

St. Mary Catholic Church

Est. 1855

Mission Parish

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



Weekly Offering: \$ 1,050.00
Immaculate Conception: \$ 395.00
Online Giving: \$ 301.38
Retired Clergy: \$ 541.00

MASSES

Wednesday at 7:00 a.m.
Mass for Life

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Mass during the Night at 11:00 p.m.
For the People
Christmas Day at 8:00 a.m.
For the People

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 p.m.
Don Codenys †
Sunday at 8:00 a.m.
Freddie & Mary Mikulenska †

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Est. 1870

207 E. Bell St.
Fayetteville
www.stjohnfayetteville.com



Weekly Offering: \$ 3,163.00
Immaculate Conception: \$ 1,097.00
Online Giving: \$ 650.00
Retired Clergy: \$ 826.00

MASSES

Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
Christians in the Holy Land

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
F.C. & Mabel Knippel †

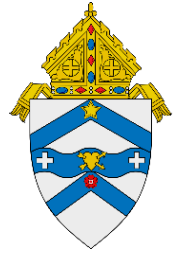
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Vigil at 4:00 p.m.
For the People
Christmas Vigil at 6:00 p.m.
For the People
Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.
For the People

Saturday Vigil at 6:00 p.m.
For the People
Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Clem W. Gully †



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)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

at St. John: Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00-9:00 a.m.
at St. Mary: Available before every Mass
(in parish hall)

Mailing Address and Contact Information

Rev. Steve Sauser, Pastor
pastor@stjohnfayetteville.com

Deacon Robert Jasek

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)

Administrative Staff

Amy Babin
Lexxus Zika
Sue Zapalac

Faith Formation

Lexxus 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 20, 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, Janet Sladek Grayson, Dan Hall, Bernita Hlinsky, Alois Janish, Dcn. Robert Jasek, Christine Kaspar, J.D. Kovar, Betty Jean Kulhanek, Kathy Mabry, Leo Miller, Loretta Naumann, Rose Novosad, Jeanette Orsak, Garland Polasek, Kaycee Roesler, Bill Shock, 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.)

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to **Nathan & Brittney (Polasek) Behrens**, who were united in the bonds of Holy Matrimony this weekend. May the Lord bless them with many happy years of marriage.

FAITH FORMATION: Classes have been dismissed for the Christmas holidays and will resume on Wednesday, **January 6**.

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



FIRST CONFESSION was celebrated last weekend by the 2nd grade Faith Formation students. May these students continue to receive the Lord's grace and blessings as they continue to prepare for their First Communion to be celebrated on April 25.

ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY PARISHES WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS by gifting you the book, *Do Something Beautiful for God: The Essential Teachings of Mother Theresa.* Please take a book found in the baskets located at the church entrance. On these pages, you will find remarkable insight into the depths of Mother Theresa's heart, mind, soul, and life. They will comfort you in your affliction and afflict you in your comfort. But most of all, in the midst of all this activity and noise of your life, you will hear Mother Teresa encouraging you by gently saying: Do something beautiful for God with your life!

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**.

THANK YOU: The CDA would like to thank all who took part in supporting our Veterans and Angel Tree projects. Both were very successful, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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.

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.



ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN PARISH HISTORY, Fr. Chromcik celebrated his first Mass as pastor of St. John in Fayetteville on Christmas Day 1872. In cleaning out the display case in the parish hall, a chalice was found that Fr. Chromick used. A parishioner generously covered the cost to have it refinished and polished and Father Steve will be using this chalice at the Christmas Masses at St. John.

AS YOU ATTEND HOLIDAY MASSES, please pay attention to any 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!

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



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.

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.

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.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, AD 2020

A SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND will be to support family and pro-life activities in the Diocese of Austin. These include: Annunciation Maternity Home in Georgetown, Our Lady of the Angels Maternity Shelter in Temple and the diocesan Office of Pro-life Activities. Please be generous in your support of this cause.

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.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available. 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.**

THE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY will be at St. John on Friday, **January 14, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** This distribution will be a Drive-Thru, so all clients are to stay in their vehicles and open the trunk. Volunteers will load the food in your vehicle.

CIVILIZE IT: ETHICAL CHOICES AND PRACTICES
“Our entire community of faith must help Catholics to be instruments of God's grace and creative power in business and politics, factories and offices, in homes and schools and in all the events of daily life. Social justice and the common good are built up or torn down day by day in the countless decisions and choices we make.” - U.S. Catholic Bishops, Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice

As Catholics, we are called not to abandon the world, but to help shape it. In our families, homes, schools, workplaces, and in business and politics, we are called to be instruments of God's grace and creative power. As individuals and families, we can do this at home, in our communities, at work, and in the public square. Visit <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org> for more on how to live out our vocation to be “leaven” of the Gospel wherever we are.

