

DECEMBER 1, 2019 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time

Sunday, Dec 01, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Twenty-five reasons to smile

It's Advent! Jesus is coming soon. Colored lights dance against the dark. Carols exalt us (and the "Jingle Bells" dogs make us laugh). John Lennon, who imagined a world without religion, couldn't imagine one without Christmas. Holiday cards keep on coming. Tinsel. Evergreens. Angels. Lighting family Advent wreaths. Sleigh bells. Generous hearts. Visitors. Parties. Cookies with sprinkles. Sparkly sweaters. Fuzzy mittens. Manger scenes. Nativity plays. Flash mobs singing "Messiah" at the mall. Children's faces. Reconciliations. The hope of peace on earth. Good will within reach everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44* "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will Come."

Monday, Dec 02, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Warming up to Advent

Today is the first weekday in Advent, and the readings underscore the season's sense of warmth and joyful anticipation. As our days grow cooler, Isaiah provides an image of God protecting the Israelites from the elements: "the Lord's glory will be shelter and protection." The psalm, too, trumpets a sense of joy and protection under God: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Then the gospel brings us an Advent sense of happy expectation, with Jesus envisioning the faith-filled centurion at the heavenly banquet. Today, as you slip on a sweater to fight a chill, or share a meal with others, take heart in being part of the worldwide Christian community beginning our Advent season of warmth and joyful anticipation.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11 (175)*. "Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven."

Tuesday, Dec 03, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Welcome everybody

How can you live out Catholic teaching to defend the sacred life and dignity of every precious human being? In lots of way, of course. But one for today is the observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, promoted by the United Nations since 1992. Think

about how you can support the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities and help include them "in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life." Promote awareness and celebrate their achievements; and if you yourself have a disability, celebrate your own achievements as well! Order an event pack for your organization at idpwd.org. **TODAY'S READINGS:** *Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24*. "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see."

Wednesday, Dec 04, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Come to your senses

Saint John of Damascus is famous for opposing the Iconoclast heresy of the 700s. Iconoclasts said it was wrong to venerate sacred images of any sort, but John wrote three different treatises to explain why ours is essentially a "smells and bells" religion, honoring the Incarnation by using all five senses God gave to both us and Jesus. "When we see the crucifix, we remember Christ's saving Passion," he wrote. "We fall down to worship not the piece of wood, but the One who is imaged." And when one of John's mentors berated him for writing hymns—saying they weren't a worthy spiritual pursuit—it is said that the Blessed Mother berated the mentor in a dream! Be sure to enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of this holiday season—remembering our Creator, who asks that we don't love abstractly but "in the flesh."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37*. "They all ate and were satisfied."

Thursday, Dec 05, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Can you lend a hand?

December 5 is the day set aside by the United Nations General Assembly as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. It is a long title but its purpose is something we all understand: to encourage governments to recognize volunteer efforts that promote development and peace. Advent is a season of hope, and volunteers by their generosity of hearts and hands give us reason to hope for this world. Say a prayer of gratitude for volunteers throughout our world whose sacrifices promote the common good. Ask for grace to be a sign of hope today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178)*. "None of those who cry out, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father."

Friday, Dec 06, 2019

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

Protect the innocent

In every household where children live, shoes could be lined up outside the door this morning, full of candy and tiny treats. This brief preview of Christmas is mercifully given to assuage the plaintive query, "Will we ever get there?" From spare biographical details about Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra in the fourth century, marvelous legends have arisen. All underline his protection of children, so let's invoke him during an era of terrible child exploitation. In his honor, place the National Human Trafficking Hotline in your phone or on your fridge: 888-373-7888. Call if anything seems amiss.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31*. "But a very little while . . ."

Saturday, Dec 07, 2019

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Uproot income inequality

Saint Ambrose (c. 340–397) was the bishop of Milan and one of the four original doctors of the church along with Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great. Ambrose taught the necessity of being united with the poor. He said that charitable giving was not an act of generosity but rather a restitution of resources that God had originally provided to all but have been taken over by the rich and powerful. Speaking in the United States in 2014, Pope Francis said that income inequality in our society was the "root of all social evil." Catholics need to fight against income inequality.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180)*. "His heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd."

Next Sunday

Sunday, Dec 08, 2019

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Back to the garden

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (4)*. "The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to lead them."

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Nov. 30- Dec. 1, First Sunday of Advent

"Active waiting for the Lord means not allowing ourselves to be lulled into purely private interests in our homes and apartments, but donating our attention, time and talents. It implies sharing our

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strengths and accepting our weaknesses in our parishes, schools, community work, and in society at large," said Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. How can we "actively wait" for Christ this Advent?

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY NOV 30. VIGIL MASS

For the repose of the soul Dorothy Williams, requested by Barbara Scott

For the repose of the souls Damien Raney, Evelyn Johnson, Celento Smith, The Webb Family, Ira Hall, Jr. and Glenn Foppe requested by Bernie Little

SUNDAY, DEC 1, 8:00AM

For the repose of the souls Lorne, Rosa, John T., and Frank Moran, Marin and Edward Duncan-Hall, requested by Don Moran.

