

## The Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Friends: We've all had bad days. There are some days in our lives that are really difficult and unpleasant. Some days, we just feel gloomy and down in the dumps. Other days are stressful because of mounting deadlines and innumerable tasks to accomplish. Occasionally, tragedy befalls us and we are suddenly plunged into heartache and intense sadness. The challenges of daily living can affect us emotionally, physically and spiritually. What do we do, though, when it seems that almost all of our days are gloomy? What is the key to joy in life?

I have to admit that I, like most everyone else, have had some difficult days. When deadlines mount and the number of tasks on my plate increase, it can be tempting to crawl back under the covers and block out the world. Yet, what good does that do? How can avoidance bring any relief or foster joy? Problems avoided today will still be present tomorrow, and in some cases, will become worse.

It isn't unusual to encounter things in our daily life that we do not look forward to. Sometimes the tasks that we have in store for us are less than desirable. A good percentage of people would prefer to focus on personal interests rather than some of the more mundane responsibilities and requests that come their way. However, life is fraught with struggles and unpleasant things. It is part of the fallen world that we live in. Learning to accept life on life's terms can bring greater peace and even greater joy. That means that if we embrace the difficulty and face the challenges head on, we will find more contentment in living. This requires sacrifice on our part, or at least an attitude of self-giving. In the process, we may even learn to love some of those daily challenges.

Giving of ourselves without resentment is key to joy in life. Generosity on our part, either with our time or our resources, disengages us from our self and opens us up to a broader world, freeing us to savor the beauty of life, as well as the lessons that God has in store for us through the difficulties we might face.

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned in my Sunday homily an experience of mission work in Mexico as a youth. When confronted with the poverty of the people in these mission areas, I found myself joining the other youth in giving some money to some of the kids. Seeing the joy in their faces gave me joy. This is what so many people discover when they volunteer their time in some charitable work or donate to a worthy cause. Those who participate in the "giving tree" each year understand the good feelings that such an act provides.

This season in preparation for Christmas is colored with sentiments of joy. This Third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday, which means "rejoice." In



There is one  
to come  
mightier than  
I and he will  
baptize you  
in the Spirit  
and in fire

*Pastor*

Fr. Paul Hesse

*Parochial Vicar*

Fr. Joseph Thang Nguyen

*Permanent Deacons*

Salvador (Sal) Alvarado

Manuel Marroquin

*Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper*

Lisa Catchings

*Parish Office Assistant*

Wilma Toledo

*Music Minister*

Michael Conley | 991-0995

*Music Accompanist*

Charles Branning

*Youth Mass Band Leader*

Mick Boudreau

*Director of Religious Education*

Sr. Barbara Netek, IWBS

*Director of Adult Faith Formation  
and Director of RCIA*

Sr. Annette Wagner, IWBS | 993-0299

*Director of Youth Ministry*

Robert Streight | 452-4513

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these days leading up to Christmas, we go out and buy gifts for others, and there is much sacrifice and stress in doing so. Yet, it is all worth it when we see the joy in the faces of those to whom we give gifts. There is something in joyful giving that not only brings joy to the receiver, but also to the giver. The key to joy then, as I mentioned above, is giving. If we wallow in self-pity we only enhance the downward spiral. When we get up and tackle the hard things regardless of the cost to ourselves, we become renewed inwardly.

Parents always teach children to share, but we don't always follow the same practice when they become adults. Jesus tells us in the Gospel this weekend that, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." He also says that we should not practice extortion, nor falsely accuse anyone. In other words, our charity and love to one another fosters the joy that our hearts long for. Let's give of ourselves so that joy may be manifest in all our lives. God bless!



*Fr. Paul*

## The Giving Tree

Thanks to all who have taken ornaments from the tree and have or are responding to the need for these items. Sister Milagros and those at the ARK Assessment Center are very grateful to our Parish for taking on this endeavor. We are asking that all gifts/donations be in by Friday, December 21st so that we can deliver them. Again, thank you for your generosity.

## Sending Greetings

The address of David Bayardo, the seminarian who was here with us at St. Pius last year is: 9845 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77024.

## Altar Servers

For those serving the Christmas Vigil Mass, there will be practice on the December 23 at 1:30, and for those serving the Midnight Mass, your practice will be at 2pm the same day. Fr. Paul will be conducting the practice. Please make sure to attend.

## St. Pius X Men's Club Meeting

Men's Club members, reminder that this coming Tuesday, December 18th, will be our monthly meeting with a meal at 6:30pm and meeting to follow at 7:00pm in the School Cafeteria.

