

*St. Mary Catholic Church  
Windthorst, TX*

### St. Mary / St. Boniface Vision Statement

To serve Christ and  
promote  
His teachings  
through worship,  
Education,  
Training, Service,  
and  
Community  
Involvement



*St. Boniface Catholic Church  
Scotland, TX*

## Father Michael Moloney, O. F. S., PASTOR

"There's no such thing as a bad priest, just priests whose people don't pray enough for them." St. John Vianney

### Mailing Address for Both Churches

PO Box 230, Windthorst, Texas 76389  
Phone (940) 423-6687 \* Fax (940) 423-6657  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm  
Closed on Tuesdays  
[www.stmarysstboniface.org](http://www.stmarysstboniface.org)  
e-mail : [mmoloney@comcell.net](mailto:mmoloney@comcell.net)  
e-mail: [windscoth@comcell.net](mailto:windscoth@comcell.net)

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm.  
Call the Church Office or Deb Schreiber (940-704-6537) or  
Karley Buerger (940-631-3439) to register for classes.

### Marriage Preparation

contact the office at least nine to 12 months prior  
to wedding date

### RCIA/OCIA

contact Fr. Michael at 782-3200/ [mmoloney@comcell.net](mailto:mmoloney@comcell.net)  
Brooke McLemore: [bamclemore@yahoo.com](mailto:bamclemore@yahoo.com)  
Imelda Hallenbeck: [mel.hallenbeck@gmail.com](mailto:mel.hallenbeck@gmail.com)

### Funerals

in the case of a death in the family, please contact the office as  
soon as possible.

### Ministry to the Sick

contact the office immediately if you know of anyone  
who is sick, hospitalized or home-bound

### Confession

Every Saturday 3:15 – 4:15 pm, Wednesdays 6:00-6:30 pm  
& Anytime, Any Day by Appointment

St. Boniface Every Last Thursday of the month @ 5:30 pm

### Hispanic Ministry

Call Oscar or Alma Contreras at 423-6918 or 940-224-8183

### Safe Environment Program

Call Suzette Schreiber @ (940) 631-6301

### Mass Schedule for the Week

All Sunday Masses will be live-streamed

<b>Monday</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> -	<b>December 4 – St. Mary's</b> †Robert & †Theresa Morath by Jim Bracket
<b>Tuesday</b> -	<b>December 5 – St. Mary's</b> Intention of Father Michael
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> -	<b>December 6 – St. Mary's</b> Living & Deceased Members by St. Mary's Christian Mothers' Society
<b>Thursday</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> -	<b>December 7 – Boniface (Vigil Mass)</b> †Pete & †Pauline Block by Bill & Pat Hemmi
<b>Friday</b> -	<b>December 8 – St. Mary's (Holy Day)</b> <b>The Immaculate Conception</b> †Gladys Wolf by Nellie Scheffe †Willie Hoff by Dean & Wina Church
<b>Saturday</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> -	<b>December 9 – St. Mary's</b> †Helen Pennartz O'Neal by Father Michael
<b>5:00 PM</b> -	†Gus Berend by Family
<b>Sunday</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> -	<b>December 10 – St. Boniface</b> Intentions of Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> -	<b>December 10 – St. Mary's</b> †Alfred Berend Jr. by Cordella Berend & Family



**ST. MARY'S MINISTERS****Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>****MONDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 8:00 AM****Reader** – Volunteer**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> ADORATION 6:00 PM****BENEDICTION 6:45 PM MASS 7:00 PM****Reader** – Florence Anderle**FRIDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> Holy Day 7:30 AM****Servers** – Jaxon West, Brady Wolf, Braiden Messineo,  
Jake Schroeder, Carter Byers**Reader** – Gina Wolf**Eucharistic Ministers** – Mitzi Veitenheimer,  
Chuck Veitenheimer, Donna Hoff**Ushers** – Leo Hoff, Jr., Doug Wolf, Terry Schroeder, M.J. Geis**FRIDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> Holy Day 6:00 PM****Servers** – Nolan Schreiber, Gabby Hoegger, Gunner Hoegger,  
Lucas Petro, Sophia Petro**Reader** – Chad Steinberger**Eucharistic Ministers** – June Schroeder, Diane Schroeder,  
Michael Schroeder (choir)**Ushers** – Roy Koetter, Robert Baumer,  
Mike Rueschenberg, David Green**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> 8:00 AM****Reader** - Volunteer**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> 5:00 PM****Servers** – Nolan Schreiber, Lucas Petro, Sophia Petro**Reader** – Hilary Wolf**Eucharistic Ministers:** Donna Hoff, Beth Geis,  
Leo Hoff Jr., (choir)**Ushers** – Doug Wolf, M.J. Geis, Leo Hoff Jr., Mike Rueschenberg**SUNDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 10:30 AM****Servers** – Brody Frazier, Braiden Messineo, Carter Byars**Reader** – Karen McCann**Eucharistic Ministers:** Matt McLemore, Dawn Vieth,  
Brooke McLemore (choir)**Ushers** – Donnie Fleitman, David McCann, Terry Schroeder**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** – Brooke Karr, Blaire Schreiber**Eucharistic Minister to Homebound: December 10**  
Dawn Vieth**SUPPORT** – Envelopes \$2962.00 Loose \$335.00**Bldg. Fund** \$100.00**Catholic Campaign for Human Development** \$140.00**Thanksgiving** \$456.00 **Retired Religious** \$25.00**COUNTERS MONDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 9:15 AM**

