

A reflection from the Pastor

“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you,” Jesus speaking about John in today’s gospel.

There was no greater prophet than John the Baptist, and his message was to prepare the way for Jesus’ coming. To carry the message of God requires great responsibility, and like John the Baptist, we must sometimes stand out in what seems a desert to do it.

The message of this week of Advent is that Christ is coming and is nearer than we know. As these days before Christmas become a little bit more hectic, try to take some quiet time, in the desert of your life, to make known the message, Jesus is born for us.

May you have a blessed week,

Fr. Ty

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Intentions

December 18 – December 25

Tuesday, 18th	6:00 p.m.	Angelus
<i>O Sacred Lord of Ancient Israel</i>	6:10 p.m.	Mass – <i>Guadalupe Gonzalez + Maria and Alex Gonzalez</i>
	6:30 p.m.	Penance
Wednesday, 19th	8:00 a.m.	Mass - <i>Jerry Brosh</i>
<i>O Flower of Jesse's Stem</i>	6:30 p.m.	Penance
Thursday, 20th	8:00 a.m.	Mass - <i>Mark Lowery</i>
<i>O Key of David</i>	6:30 p.m.	Penance
Friday, 21st	8:00 p.m.	Mass – <i>Lillie Bomersbach</i>
<i>O Radiant Dawn</i>		
Saturday, 22nd	3:00	Quinceañera - <i>Morales</i>
<i>O King of all nations</i>	5:15 -5:45 p.m.	Penance
	5:40 p.m.	Rosary – <i>leader: Carol Sutton</i>
	6:00 (vigil)	Mass – <i>CDA</i>
Sunday, 23rd	7:30 a.m.	Santissima Rosario
<i>3rd Sunday Advent</i>	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Pro Populo</i>
<i>O Emmanuel</i>	10:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Clifford Mercado + Steve & Jean Mercado</i>
Monday, 24th	5:00 p.m.	Mass - <i>Rosa Andrade</i>
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		<i>by Juanita Madrigal</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Mass at Midnight – <i>Ann Jurica</i>
Tuesday, 25th	10:00 a.m.	Mass - <i>Mildred Hroch</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>		<i>by Barbara Hybner</i>
		<i>Bilingual</i>

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead*

Saturday 22nd, 6 p.m.

Lectors	Carol Sutton, Jeanne Lange
EMHC	Paulette Brandl, Jeanette West
Gift bearers	Tommy and Jeanette West
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales, Matthew Vela
Ushers	H. Cardona, A. Escalante, I. Martin, P. Canales

Sunday 23rd, 8 a.m.

Lectors	Ted Cabral, Gloria Cantu
EMHC	Lupe and Frances Rivera
Gift bearers	M/M Henry Estrada, Sr.
Altar Servers	M. Ledezma, volunteers
Ushers	D. Robles, J. Aguayo, P. Guerra, M. Estrada

Sunday 23rd, 10 a.m.

Lectors	Maribel Gonzalez, Melinda Valenzuela
EMHC	Ismael and Gracie Perez
Gift bearers	Mark & Lisa DeLosSantos and family
Altar Servers	N. Rameriz, D. Folmar, E. Rodriguez
Ushers	L. Rivera Jr., D. Hybner, A. Rodriguez, A. Reyes

* Please notice the new format. I am putting the ministers as grouped by Mass times. Thank you.

Liturgical Assignments for Christmas

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.

Lectors	Carol Sutton, Melinda Valenzuela
EMHC	Ismael and Gracie Perez
Gift bearers	Volunteers
Ushers	Volunteers
Altar Servers	Jason, Michael, Angelica Valenzuela

Christmas eve Midnight mass

Lectors	Jeanette West, Paulette Brandl
EMHC	Lupe and Frances Rivera
Gift bearers	Lange Family
Ushers	Volunteers
Altar Servers	Volunteers

Christmas day - 10:00 a.m.

