

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

# 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](http://www.holyfamily-vanalstyne.org)

Email: [janis@holyfamily-vanalstyne.org](mailto:janis@holyfamily-vanalstyne.org)

Fr. Eugene Azorji, Pastoral Administrator

Fr. Juan Carlos Marin, 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](mailto:stmichael@stmichaelmckinney.org)

Fr. Eugene [freugene@stmichaelmckinney.org](mailto:freugene@stmichaelmckinney.org)

Fr. Juan Carlos [frjuancarlos@stmichaelmckinney.org](mailto:frjuancarlos@stmichaelmckinney.org)

Deacons: George Polcer, John Rapier, Sid Little,

Juan Jorge Hernandez

Main Phone: 972-542-4667

Fax: 972-542-4641

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

Weekend Masses

Vigil Mass Saturday - 5pm (English)

Vigil Mass Saturday - 7:00pm (Spanish)

Sunday Masses / Misa Dominical

Sunday 8:00am & 11:30am )

Domingo 9:30am & 2:00pm

Weekday Masses

Mon., Wed, & Fri 8:00am

Tues. & Thurs. 5:30pm

Confessions Thursday

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday 3:30- 4:30pm

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 14, 2018 10:00 am**  
 First Friday Adoration

**Confirmation/  
 Confirmacion**  
**March 17, 2018 10:00 am**  
 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*

(5/21/17)

Tony Grisolia	Rita Yzquierdo	Carol Park
Lucas Chappel	Lucy Greenwood	"Anonymous"
Ruben Villarreal	Joe Sanchez	Kimberly Coggeshall
Ann Thomas	Sandra Heath	Andrea Thomas
Deborah Grisolia	Chris Hayes	Fr. Bob Leonhardt
Denise Wood	Sara Carrieri	Renee Beddingfield
David Guidry	Jim Guidry	Gary Don Moore

*Pray for the Repose of the Souls of deceased members of Holy Family and their Relatives:*

**Weekly Attendance/Offerings**

Attendance :	December 17, 2017	459
Offerings:	December 17, 2017	\$ 2,470.51
Building:	December 17, 2017	\$ 2,087.17

**Christmas Mass**

English: 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

December 24th

Spanish Mass: 10:00 AM

Christmas Day

December 25th

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and they shall name Him 'Emmanuel,' which means 'God is with us.'"*

*- Matthew 1:23*

**Weekly Calendar**

**Sunday, December 24**

8:30 am Rosary  
 9:00 am Mass English  
 12:00 pm Spanish Mass  
 4:00 pm English Vigil Christmas Mass

**Monday December 25**

10:00 am Spanish Christmas Mass

**Tuesday, December 26**

**Wednesday, December 27**

**Thursday December 28**

9:00 am Mass  
 7:30 pm Youth Choir Practice

**Friday December 29**

7:00 Spanish Adult Choir

**Saturday December 30**

11:00 am Quince

**Sunday December 24th Regular**

Mass times 9:00 am-12:00pm

**Christmas Vigil Mass - English**

**December 24th at 4:00 pm**

Choir will sing Christmas Carols starting at

3:30pm Children will place Baby Jesus

In the Manger just prior to Mass

**December 25th Spanish Mass at 10:00 am**

*May the Peace and Joy*

*Of Christ be with you*

*This Christmas and*

*throughout the New Year*

## Some People Are Never Happy

After several years of destructive behavior because of his addiction to drugs, a man changed his life. He went to 12-step meetings. He came back to the Church. He made amends to those he had hurt and reconciled with his estranged wife. When she'd left him she'd complained bitterly of his addiction: how it used up their money, hurt their children, and caused her to lose more than one job. But now, with her husband clean and sober, she found other things to complain about: he was out a lot at fellowship meetings, he was rigid about his attendance at Mass every Sunday, he constantly bought the wrong items at the store. One is left wondering if there were anything that could please her about her husband.

We all have expectations that we want other people to live up to, don't we? From small details like putting the cap back on the toothpaste to major decisions like choosing how to raise a family, we have a strong sense of what the world "should" be like and how people "should" act. And when they don't live up to our requirements—as inevitably happens—we complain.

Jesus knew about that tendency, and he talks about it in today's Gospel reading. John the Baptist didn't eat or drink, so people said he was possessed. Then Jesus came and he did eat, and he did drink, and so then they said he was a glutton and a drunkard. Wait—what? Is there anything that would have pleased the people? Any behavior they would have found acceptable?

As I said, some people are never happy.

Advent is one of the "quiet times" of the Church's liturgical cycle. It is a time of reflection. As we prepare for the drama that unfolds every year, the coming of the Christ Child, the beginning of a new life and a new way of life, we're asked to be mindful about what we're doing and thinking and being.

It's a challenge, since the commercial side of the holiday is bombarding us daily with jingle bells and cheerful Santa's and the pressure to buy more, spend more, party more; it takes an effort to block all that out and be mindful of putting Jesus first. And still that's what the Church asks of us—and more.

Because Advent is, along with Lent, a penitential season. Just as the sacrament of the Mass is preceded by the sacrament of confession, so too is the season of the Lord's birth preceded by a season of reconciliation. Many people take this as a sign to give something up, usually something like chocolate or a favorite TV show. But Friday's Gospel reading calls us to something a little deeper.

What if, this Advent, we gave up judging others?

That's a tough one, isn't it? From the way people dress to the way they talk or raise their kids; from their table manners to what they do on a Saturday night, we are really, really good at making judgments. People who disagree with us politically are evil. People who don't recycle are lazy and uncaring. People on public assistance should just get a job.

