

## From The Pastor's Desk

What if someone was coming over whom you really wanted to make feel welcome? Would you start your preparations by going into the kitchen, where you dirty most of the dishes and then leave them sitting in cold, unclean water in the sink? Then, hit the living room and scatter old newspapers about. Finally, in the bathroom, run the shower water, but leave the shower curtain open so that the floor gets a good sprinkling of water; and make sure dirty towels are thrown in the corner and the hand towel has been one that you have been using for about two weeks.

No, I don't think you would do any of the above if you were preparing for a guest to arrive. Of course, just the opposite. Instead, you would make beds, clean dishes, vacuum floors, dust, put out fresh towels and generally make things pleasant for your guest.

So, how do we prepare our hearts to receive Christ during this season of Advent as we wait to celebrate Christmas? **A little housekeeping of the heart would not be a bad thing to do.** We won't be able to welcome Christ if our hearts are full of thoughts of revenge and un-forgiveness. Are you carrying any such things around with you – allowing them to occupy some valuable space in your hearts?

Has your trust in God slowly been slipping away so that now you think that trust is only for children, or for simpleminded adults who don't know any better? Have you become cynical about God's care for you, thinking all of that resembles some fairy tale rather than the truth of the Gospel? Have you been burnt by trying to really love your neighbor as Christ asks us to do, only to have it backfire in your face?

And now you wonder if you will ever reach out to another person again. Or, there could be a hundred-and-one other things that have tried to take over your heart. Empty your hearts of all that is cluttering it. **Create a space within yourselves that will be welcoming to Christ.** Since Advent is a season of hope, perhaps this would be a good time to ask God to help us put aside any of the obstacles in our lives that prevent us from fully welcoming Christ.

**Our Psalm today gives us a picture of ourselves.** The Psalmist says: *Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.* We need to have a vision of what could be. We know that when we are looking forward to something, it can help to change the present situation that we live in. Hope can dramatically affect the life that we are now living. The difference between people who live in hope and those who do not live in hope is quite dramatic.

Victor Frankl was in a concentration camp and while bigger and stronger men than he died, he lived because he had something to live for. He dreamt of seeing his wife and children again, and of writing a manuscript about a theory that he had been developing. His hope literally kept him alive.

Advent is about expectation. **It's a season when we are encouraged to dream and hope...to imagine what could be.** Let me conclude with some words from today's second reading: *My prayer for you is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognize what is best.*

Fr. Joe

## Weekly Readings

<b>Sunday, Dec. 6</b>	<i>Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk: 3:1-6 (6)</i>
<b>Monday, Dec. 7</b>	<i>Is 35: 1-10 ; Lk 5: 17-26</i>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 8</b>	<i>Gn 3:9-15; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38</i>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 9</b>	<i>Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30</i>
<b>Thursday, Dec. 10</b>	<i>Is 41: 13-20; Mt 11:11-15</i>
<b>Friday, Dec. 11</b>	<i>Is 48: 17-19; Mt 11:16-19</i>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 12</b>	<i>Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1: 39-47</i>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 13</b>	<i>Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4: 4-7; Lk 3: 10-18</i>

## Liturgies & Activities

### Sunday, Dec. 6 **Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m.	Mass—People of Holy Spirit
9:00 a.m.	PreK 4 Family Session
9:30 a.m.	Mass—†Gilberto Luna
10:00 a.m.	Adult & Family Ministry Commission
11:30 a.m.	Mass—Intentions of Ilke Obinwanna
1:30 p.m.	Reconciliation Session
5:30 p.m.	Mass—Randy Braglia

### Monday, Dec. 7 **St. Ambrose**

8:30 a.m.	Mass—†Departed Legion of Mary Members
9:15 a.m.	Monday Morning Scripture Study
6:30 p.m.	Faith Formation Grade Level Coordinator Meeting

### Tuesday, Dec. 8 **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

\*\*\*HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION\*\*\*

#### Parish Office Closed

8:30 a.m.	Mass—† Toney Riffel
6:00 p.m.	Mass—† Margarito Ortiz
7:30 p.m.	Mass—Intentions of Bob Romack

### Wednesday, Dec. 9 **St. Juan Diego**

8:30 a.m.	Mass—Intentions of Milagros Canada
9:00 a.m.	Legion of Mary
7:00 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Scripture Study

### Thursday, Dec. 10

8:30 a.m.	Mass—† Frank Lanza
6:30 a.m.	Faith Formation Meeting
7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice/ Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Friday, Dec. 11 **St. Damascus**

8:30 a.m.	Mass—† Peregrino Baptista
9:15 a.m.	1st Friday Exposition / Benediction / Adoration
7:00 p.m.	1st Friday Exposition / Benediction / Adoration

### Saturday, Dec. 12 **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:30 a.m.	Mass—Intentions of Jessica Mejia
10:00 a.m.	Children's Christmas Choir Practice
11:00 a.m.	Altar Server Training
3:30 p.m.	Confessions until 5 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
5:30 p.m.	Mass— <b>In Spanish Only</b> - † Toney Riffel
6:30 p.m.	Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner

### Sunday, Dec. 13 **Third Sunday of Advent**

7:00 a.m.	St. Nicholas Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Mass—†Zeb Baird
9:00 a.m.	PreK 3 Family Session
9:15/11:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation/Adult Clusters 1,2,3,4
9:30 a.m.	Mass—People of Holy Spirit
11:30 a.m.	Mass—† Salvatore DeYoreo
5:30 p.m.	Mass—Charles Umehai

**Faith Formation—Youth**



Next weekend, the Youth will be selling poinsettias as a fundraiser for our Youth Stand for Life trip to Washington, D.C. next month.

We will also be selling beautiful Holy Spirit Christmas ornaments with images of Holy Spirit stained glass windows!

Both will be selling for only **\$12 each!**

All proceeds go towards helping our teens become the Pro-life Generation!

Also, teens are needed to help with our Breakfast with St. Nick event and Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration next weekend, **Dec. 12 & 13**. Please E-mail [devynbuschow@holyspiritcc.org](mailto:devynbuschow@holyspiritcc.org), if you can help!

Youth Stand for Life trip to Washington, D.C. permission slips and payments are due ASAP! Spots are filling up fast!

For more information check out [www.holyspiritcc.org](http://www.holyspiritcc.org).

**Sacramental Preparation**

**With the holidays upon us, Confirmation sessions will pick up after the start of the new year in January 2016! Watch for specific dates and times in late December.**

**Our PARENT & STUDENT SESSION for the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is THIS SUNDAY, DEC. 6 from 1:30-3:45 p.m. in the Gym.** Please contact **Lisa Estrada**, if you have a conflict with the meeting date and are unable to attend. Again, because we have so many children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and we have tons to activities to do in our short two hours together, **please be on time so that we can start on time. Don't forget to bring your At Home Family Faith Activities to turn in!**

Information and paperwork regarding infant Baptism (ages 6 and under) may be directed to **Lisa Estrada**. Our next baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents is **Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016**, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All completed paperwork must be turned in at least two weeks prior to the class date.

**HOLIDAY HOURS:** We will be open on first-come, first-served basis for **children 6 mos. - 5 yrs. Sunday, Dec. 20** and **Sunday, Dec. 27** for both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. masses. Space is limited and we are not accepting reservations.

**WE WILL BE CLOSED Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve and Day!**

To access Child Care, ring the white bell at the entrance nearest the playground. Our program operates on donations only. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**CHILDCARE NEWS**

**SPECIAL ADVENT LITURGIES**



**Tuesday, Dec. 8**

*Feast of Immaculate Conception*

**Masses: 8:30 PM, 6:00 & 7:30 PM**

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Parish Office Closed**

**Saturday, Dec. 12**

*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**Mass: 5:30 PM (In Spanish Only)**

**Saturday, Dec. 19**

*Simbang Gabi*

**Mass: 6:00 AM**

**PLAN AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Christmas Eve - Dec. 24**

Children's Mass 5:30 p.m. (LY Attendance: 925)

Vigil Mass 8:30 p.m. (LY Attendance : 552)

**Christmas Day - Dec. 25**

Midnight Mass 12:00 MIDNIGHT (LY Attendance: 631)

Morning Mass 10:00 a.m.



Congratulations to the following new people who were baptized in November. We welcome them to our parish!

**Langston Tirrell Ayo** (Parents: *Dedric Ayo & Angelita Trevino*); **Emilia Selene Tolentino** (Parents: *Carlo & Pam Tolentino*); **Melina Lissette Riojas**

(Parents: *Anthony & Lissette Molinero*) **Dahlia Elena Moreno** (Parent: *Angela Moreno*)

**Flowers for the Lord's Altar** this week are in honor of **Katherine Herron and Family**, requested by Jane Witt.

**The Sanctuary Lamp** will burn this week in memory of **Charles Umehai**, requested by Mary Umehai.

# CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

## Santa Day Care

*A Christmas Afternoon  
Out for Parents*



Is the thought of all those final Christmas preparations and last minute shopping causing you panic? Then let us help you out! Children's Faith Formation, Youth Ministry and Holy Spirit's Nursery Staff are providing four hours of fun and excitement for children, **ages 1 - 12**, at our Santa Day Care that include crafts, snacks, games & more crafts!

**Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015**

**1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**\$10.00 per child**

**up to a maximum of \$30.00**

**for three or more**

**(that's \$2.50 per hour for childcare)**

**Preregistration is required:** walk-ins/late registrations will not be accepted to ensure adequate staffing according to safe environment requirements. Nursery reservations are limited and on a first-come, first served basis. Pick up a registration form at the Community Center front desk. **Registration deadline is next Sunday, Dec. 13. We must have at least 20 families signed up to make this event a go!**

And, if you would like to volunteer to help, we'll need lots of adults (must be SEP cleared) and older youth to assist. Contact **Deborah Garrison** at (972) 298-4971 x14, for more info!

