



St. Mary's Catholic Church

Established 1846 in Fredericksburg, Texas



307 W. Main Street • Fredericksburg, Texas 78624 • Phone: (830) 997-9523 • Fax: (830) 997-1037



December 26, 2021 • The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Cover Photo by Witold Photography

Very Rev. John P. Nolan VF, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Cajetan Amaechi Anyanwu, CMF
Deacon Patrick Klein
Deacon Francisco De La Torre
Deacon Marty Robertson

*The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph*

*All the ends of the earth will
behold the salvation of our God.
(Is 52:10)*

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE AT ST. MARY'S

Saturday 5 p.m., 7 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Website: www.stmarysfbg.com

Who We Are

As disciples of Jesus, we commit ourselves to building community as the body of Christ through the commission given to us at Baptism and reaffirmed in the sacraments of initiation and service. By appreciating, celebrating and sharing the gift of who we are, and what we have, we can establish a hospitable community that welcomes and cares for the needs of those who join us on our journey of faith.

SACRAMENTS



Baptism

Required classes for parents /sponsors, both Spanish and English, are held during odd numbered months. Classes & Mass are required. For more information contact Wesley at 997-9523, or visit our website.



Marriage

A minimum of six months are needed in order to schedule a wedding at St. Mary's. Destination weddings are granted on a case by case basis. No weddings are scheduled during Advent or Lent. Call Amy in the church office for more information.



Reconciliation

Saturdays from 4-4:45pm at St. Mary's Church.



Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are available to bring Holy Communion to the sick and elderly of the parish.



Holy Anointing

Do not hesitate to call the priest in case of serious illness, injury or upcoming surgery. Call 830-997-9523.

NOTICE

**CLOSED
MEETING IN
PROGRESS**

Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10am, our office is closed for our staff meeting. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience!

CONTACT US

Parish Office (830) 997-9523

Fax (830) 997-1037

Very Rev. John P. Nolan VF, Pastor.....ext. 226
 Rev. Fr. Cajetan Anyanwu, Parochial Vicar.....ext. 222
 Kathie Leppard, Director of Communication...ext. 231
 Wesley Crenwelge, Sacramental Records.....ext. 221
 Amy Voorhees, Music and Liturgy.....ext. 228
 Lazaro Leal, Asst.Dir.Catechesis & Formation.ext. 230
 Sara Boettcher, DRE.....ext. 236
 Jesus Zambrana, Youth Minister.....ext. 233
 Karen Pehl, Bookkeeper.....ext. 223
 Rumalda Rivera, Secretary.....ext. 229
 Sherri Bumpas, Facilities Manager.....ext. 232

St. Mary's School

202 S. Orange, (830) 997-3914

Cristi Ahern, Principal
 D'Ann Tatsch, Assistant Principal
 Christine Duecker, Office Administrator
 Susan Nixon, Registrar
 Kaitlyn Burg, Development Director

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HOMEMBOUND/NURSING HOMES

If someone you love is homebound or in a nursing home and would like to take communion, please contact Amy at (830) 997-9358.

SOMEONE IN THE HOSPITAL?

If a member of your family is ill and would like to see a priest, please call the parish office (830) 997-9523.

GABRIEL PROJECT/RESPECT LIFE

Stacy Jenschke, Coordinator (830) 998-9074

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP)

If you would like more information, please contact Amy at the parish office, (830) 997-9523.

ALCOHOL & DRUG AWARENESS


If you or a loved one is affected by alcohol or drug abuse, we can help. Call John or Joy at 990-1720 or 456-3566. Your anonymity will be protected.

