

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## VICTORIA, TEXAS



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

## CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Kristopher Fuchs - [frkristopher@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:frkristopher@victoriadiocese.org)

Pastoral Assistant: Dcn. Jim Koenig - [jkoenig@stmvictoria.org](mailto:jkoenig@stmvictoria.org)

Pastoral Assistant: Dcn. Richard Evans - [evansra@stmvictoria.org](mailto:evansra@stmvictoria.org)

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

Physical Address: 402 South Main Street Victoria, TX 77901-8123

Phone: 361-573-4328

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2448 Victoria, TX 77902-2448

Fax: 361-573-4308

### NEW TO ST. MARY'S

Welcome! Please call or come by the parish office to let us know you are here. You can register online at [www.stmvictoria.org](http://www.stmvictoria.org)

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**For Children not yet in school:** Contact the parish office to inquire about baptizing your child. Parents and godparents will meet with Fr. Kristopher to prepare for the celebration. Godparents from another parish can participate in a baptism class at their own parish. Baptisms are scheduled at a mutually agreeable time.

**For those in school (age 5-18):** Contact Diana Starnes to enroll in our CCD program.

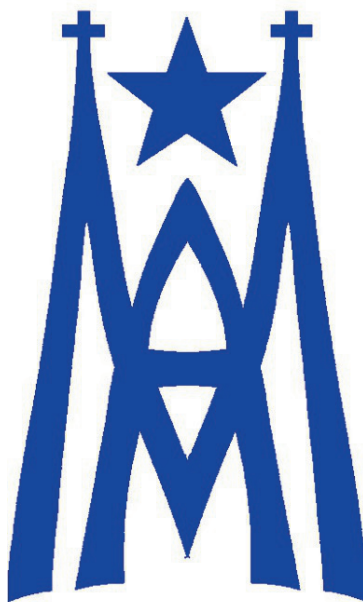
#### For Adults:

Contact Fr. Kristopher to enquire about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

### HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements. We are happy to resume bringing Holy Communion to the Homebound after the COVID disruptions.

1824



1840

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am  
10:30 am

Monday - Friday 12:05 pm

### CONFESSIONS

After all Masses:  
Monday - Saturday  
and upon request

### THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Congratulations on your engagement! We are happy to assist you in preparing for Holy Matrimony. Please schedule an appointment to meet with Fr. Kristopher at least 6 months before the desired wedding date to begin preparing.

### THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

#### For high schoolers:

Preparation is completed through our CCD program, Catholic School or through the home. CCD meets on Wednesdays from 6:00—7:15 pm in the Activity Center.

#### For adults:

Contact Fr. Kristopher

### THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office and ask for a priest. If it is an emergency at a hospital and a priest from St. Mary's is unavailable, ask the nurse to call the Catholic chaplain.

### BULLETIN NEWS

Please have any information for the parish bulletin in by noon on Monday. Contact Cathy at [sec@stmvictoria.org](mailto:sec@stmvictoria.org) or call 361-573-4328.



**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S****Saturday, December 19 Saturday of the Third Week of Advent**

4:00 pm Vigil Mass Mass Intention: Mary C. Gonzales †  
 5:00 pm Confessions Martha Othold †

**Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am Sunday Mass Mass Intention: Daniel Jalfuka †  
 Lupe Salinas †  
 10:30 am Sunday Mass Mass Intention: People of the Parish

**Monday, December 21 Mon. of the Fourth Week of Advent**

12:05 pm Daily Mass Mass Intention: Chad Slavik †  
 12:30 pm Confessions  
 7:00 pm Seminarian Parish Advisory Team Meeting - Activity Center

**Tuesday, December 22 Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent**

7:00 am - 7:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel  
 12:05 pm Daily Mass Intention: Edward Miller †  
 12:30 pm Confessions  
 3:00 - 4:30 pm Divine Mercy Cenacle in the Chapel

**Wednesday, December 23 Wed. of the Fourth Week of Advent**

12:05 pm Daily Mass Mass Intention: Intention of the Dee Garza  
 12:30 pm Confessions Family  
 2:00 pm Church Christmas Decorating

