

**From The Pastor's Desk**

Some people these days talk about receiving a wake-up call. What they usually mean is that something or someone shook them out of their routine way of looking at things. They were forced to look at some part of their life in a new and radically different way. A wake-up call is often a warning that if you don't change something about your life, the consequences aren't going to be very pleasant. Maybe a person experiences a mild heart attack. This shocking experience warns them that if they don't change their lifestyle, then they should be prepared for the worst – a heart attack that will quickly end their life. Or, wake-up calls can come in the form of hearing some familiar words, as if they were spoken to you for the first time. Something familiar and taken for granted, suddenly becomes very important, and challenging in your life.

As we begin a new Church year, we hear the familiar call to stay awake. Each time we hear that call, we have to re-examine what it could mean in our own lives. We are asked to stay awake to the coming of the Lord into our lives, and even to stay awake to our very lives. In the end, it seems that these both come down to the same thing. When we stay awake to our lives, we at the same time, stay awake to the Lord's coming into our lives.

During Advent, we are encouraged to look more closely for signs of God's presence in our lives. God became human in Jesus. Jesus urged us to be more aware of God's presence when people gather together and when we reach out in love to one another. Since that time we are more sensitive to God's presence in our world. If we have lost this sensitivity to God's presence, this season of Advent can be a time to renew that awareness within ourselves.

Awareness, like charity, begins at home. In fact, awareness becomes an act of love when we begin to pay closer attention to those with whom we live. Most husbands and wives can remember a time in their early love for each other when it didn't take much effort to pay attention to each other. Your new found love was always on your mind and you spent many of your waking hours thinking and dreaming about your loved one. You showed your love to one another by your thoughtful presence to that special person. Marriage should not take away that thoughtful presence. It's true that as a couple lives their marriage, this thoughtful presence will take on different ways of manifesting itself, but it will still be a loving act of paying attention to one another. Increased awareness brings increased love.

Jesus came to be present to us in a most remarkable way. We can imitate this presence in our own lives through an increased awareness of those whom we have committed ourselves to – our wives and husbands, children and parents, friends and neighbors.



**Weekly Readings & Activities**

- Sunday, Nov. 27 *Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44*
- Monday, Nov. 28 *Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11*
- Tuesday, Nov. 29 *Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24*
- Wednesday, Nov. 30 *Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22*
- Thursday, Dec. 1 *Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27*
- Friday, Dec. 2 *Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31*
- Saturday, Dec. 3 *Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8*
- Sunday, Dec. 4 *Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12*

- Sunday, Nov. 27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
  - 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass—†Charles Umehai
  - 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Cora Manciendo
  - 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Hannaford & Carbone Families
  - 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass—†Baby Bernard Languell and his family
- Monday, Nov. 28**
  - 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Rosalinda Garcia-Valenzuela
  - 9:15 a.m. Monday Morning Scripture Study
- Tuesday, Nov. 29**
  - 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Vincent Calleja
  - 7:00 p.m. Adult Confirmation Prep Information Session
- Wednesday, Nov. 30 St. Andrew**
  - 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†David Unger
  - 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary
  - 6:00 p.m. Family Prayer Group
  - 7:00 p.m. Parish Advent Penance Service
- Thursday, Dec. 1**
  - 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Brittany Baptista
  - 7:00 p.m. Zone Board Meeting
  - 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice
- Friday, Dec. 2**
  - 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Bob Rombach
  - 9:00 a.m. First Friday Holy Hour/Exposition & Adoration
- Saturday, Dec. 3**
  - 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—For Those Hurt by Abortion
  - 10:00 a.m. Children & Youth Christmas Choir Practice
  - 3:30 p.m. Confessions
  - 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass—†Lillian Lynch
  - Youth Ministry Coat Drive
  - 6:30 p.m. Marriage Enrichment
  - Family Movie Night
- Sunday, Dec. 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
  - 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass—†Marie March
  - Youth Ministry Coat Drive
  - 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Food & Fellowship
  - 9:15/11:15 a.m. Children's Faith Formation
  - 9:15/11:15 a.m. PreK 4 Mornings with Mom & Dad
  - 9:15 a.m. Adult Clusters 1 "Acts", 2 "The Prophets"
  - 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Teresa Dekieva
  - 10:30 a.m. First Sunday Rosary
  - AFM Commission Meeting
  - 11:15 a.m. Adult Cluster 3 "Estudio Biblico"
  - 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Mary Gruhke
  - 1:30 p.m. Parent and Student Reconciliation Session
  - 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass—†Rosalie Cinek
  - 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry

## Youth Ministry

**ANNUAL COAT DRIVE IS NEXT WEEKEND!** Bring in coats to the Narthex before or after all Masses. This year, we will also be collecting personal care items to turn into toiletry bags. All donations will go to the Dallas Life Homeless Shelter!

