



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office: 1603 Avenue N * Huntsville, TX 77340

Church: 1323 16th St. * Huntsville, TX 77340

Ph. 936.295.8159 * Fax 936.295.3543

www.saintthomashuntsville.org

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

STAFF

Rev. Fred Valone.....Pastor
Felix Ramos.....Permanent Deacon
Kathy Boscarino.....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

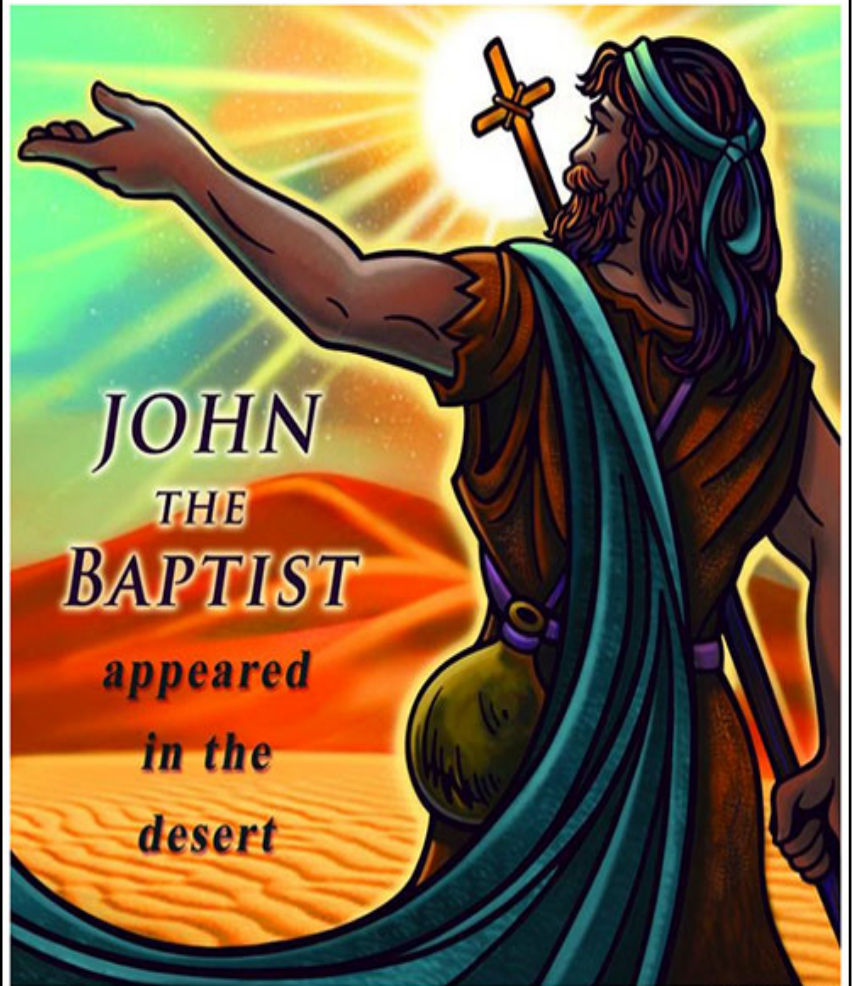
Saturday/ Sabado	5:30 pm English
Sunday/ Domingo	7:45 am English 10:45 am English 12:30 pm Spanish
Monday/ Lunes	No Mass
Tuesday – Friday/ Martes - Viernes	7:15 am

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 5:30pm
-----------------------------	--



© J. S. Palach Co., Inc.