**Joy
TO
THE
World**

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

- Monday, December 27**
 7:30 a.m. †Dennis L. Grobe & †Edgar S. Weber
 †Ruben Kammlah
- Tuesday, December 28**
 12 p.m. †B. Jacques Castro
 †Shirley Crenwelge
- Wednesday, December 29**
 6 p.m. †Gerald R. Heep
- Thursday, December 30**
 8:15 a.m. Gaelyn Fisher's birthday
 Our Confirmation Candidates
- Friday, December 31**
 12 p.m. †Karen Dooley, †Fritz Bernhard
- Saturday, January 1**
 5p.m. †Jerry Orsak
 †Allen Boatwright
 7p.m. †Sergio Arturo Corona
 †Roman Maurer
 †Maria Santos Gonzales
- Sunday, January 2**
 7:30 a.m. †Jane Tabor
 Our Confirmation Candidates
 9 a.m. †Ramon Cancino
 Living & Deceased Members of
 St. Joseph's Society
 11:15 a.m. St. Mary's Parishioners

Please pray for our Teen ACTS team as they lead youth closer to Christ!
The retreat begins on Dec. 30th & returns Jan. 2nd!



To see the Teen ACTS Retreat Wish List, please see pg. 8!

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS
 for the weekend of Dec. 12th, 2021

Offertory.....	\$23,440.75
Our Lady of Guadalupe.....	\$1,088.61
Adopt-A-Student.....	\$180.00
Preservation & Pride.....	\$65.00
Building Improvement.....	\$195.00
Family Center.....	\$665.00
Catholic Relief.....	\$100.00
Priests' Pension.....	\$200.00
Archdiocesan: Retired Religious.....	\$472.00
Total.....	\$26,406.36

Thank you for your continued generosity & support of St. Mary's!

SECOND COLLECTION
 The second collection for this weekend is for the Archdiocesan Assumption Seminary.
 The second collection for the weekend of January 2, 2022 will be for the Adopt-A-Student Fund.

Prayer for the New Year

All make the sign of the cross.
Leader: Let us praise the Lord of days and seasons and years, saying: **Glory to God in the highest!**
R/. And peace to his people on earth!

Leader: Our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years, for we are part of a universe of suns and moons and planets. We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days. Then the Scripture may be read: Book of Genesis 1:14-19 or Psalm 90:1-4. After a time of silence, members of the household offer prayers of thanksgiving for the past year, and of intercession for the year to come. In conclusion, all join hands for the Lord's Prayer.

Leader: Let us now pray for God's blessing in the new year.
After a short silence, parents may place their hands on their children in blessing as the leader says: Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever. R/. Amen.

Another prayer for peace may be said: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. R/. Amen. —Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Leader: Let us bless the Lord. *All respond, making the sign of the cross: Thanks be to God.*

The prayer may conclude with the singing of a Christmas carol.
(Prayer adapted from a resource found at www.catholiccurrent.org)





PRAYER LIST

OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE ILL

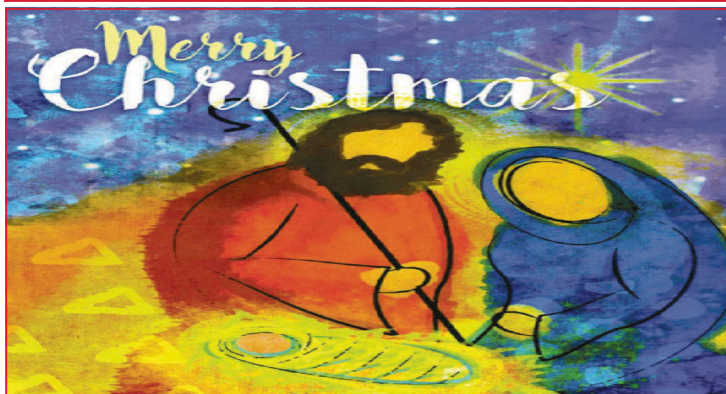
SONDRA ADAMS, FELIX ALEMAN, ANGEL ARREDONDO, WILLIAM BEHRENS, JUSTIN BILBO, KYLE BILBO, JOHN BOYERS, JESSE CORONA, ZOEY CRENWELGE, RHODA DALES, MIKE & SONDRAL ELVIR, INEZ GARZA, JOE HENRY GONZALES, ARLYSS GREENWOOD, GARRETT GROBE, DICK & DELORES GRUBB, TODD HERBER, CLAUDETTE HOLLIS, JENNY IMMEL, KIRK KINLEY, AGNES KNOPP, CINDY KOTHE, PAM LUKENBACH, DEACON GREGORIO MARTINEZ, SHIRLEY MEIER, ALICE MORALES, JOSE MORQUECHO, ABEL MUNOZ, LANA & EUGENE NETTLES, ALLEN PETSCH, DAVE PYLATE, LARRY REAVIS, GIL ROEBUCK, JESSE SALINAS, EVELYN SCHAEFFER, JAMES SCHONEFELD, JIMMY & KATHRYN STEPHENSON, ANNIE MAE STONE, RAYETTE WAHL, DOUGLAS WEHMEYER, CAMRY WEINHEIMER, DOROTHY WEINHEIMER, STEVEN WEINHEIMER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS!

