

DECEMBER 20, 2020 ~ 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 20, 2020 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O KEY OF DAVID) UNLOCKING EVERY DOOR**

Those who have been incarcerated know exactly what it means to face a locked door. So do folks who have been institutionalized with mental illness. But even those of us who have not been behind a literal door may find ourselves living under a sentence of fear, bitterness, depression, or unforgiveness. We may be locked out of relationships that are important to us because of resentment or past actions. Poverty is often a prison that keeps opportunity and hope out, while also fostering despair within. O Jesus, Key of David, unlock every door that keeps us from experiencing your freedom!

**TODAY'S READINGS:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

### **MONDAY, DEC 21, 2020 ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN) JUST BEFORE DAWN**

They say it's darkest just before the dawn, and today we've reached that moment on the darkest day of what has been a very dark year. Our hope in the worst of circumstances reaches a crescendo in today's O Antiphon: "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." We've reached the edge of a dramatic precipice in our waiting. Have faith and get ready—daybreak is coming.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

### **TUESDAY, DEC 22, 2020 ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS) THE UNEXPECTED KING IS ARRIVING**

Today's O Antiphon heralds the Messiah's long-expected arrival as king. But clearly Jesus is not a typical king—because God's kingdom is not a typical earthly kingdom. Jesus will later proclaim, through the Beatitudes, that the kingdom of God is the inverse of what we humans expect. "Blessed are the meek," he insists—and the poor, the persecuted, and those who mourn. In fact, according to Saint Matthew's version of the Final Judgment, Jesus will be the king wielding harsh judgment against all who've neglected the "least of these." How will you serve our expected but-unexpected king today?

**TODAY'S READINGS:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly."

### **WEDNESDAY, DEC 23, 2020 ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL) DO NOT DOUBT—GOD IS WITH US**

As we the church celebrate Evening Prayer—whether in monasteries or in our own homes, the domestic church—tonight we pray or sing the seventh and final O Antiphon of Advent with these words: "O Emmanuel, our king and giver of law, come to save us, Lord our God." The name Emmanuel means God-with-us. As the season of Advent longing comes to a close, in a world that is in need of God's compassionate and saving presence, let us pray tonight for eyes to see and hearts to embrace the presence of God-with-us in the events and conversations of these holy holidays. Indeed, O come, O come Emmanuel.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66. "What, then, will this child be?"

### **THURSDAY, DEC 24, 2020 ADVENT WEEKDAY MORE THAN A SONG AND DANCE**

For many Catholics of Mexican heritage, today is the final celebration of Las Posadas, nine days of reenacting Mary and Joseph's search for posada, shelter. Each day the ritual is the same: Participants knock on doors, sing songs begging for shelter, while hosts respond with songs denying shelter, and finally end with the glorious moment when the door is opened wide and the Holy Family is given shelter for the night. The repetition drives home the desperation of the most famous migrant family and migrants of all times and places, including our own. Can you take some action in support of migrants and refugees this Christmas season?

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"

### **FRIDAY, DEC 25, 2020 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) THE LIGHT SHINES UPON US!**

Today as we gaze upon a tiny infant born in difficult circumstances, we are also gazing upon a powerful love that has transformed the world—and us. Fragility and strength, new life and enduring love—these are not mutually exclusive. In the Incarnation, we encounter a God who has loved us since before the creation of the world and who longs to draw close and bring us life. This life is not to be "spiritualized" but to be incarnate in our

whole life, including our places of pain and challenge. Saint Athanasius writes, "For the Lord touched all parts of creation, and freed and undeceived them all from every deceit." What is the freedom that God has begun to unfold within you?

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone."

### **SATURDAY, DEC 26, 2020 FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR DON'T CLOAK YOUR COMPASSION**

Even the greatest among us have their darkest moment. The great Saint Paul had such a moment before his conversion, when he looked on approvingly and guarded the cloaks of those who stoned the church's first martyr, the young and courageous deacon Stephen. Saul of Tarsus, as Paul was known before his conversion, no doubt was convinced that righteousness called for such a cruel and harsh death sentence. Be on guard for misguided righteousness wherever it rears its head, especially when that head is on your own shoulders. It rarely leads to compassion or mercy, God's signposts. Saint Stephen, pray for us.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). "Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people. . . . They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him."