Rectory Office Hours:

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

## Schedule of Services

Masses: *First Friday: 5:30PM - Anointing of the Sick*

*First Saturday: 8:15AM Vigil at 5:30PM.*

*Sunday: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5:30PM (Youth Mass)*

*(Babysitting at 10AM and 12 noon Sunday Masses - Ages 6mo-5yrs - in Parish Hall Nursery)*

*Weekdays: Monday through Friday 8:15AM,*

*Wednesday & Friday 5:30PM*

*Holy Days: 7AM, 12PM & 6:30PM (Vigil 5:30PM)*

*Confessions: Saturdays - 4-5PM and 6:30-7:30PM*

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

*Weddings take place on weekdays any time and*

*on Saturdays no later than 3:00PM*

*Baptismal Instruction: Pre-register through the office.*

*Anointing of the Sick: On request and at the 5:30PM Mass on First Fridays*

## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**



*NOTE: The schedule below is corrected from the schedule that parishioners received in the mail this past week. Please be aware of the revised Christmas Day Mass times.*

### **Communal Celebration of Reconciliation:**

Monday, December 17th: 12:00 Noon.

Wednesday, December 19th: 6:30 p.m.

### **Confessions:**

Friday, December 21st 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 22nd: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 24th: 11:00 a.m. – noon

### **Christmas Masses:**

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th Vigil Mass

Children's Liturgy: 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Music Program: 11:15 p.m.

### **Christmas Day, December 25th:**

Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m.

Christmas Morning 9:00 a.m.\*

11:00 a.m.\*

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

\*Corrected Christmas Schedule of Services

## **Penitential Services in Nearby Parishes**

In case you cannot attend our Penitential Services here at St. Pius here is a list of the nearby parishes' schedules:

St. Philip's Church: Monday the 17th at 7 p.m.

St. Patrick's Church: Thursday, Dec. 20th at 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Church: Thursday, Dec. 20th at 7 p.m.

## **Financial Peace Seminar**

If you've ever wanted to get out debt, invest, buy a home, save for your children's college, plan for retirement, or just be able to give more, our parish is now offering this class beginning Jan. 6th at 10AM. **Come join us for a sneak preview this Sunday, Dec. 16th at 7PM in CC#1.** Cost for the 9-week course is \$89.

## **Blood Drive**

*Giving so that others may live*

We will hold a Blood Drive next Sunday, Dec. 23 from 9AM to 2PM. Be prepared and bring a photo I.D. Everyone who donates is entered for a chance to win many prizes.

## **Comings and Goings**

*The Week at a Glance*



### **Sunday, December 16**

2nd Collection: Black Bag

8:00-10:00AM – RCIA – CC#2

10:00AM – Cub Scouts at Mass – CH & Cafeteria

1:30PM – Baptisms - CH

4:00-5:30PM – Boy Scouts class – CC#1&2

### **Monday, December 17**

12:00 Noon – Penitential Service – CH

5:00PM – Confirmation – YC

6:00-9:00PM – Diocesan Staff Christmas Party - PH

8:00PM – Night Angels – CC#2

### **Tuesday, December 18**

7:00-9:00AM – Men's Journey – CC#1&2

10:00AM – Journey – CC#2

12:30PM – MAP – CC#1

5:00PM – School's Christmas program – PH, CH

7:00-8:15PM – RCIA Team meeting – CC#2

6:30PM – Men's Club - Cafeteria

### **Wednesday, December 19**

7-9AM – Joyful Pillars – CC#2

9:00AM-12:00PM – MAP – CC#1

9:00AM – School's Christmas program - CH

9:30AM – Schola – C/R

11:00AM – Friendship Circle - PH

6:30PM – CCD – CC#1&2 & PH

6:30PM – Penitential Service - CH

### **Thursday, December 20**

School closed until Jan. 3rd

1:00PM – Bridge – CC#1&2

7:00PM – Adoration - CH

### **Friday, December 21**

12 Noon – Staff luncheon – R

12:00PM – Office closes

6:30PM – Wedding Rehearsal - CH

### **Saturday, December 22**

WORK DAY

2:00PM – Wedding - CH

### **Sunday, December 23**

8:00-10:00AM – RCIA – CC#2

9:00-2:00PM – BLOOD DRIVE



**Rejoice**  
Your God is near!

## YOUTH CORNER



6th-8th Graders

We will NOT have EDGE again until **January 9, 2013** for the Christmas/New Years holidays. We wish every family a safe and Merry Christmas.