**PreK 4 Family Sessions are this Sunday, Dec. 6 in the dining room**, so parents please plan on joining your child during their normal Faith Formation class for a great hands-on, faith-filled experience! *Again, these sessions are not associated with our afternoon sacramental preparation meetings.*

**PreK 3 Family Sessions are next Sunday, Dec. 13 in the Dining Room.**

For those of you trying to make travel plans, our Christmas Holiday break schedule is as follows: **on Sunday, Dec. 20 or Sunday, Dec. 27. We return to our normal schedule on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016!**



*Breakfast with  
St. Nicholas*

**Sunday,  
December 13  
8:30-11:30 a.m.**

Join us for our annual Children's Christmas event, **Breakfast with St. Nicholas!** Enjoy a delicious breakfast, courtesy of the Knights of Columbus, musical performance by the children's and youth Christmas choir and there might even be a visit from St. Nicholas himself! Cost of the breakfast—**PER PERSON**—is a new child's toy, which will be donated to Brighter Tomorrows, one of Dallas County's largest women's shelters. But, if you forget your toy, a monetary donation will be gratefully taken in lieu of a toy. **This event is open to the entire parish....not just Faith Formation.** Grab your grandchildren, nieces and nephews and join us for a wonderful Christmas event!

**Adult And Family Ministry**



**A New Year's Eve Celebration**

**Thursday, Dec. 31 8:30 p.m.– 12:30 a.m.**

Community Center Gym

**Cost:** \$25 per person

**Attire:** Holiday Casual



It will be a night of fun with friends and family while enjoying a live jazz band, hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine and champagne toast at midnight.

Advanced purchase required! Tickets are available in the Narthex after each Mass until Dec. 27 or at the Community Center during business hours.

For more information contact: **Frances Cormier: (972) 217-4246**  
**E-mail: ROYC33@aol.com** Sponsored by ACTS

**Community Life**

**Sunday Morning Food & Fellowship:**

**Today: Tamales by CDA** All are invited to join us in the Gym for another Sunday of Tamales. Tamales ordered in November are ready for pick up!



**Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass & Celebration: Saturday, Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m. mass with special Mexican dinner following.** Everyone is invited join us for this wonderful celebration. **Mass will be in Spanish** followed by a Mexican dinner in the Narthex and Courtyard. *Suggested donation for dinner is \$5.00 per family. See bulletin insert for more information!*

**Simbang Gabi Mass & Breakfast:** Mark your calendars for **Saturday, Dec. 19.** More information to come next week.

**Outreach**

**Angel Tree:** Gifts are due back *unwrapped* this Sun., Dec. 6. We appreciate your donations.

**Christmas Food Baskets:** We are collecting food to provide holiday dinners to the needy in our community. **We need:** frozen turkeys, instant potatoes, canned green beans, corn, fruit, soups, gravy, boxes of cereal, cornbread mix, crackers, red or green Jell-o, dessert mixes, and Black-Eyed Peas. Pick up a complete list in the Narthex. Please drop off food **before 12 Noon Wednesday, Dec. 9.** Please bring turkeys to the Community Center during office hours. Thank you for your generosity!

**Bryan's House:** We are raising money for this organization that ministers to infants and children with special needs including HIV. "Little Red Socks" can be picked up in the Narthex. Please fill the socks and drop them in the collection basket or at the front desk in the Parish Office. Please give generously. Financial contributions are also accepted. Please make your checks out to Holy Spirit. Collected contributions and socks will be sent to the organization in January.

**Save the Date! Jan. 16, 2016 is the Roe Memorial Mass, Rally, and March!** Watch the bulletin for further details in coming weeks!

**Finance**

Due to the holidays, figures for contributions for November 28/29 are not available. Thank you for your contributions and may God Bless You!



**Monthly Mass & Meeting**

For recovering alcoholics, addictions sufferers, family & friends.  
**Catholicism in Recovery**

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 8:30 a.m.**

**St. Jude Parish 1515 N. Greenville Ave. Allen**

**For more information:**

Calixsociety.org / Calix.stjudeparish.com / Or, call 214-906-0605

*Join other Catholics in recovery from alcoholism and other addictions at this Mass and meeting where they share their experience, strength and hope found in Catholicism and 12-Step Recovery.*

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

**Dec. 5-6, 2015:** Today, St. Paul prays for the Lord to increase our love for one another so that it may abound and he reminds us that we should live our lives to please God. Does your life and marriage reflect this? Sign up today to attend the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on **Jan. 22-24, 2016.** Dates fill fast.

To apply, visit our website at: <http://www.dfwme.org/apply> . For more information E-mail [apply@dfwme.org](mailto:apply@dfwme.org) or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a [emmdfw@gmail.com](mailto:emmdfw@gmail.com) o visite <http://www.seccion15.org/>