

DECEMBER 22, 2019 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Sunday, Dec 22, 2019
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Finding our place in Joseph's story

You had every intention of doing it. You'd thought it all out, weighed pros and cons, and made your decision. It was reasonable, practical. Family and friends were behind you all the way. But then something happened. A dream, a phone call, a look from a stranger on the bus—something that maybe wasn't even related to your decision, but it spoke to you. It said: Don't do that, do this instead. And all these years later, you can't even explain it to yourself. Only that you trusted your intuition, and you'd do the same thing today.

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."

Monday, Dec 23, 2019
MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST

Rising above sin and division

Today is the memorial of John of Kanty. A 15th-century Polish scholar and priest, he was known for his simple lifestyle and generosity to the poor. He had enemies, however, who schemed to have him demoted from professor at the University of Krakow to parish priest (a job he felt unprepared for). It took him years to win over his flock, but eventually he did, and eventually he was reinstated as a professor. Sin and division within the church caused harm to John of Kanty, yet he persisted in living a good life. Take a moment to draw hope from people you know who persist in living generously and lovingly in today's imperfect church.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 "O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: Come to save us, Lord our God!"*

Tuesday, Dec 24, 2019
ADVENT WEEKDAY

Light it up!

The longest night of the year took place on the winter solstice, December 21, and just a few days later, we await the coming of the Light of the World. Tonight the anticipation reaches its peak as people gather to celebrate—in some cases with very bright festivities indeed! Take Las Parrandas de Remedios,

Cuba's famous fireworks festival on Christmas Eve. *Parranda* is a street party, and travel guides will tell you this is one not to miss. Make your own fireworks of joy—in your church, home, and heart—because your Savior is born.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200).*

"The dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness."

Wednesday, Dec 25, 2019
SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Hope is born!

Saint Augustine wrote these beautiful words describing the Incarnation of Jesus: "God so loved us that for our sakes he, through whom time was made, was made in time. Older by eternity than the world itself, he became younger in age than many of his servants in the world. God, who made man, was made man. He was given existence by a mother whom he brought into existence. He was carried in hands which he formed; he was nursed at breasts which he filled. He cried like a baby in the manger in speechless infancy—this Word without which human eloquence is speechless." Let us rejoice in a God who loves to use what's small and meek to accomplish great things. Merry Christmas!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16).* "Let all the angels of God worship him."

Thursday, Dec 26, 2019
FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Let the children lead the way

In religious art, Saint Stephen, first martyr and one of the first seven deacons in the church, is pictured as a very young man. He must have taken to the new Christian faith in a big way, because despite his youth he was already said to be filled with the Holy Spirit and a miracle worker. Look around our world today. Once again we find deeply committed young people, not only animating the church through events such as World Youth Day, but taking the lead on many of the most pressing issues of global concern, such as climate change. Lend an ear to what young people in your life are saying—you may find some ageless wisdom there!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696).* "They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."

Friday, Dec 27, 2019
FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST
Testify with your life

Sometimes a platoon of veterans will get together every five years, until their numbers dwindle to a few lone survivors. Or a group of college girlfriends will have an annual reunion—until one is left with no one else to reunite with. John the evangelist, a.k.a., the beloved disciple, was said to have outlived all the other apostles. Perhaps it felt lonely—or perhaps it drove him to spend every last day recounting and recording for posterity the incredible events that he witnessed firsthand.

Keep your eyes open and pen at hand—God is at work in your own life and you are the living testament!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 "We have seen it and testify to it."

Saturday, Dec 28, 2019
FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Children first

The Holy Innocents' only crime was that they were the same age as the baby Jesus. The local king, Herod, was a jealous man who had few scruples about killing people. When he heard that wise men from the east were en route to honor a newborn king, Herod was beside himself. He demanded that they tell him where he also could "honor" this baby king. When they ignored him, Herod did the unthinkable and ordered that all of Bethlehem's male babies and toddlers be put to death. Say a prayer today for the children of our world who have had their innocence robbed from them through war, grinding poverty, or abuse. Let their protection be our highest priority.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation: Rachel bewailing her children."

Next Sunday
Sunday, Dec 29, 2019
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
A change in plans

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23. "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."

Catholic Social Teaching Corner
Dec. 21-22, Fourth Sunday of Advent
The mystery of the Incarnation occurred through Mary and yet through the Holy Spirit given to us in Baptism and Confirmation we too are called to

**DECEMBER 22, 2019 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

embody the presence of God. Have we, like Mary, said yes to God? Are we, like Joseph, nurturing and protecting that life within us? As we celebrate this holy season of birth, are we giving birth in our lives to the fruits of God's love: justice, peace, kindness, humility and joy?

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY DEC 21, VIGIL MASS

In thanksgiving for God's blessed anointing upon Carina Baltrip-Reyes, receiving her Bachelor Degree, requested by her family

SUNDAY, DEC 22, 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 22, 10:00AM

For the repose of the soul of, Deitra Darden Williams requested by Barbara Scott

WEDNESDAY, DEC 25, 11:00PM

Happy Birthday to Cornelius Harris, requested by RH and Gloria Harris

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

The Church office will be closed December 22nd and reopen January 2nd, if you are in need of a priest call the rectory or any staff members number on from of the bulletin

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO HOLY CROSS

Please remember Holy Cross as you plan for Christmas. Give us a Christmas Gift!

MLK CELEBRATION

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.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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.

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

Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Join others from throughout the diocese as they prepare of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. The 33 days of preparation prayer for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary begins Feb. 20. Visit www.TexasToJesusThroughMary.org by Jan. 23 to receive a free Montfort preparation prayer book by mail.

NEXT IGBO MASS

No Igbo Mass on Dec 29th. The next Igbo Mass is on Sunday January 26th at 1:30pm.

SUNDAY DEC 22, 2019	
Mass	8:00AM
Rosary	9:30AM
Mass	10:00AM
Byzantine	5:00PM

Weekend DEC 14/15, 2019	
ATTENDANCE	
VIGIL MASS 5:30	25
SUNDAY 8:00 am	45
10:00 am	214
Weekend Dec 14/15, 2019	

OFFERTORY	\$3523.00
Children	40.00
E-GIVING	2296.47
SVDP (E-GIVING)	280.00
SVDP	400.00
MSP	25.00
DCYC	500.00
DR (E-GIVING)	515.00
RETD Clergy	65.00
IGBO	50.00
FLC RENTAL	700.00
COURAGEOUS	45.00
GIFT STORE	396.00

NOTARY ASSISTANCE

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY IN FLC HALL

Join us today (Sunday) for a light Christmas Party at 2pm

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