Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

STAFF
Rev. Fred Valone…..Pastor
Felix Ramos..........Permanent Deacon
Kathy Boscariino…..DRE / Y M
Maria Delgado.........Elem. CCE
Marisol Urbina.......Administrative Asst.
Rick Reed………….Music Coordinator
Jill Baker…………..Nursery Coordinator
Pat Norfleet………..Bookkeeper
Sylvia Vitela…………Secretary
Laura Puente………Custodian

Mass Schedules
Saturday/ Sabado  5:30 pm English
Sunday/ Domingo  7:45 am English
                        10:45 am English
                        12:30 pm Spanish
Monday/ Lunes          No Mass
Tuesday-Friday / Martes-Viernes  7:15 am

Reconciliation / Reconciliación
Tues/Martes  4:30-5:30 pm
Sat/Sabado   4:00-5:00 pm

Adoration/Adoración
Tuesday / Martes After 7:15 am Mass until 5:30 pm

"...there is no inequality of significance amongst us except holiness...
"No hay desigualdad de importancia entre nosotros excepto la santidad..."
Mass Intentions Of The Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Veronica Antwi Family (Special Intention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>Parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sylvia Jessenia Arteaga (For birthday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Roman Piña</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>12/17</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>7:15 am</td>
<td>Steve &amp; Belia Aguayo (47th Anniversary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>7:15 am</td>
<td>Zetta Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>7:15 am</td>
<td>All Holy Souls in Purgatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>7:15 am</td>
<td>Fr. John Kellick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>12/22</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>12/23</td>
<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>Kenneth Larson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Thomas &amp; Gertrude Caito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Perla Marisol de la Fuente</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Our gratefulness to God weekly offering

December 8 & 9
Regular Sunday Donations: $7,936.79
Retirement Fund for Religious: $2,625.17
Thank you for your continued support!

Upcoming Second Collections
Dec. 25th Christmas

Instruments of God’s Mercy
2018 Diocesan Services Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Goal</td>
<td>$37,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount Paid</td>
<td>$46,962.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount Pledged</td>
<td>$51,595.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Participants</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over Goal</td>
<td>$9,962.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DON’T FORGET! . . .
The Knights of Columbus, Council #7153 are selling Scrip (gift cards) until Sunday, December 23. Products will be available at “The Hut” after the 5:30, 7:45 and 10:45 Masses. Thank you for your support!

December 24
Christmas Eve / Misa de Vigilia
4:00 p.m. (English)
6:00 p.m. (English)
8:00 p.m. (Español)
Midnight (English)

December 25
Christmas Day / Día de Navidad
10:00 a.m. (English)

CALL FOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS
Our Christmas Pageant provides parishioners an opportunity to interact with Christ’s humble, glorious birth and to hear the story of our Lord’s birth. There’s a part for everyone, kids and kids at heart! This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family. Call Maria 295-8159 or k-6cce@saintthomashuntsville.org

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LLAMADO PARA LA PROCESION DE NAVIDAD A PARTICIPANTES
Nuestra Procesión de Navidad ofrece a parroquianos una oportunidad a participar en el glorioso, humilde nacimiento de Cristo y escuchar la historia del nacimiento del Señor. Hay una parte para todos, niños y niños de corazón! Esta es una maravillosa oportunidad para toda la familia. Llamar a Maria; 295-8159 o k-6cce@saintthomashuntsville.org

December 24
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6:00 p.m. (English)
8:00 p.m. (Español)
Midnight (English)

December 25
Christmas Day / Día de Navidad
10:00 a.m. (English)

Christmas flowers are being purchased to decorate our church for Christmas. The flowers may be donated in memory or in honor of a loved family member or friend or for some other special occasion. Please fill in the information requested below and return to the parish office. The deadline is Friday, Dec. 21st. Offering is $20.

______ in honor of ______ in memory of
_________________________________________

Donated by:
________________________________________

______ in honor of ______ in memory of
________________________________________

Donated by:
________________________________________

______ in honor of ______ in memory of
________________________________________

Donated by:
________________________________________

K-6 CCE Las Posadas 2018
Empiezan este domingo 16 de Diciembre a las 7:00 p.m. en el salon parroquial. Te esperamos

FORMER PARISHIONER . . .
Dr. Joseph Rowe moved to Huntsville in 1965, where he was a SHSU History Professor until he retired in 2007. It became difficult for him to walk and live alone at 88, so his family moved him to the Dallas area. He is doing very well at:
Lynridge Assisted Living, 304 W. FM 544
Room #132, Murphy, Texas 75094, 972-965-7868

