

Third Sunday of Advent

More Than 50 Years of Faith!
Saint Pius X
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL "To renew all things in Christ"

Dear Parish Family,

The news of the day is that a vaccine for the Coronavirus is around the corner. After many months of crippling isolation, thorough sanitization, facial protection, economic frustration, and religious alienation, it seems that there is reason to be hopeful. If there is anything that all of us are looking for it is something to be joyful about.

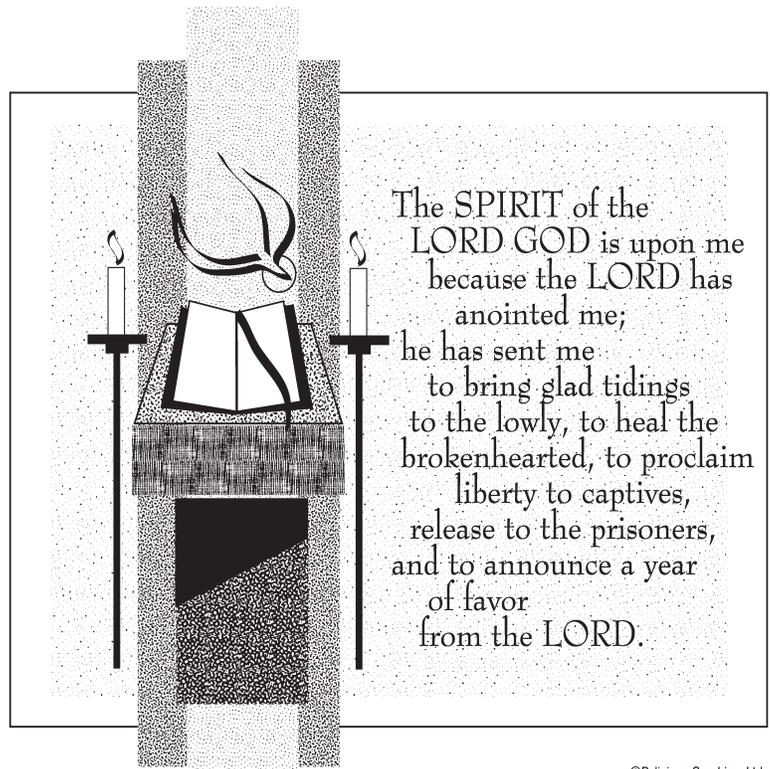
It has been a hard year. The threat of the Coronavirus has been looming over the entire world and its impact has been far-reaching. So many of us began the year with the reality of the threat somewhat removed from us. It did not seem to extend its reach to South Texas. Then, as more and more people that we knew were diagnosed with the virus, it hit closer to home. Many of us experienced its impact more profoundly as loved ones contracted the virus and were hospitalized. Some of us felt the full brunt of its indiscriminate blow when we lost family and friends to its wrath. I myself have mourned the loss of a few individuals I've known for years and whom I have counted as friends.

If the virus weren't bad enough, reports of violent and destructive protests reared their ugly heads and what was already a dark year became even darker. That, coupled with the unusually active hurricane season, runaway wildfires, and a contentious political environment, made this year especially depressing.

It is good to hear that the vaccine breakthroughs seem positive. The anticipation that some of our challenges may be nearer to an end is a good thing that stirs our hearts to the idea of promise. Certainly, the news should make us a little more joyful. Joy is something we need now more than ever. In fact, joy can cure many ills. Joy is really what is at the heart of this weekend's readings as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a word that means "rejoice".

The joy that the gospel highlights is not just any type of joy. The joy that is the theme of this weekend is a joy that reaches down into the depth of our hearts. The joy that is referred to is not simply an emotion. It is something that affects us at the very core of who we are. Let's stop to think about this for a moment.

Think, for a moment, about Christmases past. Can you remember the gifts you have received over the years? Perhaps you can think of one or two significant gifts, but by and large, most of you probably won't be able to remember every gift you've received. You might have a couple of gifts that stand out throughout the years – a dress, or a tool, or a pet. Nevertheless, most of the time when we think back on Christmases past, we don't think of gifts at all. Rather, we think about the special memories and traditions. We might think about family members we spent time with. We might even think about places where we spent Christmas and the memories we shared. By and large, we most likely don't think of the things we got. We think of the people we were with and how close we were at moments like that.



