



# THE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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1618 Texas Ave. Houston, TX 77003  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 214 Houston, TX 77001

## Mass Times

Please check our website for Mass guidelines, seat reservations, and possible schedule changes.

### Sunday

7:00am English (Ordinary Form)  
9:00am English (Ordinary Form)  
11:00am Latin (Extraordinary Form)  
5:30pm English (Ordinary Form)

### Weekday English Mass

(Ordinary Form)  
6:30am Monday through Friday  
12:10pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday

### Weekday Latin Mass

(Extraordinary Form)  
12:10pm Tuesday & Thursday

### Saturday

8:00am English (Ordinary Form)  
5:30pm Sunday Vigil Mass -  
English (Ordinary Form)

### Livestream Schedule

The following Masses and Vespers are livestreamed via our Facebook page:

-Sunday 9am and 11am Masses  
-Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 6:30am Mass  
-Tuesday through Friday 12:10pm Mass  
-Tuesday through Friday 5pm Vespers  
-All Saturday Masses

### Vespers

#### Second Sunday Vespers

7:00pm Latin (Extraordinary Form)

#### Weekday Vespers (Ordinary Form)

5:00pm Tuesday through Friday

### Reconciliation

-Sundays following 9am Mass until the 11am Mass begins  
-15 minutes before all other Masses

### Anointing of the Sick

Please call the parish office prior to going to hospital.

### Baptism

Please email [info@acchtx.org](mailto:info@acchtx.org)

### Marriage

Please email [weddings@acchtx.org](mailto:weddings@acchtx.org)

## The 29th of November in the Year of Our Lord 2020

### First Sunday of Advent

## Welcome to The Church of the Annunciation!

If you are visiting from out of town, consider making Annunciation your parish home when in Houston. Please sign the guest book in our entryways. If you recently moved into the area, our pastor the Reverend Father Paul Felix would like very much to meet you and welcome you personally to The Church of the Annunciation. Please see him after Mass.

## Parish Clergy

Reverend Father Paul Felix, *Pastor*  
Reverend Monsignor James Golasinski, *Former Pastor | Retired*  
Reverend Father John Ugobueze, *Priest in Residence*  
Deacon Kenneth "K.C." Curtis

## Parish Staff

Administrative Assistant to the Pastor: Lillian Kish | [administration@acchtx.org](mailto:administration@acchtx.org)  
Activities Coordinator: Sherri Lindsey | [activities@acchtx.org](mailto:activities@acchtx.org)  
Coordinator of Religious Education: Tammy Zanolotto | [religiouslyed@acchtx.org](mailto:religiouslyed@acchtx.org)  
Director of Sacred Music: Catherine Schaefer | [music@acchtx.org](mailto:music@acchtx.org)  
Porter: Joseph Nguyen | [reception@acchtx.org](mailto:reception@acchtx.org)  
Wedding Coordinator: Denise McKeon | [weddings@acchtx.org](mailto:weddings@acchtx.org)

## Parishioner Registration

To become a registered parishioner, please complete a registration form located in the church foyer or on our website. Please inform the parish office of any changes to your contact information.

## Donations

To make a financial offering, please visit our website or text the word "Giving" to 713-322-5125.

## Parish Apostolates, Outreach & Volunteers

To learn about the many volunteer opportunities, please email [volunteers@annunciationcc.org](mailto:volunteers@annunciationcc.org)

## Please call the Parish Office for:

Funeral Scheduling, Group Tours of Our Historic Church, Mass Intentions, Re-Issued Sacrament Certificates, Sponsoring a Particular Sunday's Altar Flowers (currently \$150), and other inquiries.

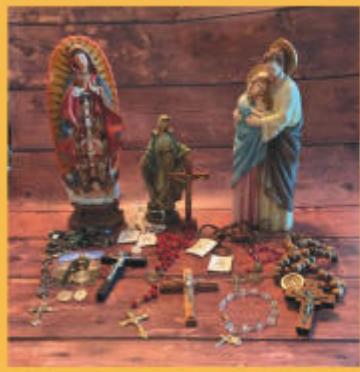
# Our Beautiful 2021 Calendars are Here!