Joe, Tom and Donna Rowe enjoyed our St. Thomas Family down through the years and will miss all of you. God Be With you. Merry Christmas
### STAY Life Teen Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 7, 2018</td>
<td>Class/Clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14, 2018</td>
<td>Class/Clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21, 2018</td>
<td>No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28, 2018</td>
<td>Class/Clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 05, 2018</td>
<td>Class/Clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2018</td>
<td>No Class/No Clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19, 2018</td>
<td>Clase/Live Nativity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

###EDGE Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/18/2018</td>
<td>Class/Clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25/2018</td>
<td>No Class – Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/03/2018</td>
<td>Class/Clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10/2018</td>
<td>Last Class/última clase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13/2018</td>
<td>Edge Night 6:00 pm-7:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edge Returns</td>
<td>1/07/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Kathy Boscarino, Director**
kboscarino@saintthomashuntsville.org
(936) 295-8159     (936) 520-6524
Www.sainthomashuntsville.org

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**STAY Youth Ministry**

7th –12th grades

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**ADVENT**

**CHRIST IS COMING**

IN THE NATIVITY

2ND COMING

EACH DAY IN OUR HEARTS
World Youth Day Houston and Eucharistic Vigil

Come and be a pilgrim, joining in spirituality of communion with millions of young people from across the world. We invite you to join us in our local World Youth Day celebration concurrent with the gathering in Panama on January 26-27. We are one of five cities in USA that will be hosting a regional celebration. We appreciate if you help us spread the word in your social media, meetings and gatherings. Our celebration will include:

- Reliquias de Santos incluyendo San Oscar Romero, Sta. Teresa de Calcuta, San Francis Cabrini, San Vicente de Paul and más.
- 20 workshops presented in English or Spanish.
- Multicultural music performances including Polish, Matachines, Folkloric dances and more.
- Overnight adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (for those who want to experience what it means to be a pilgrim in WYD).
- WYD address of Pope Francis to young people.
- Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Fellowship, food and more surprises.

WYD 2019 Theme? “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

Where? Brand new parish activity center at St. Jerome Catholic Church 8825 Kempwood Dr., Houston

Date and time? The WYD event is on Saturday January 26 from 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Who? Young adults ages 18 and above

Who are the speakers? Check the list of talks and presenters at www.archgh.org/yacm

Can anyone go to the adoration overnight? Yes it is open to the public and is free! Registrations: You may register by January 16 online or in paper at www.archgh.org/yacm $20 per person and includes dinner. Group Discounts: If 9 people register together, the 10th person is for free by December 31.

Charis Ignatian Spirituality Retreat for Young Adults is a Retreat for Young Adults in their 20s and 30s. This year’s theme is "What Next? Finding Answers with Faith." Charis retreat provides an opportunity to connect with others experiencing big shifts in life, encounter God who is present in the midst of uncertainty, and grow in your understanding of how faith anchors us in times of transition. Held at Cameron Retreat Center in Houston. Begins at 9:00 a.m. on February 9 and ends at 3:00 p.m. on February 10, 2019. Cost is $60 per person, includes lodging and food. Registration is available online at www.archgh.org/yacm. Spaces are limited; registration deadline is February 1. For more information, contact office at yacm@archgh.org or 713-741-
The Fire of Your Love: Gaudete Sunday

By Will Oliver

After coming into The Church, I soon learned that the third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. When I asked why, I was told that it was because it was a celebration that the birth of the Christ child was almost near. I later learned there was a little bit more to it than that, including why it was called Gaudete Sunday.

The earliest celebration of December 25th as Christmas did not come about until the 4th century. The season of Advent was actually called St. Martin’s Lent because the day after that saint’s feast day, November 12, the faithful began fasting until Christmas (no Thanksgiving back then!). Eventually, Advent was reduced to five weeks and by the 10th century, it was reduced to the current four week season we are familiar with today. Even though the season was reduced in length, it still kept its penitential origins. As such, it was seen as a counterpart to Lent. So, like Lent, it was decided there would be a point about half-way through the season that would encourage the faithful to rejoice.

In the 8th century, The Church introduced on the fourth Sunday of Lent a rejoicing Sunday in the midst of the fasting and abstinence. In order to encourage the faithful to rejoice, they often decorated with flowers (which used to be banned during Lent), played the organ (which was also banned during Lent), and the priests would wear rose colored vestments to signify the day was different from all others. This particular Mass was called Laetare Sunday because of the first words of the Introit at Mass being “Laetare Jerusalem.” This needs a bit of explanation...