**REMINDER:** Youth Ministry does not meet tonight. We are on a break due to the Thanksgiving Break. Enjoy the time with your family!

**Youth Stand For Life Trip:** We still have a few spots left for our Youth Stand for Life trip to Washington, D.C. in January. Permission slips and payment are due ASAP!

E-mail devynuschow@holyspiritcc.org, if your teen wants to attend.



### *Special Liturgy Masses in Advent*

**Wednesday, Nov. 30—Parish Advent Penance Service**  
**Mass:** 7:00 p.m.

There will be priests available for individual confession 6:00 p.m. Confessions will be cancelled

Nursery will be open. Call Sharon Bush, x19 by **TOMORROW, Monday, Nov. 28** to reserve your child's spot.

**Thursday, Dec. 8—Feast of Immaculate Conception**  
**HOLIDAY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Masses:** 8:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., & 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*Pastoral Offices Closed\*\*\*

**Monday, Dec. 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Mass:** 7:00 p.m. (In Spanish only)

Mexican Dinner to follow Mass

**Saturday, Dec. 17—Simbang Gabi**

**Mass:** 6:00 a.m.

Filipino breakfast to follow Mass



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in honor of **Michelle Bosworth** requested by **Juanita Ramsden**.

**REMINDER:** Nursery will be open **TODAY, Sunday, Nov. 27** for the **9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.** Masses for children 6 months - 12 years-old, No reservation required, but space is limited. Since there is no Faith Formation this morning, please enter the nursery via the playground entrance.

## Sacramental Preparation

The next **PARENT & STUDENT** session for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is **NEXT Sunday, Dec. 4, 1:30-3:45 p.m. in the Gym**. Contact Lisa Estrada, x12, if you know you are going to be unable to attend this session. Childcare may be arranged by contacting our Nursery Coordinator, Sharon Bush, at (972) 298-9460.

**Information and paperwork regarding infant Baptism** (ages 6 and under) may be directed to Lisa Estrada, x12. Our next baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents will not be until the new year on **Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** due to the Advent Season.

**Welcome to the newest members of the Holy Spirit family who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, Nov. 13 – Zariah Amene, Luke Kinard and Christopher Padilla!**

**Are you an adult Catholic in full communion with the Church, but were never Confirmed?** Classes for Adult Confirmation Prep are beginning in January. Confirmation Prep will include two primary objectives as it prepares the candidate for the sacrament: **learning about your faith** (just two classes a month until celebration of Confirmation at Pentecost (June 4) and **living your faith!**

**Mandatory Information/Introduction Session** (attend just one of the following remaining sessions, if you were unable to attend last week's session): **THIS Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Sunday, Dec. 11, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.** Please contact Lindee Greer, x43 with any questions.

## Finances—Nov. 19/20

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the financials are not available.

Today is "Catholic Foundation Sunday". We thank them for the generous grants we have received to repair the Bell Tower System and replace HVAC Units in the Gym.

**The Catholic Foundation** ([www.catholicfoundation.com](http://www.catholicfoundation.com)) promotes compassionate charitable giving and stewardship that serves donors and the needs of our community.

### Upcoming Special Collections:

**Dec. 3/4** Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for humanitarian relief efforts of pastoral and restoration needs for those impacted by Hurricane Matthew.

**Dec. 10/11** Retirement Fund for Religious

# CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

## SANTA'S WORKSHOP

An Afternoon Out For Parents!



*Breakfast with St. Nicholas*

**Sunday,  
Dec. 11**

**8:30-11:30 a.m.**

Is the thought of getting ready for the Christmas Holiday season with children in tow causing you some panic? Then let us help you out! Children's Faith Formation, Youth Ministry and Holy Spirit's Nursery Staff are offering four hours of fun and excitement for children, ages 1 - 12 years-old, at **Santa's Workshop...An Afternoon Out for Parents!** Our workshop will include crafts, snacks, games & more crafts!

**Saturday, Dec. 17**  
**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 or 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 Sunday, Dec. 11. We must have 20 families registered 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. Confirmation families, here's a great service project! Contact Deborah, x14, for more info!

**Speaking of help, we could use two or three more older teens to help at our 11:15 a.m. Faith Formation class time.** If you need school community service hours, here's an easy way to not only help out your parish community but fulfill the service hours. Contact Deborah, x14 if you would like to serve in our Children's Ministry!

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 & youth Christmas choir and there might even be a visit from St. Nicholas himself! Admission to 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 taken in lieu of. **This event is open to the entire parish...not just Faith Formation.** So grab your grandchildren, nieces & nephews and join us for a wonderful Christmas event!

We also need volunteers to assist with breakfast, primarily with set-up during the week. Confirmation families, here's another great way to get your community service hours! Contact Deborah, if you would like to help.