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Pastor
Fr. Paul Hesse

Pastoral Year Seminarian
Raymond Pendleton

Pastoral Associate
Deacon Stacy Millsap

Permanent Deacons
Salvador (Sal) Alvarado
Loni Lugo

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper
Lisa Catchings

Parish Office Assistant
Wilma Toledo

Director of Religious Education
Linda Lopez

Adult Faith Formation
Deacon Stacy Millsap

Director of Youth Ministry
Brandon Lutz

Music Minister
Michael Mullins

Youth Mass Band Leader
Mick Boudreau

Medication Assistance Program (MAP)
Dolores Saenz

School Principal
Beth Hinojosa
(361)992-1343

Maintenance
Ernie Peña, Jose Vasquez,
Yolanda Villarreal

Bulletin/Website Editor
Lisa Catchings

Office phone: (361) 993-4053

Office fax: (361)992-0352

Office email: parishoffice@stpiouscc.org

*5620 Gollihar Road
Corpus Christi, TX 78412*

parish website
www.spxcc.org

Ultimately, it's not the things we receive that give us joy. Granted, the things can bring us momentary joy. But, in the end, those things only scratch the surface of joy. Material things fade from memory, but the time we spent together, and the love we shared brings joy that has a more enduring value. The time we spend with family and the bonds we forge with loved ones really instill significant joy. Yet, even that does not get to the heart of deep joy.

The profound joy that this Sunday refers to is a joy that transcends everything else. True joy can be found in times of pandemic lockdown, or during violent uprisings, or even in loneliness and struggle. It is a joy in residing in God's enfolding love. It is the kind of joy in having a free conscience. It is the kind of joy found in knowing we have been faithful to God. It is the joy in living an upright life, of being detached from material things and attached to God. Joy is believing in and knowing that Jesus became incarnate and that he came to save us. As we prepare for Christmas, let us enter into the mystery of Christ's incarnation and let's open our hearts to the joy that he imparts to us. Blessings . . .

Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious

This weekend is the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Despite the ongoing generosity to the annual RFR collection, numerous religious communities struggle to provide for senior members. Proceeds from the RFR offer supplemental support for strengthening retirement savings and meeting such day-to-day needs as prescription medications and nursing care. Please be generous.

Advent Penance Service

Prepare your hearts for the celebration of Our Savior's Birth! We invite you to our Advent Penance Service on this Monday, December 14th, at 12:00 noon. Several priests from around the Diocese will be available for confessions at the service. We will be able to have only one Penance Service.

Men's Club News



The regular monthly meeting of the Men's Club will be held this Tuesday, December 15th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, starting with dinner at 6:30 p.m. For any men of the Parish who are interested in this ministry and fellowship opportunity, please feel free to join us!!

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Schedule of Services

Masses: First Saturday: 8:15AM

Saturday: Vigil at 5:30PM.

Sunday: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5:30PM

Vietnamese Mass: 7:30PM

Weekdays: Monday through Friday 8:15AM,

Wednesday & Friday 5:30PM

Holy Days: 6:30AM, 8:15AM, 12PM & 6:00PM(Vigil 5:30PM)

Confessions: Saturdays - 4-5PM and Thursdays 7:15-7:50PM

Marriages: By appointment only and notice six months in advance.

Baptismal Instruction: Pre-register through the office.

Anointing of the Sick: First Friday Healing Mass or by request.



Christmas Flower Offering

At the doors of the church you will find the Christmas Flower Offering envelopes. If you receive your envelopes in the mail, then you will have one of these in your packet. Please return the Christmas flower envelopes by this Friday, December 18th, so that they can be included in our bulletin.

Let's Make Christmas Music Extra Special!

Help fund our Christmas Music program! It has been a rough year for all of us. The Coronavirus has affected all of our lives and even if we haven't been diagnosed with it, it has affected our mental, emotional, and spiritual states. Despite the challenges of the year, we have so much to look forward to. While the virus may be with us for some time in the days ahead, there is hope around the corner. Perhaps Christmas will have extra meaning for us as we realize that Christ came as a light to a darkened world. Since we will not be able to have the full choir for Christmas this year, we are planning an extra-special music program at our Christmas Masses. We will be enlisting the help of musicians from the area to enhance the beauty of our celebrations. Be an underwriter to help with the cost of hiring musicians. If you would like to be an underwriter by contributing funds for this purpose, we will list your names in the Christmas program to recognize your generosity. You can contribute at various levels:

- Archangel – \$1000.00 or more
- Seraphim – \$500.00 to \$999.00
- Cherubim – \$100.00 to \$499.00
- Angel – \$25.00 to \$99.00

You can drop your donation in the collection basket, earmarked for Christmas Music, or you can donate online on our website, using the fund, "Christmas Music".