Prior to the Vatican II reforms, when the priest began processing down the aisle toward the altar, a song was chanted (Gregorian Chant), that began with a fragment usually taken from one of the psalms. Each Mass had a particular antiphon assigned to it, which were found it what was called the antiphonaries. The first word of the Lent antiphon was “Laetare,” so the rejoicing Sunday half-way through Lent was called Laetare Sunday. Since The Church wanted to keep Advent as a penitential season, they decided to include a similar Mass half-way through at the time Advent was five weeks long. When Advent was reduced to four weeks, the rejoicing Sunday was kept on the third Sunday of Advent, and it was called Gaudete Sunday because the antiphon, the Introit, was “Gaudete in Domino Semper” (Rejoice in the Lord always—which should sound very familiar if you were paying attention to the readings!). In this case, the Introit comes from Philippians 4:4. As it begins with “Gaudete” or “Rejoice,” the third Sunday of Advent became Gaudete Sunday or, truly, “Rejoice Sunday.”

¡REGOCÍJATE!

El día de hoy se le ha llamado tradicionalmente “Domingo Gaudete” o de la “Alegria”. El nombre latino se deriva de la petición de Pedro en la segunda lectura de “alégrense siempre en el Señor”, y del texto de la Misa en latín en el que está basada esta lectura. La ironía y paradoja de esta alegría cristiana se manifiesta en el hecho que Pablo escribió esas palabras en la prisión. Pero desde allí podía ver el progreso de la obra de Dios.

¿Nos parece obvio a nosotros? Sentimos que este no es un tiempo para la alegría cuando hay tanto sufrimiento e inmoralidad. Es interesante, entonces, que la primera lectura sea del profeta Sofonías, que está casi exclusivamente preocupado con sombrías visiones del Día del Juicio. Hoy la Iglesia selecciona la única parte optimista de Sofonías, donde el profeta es tocado por el espíritu del gozo.

Esta es, se nos asegura en todas partes, “la temporada de la alegría”. Recuperemos ese espíritu de alegría en nuestra vida y que se refleje en los que no tienen ese gozo.

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IMPRESSIONABLE

A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark. —Ancient Chinese proverb

IMPRESSIONABLE

La vida de un niño es como un pedazo de papel en el que cada transeúnte deja una marca.

—Proverbio antiguo chino
My Own Church Parish . . . .
To Register yourself or update your family information go to https://galveston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com
If you have any questions please contact Kathy Boscarino by email at kboscarino@saintthomashuntsville.org

CHURCH SECURITY INFORMATION
Following the church shootings last year near San Antonio the parish's Security Committee has taken steps ensure the safety of all St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners. The first step restricts access to the church during liturgical services. Once Mass has begun all doors into the church will be locked from the inside with the exception of the double doors facing 16th Street. Anyone arriving late for Mass will only be able to enter the church through the 16th Street doors. Parishioners will be able to exit the church through any of the locked doors as well as the doors facing 16th Street. Signs will be posted around the church building to remind parishioners of the locked doors. The staff at St. Thomas the Apostle Church takes the safety and security of all the parishioners very seriously. We are confident that the steps taken at this time will minimize any problematic incidents.

Mi Propia Iglesia . . . .
Para registrarse o actualizar su información familiar vaya a: https/galveston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com
Si tiene alguna pregunta, contáctese con Kathy Boscarino por correo electrónico kboscarino@saintthomashuntsville.org

INFORMACION DE SEGURIDAD DE LA IGLESIA
Después de los tiroteos de la iglesia el año pasado cerca de San Antonio, el Comité de Seguridad de la parroquia tomó medidas para garantizar la seguridad de los feligreses de Santo Tomás. El primer paso fue de restringir el acceso a la Iglesia durante los servicios litúrgicos. Cuando haya comenzado la misa, todas las puertas de la iglesia estarán cerradas de adentro con la excepción de las puertas dobles que dan a la calle 16. Personas que lleguen tarde a misa solo podrá entrar a través de las puertas de la calle 16. Los feligreses podrán salir a través de cualquiera de las puertas cerradas. Se colocarán letreros alrededor del edificio de la iglesia para recordar a los feligreses de las puertas cerradas. El personal de la Iglesia Santo Tomás toma muy en serio la seguridad de todos los feligreses. Estamos seguros de que los pasos tomados minimizarán incidentes problemáticos.