

St. Mary Catholic Church

Est. 1855

Mission Parish

815 St. Mary's Church Rd.
Fayetteville (near Ellinger)
www.stmaryellinger.com



Weekly Offering: \$ 1,960.00
Online Giving: \$ 423.44
Cemetery: \$ 169.00

MASSES

Wednesday at 7:00 a.m.

Laddie Blue Supak †

Friday at 7:00 a.m.

Johnny Marek †

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 p.m.

Alberto Carbajal Moreno †

Jose Villegas †

Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Jeffrey Raska †

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available before every Mass (in parish hall)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Est. 1870

207 E. Bell St.
Fayetteville

www.stjohnfayetteville.com



Weekly Offering: \$ 9,907.00
Online Giving: \$ 1,312.05
Faith Formation: \$ 451.00

MASSES

Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Ed & Lillian Sklar †

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Lorena & Rudolph Canik †

Thursday at 7:00 a.m.

Agnes Cook †

Saturday at 7:30 a.m.

Joe & Sophie Kaspar †

Saturday Vigil at 6:00 p.m.

Rhonda Canik †

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

For the People

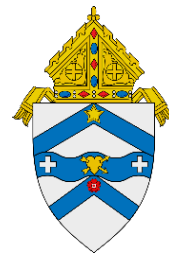
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00-9:00 a.m.



**Pope Francis
Vatican City State**



**Bishop Joe S. Vásquez
Diocese of Austin**



**St. Martin
Catholic Church**
World's Smallest Catholic Church
Historic Chapel
3490 S. Hwy 237
Round Top
(near Warrenton)

Mailing Address and Contact Information

P.O. Box 57

Fayetteville, Texas 78940

Phone: 979-378-2277 Fax: 979-378-4407

Email: stsjm@stjohnfayetteville.com

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 8:30-4:30 (closed for lunch)

Rev. Steve Sauser, Pastor
pastor@stjohnfayetteville.com

Deacon Robert Jasek

Administrative Staff

Amy Babin

Lexus Zika

Sue Zapalac

Faith Formation

Lexus Zika lzika@stjohnfayetteville.com

Knights of Columbus

Jim Sula jsula@aol.com

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Suzanne Mattair njm18@flash.net

Marriage preparation: Contact the priest before setting the date and at least six months before the date desired.

Baptism Preparation Classes will be held on the fourth Monday of each month. Parents & Godparents must have attended a Baptism Preparation class within three years of the Baptism. Contact the parish office to register.

Parish Registration forms available at the entrance of the Church and online.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13, AD 2020

PARISH LIFE

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Dianne Allen, Scott Bayless, Dan Castillo, Judy Chovanec, Margie Chovanec, Cherie Coufal, Bennie Daricek, John Dennis, Bradley Divin, Brian Fruge, Waldine Fruge, Hannah Glenn, Dan Hall, Bernita Hlinsky, Alois Janish, Dcn. Robert Jasek, Christine Kaspar, J.D. Kovar, Betty Jean Kulhanek, Leo Miller, Loretta Naumann, Rose Novosad, Jeanette Orsak, Garland Polasek, Kaycee Roesler, Willie Socha, El Gene and Mary Ann Sommerfeld, Shelley Spears, Martha Staley, Margie Stancik, Barbara Tieken, Kathy Vasek, Larry Vitek, and Maggie Williams. *(Though they will remain in our prayers, names will only remain on the prayer list for two months, unless a new request is received.)*

IN MEMORIAM: St. John's parish family extends sympathies and prayers towards the family of *Johnny Marek*, who died last week. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

ST. MARY'S ALTAR SOCIETY will not be able to have their Annual Fundraiser due to the pandemic. Any donations to the group would be appreciated. Thank you all for your support.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

- **CDA EDUCATION CONTEST:** This year's topics are "Let all you do be done with love" and "Show love to one another". Students in grades 4-12 and CDA members may enter. Entry forms can be obtained at the entrance of the church. The deadline to return entries is **February 1**. For more information, please contact Suzanne Mattair at 979-249-3901.
- **CDA SCHOLARSHIPS:** Graduating seniors related to a living CDA member in good standing are eligible to apply for the State Scholarship. Local Scholarships are offered to graduating seniors whose mother is a CDA member of Court 1440. Contact Donna Shula at (713) 818-1470 for applications and for more information. Applications are due by **January 31**.
- **COMFORT ITEMS FOR VETERANS:** The CDA is collecting items for our veterans in VA hospitals through this Wednesday, December 16. Items such as toothpaste, razors, deodorants, socks, etc. will be collected. No reading material, please! A basket is available for your donations at the entrance of the church.