Suzette Schreiber, Leon Schneider, Beth Geis

**ST. BONIFACE MINISTERS****Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>****THURSDAY DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 PM****Servers** – Shae Hoffman, Riley Wolf, Luke Hoffman**Reader** – Colleen Schreiber**Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion** –  
Cassidy Koetter, Patsy Stallcup**Ushers** – Dans Smith, Logan Veitenheimer**SUNDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 8:00 AM****Servers** – Maddie Idell, Natalie Anderle, Matthew Anderle**Reader** – Patsy Stallcup**Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion** –  
Debbie & Robert Krah**Ushers** – Kenneth Veitenheimer, David Winter**SUPPORT** – Envelopes \$1270.00 Loose \$95.00**ST. MARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS****SANCTUARY LIGHT WILL BURN THIS WEEK** +Margie  
Himmels by Ann Veitenheimer & Family**USHERS NEEDED:** We are in need of Ushers for all Masses,  
especially the Sunday, 10:30 am Masses. If you have questions  
please feel free to reach out to Terry Schroeder @940-733-0268  
Before your name can be added to the list, everyone needs to  
take/have taken the Safe Environment Program of the Diocese  
of Fort Worth. Please contact Suzette Schreiber 940-631-6301  
for more info on this.**WINDTHORST SR. CITIZENS** meet every Tuesday at 1pm at  
the Berend Family Center for bingo & games. All are welcome.**CAN YOU SING???**Looking for cantors for Saturday evening Mass & Sunday  
morning Mass. Please contact the Church office if you feel the  
calling or have questions. 940-423-6687**DECORATING CHURCH:** Just a reminder – Mark your  
calendars – Christmas decorating will begin at 9 am on  
Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> and again on Friday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9 am.**ST. MARY'S CHRISTIAN MOTHERS' SOCIETY** meeting will  
be held on December 6, 2023 starting at 5:30 pm. If there is  
any unfinished business we will finish after Mass & Novena.  
Hope to see you there.**ANGEL TREE FOR RESIDENTS OF UNIVERSITY PARK  
MANOR, WICHITA FALLS, TX:** St. Mary's will once again be  
collecting items for the residents that reside in University Park  
Manor at Wichita Falls, Texas. We will be going back to the  
way we did the actual Angel Tree before Covid. Asking for you  
to please take an angel and put purchased items in a Christmas  
bag under the tree or in the box in the back of Church. As in  
the past no aerosol cans, only the pump kind. Items that are  
needed include socks, candy, sugar free candy and sugar free  
snacks such as Little Debbie's, pudding fruit and apple sauce  
cups or Jello cups, plus regular snacks. Canned Sprite's and  
other soft drinks would also be appreciated. The toiletry items  
include body washes, body sprays, colognes, lotions, shampoos,  
conditioners, deodorants (roll on kind or stick), shaving cream,  
denture adhesive for men and women. Also needed are room  
calendars and slipper socks for men and women. Baby dolls and  
stuffed animals are also needed to soothe the dementia  
residents. They could also use sweats for men and ladies' sizes  
from xl to 5x, plus gloves and scarves. The staff will give these  
to those most in need. Please have all donations delivered no  
later than Sunday, December 17, 2023. We need time to have  
the gifts delivered so the staff has the chance to label or mark  
all items with the resident's names before their party. Not all of  
these residents have families that can provide some of the basic  
items or extra special treats that we take for granted. We are  
truly blessed to live in our community where we are looked after  
by family and friends. Your generosity to these residents is not  
appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Joyce Vieth  
940-733-3788 or Melinda Schneider 940-423-6731 or 940-733-  
7741. Please help us in this charitable endeavor. Boxes will be  
put out for Thanksgiving weekend. Many thanks in advance.



**ST. MARY'S CHRISTIAN MOTHERS' SOCIETY** will be sponsoring their annual Pilgrimage this next year. The date is February 17, 2024. More information will be coming soon about the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Christmas & poinsettia time are right around the corner & if you'd like to order a plant(s) to decorate St. Mary's Church in memory or in honor of a loved one-the time is now. Suggested donation per poinsettia is \$9.00. Please turn in your intentions & money to the Church office staff as soon as possible. Deadline for ordering plants is Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> by noon. Thank you!

#### ST. BONIFACE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SANCTUARY LIGHT WILL BURN THIS WEEK** in memory of Dennis Smith by Mom

#### 7 DAY LIGHTS:

**READERS:** The new workbooks for the 2024 Church year have arrived. The workbooks are in the sacristy. Please pick up your copy as soon as possible. Start date is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you.

**SCOTLAND SENIOR CITIZENS** will meet on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the K of C hall at noon. Everyone is welcome. We share a delicious meal, fellowship and games if you please. Do come.

**THE ST. BONIFACE ALTAR SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm in the home of Margaret & Jerry Smith. Bring your favorite snack & a guest, (husband or best friend). Everyone is welcome. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, a \$15 gift is good, but you can opt out & just enjoy observing if you wish. Help to start celebrating this holy & joyous season early & spread "The Reason For The Season". Merry Christmas to all from the St. Boniface Altar Society.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #1715 MEETING:** Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**ST. BONIFACE CHRISTIAN MOTHERS' MEETING:** Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> after Mass.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #1715** would like to invite all members, wives, & significant others to our Christmas party Dec. 12, 2023. We would also cordially invite widows & plus one's to attend. RSVP Dan Smith 940-867-2387 or Kevin Conrady 940-235-6294.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** It's that time of year! Cost of poinsettias will be \$9. Money and intentions will be due at the Church office by 12 noon, Dec, 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BOTH PARISHES

**BULLETIN NOTICES ARE DUE BY 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAYS. THE BULLETIN IS PRINTED ON THURSDAYS.**

**THE PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE:** will be in the home of Bertha Mae Schenk the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>. She, as well as all of us are asked to pray for world peace, military, and vocations.

December 17 Lloyd Schreiber Family

December 24 Arthur Hemmi Family

**\*CCD NATIVITY PROGRAM:** K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CCD will be having their Nativity Program on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM in the High School Gym. All are welcome to attend.

**KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS SAUSAGE MEAL:** Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the parish hall.

**ADVENT PARISH MISSION:** We invite you to join us at the parish hall on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner followed by Fr. Nathan's session of "Endings and Beginnings in Afterlife, Interrupted: Helping Stuck Souls Cross Over." The morning sessions will take place on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to noon, while the evening sessions will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located at 206 N. Cedar Street in Seymour, TX 76380

**ST. MARY'S/ST. BONIFACE FAMILY LIFE & MISSION OUTREACH** will meet on **Wednesday, December 6, at 5:00 p.m.** in the Classroom of St. Mary's Parish Hall to fill boxes for the food distribution on Thursday.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION** will be on **Thursday, December 7,** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (or until all boxes are distributed) in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.

