

DECEMBER 15, 2019 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Sunday, Dec 15, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What are we waiting for?

Some people make the incredible claim that, 2,000 years ago, God's spoken Word became flesh and blood. This incarnate Word lived and served and saved—not by rising to tremendous power, but by dying and rising to new life. A lot rides on John the Baptist's question to Jesus: Are you the one? If not you, then who? If Jesus is the one, trusting in him means embracing a startling trajectory of service and surrender in a world of upward striving. It will turn our own lives inside out. What does it cost you to say: "Jesus is Lord"? **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?"

Monday, Dec 16, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Invest in the teachings

Magisterium is a mighty big word that means a lot to Catholics. The word derives from the Latin for "teacher." It refers to the sacred deposit of faith, which includes both scripture and tradition, that's been entrusted to the church. And it is the source of the church's authority to interpret this deposit of faith, which has been divinely revealed by Christ, the "Word made flesh." What an immense gift from God, for all of us to be shown so much. Be faithful to it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187).* "By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"

Tuesday, Dec 17, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Soon and very soon

Finally, like a long exhalation during the final week before Christmas, we pray the "O Antiphons," which give us different ways to image the long-awaited Messiah. Some of the more colorful names are: Wisdom, Root of Jesse's stem, Key of David, Radiant Dawn. Praying with one each day unites us to the universal church over many centuries. Check out YouTube for a video that provides historical background on the O Antiphons. Take a moment to watch it as part of your Advent observation.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193).* "Of her was born Jesus, . . . called the Christ."

Wednesday, Dec 18, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Prelude to Nativity

Today is International Migrants Day, reminding us that all biblical people, including the Holy Family, were obliged to roam to survive. The mystery of the Incarnation, Christ in us, is extended to all people, especially those who have been driven from their homelands by violence and crushing poverty, and who stand at our border seeking help. Should we wall them out or extend a hand in friendship and solidarity? All of us need rescuing! "O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: Come to rescue us with your mighty power!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194).* "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means 'God is with us.'"

Thursday, Dec 19, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Lord, come and save us

"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: Come to save us without delay!" Today is the third day of the church's week of O Antiphons, used at evening prayer to count down the final days of Advent. Each gives a different depiction of the Messiah; each captures the longing of a people yearning to be saved. Today's imagery comes from Isaiah 11:1, where God establishes the House of David from beleaguered beginnings: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." David, the youngest son of Jesse, is as improbable a king as the Christ Child will be. If you haven't been praying the O Antiphons this week, it's not too late to start; nor is it too late to decorate a Jesse Tree, based on the same Isaiah verse.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25.* "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard."

Friday, Dec 20, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Make room at the inn

There's a special Christmas season novena—that is, nine days of prayer—that commemorates the nine months of Mary's pregnancy with Jesus, as well as her journey from Nazareth to

Bethlehem, and it is done in the nine days leading up to his birthday. Called Las Posadas, which means "lodging," it is celebrated by many Spanish-speaking cultures with reenactments of Joseph and Mary (often with entourage and even a donkey!) knocking on neighbors' doors seeking a "place to stay." A party usually ensues. Remember all those in the world who are journeying to find shelter for their children, and work to make our communities more open to them. In fact, celebrate their presence!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196).* "O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: Come and free the prisoners of darkness!"

Saturday, Dec 21, 2019

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Common ground is high ground

Peter Canisius (1521-97), a Dutch Jesuit priest who was a contemporary of Saint Ignatius, was a learned and capable scholar who started many Jesuit colleges. Peter had a gift for making theological doctrine understandable. To that end, he wrote three catechisms that helped common folk and children understand the teachings of the church and ground their faith. Peter's ability to listen in working with non-Catholics helped him respect differences and seek common ground. We ask Saint Peter Canisius to help us listen to those with whom we differ and seek common ground.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45* O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Next Sunday

Sunday, Dec 22, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Finding our place in Joseph's story

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10).*

"Joseph her husband . . . decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream."

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Dec. 14-15, Third Sunday of Advent

This Sunday the readings tell us where to look for the Lord's coming: when the blind see and the lame walk; and when the dead are raised to life and the poor have good news preached to them. In our day the Lord's presence is seen when walls of oppression fall, when enemies seek avenues of fellowship and trust, when the poor and homeless find care and the forgotten are

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included. The Kingdom is among us, are we acting as Kingdom people?

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY DEC 14, VIGIL MASS

For the repose of the souls of Beatrice Roberts, Edith Meadoux, Warren Sr., Warren Jr., and Ursula Hilaire, Ignac, Lyman, and James Tanner, Jr., requested by Jennifer Brooks

SUNDAY, DEC 15, 8:00AM

For the repose of the souls of Julius and Odessa Mays, Louise and Odell Fennell, Maxwell Downey, Joyce Barnam, Ava Seraile, and Ava Nicholas requested by Berna Little

SUNDAY, DEC 15, 10:00AM

For the repose of the souls of, James E, Jr., Eva Marie, James E., III, and Richard Allen Mosby, Vercias Mae and Clarence Cay, requested by Bernadette Cay

TUESDAY, DEC 17, 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 18, 11:00PM

For the repose of the souls of Deitra Darden, Dorothy, and Gybert Williams, Christian Winkles, Osborne Parker, and Mary Louise Collins, requested by Barbara Scott

THURSDAY, DEC 19, 12:00 PM

For the repose of the souls of Evelyn and Roosevelt Collins, requested by Shaunte Collins.

FRIDAY, DEC 20, 12:00PM

For the repose of the soul of Kimberly R. Scott, requested by Barbara Scott

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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 7/8, 2019 | | |
| ATTENDANCE | | |
| VIGIL MASS | 5:30 | 20 |
| SUNDAY | 8:00 am | 38 |
| | 10:00 am | 231 |
| Weekend Dec 7/8, 2019 | | |

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| OFFERTORY | \$6075.00 |
| Children | 25.00 |
| E-GIVING | 2296.47 |
| SVDP (E-GIVING) | 280.00 |
| SVDP | 70.00 |
| MSP | 20.00 |
| Thanksgiving Day | 267.00 |
| DR (E-GIVING) | 515.00 |
| RETD Clergy | 65.00 |
| Immaculate Con | 217.00 |
| Gift Store | 330.00 |

CHRISTMAS PARTY IN FLC HALL

Join us next Sunday Dec 22nd for a light Christmas Party at 2pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday December 24th Mid-Night Mass begins with Caroling at 11:30
Christmas Day Mass 10:00AM (one Mass)
New Year's Day Mass, January 1, 2020, 10:00AM

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO HOLY CROSS
Please remember Holy Cross as you plan for Christmas. Give us a Christmas Gift!

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. 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.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 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 | |

DCYC
The Holy Cross Youth Group will be attending the 2020 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference in Waco Texas on January 31- February 2. This conference provides the opportunity for our youth to encounter Christ through liturgy, sacraments, and engaging presentations that reflect the diverse needs of today's youth. The price for the entire weekend is \$100.00; this includes, DCYC registration, hotel & food, transportation, a conference T-shirt, and goodie bag. The deadline for registration is December 31, 2019.

Our hope is that all our youth are able to experience this amazing event filled with dynamic speakers and worship with thousands of teens across our dioceses. If you are able to make a donation or sponsor a youth, please see Felicia McClain, or Jennifer Brooks. Thank you in advance for your support, it is very much appreciated.

NOTARY ASSISTANCE
If you are in need of a Notary, Holy Cross will now provide this service to our parishioners


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

Family Life Center Now Available for Renting

For all your events like:

**Wedding Party
Birthday Party
Graduation Party
Wakes
Corporate 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