**Thursday, December 24 The Vigil the Nativity of the Lord  
Parish Office Closed (Christmas Eve)  
No 12:05 pm Mass**

4:00 pm Vigil Mass Mass Intention: Dr. & Mrs. Tyng & George  
 & Vivian Tyng  
 8:00 p.m. Vigil Mass Mass Intention: Deceased Members of the  
 Ford, King & Sitterle Families †

**Friday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
Parish Office Closed / No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

12:00 Midnight Mass Intention: Fr. Kristopher's Intentions  
 10:00 am Mass Intention: People of the Parish

**Saturday, December 26 Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr**

4:00 pm Vigil Mass Mass Intention: Virginia Msgorski †  
 5:00 pm Confessions Mary Ann Vivion †

**Sunday, December 27 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph**

8:00 am Sunday Mass Mass Intention: Dr. Tom Moscatelli †  
 Ernest Innocenti †  
 10:30 am Sunday Mass Mass Intention: People of the Parish

† symbol indicates the deceased

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY****NOVEMBER REPORT**

During the month of November 2020, St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society provided food for 204 families (826 individuals), 1 utility & 1 housing assistance in need. Thank you for your continued support of this parish ministry!

**December 8th - Holy Day**

Total Contribution.....\$ 1,270.05

Total Mass Attendance.....248

**REGULAR OFFERTORY GIFTS  
Dec. 9-14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Sunday Collection.....\$13,051.00

On-line giving.....\$ 980.00

Total.....\$14,031.00

Amount needed weekly

to meet budget: \$8,085.00

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

Sat., Dec. 12th at 4:00 pm.....135

Sun., Dec. 13th at 8:00 am.....74

Sun., Dec. 13th at 10:30 am.....137

Total.....346

**THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING THE MISSION  
OF THE CHURCH**Contributions can be made through  
our website: [stmvictoria.org](http://stmvictoria.org)

or by mail to:

P.O. Box 2448  
Victoria, TX 77902or dropped off in the secure  
mailbox at the parish office.**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE**in the church burns this week  
in memory of**Bernice Tipton**

by

Patrick Tipton

**THE ADORATION CANDLES**in the chapel burn this week  
in memory of**Deacon A. R. Wearden****Debra Wearden Hampton**

by

Theresa Wearden and  
James Wearden

and

in memory of

**Chad Slavik**

by

Allen, Karol, Tabitha &  
Chris Slavik**THE CANDLE****IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THE DECEASED**in the chapel burns this week in  
memory of**The Hyak Family**

by

Kathy Sandidge

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING**

**THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD AT 2:00PM**

All parishioners are invited to assist in the decorating of our beautiful church in honor of the arrival of baby Jesus. Decorating will take place at 2:00 pm on December 23rd in the church. We are all gifted with talents to serve the Lord; let's make use of our gifts to welcome Him in Glory and Thanksgiving.

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

The parish office will be closed beginning on Thursday, December 24, 2020 and will resume regular hours on Monday, January 4, 2021. For a majority of that time, Fr. Kristopher will still be available for pastoral needs. Please call the office and leave a message for Fr. Kristopher or Dcn. Jim should any needs arise.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 4:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 8:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS AT MIDNIGHT**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 10:00 AM**

### **NO EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 1**

We will not have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Christmas Day and New Years Day.