Monday Night BIBLE STUDY 2022:

Discover the Epic Story of The Early Church

Join us at St Mary's Catholic Church starting January 3rd. The cost will be about \$30 (financial assistance is available). To register please contact charlotte.belsick@gmail.com.



Cross Catholic Outreach

Save the Date: Jan. 15th & 16th

We are excited to share that an Outreach Priest from Cross Catholic Outreach will be visiting our parish on Jan. 15th & 16th, 2022 to celebrate Mass and speak about the ministry. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ. It supports existing ministries by partnering with Catholic bishops, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay workers already serving the poor in 28 countries around the globe. To learn more about Cross Catholic Outreach, visit CrossCatholic.org/outreach or text BLESSINGS to 474747.

We hope you will consider supporting this wonderful organization!





Our Helpers Need Helpers!
 St. Vincent de Paul: We would be grateful for more help sorting items!
 Call Dotty Duecker at (830) 997-5002

Hospitality Ministry needs You!
 YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE !!!!!
 Volunteers needed for all five Masses.
 Call Amy 997-9523 or Joby at 997-5043

Loving Our Homebound Neighbors!
 Providing Holy Communion to nursing homes & homebound is a wonderful way to show our love! Contact Amy 997-9523

Seeking Bereavement Ministers!
 February we will be starting a ministry to assist widows & widowers. Twice monthly Please call Lazaro at 997-9523!

Rebuilding Hospital Ministry Team!
 We are rebuilding the Eucharistic team for the hospital & looking for help with Sunday afternoons. Lazaro 997-9523

Loving Care rebuilding their Teams!
 We are always looking to build our teams. We need bakers and servers! For more information call Dotty 456-9638

Schedule for Dec. 26—January 1, 2022

December 27, Office Closed, 6pm ACTS Core-Bride's Room

December 28, 9am Facts following ACTS-PH6, 10am Heart of Mary Bible Study-PH6, 3:30pm Catholic Daughters' Executive Meeting.-Bride's Room, 6:30pm Knights of Columbus Officer Mtng.-PH8

December 30, 4pm Teen ACTS Send- Off-East Hall

December 31, Office Closed

January 1, Happy New Year!

Please verify through our website, as times change.

Friendly Reminder...

Remember to check out your key from the office
Monday -Friday, 8am-5pm.

St. Mary's Catholic Daughters' Luncheon & Style Show

Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 11:00am, at the Holy Family Center

There will be a Silent Auction & Bottle Grab fun fundraiser!

Tickets are \$25. and are for sale now!

Please contact Susan Schaefer at 830-669-2785 to purchase tickets.

Come have a blast with us!

St. Mary's Catholic Daughters of the America,

Court John Fitzgerald Kennedy #1907 will meet Monday, January 3, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Holy Family Center.

The Texas State Court Catholic Daughters of the Americas Memorial Scholarships are due to the State CDA January 31, 2022.

Numerous scholarships are awarded from \$3000. to \$500. Those eligible to apply are graduating senior girls and boys in accredited high schools who are related to a living Texas CDA member.

Our Court's next St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store workday is Saturday, February 5 from 10:00am - 1:00pm. Contact Joan Vorauer at 830-456-2231 if you can help.