In celebration of the beginning of the new liturgical year, our 2021 calendars will be available to take home beginning at the 5:30 PM Vigil Mass on Saturday, November 28th.

This year's calendar is a special commemorative calendar in recognition of our 150th dedication anniversary and includes the liturgical observances of both Forms of the Holy Mass.

The calendar is a gift to each family until they run out - made possible through the generosity of several families.



## Sunday, Dec 6th: The Blessing Table

On the first Sunday of each month, bring your beloved devotional items, such as rosaries, crucifixes, medals, and statues to be blessed!

Leave your items (bagged is okay) on the Blessing Table in the narthex when you arrive.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING OIL

## The Visitation Chapel is Open



The Visitation Chapel is open to pray and adore our Lord Who is in the Tabernacle. Please bring a photo ID and register in the office to gain entry. Hours vary as the Chapel will only be open when the parish office is open.

## First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Friday, December 4, 2020

8:00 – 10:00pm



## OFFERTORY REPORT

November 15 \$6,598 | Online Giving \$3,055

November 22 totals were unavailable at the time of printing and will be reported in the December 6 bulletin.

## DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND UPDATE

as of November 19

 Goal \$44,200      No. of Donors: 77  
Paid \$30,040 (short \$14,160) | Pledged \$31,449 (short \$12,751)

Please help us reach our 2020 DSF goal by giving on-line at [annunciationcc.org/dsf-diocesan-services-fund](http://annunciationcc.org/dsf-diocesan-services-fund)

## PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, November 29

7:00am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
9:00am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
11:00am	Extraordinary Form Mass (Latin)
5:30pm	Ordinary Form Mass (English)

### Monday, November 30

6:30am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
12:10pm	Ordinary Form Mass (English)

### Tuesday, December 1

6:30am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
12:10pm	Extraordinary Form Mass (Latin)
5:00pm	Ordinary Form Vespers

### Wednesday, December 2

6:30am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
12:10pm	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
5:00pm	Ordinary Form Vespers
6:30pm	RCIA: Topic - Nature of the Human Person

### Thursday, December 3

6:30am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
12:10pm	Extraordinary Form Mass (Latin)

### Friday, December 4

6:30am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
12:10pm	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
8:00pm	First Friday Mass and Devotions

### Saturday, December 5

8:00am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
5:30pm	Ordinary Form Vigil Mass (English)

### Sunday, December 6

7:00am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
9:00am	Ordinary Form Mass (English)
11:00am	Extraordinary Form Mass (Latin)
5:30pm	Ordinary Form Mass (English)

Holy Mass

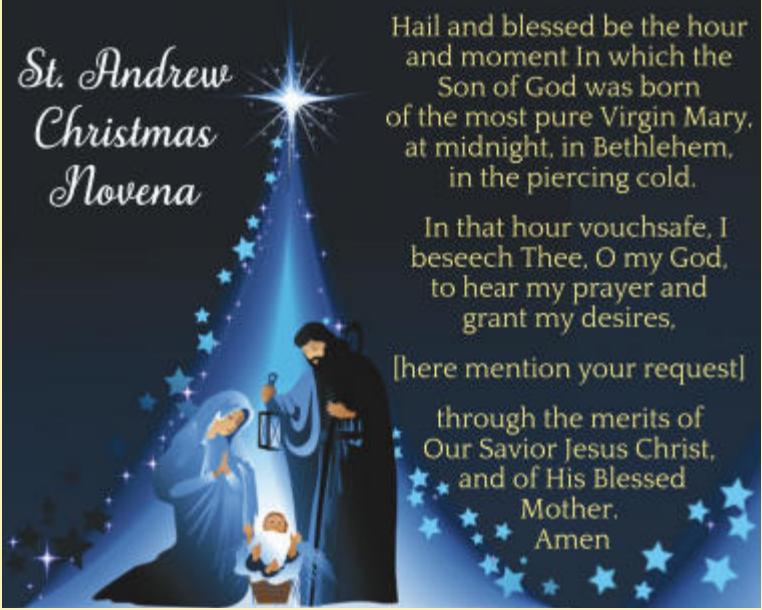
Confession

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Holy Rosary & First Friday Prayers