9th-12th Graders

*This Week* - The Christmas season is in full-swing, and what better way to celebrate than with a Posada. It is truly a winter wonderland in Corpus Christi at the Youth Center. See you at 6:30 pm and don't forget to bring a friend for the glad tidings.

*Next Week* - We will NOT have Life Teen again until **January 6, 2013** for the Christmas/New Years holidays. We wish every family a Merry Christmas, and may each family be safe during the holidays.

### PARENTS OF BOTH EDGE AND LIFE TEEN:

The EDGE and Life Teen ministries will be having a mandatory Parent Meeting for each ministry. For Parents of EDGE youth, the meeting will be on **January 9, 2013 at 6:30 pm** and will last for approximately 30 minutes. For Parents of Life Teen youth, the meeting will be on **January 6, 2013 at 6:30 pm** and will last 30 minutes. Both meetings will take place in the **Youth Center**. We will be calling families during the holidays to give reminders of this important meeting.

**Brown Bag Service Project:** The youth of St. Pius X Life Teen ministry will be participating in a Brown Bag service project on **Sunday, December 23, 2012** in the **Youth Center** from **10:00 am** to whenever it is finished. The youth will be making **over 300 Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches** to be handed out to the homeless of the city. Please pray for those who go without this Christmas season. We welcome ALL high school youth to come and participate!

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT (CMSE) CLASSES

**RE-CERTIFICATION:** Please check your blue cards and if it is expired, attend one of the following recertification classes. There are some changes in the certification process and they will be explained to you. Please bring your expired certification card with you.

**ALL CLASSES ARE IN CC#1 AT 6:30 pm**

**Re-certification class dates:**

January 8	February 12	March 12
April 9	May 14	

## Altar Servers



**Dec. 22-23**

**Sat. 5:30 p.m.**

MC Kevin Smith  
Matthew Oliveira  
Jacob Rivera  
Ryan Park

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

Christian Toren  
Benjamin Toren  
Joseph Toren  
Justin Gomez

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

MC Ryan Trevino  
Sang Hoang  
Natalie Trevino  
Emilee Flores

**Sun. 12:00 p.m.**

MC Joseph Tarin  
Quarter Morrison  
Matthew Lutz  
Riel Posada  
Grace Morrison

**Sun. 5:30 p.m.**

MC Marisa Matthijetz  
Issac Matthijetz  
Benjamin Mikulencak  
Hudson Mikulencak

**Dec. 24 - 5:30 p.m. Vigil**

MC Jeremy Bedolla  
MC Joseph Tarin  
Javier Camacho, Jr.  
MC Marisa Matthijetz  
MC Joshua Harney  
MC Matthew Quiroz

**12:00 a.m.**

MC Kevin Smith  
MC Andrew Thomas  
MC Paul Freeman  
MC Brian Pompa  
MC J.J. Arizmendi  
MC Ethan Pompa

**Tue. Dec. 25 - Christmas Day**

**9:00 a.m.**

MC Logan Campbell  
Kevin Beckwith  
Sophie Campbell  
Lucy Kainer

**11 a.m.**

MC Kelsey Krnavek  
Dalton Rives  
Helena Van Maren  
Stacia Krnavek  
Ryan Rives

## Lectors

DEC 22 SAT 5:30 P.M. Fred McCutcheon  
DEC 22 SAT 5:30 P.M. Ron Osman  
DEC 23 SUN 8:00 A.M. Joe Skrobarczyk  
DEC 23 SUN 8:00 A.M. Angie Ramos  
DEC 23 SUN 10:00 A.M. Cub Scouts  
DEC 23 SUN 10:00 A.M. Cub Scouts  
DEC 23 SUN 12:00 NOON Art Aubin  
DEC 23 SUN 12:00 NOON Tandra Milot  
DEC 23 SUN 5:30 P.M. Angie Quiroz  
DEC 23 SUN 5:30 P.M. Mike Winstead

### CHRISTMAS VIGIL

DEC 24 MON 5:30 P.M. David Brown  
DEC 24 MON 5:30 P.M. Bud Colwell

### CHRISTMAS

DEC 25 TUES Midnight Clay Thompson  
DEC 25 TUES Midnight Margaret Thompson  
DEC 25 TUES 9:00 A.M. Teresa Camacho  
DEC 25 TUES 9:00 A.M. Joan Hennings  
DEC 25 TUES 11:00 A.M. Hester Rodriguez  
DEC 25 TUES 11:00 A.M. Patricia Stegall

## School News

By Principal Kathy Clark



Excitement is in the air as we count down the days until our Christmas break! Our last day of school is December 19. The students will be dismissed at noon. They will not return until January 3, 2013. When they return, they will begin the second semester of school. It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through this school year!

