Weekend Mass
English: Saturday Vigil: 5:30 P.M.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 A.M.; 5:00 P.M. (Youth)
Español: Sábado (Misa de Víspera): 7:00 P.M.
Domingo: 1:00 P.M.

Weekday Mass
Monday—Friday: 8:30 A.M. (English)
Martes: 7:00 P.M. (Misa en Español)
1st Friday Devotion Mass: 8:30 A.M.
1st Saturday Devotion Mass: 8:30 A.M.

Reconciliation (Confession)
Tuesday: 6:00 P.M.—6:45 P.M.
Saturday: 3:30 P.M.—5:00 P.M.

Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration
9:00 A.M.—9:00 P.M. (Mon.—Fri.)

Sacrament of Baptism:
Parents requesting baptism for their child must call the parish office two months prior to the desired month of baptism. There are no baptisms during Lent or Advent.

Sacrament of Matrimony:
Couples interested in marriage at St. Mary Magdalene must contact the office at least six months prior to their desired wedding date. Please contact the office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick:
Please call the parish office if you or a loved one wish to receive sacramental anointing of the sick.

Sacramento del Bautismo:
Padres que quieran bautizar a sus hijos deben de llamar a la oficina por lo menos 2 meses antes de la fecha del bautismo. No hay bautizos durante la Cuaresma o el tiempo de Adviento.

Sacramento del Matrimonio:
Parejas interesadas en casarse en Santa María Magdalena deben contactar a la oficina por lo menos seis meses antes de su fecha preferida de matrimonio. Por favor llamen a la oficina para mayor información.

Unción de los Enfermos:
Por favor llame la oficina si usted o algún ser querido desea ser ungido.

Pastor: Rev. Felix Ilesanmi Osasona, M.S.P.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Anthony Udoh, M.S.P.
Deacons: Nick Caruso & James Meshell

First Sunday OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2015

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

Luke 21:25, 28
Weekly Message

A Season of Hope

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families!

Here we are today at the beginning of another cycle of the Church’s liturgical year. Our Sunday readings are now from Year C of the liturgical cycle – the Year of St. Luke. Advent is a time of hope, a time of waiting. The word comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival.” The first reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah (b. 646 BC) spoke of the days to come when God will fulfill his promises to the House of Israel and Judah.

During the season of Advent, the Church focuses on the three dimensions of Christ’s coming. We recall his first coming when he took human form and was born of the Virgin Mary (what we commemorate at Christmas). We celebrate his presence among us even now, and we await his coming at the end of time when he will judge the living and the dead. The gospel gave a frightening description of what to look out for as the end draws near. More importantly, we are invited to stand firm, be vigilant and be ready for the day. Advent comes at the time when daytime is shorter and we have longer nights. It is a season of hope because it reminds us that the time of darkness will come to an end. This season helps us to focus on what we are to do all year round: bring the light of Christ to our hearts and the hearts of everyone. We all have to let the light of Christ shine on the dark spots of our lives.

During this season, we might ask ourselves: How can I, how can you, bring light to someone who is in darkness? Is there a gesture we can make to help someone feel better? Is there something I can do to bring hope to someone around me? It could be a goodwill card to someone who may not be expecting it. It could be saying “I’m sorry” to someone you may have hurt. These and other simple gestures from us can heal body and soul and dispel the darkness of our lives and those of our neighbors.

The four candles in the Advent wreath symbolize the hope, love, joy, and peace that this season brings. We have invited families to help light these candles at the beginning of our Masses to highlight the importance of faith and family during this season. May we have a deep experience of God’s presence in our lives so that we may transform our world from hatred to love as our Christian calling demands.

On December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, we will begin the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. What does this year mean for you and I? Why did the pope ask the Church to focus on mercy in a special way during the next twelve months? What are we called to do during the Year of Mercy? I will attempt to answer some of these questions next week.

