

# First Sunday of Advent

Dear Friends,

Once again, Advent is upon us! This means that we begin another liturgical cycle retracing God's plan of salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Season of Advent carries with it an anticipatory note and calls us to increased faith as we await the celebration of the birth of the Savior. What kind of faith is being asked of us?

Recognizing that we are more than just physical beings, people look to the life of faith to inspire them – to elevate their hearts to a supernatural level. We have been given a soul that animates and governs our corporality. Our soul knows and understands what it means to do good, to empathize with others, and to forgive. Most importantly, our soul has the capacity to love. Our soul grasps the existence of a God that we cannot see, and chooses to love that God or not. We long for something more than just day by day existence in this physical world.

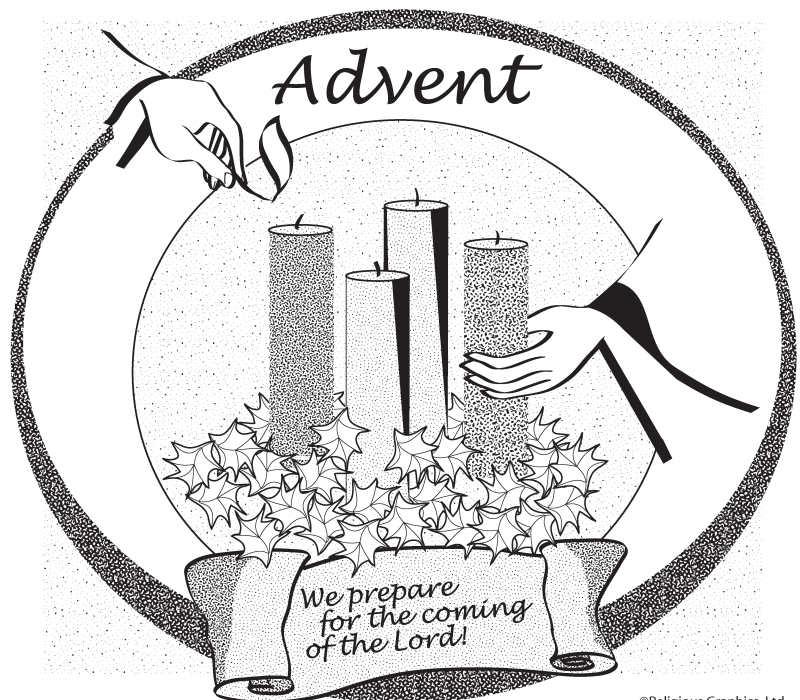
Understanding that we are composed of both body and soul, we turn to faith because it elevates us to higher virtues and challenges us to greater perfection as human beings. The more we grow in virtue, the greater the fulfillment we experience in life. If all we ever did was live on the level of our physical self, what fulfillment would that bring? How would acting and reacting on a purely physical level ennoble us?

Faith inspires us to be better individuals. It challenges us to not be ruled by passions and requires that we forego certain goods for greater goods. The things that faith requires are sometimes difficult. In the end, though, the requirements of faith forge us into a greater likeness to God.

Even though we seek faith to uplift us, it is possible to try to drag it down in order to justify our own behaviors. Sometimes, when faith's requirements appear to be rather unobtainable, we try to tailor faith to our own way of thinking. We occasionally want to modify certain principles or prescriptions of faith in order to bring them down to a more human level rather than a supernatural level. Many of the splits that have resulted in multiple religious denominations have occurred precisely because people have tried to conform faith to their own understanding. Many aberrations in moral principles result. Thus we have some cults that promote polygamy, or physical and sexual enlightenment, or any number of beliefs that excuse a person to behave in a more "animal" fashion.

Jesus himself showed compassion to those who were sinners, but he also called them to leave their sins behind. He challenged them to higher virtue. In the case of the woman caught in adultery, for example, he said to her, "Go and sin no more."

