



**DECEMBER 11TH, 2016
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

COMMUNION CALLS December 18, 2016

P. Engbrock, T. Flores, F. Trevino, D. Shephard,
C. Hussey, A. Mikeska, A. Payne & C. Oakes

DECEMBER 17TH – 18TH

5:30 PM MASS

No Deacon
Lector: D. Rendeiro
Lay Ministers: K. & B. Theisen, P. Thrift
Greeters: P. Everett, K., J., & P. Petter
Altar Servers: T. Lockhart, H. Musquiz,
R. & M. Ramm

7:30 AM MASS

Deacon Barney Rodriguez
Lector: M. Maldonado
Lay Ministers: D. Shepard & T. Flores
Greeters: F. Dach, B. & M. Hoelscher
Altar Servers: R. McNeill, D. Nguyen,
A. & V. Lucksinger

9:15 AM MASS

No Deacon
Lector: S. McAtee
Lay Ministers: D. Garza, R. Morales & R. Luna
Greeters: M. Guenat, K. & J. Bartz
Altar Servers: J. & R. Dolgener, T. Bennett,
J. Garcia

11:00 AM MASS

No Deacon
Lector: JA Mason
Lay Ministers: E. Castillo, A. Payne
& MA Mikeska
Greeters: B. Stewart, M. Cyr, L. Castillo,
R. & J. Dudley
Altar Servers: A. Atkins, A. Lambert, MB Garcia,
A. Tavernier

December 12TH – 18TH

Monday **8:15AM** Our Lady of Guadalupe
School Mass in Spanish

Tuesday **12:10PM** Bulletin Sponsors

Wednesday **7:00AM** †Pearlie Faichtinger

Thursday **7:00AM** †Daryl Entrop

Friday **8:15AM** †Leonard Nowaski
12:10PM Benefactors of St. Mary
School Trust Fund

Saturday **7:30AM** †Leonette Entrop
5:30PM For all Catechists

Sunday **7:30AM** †Ira & Val Lindeman
9:15AM For the People
11:00AM †Herman & Adeline
Wilde

YOUR GIFT TO GOD

December 4, 2016

Sunday Collection	\$	9006.75
Children's Collection	\$	21.00
Parish School Fund	\$	<u>1753.85</u>
Total	\$	10,781.60

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 retired clergy. Thank you for your generosity.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today's liturgy recalls the joy of the people of Israel when they hear the prophet's words that the Lord will fulfill their hopes. Their joy is so overwhelming that they might have missed Isaiah's caution that they must be patient for the Lord, who will fulfill the promise in a time that is coming, but not yet known. Who among us has not felt joy at the prospect of a hope being fulfilled? Patience is one of the greatest human challenges. And when we face it, we too often give up and settle for less. During the Advent season we are asked to ponder the coming of Christ, not only at the Incarnation but also at the end of our lives and at the end of the ages. Faced with the challenge of patience, we are tempted to embrace less than the final goal. Advent speaks loudly, encouraging us not to be distracted by the passing joys of this world and to focus on the eternal joy that only the Lord can provide. May your Advent season be a great joy filled with hope for the coming of our Savior on Christmas Eve.

God bless,

Fr. Steve

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Each of us has our own role to play in the coming of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?



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

DO YOU.....?

like to shake hands, welcome newcomers or just smile?! Our usher/greeter ministry needs your help. Volunteer numbers are dwindling; individuals, couples, families, students would only have to commit about an hour and half monthly. The pay is not so good, but the rewards are countless. 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.



PREPARE FOR JESUS' COMING

Please join us as we decorate our church for the joyous Christmas season. We will meet in the church at 1:30pm on Friday, December 23. With much work to be done before the Vigil Mass on December 24, lots of hands will make the task easier and quicker. Bring the whole family; what a great way to offer your time and talent as a gift to Jesus!