St. Mary's Catholic Daughters Luncheon & Style Show is Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 11:00am at the Holy Family Center. (See ad)

Contact Teresa Weber, Regent, if you have questions or interested in becoming a member at 830-998-7115. Peace, Teresa Weber Regent St. Mary's CDA Court JFK #1907

We're building a Bereavement Ministry

Is it in your heart to help those in our Parish who have suffered the loss of a loved one? If you have experience in this area or would just like to be a part of this very valuable team, please contact Lazaro. Drop by or call the office 997-9523, or email lleal@stmarysmaail.com

DEEPENING YOUR FAITH



Music & Liturgy Notes Understanding the Psalm and readings:

As parents, and children, we can all understand that intense moment of panic when you've "lost" your loved ones. I simply can not imagine the level of relief Mary and Joseph must have felt upon finding Jesus in the temple on the third day, followed by the profound confusion at his answer to his question. How many times have I asked my children a question only to get an answer that, to me, makes no sense at all? My husband and I try to teach our children to "question everything" and this is what we see today. Jesus is in the temple, not just teaching, but listening and asking questions. It is through questioning that we find our faith. You cannot believe in something that you have not taken the time to study and truly understand, looking at it from all sides. If we don't understand our faith, it can easily be put to the test and torn down by questioning. But the caveat to "question everything" is that you have to follow it up with searching for the answers. Jesus, as a child here, is growing up and beginning this time of questioning and Mary and Joseph, though justified in their question "why have you done this to us?", are realizing that they are now in the beginning stage of parenting when you learn to give just a little bit of independence to allow your children to explore and discover all the answers to their questions on their own (in a somewhat controlled environment).

In complement to the Gospel reading today, we have the story of Hannah in the first reading from Samuel. After years of praying for a child, and finally being blessed with a child, she is fulfilling her promise by bringing her son to the temple and dedicating him there to God. How many times have we made our own promises to God in times of extreme distress and not lived up to them? Hannah made a promise and is doing, what I personally find very difficult; she is giving up her son who she has prayed so long for. She's giving him to the temple to be raised, of course, but he will no longer live with her. To give up a child, somewhere around the age of 2 or 3, for me, seems an unbearable choice. But Hannah has something that we sometimes lack; trust. She knows that Samuel is God's, just as Mary and Joseph know that Jesus is God's son. Sometimes in our humanity we forget that we are all "children of God" as we see in Paul's first letter to John today. Paul says *"the reason the world does not know us [as children of God] is that it did not know him."* And that brings us full circle to today's lesson; we must continue to know, learn and understand our faith. We must take the time to truly know who God is, so that we can be better examples to the world. So that those around us, in turn, can see and know God through us. The Psalmist today says "Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord." Hannah knows this when she brings Samuel there. Jesus knows this when he spends 3 days in the temple. Do we know this as we look around our church today? In a few short days we start a new year. Let's all take this opportunity to learn even more about our faith and share it with the world.

Children's Choir: Rehearsal Mondays in the church from 4:00-5:00. (Sings on the 4th Sunday, 9am Mass)

Youth choir: (Sings on the 3rd Sunday, 11:15am Mass) Rehearsal Thursday evenings from 6:30pm-7:15pm
(Youth singers and instrumentalists needed!)

Adult choir: (Sings on the 2nd Sunday 9am Mass and 4th Saturday, 5:00pm Mass) Rehearsal in the church on Thursdays from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Email [Amy Voorhees](mailto:amy.voorhees@stjohns.org) for more information about the 3 choir opportunities listed above!

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER (11/08/2018)

Our wonderful Father in heaven would like us to be our brother's keeper. He called each Apostle and gave to each of them the love to give to his fellow disciples of Jesus as they spread the gospel during treacherous times. By being our brother's keeper this means, to our Father, to help those in need and do not turn away from one who is suffering. In each situation, God will enlighten you as to what is needed. He wants each of us to increase our love of charity. He wants us also to open our eyes and our hearts to become aware of the needs of our own neighbor. You might be surprised to find some piece of treasure that can help you grow in love of your fellow man. By being your brother's keeper, God will fill you with abundant grace. He is counting on you to help those who are poor in Spirit. Help those who are lonely and have no one to say how much they are loved. Encouraging words are simple gifts of mercy toward someone's situation would be wonderful. Let our Father engulf you with a river of love as he urges you forward in great works of charity. He will be happy for your assistance in this matter. He will pour overflowing pots filled with grace to you. He wants to thank you and bless you for all you do to help your fellow brothers and sisters. He is so in love with you. He is a merciful Lord, he healed many wounds and forgave many sins here while on earth. Remember you are His Number One! Amen.