**MASS TIMES: PLEASE WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR ANY MASS TIME CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:** Holyday of obligation for The Immaculate Conception of Mary is Dec. the 8<sup>th</sup>. Vigil Mass will be at St. Boniface Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm & Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm. Christmas Eve Mass will be at 4 pm at St. Boniface and at 10 pm at St. Mary's. Christmas Day Mass will be at 9 am at St. Mary's.

**STEWARDSHIP/SUPPORT ENVELOPES:** For those who are not with Faith Direct, envelopes are ready for you to pick up as soon as possible. The envelopes are on the tables at the entrance of Church. Some envelope numbers have changed so please be aware of the change. Thanks for your cooperation.

**CONFESSIONS:** Wednesdays 6:00 pm at St. Mary's, Saturdays 3:15 to 4:15 pm at St. Mary's & 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays at 7:00 am at St. Mary's. No Confessions on Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Confessions at St. Boniface, last Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm.

**\*ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES:** Monday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> @ Our Lady Queen of Peace in Wichita Falls; Thursday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ Sacred Heart in Wichita Falls; Friday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> @ Our Lady of Guadalupe in Wichita Falls; Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ St. Mary's in Windthorst @ 7 PM.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION, CONFESSIONS, & MASS:	
Eucharistic Adoration 6:00 pm	Confessions 6:00 pm
Benediction 6:45 pm	Mass 7:00 pm

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Tuesday mornings at 6:00 am in the Convent. There will be no bible study December 26<sup>th</sup> or January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Friday mornings at 6:00 am at Berend Family Center.

**\*ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Sundays at 9:30 am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of St. Mary's Parish Hall. Watch the bulletin for changes. **No Adult Faith Formation December 3<sup>rd</sup> or December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**RCIA/OCIA:** after 10:30 am Mass in the **Convent. No RCIA December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**ACTS CORE MEETINGS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month @ 2-4 pm in the **Convent.** Next meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**CCD K-5<sup>TH</sup> CLASSES:** Monday thru Thursday, 7:25 am – 7:50 am. Friday 7:25 am Word Service. No classes or Word Service during Christmas break.



**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** Classes for 10<sup>th</sup> graders - Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. No classes during Christmas break.

**CCD 6<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES:** Wednesdays, at 5:30 pm. High School will be in the youth bldg. & Jr. High will be in the JH bldg. of the school followed by **Adoration** at 6:35 pm & **Benediction** at 6:45 pm & **Mass** at 7 pm. There will be no classes during Christmas break.

**ST. FRANCES DE SALES CLASSES:** The purpose of the St. Francis De Sales Program is to teach the faith as proclaimed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and offer specialized catechist formation through pedagogical instruction. St. Mary's/St. Boniface St. Frances de Sales (SFDS) classes will be held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the **Convent. No class in December.**

**BAPTISMAL CLASSES** are offered on the third Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm in St. Mary's Convent. Classes need to be attended by Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptismal classes need to be refreshed every three years as needed. You may attend the class before the baby is born. Please call the office at 940-423-6687 or Deb Schreiber at 940-704-6537 or Karley Buerger at 940-631-3439 to register. Thank you. Baptisms will be at 11:00 am on the designated Saturday morning. Next Baptisms: Dec. 30

**IS GOD CALLING YOU!! PLEASE!! PLEASE LISTEN TO HIS CALL!!!! PLEASE CONSIDER THE GIVING OF YOUR TIME!!! WE NEED ONE MORE CCD TEACHER AND A HALL MONITOR FOR K – 5 CCD CLASSES:** Teaching days are Monday thru Wednesday. Class time begins @ 7:25 and ends @ 7:50. Teachers are needed Monday – Wednesday. We realize you may sometime have a conflict so a sub list will be provided to all teachers. Thursdays we have various religious activities in the Youth Center and on Friday there will be a **Word Service** in Church. Anyone interested in volunteering to teach or volunteering for Thursdays & or Fridays can contact **Gina Wolf (940-237-5506)** or **Mitzi Veitenheimer (940-733-5506)**. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the Called. \*\*All Volunteers are required to be current with the Safe Environment Program. Call Suzette (940-631-6301) to see if you need a Safe Environment class.

**MONTHLY ROSARY FOR PEACE & REPARATION:** In May of 1917 Our Blessed Lady appeared to the 3 children of Fatima for the first time with a message from Heaven and hope for humanity. She promised God would grant peace to the entire world if Her requests for, \*Prayer, especially the Rosary, \*Penance & Reparation, \*the First Saturday Devotion & \*Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary were observed. Our Lady's message is more timely now than ever in light of the many sins of men and the turning away from God and living Faith. As a means to help promote Fatima and the remedy given to us by Our Lady, the Christian Mothers' Society will begin to sponsor a monthly Rosary for Peace. The first will be on **Sunday, December 10**, after the 10:30 Mass. **PLEASE** make this a priority and **JOIN US**.

**SACRED HEART WICHITA FALLS ADVENT MISSION:** 6:30 PM on both Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> & Monday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> in the Church. Reception in the parish hall following the Monday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> presentation. Speaker will be Joh Leonetti. **MISSION OF THE FAMILY** How will you change the world? What's the key to molding our culture into a culture for God? It's time we discover & live God's plan of discipleship & love in the family.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: YOU CAN HELP.**

"Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

**WINDTHORST KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #1824 NYE**

**DINNER/DANC/DRWDOWN RAFFLE:** Sunday, December 31, 2023 6:00 PM – Midnight Berend Family Center Catered by Zeke's BBQ Entertainment by 380 West Band Tickets \$75.00 (includes 2 dinners & 1 raffle chance) /\$25.00 raffle chance Grand Prize: Choice of 4 Vacation Packages, additional prizes throughout the night. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SAUSAGE MEAL OR FROM ANY K OF C MEMBER.