I wish you a very blessed week and Advent season!

—Fr Felix

Prayer for Consecrated Persons

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son’s Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes.

Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land.

—Jeremiah 33:15

P. 2
Are you new to our parish or have been coming for a while but are not yet registered? We offer you a warm welcome to St. Mary Magdalene parish. Becoming an active parishioner begins when you are counted as a parishioner. Please talk to one of the Ministers of Hospitality after Mass about how to register. You can also come by the church office during the week to register.
CHURCH STAFF

Wanda Conley, Business Manager
Rick Swanson, Facilities Manager
Jose Garcia, Maintenance Technician
Jorge Acosta, Maintenance Technician
Susie Zamarrón, Parish Secretary
Vernon D. Walker, Bookkeeper
Perci Cacanindin, Director of Music and Liturgy
Vickie Cortez, Director of Hispanic Ministry
Ivana Meshell, Director of Adult Faith Formation
Ginger Herrington, Adult Faith Formation Assistant
Michael Smith, Director of Faith Formation-Children/Youth
Diana Mendoza, Faith Formation Secretary
Carissa Bull, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Madelyn Cañas, Bulletin Editor
Estela Treviño, Receptionist
Ryan Rivera, Receptionist
Lupe Gonzales, Receptionist

NURSERY STAFF

Wanda Conley, Nursery Coordinator
Ofelia Cruz, Nursery Attendant
Patricia De Los Santos, Nursery Attendant
Isabel Gonzalez, Nursery Attendant
Emily Mendoza, Nursery Attendant
Jenna Meza, Nursery Attendant
Rachel Meza, Nursery Attendant
Samantha Meza, Nursery Attendant

ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
530 Ferguson St. Humble, Texas 77338
Phone: (281) 446-8535  Fax: (281) 446-8527
www.smmes.org

Accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department

Joshua Raab, Principal
Trish Duhon, Director of Admissions
Tom Walsh, Athletic Director
Cathy Brown, Director of Before & After School Program
Carol Poston, Director of Development
April Dandridge, Director of Marketing and Alumni
Laura Valladares, Counselor
Christy Keeling, Academic Coach
Laura Rocha, Administrative Assistant
Kelli Pitt, Bookkeeper
Donna Mohrman, Nurse
Sam McKinney, Secretary

BULLETIN DEADLINES

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PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY DEADLINES DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS!

E-mail bulletin articles or announcements to mcanae@st-mm.com.

Stewardship Offering

Offertory for November 21 & 22, 2015 —
Not available at time of publication

DSF Update (As of 11/16/2015)
2015 DSF Goal — $160,220.00
Contribution to Date — $147,629.20
Amount Pledged to Date —
$158,459.15
Number of Participants — 487

Thank you for using Online Giving! Parishioners who use the service are pleased with how easy it is to set up and manage. If you have not yet signed up for Online Giving, please consider this option. This is a perfect tool for anyone who shops online! By using Online Giving, you are helping the parish improve our operational efficiency. Visit our parish website at www.st-mm.com and select “Online Giving.”

Second Collection for December 6th, 2015

Next weekend’s second collection is the GOLD ENVELOPE. Your generous gift will help with the parish debt reduction. Please indicate GOLD ENVELOPE on your check if you do not have an envelope.
Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming K of C Breakfasts

Thanks for all your patronage of our breakfasts. All net proceeds of these breakfasts go to support The Gold Envelope for St Mary Magdalene parish debt reduction, Humble Area Assistance Ministries, the K of C Wheelchair Mission, and many other great causes in concert with Church teachings. ALL events in the Family Life Center.