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

December 19-20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our Advent time is almost over. We have watched in hope for the coming of Christ at the end of time. We have seen the presence of Christ and God's Kingdom among us wherever justice and peace triumph over violence and alienation. Now we focus on Mary and the intimacy of birth. Carrying any child requires courage, faith and trust. Every mother wonders about the future of her child. God transforms all of human history by becoming human through Mary's “Yes!” Like her, will we allow the very fullness of God's love to fill us and our world this year? Do we have her faith, her courage and her trust?

Diciembre 19-20 Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

Nuestro Adviento casi se termina. Hemos esperado la venida de Cristo al final de los tiempos. Hemos visto la presencia de Cristo y del Reino de Dios entre nosotros donde sea que la justicia y la paz triunfan sobre la violencia y la separación. Ahora nos enfocamos en María y la intimidad del nacimiento. Dios transforma toda la historia humana al convertirse en humano a través del ¡Sí! De María. Como ella, ¿permitiremos que la totalidad del amor de Dios nos llene a nosotros y a nuestro mundo este año? ¿Tenemos su fe, su valor y su confianza?

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.

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.**



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

SAVE THE DATE for the Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day Mass for Life! On **January 23, 2021**, join the Diocese of Austin for a Rosary of Mercy and Healing at 9:00 a.m., and Mass at three different parishes beginning at 10:00 a.m. Due to the pandemic the number of Masses have increased to accommodate all who will come to pray for an end to abortion. Masses will be livestreamed.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE for your weekly, monthly or one-time donations! You no longer need to worry about writing checks or forgetting envelopes. To get started, fill out an authorization form found at the entrance of the Church and return it to the parish office, or sign yourself up on the parish website's “Make a Donation” page.



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 20, AD 2020

ST. JOHN LITURGICAL DUTIES

LECTOR

Christmas Vigil (4:00 p.m.) – John Spiess
Christmas Vigil (6:00 p.m.) – Herman Schramm
Christmas – Janet Hall
Saturday – Annette Little
Sunday – Christine Wied

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Christmas Vigil (4:00 p.m.) – John Spiess, Lori Spiess
Christmas Vigil (6:00 p.m.) – Ronnie Kramr, Joan Malota
Christmas – Jeanne Schilling, Paulette Keilers
Saturday – Lexus Zika, Yvonne Smith
Sunday – Kayla Kaspar, Christine Wied

ALTAR SERVERS

Christmas Vigil (4:00 p.m.) – Wade Halamicek, Mackenzie Poncik, Logan Poncik
Christmas Vigil (6:00 p.m.) – Kara Jurecka, Paige Jurecka, Peyton Jurecka
Christmas – Luke Beseda, Ricky Schilling, Scotti Beseda
Saturday – Gregory Huebner, Lydia Huebner, Emma Jurecka
Sunday – Cole Brackman, Wade Halamicek, Marissa Halamicek

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 Sodalak	979-249-3952
Hall Rental	Parish Office	979-378-2277
Cemetery	Ronald Kramr	979-249-6152

*Peace on earth
and in your hearts this Christmas*



ST. MARY LITURGICAL DUTIES

LECTOR

Mass during the Night (11:00 p.m.) – Aimee Korenek
Christmas – Ashley Havel
Saturday – Rose Urban
Sunday – Jo Ann Divin

ALTAR SERVERS

Mass during the Night (11:00 p.m.) – Stephen Korenek, Luke Korenek
Christmas – Klayten Schmitt, Kole Schmitt
Saturday – Rylee Fritsch
Sunday – Julie 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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.



One of the challenges of faith is to recognize God's plan for us and to remain open to God's will and God's actions in our world. Filled with God's grace, Mary models for us the kind of faith that is needed to cooperate in God's plan of salvation. Like Mary, we are given the awesome opportunity to cooperate in God's saving plan. On this final Sunday of Advent, our Gospel invites us to consider how our preparations for Christmas have made us more aware of God's grace working in our lives.

Gather together your family and talk about what you have been doing as a family to prepare for Christmas. Consider the question: What enabled Mary to say yes to God? Which of your Advent activities have made you more aware of God's grace in your life? Conclude in prayer together that God's grace will enable your family to be more faithful and obedient to God.