**ATTENTION 2024 SENIORS:** If you are a member of the JCDA or a son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter, or nephew/niece of a CDA member, you are eligible for the Texas CDA State Memorial Scholarship. The postmark deadline for the scholarship is January 31, 2024. For more details or an application, please contact Whitney Schreiber at 940-631-8328 or Darla Tackett at WISD 940-423-6608.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:** "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning." Don't wait – take time now for your marriage by participating on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4, 2024. To apply go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org). Questions – email [applications@dfwme.org](mailto:applications@dfwme.org) or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a [mdgallegos06@gmail.com](mailto:mdgallegos06@gmail.com) 214-497-0188.

***First Sunday of Advent***

***"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."*** Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day.

Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.



**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL – Love one another as I have loved you.**

"I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34  
As you discern your contribution to the Annual Diocesan Appeal this year, reflect how you can best put Stewardship in Action. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. The Annual Diocesan Appeal provides an important way for us to put Stewardship in Action. It is an invitation to meet the needs of parishes, schools and outreach ministries across 28 counties of the Diocese of Ft. Worth.

**St. Mary's goal** this year is **\$23000.00.**

**St. Boniface's goal** this year is **\$5200.00.**

Please be sure to review the entire 2023 Accountability report online at [bit.ly/ADAAccountability](http://bit.ly/ADAAccountability). Learn more at [AdvancementFoundation.org](http://AdvancementFoundation.org).

How to get free access to **FORMED**

Registering for FORMED:

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
2. Enter the parish's zip code and select parish
3. Register with your name and email address

You will be automatically signed into FORMED, during this Sign Up process.

In the future, you will visit [watch.formed.org](http://watch.formed.org) and click on Sign In (upper, righthand corner), enter your email, then check your email inbox for a link to click on, to complete the Sign In process, and begin using FORMED

## FAITH DIRECT

### Stewardship Corner:

Why not make a change this fall in the way you support **YOUR** Church?

This season, rich in the symbolism of harvest and sowing, offers a beautiful reminder: your acts of generosity reverberate, touching countless lives.

Sign up with eGiving through Faith Direct, which is the most convenient

and secure way for you to make your weekly offering to St. Mary's or

St. Boniface Catholic Church. Making either one-time or automatic

contributions through Faith Direct will also save valuable time for both

you and our parish staff.

St. Mary's: Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/TX1143](http://faith.direct/TX1143)

St. Boniface: Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/TX1144](http://faith.direct/TX1144)

Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757

## SOMETHING TO CONSIDER – END OF YEAR

**DONATIONS:** 70 1/2 or older? Support your Parish, School or the Diocese of Fort Worth through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) Every time you give to the Diocese of Fort Worth, your Parish, a Catholic school or other ministry, you are giving a gift to God. Giving directly from an IRA account to the Advancement Foundation is one of the smartest ways to make a real impact for the Catholic Church.

Donate stocks or other appreciated assets to the Church.

Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds and mutual funds directly to the Advancement Foundations. Compared with donating cash or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction.

### **\*TO FIND A MASS WHEN TRAVELING**

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) is a great website for anyone traveling who is looking for local Catholic Churches and their Mass times. You can input an exact address, a city, or have it find your location on your phone and it will share with you all the Mass times near you by each Church as well as giving you the Church's address.

### **7 Ways to Participate in a Day of Prayers and Fasting**

1. Go to One Extra Mass during the week
2. Make a Holy Hour (at least 15 minutes)
3. Pray a Rosary
4. Pray a Chaplet of Divine Mercy
5. Read Sacred Scripture
6. Fasting
7. Give Alms

**REPARATION-** The act or fact of making amends. It implies an attempt to restore things to their normal or sound conditions, as they were before something wrong was done. It applies mainly to recompense for the losses sustained or the harm caused by some morally bad action. With respect to God, it means making up with greater love for the failure in love through sin: it means restoring what was unjustly taken and compensating with generosity for the selfishness that caused the injury. (Etym. Latin reparare, to prepare anew, restore.)

### TAKE THE RISK

**Time for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood.**

**"You have not chosen Me But I have chosen you!"**





**This Week, Please pray for the following Seminarians:**

**Javier Escutia, Jr.** – Assumption Seminary – San Antonio, TX  
**Jesus Segura** – Assumption Seminary – San Antonio, TX  
**Nicolas Hoelscher** – St. Joseph Seminary College –  
St. Benedict, LA

**Prayer**

*O Lord Jesus Christ, great High Priest, lead our seminarians in Your unerring footsteps; so that they may become priests who are models of purity, possessors of wisdom and heroes of sacrifice. Teach them generosity and detachment from worldly goods; but above all, teach them to know You and to love You, the One and Only Eternal Priest. Amen*

*Prayer for Seminarians by: Fr. Stephen Salocks, Rector*

**PRAYER FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS**

"We pray for the intercession of St. Dymphna and St. John of God, the patron saints of persons experiencing mental illness, as well as St. Luke, the patron saint of health care, that our work will bear great fruit for such a critical inflection point in our culture today. May the Lord, the Divine Physician, give aid and comfort to all who are suffering, inspire communities to offer greater support to the sick, and grant wisdom to policymakers so that everyone who needs help can get help."

**PRAYER FOR RAIN**

Thank you, Lord for the rain you sent us the past several days. We ask, Almighty God, for the gift of more rain. Help us in this time of need. Look upon us in your mercy and bless us with the rain we need for fill our tanks & lakes & for ourselves as we place all our trust in You. Amen.