Mass Intentions Of The Week

Sat.	12/21	5:30 pm	Marilyn Johnson & Sons (Their Intentions)
Sun.	12/22	7:45 am	Dan & Paula Guersey (Special Intention)
		10:45 am	Parishioners
		12:30 pm	Antero Guejarro 
Mon.	12/23		NO Mass
Tues.	12/24	4:00 pm	Catholics returning home
		6:00 pm	Bill & Karen McPike (Their Anniversary)
		8:00 pm	
		12:00 am	
Wed.	12/25	10:00 am	Parishioners
Thurs	12/26	7:15 am	Edward Pasket 
Fri	12/27	7:15 am	Franchesco Ponzi 
Sat.	12/28	5:30 pm	Lloyd Martin 
Sun.	12/29	7:45 am	Parishioners
		10:45 am	Michael Moskal 
		12:30 pm	Deceased members Of The Legion of Mary 

Do Not Neglect to SHARE What You Have

DSF Report as of December 9, 2019

Parish Goal	\$37,000.00
Total Amount Paid	\$38,234.48
Total Amount Pledged	\$40,140.00
Number of Participants	124
Paid over Goal	\$1,234.48



Veronica Antwi, James Aubey, Irma Avalos, Gene Barrett, Jordan Bergeron, Marie Blanchard, Chelsea Brown, Phillip Caito, Wren Colligan, Beckham Collins, Wayne Collins, Sunni Cook, Terry Corral, Melanie Davis, Kathy Delouche, Colin Dufour, David Duesing, James Elliott, Patsy Freeman, Mary Gedelian, Melba & Leroy Hall, Sallie Hodges, Edwin Laake, Dorothy Laskoskie, Corrina Lawrence, Daphne Levey, Al Losack, Katy Losack, A.J. McGee, Karen McPike, Don Marcotte, Lisa Miller, Michele Miller, Mable Milliet, Donna Moore, MaryAnn Moore, Susan Montoya, Martin Moreno, Lourdes Mosqueda, Frank O'Donnell, Dawn & Odell Rachal, Virginia Reed, Marty Reeder, Bob Riley, Kelly Robinson, Nina Rozell, Andrea Scheel, Ana Marie Santos, Jerry Seaton, Kayden Bryn Shipley, Cheryl Smith, Jerry & Dolores Stavina, Kathy Stoltz, Jean Stow, Victoria Torres, Ray & Christi Townley, Dorothy Townsend, Gordan Travis, Enrique Valadez, Maria Elena Valencia, Kathy Vanecek, Matthew Varnum, Shirley Villareal, Rusty Wallace, Bill & Gaiha Walton, Alma Williams, Nancy Winkler

Readings for the Week

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a, 16;
Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1Jn1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21;
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



*We wish you a
Blessed Christmas*

From Fr. Fred's Desk . . . Wonder. We think that "to wonder" is child's play because everything is new for young children. Christmas – the Incarnation – God taking on human flesh – is a reason for wonder for anyone who is like a child. In other words, for each Christian. Many Christian authors wrote about the incarnation and the necessity of wonder as God become one with us. St. Peter Chrysoslogus' words about the incarnation reminds us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made AND fearfully and wonderfully recreated by Christ through His incarnation and our baptism. Let me share with you some of the saint's words. "A virgin conceived, bore a son, and yet remained a virgin. This is no common occurrence, but a sign; no reason here, but God's power, for he is the cause, and not nature. The hand that assumed clay to make our flesh deigned to assume a body for our salvation. That the Creator is in his creature and God is in the flesh brings dignity to man without dishonour to Him who made him. Why then, man, are you so worthless in your own eyes and yet so precious to God? Why render yourself such dishonour when you are honoured by Him? Why do you ask how you were created and do not seek to know why you were made? Was not this entire visible universe made for your dwelling? It was for you that the light dispelled the overshadowing gloom; for your sake was the night regulated and the day measured, and for you were the heavens embellished with the varying brilliance of the sun, the moon and the stars. The earth was adorned with flowers, groves and fruit; and the constant marvellous variety of lovely living things was created in the air, the fields, and the seas for you, lest sad solitude destroy the joy of God's new creation. And the Creator still works to devise things that can add to your glory. He has made you in his image that you might in your person make the invisible Creator present on earth; he has made you his legate, so that the vast empire of the world might have the Lord's representative. And so Christ is born that by his birth He might restore our nature. He became a child, was fed, and grew that He might inaugurate the one perfect age to remain for ever as He had created it. He supports man that man might no longer fall. And the creature He had formed of earth He now makes heavenly; and what He had endowed with a human soul He now vivifies to become a heavenly spirit. In this way He fully raised man to God, and left in him neither sin, nor death, nor travail, nor pain, nor anything earthly, with the grace of our Lord Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, for all the ages of eternity. Amen." ... Instead of "Merry Christmas" I offer you "Merry Season of Wonder." Who am I? Who are you? Who are we that God would go to this extent to make us His children and ambassadors of the Child born in Bethlehem? Merry Wonderful Season of Wonder as we reflect on this important question of our identity as beloved children of God.