(bilingual)

Lectors	Lisa Canales, Ted Cabral (spanish)
EMHC	Deacon Fred and Patty Soto
Gift bearers	Steve and Jean Mercado
Ushers	Volunteers

Parish Meeting Calendar – December

- 16 Parish Christmas Dinner 5:30 p.m. Hall**
29 Baptismal Instruction 10-12 Heritage

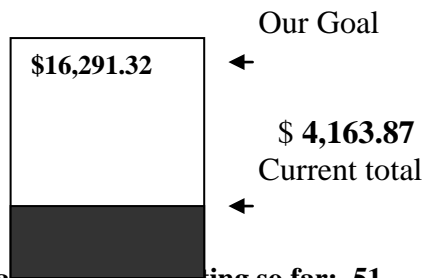
Last Sunday's Collection:



General: \$ 1848.96
Retired Religious: \$ 441.44
Immaculate Conception: \$446.30

Diocesan Services Appeal (D.S.A.) Update

This annual appeal goes to help the bishop run the diocese. I know we can do it; **there is power in numbers.** Thank you to those who have already given. To those who have not, you still have time. We now have a total of \$4,163.87 toward our goal.



Number of Families contributing so far: 51
Total Number of Parish Families: 330
Percentage of families that have given: 15 %

If every family can help, as I suggested \$50 or if you can give more, we would more than reach our goal. Please feel free to give what you can. We would also not have to have the January raffle which requires selling \$50 tickets.

Thank you again for your support. Encourage one another.

Christmas Mass Schedule

- Christmas Eve, Tues. Dec. 24 - 5:00 p.m.**
- Midnight
Christmas Day, Tues. Dec. 25- 10:00 a.m. Bilingual

A Legend of the Poinsettia

A charming story is told of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked slowly to the chapel with her cousin Pedro, her heart was filled with sadness rather than joy.

"I am sure, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes," said Pedro consolingly.

Not knowing what else to do, Pepita knelt by the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at the scraggly bunch of weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. She fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel.

As she approached the altar, she remembered Pedro's kind words: "Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes." She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the foot of the nativity scene.

Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red, and all who saw them were certain that they had witnessed a Christmas miracle right before their eyes.

From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the *Flores de Noche Buena*, or Flowers of the Holy Night, for they bloomed each year during the Christmas season.

Today, the common name for this plant is the poinsettia!

Hospital / Emergency Calls

As a member of the Victoria Deanery (churches in this area) St. Patrick's pays a hospital chaplain to meet the needs of hospital patients. If you find that you are in the hospital and in need of a priest in an emergency please contact:

Priest Beeper 503 – 9188

If no response, call:

Chaplain at: 579-6895 (home)
920-0137

Post this near your telephone.

Please also take the time to let me know here at the parish so that I may include you on the prayer list and make a visit when possible.

Jesse Tree
Readings/Symbols
for the 3rd/4th Weeks of

Advent				
Date	Person	Event	Scripture	Symbol
Dec 17	Isaiah	Call to holiness	Isa. 1:10-20, 6:1-13, 8:11-9:7	Fire tongs with coal
Dec. 18	Jeremiah	The exile	Jer 8:22-9:1-11	Tears
Dec. 19	Nehemiah	Return & Rebuilding	Neh. 1:1-2:8, 6:15-16, 13:10-22	City Wall
Dec. 20	John the Baptizer	Repentance	Luke 1:57-80	Scallop Shell/water
Dec. 21	Mary	The hope for A future	Luke 1:26-38	White lily
Dec. 22	Joseph	Trust	Matt 1:19-25	Carpenter Saw/Hammer
Dec. 23	Magi	Worship	Matt 2:1-12	Gifts
Dec.24	Jesus	Birth of a King	Luke 2:1-20	Star or Manger

**Annual Christmas Parish Dinner
This Sunday December 16, 2007**

5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

All are welcome. It is a time for us as a parish to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birthday. The Knights will supply the meat and each family should bring a side dish. We will also be collecting food for the hungry. Each family please bring canned or non-perishable food to be given to VCAM.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT/CAROLS/DOOR PRIZES.

Religious Education This Week

This Wednesday, December 12

Regular Classes – Las Posadas

Grades 1-6 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Grades 7-12 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Advent Review – This week

Sunday Dec. 16 – Parish Christmas Dinner

See ad this page

Tuesday Dec. 18 – Sacrament of Penance 6:30

in the church

Wednesday Dec. 19 – Sacrament of Penance 6:30

in the church

Thursday Dec. 20 – Sacrament of Penance 6:30

in the church

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Answer from last week:

The name of the angel who came to announce Jesus' birth to Mary was:

b. Gabriel

This week's question:

The custom of having a Nativity Scene at Christmas began

- a. with Francis Assisi b. in England
c. at a cave in Nazareth d. with a modern greeting-card company

(Answer coming next week)

Please remember in your prayers the soul of

Kathryn Ann Koliba

Who died December 12th and was buried on December 15.