In the second reading today, St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, calls us out of the delusion that often exists in our lives. He says, "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." He then instructs his readers to live on a higher plane. He challenges us to ". . . conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make



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

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*Parochial Vicar*  
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*Permanent Deacons*  
Salvador (Sal) Alvarado  
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*Parish Office Assistant*  
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Charles Branning

*Youth Mass Band Leader*  
Mick Boudreau

*Director of Religious Education*  
Sr. Barbara Netek, IWBS / 993-9024

*Director of Adult Faith Formation  
and Director of RCIA*  
Sr. Annette Wagner, IWBS / 993-0299

*Director of Youth Ministry*  
Robert Streight / 452-4513

*Medication Assistance Program (MAP)*  
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no provision for the desires of the flesh.”

As we begin this Advent season, then, let's make a concerted effort to conform ourselves to the requirements of faith and not try to conform faith to our requirements. Let us strive to open ourselves to the grace of God that leads us to a virtuous life. By allowing ourselves to be raised up to a supernatural level, we will find fulfillment, and hearts ready to welcome the Savior!

### **Welcome New Parishioners!**

Please welcome new parishioners; Ms. Elvira. J. Walker, Mrs. Ruth L. Lynch. and Ralph and Lydia Sanchez. We invite them to become an active part of our growing faith community!

### **THANK YOU!**

Thanks to all of you who helped with the Thanksgiving Baskets by donating the contents, by your monetary donations, by filling the baskets and by delivering the baskets. I know our loving God looks on you with love for your care of “the least of my brothers and sisters”. Again, thank you.

## **Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious**

Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection, December 8th, for the Retirement Fund for Religious

### **Around the Diocese**

Corpus Christi K.J.T (Catholic Union of Texas) Society #72, will hold a meeting this Sunday, Dec. 1 at Moravian Hall – 5601 Kostoryz at 2 p.m. For information call Rosalie at 991-0267. The K.J.T. will hold a Bake Sale at St. Thomas More Church after all Masses on Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, Dec. 1.

### **Women's Circle Collecting Used Books**

The St. Pius X Women's Circle is still collecting all kinds of used paperback books. Please drop off at the parish office during office hours.

### **Christmas Flower Offering**

At the doors of the church you will find the Christmas Flower Offering envelopes. Please return by Thursday, December 19th, so that they can be included in our Christmas bulletin.

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Parish Office Hours:

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

### **Schedule of Services**

Masses: *First Friday: 5:30PM - Anointing of the Sick*  
*First Saturday: 8:15AM*

*Saturday: 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: 8:15AM, 12PM & 6:00PM(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 2:00PM*

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

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

## Many Thanks to Jason's Deli

We would like to thank the Becquet family for their generosity. The Thanksgiving meal that they prepared and served for our parish on Thanksgiving Day was wonderful! We had a nice turnout and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

## Christmas Giving Tree Coming



This Christmas the Acts of Charity is sponsoring a tennis shoe drive for the homeless. The tree is in the vestibule of the church. The ornaments on the tree have a shoe size for either a female or male recipient. We are asking that you take an ornament, purchase a pair of tennis shoes according to the gender and size on the ornament. Please wrap the box and tape the ornament on the top of

the box. Please, no bows (they will only get squashed). These gifts will then be taken to the Mother Theresa Shelter and given to the homeless. Thank you in advance for your generous giving. If you would like to help deliver the shoes to the shelter, please call the parish office @ 993-4053 and let us know. "What you do for the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me" Jesus.

## Healing Mass Next Friday

Our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at Mass this coming Friday, December 6th at 5:30 p.m. All who are infirm, preparing for surgery, or advanced in years are particularly encouraged to join us for the Sacrament of Healing

## First Saturday

Our Lady says: "Pray the Rosary every day! The Rosary can stop wars, the Rosary can bring world peace, the Rosary can convert hearts." On the first Saturday of each month a Rosary will be said at 8AM before the 8:15 Mass. Our Blessed Mother asked us to make 5 first Saturdays for peace and the reparation of sins. The next First Saturday is this coming Saturday, December 7th.

## Craft Bazaar

The St. Pius X Women's Circle is holding a Craft Bazaar on December 7th & 8th in the Parish Hall. There will be wonderful handmade items, silent auction, children's craft room, food court and more. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there, too.

## Knights of Columbus

Members of the Knights of Columbus will be distributing information after each Mass. Everyone is encouraged to ask questions, take literature, and attend the Open House. KofC recruitment sessions will begin December 1st.