St. Mary's Week Ahead

Date	Event	Location	Time
Monday Dec. 12 th	Garden Ministry	Gardens	7:30am
	Quilting Angels	Ave Maria Building	9:00am
	W.O.M.E.N. Ministry	Margo Wyatt's Home	6:30pm
Tuesday Dec. 13 th	Knitting & Crocheting	Ave Maria Building	12:30pm
	Scout Pack & Troop Party	Regina Caeli Room	5:30pm
	Men of Joseph	Ave Maria Building	7:00pm
Wednesday Dec. 14 th	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church	7:30am
	Religious Education & Party	Church & Parish Hall	6:30pm
Thursday Dec. 15 th	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
	KJT Christmas Party	Ave Maria Room	6:00pm
	RCIA <i>The Last Things</i>	Regina Caeli Room	7:00pm

Retirement Fund for Religious

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medical necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.

FOCUS ON FAITH FORMATION



Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. The change in color to pink or rose, (which represents joy or rejoicing), is to provide encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation. With prayer and fasting, focusing on the colors of Advent, participating in Advent devotions and activities, such as the Advent wreath and calendar, families can celebrate and separate Advent from Christmas, while keeping Christ in the center. These traditions are also a way for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas.

Because the actual feast of Christmas doesn't begin until the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and lasts until the Epiphany, in the past most Catholics and other Christians did not put up their Christmas trees until after noon on Christmas Eve.

So, as a present day Catholic family, how can you get back to the true meaning and celebration of the Advent Season and the Christmas Season? If it's not too late for this year, distinguish these by holding off on purchasing or putting up your tree until Gaudete Sunday, try decorating it as late as possible, not lighting it until Christmas Eve or putting on your most precious decorations or the star or angel until Christmas Eve. Once decorated, keep the Christmas tree displayed until Epiphany to celebrate the true Christmas Season.

Cutting the Christmas Season Short

Why do few people keep Christmas trees and other decorations up until Epiphany? The short answer is that we have forgotten what the "Christmas season" means. For many reasons, the separate liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas have run together, essentially replacing Advent (especially in the United States) with an extended "Christmas season" of gift buying and parties. As a result, the actual Christmas season gets lost in the busy-ness.

Celebrate Advent Then Celebrate Christmas

If, however, we were to revive the older tradition of putting up the Christmas tree and decorations closer to Christmas Day then our trees would remain fresh until Epiphany and our thoughts focused on Christ's coming.

Blessings, Patricia St. Amour, DFF



FALCON'S CORNER

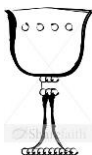
Important Dates to Remember

- Sun. 12/11 First Penance Meeting 1:00-3:00pm
 Mon. 12/12 All School Mass: Our Lady of Guadalupe 8:15am
 Mon. 12/12 –
 Thurs. 12/15 Semester Exams grades 4-8
 Thurs. 12/15 Christmas Concert 6:30-7:30pm
 Fri. 12/16 All School Mass 8:15 a.m.
 Noon dismissal - Christmas break
Second Quarter ends
 Wed. 1/4 *3rd Quarter Begins*

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.

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|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Dec. 25 | S. Garza | 9:15 am |
| Jan. 1 | B. & D. Keller | 9:15am |
| Jan. 8 | B. & D. Hickman | 7:30am |
| Jan. 15 | J. & J. Hutka | 9:15am |



A ST. MARY TRADITION



Your children are invited to sing carols before the 5:30pm mass on Dec. 24th. Their voices and sweet spirit are a special welcome for the Christ Child. Please come early; caroling begins at 5:15pm.

Baptism Preparation

Note the following dates for parents and godparents classes required for the sacrament of baptism to be performed:

Dec. 19, Jan. 16 & Feb. 20

Meet at 6:30pm in the Ave Maria Building. Sessions are available every third Monday of the month.



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Amanda Arney and David Alexander



HEART OF JESUS

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Dec. 16 – 18, 2016 \$35

Cedarbrake Retreat Center, Belton

For Catholic men ages 17 to 40, with an openness to a priestly vocation and at varying states of discernment. The weekend will include silence, prayer, meals and talks with priests and seminarians. This is a great opportunity to spend time with other young men who are seeking God's will for their life and to discover a vocation in the Heart of Jesus. Visit austinvocations.com

JOIN IN PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS:

Universal Intention - **End to Child-Soldiers:** *That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.*

Evangelization Intention - **Europe:** *That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.*

O Antiphons

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. For each day's antiphon see: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/the-o-antiphons-of-advent.cfm>