SUNDAY, DEC 1, 10:00AM

For the repose of the souls of, Gloria, John, Sr., Isetta, James, Earl and Dorothy Hardeman, Earline Brazell, Gladys Champaigne, Amber Smith and Doris Perkins, requested by John Hardeman, Jr.

TUESDAY, DEC 3, 12:00PM

For the repose of the souls of Jean Nalletamby, Maurtia Nalletamby, John Nalletamby, Bertha Nalletamby, George Nalletamby, Lisa Nalletamby, Cyrano Nalletamby, Sylvianne Nalletamby, and Cyranette Nalletamby requested by Ed and Elina Mullen.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 4, 11:00PM

For the repose of the souls of Thea Williams-Douglas, Quentin Roussel and Andre, Ricardo, Edward and Geraldine Brooks, Requested by Jennifer Brooks

THURSDAY, DEC 5, 12:00 PM

For the repose of the souls of Frank, Leona, Earl, Tony, Dock and Jim Coleman and Josephine Baker requested by John Hardeman, Jr.

FRIDAY, DEC 6, 12:00PM

For the repose of the souls of Martha and Benjamin Duff, Nancy, William and Patrick Lasplace, Elina, Ernest and Albert Talma, requested by Ed and Elina Mullen

Children	17.00
SVDP	238.00
E-GIVING	1813.26
SVDP(E-GIVING)	313.00
MSP	10.00
Debt Rt.	60.00
Gift Store	96.00
CCD	50.00
Pilgrimage Holy Land	2700.00

SUNDAY DEC 1, 2019	
Mass	8:00AM
Rosary	9:30AM
Mass	10:00AM
Byzantine	5:00PM

HOUSE KEEPING

1. On the first Sunday of each month Father blesses all birthdays. If you want a special blessing for your birthday, anniversary, child's birthday or any other blessing, **please contact the church Secretary, and get a special intention envelope.** Please respect the Celebrant and Craig, and do not ask for a Blessing as they are entering the Sanctuary for Mass.
2. In order to respect the privacy of all Parishioners, please call or have a **family member** call the church office, if you or a family member are hospitalized, and in need of a priest.
3. Please do not schedule any event in the Family Life Center until you have checked with the church office. After your scheduled event, please make sure the FLC is clean and ready for the next meeting.
4. In the case of a Parishioner's death, please do not call the family and advise them of the services provided by the Church, or what a ministry provides. Please ask them call the church. The church will notify all ministries, and will instruct the family on Holy Cross's policy and procedures.

DEBT RETIREMENT
COLLECTION 2ND SUNDAYS
Please support our Debt Retirement Collection every 2nd Sunday of the Month to pay down our Diocesan Loan for the FLC. Our monthly target is \$4000.00

Mark your calendar for the 2020 MLK Celebration

The Diocese of Austin will host a commemoration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 11 at 11 a.m. at St. John Neumann Parish in Austin. The prayer service will feature the Holy Cross Parish Choir (Austin), diocesan and parish pastoral ministers and cultural expressions from various groups. Bishop Brendan Cahill of Victoria will be the speaker.

Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 7

A diocesan celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held Dec. 7 in

downtown Austin. The event will begin with a procession. Attendees will gather at 7:30 a.m. at St. Mary Cathedral in Austin for announcements and depart in procession at 8 a.m. The procession will end at San José Parish in Austin, where Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. with fellowship to follow. For more information visit www.austindiocese.org/olg-celebration.

"I am the handmaid of the Lord"
Luke 1:38

ADVENT REVIVAL
Our Advent Revival begins next Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 6:00PM with Evangelist Fr. Uche Andeh, Pastor of St. Anthony Marie de Claret, Kyle, TX,

Sunday, December 8th @ 6:00 pm

Monday, December 9th @ 6:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 10th @ 6:30 pm
Healing Mass

TOWN HALL MEETING
Please save the date. There will be a Holy Cross Town Hall Meeting Sunday, December 15, 2019, in the FLC, after the 10:00am Mass

PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Ella Adams	Evelyn Battle
Mary Anthony	Mildred Carter
DeKarlos Blackmon	Josephine Dukes
B.J. Dukes	Monica Godsey
Vanessa Downey-Little	Vonnye Rice-Gardner
Lester Johnson	Mathias Manning
Doris King	Bernadette Phifer
Marie Mason	Dr. Joseph Quander
Ella Pease	Mary Sobers
Betty Ridley	Mary Waters
Marie Thompson	

Weekend NOV 23/24, 2019		
ATTENDANCE		
VIGIL MASS	5:30 PM	28
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	46
	10:00 AM	201
Igbo Mass	1:30pm	213
OFFERTORY \$4171.00		

Family Life Center Now Available for Renting

For all your events like:

- Wedding Party
- Birthday Party
- Graduation Party
- Wakes
- Coporate Events
- Ministry Events
- Meetings
- ETC

Contact the Church Office for details
5124723741



CONSIDER HOLY CROSS IN YOUR WILL
Call the Church Office 512 472 3741