

**DECEMBER 29, 2019 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

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

**Sunday, Dec 29, 2019
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

A change in plans

Dreamers can't explain themselves. People ask: "How could you? Why did you?" And dreamers shrug and smile. They make the sacrifice, they take the risk, they think differently, they become someone unimaginable. Ask any artist or composer, star athlete or Entrepreneur, priest or monk or missionary: How did you become what you are? They shrug and smile, because it's hard to tell someone who hasn't heard the voice themselves: I talk to angels, I listen to the universe, I close my eyes so I can see more clearly. Sit and pay attention to the holy silence.
TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."*

**Monday, Dec 30, 2019
SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Generation to generation

The gospel anticipates the New Year with a child's potential. After Simeon's harsh prediction of a sword piercing Mary's soul, Anna comforts. She directs the conversation back to thanking God. She has had time to prepare for her moment, so when it comes, she rises to the occasion. Pope Francis linked Anna and Simeon to grandparents. In a society that too often dismisses the elderly, grandparents still offer time and presence, just what children need most. Pray for and honor the elders in your own family and community. They carry a consoling message!
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."*

**Tuesday, Dec 31, 2019
MEMORIAL OF SYLVESTER I, POPE;
SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Guard the pearl of great price

We know little of Sylvester I other than that his papacy lasted from 314 until his death in 335. A legend arose around the eighth century, however, based on a forged document known as the Donation of Constantine, that the emperor who famously converted to Christianity also transferred authority

over Rome and the entire Western Roman Empire to Sylvester and future popes. While the document was later proven to be a fake, the papacy nonetheless got ensnared in power politics, luxury, and the corruption that comes with trying to rule an empire. As Dante put it in his *Divine Comedy*, "Ah Constantine, how much evil was born / not from your conversion, but from that donation / that the first wealthy pope received from you!" Don't practice your faith for worldly gain—God grants us riches money can't buy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "He was in the world . . . but the world did not know him."*

**Wednesday, Jan 01, 2020
OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF
THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE
MOTHER OF GOD**

Incarnation in all

The Octave of Christmas reminds us that all people everywhere share in the mystery of Incarnation, the communion of divinity and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ and realized in all who are likewise born of women. We celebrate this mystery whenever we gather to eat and drink the sacred meal. Our task is to recognize the divine presence in the least of those with whom we share this mystical communion, from the baby born in Bethlehem to the migrant standing at our wall. Resolve this New Year to lend a helping hand.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). "So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger."*

**Thursday, Jan 02, 2020
MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND
GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS,
DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH**

Let's be friends

"To the Ancients, friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves; the crown of life and the school of virtue. The modern world, in comparison, ignores it." When C.S. Lewis referred to the "Ancients" he might have had today's saints, Basil and Gregory Nazianzen, in mind. Instrumental in the formation of the Nicene Creed that the church recites each Sunday, these great bishops and doctors of the church can also be remembered simply for being two great and lasting friends. Let them remind us that deep and warm friendships enrich life in ways that accomplishments and honorifics, and even creeds, sublime as they may be, cannot replace.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 "All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds."*

**Friday, Jan 03, 2020
MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME
OF JESUS**

Called by name

The memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus reminds us of the power of names. We honor not just the person Jesus, but the name of Jesus. There is a certain intimacy in knowing a person's name. Think of our litanies, our prayers for people who are sick or who have died. Think of the genealogy we heard on Christmas Eve. When we name people, we acknowledge and see them. Think of the people you see regularly in your school, workplace, gym, grocery store, faith community. Remember to call them by name.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34 (206). "John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.'"*

**Saturday, Jan 04, 2020
MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON,
RELIGIOUS**

Be a trailblazer

Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) was born into a wealthy Episcopalian family. At 19, she married William Magee Seton with whom she had five children. For a brief time, it was a wonderful life, but soon William's business and health failed. Elizabeth was a poor widow and single mother by the age of 30. Inspired by Catholic friends who helped care for her dying husband, Elizabeth became Catholic in 1805. In the following years this first Americanborn saint established many firsts: the first religious community of women and the first Catholic school, with several more to follow. Elizabeth Ann Seton's deep faithfulness reminds us that nothing is impossible with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42 (207). "They said to him, 'Rabbi (which means Teacher), where do you stay?' 'Come and see,' he answered."*

**Next Sunday
Sunday, Jan 05, 2020
SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF
THE LORD**

Shoot for radiance

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."*

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Dec. 28-29, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph As we prepare for the new year, may the peace of Christ control

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our hearts. And may the word of Christ dwell in us richly.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY DEC 28, VIGIL MASS

For all our sick and shut in parishioners, that God will continue to watch over them in the New Year.

SUNDAY, DEC 29, 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 29, 10:00AM

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

JANUARY 1, 2019

For all Holy Cross Parishioners, that God will continue to Bless us in the New Year, as we continue to obey His commands and Love our brothers and sisters.

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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, you can leave a message on the church phone they will be monitored daily.

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.

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO HOLY CROSS

It is not too late to give your Christmas Gift to Holy Cross are needs are great.

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 ~~400.00~~ enter 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

NEXT IGBO MASS

NO IGBO Mass on Dec 29th. The next IGBO mass is on Sunday January 26, 2020 at 1:30

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.

NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is struggling with grief, depression, anxiety or coping with the challenges of life around the holidays, Catholic Charities of Central Texas is the place to start. Catholic Charities Counseling Services offers high quality mental health services for children, adults, couples and families on a sliding scale fee structure. Services are available in-person or via "virtual therapy. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (512) 651-6150 (Austin) or (979) 822-9340 (Brazos Valley)

SUNDAY DEC 29, 2019	
Mass	8:00AM
Rosary	9:30AM
Mass	10:00AM
Byzantine	5:00PM

Will be updated in January 5, 2020 bulletin

Weekend DEC 21/22, 2019	
ATTENDANCE	
VIGIL MASS	5:30 PM
SUNDAY	8:00 am
	10:00 am
Weekend Dec 21/22, 2019	

OFFERTORY
Children
E-GIVING
SVDP (E-GIVING)
MSP
DCYC
DR (E-GIVING)
RETD Clergy
IGBO
FLC RENTAL
COURAGEOUS
GIFT STORE

NOTARY ASSISTANCE

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

New Year's Day Mass, January 1, 2020, 10:00AM

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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