ANGEL TREE: Sponsored by the CDA, each "angel" on the tree represents a child or adult in a desperate family situation. If you have picked up one of the gift requests, **please return the gift TODAY**. Wrap in gift bags, put the "angel" tag on it, and leave the present near or under the tree. Thank you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY MEETING will be on Tuesday, **December 15**, at 7:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY NOTICE: Now that the November observation of our deceased loved ones is over, we need your help in picking up ornaments and breakable items, as well as consistently maintaining the gravesites according to the cemetery rules and regulations. Copies of the "Rules, Regulations and Specifications of St. John's Cemetery Association" can be found at the entrance of the Church. Please email or call the office with any questions or concerns. Your help is appreciated!

GATHERING FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST IS A BLESSING, indeed. The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Everyone is welcome, but fulfilling our Sunday Obligation may feel a bit difficult as we navigate these times of a pandemic.

Social distancing is practiced, masks are required, and hand sanitizer is used.

Remember, the ushers are here to help! Please ask them if you need a mask, assistance finding a seat, or anything else.

NOTE: We ask that those who have been exposed to or are showing symptoms of COVID-19, those who have an underlying health condition making them vulnerable to COVID-19, or those who live with or care for anyone in the previous categories to please abide by CDC guidelines and remotely participate via viewing the **livestreamed Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass** on our Facebook page. You can access it by visiting our parish websites and clicking the Facebook emblem "f" in the upper right corner.

AS YOU ATTEND HOLIDAY MASSES, please pay attention to any new pew signs and the ushers. You may not be able to sit in your 'usual' spot due to refined seating arrangements aimed at allowing the greatest attendance with the social distancing requirements. Thank you for working together with us on this!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: To donate toward the purchase of flowers for the Altar at Christmas, you may use the Christmas Flower envelope provided at the entrance of the church. Please put your donation in the collection **TODAY**.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

FAITH FORMATION – Wednesday, December 16

- **Grades K-1** will meet at 6:00 – 6:50 p.m.
- **Grades 2-6** will meet at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- **Grades 7-12** will meet at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

We will notify you via email and the website if any changes to the schedule are necessary.



CYM CHRISTMAS DECORATING: CYM youth will be decorating St. John Church on Sunday, **December 20**, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. **All high school students** are asked to participate as we set up the manglers and decorate the church for Christmas. Parents are welcome to join; your help will be appreciated. Please wear a mask.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES will be distributed at the weekend Masses, celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family, on **December 26 & 27**.

USHERS: We need your help during Christmas. Please let the office know if you would be available to help at one of the Christmas Masses.

2021 BREAKING BREAD MISSALS—without covers—are at the entrance of the church for those who would like to take a missal home for your personal use here and at home. Please remember to take it home with you after Mass. Do not leave it in the pew.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY: Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to this week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, AD 2020

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES with your name on them are on the tables at the entrance of the church. The boxes have been placed in alphabetical order. Anyone not having an assigned box is asked to pick up a blank set. **EVERYONE using envelopes should place their name on the first few envelopes.**

ADVENT PENANCE SCHEDULE: One of the necessary precautions we are taking this year is to schedule additional opportunities for the **Sacrament of Penance** in our parishes instead of an Advent Penance Service. During the Season of Advent, Father Steve will be available to hear Confessions at the following times:

ST. JOHN

- **Tuesdays:** 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. and after the 6:00 p.m. Mass
- **Wednesdays:** 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturdays:** 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

ST. MARY

- **Thursdays:** Dec. 10 & 17 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Reconciliation is also available with Father Brian at Sacred Heart in La Grange during Advent at the following times:

- **Tuesdays:** 6:00 – 6:20 p.m.
- **Wednesdays:** 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **Saturdays:** 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

CIVILIZE IT: ADVOCACY

“Parishes need to promote a revived sense of political responsibility calling Catholics to be informed and active citizens, participating in the debate over the values and vision that guide our communities and nation.” - U.S. Catholic Bishops, Communities of Salt and Light

As Christ’s disciples, we are all called to raise our voices in the public square, shining the light of our faith and values on public policies that impact those who are poor and vulnerable. We can take action by subscribing to and staying abreast of action alerts put out by the U.S. Catholic bishops, by contacting our public policy makers and representatives about initiatives that impact the poor and vulnerable, or by working with and supporting Catholic Relief Services. Learn more about advocating for the less fortunate at <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org>.