Nov 29th – Squires Breakfast (our 10-18-year-olds make breakfast for you)
Knights of Columbus Council 6878
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
This Week in the Parish

Sunday
November 29
6:00 a.m. FLC - Columbian Squires Breakfast
3:00 p.m. SPC - CCE Elementary & Youth
3:00 p.m. CP - Divine Mercy Chaplet
6:00 p.m. YR - HS Youth Night

Monday
November 30
6:30 p.m. CH - Coro en español
6:45 p.m. Lib - Legión de María (Esp.)
7:00 p.m. SJH - Junta Coord. Grupo Oración

Tuesday
December 1
6:00 p.m. CH - Confessions
6:00 p.m. SPC - CCE Elementary & Youth
6:00 p.m. SJH - Formación Adultos
7:00 p.m. FLC - Grupo de Oración
7:00 p.m. 214-216 - Adult RCIA
7:00 p.m. MGH - RCIA / Advent Dinner
7:00 p.m. 101 - Legion of Mary (Eng.)
7:45 p.m. CH - Coro Abba Padre

Wednesday
December 2
6:00 p.m. SPC - CCE Elementary
6:30 p.m. MGH - KC Officers Mtg.
7:00 p.m. 101 - Ensayo de Alabanza
7:00 p.m. CH - Second Power Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. SF, SJH - Jóvenes Acción/Cristo
7:30 p.m. SMH - Divine Mercy Meeting

Thursday
December 3
9:30 a.m. 215, 216 - Bible Study
5:30 p.m. CH - Children's Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. 215, 216 - Bible Study
7:00 p.m. 207 - RICA (Español)
7:00 p.m. CH - Adult Choir
7:30 p.m. MGH - Columbian Squires Mtg.

Friday
December 4
6:30 p.m. CH - Coro en español
7:00 p.m. SMH - Crecimiento II

Saturday
December 5
8:30 a.m. CH - 1st Sat. Mass/Legion of Mary
9:30 a.m. SMH - Reception—Legion of Mary
1:00 p.m. CH - Lectors Training
3:30 p.m. CH - Confessions

Sunday
December 6
6:00 a.m. FLC - KC Breakfast
2:30 p.m. SMH - Junta de la Comisión Hispana
3:00 p.m. SPC - CCE Elementary & Youth
3:00 p.m. CP - Divine Mercy Chaplet
6:00 p.m. YR - HS Youth Night

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday Nov 28
5:30 pm Joe Griego †
7:00 pm Vilma Reese †

Sunday Nov 29
7:30 am Nita Costello (SPI)
9:00 am Mabel Harris †
11:00 am Colleen Johns Randazzo †
1:00 pm Duc Van Nguyen †
5:00 pm Monica Morales †

Monday Nov 30
8:30 am Hugo Gonzalez †

Tuesday Dec. 1
8:30 am Isaias Gaytan †

Wednesday Dec. 2
8:30 am Nicholas Burns †
5:30 pm Gilbert Guanella †
7:00 pm Deborah Fosdick Glauser †

Thursday Dec. 3
8:30 am Minnie † and Sara Canales †

Friday Dec. 4
8:30 am Isaias Gaytan †

Saturday Dec. 5
7:30 am Lucy † & Dominic Monistere †
9:00 am Natalia Gaytan †
11:00 am Enya and Joann Angeles
1:00 pm Duc Van Nguyen †
5:00 pm Damasa Conde †

To reserve a Mass, please stop by the Parish office and reserve your date and time for the intention.

READINGS & SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: (St. Andrew)
Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: (St. Francis Xavier)
Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: (St. John of Damascus)
Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: (St. Francis Xavier)
Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: (St. John of Damascus)
Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 – 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;
Lk 3:1-6

Word of Life

“If we ask him, Jesus will be with us every step of the way, giving us the grace we need. And his plans are wildly more fulfilling than we can imagine.”

— USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program “Love, Sex, & Sterilization” P.5
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:
Church Nursery Attendant
(Part-Time)

Ministry Purpose:
To provide safe, secure, nurturing, clean, and efficient care for our children, ages 0-3, while working in the church nursery. Will work 4-10 hours per week under the direction of the Nursery Coordinator and Pastor.