Simbang Gabi

There is a long-standing tradition in the Philippines to celebrate Simbang Gabi. Simbang Gabi is a devotional practice of celebrating a novena of Masses (nine successive days) in anticipation of Christmas. Typically, the masses are celebrated at dawn and the focus of the Masses are on the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this reason, there is a special indulgent allowing for the wearing of white vestments (vs. purple) in honor of Mary during Simbang Gabi. Here at St. Pius X, the Filipino community of Corpus Christi will be celebrating Simbang Gabi, but will do so in the evenings leading up to Christmas, starting on Dec. 16th at 7:00 pm every night. Anyone is welcome to participate in this tradition. Due to scheduling, some nights may be celebrated in the parish hall.

Prayer Quilts

The Saint Rose of Lima Comforters prayer quilt ministry group is still making prayer quilts for those with long term or chronic illness. If you know someone who could use a quilt, please contact Michiel Landers at 304-422-6141.

Bring in the New Year with the Lord!

Ring in the New Year in the presence of the Lord! We invite you to join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 11:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31st, until midnight. What better way to start off the New Year than in adoration before the Eucharist? We shall see you there! We will also have Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Comings and Goings

The Week at a Glance



Sunday, December 13th

6:30PM – Life Teen – YC

Monday, December 14th

12:00PM - Penance Service - CH5620Gollih

7:00PM – Scouts - CAF

Tuesday, December 15th

5:30PM – Men's Club – PH

6:00PM – Confirmation II parents' meeting – CC#2

7:00PM – Filipino Simbang Gabi – CH/PH

Wednesday, December 16th

6:00PM – Faith Formation parents/students meeting – CAF

6:30PM – EDGE – YC

7:00PM – Filipino Simbang Gabi – CH/PH

Thursday, December 17th

7:00PM – Adoration – CH

7:00-7:50PM – Confessions - CC

7:00PM – Filipino Simbang Gabi – CH/PH

Friday, December 18th

3:00PM – Memorial Mass - CH

7:00PM – Filipino Simbang Gabi – CH/PH

Saturday, December 19th

4:00-5:00PM – Confessions - CC

7:00PM – Filipino Simbang Gabi – CH/PH

Advent Reflection Series

Please join us for our last Thursday night reflection for Advent, featuring Raymond Pendleton, our pastoral year seminarian. It will be this Thursday, December 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. Please look forward to preparing your hearts spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil
www.hearingloop.org

**Deadline for submitting
bulletin announcements is
Wednesday's @ 12:00noon**

Guidelines/Procedures When Attending Mass

Please observe the following guidelines and procedures:

Before You Arrive

- Be sure to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
- **Face masks are strongly encouraged**
- Check your temperature before leaving your home.

Upon Arriving

- Enter through any of the doors of the church and please sanitize your hands when you enter.
- Everyone should maintain 6 feet of distance between them, but families may sit together.

During Mass

- If wearing a mask, we encourage you to keep your face mask on during the Mass.
- You may place your weekly gift in a basket in the vestibule of the church before or after Mass. We encourage you to practice online giving.
- For distribution of communion, maintain proper distancing from the person in front and behind you. Receive communion on your ungloved hand.

Departing Mass

- All are asked to depart Mass in an orderly fashion, while maintaining 6 feet of distance from others.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Communal Celebration of Reconciliation:

Monday, December 14th: 12:00 p.m.

Confessions:

Wednesday, December 16th: 6:30 - 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 17th: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, December 18th: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Monday, December 21st: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Masses: (No babysitting at Masses.)

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th: Vigil Masses: 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Night: Christmas Carols – 11:15p.m. followed by Midnight Mass at 12:00 a.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Masses

No evening Mass

New Year's Masses: (No babysitting at Masses.)

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st: Vigil Mass - 5:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st: Adoration - 11:00 p.m.

New Year's Day, Jan. 1st: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Masses

Acts of Charity

The Acts of Charity Ministry is up and running again! If you are interested in helping as a committee member or a volunteer, please contact the parish office @ 361-993-4053.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Individuals and families are encouraged to take part in the work of Christ in reaching our brothers and sisters in need in our community.

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Giving Tree benefiting the homeless (on-going through December 13th): Keep bringing in those shoes! In addition, we need volunteers to help deliver shoes to local shelters.