CHRISTMAS MASS 2020: To give ample opportunity for all the faithful to attend, we have five Masses scheduled for *the Nativity of the Lord*. The attendance for each Mass will be strictly limited. We anticipate that the Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve at 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. at St. John may be the most well attended. We ask that if you are able, please consider ‘gifting’ the opportunity to attend the Vigil Masses to those who would find it difficult to attend the other Masses. We hope that everyone, especially those who have not been able to attend Mass in a long time due to health or age, will feel comfortable attending Mass as we begin the Blessed Season of Christmas.

So, if possible, please consider attending the 11:00 p.m. (Thursday) or 8:00 a.m. (Friday) Masses at St. Mary or the 10:00 a.m. (Friday) Mass at St. John. We greatly appreciate your generosity in this matter.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The deadline for the bulletins of December 27 and January 3 is Tuesday, December 22.

CLERICAL ENDOWMENT FUND CHRISTMAS CARDS

are a good way to remember someone at Christmas and support those studying for the priesthood. Both the donor and recipient are remembered in The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for them by Bishop Vásquez and the Director of Seminarians. These cards may be for living or deceased friends and loved ones. The \$2 cards are available at the parish office, at Fayetteville Bank, from Margaret Kubala at (979) 378-2877, or Donna Shula at (713) 818-1470.

COUPLES PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

should contact their priest or deacon at least nine months prior to their wedding date in order to begin the marriage preparation process. Engaged couples are encouraged to inquire at their parish about pre-marriage retreats and classes. Marriage Preparation is an important process that allows couples to discern and explore their vocation of marriage by looking closely at their relationships with one another and with God.

ROSARY GROUPS pray the Rosary at St. Mary on **Mondays** in the Church at **6:00 p.m.** and at St. John on **Tuesdays** in the Church at **5:30 p.m.**



Catholic Social Teaching Corner

December 12-13 Third Sunday of Advent

You might notice that John does not use Jesus’ name in this Gospel, but only refers to him as “one whom you do not recognize.” Although they knew the text of Isaiah the Pharisees were not really prepared to find the promised Messiah among the broken-hearted, the lonely, those held in captivity or those lacking justice and peace. Do we know where to look for Jesus? Will we recognize him among those most ignored and forgotten in our world?

Diciembre 12-13 Tercer Domingo de Adviento

Puede que usted note que Juan no usa el nombre de Jesús en el Evangelio, sino que solo se refiere a Él como “el que ustedes no reconocen”. A pesar de que conocían el texto de Isaías, los Fariseos no estaban realmente preparados para encontrar al Mesías prometido entre los rotos de corazón, los solitarios, los cautivos o aquellos que no tenían justicia y paz ¿Sabemos nosotros dónde buscar a Jesús? ¿Lo reconoceremos entre aquellos los más ignorados y olvidados en el mundo?

SUPPORT THE PARISH WHEN YOU SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT AMAZON!

Visit smile.amazon.com, sign in to your Amazon account, and select St. John Catholic Church, Fayetteville TX, as your organization of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to St. John at no cost to you. For help or more info, visit org.amazon.com.

OTHER NEWS

THE CZECH CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF TEXAS will hold its Annual Membership Meeting, virtually, on Saturday, **January 9, 2021** at 10 a.m.” To participate in the Zoom meeting please send your email address to marek1212@gmail.com.