Requirements:
• Experienced in the care of children 0-3 years of age with the ability to adapt to and interact with a variety of personalities and characteristics.
• 18 years of age or older
• Must have a high school diploma or GED
• Willing to submit to background check
• Must be willing to work weekends

Please send your résumé to Wanda Conley at Wconley@st-mm.com or drop it off at the parish office.
**Weekly Announcements**

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**The Virgin of Guadalupe in the Catholic Church**

With the brief *Non est equidem* of May 25, 1754, Pope Benedict XIV declared Our Lady of Guadalupe patron of what was then called New Spain, corresponding to Spanish Central and Northern America, and approved liturgical texts for the Holy Mass and the Breviary in her honor. Pope Leo XVIII granted new text in 1891 and authorized coronation of the image in 1895. Pope Saint Pius X proclaimed her patron of Latin America in 1910. In 1935, Pope Pius XI proclaimed her principal patron of the Philippines and had a monument in her honor erected in the Vatican Gardens. Pope Pius XII declared the Virgin of Guadalupe “Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas” in 1945 and “Patroness of the Americas” in 1946. Pope John XXIII invoked her as “Mother and Teacher of the Faith of All American populations, and in 1966, Pope Paul VI sent a Golden Rose to the shrine. Pope John Paul II visited the shrine in the course of his first journey outside Italy as Pope from 26 to January 31, 1979, and again when he beatified Juan Diego on May 6, 1990. In 1992, he dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe a chapel within St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. At the request of the Special Assembly for the Americas of the Synod of Bishops, he named Our Lady of Guadalupe patron of the Americas on January 22, 1999 (with the result that her liturgical celebration had, throughout the Americas, the rank of solemnity), and visited the shrine again on the following day. On July 31, 2002, he canonized Juan Diego before a crowd of 12 million, and later that year included in the General Calendar of the Roman Rite, as optional memorials, the liturgical celebrations of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzín (December 9) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12).

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Joins us for the Mañanitas with a rosary procession on Friday, December 11th at 11:00 P.M. and also for the Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 12th at 9:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome!
Weekly Announcements

National Catholic Schools Week
January 31 - February 6, 2016

Wreaths Across America
Weekly Announcements

Please bring your family and join us for our
Annual School Open House
Sunday, January 31st, 2016
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Serving grades Pre-K3 & K4(Ages 3 & 4) thru 8th

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School

What is National Catholic Schools Week?

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2016 is January 31st - February 6th. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2016 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Treasures From Our Tradition

Advent is a time rich in family traditions. Many of them have been so effectively absorbed into our culture that their religious origins are hidden. Some of us will set candles in our windows tonight. The custom began in Ireland during the so-called “penal” days, extending from 1691 to the “Catholic Emancipation” in 1829 and beyond. There were harsh penalties and fines for not attending the government church. Priests were forced into hiding, but people were resourceful and determined in guarding their faith. At Christmas, Irish families, particularly in the countryside, placed a lighted candle in the cottage window and left the door unlatched, hoping that a priest might come by and celebrate the Christmas Mass for them.

The possibility of the Mass coming into the family home gave rise to other Irish customs at the beginning of Advent. The cottage received a fresh coat of whitewash, the threshold was swept especially clean, and fresh curtains were hung in the windows. The house was scrubbed until it gleamed, including all the pots and pans, and all garments and table linens were laundered. The custom of the Irish window candle was so admired in Catholic Europe that it was widely copied there, and now finds a welcome in households that may not exactly expect a priest to wander in!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Youth Ministry News

CCE / Faith Formation Classes: Week #9 of our Faith Formation classes resumes on **Sunday, November 29th** at 3:00pm // **Tuesday, December 1st** at 6:00pm // **Wednesday, December 2nd** at 6:00pm in the St. Paul Center. Parents are reminded that we are in the middle of “cold and flu” season… This means that ANY student who is ill MUST be symptom-free for a full 24 hours before being sent to CCE {just like school}! We really want to do everything possible to keep the catechists and students safe; this is why we allow for up to six (6) absences from CCE. There are a few spaces for students who are not yet registered for CCE / Formation classes; parents should contact the Formation Office immediately to check on session / grade-level availability.