**Purgatory is a cleansing, purification & healing process in the Presence of God.**

**MILITARY PRAYER LIST** – Taylor D. Anderson (Army), Charles Berend, Jr. (Navy), Fermin Estrada Jr., (Army), Sgt. Bill Foster, Capt. Sean Fuhrmann (Marines), Specialist Benny Garcia, Lt. Colonel Tony Garcia (Navy), Luke Grotelueschen (Army), Captain Brian Hoff (Marine), Tracey Hoff (Navy), Damian Hoffman (Army), Sgt. Major Nicholas Klein (Army), Stephen Koetter (Army), Adam Lambert (Army), James Devon Lindeman (Army), PVT Miguel Luna Jr., Jess Martinez (Army), Private Thomas McCann (Army), Joshua Millican (Navy), Major David Ogura (Army), Kyle Page (Marine), Frank Prokop, (Colorado Air National Guard), Sgt. Robert Rhinehart, Private Trey Schenk (Marine), Tracy Hoff Schmitt (Army), 1<sup>st</sup> Class Craig Slaten (Air Force), Staff Sgt. Ricky Smith (Air Force), Judy Solorio (Navy), 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Josh Teel (Army National Guard), Master Sgt. Matthew Tubbs, Josh Winter (Army), Major Audrey Wolf (Army), Zachary Zoltz (Army). (If there are any changes or additions please call the office.) Dear Heavenly Father, please protect our troops as they protect us. Bless them and their families for all that they are doing for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

**REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS!**

Caroline Anderle, Debbie King Appeal, Jim Baumhardt, Margaret Beaman, Angie Berend, Bernadine Berend, Carol Berend, Chuck Berend, Gerald Berend, Jean Berend, Teresa Lindeman Birkenfield, Patience Blake, Toni Blaze, Starlet Borgman, Mabel Bowlden, Karen Brewer, Lonnie Buerger, Billie Burks, David Carcaño, Bill Cardin, Janette Carriera, Jesús Colchado, Sharlotta Connally, Jerry Cooper, John Deeson, Marion D'entremont, Ryan Essler, Jeanne Fischer, Annette Fleitman, Danielle Mueller Fontenot, Emily Foster, Art Frerich, Cindy Frerich, Kimberly Fulford, Tyler Ferguson, Savannah Syrus Garcia, Tootsie Gardner, Carolyn Gibbs, Jim Green, Sister Marie Green, Tammie Gutierrez, Theresa Grewing, Stan Hammack, Chris Hemmi, Helen Ann Hemmi, Betty Hilbers, Billie Hoff, Elsie Hoff, Ernie Hoff, Frances Hoffman, Ida Hoff, Pauline Hoff, Willie L. Hoff, Myra Hoffman, Ray Hoffman Jr., Terry Hoffman, Melissa Hogan, Monica Green Hughes, Pat Humpert, Libby Ingram, Donnie Johnson, Gary Julian, JoAnn (Schenk) Klein, Julie Koetter, Robert W. Krah, Phyllis Lawrence, Shirley Litteken, Jennifer Lindemann, Mildred Lindemann, Misty Lindley, Gerry Meurer, Jessa Loraus, Brian Lucore, Kyler Marlar, Agnes McDonald, Lexsey McLemore, Jess Meurer, Sonia Meurer, Hans Meyer, Skylar Mueller, Tonya Mooney, **Debbie Moer**, Clarence Ostermann, Patty Ostermann, Rita Pearson, Colby Peterson, Gina Phillips, Ernie Prescher, Phillip Rafferty, Paige Rameriz, **Vickie Rinebold**, Bradley Rodgers, Marilene Renee Rodriguez, Mary Jo Russe, Carol Sales, Bertha Mae Schenk, Cassey Schenk, Frank Schenk, Roch Schenk, Madi Scogin, David "Aggie" Schreiber, Gerald Schreiber, Nancy Schreiber, Nelda Schreiber, Roxanne Schreiber, Vicki Schreiber, Alex Schroeder, Lauren Schroeder, Linda Schroeder, Johnny Schroeder, Margaret Schroeder, Mary Lou Schroeder, Rosalee Schroeder, Ryan Schroeder, Helen Seigler, Geneva Schroeder Simpson, Jim Simpson, David Smith, Jolynn Smith, Lisa Smith, Weldon Snyder, Danielle Mueller Sontenot, Harold Stallcup, Sue Steinberger, Koen Sternadel, Kate Talley, Margaret Green Tift, Trent Tipton, Randy Townsend, Ann Veitenheimer, John Veitenheimer, Maxine Veitenheimer, Ralph Veitenheimer, Tim Vieth, Paul Wachsmann, David Williams, Shirley Williams, Charles Winkles, Jim Wolf, Kenny Wolf, Pauline Wolf, Alphonse Zoltz Jr., Bruce Zoltz, Chuck Zoltz, Harola Zoltz .

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Lord Jesus, we lift those on our weekly list to you; You are the healer of the sick and we keep praying and hoping for those who are ill. May we continue to pray for all who are sick and hurting and may your peace come to each and every one of us. Amen

**This bulletin compliments of  
Catholic Life Insurance Union Branch #30 of Windthorst &  
Branch #36 of Scotland**



**ST. MARY'S 7 DAY LIGHT:** Margaret Beaman, Special Intentions, Our Family, Thanksgiving for Wrenley Lou Word, Arthur & Shirley Litteken by Charles & Glenda Schroeder; Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday +Leroy, 5<sup>th</sup> in Heaven, Happy Birthday Ann, All the Sick by Caroline Anderle; Successful Treatment for Debbie Moer by Moer Family; Margaret Beaman, Ann Veitenheimer & Family, Ralph & Clara Veitenheimer & Family, Carol Sales, Doug & Betty Wolf by Cordella Berend; Speedy Recovery & Complete Healing for Margaret Beaman, Better Health for Mom, For All the Sick & Hurting of Our Parish, Ernie Prescher Family, Special Intentions by Jean & Scott Berend; My Family, My Special Intention by JoAnn Hoff; Deacon Don & Helen Brown, Ernie Prescher Family, Cathy Wolf, World Peace, Our Special Intentions by Joyce & Frank Wolf; Speedy Recovery for Margaret Beaman, Jolene Prescher & Family, Debbie Moer & Family, Cathy Wolf by Denise & Jerry Cooper; Pauline Hoff, Willie L. Hoff by Dean & Wina Church; +Olivia Ostermann by Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Our Family, Thanksgiving by Danny & Bonnie Schlumpf; +Ed & +Alvina Veitenheimer, +Jake & +Louise Horn by Jerry & Virgie Horn; Lexsey McLemore & Family, Gerald & Deb Schreiber, by Suzette & Richard Schreiber; Our Family by Marilyn & Richard Wachsmann; Carol Sales by Ray Berend Family; Our Sick Members, For an increase in Priestly & Consecrated Life Vocations by CDA #296.

