



**DECEMBER 4TH, 2016
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER 10TH – 11TH

5:30 PM MASS

Deacon Barney Rodriguez
Lector: B. Theisen
Lay Ministers: L. & M. Lockhart
Greeters: T. Mays
Altar Servers: H. Musquiz, T. Lockhart,
A. & V. Lucksinger

7:30 AM MASS

No Deacon
Lector: R. Schigut
Lay Ministers: P. Proctor, B. McNeill, D. Gibson
Greeters: H. Vavra, S. Motl, J. Edwards,
JT & JR Maldonado
Altar Servers R. McNeill, A. Federle, D. Nguyen

9:15 AM MASS

Deacon Barney Rodriguez
Lector: M. Guenat
Lay Ministers: J. & N. Glover
Greeters: B. & S. McAtee, R Beck,
T. Hodge & D. Garza
Altar Servers L. & S. Mikeska, H. & B. Payne

11:00 AM MASS

No Deacon
Lector: N. Pekar
Lay Ministers: J. Solis, P. Engbrock, volunteer
Greeters: C. Wohleb, S. Rodriguez,
J. Oakes & D. Stolp
Altar Servers A. Tavenier, A. Lambert, &
S. Proctor

COMMUNION CALLS December 10, 2016

B. McNeill, R. Schigut, P. Proctor, E. Castillo,
L. Lockhart, D. Gibson, J. & N. Glover
& K. Theisen

December 5th – 11th

Monday No Mass
Tuesday 12:10PM Steve & Ann Jozwiak
Wednesday 7:00AM †Daryl Entrop
Thursday 8:15AM †James Grygar
12:10PM For Parish Staff
6:00PM Lilia Medina
Friday 8:15AM †Lou Farris
12:10PM †Pearlie Faichtinger
Saturday 7:30AM †Mari Riley
5:30PM †Adam & Clara Becker
Sunday 7:30AM Charles Janek Family
9:15AM †Mary Grygar
11:00AM †Eddie Edwards

**DECEMBER 8TH, FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

6:00 PM VIGIL MASS

No Deacon
Lector: D. Rendeiro
Lay Ministers: HM Kreitz & K. & B.
Theisen
Greeters: Volunteers
Altar Servers: Volunteers

12:10 PM MASS

No Deacon
Lector: P. Everett
Lay Ministers: P. Proctor, MA Everett
& C. Hussey
Greeters: Volunteers
Altar Servers: Volunteers

6:00 PM MASS

Deacon Barney Rodriguez
Lector: J. Bartz
Lay Ministers: A. Mikeska & E. Castillo
Greeters: Volunteers
Altar Servers: Volunteers



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The word "advent" means to be at the beginning of something, but for most of us Advent is not usually the beginning of something new; it is the repetition of something old. The same old ways of celebrating Christmas can stir memories and bring comfort, but the same old ways of celebration can also prevent new reflection. Our Advent Gospel warns us not to get caught in the routine of life. We must always be prepared for something new. Advent serves to remind us of the vision of Isaiah. Something new began 2,000 years ago, and we have a role in it. But life can distract us. We fall into routines and begin to exclude growth, especially growth in the Lord. People saw Jesus as the kind of person who embodied the hope and vision of Isaiah. May this Advent season bring about something new for all of us; a new hope to prepare well for the coming of our Lord. May God bless you all.

Fr. Steve

YOUR GIFT TO GOD

November 27, 2016

Sunday Collection	\$	6824.95
Children's Collection	\$	38.79
Thanksgiving Collection	\$	<u>314.75</u>
Total	\$	7,178.49

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. **Psalm 50:14**

Our second collection this week is for the benefit of our parish school. Thank you for your generosity.

Don't be dominated by material things. The season of Advent is a reminder to us to open our horizons and have concern for more than just material things. **Pope Francis at Sunday's Angelus Nov. 27, 2016**



Tues., 12/6	Our Lady of Guadalupe	7PM
Wed., 12/7	St. Mary	7PM
Fri., 12/9	St. Stephen, Salado	7PM
Wed., 12/14	St. Luke	10AM & 7PM
Thurs., 12/15	Christ the King	7PM
Fri., 12/16	St. Joseph, Killeen	10AM & 7PM
Sun., 12/18	Visitation	7PM
Mon., 12/19	St. Paul Chong Hasang	10AM & 7PM
Mon., 12/19	St. Michael, Burlington	7PM
Tues., 12/20	St. Joseph, Cyclone	7PM
Wed., 12/21	St. Monica, Cameron	7PM
Thurs., 12/22	Holy Family, Copperas Cove	7PM

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."



CALLING ALL.....

Handshakers and welcomers with smiles! Our usher/greeter ministry needs your help. Volunteer numbers are dwindling; individuals, couples,

families, students would only have to commit about an hour + 20 minutes monthly. The pay is not so good, but benefits are rewarding. There is sure to be a vacancy in the mass you regularly attend. Please call Kenith Bartz at 254.760.3141 or the Parish Office for additional information or to sign up.

