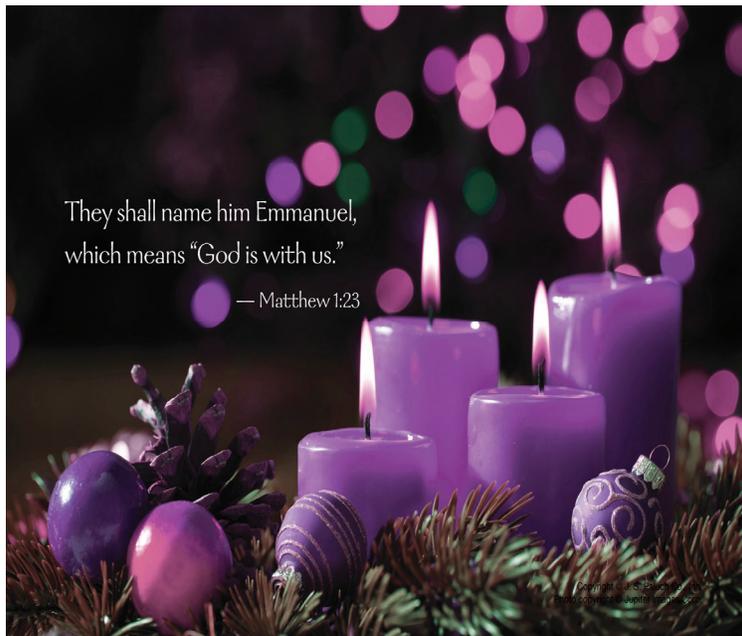


Holy Family Catholic Church

ESTABLISHED IN 1980 * 919 SPENCE RD., VAN ALSTYNE, TX. 75495

Parish Mission Statement

Holy Family is a Catholic community that unites for prayer and communion so that we may grow in our baptismal discipleship and share the good news of the Gospel.



Mailing Address: P O Box 482

Van Alstyne TX, 75495

Parish Office: 903-482-6322

For a Priest: 972-542-4667

Emergency After Hours: 469-667-7324

Website: www.holyfamily-vanalstyne.org

Email: janis@holyfamily-vanalstyne.org

Fr. Salvador Guzman, Pastor

Fr. Dominic Colangelo, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Patrick A. Hayes

Mass Schedule/Misa Dominical

Sunday: 9:00 am - English Mass

12:00 pm - Spanish Misa

Thursday: 9:00 am - Daily Mass

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

Mailing Address: 411 Paula Road

McKinney, Texas 75069

General Email: stmichael@stmichaelmckinney.org

Fr. Father Sal: frguzman@stmichaelmckinney.org

Main Phone: 972-542-4667

Fax: 972-542-4641

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

Weekend Masses

Vigil Mass Saturday - 5pm (English)

Sunday Masses / Misa Dominical

Sunday 8:00am & 11:30am)

Domingo 9:30am & 1:30pm

Weekday Masses

Mon., Wed, & Fri 8:00am

Tues. & Thurs. 5:30pm

Confessions Thursday

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday 3:00 - 4:00pm

Blessed Sacrament

Thursday's at 6:00pm

Baptisms/Bautizos

Baptisms: 2nd Sunday of each month
 Bautizos: 1er Domingo del mes

Pre Baptismal Class Registration: Registration required by the Sunday before class begins. Classes are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **Parents:** Bring copy of child's birth certificate. Both parents must attend class. **Godparents:** Must be practicing Catholics. Copy of marriage certificate through the Catholic church. Both godparents must attend class. **As a courtesy, please do not bring children to class.**

**First Communion/
 Primera Comunion**
April 29, 2017 10:00am
 First Friday Adoration

**Confirmation/
 Confirmacion**
March 31, 2017 Friday 7:00pm
 6:00—8:00 pm

Sacraments/Sacramentos

Anointing of the Sick/Uncion de los Enfermos

Please call the Parish.

Confessions/Confesiones

Immediately following the 1st Mass-30 mins. Antes de la misa

Marriage/Matrimonio

Both must be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Arrangements should be made at least 6 months prior to planned Wedding date.

Holy Orders/Vocaciones

Talk to your Parish priest or call Father Edwin A Leonard, Vocations Director, at 214-379-2860.

Believe in the Power of Prayer

Delores Lopez	Barbara Heath	Ann Lageose
Catherine Casterline	Tony Grisolia	Georgia Grisolia
Natalie Clemens	Kimberly Coggeshall	Holley Tiemann
Mary Lou Raupach	Don Norton	Courtney Hicks
Noel Rietman	Don Giebel	Linda Powell
Clifford Lamb		

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 18

8:30 am Rosary
 9:00 am Mass English
 10:15-11:15 am Faith Formation PreK-4th grades
 12:00 pm Spanish Mass
 1:30-2:45 pm Faith Formation 5th-Confirmation

Monday, December 19

7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20

7:30 pm RCIA Class NO CLASS

Wednesday, December 21

7:30 pm Evening Bible Class NO CLASS

Thursday December 22

NO Mass NO Bible Class

7:00 pm Youth Choir

Friday December 23

Saturday December 24 SEE BELOW

Weekly Attendance/Offerings

Attendance:	December 8, 2016	190
Offerings:	December 8, 2016	\$ 549.79
Attendance:	December 11, 2016	495
Offerings:	December 11, 2016	\$ 2,596.61
Building Fund:	December 11, 2016	\$ 1,070.77
Religious Retirement	December 11, 2016	\$ 453.00

Important Information

Often families like to make a donation to be applied to the current year's Tax deductions. We have been informed the funds must be deposited before midnight December 31st. Therefore don't place an amount you want to be reflected on your 2016 Tax record from Holy Family any later than December 25th. That deposit will be made on December 27th when the banks reopen after Christmas. If you date the check in December and turn it in the next deposit will not be made until, January 2, 2017 the date of the deposit over shadows the date on the check. This message is to protect your intensions vs the way you will receive the church Tax Fund in January. Questions?