There are **NO Children's Faith Formation classes this Sunday, Nov. 27.** Celebrate and enjoy the Thanksgiving Holidays! Classes resume **NEXT Sunday, Dec. 4.** ***Our Mornings with Mom & Dad will also resume on the 4th with PreK 4!***

**Kudos to the 3rd Grade students and parents for their very generous donations to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach Programs!** What a fantastic way to reach out to those in need during the holiday season.

The Office of Faith Formation would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to our awesome group of volunteer Parking Lot Attendants who do an incredible job every Sunday of ensuring the safety of those here at Holy Spirit. They have a very important task to perform and it is not always an easy one to do. So, I ask that we all be considerate and respectful of the many adults and teens who give of their time and talents to serve the people of our parish community! They deserve that much. If you like, we are always looking for others to serve in this ministry...



**Our next FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT is Saturday, Dec. 3, 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Dining Room! It's a pajama and pizza party aboard the POLAR EXPRESS! Contact Deborah or Cindy to RSVP or for more information.**

**Adult & Family Ministry**

For information about any of our Adult & Family Ministry programs, please Email:

**Richard Johnson:** richardjohnson@holyspiritcc.org

**Veronica Houston:** veronicahouston@holyspiritcc.org



Our parish is offering another wonderful opportunity to learn and live our Catholic faith. Every parishioner has access to FORMED, a digital gateway to outstanding Catholic study resources from leading teachers and authors, as well as great Catholic movies. All of the programs can be easily accessed on FORMED, and all of the downloadable leader and participant guides—**FREE!**

Just a few examples of the resources available:

- **Inspiring Movies.**
- **E-books and audio books** (free download—yours to keep).
- **The Entire Hearts Afire Parish Based Program** including *33 Days to Morning Glory, Consoling the Heart of Jesus, & The One Thing is Three.*
- **Symbolon**—the Catholic faith explained and beautifully filmed around the world with renowned author & speaker, Dr. Edward Sri, and other dynamic presenters. Available in Spanish.
- **Catholicism**—renowned series by Bishop Robert Barron. Available in Spanish.

**Free Access! Sign up now!**

**Here’s how easy it is to access:**

- Go to <https://formed.org/>
- Click “Register” and enter our Parish Code, **TY4TDF**, into the “Parish Code” box and your email address into the “Email” box. Then click “GO.”
- Create a personal account with your own user name/ email and password.
- Start enjoying great Catholic content, all in one place!

**Community Life Ministry**

**Sunday Morning Food and Fellowship**

**NEXT Sunday, Dec. 4: Coffee & Donuts**

**ThanksGIVING LUNCH Thank You!**

Thank you to Deborah Pearson, Chris Kubin, and the Garza Family for taking charge of this year’s lunch. Many thanks to all who volunteered on Thanksgiving and for all the delicious donated food. This event defines what a great community spirit we have here at Holy Spirit. Blessings to you all.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass & Celebration**

**Monday, Dec. 12 - 7:00 p.m. Mass with Dinner following.** Our next **planning meeting** for the OLG celebration will be on **THIS Thursday, Dec. 1, 7:00 p.m.** for anyone who is interested in helping with the event. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Meyer at [cindymeyer@holyspiritcc.org](mailto:cindymeyer@holyspiritcc.org).



**Holiday Family Movie Night**

Holy Spirit will be having a family movie night in the Dining Room on **Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7:00 p.m.** with pizza, popcorn, hot chocolate and a great movie, **Polar Express!** Come and enjoy an evening with your family.

**Outreach Ministry**

**First Sunday Rosary** for the end to abortion is **NEXT Sunday, Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.** in the church.

**Christmas Food Baskets:** Please bring food donations for the Christmas Food Baskets by **Monday, Dec. 12. Please do not leave Turkeys in the Outreach food box** in the Narthex. Please bring them to the Community Center during office hours. The following items are requested: *Turkeys, Instant Mashed Potatoes, canned or packaged Gravy Mix, cans of Soup, Green Beans, Corn, canned Fruit, Canned or Frozen Black-eyed Peas, Cornbread mix, Large boxes of Red or Green Jell-o, Boxes of Cereal and Dessert mixes such as Cake, Cookies or Brownies.*

**Angel Tree Program:** If you are interested in adopting a family, please call Cindy Dover (214) 293-9906 or stop by the Angel Tree table in the back of the Narthex.

Please remember to give your contact information to our volunteers at the Angel tree tables when you take your tag. *If you are unable to purchase a gift for the child or children you have selected, please return the tags as soon as possible.* Please return your **unwrapped gifts by Monday, Dec. 12.** Please call Cindy Dover (214) 293-9906, if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your help and generosity.