St. Mary's Week Ahead

Date	Event	Location	Time
Monday Dec. 5 th	Quilting Angels	Ave Maria Building	9:00am
Tuesday Dec. 6 th	Knitting & Crocheting	Ave Maria Building	12:30pm
	Men of Joseph	Ave Maria Building	7:00pm
Wednesday Dec. 7 th	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church	7:30am
	Altar Society	Ave Maria Building	12:00pm
	Religious Education	Church	6:30pm
	Penance Service	Church	7:00pm
Thursday Dec. 8 th t	Jr. High Choir Practice	School Auditorium	12:45pm
	Elementary Choir Practice	Church	3:30pm
	Choir Practice (9:15am Mass)	Church	6:15pm
	Choir Practice (5:30pm & 7:30am Masses)	Church	7:00pm
	RCIA	No Class	
Sunday Dec. 11 th	Hospitality Sunday <i>Parish Festival Committee</i>	Ave Maria Building	7:30am & 9:15am

SCHOOL TRUST FUND UPDATE

The school trust fund board would like to thank all who participated in any way to make our Casino Night a huge success. The event raised over \$45,000 including the Fund-A-Need, which will be used to secure the awning and walkway from the school to the gym. Again, a special thank you to everyone involved. May God bless each of you!



FOCUS ON FAITH FORMATION

As we enter the second week of Advent, we continue reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah. In today's selection, the Lord calls on the inhabitants of Jerusalem—those who have been saved—to mourn for their past sins, yet they continue to celebrate. They aren't thankful to God for saving them, and thus the Lord vows to humble them.

Their situation is what we find ourselves in today. Advent is a penitential season, yet we tend to begin our Christmas celebration early, instead of using the season to take stock of our past failings and to resolve to do better in the future.

We need to ask ourselves, "How are we preparing for Christmas? Have we been focusing more on Black Friday, Cyber Monday or the coupons in the mailbox than on the coming of Jesus Christ?" Remember that our children and others learn more from what they see us do, than from what we say. If we say we are Catholic Christians, are our actions conveying our beliefs?

If we are not yet prepared for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, it is not too late. As we enter the Second Week of Advent, our thoughts should be turning more and more to the coming of Christ at Christmas. As we move on to the second candle on our Advent wreaths, our sense of expectation increases, as does our recognition of the fact that we are not prepared, not only for the first coming of Christ that we will celebrate in a few weeks, but for His Second Coming at the end of time.

In order to fully prepare ourselves for His coming, let us ALL take the opportunity to refocus our attention on the TRUE meaning of Christmas by celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation at the Communal Penance service, this Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 pm St. Mary.

Blessings, Patricia St. Amour, DFF

Falcon's Corner



The Students of St. Mary's Catholic School are thankful for:

Grade 6: God, Freedom, Justice, Food, Family, Baby Sisters, Teachers at SMCS, Friends at SMCS. A Catholic Education, A school that teaches about God, Life and breath, Shelter, All of our blessings, Pets, Peaceable Kingdom, God's sacrifice for us, The Church.

Grade 5B:

Lakshmi: I am thankful for having Mrs. Bullock as my teacher.

Joshua: I am thankful for Mrs. Bullock.

Kate: I am thankful for my family.

Logan: I am thankful for having a great school to go to.

Caty: I am thankful for my cat.

Joseph: I am thankful for my brothers and sisters.

Callista: I am thankful for being able to learn about religion.

Isabelle: I am thankful for food.

Therese: I am thankful for my family and friends.

Preston: I am thankful for good books.

Seth: I am thankful for everything.

Bryan: I am thankful that Mrs. Bullock is my teacher and for my family.

Kathleen: I am thankful for my cat Sterling.

Valerie: I am thankful for being able to love others.

James: I am thankful for having a great teacher that loves me.

Natali: I am thankful for all who have served in the Armed Forces for our freedoms.

Alyssa: I am thankful for having great friends.

Elias: I am thankful for being God's child.

Patrick: I am thankful for being alive.

Mrs. Bullock: I am thankful for my wonderful students and for my family.

CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS

Thank you to the following families who are taking the chalice to their homes for a week to pray for answers to calls from the Lord to vocations.

Dec. 17	J. & J. Mason	11:00 am
Dec. 25	S. Garza	9:15 am
Jan. 1	B. & D. Keller	9:15am
Jan. 8	B. & D. Hickman	7:30am



Amanda Arney and David Alexander



WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Many Catholics mistake the Immaculate Conception as a celebration of Christ's conception; this is a celebration of Mary, conceived without sin. Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

The "splendor of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son".¹³⁶ The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love".¹³⁷ CCC Par. 491 & 492

Retirement Fund for Religious

Aging religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals and agencies – often for little pay. Their sacrifices leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund helps provide important needs such as prescription medication, nursing care and more. Please be generous when including the provided envelope for next week's collection.