Share a Taco (December 24, 2020 @ 7:00am – whenever we run out of tacos): We are hosting a taco drive-thru event in our parking lot on Christmas Eve morning to wish a Merry Christmas to our neighbors and community. We need volunteers to help prepare breakfast tacos, volunteers to pass our tacos and volunteers to Christmas carolers.

will practice all COVID safety precautions with these events.



School News *By Principal Beth Hinojosa*

Our mission is to develop the whole child in a Christ centered environment to become a loving and productive citizen in today's world.

THANK YOU

I would like to share my condolences to the Battaglia family who lost Mr. Frank Battaglia recently. Mr. Battaglia was a long time supporter of the school. He always supported our Golf Tournament we have in the Spring. I would like to thank his family for asking that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the school. We received several donations and they were much appreciated. We will continue to keep the Battaglia family in our prayers.

I would also like to thank Advent By Candlelight. The event chose the school as their non-profit to donate to this year. I had the privilege of attending the dinner and speaking about the school. I spoke about how special and unique we are here at SPX. I shared how dedicated teachers and staff are. I also spoke about the challenges we have faced this year due to COVID-19. It was a beautiful evening and we received a blessing of \$2,315 and we are so grateful.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

We were so excited to host our first La Posada this Friday, December 11th. I hope you were able to make it out to see our live Nativity scene put on by our sixth graders. It was a night to remember! The school will be closed from December 20th- Jan 5th. We are gearing up for National Catholic Schools Week and our Golf Tournament in the Spring. More information to come soon. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God Bless.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Upcoming Meetings

Confirmation II Parents Meeting: Tuesday, December 15th, at 6:00pm in CC #2

Faith Formation Parents & Students Meeting: Wednesday, December 16th, at 6:00pm in the Cafeteria

Year of St. Joseph

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has announced and declared a "Year of St. Joseph," which began this past Tuesday, December 8, 2020, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Pope Pius IX's decree, *Quemadmodum Deus*, naming Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus, as the Patron of the Universal Church. We unite with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in observing this year in the Diocese of Corpus Christi from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021.

As St. Joseph was entrusted with the care and protection of Jesus and Mary, in this Year of St. Joseph, we seek his intercession for the protection and care of all our families and the Church. In this vital time where the world faces so much upheaval and pain, and particularly as it confronts the uncertainty and pain of the Covid-19 virus epidemic, we invite you to renew your devotion to Saint Joseph during this commemorative year and to seek his fatherly intercession to protect the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm.

Please Pray for our Sick & Shut-Ins:

Luis Alvarado, Kirk Anderson, Sugar Arras, Abby Arredondo, Edna Arredondo, Missy O'Rourke Atkinson, Tamra Bacon, Allan Balderas, Elida Benavides, Bernice Berry, Isabel Black, Judy Bowman, John Buckner, Jimmy Buehrig, N.M.C., Michael Campos, Lisa Caperton, Carlos Cardenas, Allison Cash, Eddie Castro, Sylvia Chatelain, Dora Church, Sabrina Cisneros, Gino Colmenero, Melanie Conner, Carole Cotter, Shirley Currie, Sandy DeGregorio, Florinda DeLaGarza, Didra DeLosSantos, Pud'n Dellinger, Albert Diemert, Natalie & Elaine Elwood, Balde Espinoza, Elijah Ethridge, Bobby Floyd, Debbie Fuqua, Julian Galloway, Berta Garcia, Dakota Garcia, Esperanza Garcia, Minerva Garcia, Raquel Garza, Leigh & Jackson Gavarkovs, Deborah Giese, Beatriz Gonzalez, Juan Gonzalez, Jared Groner, Felix Guerra, Jr., Linda Habeeb, Monte Hall, John & Rose Marie Hand, Owen Harris, Roger Heitzmann, Jr., Shain Hennig, Anna Hernandez, George Hoelscher, Graham Hughes, Mark Hyde, Carl Jacobi, Elizabeth Johnson, Frank Kolda, Dennis Kramer, James Lawrence, Arlene Leep, Diana Lopez, Medad Lopez, Larry Ludka, Bill Lyman, Christopher Manka, Dottie Margrave, Gilbert Martinez, Jack McCord, Pat McLemore, Barbara Mikulik, Fred Mitchell, Billy Monti, Melynda Moore, Arlene Morgan, John Morgan, Liz Morgan, Sam Morris, Sterling Murphy, Doug Nicol, Trent O'Connell, Anna Fay Olenick, Jason Olog, Ozzie & Mary Osborne, Valerie Pompa, Derrel & Dolores Puckett, Irma Ramirez, Tino Ramos, John Rank, Leo M. Robles, Joseph Rollins, John & Irene Rosales, Rebecca Rosales, Myron Rose, Hedy Rosenast, Lorena Roy, David Russell, Hidalgo Salas, Americo Salazar, Luis Salazar, Robert Sanchez, Janie San Miguel, Rick Sanders, Brandee Saylor, Msgr. Richard Shirley, Clara Skelton, Maxine Sommers, Dean Smith, Denise Sosa-Villagran, Mary Ann Starkey, Donna Tindall, Andrew Trevino, Bessie Vasquez, Leah Villalobos, Judy West, Wally Whitworth, Jr., Cynthia Williams, Helen Witzsche and all those who asked for and need our prayers.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12th