Del Escritorio del Padre Fred . . . Preguntarse. Creemos que "preguntarse" es un juego de niños porque todo es nuevo para los niños pequeños. La Navidad - la Encarnación - Dios tomando carne humana - es un motivo de asombro para cualquiera que sea como un niño. En otras palabras, para cada cristiano. Muchos autores cristianos escribieron sobre la encarnación y la necesidad de asombro cuando Dios se hace uno con nosotros. Las palabras de St. Peter Chrysoslogus sobre la encarnación nos recuerdan que estamos hechos con temor y maravillosamente Y que Cristo fue recreado con temor y maravillosamente a través de Su encarnación y nuestro bautismo. Déjame compartir contigo algunas de las palabras del santo. "El hecho de que una virgen conciba y continúe siendo virgen en el parto y después del parto es algo totalmente insólito y milagroso; es algo que la razón no se explica sin una intervención especial del poder de Dios; es obra del Creador, no de la naturaleza; se trata de un caso único, que se sale de lo corriente; es cosa divina, no humana. El nacimiento de Cristo no fue un efecto necesario de la naturaleza, sino obra del poder de Dios; fue la prueba visible del amor divino, la restauración de la humanidad caída. El mismo que, sin nacer, había hecho al hombre del barro intacto tomó, al nacer, la naturaleza humana de un cuerpo también intacto; la mano que se dignó coger barro para plasmarnos también se dignó tomar carne humana para salvarnos. Por tanto, el hecho de que el Creador esté en su criatura, de que Dios esté en la carne, es un honor para la criatura, sin que ello signifique afrenta alguna para el Creador. Hombre, ¿por qué te consideras tan vil, tú que tanto vales a los ojos de Dios? ¿Por qué te deshonoras de tal modo, tú que has sido tan honrado por Dios? ¿Por qué te preguntas tanto de dónde has sido hecho, y no te preocupas de para qué has sido hecho? ¿Por ventura todo este mundo que ves con tus ojos no ha sido hecho precisamente para que sea tu morada? Para ti ha sido creada esta luz que aparta las tinieblas que te rodean; para ti ha sido establecida la ordenada sucesión de días y noches; para ti el cielo ha sido iluminado con este variado fulgor del sol, de la luna, de las estrellas; para ti la tierra ha sido adornada con flores, árboles y frutos; para ti ha sido creada la admirable multitud de seres vivos que pueblan el aire, la tierra y el agua, para que una triste soledad no ensombreciera el gozo del mundo que empezaba. Y el Creador encuentra el modo de acrecentar aún más tu dignidad: pone en ti su imagen, para que de este modo hubiera en la tierra una imagen visible de su Hacedor invisible y para que hicieras en el mundo sus veces, a fin de que un dominio tan vasto no quedara privado de alguien, que representara a su Señor. Más aún, Dios, por su clemencia, tomó en sí lo que en ti había hecho por sí y quiso ser visto realmente en el hombre, en el que antes sólo había podido ser contemplado en imagen; y concedió al hombre ser en verdad lo que antes había sido solamente en semejanza. Nace, pues, Cristo para restaurar con su nacimiento la naturaleza corrompida; se hace niño y consiente ser alimentado, recorre las diversas edades para instaurar la única edad perfecta, permanente, la que él mismo había hecho; carga sobre sí al hombre para que no vuelva a caer; lo había hecho terreno, y ahora lo hace celeste; le había dado un principio de vida humana, ahora le comunica una vida espiritual y divina. De este modo lo traslada a la esfera de lo divino, para que desaparezca todo lo que había en él de pecado, de muerte, de fatiga, de sufrimiento, de meramente terreno; todo ello por el don y la gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que vive y reina con el Padre en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, y es Dios, ahora y siempre y por los siglos inmortales. Amén.