ETHICS IN MINISTRY: All clergy, staff, members of organizations, and ALL volunteers are required to attend an EIM workshop every three years. Temporary online EIM training is available at www.austindiocese.org/workshop. If you have any questions or are a new volunteer, please contact Amy Babin at the church office at (979) 378-2277.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13, AD 2020

ST. JOHN LITURGICAL DUTIES

LECTOR

Wednesday – Grade 6
Saturday – Mary Keilers
Sunday – Janell Warschak

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Wednesday – Nikki Beseda
Saturday – Karley Gaytan, Wanda Fritsch
Sunday – Cindy Garwood, Michelle Bertsch

ALTAR SERVERS

Wednesday – Grade 3 (3), Grade 6 (1)
Saturday – Gregory Huebner, Lydia Huebner, Emma Jurecka
Sunday – Cole Brackman, Mackenzie Poncik, Logan Poncik

ALTAR DUTY FOR DECEMBER Carrol Hollimon, Lisa Hollimon, Sara Vandel, Heather Jurecka

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday – Betty Kovar, Robert Janish, Ronnie Chernosky, Eddie Gaertner
Sunday – John Spiess, David Bertsch, Lee Matocha, Kenneth Noska

ST. JOHN CONTACTS

Pastoral Council Chair	John Spiess	979-836-8702
Finance Council Chair	Steve Pavlicek	spavlicek@cvctx.com
St. John Altar Society	Madeline Kovar	979-378-2361
Pro-Life Coordinator	Nikki Beseda	nbeseda@gmail.com
K.J.Z.T.	Rose Rohde	979-249-3635
K.J.T.	Emil Sodolak	979-249-3952
Hall Rental	Parish Office	979-378-2277
Cemetery	Ronald Kramr	979-249-6152

A Coronavirus Prayer for this Weary Winter

by Kerry Weber

Jesus Christ, Light of the World, You understand what it is like to feel alone in the midst of great suffering. Remain with us as we continue to endure the coronavirus pandemic. Awaken our hearts as we bear witness to the sickness, the sacrifice, even death.

In these dark months we cry, "How long, O Lord?" Help us to watch and pray for signs of your hope.

When we long for a world returned to normal, inspire us to work toward a world transformed. When we feel forgotten and lonely, help us to find solidarity through your love.

When we cannot see your face, help us to see you in others, especially the essential workers, first responders and medical professionals who labor tirelessly.

When we feel only sorrow in our souls, help us to know that the joy of the Gospel remains as true now as ever.

When we feel only grief in our hearts, help us to find consolation in knowing that those who are sick or have died are held in your loving embrace.

As we walk through this time of darkness, give us faith that we are headed toward brighter days. Give light to our eyes. Let us show that light to one another.

Even in winter, when the ground appears barren, it is warmed by the light of your creation; seeds are nourished and green shoots are pushing up toward the sun. Jesus Christ, be our light.

Amen.

ST. MARY LITURGICAL DUTIES

LECTOR

Saturday –L. J. Korenek
Sunday – Jo Ann Divin

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday – Kole Schmitt
Sunday – Luke Korenek

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday – Mark Schmitt, Mark Matocha, Bruce Kubena, Eduardo Alvarado
Sunday – Luke Orsak, Donnie Becka, James Korenek

ST. MARY CONTACTS

Pastoral Council Chair	Alfred Ermis	aermis@cvctx.com
Finance Council Chair	Bruce Kubena	979-378-2598
St. Mary Altar Society	Donna Shula	979-378-2749
Pro-Life Coordinator	Aimee Korenek	amskorenek@yahoo.com
K.J.Z.T.	Mildred Walla	979-378-4202
K.J.T.	James Korenek	amskorenek@yahoo.com
Hall Rental	Parish Office	979-378-2277
Cemetery	Vlasta Korenek	979-732-2836

Third Sunday of Advent



Upcoming Holy Day of Obligation Masses

Christmas – The Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday, December 24 (Vigil) 4:00 p.m. – St. John
(Vigil) 6:00 p.m. – St. John
11:00 p.m. – St. Mary
Friday, December 25 8:00 a.m. – St. Mary
10:00 a.m. – St. John

Mary, Mother of God – January 1

Thursday, December 31 (Vigil) 6:00 p.m. – St. John
Friday, January 1 8:00 a.m. – St. Mary
10:00 a.m. – St. John

FAMILY CONNECTION

Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.



In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:6-8,19-28. Discuss the signs of Jesus' presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God's love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us. Read and pray together the psalm for today's Mass, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).