The Knights of Columbus will also be hosting an open house meeting on Thursday, December 5th and 12th at 6:30pm at

## Comings and Goings

### The Week at a Glance

#### Sunday, December 1st

- 8:30-10:00AM - RCIA - CC#2
- 1:30PM - Baptism class - CC#1
- 3:30-5:30PM - J.T.D. Meeting - CC#1

#### Monday, December 2nd

- 5:00-7:30PM - Confirmation - regular times/location
- 3:30-4:15PM - Ballet - PH
- 7:00PM - Scouts - Cafeteria
- 7:00PM - Webelos 2 - School

#### Tuesday, December 3rd

- 6:00-8:00AM - Men's Journey - CC#1&2
- 10:00AM - Journey - CC#2
- 12:00-3:00PM - MAP - CC#1
- 6:00-7:30PM - PTO - PH

#### Wednesday, December 4th

- 7-8:00AM - Joyful Pillars - CC#2
- 9:00AM - 12:00PM - MAP - CC#1
- 9:30AM - Schola - C/R
- 3:30PM - Children's Choir - C/R
- 4:30PM - Youth Choir - C/R
- 6:30PM - CCD & Parents- PH, CC#1&2, Cafeteria
- 6:30PM - Alhambra - R

#### Thursday, December 5th

- 1:00PM - Bridge - CC#1&2
- 5:00PM - Men's Club decoration - PH
- 6:00-9:00PM - Women's ACTS Retreat - Cafeteria
- 6:00PM - Bell Choir - C/R
- 6:00-10:00PM - VERITAS - CC#1
- 6:30-8:30PM - Knights of Columbus - CC#2
- 7:00PM - Adoration - CH
- 7:30PM - Adult Choir - C/R

#### Friday, December 6

- 12:00-4:00PM - Faculty meeting - CC#1
- 5:30PM - Healing Mass
- 6:30PM - Santo Niño Mass
- 7:00PM - Men's Club Christmas Party - PH

#### Saturday, December 7

- 8:00-3:00PM - Women's ACTS - Cafeteria
- 8:15AM - First Saturday Mass
- 9:00AM-12PM - Men's ACTS - CC#1&2
- 9:00AM-5:00PM - Craft Bazaar - PH

#### Sunday, December 8

- 8:30-10:00AM - RCIA - CC#2
- 9:00AM-2:00PM - Craft Bazaar - PH
- 3:30-5:30PM - J.T.D. - CC#1



Community Room #2. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend and find out more about this great organization. This will also be a good opportunity for you to meet the members and ask any questions that you may have. For more information, please contact David Saenz at (361)585-9488.

# ST. PIUS X YOUTH MINISTRY

## EDGE & LIFE TEEN Major News

### Ministry Conference

The Diocese of Corpus Christi will be holding its annual Ministry Conference at the American Bank Center on January 11, 2014. The conference itself runs from 7am until 4pm. There is a Youth Track, which will prove extremely beneficial for youth who are currently or are thinking about participating in various ministries in the parish. The cost of the conference is \$10 and registration will end on Sunday December 8, 2013. Please make checks payable to St. Pius X. Registration forms will be available upon receipt of payment. For further information, contact Robert Streight at the Youth Center.

### Texas Rally for Life

On Saturday, January 25, 2014, the Diocese of Corpus Christi will be transporting youth to Austin, TX for the Texas Rally for Life. The cost of the trip is \$30 and registration is due by Sunday, December 15. The group will be going march on the south steps of the State Capitol Building in solidarity to show Texas is Pro-Life! Please see Robert Streight for more information.

### Camp Covecrest Fundraisers

The youth of St. Pius X will be holding fundraisers on December 15 and December 22. There will be a t-shirt sale, as well as, a jewelry sale. 90% of the proceeds will go towards raising money for some of the youth of the parish to go to the Life Teen Summer Camp: Camp Covecrest. The camp is not only an opportunity to have fun and fellowship, but also, much like a Steubenville conference, is an opportunity to grow in their faith, grow in love with the Sacraments and grow to understand what it means to be a disciple. 10% of the proceeds will go back to the parish itself as a donation from the youth.

