pfister - 576-9638. We need everyone's help in making this Festival a success.

DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

Altar Servers	Emily Janak	573-1874
Altar Society	Evelyn Dierlam	578-3740
Baptism Prep.	Diana Starnes	550-9533
Bereavement Group	Geraldine Jurica	573-3949
Vacation Bible School	Marie Immenhauser	572-3863
Disciples on the Journey	Laurie Bautista	573-9561
Festival Committee Chairs	Kevin & Joan Pfister	576-9638
Funeral Meals	Adele Donalson	573-4455
Liturgical Ministers	Deacon Jim Koenig	935-3811
Marriage Prep Foccus	Deacon Jim Koenig	935-3811
Music Ministry	Cathy Lowe	935-1068
Natural Family Planning	Susanne Koch	(979) 488-4528
Adoration Chapel	Closed until further notice	
Quilters	Jo Ann Bone	578-7629
RCIA	Sr. Frances Cabrini	575-7111
Religious Education	Diana Starnes	550-9533
Rentals	Deacon Jim Koenig	935-3811
St. Vincent De Paul Society	Faye Culak	649-0614
Weekly Rosary & Divine Mercy Cenacle	Tina Rabalais	541-9295

**Altar Care for December will be
Stella Silva**

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Use McAdams ad