May she rest in peace.

SAINT PATRICK  CATHOLIC CHURCH
BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS

The Reverend Ty Joseph Bazar
Pastor

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October Financial Report

Beginning Balance	(10/01/2007)	\$29,234.59
Income		
Building Fund		1007.48
Sunday Collections		6920.74
Holy Days		158.20
Candles		306.00
Flowers (Christmas)		212.00
Interest Income		3.40
Misc.		10.00
Hall Rental		110.00
Campaign for Human Development		400.44
Religious Education (R.E.)		5.00
<u>D.S.A.</u>		<u>2607.87</u>
Total Income		11,741.13
Expenses		
Salaries		750.00
Health Insurance		1006.60
Pension		97.00
Gas & Electric		1632.88
Satellite TV		52.05
Telephone		92.68
Water		71.75
Repair & Maintenance		617.59
Church Expenses		415.44
Misc. Expenses		1448.37
Postage		6.41
Subscriptions		114.28
Rectory Expense		219.44
Auto		859.71
R.E. Expenses		246.32
Loan Interest Expense		172.81
Loan Principal		2717.42
<u>Total Expenses</u>		<u>10,520.75</u>
Bank Balance (11/30/2007)		32,925.18
Money Market CD		20,000.00

F.Y.I. – Office Building Loan

We have been paying for the office building since the year 2000. We are in our last nine months. Please continue to support the building fund so that we can meet our goal and celebrate in September at the Turkey Dinner. We also need to secure funds for future maintenance and upkeep. Thank you.

Christmas Flower Memorials

It is not too late to offer flowers in memory of your loved ones. Please find envelopes at the entrance of the church. Those who have already given include (*memorials in italics*):

M/M Leon Rameriz *Carol Henne*, M/M Manuel Estrada *M/M Abran Garcia, Santos, Ruben, Reana Garcia, M/M Domingo Estrada, Toney Roses*, M/M Bacilio Gonzalez, M/M Daniel Sepulveda *Guadalupe Mendez, Felisitas Peña y familia*, M/M Enrique Estrada Sr., M/M Thomas West *Angie Machac, Ed Machac*, M/M Henry Mercado *M/M Pioquinto Mercado Sr., Mr. Pioquinto Mercado Jr., M/M Porfirio Urbano*, Deacon and Mrs. Fred Soto *Irineo Nunez, Othon Soto, Paz Trevino Jr., Francisco Lamas, Paz Trevino Sr., Papa Mingo & Isaura Cruz, Lalita, Cruzita, Memito*, M/M Robert Cisneros *M/M Sabas Coronado, M/M Frank Cisneros, Roman Cornonado, Joe Cisneros, Poncho Luna, Juanita Rubio*, M/M Raymond Brandl *Ray and Alma Brandl, Ed & Angie Machac*, M/M Eduardo Martinez, Mrs Caroline Hernandez *Raymond Hernandez, Rudy Hernandez*, M/M Hermilo DeLuna, Zenaida Cantu, M/M Robert Galvan *Yolanda Garcia, Vicente R. Garcia, Fidel Garcia Juan & Sophie Tijerina*, M/M Bacilio Cantu *M/M Silvestre Perez, M/M Melchor Cantu*, M/M Teodoro Cabral *Paz Trevino, Consuelo Aleman, Jesusa Cabral, Aldredo Cabral, Ramona Torres Marcos Ramon Torres, Gregoria & Ramon Sanchez, Susana & Demetrio Torres, Manuela & Juan Rameriz*, Mrs. Lupe Olguin, Mrs. Juana Canales *Family Canales & Garcia, Annie Thacker Lee O. Thacker, Arnold Thacker*, M/M Ralph Rameriz *Rameriz Family, DeLa Garza Family, Aaron Baca, Contros, Peña Family*, M/M Arnulfo Reyes Jr. *Arnulfo Reyes Sr., Felix Luna, Paula Diaz, Botolo Diaz, Jimmy Luna, Delfino Luna*, M/M Rick Hybner *Mildred Hroch, Butch Hoff*