### Upcoming EDGE & LIFE TEEN Events

TONIGHT – LIFE TEEN Mass  
 TONIGHT - LIFE TEEN: Wait for It  
 Wednesday, December 4 – EDGE: Stories of Old  
 Sunday, December 8 – LIFE TEEN: The Anti-Graduation

Check out [www.stpiusxcc.org](http://www.stpiusxcc.org) for more information on upcoming events!

Find Us on Social Media  
 Website – [www.stpiusxcc.org](http://www.stpiusxcc.org)  
 Facebook – St. Pius X Life Teen  
 Twitter - @theCatholicYM  
 Instagram – StPiusXCCYouthMinistry  
 Youtube - spxccyouthministry

For more information, contact: Robert Streight (361) 452-4513  
[rstreight@stpiusxcc.org](mailto:rstreight@stpiusxcc.org)

### Altar Servers



Dec. 6th – 5:30 p.m.

Healing Mass  
 MC Brianna Salazar  
 Emily Salazar  
 Emily Rodriguez  
 Briana Rodriguez

Sun. 10:00 a.m.  
 MC Joshua Harney  
 Jordyn Harney  
 Joe Aidan Harney  
 Ayden Smith

Dec. 7 & 8

Sat. 5:30 p.m.  
 MC Tessa Heines  
 Kraig Bray  
 Hannah Cazalas  
 Ryan Park

Sun. 12:00 p.m.  
 MC Paris Hanna  
 Luis Lopez  
 Paxton Hanna  
 Riley Maas

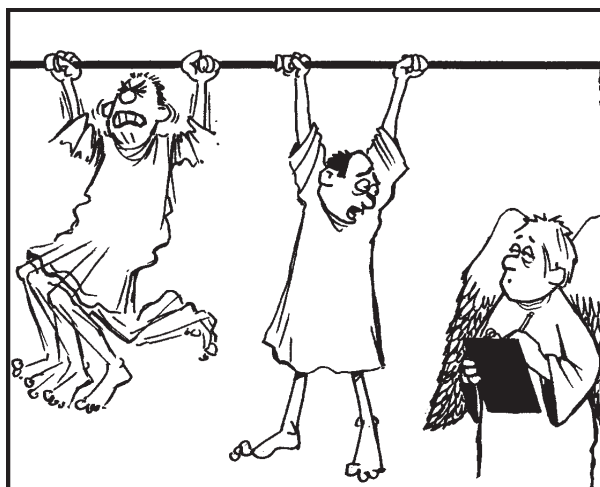
Sun. 8:00 a.m.  
 MC Cristian Toren  
 Benjamin Toren  
 Joseph Toren  
 Justin Gomez

Sun. 5:30 p.m.  
 MC Nicholas Nye  
 MC Matthew Quiroz  
 Nathaniel Quiroz  
 Timothy Nye

### LECTORS

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DEC	7	SAT	5:30	P.M.	Fred McCutcheon
DEC	7	SAT	5:30	P.M.	Ron Osman
DEC	8	SUN	8:00	A.M.	Norman Paris
DEC	8	SUN	8:00	A.M.	Alpha Patterson
DEC	8	SUN	10:00	A.M.	Theresa Arizmendi
DEC	8	SUN	10:00	A.M.	Richard Arizmendi
DEC	8	SUN	12:00	NOON	Geraldine Rice
DEC	8	SUN	12:00	NOON	Mary Scott
DEC	8	SUN	5:30	P.M.	Christine Wisian
DEC	8	SUN	5:30	P.M.	Mike Winstead



"I kind of assumed the entrance exam would have more to do with moral issues."

## School News

By Principal Bryan Krnavek

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY



### Discover Portugal, Spain, & France!

Fr. Paul is pleased to announce a 12-day pilgrimage to the Shrines of Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, and Lourdes from March 16 - 28, 2014. The cost of the tour is \$3,490.00 (All inclusive: includes air fare, hotels, 2 meals daily, ground transportation, airport taxes & surcharges, and tips) from Houston, TX. The itinerary includes the following destinations: Lisbon, Porto, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Avila, Burgos, Loyola, Lourdes, Montserrat, & Barcelona. If interested, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Paul at 361-993-4053 or at [pheesse@stpiusxccc.org](mailto:pheesse@stpiusxccc.org).