Luke 5:12-13: "Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where He was and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean. Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I will do it. Be made clean." And the leprosy left him immediately.

Priscilla Parker, Spiritual Director

For appointments w/Priscilla, please call 512-773-9722 (leave a msg.)

WHY CELEBRATE FOR JUST ONE DAY WHEN WE CAN HAVE EIGHT?

by Amy Voorhees

We've all heard "The Twelve Days of Christmas" but how about the Eight Days of Christmas? I am just becoming familiar with the Octave of Christmas when, like during the Easter Octave, each day is to be treated as a "little Christmas." Let's take some time to dig into the history of octave celebrations in the Catholic Church and how we as cantors can make these "little Christmas" days even more special.

Why eight? The bible is full of numbers. Just to name a few; God's creation took six days and He rested on the seventh. Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days. There are 12 tribes of Israel, and Jesus chose 12 apostles. The number eight, though less well known, is also significant. The circumcision of Jewish boys always occurs on the eighth day. The Dedication of the Temple by Solomon lasted eight days. And the early Christians understood an "eighth day." It signified a re-creation because it is the day Jesus rose from the dead. As in Genesis, where God separated the light from the dark on day one of creation, Jesus' resurrection on Sunday (day one of the week) brought us out of the dark and into the light of Heaven when he redeemed us for our sins. While Sunday, per Roman culture, was the beginning of a new week and a normal work-day, Christians were careful to observe it as the day Jesus' death on the cross brought us to a new creation. They celebrated it as a "day out of time" and thus the "eighth day." It became the day they would celebrate the very earliest forms of the Mass we celebrate today.

Take Time to Grasp the Mystery. Rev. Pius Parsch once said: "In the spirit of the Church the great feasts of redemption should not be restricted to a single celebration but should continue on through a full week... When a feast comes, the soul is amazed and not quite prepared to think profoundly upon its mystery; but on the following days the mind finds it easy to consider the mystery from all sides, sympathetically and deeply; and an eighth day affords a wonderful opportunity to make a synthesis of all points covered." (*The Church's Year of Grace*, Volume I, pp. 244-245). After Easter Sunday, the second most important feast day is—you guessed it—Christmas Day. With so much joy to be taken in during these two principal feasts, it's truly unfair to limit ourselves to one day of celebration. Why not take a full eight?

Reflect on Perfect Octaves. Musicians are familiar with the musical "octave" which is a diatonic scale built from eight consecutive notes. There's a certain circular, perfect nature when you start and end on the same note, just one octave up or down. This is not unlike how we can view the octave of Christmas. The first day is the Solemnity of Christmas Day, and each day thereafter is celebrated to a lesser extent, finally ending with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. If you take a close look at the readings for January 1, they take us back to the Nativity and pick up where we left off on Christmas Day. These eight days are a perfect time to sit and pray on each Gospel reading. As you do, see both their relation to the Nativity and to us today as we await the second coming of Christ. And if you attend Mass, you'll get to sing the Gloria each day!

Keep Singing Christmas! I don't know about you, but the day after Christmas I'm always a little disappointed when the Christmas music on the radio has stopped in favor of "Top 10" lists of the past year. We've spent the last month in Advent waiting and preparing for the Anniversary of Jesus' birth and, now that we're finally celebrating Christmas, the world has already moved on! These eight days are a perfect time to continue to sing all those beloved Christmas carols; The First Nowell, Silent Night, Away in a Manger... they're all a perfect complement to the Octave of Christmas as we celebrate a "little Christmas" each day.

The treasury of our Catholic faith is full of ways that we can deepen our knowledge to connect with God. As a cradle Catholic, I continue to be amazed at all the "new" things I am still learning. The number eight already held significance in my life as I have eight children, but now I have yet another reason to celebrate for eight full days. I pray you too will find joy and connection with God in your Octave of Christmas.