Benediction

# St. Andrew Christmas Novena



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires.

[here mention your request]

through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen

On Monday, November 30th, the Feast of St. Andrew, we begin the St. Andrew Christmas novena.

St. Andrew was the very first disciple called by Our Lord—that is why, in the Orthodox tradition, he is known by the name Πρωτόκλητος, which means "First-Called." Andrew is the one who convinced his brother, Simon, to become Jesus' disciple. "We have found the Messiah!" Andrew said to him. Now we know Simon as Peter, the first pope.

In keeping with his role as "the first-called," the feast of St. Andrew is found at the beginning of our new liturgical year.

There are many popular traditions associated with St. Andrew's feast day, especially in those countries that have him as their patron saint: Scotland and Russia. But the **most popular** St. Andrew's feast day tradition is for everyone: a Christmas novena that begins on St. Andrew's feast day.

It's called the *St. Andrew Christmas Novena*, or more simply, *The Christmas Novena*. It's a wonderful way to enter into the Advent season which is marked by a time of anticipation, penance, and prayer.

While the origins of this prayer are unknown, it is over 100 years old (at least) and may have come from Ireland.

**It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer FIFTEEN times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.**

Prayer is an *essential* part of Advent. Reciting this special novena prayer each day is a simple yet beautiful way to celebrate the spiritual significance of the Advent season and to experience a deeper conversion to the heart of Jesus. And since Andrew helped his brother find the Messiah, and he can do the same for us as our spiritual brother. He can lead us, in spirit, to the Christmas crib, saying, "Here is the Messiah."

Source: *The Catholic Company*

*Excerpts taken from  
"A Reflection on Mary and the Birth of Christ"  
Fr. Peter West, Priest Associate, Priests for Life*



Advent is a season of waiting with Mary to celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a good time to reflect on the pregnancy of Mary as she waited in joyful expectation for the birth of her son. Reflecting on Mary's pregnancy can teach us patience and the attitude of joyful expectation that all of us should have as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and as we wait for his second coming in glory at the end of time.

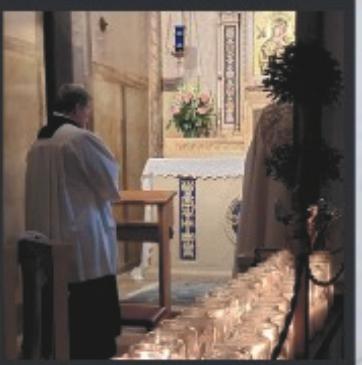
It is fitting that there are major feasts of Our Lady during the celebration of Advent – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary appeared as a pregnant woman to Blessed Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. She identified herself to be "the perpetual and perfect Virgin Mary, holy mother of the true God through whom everything lives, the Creator and Master of heaven and earth". She also proclaimed herself as Juan Diego's "merciful mother, the mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all humankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry out to me, of those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me."

Mary showed love to a people who had just escaped from the diabolical Aztec Empire in which human sacrifices were offered to false gods. Pope John Paul II proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe to be the Patroness of the Americas. She is also recognized as the Patroness of the Unborn. As Mary put an end to the culture of death in Mexico we pray today that she will intercede for the United States.

In 1846 the Bishops of the United States dedicated our nation to the Immaculate Conception. Ask Mary to intercede for us to put an end to the tragedies of abortion, euthanasia and other attacks on human life that we might lead other nations to respect the dignity and value of each and every human life from conception to natural death.