### Mother Teresa Shelter, Inc. Christmas Giving

This holiday season, Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi, Inc. and The Mother Teresa Shelter, Inc. invites the community to give the gift that blesses others less fortunate.

Between November 24 and December 31, 2013, with each donation of \$10 or more to The Mother Teresa Shelter, a beautiful angel Christmas card will be mailed to the donor's honorees to notify them of the tribute. For gifts of \$25 or more per Christmas card, a keepsake Christmas tree ornament will also be included. This is a wonderful way to Christmas shop and to help the homeless in our community at the same time. For more information, please call (361) 883-7372, email [MTeresaShelter@diocesecc.org](mailto:MTeresaShelter@diocesecc.org), or go to [www.motherteresashelter.org](http://www.motherteresashelter.org).

### MINISTRY CONFERENCE

The Diocese of Corpus Christi is sponsoring its 25th Ministry Conference. The theme is "The New Evangelization". Anyone in the parish is invited to attend. There are breakout sessions that address a wide range of topics which include: a Youth Track, family life, vocations, stewardship, communications, liturgical music, liturgical worship, justice & human dignity issues and more. The day begins with Mass at 8:30 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Mulvey. For more information go to the Diocesan website, [www.diocesecc.org](http://www.diocesecc.org).

### Acts of Charity Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Acts of Charity Committee this Tuesday, December 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. in CC#1. Anyone interested in the works of the Acts of Charity is invited to attend. We will be discussing our Christmas project.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### No Classes This Week

No classes last week due to Thanksgiving holiday.



### Safe Environment Re-certification

There are a number of folks serving as Eucharist Ministers, Lectors and Ushers, whose certification has expired or who have not been certified. If you have not been certified or if your card is expired more than one month, you should not be serving in ministry. Please check your card. The next class is Tuesday, December 10th, at 6:30pm in CC#1.

### RCIA NEWS

Congratulations and welcome to our catechumens who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist: Elizabeth Kingsbury and Celia Moreno.

We also welcome those preparing for full communion in the Catholic Church through the reception of Confirmation and Eucharist: Javier O'Rourke, Ray Garcia, Erika Guerra, Nicole LeBlanc and Hope Stoll.

All will be joining us at the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with us. Let us continue to support them in our hospitality and prayer!



### How Can I Love People I Don't Like?



In fact, Jesus addressed this very question in Matthew 22. The Jewish leaders didn't like Jesus. Jesus made them angry when he accused them of hypocrisy and insincerity. They knew he was right, of course.

So some of the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus into saying something illegal in public. They asked Jesus which of the Jewish laws was most important. If he encouraged people to disregard any law, he could be harshly punished. This was an old debate, so the lawyer who challenged Jesus only asked hoping that Jesus would trip himself up. Instead Jesus said everything starts and ends with love – love for God and each other. To love God is to love one another. They are as inseparable as the beams of the cross. True love of neighbor is measured by how we treat those outside our circle. It means including people we may prefer to exclude or avoid. Jesus loved prostitutes, thieves, lepers, even Pharisees. This is how God loves and we are to do no less.