Our 5th grade students did a great job with their play about Our Lady of Guadalupe last Wednesday. They presented it after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. In case you did not know, Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. In 1531, she appeared to the peasant, Juan Diego, in Mexico, with a request that he relay her message to the Archbishop that she wanted a basilica built in her honor on the Hill of Tepeyac. When the Archbishop asked for a sign that the apparition was for real, Our Lady sent Juan Diego back to the Archbishop with an armful of Castillian roses that weren't native to Mexico and that didn't normally bloom at that time of year. Also miraculously imprinted on his tilma was the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sarah Calaway played the part of the Virgin Mary, Julian Boehm was Juan Diego, and the Archbishop was Kraig Bray. Afterwards, the 5th graders joined parishioners for breakfast in the Parish Hall. Our thanks go to the 5th graders and their teacher, Mrs. Stovall, who organized and produced the play for the students and parishioners.

On Thursday and Friday, the students got to do some Christmas shopping at the Secret Santa Shoppe that was sponsored by our P.T.O. There was a variety of gifts for the students to choose for the family members and friends on their list. They ranged in price from 10 cents to \$10. The children were also able to have their items wrapped so that they could place them under their Christmas tree at home and keep it a secret. We appreciate P.T.O. for providing this fun shopping experience for the children.

On Monday, the students will be putting the finishing touches on their Christmas program that will be presented on Tuesday evening in the church. While our 6th graders are the stars of the play, each class will be singing a special song at each scene along the way. It is always a beautiful rendition of the Nativity, the real reason for the season. We are so blessed at our school to be able to teach about the true meaning of Christmas. It is nice that our teachers don't have to be "politically correct" about Christmas. We can take field trips to sing Christmas carols in nursing homes and teach about the birth of baby Jesus and what that has meant to millions of people around the world for the past 2,000 years!

From all of the students and staff of St. Pius X Catholic School, we wish you a very blessed Christmas and a new year filled with joy and peace!

## Retirement Fund for Religious

*Why We Were Asked to Help*

Last Sunday, the 2nd collection was for the Fund for Retired Religious. At present, there are 74,000 religious men and women over the age of 70 in our country who are continuing to serve as their health allows.

The reason the funds for their care (\$37,000 a year) are inadequate is because for most of their "earning years" the stipend was so small, and there were no pensions or 401(k) plans in place, plus healthcare expenses have risen. Religious congregations of men and women are financially autonomous, and communities are solely responsible for the support and care of all members. Also, their income/earnings/expenses are separate from parish and diocesan structures of the Church. Member of those congregations who "bought into" Social Security some years ago receive approximately \$4,800 a year!

The U.S. bishops initiated the fund drive years ago, and over the last 23 years a total of over \$800 million has been collected and distributed to congregations according to each group's needs. Only approximately 5% is used for administration. Although the numbers of retired men and women religious is large, many congregations are still receiving inspired young (and middle-age) adults who are answering the call to devote themselves to prayer and ministry as a priest, brother or sister. God's call to serve the Church is still being heard in our day and time.

Thank you for your contributions, and please continue to pray for those considering religious life that they have the courage to answer that call.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**CCD: PERFECT ATTENDANCE** for November 28th! Congratulations to the following classes:

Sacramental Prep IIa—Catechists: Mr. & Mrs. Anzualda--Catechists  
Sacramental Prep Ia—Catechist: Mrs. Frazier  
Sacramental Prep IIc—Catechists: Mrs. Quiroz & Mrs. Lopez

**Wednesday, December 19th** is the last day of class "this year-2012"! The children have been preparing a number of songs and actions that go with the songs. They will be singing these Wednesday in the Parish Hall beginning at 6:45PM. Afterwards we will have refreshments for those in attendance.