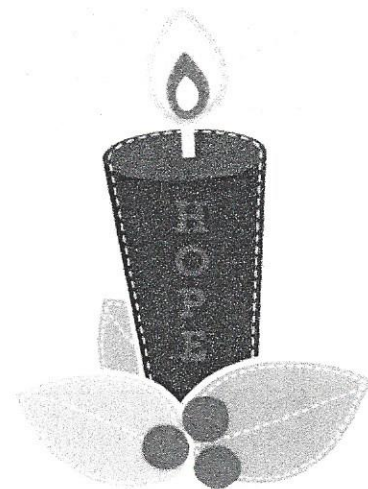
**YEARLY LIGHTS:** Henry Pennartz Family & their intentions by Roy Pennartz; Terry & Carol Sales by Ray & Dorothy Berend; +Leroy Anderle & +Jerry Anderle by Caroline & Family; Our Family by Gerald & Sherry Berend; In memory of +Janice, +Ed & +Catherine, +Lois Luig, +Nancy Luig Carr & +Geraldine Lindemann by Eddie Luig Family; For World Peace & for my family, Jeanne & Family, Ray & Myra & Family, Chuck & Diane Zolt & Family, Terry & Kathy & Family, Dolores Sumner & Family by Frances Hoffman; Living & Deceased Members of Catholic Life Insurance Branch #30; Our Family & For The Safety of Our Military by Ralph & Clara; For +Joe Schreiber & +Joseph Schreiber by Agnes Schreiber; For Mom by Johnnie & Alice; For Students of W.I.S.D. & C.D.A. #296 Members by C.D.A. #296; The Holy Spirit's Daily Guidance in Endeavors for each member of my family by Donor; For +Lawrence & +Helen Berend Family by Terry & Carol Sales; For Special Intentions by Neil & Barbara Hoff; For Our Family by Joe & Lugenia Zolt; +Arnold & +Lillian Lindeman by the Family; +Thomas & +Leona Schlumpf by Danny Schlumpf Family; For our Family by Frank & Joyce Wolf; For all our Family by Don & Benita Essler; For the Welfare of Our Family 2023 by Bernard & Pat Scheffe; Intentions of the Members of St. Mary's Christian Mothers' Society by the Christian Mothers' Society; +Martha & + Larry by Kenny Wolf; Safety of Volunteer Firemen & Safety of Ben Wolf, Gina Loran, Brett Hoff, Corey George, Greg Schlumpf, Holly Johnston, Sabrina Johnston, Living and Deceased Members of Charles & Mary Lindemann family by Benny Lindeman; "Thanksgiving prayer for all blessings received

for my family, community and our country" by Bert & Elizabeth Hoff; For the Safety of Parker & Garrett Amy on their Military Journey by Richard & Marilyn Wachsmann; Living & Deceased Members of Alphonse & Caroline Zolt by the Family; For our Family by George & Juanita Martin; My Family by Margaret Beaman; Living & Deceased members of Himmels Family, For my family & +Al Veitenheimer by Ann Veitenheimer; Dad & Mom by Nubbin & Angela; +Floyd & Betty Humpert by the Family; For My Family & In Memory of +Alfred Berend by Cordella; In memory of Duane & for Our Family by Pat & James Zolt; For those battling cancer & heart disease by Joyce & Charlie Vieth; Pauline Hoff & Willie L. Hoff by Wina & Dean Church; Guidance & Protection for our Military Service Men & Women by V.F.W.; +Willie Hoff, Pauline Hoff & Willie L. Hoff by Dean & Wina Church

**Roman Catholics traditionally observe the month of December as Divine Infancy Month in honor of the Infant Jesus, the center of all preparations and celebrations during the Christmas Season.**

**Catholic Church leaders remind the faithful "to make Christ the center of all spiritual and material preparations during the holiday season, which should be a time of quiet preparation for the celebration of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ!"**

*Happy 1st week of Advent!*





**ST. MARY'S / ST. BONIFACE YOUTH  
GROUP & 4-H**

# **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 PM      YOUTH BLDG**

**PLEASE DRESS WARM AND BRING A  
FLASHLIGHT. COOKIES AND HOT COCOA IN THE  
YOUTH BLDG AFTER CAROLING.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SHELLEY SCHLUMPF 940-237-6676.**





OUR LADY QUEEN  
OF PEACE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
presents

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF  
WICHITA FALLS ADVENT BANQUET

featuring

The Chesterton  
Academy Choir

Dinner \* Concert \* Silent Auction

December 5, 2023 | 6 pm - 8 pm

OLQP Great Hall

Tickets: Adult- \$10 Child- \$5 Family Max- \$30

[sold at the Parish Office]



Come support Chesterton Academy and enjoy a delicious meal,  
beautiful music along with your chance to bid on great items!