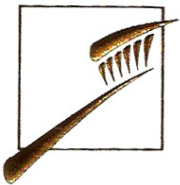
## Mass Intentions



Sat. 11/30 5:30PM	† Bill Muttera, Anniv. by Lory Moore † Dale & Illuminada Gunnar by family
Sun. 12/1 8:00AM	† Bruce Bayerlein by Bayerlein family
10:00AM	For the Parishioners
12:00PM	† Bill & Emma Morrison by Ruth Lynch
5:30PM	† Zachary Kolda by Frank & Martha Kolda
Mon. 12/2 8:15AM	† Melinda Perales by Emma Cuellar
Tue. 12/3 8:15AM	† Carolos A. Wagner by Wilma Toledo † Richard Rodriguez by Bonifacio Rodriguez † Nick Toledo by Bonifacio Rodriguez
Wed. 12/4 8:15AM	† Barbara Birt by Don Birt † Patrick Sehy by the Sehy family † Gilbert Schanen by Nancy Schanen
5:30PM	† Juan M. Ramirez by Linda Ramirez & fam. † Helen Taft by M/M Harry Kemp † Alvin Kollaja by Don & Corinne Leiser † Mary Kelly by Marilyn & Carl Fields † Norene Craig by Gwen Poor † Ted Turner III by Don & Corinne Leiser
Thu. 12/5 8:15AM	† Dorothy Janosek by Mary Scott
Fri. 12/6 8:15AM	† David Huber by Jim & Mim Cook
5:30PM	† Grace Gonzalez & Irma S. Nichols by Eligio & Martha Saenz † Rick Mulinix by Randy & Jeraldine Sykora Special Intention by Pat Janosek † Amparo Rodriguez by Dr. & Mrs. Henry Casillas
Sat. 12/7 8:15AM	† Carl Miller by Al & Adelle Hesse
5:30PM	Rosario Adame, Annv. Joel Guerra, Ana by Dolores Saenz
Guerra	
Sun. 12/8 8:00AM	† Betty Chacherl, Annv. by family
10:00AM	For the Parishioners
12:00PM	† Alvino Campos by Stella Campos † Mary Fitzgerald, Annv. by the Fitzgerald fam.
5:30PM	† Zachary Kolda by Frank & Martha Kolda



CHARLES M. ALLEN, D.D.S.



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Smile... God loves you!

## Financial Report for week ending 11/24/2013

Operating Revenue:  
Sunday Collection ..... \$23,291.69  
Other Income ..... \$450.00  
Memorials ..... \$360.00  
Total Operating Revenue .. \$24,101.69

Other Contributions:  
Janosek Scholarship ..... \$125.00  
Camp. Human Dev. .... \$296.00  
Acts of Charity ..... \$2,252.14  
Thanksgiving Baskets ..... \$590.00  
Christmas Flowers ..... \$85.00  
Philippine Disaster Relief ..... \$500.00

Total Other Contributions .... \$3,848.14

Total Contributions ..... \$27,949.83

Loan balance on Youth Bldg  
as of Nov. 21, 2013 .... \$556,691.94

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

Marcie Aguilar, Alicia & Luis Alvarado, Isabel Anorga, Luisa Arevalo, Ann Bednorz, Don Birt, Lucy Boyd, Bill Brumback, Bob Byrd, Clarence Calaway, Stella & Michael Campos, Mary Lee Cantwell, Ashley Carroll, Jason Cox, Shirley Curry, Florinda De La Garza, Mark DeGaish, Sandy DeGregorio, Minga DeLosSantos, Samantha Didear Deste, Annie Dornak, Rhonda Dungan, Liz Elovitz, Yolanda Escobar, Anne Everson, Bobby Floyd, Esperanza Garcia, Raymond Garcia, Jr., Terry Garza, Elida Gonzalez, Steve Gonzalez, Glenda Graham, Vickie Grainger, Maria Griffin, Charlotte & Tommy Groner, Jared Groner, Terry Groner, Suzy Guzman, Colleen Habeeb, Marie Habeeb, Rose Marie Hand, James Hartman, Corina Herndon, Chris Holland, Graham Hughes, Ben Janosek, Elizabeth Johnson, Julie Johnson, Irene Jordon, Dorothy Krause, Dora Lambert, Arlene Leep, Ed Lewis, Joe A. Martinez, Dorothy Mathews, Michael McCloskey, Virginia Medrano, Robert Miller, Johnnye Lee Mokry, John Morgan, Dan Murray, Toufic Nicolas, Patricia Paris, Phil Perabo, Robert M. Pope, Ron Randolph, Raymond Richter, John & Irene Rosales, Rebecca Rosales, Marguerite Ross, Paul Rossi, Albert Rubio, David Russell, Luis Salazar, Tim Salch, Amber Saylor, Josephine Sheldon, Tina Shepherd, Msgr. Richard Shirley, Willie Mae Shirley, Judy Slaughter, Mary Pat Slavik, Maxine Sommers, Adrian Sosa, Renato Sovran, Mary Ann Starkey, Mamie Stoner, Lydia Tey, Diane Thompson, Norbert & Rosalind Thonnard, Sara Trevino, Idolina Vela, Luz Villarreal, Melva Walet, Bea Wilson, Dolly Zihelli, Sarah Zuniga and all those who asked for and need our prayers.