

DECEMBER 8, 2019 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Sunday, Dec 08, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Back to the garden

Among the cards arriving daily are the usual crèche scenes, angels, wise men, shepherds, and Bethlehem stars like searchlights against the night. Truth be told, there are plenty of Santas and reindeer, snowfolk, and cute animals too. But somewhere is the odd pairing of a lion and a lamb snuggling together—which never happens in Isaiah's prophecy, by the way. The lamb hosts the wolf, and the calf dines with the lion, but no matter. The idea is that the world's original harmony is achievable—if we all retract our claws and keep our teeth to ourselves. Be a peacemaker!
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."

Monday, Dec 09, 2019
SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

MARY [PATRONAL FEAST OF THE U.S.A.]

Mary was no angel

Since her very conception, Mary of Nazareth has been named immaculate, "pure," "unblemished." And rightfully so for she was born without sin and remained so throughout her life. Yet because of this pristineness, we sometimes think Mary was untouched by the messiness of everyday life. But Mary was a flesh-and-blood human and a strong, loving woman. She experienced the beauty and struggles of family and village life. She faced poverty and a refugee's life, persecution and heartbreaking sorrow when her son was tortured and killed. With Mary as your companion, take time this Advent to peer into your heart and see what beautiful, messy, tender, and broken things you are holding.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689).* "God chose us to be holy and unblemished."

Tuesday, Dec 10, 2019
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
Embrace the lost sheep

In today's gospel, Jesus elevates the importance of the single "lost sheep." It's worth leaving the 99 on their own for a time because the lost one has enormous value. Catholic social

teaching hinges on the idea that every single human being has infinite worth, including our own lost sheep. Today those who are "outside the fold" include addicts, the homeless, prisoners, refugees, the mentally ill—even our most unlovable relative. Who are the lost sheep in your community? Can you take one small step today to affirm their dignity and worth?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182).* "Will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray?"

Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019
MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE
Stick with a church that sticks around

If you love singing "Adeste Fideles" and "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" at this time of year, you can probably thank Pope Damasus I for that. As the bishop of Rome during the fourth century, he championed many aspects of the faith that persist to this day—aspects that have helped ensure the cohesiveness and longevity of Catholic practice. These include: a common language (Latin) for worship, an official list of books for the Bible, the veneration of Christian martyrs, the denunciation of certain heresies, and the primacy of the bishop of Rome as pope. His actions laid down some of the first stones of a church that Vatican II saw as having an "eternal foundation" based on Christ.
TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183).* "Have you not heard? The Lord is the eternal God."

Thursday, Dec 12, 2019
FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Of the people and for the people

Our Lady of Guadalupe is probably the most iconic image and story of Mary in North America. One reason for this Overwhelming devotion is that she appeared in the form of an indigenous woman to an indigenous man—Indians being the lowest tier of Mexican society both then and now. That God's own mother could be of the poor and for the poor continues to be a powerful message with strong implications about how we treat one another. In your prayer today, reflect on whose image Mary might take on if she were to appear in your community today. What would her face look like? And what might she ask of us?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47 (690A).* "A great sign appeared

in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

Friday, Dec 13, 2019
MEMORIAL OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR

See with new eyes

The music of Lucinda Williams is beautiful, simple, and challenging. In 2011, she released the song "Blessed," a litany to remind us that even in the challenges of life, we are blessed. She sings, for example, "We were blessed by the blind man / Who could see for miles and miles." We have a patron saint for people who are blind, Saint Lucy. Though tortured, blinded, and martyred, she is remembered as a woman of great vision for her love of Christ and poor people. How can you see "miles and miles" through a challenge you face?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185).* "I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go."

Saturday, Dec 14, 2019
MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

The change we need

Here's a simple truth: People resist change. The greater the change, the greater the resistance, generally speaking—even when the change is long overdue and much for the better. John of the Cross embraced the Carmelite reform initiated by his spiritual sister, the visionary Carmelite Saint Teresa of Avila. However, a group of his fellow Carmelites strongly opposed the reform and went so far as to imprison John and treat him harshly. He persevered, and even wrote most of his famous *Spiritual Canticle* while jailed. Try to see unfair treatment or setbacks that come your way as an opportunity for spiritual growth.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13.* "I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased."

Next Sunday
Sunday, Dec 15, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What are we waiting for?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7).* "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Catholic Social Teaching Corner
Dec. 7-8, Second Sunday of Advent

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Today's Psalm is "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever." How are we working towards justice and peace today?

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY DEC 7, VIGIL MASS

Sarah Esquivel, The Esquivel Families. Acosta Families and Riojas Families, requested by Debbie Ruiz

SUNDAY, DEC 8, 8:00AM

Maggie Pearl Williams, Robert Henry Martin, Carrie Taylor Gartes, James Martin, Frank Mancel and Muriel Davis Wilkins, requested by Craig Williams

SUNDAY, DEC 8, 10:00AM

Happy Birthday Derek Phillip and Happy 50th Birthday to Gene Phillip, Jr., requested by Marlexa, Trey and Sydni

MONDAY, DEC 9, 12:00pm

Marian B., and Howard Charles, Gloria Glover, Mariah, Andrew and Barney, Carl Jr. and Carl Sr. Brown, requested by Brent and Frances Brown.

TUESDAY, DEC 10, 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 13, 11:00PM

For the repose of the souls of Arthur, Gilford and Maude Baltrip, Sr., Sir Cleifton Cobb, Terry and Ruth Johnson, requested by Karen Batrip Cobb

THURSDAY, DEC 12, 12:00 PM

Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to our pastor Father Basil on his birthday.

FRIDAY, DEC 13, 12:00PM

For the repose of the souls of Charlie, Glen and Gloris David, Lorene, Arvie, A. J. and Teresa Spears, requested by Berna Little

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

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| Weekend DEC 1, 2019 | |
| ATTENDANCE | |
| VIGIL MASS 5:30 | 19 |
| SUNDAY 8:00 am | 40 |
| 10:00 am | 233 |
| Weekend Dec 1, 2019 | |

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| OFFERTORY | \$5870.00 |
| Children | 21.00 |
| E-GIVING | 1287.38 |
| SVDP (E-GIVING) | 70.00 |
| SVDP | 110.00 |
| MSP | 22.00 |
| Thanksgiving Day | 267.00 |
| DR (E-GIVING) | 300.00 |
| DR | 610.00 |
| CCHD | 220.00 |
| Candles | 182.00 |
| CCHD | 220.00 |
| Gift Store | 20.00 |

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

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.

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.

TOWN HALL MEETING

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

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
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP IN FLC

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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