“**Youth Nights**”: Hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving! Our youth ministry events are back this week with two special events. Our high school youth will gather on **Sunday, November 29th** from 6:30pm - 8:00pm (Thanksgiving flashback and a discussion on Eucharistic Adoration). The middle school youth have an abbreviated event on **Thursday, December 3rd** from 6:00pm - 7:00pm (open house and ceiling tile painting). Both events will be in the Youth Room, which is located in the St. Paul Center. All our youth events are open to all MS or HS youth (Catholic or not); bring a friend, or come make a new one… and get to know Carissa Bull, our new Coordinator of Youth Ministry.

**Youth Adoration Hour:** We have scheduled a special opportunity for our youth to spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration on **Monday, November 30th** from 7:00pm – 8:00pm in the Chapel. Fr. Felix will lead this experience, and deliver a special Advent message to the youth; we will also have music to enhance this time of prayer and worship! We will follow the adoration with a complimentary pizza dinner in the Family Life Center.

**2016 Confirmation Team Meeting:** Our fourth planning meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 3rd** from 7:00pm – 9:00pm in St. Mary’s Hall. If you are an adult (maybe a parent?), young adult, or confirmed high school youth looking for a powerful and rewarding ministry, then the Confirmation Team may be for you. The “team” is the group that plans and implements the youth Confirmation program here in the parish; weekly Confirmation sessions begin in January 2016.

**First Reconciliation Meeting:** Our third Reconciliation session is coming on **Monday, December 7th** from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. It is required that a parent and the student attend all remaining sacrament sessions! Parents should take their child(ren) to the 2-story Education Building and find their grade-level class… After that, proceed to either the Church {parent meeting in English} or the Family Life Center {parent meeting in Spanish}. THE STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND THE PARENT MEETING - they go to grade-level classes in the Education Building. Please make sure Chapters 1 – 6 are complete and that your child has memorized the required prayers; the Reconciliation interviews will be held at the December meeting. If you have not yet purchased the blue sacrament book for each child, please come by our offices to do that as soon as possible. The sacrament book is $25 per book (cash or check, payable to SMM).

**Home-Based Catechesis:** Our next youth HBC meeting” (grades 6 – 12) is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 9th** from 6:15pm - 7:00pm in room 309 of the St. Paul Center. If you missed our previous meetings, please come pick up your CCE materials; if you attended the other meetings, please bring your student book so we can check your progress.

**Text Message Reminders:** We are pleased to offer text message reminders which can be sent straight to your cell-phone / mobile device. Simply enter 81010 in the “To:” field, and send the following message to register for specific messages for our programs…

- **2016 Confirmation candidates / parents:** @conf2016
- **2016 Confirmation TEAM (plans and runs the program):** @smmconteam
- **2017 Confirmation candidates / parents:** @conf2017
- **2015 – 2016 Reconciliation / Eucharist preparation:** @sacprep

Mike Smith, Director of Faith Formation for Children and Youth  msmith@st-mm.com
Carissa Bull, Coordinator of Youth Ministry  cbull@st-mm.com

Youth Office: (281) 446-1241    CCE Office: (281) 446-2933
2015 - 2016 CCE / Formation Classes  Hope everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving! Week #9 of our CCE classes resume this week on Sunday, November 29th at 3:00pm // Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00pm // Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm in the St. Paul Center. Parents are reminded that any students who are sick with a cold or flu MUST be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to CCE... We want to keep all our students and catechists safe - this is why we allow up to six (6) absences. Thanks for helping us keep everyone healthy!