#### **Next Sunday**

### **SUNDAY, DEC 27, 2020 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS**

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40; or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40 (17). "But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless?'"

### **Catholic Social Teaching Corner Dec. 19-20, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Our Advent time is almost over. We have watched in hope for the coming of Christ at the end of time. We have seen the presence of Christ and God's Kingdom among us wherever justice and peace triumph over violence and alienation. Now we focus on Mary and the intimacy of birth. Carrying any child requires courage, faith and trust. Every mother wonders about the future of her child. God transforms all of human history by becoming human through Mary's "Yes!" Like her, will we allow the very fullness of God's love to fill us and our world this year? Do we have her faith, her courage and her trust?

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 8:00AM

In Loving Memory of Mary Lena Richard-Brown, requested by Lena Brown-Owens

For the repose of the soul of Kimberly Rene Scott, Requested by Barbara Scott.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 10:00AM

For the repose of the soul of Denis Kouekam, requested by Marcel Mbouwe

Happy Birthday Shannon Johnson requested by your parents Johnnie and Dean Dorsey.

In Thanksgiving for all God's Blessings, requested by Jeannette Assiongbon.

Tuesday, Dec 22, Noon Mass

For the repose of the soul of Deidra Denise Williams, requested by Barbara Scott

Wed, Dec 23, 2020 Noon Mass

The repose of the souls of aborted babies and the healing of their parents, requested by the Mullens

Friday, Dec 25, 2020, Christmas

Happy Birthday to Cornelius Harris, a gift from God, requested by your parents, R.H. & Gloria Harris.

For the soul of Aloysius Okereke to rest in peace, requested by his wife Mrs. Appolonia Okereke and Children.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER, 2020

SUNDAY MASSES

8:00AM 10:00AM

DEC 24<sup>TH</sup>, CAROLING 11:30 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS 12:00AM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10:00AM

NEW YEARS, JAN 1, 2021 MASS 10:00AM

DECEMBER 13, 2020

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Amount. Includes OFFERTORY (\$2822.00), SVDP (15.00), E-GIVING (2070.41), SVDP(E-GIVING) (39.00), MSP(E-GIVING) (54.00), MSP (15.00), IGBO (1291.00), Christmas Donations (5500.00), FLC/Debt Retirement (425.00), 40.00 DR (E-GIVING) (298.00), Needs of Parish (50.00), Needs of the Parish(E-GIV) (19.00), Immaculate Conception (25.00), Religious Ed (100.00), Gift Store (70.00)

NEEDS OF THE PARISH COLLECTION

This collection helps to pay things like repairs, intervention, and other needs of the parish. This collection happens every last Sunday of the Month. We would like you to convert much of your gift to St Vincent the Paul to the needs of the Parish as the parish funds St Vincent the Paul monthly. Thanks for your generosity.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR PARISH DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME

Remember, the Church depends on your weekly donation for paying bills, and maintaining of the Church facilities. Even though Masses and other events are cancelled, the Church is still operating. Your weekly offering and donations are direly needed. If you are not online giver, you can still do so by going to www.holycrossaustin.org and give your donation. You also can mail it if you are able to. Thank you for your faith and commitment.

Dear Brothers and Sister, Thank you for all the work you did to get your church ready for the coming of Jesus. Therefore, my brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1cor. 15:58

Rev. Doctor Fred Jenga thanks all Holy Cross Parishioners for a beautiful send off. Father said this will always be his number 1 church in the US, and Holy Cross will be in his daily prayers

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Table with 2 columns of names: Ella Adams, Evelyn Battle, B.J. Dukes, Vanessa Downey-Little, Monica Godsey, Marion Welch, Vonnye Rice-Gardner, Ella Pease, Mary Sobers, Charlene Postell, Cornelius Harris, Pearl Cox, Raphael Ediae, Mary Anthony, Mildred Carter, Jude Ekpc, Bernie Little, Lester Johnson, Sam King, Jr., Bernadette Phifer, Betty Ridley, Mary Waters, Gladie Stelly, Jim Castro, Brent Brown, Frances Brown

OFFICE CLOSING

The church office will be closed Thursday, December 24, 2020 until Tuesday, January 5, 2021. The telephones will be monitored daily. In case of an emergency, and you are in need of a Priest, please call 512-653-9001.

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