Please stop by the office.

Christmas "Birthday of Jesus"

Schedule of Masses at Holy Family

Children's Choir Start at 3:30 pm.

Nativity Celebration 3: 50 pm.

English Vigil Mass December 24, 4:00 pm.

December 25, 2016

English Sunday Mass 9:00am.

And

Spanish Mass at 12:00 pm.

Have a Blessed Christmas

Navidad "Nacimiento de Jesus"

Horario de Misas en Holy Family

Coro infantil empieza a las 3:30pm

Celebración de la Natividad 3:50pm

Ingles- Misa de Vigilia Diciembre 24, 4:00pm por favor .

Diciembre 25, 2016

Ingles- Misa del Domingo 9:00am

Español- Misa del Domingo 12:00pm

Que tengan una bendita Navidad!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a “carol” anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. “Carol” comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren’t for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn’t make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn’t admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn’t make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol “Silent Night” comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church’s organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the “Silent Night Memorial Chapel” at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

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

SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent’s scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today’s Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph’s courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God’s holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.” So begins Matthew’s narration of Mary and Joseph’s first adventure as husband and wife. The early Christians who were his audience must have been eager to hear the story of Jesus’ early years, and wondered if what they had heard about Mary was true. It must have been Mary who handed this story down to the apostles, which subsequently found itself in the scriptural canon. One would imagine that this was a rather private matter between Mary and Joseph, but so important that it needed to be shared later. It’s a tender and lovely story of a young couple in love and faced with a dilemma.

JOSEPH WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN

Today’s Gospel is one of only a few stories that mention Joseph. It is clear from these Gospel accounts that Joseph was a man of good character and also a loving man, not willing to harm Mary, even though it appeared that she had betrayed him in the most hurtful way. He could have denounced her publicly and she would have been stoned to death. But he did not want that to happen to her. Did he and Mary have a conversation about the Annunciation events, and could that conversation have made him more open to the dream in which the angel appeared to him?

IN A DREAM

Do we believe that our dreams hold meaning for our lives? Many psychologists say so, and yet we often dismiss what we have dreamed because our dreams may seem so far-fetched and implausible. If we paid attention to our dreams, and God revealed something important to us, would we believe it? If something scary or evil occurred in a dream, would we just shake it off, or would we say a prayer to God to protect us from evil and know that God would never will bad things for us?

The Jews then, as today, looked for the Messiah to come. When the angel told Joseph that this child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, he readily believed that Mary would bear a son who would save people from their sins. They named him Jesus, which in Hebrew is “Yeshua.” It means “God saves.” Joseph was willing to believe that the prophecy from Isaiah, “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, / and they shall name him Emmanuel, / which means ‘God is with us’ ” would be fulfilled in his own life (Matthew 1:23). When he awoke, he did not shake off the dream, but acted on it in a way that would change his life, and would change the world.

In this season of waiting for the Messiah, we can dream of that time of the Reign of God to come, and we can believe that it will be fulfilled.

Today’s Readings: Is 7:10–14; Ps 24:1–6; Rom 1:1–7; Mt 1:18–24

Sacred Advent

The Presence of God

I pause for a moment and think of the love and the grace that God showers on me: I am created in the image and likeness of God; I am God's dwelling place.

Freedom

Lord, you created me to live in freedom. May your Holy Spirit guide me to follow you freely. Instill in my heart a desire to know and love you more each day.

Consciousness

How am I really feeling? Lighthearted? Heavy hearted? I may be very much at peace, happy to be here. Equally, I may be frustrated, worried, or angry. I acknowledge how I really am. It is the real me that the Lord loves.

The Word

I read the Word of God slowly, a few times over, and I listen to what God is saying to me.

Matthew 11:28–30

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Jesus invites us to come to him just as we are. He recognizes the busyness of our lives, how we labor and are overburdened, and he draws us into his loving and gentle presence. He wants to listen to all our troubles, and he assures us that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. When we spend time with Jesus, we find rest for our souls. He speaks to us in the silence of our hearts and gives us inner peace.

Sometimes we carry heavy burdens because we want to figure things out on our own, believing there is no one to help us. I pray that people who are weighed down may hear the voice of Jesus. I pray that I may hear it, too, and have the humility I need to ask for and receive help.

Conversation

I know with certainty there were times when you carried me, Lord. When it was through your strength I got through the dark times in my life.

Conclusion

I thank God for these moments we have spent together and for any insights I may have been given concerning the text.

Information Page

Holy Family Quasi-Parish

020915

Date: Sept 18, 2011

Janis Hicks 903-744-7999

Transmission Date / Time Tuesday 12:00pm

Special Instructions