There was a backstory to the man who struggled with addiction. There's a backstory to everyone's life-decisions, and we generally don't know those stories, don't know the path they took to arrive at this moment when we meet them and decide they're doing it wrong. Over and over again the words of scripture urge us to not judge others, but we blithely ignore them and carry on. Maybe it makes us feel better about ourselves. Maybe it's just fun to feel superior to someone else. But none of it is anything that we're called, as Catholics, to be or to do.

So here's a challenge for today—and for every day this Advent. Let's give it up to God, this unholy satisfaction of judging other people. Let's try to nip those thoughts in the bud. Let's not be part of the generation that called John the Baptist possessed and called Jesus a glutton and a drunkard. Let's decide to do better, to be better, than that.

Jesus is coming. This year, let's be more intentional about our preparation. Let's do something that will bring a smile to the Christ Child's face.

By Jeannette de Beauvoir

## God's Promise

## LA PROMESA DE DIOS

### GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and overall? When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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The child to be born will be called holy,  
the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35



*The Church's Christmas season begins tonight, and this year it ends on January Monday, January 8th.*

*One might want to keep some Christmas decorations up in your home until the Christmas season ends.*

### LA PROMESA DE DIOS

El largo pasaje de Samuel expone de manera maravillosa la promesa de Dios a la dinastía de David: que su trono siempre estaría ocupado gloriosamente por sus descendientes. Oculta en el misterio de la profecía está la promesa del Salvador, el Mesías, Hijo de Dios e Hijo de David. El profeta Natán, quien habla en nombre de Dios, desbarata poéticamente el plan de David de construir una casa para Dios y anuncia que el plan de Dios es construir una "casa", una dinastía, para David. De esta dinastía de David provendrá el Mesías, el Cristo, quien no llegará con el esplendor majestuoso con el que reinó David, sino que vendrá como un hombre humilde, que gobernará por los siglos de los siglos. Cuando Dios hace un regalo; lo que recibimos es asombroso: es muy distinto a lo que podríamos haber imaginado.

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### LA SOLUCIÓN

Si usamos sabiamente los abundantes tesoros naturales del planeta, comenzando con eliminar el militarismo y la guerra, todo ser humano podrá vivir una vida próspera y saludable.

—Dalai Lama

### NO DEMASIADO

Si tienes demasiadas cosas que hacer, con la ayuda de Dios encontrarás el tiempo para hacerlo todo.

—San Pedro Canisio



This Gospel is the Annunciation to Joseph. We are dealing with the greatest mystery to ever happen on earth: the Incarnation of the Lord, that God became a man. Before this mystery, we have to put aside our human way of thinking and ponder the mystery of God. The most common interpretation of this passage is that Joseph thought that Mary was at fault in some way. Knowing her goodness, he didn't know what to make of it and tried to protect her. But there is another interpretation, less commonly held, but well grounded in the text. This ancient tradition is found in the writings of some Fathers and Doctors of the Church\* and brings out the greatness and holiness of Saint Joseph.

Joseph was a "just" (dikaïos) man. While that might suggest someone who observed the Law, it's more than that. It means that a person is just before God, like the great saints of the Old Testament, who loved God and followed his will. This attitude of being just before God is expressed in a holy fear before the Lord, a reverence before the mystery. When Moses saw the burning bush and heard God say, "the place on which you are standing is holy ground . . ." "Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God" (Ex 3:5-6). So too the prophet Isaiah, when he saw the Lord, cried out, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips...yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" (Is 6:5) Then the Lord cleansed him and sent him on his prophetic mission.

Joseph received a mission in his Annunciation. Although the way this Gospel is translated seems to imply something negative, it can be translated as to mean that Joseph felt himself unworthy to reveal the mystery worked in Mary, so he decided to secretly separate himself from her. Perhaps Mary told him what happened. Or maybe the Holy Spirit enlightened him so that he knew that God was at work in Mary.

Saint Thomas Aquinas held this opinion: "Joseph was minded to put away the Blessed Virgin not because he suspected her of fornication, but because in reverence for her sanctity, he feared to cohabit with her" (Summa Th., Supplement, q. 62, article 3, reply 4). Saint Bernard also testifies: "Joseph's reason was the same as Peter's when he said, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord,' and that of the centurion when he exclaimed, 'I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.' Joseph looked on himself as a sinner and as unworthy to entertain one in whom he

beheld a superhuman dignity. He beheld with awe in the Virgin-Mother a certain sign of the Divine Presence" (Homily, Super missus est, II, 14).

The angel tells Joseph "do not be afraid," just as Gabriel said to Mary, and just as the Lord told so many holy people in Israel. The angel tells Joseph that even though he is before this tremendous mystery of God and rightly fears his own unworthiness, he should not be afraid to enter into the mystery. This interpretation puts Joseph squarely in the line of the great saints in the history of Israel. Just as God called Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and all the others, despite their human frailties, God called Joseph to play an important part in the mystery of the Incarnation. With reverence for the mystery of God, Joseph said yes. He "did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."

Each of us also has a mission from God, a role to play in the great mystery of Jesus Christ and his Church. We may feel ourselves unworthy—why would God call me? But like Joseph, we too can respond with a heartfelt yes. Whatever our vocation, God calls us and can work through us to spread the Gospel and witness to Jesus. That is the mystery of Advent and Christmas.

Saint Joseph, pray for us, that like you we too may respond with joy to the Lord's call.

Information Page

Holy Family Quasi-Parish

020915

Date: Sept 18, 2011

Janis Hicks 903-744-7999

Transmission Date / Time Tuesday 12:00pm

Special Instructions