STAY Youth Ministry

7th –12th grades

Kathy Boscarino, DRE/YM

kboscarino@saintthomashuntsville.org

(936) 295-8159 (936) 520-6524

Www.sainthomashuntsville.org

Welcome/Bienvenido

STAY Edge

When/Cuando: Sundays/ domingos

Time/Hora: 9:05-10:20

Where/Donde: Parish Hall/salón parroquial

12/29/2019 **NO** Class/Clase

01/05/2020 Class/Clase

01/12/2020 Class/Clase

01/19/2020 **NO** Class/Clase

01/26/2020 Class/Clase

STAY Lifeteen

When/Cuando: Wednesdays/Los miercoles

Time/Hora: 6:30 pm—8:30 pm

Where/Donde: Parish Hall/salón parroquial

01/01/2020 **NO** Class/Clase

01/08/2020 Class/Clase

01/15/2020 Class/Clase

01/22/2020 **NO** Class/Clase

01/29/2020 Class/Clase

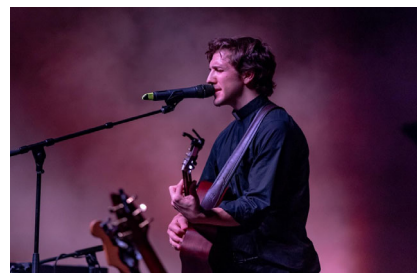
Whats-up in STAY

— *Finding* TRUTH —

Finding JESUS

Saturday, February 22, 2020
St. Bernadette Catholic Church
10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
For youth in 7th –8th grades
Featuring: Fr. David Michael Moses

★ See Kathy for more details. ★



ARCHDIOCESAN JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH RALLY 2020

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you; plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.
Jer. 29:11





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)

**Baptism Preparation /
Preparación para Bautizo**

English Baptism Sessions . . . Wednesday January 8, 6:30 p.m. in the Adult Education Bldg. (1613 Ave N) . Please pre-register in the parish office prior to attending sessions. A copy of the child's birth certificate should be presented at time of registration.

Sesiones de preparación para el Bautizo en Español
El miércoles 8 y jueves 9 de enero a las 7:00 p.m. en el salon de CCE. Por favor preinscríbese en la oficina de la parroquia antes de asistir las sesiones. El acta de nacimiento debe presentarse al tiempo que se registre en la oficina.



Adult Confirmation 2019

Register now for Adult Confirmation preparation.
Candidates must be 18 yrs. and out of high school
Please contact Kathy at 936-295-8159 or email:
kboscarino@saintthomashuntsville.org



Confirmación de adulto 2019

Regístrese ahora para la clase de confirmacion para adultos. Los candidatos deben tener 18 años y estar fuera de la escuela secundaria. Por favor contacte a Kathy al 936-295-8159 o kboscarino@saintthomashuntsville.org

You're invited
to a *Merry Christmas* Lunch.

When: 12/25/2019

Time: 11:30 (after the 10:00 Mass)

Where: In the parish hall

What to bring: Side dish, pie or nothing at all....contact Kathy at 936-520-6524

Stay for a Christmas movie :)

Café Lite: January 16 The next Café Lite will be on Thursday, January 16, at St. Clare of Assisi (3131 El Dorado Blvd, Houston) from 7:00-9:00 p.m., with an optional prayer hour from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Fr. Luke Millette, with topic "Spiritual AND Religious: Staying Connected to Christ and his Church." All young adults are invited to Café Catholica Lite for a talk, followed by time in prayer and fellowship. For more information, contact the Office for Young Adult and Campus Ministry at www.archgh.org/cafecatholica or yacm@archgh.org or 713-741-8778.