5:30PM † Emil Krnavek Annv. by his family

Sunday, December 13th

8:00AM For the Parishioners

10:00AM † Frances P. Guerrero by Bazan, Leal & Hinojosa families

12:00PM † Alvino & Stella Campos by their family

5:30PM † Trey Turner by Gladys Lippincott

Monday, December 14th

8:15AM † Gilbert Schanen by Nancy Schanen

Tuesday, December 15th

8:15AM † Jennie R. Achee by Anna Vrazel

Wednesday, December 16th

8:15AM † Barbara Hesse Rico by Al & Adelle Hesse

† Deceased members of the Darilek family

† Charlotte Groner by T. Groner, Jr.

† Jeanne Baish & Patricia Gore by her family

† James W. & Helen B. Kelly by James & John Kelly

† Albert & Mary Pat Slavik by James & John Kelly

† Anna Van Dyke by James Kelly

† Mario Lopez by Jose David & Maria Rodriguez

† Deacon George Phillips by Jose David & Maria Rodriguez

5:30PM † James Patrick Kelly Annv. by K.K.H.

† David N. Scherzer by his family

Liliane Van Hoff's well-being by James Kelly

John C. Kelly's well-being by James Kelly

James W. Kelly 3rd well-being by James Kelly

† Amalio Salinas Annv. by Galloway/Rodriguez family

† F. A. Rodriguez by Galloway/Rodriguez family

† Patrick Weir by the Volpe family

† Gene Smith by friends

Thursday, December 17th

8:15AM † Emil Krejci by Chuck Gross

Friday, December 18th

8:15AM † John Gross by Chuck Gross

5:30PM † In Memory of Bill Williams/Bud Duplesis by Rosalie William-Duplesis

Saturday, December 19th

5:30PM † Raul Saenz by Anita Saenz

Sunday, December 20th

8:00AM † Roman & Luisa Arevalo by family

10:00AM † Susanne O'Connell by Bob & Judy Buchanan

12:00PM † Joyce Dickerson Annv. by Jim & Carolyn Buehrig

5:30PM For the Parishioners

Financial Report for Sunday 12/6/2020

Operating Revenue:

Sunday Collection.....	\$17,696.00
Sunday Online	\$9,761.00
Other income	\$200.00
Memorials	\$450.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$1,361.00
Christmas Music.....	\$2,150.00
Filipino 1st Friday	\$251.00
Total Operating Revenue...	\$31,869.00

Other Contributions:

Acts of Charity	\$883.00
Retired Religious	\$810.00
Janosek Scholarship	\$100.00
Total Other Contributions.....	\$1,793.00

Total Contributions..... \$33,662.00

Diocesan Loan – Parking Lot, A/C, Roof Repairs (1/6/2017)

Amount borrowed	\$389,469.05
Principal pd (11/30/20).....	\$190,980.63
Ending balance.....	\$198,488.82



Silver And Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

All couples celebrating 25, 50, or 50+ years of marriage between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021 are invited to register for a special Anniversary Mass. Due to the Pandemic, the Mass, which usually takes place at the Cathedral and is celebrated by the Bishop, will take place in the parishes instead. All participating couples and couples who may have reached either milestone in 2020 and did not participate in the Mass in 2020, will receive a certificate from Bishop Mulvey recognizing their Silver or Golden Anniversary. Our parish's Mass will take place on February 14, 2021 at 10:00 am. here at St. Pius X. If you will have reached this milestone and would like to participate, please contact the parish office at 361-993-4053 to register. To receive an Anniversary Certificate from Bishop Mulvey, please submit the registration by January 18, 2021.



Heriberto D. Ramos, OD

Optometric Glaucoma Specialist
Board Certified, American Board of Optometry

7042 S. Staples Street, Suite 101, 78412
361-980-0523
www.completefamilyeyecare-cc.com