## Mass Intentions



- Sat. 12/15 5:30PM Evalyn Morrison by Bonnie Heinz  
 Sun. 12/16 8:00AM Robert Ollech by Mary & Earl Saylor  
 10:00AM Sig Black's Anniversary by Isabel Black  
 12:00PM Chester Zablocki by Aneda Zablocki  
 5:30PM For the Parishioners  
 Mon. 12/17 8:15AM Emil Krejci's Anniversary by Chuck Gross  
 Tue. 12/18 8:15AM Pat Janosek's Intentions  
 Wed., 12/19 8:15AM Roosevelt Martinez by Marie Vasquez  
 5:30PM Fizie Muttera's Anniversary by Lory Moore  
 Elvira Longoria's Anniversary by Cassie Wheeler & family  
 Ruben Landin by M/M Brent Ocker  
 Arturo, Nina & Pete Trevino by Berta T. Guerrero  
 Vernon Smith's Birthday Intentions by Art & Mary Salinas  
 Fred Oake by Anne Lee  
 Thu. 12/20 8:15AM John & Mary Kelly by Kathleen Horne  
 Fri. 12/21 8:15AM Gilbert Schanen by Nancy Schanen  
 5:30PM Melinda Cuellar Perales by Emma Cuellar  
 Sat. 12/22 5:30PM Suzanne O'Connell by Dorothy Krause  
 Sun. 12/23 8:00AM Armi Darilek by the Didear family  
 10:00AM Felicitas Rodriguez by Elvira Wendl  
 Erich Wendl by Elvira Wendl & family  
 12:00PM Bill Williams by Rosalie Williams Duplesis  
 5:30PM For the Parishioners

## Around the Diocese

**St. John the Baptist Live Nativity** - Friday December 21 at 7:00 pm at Everhart and Yorktown. Admission is free, refreshments will be provided. All proceeds will benefit the Ark Assessment Shelter.

**Polish Mass** - Holy Mass in the Polish language will be celebrated at the Chapel at the Mount Carmel Home, 4130 S Alameda St, Corpus Christi on Christmas Day at 3:00 pm.

"WE CARE" for children and adults



**JOSEPH F. CONIGLIO D.D.S., M.S.**  
 ORTHODONTIST

5756 S. STAPLES • CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78413  
 993-2333

BULLETIN SPONSOR

## Please Pray for our Sick & Shut-Ins:

Manuel Balbin, Madison Beckwith, Ann Bednorz, Don Birt, Sgt. 1st Class William Boone, Bill Brumback, Bob Byrd, Stella & Michael Campos, Ashley Carroll, Reana Carter, Riana Carter, Sherry Coveyou, Jason Cox, Shirley Curry, Alicia de Boza, Florinda De La Garza, Mark DeGaish, Sandy DeGregorio, Minga DeLosSantos, Samantha Didear Deste, Liz Elovitz, Yolanda Escobar, Juan A. Flores, Bobby Floyd, Raymond Garcia, Jr., Elida Gonzalez, Glenda Graham, Vickie Grainger, Maria Griffin, Charlotte & Tommy Groner, Jared Groner, Terry Groner, Coleen Habeeb, Marie Habeeb, Rose Marie Hand, James Hartman, Corina Herndon, Cathy Hervey, Chris Holland, Graham Hughes, Lucas Jean-Baptiste Ramirez, Matteo Jean-Baptiste Ramirez, Elizabeth Johnson, Martha Kaler, Mary Kelly, Dorothy Krause, Arlene Leep, Ed Lewis, Alois Lup, Arlene Lup, Cynthia Lup, Dorothy Mathews, Michael McCloskey, Jean McCullough, Virginia Medrano, Robert Miller, John Morgan, Dan Murray, Anna Nicolas, Toufic Nicolas, Patricia Paris, Phil Perabo, Robert M. Pope, Ron Randolph, Raymond Richter, Marguerite Ross, Luis Salazar, Tim Salch, Janie San Miguel & children, Amber Saylor, Terry Schacherl, Josephine Sheldon, Tina Shepherd, Msgr. Richard Shirley, Willie Mae Shirley, Mary Pat Slavik, Maxine Sommers, Adrian Sosa, Lydia Tey, Idolina Vela, Luz Villarreal, Melva Walet, Mary Lois Webster, Bea Wilson, Dolly Zihelli, Sarah Zuniga and all those who asked for and need our prayers.

## Financial Report for week ending 12/9/2012

### Operating Revenue:

Sunday Collection.....	\$ 22,675.45
Other Income.....	\$ 1,546.00
Restless Heart Ticket Sales.....	\$ 55.00
<b>Total Operating Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$ 24,276.45</b>

### Other Contributions:

Acts of Charity .....	\$ 45.00
Janosek Scholarship .....	\$ 50.00
Retirement Religious .....	\$ 3,809.17
World Mission .....	\$ 10.00
Human Development.....	\$ 10.00
<b>Total Other Contributions .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,924.17</b>

**Total Contributions 12/9/2012 .....** \$ 28,200.62

Loan balance on Youth Bldg

as of November 30, 2012 ..... \$ 971,135.00

