

*Glory* to God  
in the highest,  
and on earth Peace,  
Good Will toward men.  
*Luke 2:14*

**DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2016  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> -25<sup>TH</sup>**

**5:30 PM MASS**

No Deacon  
Lector: L. Chaffin  
Lay Ministers: HM Kreitz, P. Proctor, A. Mikeska  
Greeters: C. Ramm, B. Goonan,  
& J. Sladeczek  
Altar Servers: A. & L. Federle, & A. Tavernier

**7:30 PM MASS**

No Deacon  
Lector: HM Kreitz  
Lay Ministers: T. Mireles, N. & J. Glover  
Greeters: Volunteers  
Altar Servers V. Lucksinger + Volunteers

**11:00 PM MASS**

Deacon Barney Rodriguez  
Lector: MA Everett  
Lay Ministers: T. Flores & P. Everett  
Greeters: Volunteers  
Altar Servers L. Grygar + Volunteers

**7:30 AM MASS**

No Deacon  
Lector: C. Warren  
Lay Ministers: P. & MA Everett & I. Renico  
Greeters: S. Motl & R. Castillo  
Altar Servers Volunteers

**9:15AM MASS**

No Deacon  
Lector: J. Bartz  
Lay Ministers: L. & M. Matthews & L. Grygar  
Greeters: N. Centeno & K. Bartz  
Altar Servers: Volunteers

**11:00 AM MASS**

No Deacon  
Lector: L. Edwards  
Lay Ministers: F. Trevino, J. Dudley, L. Edwards  
Greeters: A. Pechal, R. Krumnow  
& B. Stewart  
Altar Servers: Volunteers

**COMMUNION CALLS December 25, 2016**

P. & K. Cameron, Deacon B. Rodriguez, L. Grygar,  
K. & J. Bartz, P. & MA Everett, L. & M. Matthews  
& J. Solis

**December 19<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**Monday** No Mass  
**Tuesday** 12:10PM †Dorothy & Harry Kelly  
**Wednesday** 7:00AM †Morris Marburger  
**Thursday** 7:00AM †Daryl Entrop  
**Friday** 12:10PM †Pearlie Faichtinger  
**Saturday** 7:30AM †Ervine Jansing  
5:30PM †Lee Tschoerner  
7:30PM †Travis Mireles  
11:00PM †Clarence Entrop  
**Sunday** 7:30AM †1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ben Britt  
9:15AM For the Parish Staff  
11:00AM For the People

**YOUR GIFT TO GOD**

**December 11, 2016**

Sunday Collection	\$	6499.96
Children's Collection	\$	47.00
Retired Clergy	\$	1753.85
Immaculate Conception	\$	873.00
Flower Donations	\$	<u>418.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,591.81</b>



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus being born among us means we no longer have to be afraid either to live or to die, for he truly is "God with us". "Do not be Afraid." These were the words with which Saint John Paul II began his papacy when he emerged from the conclave, under the white smoke of the chimney from the Sistine Chapel. With this request, the angels announced the Christ Child's arrival to the shepherds. These same words are spoken to us each time we face life's challenges, difficult decisions or even our own sinfulness. Jesus being born among us means we no longer have to be afraid. As we prepare for Christmas just one week away, and buy and wrap our last-minute gifts, let us recall that the greatest gift isn't the one we will find under the tree. The greatest gift of Christmas would be wrapped in swaddling clothes, not ribbons, and he would one day be found on the tree of the cross, born to die that we might live. May God Bless you all this Advent Season.

God bless,

Fr. Steve

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!



### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

For staff to celebrate Christmas with family & friends, the Parish Office will be closed:  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>



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

### PREPARE FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

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!