### **EXPLANATION OF ART ON THE FRONT COVER**

John Collier's contemporary depiction of the Annunciation brings the story of Mary's encounter with the Angel Gabriel into our present reality. Collier's Annunciation stands on the shoulders of tradition, depicting the encounter in such a way that includes the standard symbols of the past. We see Mary and the angel face to face. Mary holding a book as the symbol of her piety. We see the lily as a symbol of her purity. the pane window as the symbol of her virginity, and the dove perching in the background as the symbol of the Holy Spirit. These symbols are the familiar language of many of Annunciation scenes and connect this work to those from the great masters of the past. While using these familiar elements, Collier retells the story for our present day. Mary is a young schoolgirl with a pony tail, still in school uniform, and she lives in a suburban neighborhood. Her shoes are playfully untied. She must have just slipped back into them to come to the door. In bringing together past and present, Collier invites us to see the gospel scene, not as a distant story, but as one unfolding in our lives here and now. As the story unfolds, the encounter between Mary and the angel reveals even deeper meaning. Mary is a young schoolgirl with unties shoelaces, but she is also a figure of strength, steadfastness, and faith. She looks squarely at the angel, who in contrast bows reverently before her, paying homage to God's grace manifest in His lowly handmaid. The angels presence is subtly liturgical. In his dress and posture, he resembles an acolyte, serving at the altar, ready to adore the presence of the Lord who will, in a moment, become flesh in the body of this young girl. The angel, as server, is a beautiful anticipation of Christ's bodily presence in our midst, first welcomed through the faithful 'yes' of Mary. Standing at the door with Mary and Gabriel, we are at a liturgy, gathered into one body to encounter the real presence of Christ in our midst. Like Mary, we are called to say 'yes' to this moment, and offer ourselves to await His arrival.

**DONATION INFORMATION****NONPROFIT CARES ACT CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION CHANGES**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which became law on March 27, 2020, made several changes to charitable contribution limitation rules for individuals and corporations. Here are the details:

**FOR INDIVIDUALS:**

- Individuals who take the standard deduction on their tax return (non-itemizers) can contribute up to \$300 cash to most 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and claim a new “above the-line” deduction on their 2020 taxes. Previously, there was no charitable contribution tax deduction available for taxpayers who did not itemize deductions.
- Individuals who itemize their deductions can deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash contributions to most 501(c)(3) organizations for 2020. The deduction was previously capped at 60% of AGI for cash contributions.

**FOR CORPORATIONS:**

- Corporate donors may also make charitable contributions, and in 2020, corporations may increase their corporate tax deduction from 15% to 25% of taxable income.
- Corporations that donate food inventory during 2020 may increase their charitable contribution deduction from 15% to 25% of taxable income.

Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to assist our parish, especially in these challenging days of this pandemic and as we prepare for the end of this calendar year. As always, thank you for your generosity.

**YEAR OF THE FAMILY****DECEMBER**

Bishop Cahill has announced a special Year of the Family! You are invited to join in monthly themes where we will explore an area of our faith and participate in activities that will help us to **Pray, Eat, and Play** together.

**For the Month of December: THE GREATEST GIFT: God comes to us.**

What was the best gift you ever received? Why was it the best? Did you know that Jesus being born on earth was a gift from God? Yes, God's “gift” to us was that through Jesus, God became like us (human), so that He could show us how to live in love, peace, and joy. This is one of the reasons why Advent and Christmas is so important to us as Christians.

**Pray:**

1. Celebrate the Immaculate Conception by attending Mass on December 8th. (It is a Holy Day of Obligation)
2. Pray a “Glory Be” prayer every time something doesn't quite go your way.
3. Pray a prayer of blessing over your Christmas tree. The prayer can be found on the USCCB website (usccb.org). The link is also available on the Diocese of Victoria website.

**Eat:**

1. Enjoy a picnic outside (or inside) this month.
2. Donate food or money to your local food bank.
3. Try a new recipe for a weekend meal.
4. Ask everyone at the table the best part of their day during the meal conversation.
5. While at the table, discuss what it might have been like on the night Jesus was born... Might it have been cold? Was it dark? Who might have been with Mary & Joseph?