# 2023 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> December Light the first violet candle in your Advent wreath and pray with today's Gospel. <i>Mark 13:33-37.</i>	<b>4</b> Choose a way you can grow closer to Christ in Advent: more mental prayer, penance, almsgiving, Sacraments.	<b>5</b> Display the stable for the Nativity Scene. Add figures gradually throughout Advent.	<b>6</b> St. Nicholas of Myra Perform a simple act of kindness for someone today in honor of this generous saint.	<b>7</b> On the Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and teacher, pray for all clergy in the Church.	<b>8</b> The Immaculate Conception of Mary Celebrate by attending Mass and praying a Rosary for our country.	<b>9</b> Prepare heart and soul to welcome Christ. Make an examination of conscience and attend Confession.
<b>10</b> Light the second violet candle and meditate on <i>Mark 1:1-8.</i>	<b>11</b> Offer a small sacrifice out of love for Jesus, who offered Himself up for love of you.	<b>12</b> Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray for all pregnant women and thank God for the gift of new life.	<b>13</b> Advent is a busy time for parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can serve.	<b>14</b> In prayer, forgive someone who has hurt you. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.	<b>15</b> Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-GRS or <a href="http://www.catholicrelief.org">www.catholicrelief.org</a> ) to see how you can contribute.	<b>16</b> Las Posadas begins today honoring Mary's and Joseph's search for shelter. Gather friends and go caroling.
<b>17</b> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Pray with <i>John 1:6-9, 19-28.</i>	<b>18</b> Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.	<b>19</b> Feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or hungry for human kindness.	<b>20</b> Review your "Advent resolutions" and renew your commitment to them.	<b>21</b> Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today to ready your heart for the arrival of the King.	<b>22</b> Reflect on how your relationship with Christ grew this Advent. Thank Him for the graces you received.	<b>23</b> Make an effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.
<b>24</b> The fourth week of Advent lasts only one day. Meditate on the great news the angel brought (see <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> ).	<b>25</b> <i>Rejoice!</i> Place the Christ Child in the manger. Go to Mass today and rejoice!	<p>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (<i>Luke 2:1-7</i>).</p>				



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

**St. Mary's/St. Boniface**

Fr. Michael Moloney, O.F.S., Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England,

St. Edmund left

a brilliant academic career at Oxford to become a Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.



### Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

*"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"*  
(Luke 2:40).



## A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

**Encourage joyful anticipation.** As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. *"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me"* (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

**Focus on prayer.** Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

**Serve.** Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should continuously ask God

what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the



Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.



# Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

**Be realistic.** It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.



**Soothe the beast.** Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

**Reach out.** Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

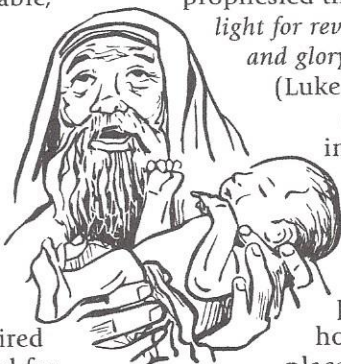
**Seek the eternal.** Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.

## from Scripture

### Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it was time to present Jesus in the temple, His parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, and instead made the offering of the poor – two pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.



Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.

## Q How can I & make Christmas joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:

**Feast of the Holy Family, December 31.** Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1.** Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

**Epiphany, January 7.** The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

**The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8.** Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**December 3 – First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**December 15 – St. Maria di Rosa (1855).** Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

**December 27 – St. John the Beloved (1st Century).** As an apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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## Sunday, Dec 03, 2023

### A season of welcome

The color violet reminds us that a new season has begun: a time to prepare to welcome Christ in our midst for all days and in all persons. Coincidentally this year, Advent starts on the World Day for Persons with Disabilities. How welcoming is our church to the people with physical and mental challenges? Not just improving accessibility with an entrance ramp or elevator but providing accommodations for those with hearing, visual, and intellectual impairments, including for liturgies and sacramental preparation? Take a look around your own parish. Is it true that "all are welcome"?

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). *"We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands."*

## Monday, Dec 04, 2023

### Iconic inspiration

Think of how much sacred images of Jesus, Mary, angels, and the saints—in painting, stained glass, and sculpture—have filled your life and stimulated your spirit. You might have many sacred images throughout your home. Perhaps you can find them in different public places in your city. Our Catholic churches are certainly full of them. Think of how much they inspire and prompt you to momentary prayer, a fleeting lifting of your heart and mind to God as you pass by them, or to long stretches on your knees, deep in conversation. You can partly thank John Damascene, who defended holy images against iconoclasm, a movement in the eighth century that was opposed to the veneration of icons. Treasure the rich imagery of our tradition.

#### MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven."*

## Tuesday, Dec 05, 2023

### Be a light in the darkness

As Advent days grow ever darker, Isaiah offers hope: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa. 9:1). We Christians seek the Son's light, but we also take the Savior at his word when he describes us as the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). 'Tis the season, to celebrate those who shared their light, such as Rosa Parks, who co-led the Montgomery bus boycott beginning this day in 1955. Or Mary McLeod Bethune, who formed the National Council of Negro Women 20 years earlier. To quote Saint Isidore of Seville (who opened the Fourth Council of Toledo on this day in 633): "Just as we must love God in contemplation, so we must love our neighbor with action."

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth."*

## Wednesday, Dec 06, 2023

### Peace on Earth requires living on the edge

This year we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Phil Berrigan, the famed peace activist and one-time Josephite priest. His dedication to serve the African-American community quickly blossomed into an all-out crusade for justice, resulting in his many

arrests, sentences, and continuing activities to emphasize the Catholic opposition to bloodshed. He was hardly rewarded for his efforts in this life, and in this time of war in our day, we owe him a great debt. We can pay it by walking as he walked, in the path toward peace.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever."*

## Thursday, Dec 07, 2023

### Unite to fight for good

Today is Pearl Harbor Day, when the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor officially thrust the United States into World War II. Americans sacrificed in multiple ways to serve the war effort, from military service to rationing. What if we were to unite in the same way to fight poverty? An emphasis on charity and justice for the poor exists within all the Abrahamic traditions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Who is fighting poverty in your community? Take a step today to unite with them.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven."*

## Friday, Dec 08, 2023

### A day of grace

Today is all about grace. It was God's grace that provided Mary with the privilege of being born without original sin; it was Mary's grace that said yes to God's plan; and it is our grace to honor Mary's witness and protection. As Pope John Paul II explains, "Grace means love and the gift of God himself, the completely free gift in which God entrusts to [us] his Mystery." In honor of this day, pray the mysteries of the Rosary.

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

## Saturday, Dec 09, 2023

### Mary mirrors her people

Can you imagine what today's saint, Juan Diego, was going through when he encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe? First of all, she looked nothing like the pictures of the Blessed Virgin he was used to. She wasn't a blue-eyed, white European. She was brown-skinned with dark hair and dark eyes. She wasn't wearing a blue veil either. And she didn't even speak to him in Spanish, but in Nahuatl, the ancient language of his ancestral Aztec. Was she for real? When the image of the Virgin appeared on his cloak, he knew she was. Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, who acts as a reflection for all the faithful.

#### MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN, VISIONARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>SATURDAY DEC. 2</b> <b>1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY</b> St. Mary's 7:00am Confessions 7:30am Rosary St. Mary's 8:00am Mass 8:30am Rosary Meditation (15 min) +Ernie Prescher Funeral 10:00am St. Mary's Confessions 3:15-4:15pm St. Mary's Mass 5:00PM Annual Diocesan Appeal	<b>SUNDAY DEC. 3 / 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> St. Boniface Mass 8:00AM Rite of Acceptance & Welcoming @ St. Boniface @ 8AM Mass St. Mary's Mass 10:30AM Both Masses will be live-streamed Annual Diocesan Appeal Please send in commitment card RCIA/OCIA after Mass in Convent K of C Sausage Meal Scotland Sr. Citizens 12 noon K-5 CCD Nativity Program @6pm in High School Gym	<b>MON DEC. 4</b> CCD K-5 7:25am St. Mary's Mass 8:00AM	<b>TUES DEC. 5</b> Women's Bible Study 6am CCD K-5 7:25am Sr. Citizens 1 PM <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>WED DEC. 6</b> CCD K-5 7:25am Family Life & Mission Outreach 5pm (classroom) CCD 6 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> 5:30pm St. Mary's Adoration 6pm Confessions 6:00pm Benediction 6:45pm Mass 7:00pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree K of C meeting #1715 7pm St. Mary's Mothers' Society meeting 5:30pm	<b>THURS DEC. 7</b> CCD K-5 7:25am Food Distribution (Parish Hall) 9am - 11am St. Boniface Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception Of Mary 6:00 PM St. Boniface Christian Mothers' meeting after Mass	<b>FRI DEC. 8</b> <b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY</b> Men's Bible Study 6am Holyday Mass St. Mary's 7:30AM <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> Holyday Mass St. Mary's 6:00 pm
<b>SATURDAY DEC. 9</b> St. Mary's 8:00am Mass St. Mary's Confessions 3:15-4:15pm St. Mary's Mass 5:00PM 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: National Religious Annual Diocesan Appeal Please send in commitment card	<b>SUNDAY DEC. 10 / 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> St. Boniface Mass 8:00AM Adult Faith Formation 9:30 am St. Mary's Mass 10:30AM Both Masses will be live-streamed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: National Collection for Retired Religious Annual Diocesan Appeal Please send in commitment card RCIA/OCIA after Mass in Convent ACTS Core Meeting 2-4pm in Convent 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Youth Group 5pm	<b>MON DEC. 11</b> CCD K-5 7:25am St. Mary's Mass 8:00AM VFW/VFW Aux. meeting 6pm Berend Hall	<b>TUES DEC. 12</b> Women's Bible Study 6am CCD K-5 7:25am Sr. Citizens 1 PM <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> Knights of Columbus #1715 Christmas party	<b>WED DEC. 13</b> CCD K-5 7:25am St. Boniface Fatima Prayer Hour 10am CCD 6 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> 5:30pm St. Mary's Adoration 6pm Confessions 6:00pm Benediction 6:45pm Mass 7:00pm K of C #1824 meeting after Mass	<b>THURS DEC. 14</b> CCD K-5 7:25am St. Boniface Mass 6:00 PM St. Boniface Altar Society meeting after Mass	<b>FRI DEC. 15</b> Men's Bible Study 6am Word Service 7:25am Mass St. Mary's 3:00 pm
<b>SATURDAY DEC. 16</b> St. Mary's 8:00am Mass St. Mary's Confessions 3:15-4:15pm St. Mary's Mass 5:00PM Annual Diocesan Appeal Please send in commitment card	<b>SUNDAY DEC. 17 / 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> St. Boniface Mass 8:00AM Adult Faith Formation 9:30 am St. Mary's Mass 10:30AM Both Masses will be live-streamed Annual Diocesan Appeal Please send in commitment card RCIA/OCIA after Mass in Convent Baptismal Prep class 6:00pm	<b>MON DEC. 18</b> CCD K-5 7:25am St. Mary's Mass 8:00AM Poinsettia orders are due by 12 noon CDA meeting <b>Bulletin</b> notices due by noon for bulletins 12/24 & 12/31	<b>TUES DEC. 19</b> Women's Bible Study 6am CCD K-5 7:25am Sr. Citizens 1 PM <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>WED DEC. 20</b> CCD K-5 7:25am CCD 6 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> 5:30pm St. Mary's Adoration 6pm Confessions 6:00pm Benediction 6:45pm Mass 7:00pm	<b>THURS DEC. 21</b> CCD K-5 7:25am St. Mary's Church Decorating 9am NO Mass @ St. Boniface Reconciliation Services @St. Mary's @7pm <b>Bulletins for 12/24 &amp; 12/31 will be printed today</b>	<b>FRI DEC. 22</b> Men's Bible Study 6am No school St. Mary's Church Decorating 9am Mass St. Mary's 3:00 pm
<b>SATURDAY DEC. 23</b> St. Mary's 8:00am Mass St. Mary's Confessions 3:15-4:15pm St. Mary's Mass 5:00PM Annual Diocesan Appeal Please send in commitment card	<b>SUNDAY DEC. 24 / 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> St. Boniface Mass 8:00AM St. Mary's Mass 10:30AM Both Masses will be live-streamed St. Boniface Christmas Eve Mass 4:00pm St. Mary's Christmas Eve Mass 10:00pm Annual Diocesan Appeal Please send in commitment card	<b>MON DEC. 25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> NO SCHOOL St. Mary's Mass 9:00am <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS</b>	<b>TUES DEC. 26</b> NO SCHOOL <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>WED DEC. 27</b> NO SCHOOL <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>THURS DEC. 28</b> NO SCHOOL <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>FRI DEC. 29</b> Men's Bible Study 6am NO SCHOOL <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>