There are a few spaces left for students who are not yet registered for CCE / Formation classes; parents should contact the Faith Formation Office immediately to verify session / grade-level availability!

Sacrament Preparation Meeting:  Parents should make note of our third Reconciliation session, which is scheduled for Monday, December 7th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. As a reminder, it is required that a parent and the student attend all sacrament preparation sessions! Parents should have completed Chapters 1 - 6 in the blue sacrament book and make sure that their child has memorized the required prayers for the December interviews. The student must bring their blue sacrament book to each session; if you need to purchase one, please stop by the CCE Office with $25 per book (cash or check, payable to SMM).

Children’s Live Nativity: We are looking for students -- grades 1 through 5 -- who would like to participate in the "Live Nativity" on Christmas Eve. Parents should bring their child(ren) to the first Nativity rehearsal on Thursday, December 10th from 6:45pm - 7:30pm in the Church. The children will present the live nativity story during the 4:00pm "Children's Mass" on December 24th. Costumes are provided!

Adult Faith Formation CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION OF ADULTS
Ivana T. Meshell, M.A., Director, imeshell@st-mm.com  Assisted by Ginger Herrington, gingerh@st-mm.com

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
Advent Prayer Service And Social
Tuesday, December 1, 2015
7:00 pm
McGivney Hall
(old Baptist church)

We will have a beautiful, meaningful prayer service (about 25 minutes), followed by light refreshments and conversation. Bring a simple snack to share and bring a friend. Let’s start Advent off right! Let us pray for one another.
A Little Bit of Silence
Ivana Meshell, Director of Adult Faith Formation

“We live in a society in which it seems that every space, every moment must be filled with initiatives, activity, sound; often there is not even time to listen and dialogue. Dear Brothers and Sisters! Let us not be afraid to be silent outside and inside ourselves, so that we are able not only to perceive God’s voice, but also the voice of the person next to us, the voice of others.”
—Pope Benedict XVI

Those of you who know Deacon James and I fairly well know that we like to deer hunt. I remember the days when sitting in the deer stand meant being totally quiet and totally alone for several hours at a time. It was an excuse for a period of complete solitude—a chance to get away from the demands of everyday life, and for the most part, it still is. Except now we can text one another on our cell phones from the stand:
“See anything?”
“Just squirrels.”
“Wind’s blowing hard.”
“Shut up and hunt!”

Hunting used to be a sport for “good ol’ boys” and was a simple, earthy enterprise. James shot his first squirrel when he was only eight years old. He brought it home to his mother who cooked it and served it for dinner. In those days, hunting was a way of providing necessary food for a growing country family of eight children. Today, they have fancy cameras you can mount in the woods and hook up to your home computer so you can watch the deer 24 hours a day. There is computer-matched camouflage gear for which the outfitters charge a hefty price. James and I are both intrigued and repulsed by how such things have changed the culture of hunting. Some is good. Some is not so good.

The technology of our modern world has its place, and I don’t think most of us would necessarily want to go back to the way things were 60, 40 or just 20 years ago. Technology is powerful, and it gives us marvelous opportunities we would never have had before. For example, I have thoroughly enjoyed the Kindle Fire I got for my birthday few years ago. You can do so much with this thing! Yet power is always accompanied by the possibility of abuse of use of that power. People of so-called “developed” countries such as the United States are so very “plugged in.” Many people have no idea what it is like to sit still in silence in any situation for more than a few minutes (much less an entire morning) and thus have no idea of the spiritual benefits such an experience can impart. Many people cannot possibly imagine a day without their smartphones; the very thought of not checking their messages hourly scares them. It’s often the case that we see people so anxious to take pictures of an event (such as a baptism) that they actually miss savoring the moment itself unfolding right in front of them. We are constantly on Facebook and Twitter—and again, all of these things are useful and have their place. The danger is that they begin to take the place of real human relationships.