Vigilia Pastoral 2020 . . Tema: "Cristo vive en ti." Nuestro lema: ¡Se extraordinario! Los invitamos a que vengan a vivir junto con la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana de la Arquidiócesis nuestra 20a Vigilia Pastoral. Se llevara a cabo en el Centro Católico Carismático (1949 Cullen Blvd. Houston, TX 77023) sábado 18 de enero a las 7:00 p.m. al domingo 19 de enero a las 6:30 a.m. misa. Este es un evento dirigido por y para los jóvenes adultos. Abierto a toda la comunidad. ¡Los esperamos! Para más informes comunicarse con la Oficina de Jovenes Adultos y Pastoral Universitaria al 713-741-8768.

The Fire of Your Love: Mary's Confession

By Will Oliver

The scene: The home of Joachim and Anne in Nazareth in the morning just prior to breakfast. Their daughter Mary walks into the room.

"Mom, Dad; I have to leave. I am going to visit Elizabeth, but I have some things to tell you first." She paused then added, "I think you may want to sit down for this."

Joachim and Anne looked at each other then sat at their table.

"Mom, Dad. A lot of things have been happening to me lately and I need to tell you everything. After Joseph and I were engaged, but before we were married, I found out I was pregnant."

A gasp came from Anne as her hands went to her mouth; Joachim sat in stony silence.

"I know it is hard to believe, but it's okay. It was from the Holy Spirit."

Two gasps could be heard this time.

"You see, an angel came to me one night and said the strangest thing. He said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you.'" At first I thought it was a joke, but somehow I knew it wasn't, and that troubled me, for what kind of greeting is that? Well, I guess the angel knew what I was thinking because he said, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus.' And, well, it's true: I'm pregnant."

"You really are pregnant?" voiced Anne, breathlessly.

"A son?" said Joachim, questioningly. Then, after thinking about it a moment, his chest filling with pride he said, "A son!"

"Yes, Dad, a son, and he will be called the Son of the Most High."

"Well," replied her father, "I hardly think Joseph is the most high!"

"No Dad," Mary replied, "you don't understand. My son Jesus, he will rule over the house of Jacob. The angel said 'his kingdom would have no end.'"

"Then you did lie down with Joseph?" said her mother, accusingly.

"No, Mom. I asked the angel how this could happen as I have not known man. You know what the angel said? He said 'The Holy Spirit will come upon me and the child will be born and he will be called Holy the Son of God.' When I told this to Joseph, he was kind of shocked too."

"I'll bet!" blurted out Joachim.

"But do you know what Joseph said?" Mary continued, ignoring her father. "He said he did not want to expose me, so he decided the best thing to do was to divorce me quietly."

Anne gasped again, her hands now completely covering her face.

"You're divorced?" asked Joachim.

"No, Dad. Joseph didn't divorce me. He was also visited by an angel."

A sob emitted from behind Anne's hands, while Joachim blurted out, "Another angel? What is it with these angels?"

"Yes, Dad. An angel. I think it may have been the same one. Anyway, he said to Joseph, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus.'"

"So, you're not divorced?" asked Joachim.

"No Dad, we're still married. Oh, and there is more news."

"There is?" asked Joachim. Anne just sobbed again.

"Yes, Elizabeth – she's pregnant too!"

Anne gasped and said, "But, she is barren!" while Joachim added, "And she's old!"

"Yes, it's true, and this is why I must go to the hill country and see her. I need to help her out and I need to leave right away."

"Alone?" asked Joachim, exasperated.

"Yes, alone. I must. I know she lives far away [about 100 miles], but I will be safe."

"How can you be safe?" asked Joachim, concerned for his daughter. "You will have to travel down the Jordan to Jericho and then into the hill country to get there. Both places are filled with nothing but murderers and thieves."

"Don't worry, Dad. I'll be safe. God will protect me."

"Who will protect God?" asked Joachim.

Mary laughed at her father's humor; Joachim wasn't laughing. Anne was silently sobbing.

"Mom, Dad. Really, it's okay," Mary told her parents. "Just remember, everything I've told you, it's all Good News!"

Merry Christmas!

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

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

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.

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 tomo 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.