**Prayer after Meals:**

*We give you thanks, almighty God, for all your benefits, who loves and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

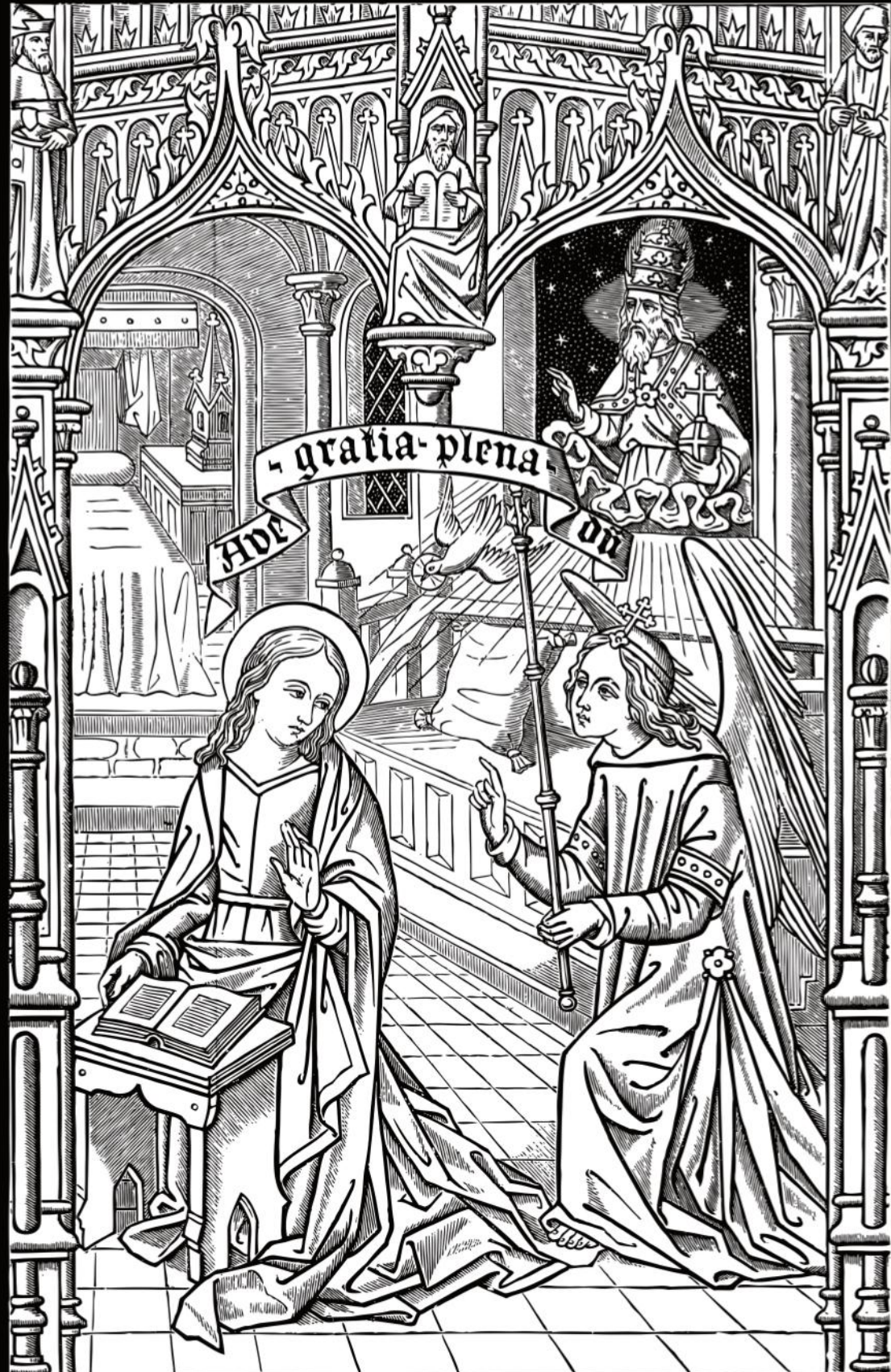
**Play:**

1. Consider making a Jesse Tree or adding ornaments to your own tree that reflect the faithfulness of God found throughout the Bible.
2. Celebrate these December feast days: St. Nicholas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the Feast of the Holy Family!
3. Set up an Advent wreath in your home. Find out more on how to do this on the Diocese of Victoria website.
4. Make your Christmas decorations Jesus-centered.

Want More? Visit [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)



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