This Advent, why don’t we listen to the voice of the person next to us? The entire world is dying for a good listener, and so few of us are any good at it. People are dying to be heard, to be understood, to know that someone really listens to us and understands us on a real, human level. The less of this we get, the more we turn in on ourselves, risking less, sharing less, until we become little islands unto ourselves, communicating only meaningless messages about things that are trivial and impersonal. We tweet about this and post about that, when really, all we want is to be known and loved.

“Our not be afraid to be silent outside and inside ourselves...” Silence is not the enemy. We need to make friends with silence from time to time. If we do not, we risk living our entire lives believing that every moment has to be filled with messages and sound from somewhere other than within our own hearts. Many people cannot keep silence because they are afraid of what they will hear from within if they are quiet for too long. Discontent with themselves and with the world is a harsh reality for many, but rather than deal with the painful discomfort of restlessness, we cover it over with sound and activity. There is another sound to be heard. It is the voice of the Living God who, in virtue of our baptism, lives within us and promised for all time never to leave us. Listening to and responding to that voice takes courage—but first, it takes a little bit of silence. Let us use some of this Advent time to cultivate our relationships with the people who are right here with us and with God who is with us as well. Emmanuel is with us.
¡Espero que todos ustedes hayan tenido un maravilloso Día de Acción de Gracias junto con sus familias!

Aquí estamos hoy al principio de otro ciclo del año litúrgico de la Iglesia. Nuestras lecturas del domingo ahora son del Año C del ciclo litúrgico—el Año de San Lucas. El Adviento es una época de esperanza, una época de esperar. La palabra viene de la palabra en Latín adventus, la cual significa “venida” o “llegada”. La primera lectura de la profecía de Jeremías (nacido en 646 A.C.) hablo de los días por venir cuando Dios cumplirá sus promesas a la casa de Israel y Judá.

Durante la época de Adviento, la Iglesia se enfoca en las tres dimensiones de la venida de Cristo. Recordamos su primera venida cuando tomó forma humana y nació de la Virgen María (lo que conmemoramos en la Navidad). Celebramos su presencia entre nosotros, y también esperamos su venida al fin del mundo cuando juzgará a los vivos y los muertos. El evangelio dio una descripción aterradora de lo que debemos tomar en cuenta cuando se vaya acercando el fin. Más que nada, somos invitados a mantenernos firmes, a ser vigilantes y estar listos para el día. El Adviento viene durante la época cuando los días son cortos y las noches son largas. Es una época de esperanza porque nos recuerda que el tiempo de la oscuridad se terminará. Esta época nos ayuda a enfocarnos en lo que debemos hacer todo el año: traer la luz de Cristo a nuestros corazones y a los corazones de todos. Debemos dejar que la luz de Cristo alumbre los lugares oscuros de nuestras vidas.

Durante esta época, puede ser que nos preguntemos: ¿Cómo puedo, o como puedes tú, llevar la luz a alguien que está en la oscuridad? ¿Hay una obra que podamos hacer para ayudar a que alguien se sienta mejor? ¿Hay algo que pueda hacer yo para poder llevar la esperanza a alguien que está alrededor de mí? Puede ser una tarjeta de buena voluntad a alguien que no lo está esperando. Puede ser decirle “Lo siento” a alguien que pudiste haber lastimado. Estas y otras simples muestras de parte de nosotros pueden sanar el cuerpo y el alma y dispersar la oscuridad de nuestras vidas y la de nuestros prójimos.

Las cuatro velas en la corona del Adviento son símbolos de la esperanza, el amor, la alegría y la paz que trae esta época. Hemos invitado a familias a que alumbren estas velas al principio de nuestras misas para subrayar la importancia de la fe y la familia durante esta época. Oremos para que podamos tener una profunda experiencia de la presencia de Dios en nuestras vidas para que podamos transformar nuestro mundo del odio al amor como nuestro llamado cristiano nos pide hacer.