Christ the Savior is Born



Faith Formation

Reminder for Religious Education:

There will be no religious education classes for December 19th, 26th and January 2nd. Please take this time to celebrate Advent and Christmas with family. Remember Mass obligations follow you wherever you go.

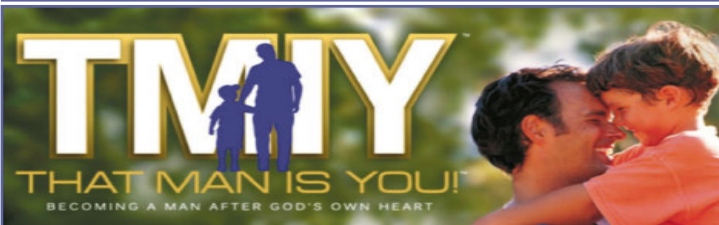


The Visit of the Magi: A St. Mary's Conversation Series



Holy Family Center, Jan. 7th, 10am. Rosary & Mass follow

Come join Lazaro Angel Leal for another conversation in where we talk about different parts of our faith.



Gentlemen,
That Man is You wishes everyone of you and your families a happy Advent and Merry Christmas. We just finished our Fall Semester and will resume on Tuesday, January 11th for our Spring Semester.

For more information on...

**RCIA, That Man is You or,
The Visit of the Magi**

contact Lazaro Angel Leal at lleal@stmarysmail.com or call 830-997-9523.

Feel free to drop by!



Youth Ministry

ST. MARY'S TEEN ACTS RETREAT 2021

- Teen ACTS retreat sign-ups have begun, this retreat is open to High School Students. If you're a teen in high school who has never attended a Teen ACTS retreat before, we invite you to join us on retreat Dec. 30th -Jan. 2nd for a FUN Faith filled experience. Cost: \$175, this includes all meals & lodging. Space is limited.

-If your family, business, or organization would like to donate towards the cost of this retreat or sponsor a student, please contact our youth minister, Jesus Z.

How can you help?

St. Mary's Community, we are called as the BODY of CHRIST to pray for one another. Your prayers play an important role as a community for our Teens ACTS retreat, not just now but especially during the weekend of the retreat. Your prayers are greatly appreciated for the Teens on retreat, Teens on Team, the Adults on Team, as well our Priest who will join us. Let us continue to pray that the Holy Spirit may be at work to bring everyone at this retreat closer to Christ, so they may return from this retreat to be apart of the living body of Christ. That they may be open to what Christ has planned for them & for us.

TEEN ACTS Retreat Wish List

Dear St. Mary's Family,
Finally after almost 2 years our Teen ACTS Retreat is back, and our Team is excited. As registrations are open, we would like to share a wish-list of items we need for this retreat if you wish to help with some of it, while out doing your Christmas shopping.

TEEN ACTS Retreat Wish-list:

- Individually packaged snacks (cookies, gold fish, fruit snack, Chips etc). Usually found in bulk packs at Sams club & Costco
- Cases of bottled water, Sodas (coke, sprite, Dr. Pepper, etc...
- Bags of fun size candy (kitkat, twix, snickers, fruit roll up, lollipops etc....)
- Individually Wrapped Packaged Pastries (donuts, cookies, muffins etc.

Donations can be dropped off to the parish office before or by Dec. 28th . Questions? Contact Jesus Z. , Youth Minister jzabrana@stmarysmail.com or 830-997-9523





St. Mary's School

December 20-31-
Christmas Break

School and office will
resume normal hours
on Monday January 3

Jan 31-Feb4-
Catholic Schools Week

February 25-
SMS Legacy Gala

Merry Christmas
from
St. Mary's Catholic
School



Who doesn't love
cozy pajamas at
Christmas time?
Our students
enjoyed a pajama
day as they
watched The
Polar Express!!

Holiday Shopping?
**SUPPORT YOUR
FAVORITE CHARITY**
by shopping at smile.amazon.com
0.5% COMES BACK TO SMS WITH EVERY PURCHASE

amazon smile

MISSION STATEMENT
To inspire a lifelong love
of God and service to
neighbor

HEB cards are also
available and can be
purchased daily in
the school office or
after Mass every
weekend.