### 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*

## St. Mary's Week Ahead

Date	Event	Location	Time
Monday Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Quilting Angels	Ave Maria Building	9:00am
	Baptism Preparation Class	Ave Maria Building	6:30pm
Tuesday Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Knitting & Crocheting	Ave Maria Building	12:30pm
	Men of Joseph	Ave Maria Building	7:00pm
Wednesday Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church	7:30am
	Religious Education	No Classes	6:30pm
Thursday Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Choir Practice (9:15am Mass)	Church	6:15pm
	Combined Choir for Midnight Mass	Church	7:00pm
	RCIA	No Class	7:00pm

### CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS

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

Jan. 1 B. & D. Keller 9:15am  
 Jan. 8 B. & D. Hickman 7:30am  
 Jan. 15 J. & J. Hutka 9:15am



### ANTIPHON FOR DECEMBER 18

*"O Adonai and Ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave him your law. Come, and with outstretched arm redeem us."*

"Adonai" is Hebrew for "my Lord", and was substituted by devout Jews for the name "Yahweh", out of reverence. With this second antiphon we progress to the familiar story of God manifesting himself by name to Moses and giving his law to Israel as their way of life. We are also reminded of the Israelites' deliverance from bondage under pharaoh - a foreshadowing of our own redemption from sin. The image of God's arm outstretched in power to save his chosen people also brings to mind the later scene of Jesus with his arms outstretched for us on the cross.



### FOCUS ON FAITH FORMATION

The Amazing Advent(ure)

The Church's new year is filled with things to make us uncomfortable- conversion, repentance, adventure, risk, danger. All of this is the true setting for Christmas. Jesus' arrival in the world is bold and audacious. It will change the course of human history. It is also meant to change the course of our lives.

The call to the Christian life is not an idyllic, pastoral scene. It is, instead, radical and fraught with danger.

It is also the richest, most powerful, and most rewarding life that is available to us. The fourth Sunday of Advent demonstrates all of this. Mary, a single woman, probably about 15 years old, replies 'yes' when an angel shows up and says, "You are going to become pregnant- by God Himself." Joseph, her betrothed, gets his own visit from an angel. He replies "yes", when the angel says, "Marry the single pregnant girl." As a parting word, the angel tells Joseph that this child will be the savior that Israel has awaited.

These four weeks of high drama climax with the birth of Jesus, which is its own adventure. Joseph takes his pregnant wife off to Bethlehem because of the census. Jesus is born in a stinky, dirty stable. His crib is a manger, which is rough wooden feed box for animals.

The authentic Christian experience is not easy- so much for "opiate of the masses". It is a rugged, rough and tumble experience. Whatever it is on the outside, the real struggle of the experience is inside of us. Wrestling with our demons, battling sin, repenting for our wrongdoing, amending how we live, confessing our mistakes. All of this is the stuff that most are unwilling to do.

Saying "yes" to God is the beginning of life's greatest adventure, the amazing, crazy, risky love affair with Jesus. This is the season for what is new. Let us prepare our hearts for the arrival of the One who changes everything, and brings us to new life.

Ken Kniepmann December 13, 2016

*Blessings, Patricia St. Amour, DFF*



## FALCON'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students and families of St. Mary's Catholic School I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. We are so grateful to our parish for your continued support and love for our school. You are our Christmas gift!

With the beginning of 2017 comes the opening of enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are interested in quality Catholic education, please give us a call and we can set up a tour. School reopens on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Allow us to share the good news of Catholic education with you. You'll be glad you did!

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year begins on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

God bless you.

Theresa Wyles, Principal  
254.778.8141

### A ST. MARY TRADITION



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

Arrive early for the 11:00pm (Midnight Mass) to join in singing carols beginning at 10:30pm. The rest of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses will include carols during the liturgy.

**Combined Choir Practice for Midnight Mass** will be Thursday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15pm in the choir loft. All are welcome. For questions, call Jim Mason at 254.913.1259.

*Amanda Arney and David Alexander*



### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Wednesday you are invited to spend time with Jesus. Adoration begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 7:00am mass and ends with Benediction at 6:30pm.



There are several times throughout the day we have need for attendees. Please call the Parish Office to sign up for an hour. On the First Friday of each month Adoration is from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.



### **Transformed by Faith at Cedarbrake**

Spend the day reflecting on the gifts of five women whose courageous actions impacted the world. Their fearlessness and faithfulness changed lives because they embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Learn about Sojourner Truth, Thea Bowman, Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman. Contact Cedarbrake Retreat Center at 254.780.2436 for more information or to register.

### **A New Way to Begin a New Year**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held Dec. 31 from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in Austin. Visit [www.schoenstatt.us](http://www.schoenstatt.us) for more information.

**Dates:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 - 11:30pm

**End Time:** Sunday, January 1, 2017 - 12:30am