El 8 de diciembre, el día de la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción de María, iniciaremos el Año de Misericordia que fue declarado por el Papa Francisco. ¿Qué significa este año para ti y para mí? ¿Por qué el Papa le pidió a la Iglesia a enfocarse en la misericordia de una forma especial durante los próximos doce meses? ¿Qué es a lo que somos llamados a hacer durante el Año de la Misericordia? Yo intentaré contestar algunas de estas preguntas la próxima semana.

¡Les deseo una semana y época de Adviento muy bendecida!

—Padre Felix
Ofrenda Semanal

Ofrenda del 21 y 22 de noviembre 2015 — Información no disponible al tiempo de publicación

Informe del DSF (A partir de 11/16/2015)

Meta del DSF 2015 — $160,220.00
Contribución a la fecha — $147,629.20
Monto comprometido a la fecha — $158,459.15
Número de participantes — 487

Segunda Colecta para el 6 de diciembre 2015

La segunda colecta del próximo fin de semana es el SOBRE DORADO. Su donación generosa ayudará a reducir la deuda de la parroquia. Favor de indicar SOBRE DORADO en su cheque si no tiene un sobre. Muchas gracias por su generosidad.

Reflexión para el Adviento

Para que reforcemos nuestra relación con Jesús por medio del sacramento de la Reconciliación.

"Cuando comiencen a suceder estas cosas, cobren ánimo y levanten la cabeza, porque se acerca su redención.” (Lucas 21:28)

Celebramos el Adviento cada año en preparación para el nacimiento de Jesús, Su primera llegada, mientras esperamos por su segunda llegada. En este tiempo de Adviento, use el sacramento de la Reconciliación para fortalecer su relación con Jesús. Nunca es tarde.

La Virgen de Guadalupe en la Iglesia Católica

Con el breve Non est equidem del 25 de mayo de 1754, el Papa Benedicto XIV declaró a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe como patrona de lo que entonces se conocía como Nueva España, lo cual le correspondía a Centro y Norte América Española, y aprobó textos litúrgicos para la Santa Misa y el Breviario en honor a ella. El Papa Leo XVIII otorgó nuevos textos en 1891 y autorizó la coronación de la imagen en 1895. El Papa San Pio X la proclamó como patrona de Latinoamérica en 1910. El Papa Pío XII la proclamó como patrona de Latinoamérica en 1945 y “Reina de México y Emperatriz de las Américas” en 1945 y “Patrona de las Américas” en 1946. El Papa Juan XXIII la invocó como la “Madre de las Américas” en 1961, refiriéndose a ella como Madre y Maestra de la Fe de Todos los Pueblos Americanos, y en 1966, el Papa Pablo VI mandó una Rosa Dorada al santuario. El Papa Juan Pablo II visitó el santuario durante su primer viaje fuera de Italia como Papa del 26 hasta el 31 de enero 1979 y de nuevo cuando beatificó a Juan Diego el 6 de mayo de 1990. En 1992, él dedicó una capilla dentro de la Basílica de San Pedro en el Vaticano a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. A petición de la Asamblea Especial para las Américas del Sínodo de Obispos, él nombró a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe como patrona de las Américas el 22 de enero de 1999 (con el resultado que su celebración litúrgica, en todas las Américas, consiguió el grado de una solemnidad) y visitó el santuario de nuevo el siguiente día. El 31 de julio del 2002, él canonizó a Juan Diego ante una multitud de 12 millones, y más tarde en ese mismo año también incluyó en el Calendario General del Rito Romano, como conmemoraciones opcionales, las celebraciones litúrgicas de San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (9 de diciembre) y Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (12 de diciembre).

Acompáñenos el viernes, 11 de diciembre a las 11:00 P.M. para las Mañanitas y también una procesión del Rosario. La celebración de misa para Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es el sábado, 12 de diciembre a las 9:00 A.M. ¡Todos están bienvenidos!
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