La Natividad del Señor

¡Feliz Navidad a todos los hombres y mujeres del mundo, que aún creen a pesar de todo lo que han sufrido por la pandemia, Dios está presente entre nosotros! “*Juan dio testimonio de él; dijo muy fuerte: Del yo hablaba al decir: El que ha venido detrás de mí ya está delante de mí, porque era antes que yo*” (Juan 1:15). Uno de tantos regalos que la Navidad nos trae es muy peculiar: dar testimonio y ser testigos del amor de Dios en este tiempo que estamos viviendo. Otro regalo es la paz, sí, esa paz que tanto necesitamos en la familia, en la sociedad y en nuestro corazón, para poder cantar como los ángeles y los pastores: “*Gloria a Dios en lo más alto del cielo y en la tierra paz a los hombres; ésta es la hora de su gracia*” (Lucas 2:14).



Cada Navidad, Dios nos habla por medio de su Hijo, y esta no es la excepción. Felices todas las personas que de buen agrado y con el corazón abierto aceptan todas sus gracias. Felices todos los que en esta Navidad son mensajeros de la Buena Nueva de Dios, en la familia, en la escuela, en el trabajo y en la sociedad. “*Qué hermoso es ver correr sobre los montes al mensajero que anuncia la paz, al mensajero que trae la buena nueva, que pregona la salvación*” (Isaías 52:7). ¿Qué gracias y regalos recibiste en esta Navidad? ¿Qué anuncias tú, y a quién se lo anuncias? ¡Feliz Navidad y un abrazo de paz!

©LPi

Lazos de Corresponsabilidad

Hay muchas imágenes en torno a la Navidad que tienen que ver con la adopción o, más específicamente, con un niño que es amado por otro como si perteneciera a esa persona y amado de una manera tan profunda que, con el tiempo, llegan a pertenecer a esa persona.

Vemos esto con José y el niño Jesús. José no es el padre biológico de Jesús. Pero a través de una serie de acciones, y a través de su fidelidad en los pequeños asuntos cotidianos, José se convierte en el padre adoptivo de Jesús.

Quizás somos padres que hemos adoptado hijos, o nosotros mismos fuimos adoptados. También hemos visto cómo, a través de una serie de acciones de amor y sacrificio, alguien puede convertirse en padre de otra persona que no es su “sangre.” Muchas veces estas familias celebran el día de la adopción. He escuchado que se llama el “día en que te conseguí” y está marcado con alegría, como un cumpleaños.

La mayoría de nosotros no somos descendientes de los israelitas, el pueblo elegido por Dios. Pero a través de una serie de acciones extraordinarias de amor y sacrificio, Dios también se ha hecho nuestro padre. Y a través de nuestras propias acciones, y a través de la fidelidad en los asuntos pequeños y cotidianos, somos Sus hijos.

Pero en esta familia, en lugar de lazos de sangre, tenemos lazos de corresponsabilidad. No se trata de cómo nos parecemos, se trata de cómo nos tratamos unos a otros. Cómo nos cuidamos unos a otros.

Entonces, esta Navidad, pensemos en cómo celebraremos nuestra adopción. Así como es el cumpleaños de Jesús, también es nuestro “día en que nos consiguió”, el día en que recibimos el regalo de la familia eterna.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION UPDATE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for all ADORERS

IN AN EMERGENCY-Use your CELL PHONE and CALL 911 for assistance

If you are approached for help or money, please suggest *St. Vincent's* for gas, clothing, or shelter, the *Food Pantry* for food and the *Good Samaritan Center* can help with medical needs. **St. Mary's Parish asks that we not give money.**

Adoration Leaders

Stan Klein 830-456-6018
Bobbie Klein 830-456-5867
Andy Reyes 210-632-3408



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Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28/ Ps 84/ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/ Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/ Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8/ Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/ Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6/ Lk 2:22-35
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/ Ps 96:7-10/ Lk 2:36-40
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/ Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/ Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/ Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/ Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/ Ps72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13./ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

Observances for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wednesday: 5th Day w/in Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Thursday: 6th Day w/in the Octave of Nativity of the Lord
Friday: 7th Day w/in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Saturday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, World Day
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church.

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