*Have a Candle Lit in  
Memory of Your Loved One*

Let us light  
a candle for you  
at our beautiful  
Chapel of Our Lady  
of Perpetual Help



[annunciationcc.org/light-a-candle](http://annunciationcc.org/light-a-candle)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Religious Education** – If you wish to enroll your child/children in Religious Education please email [religiousED@acchtx.org](mailto:religiousED@acchtx.org). In-person classes have begun. There is an at-home option for some grades (or curriculum suggestions) available as well.



**First Penance and Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (FHC)** – Classes will meet Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 10:30am at the Foley House. Candidates should work to memorize the penitential prayers and responses in the Mass and the Act of Contrition. The Angelus should also be learned by heart.

**Confirmation 2021** – Class will meet Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 10:30am in the Foley House. Chapters 3 (God Sends His Holy Spirit) and 4 (The Church: Sacrament of Salvation) must be read in preparation for the second lesson. As well, confirmandi, should memorize the explanation of Confirmation and answers to catechism questions on the Holy Trinity. These are found in Part I of the blue Catechism Confirmation booklet.



Please keep us in your prayers that we will always teach the Truth with love and fidelity.

Questions concerning Religious Education at Annunciation (instruction at the parish or at home) and/or Sacrament Preparation can be directed to Tammy at [religiousED@acchtx.org](mailto:religiousED@acchtx.org).

## VOCATION DISCERNMENT

Are you discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life? Do you know about the Houston Vocations office? Please contact the staff there to discuss God's plan of service for you in His Church. Visit [houstonvocations.com](http://houstonvocations.com) or call (713) 652-8239.

**Sponsor altar flowers for a particular Sunday in celebration of an anniversary, to honor friends and family, or in thanksgiving to almighty God.**

Contact the parish office or make a donation online at [www.annunciationcc.org/donate](http://www.annunciationcc.org/donate) and select "Altar Flower Sponsorship."

## HOLY LEAGUE HOLY HOUR FOR MEN



## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS



The Church of the Annunciation invite new inquirers to the Catholic Faith and baptized Catholics seeking to complete their Sacraments of Initiation to join RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

If you are interested or have questions, please email [rcia@annunciationcc.org](mailto:rcia@annunciationcc.org). Remember to include your phone number.

Classes are Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the church. Please encourage your friends or a family member who may be searching, to join us. Help open their hearts to the action of the Holy Spirit and begin their conversion to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.



Rite of  
Christian Initiation  
for Adults

The next session of RCIA will be held on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:30 PM.

The topic this week will be "Nature of the Human Person/Existence" If you want to attend this presentation virtually via GoToMeeting, email [rcia@acchtx.org](mailto:rcia@acchtx.org) by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 1 to request a link. You may also specify in your email to receive the link automatically every week.

Let us all keep our catechumens and candidates in our special prayers each week so that through knowledge and grace they are brought fully into the Catholic Faith.



## A CALL TO SERVE

Friends, we are in great need of people who will serve as ushers, whose role is different from the security team. It is imperative that we have new volunteers step up to help as our current volunteers have been stretched thin, assisting at every Mass throughout this time of pandemic. Previous requests for help by Father Felix have received a lackluster response.

Please prayerfully consider assisting at Mass as an usher. Ushers assist with seating, facilitate the communion line, help with collections, handle disruptions, and generally assist from the back of the church during Mass. Please contact the parish office at 713-222-2289. Training will be provided.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 9 | 5:30AM

ADORATION  
CONFESSON  
HOLY MASS



## Mass Intentions

Sun., Nov 29

- 7:00am Maria Monberg  
9:00am Jasmin Ortega  
11:00am Maria K. Illich  
5:30pm Mary Higham

Mon. Nov 30

- 6:30am For J & E and TXRTL  
12:10pm Souls in Purgatory †

Tues., Dec 1

- 6:30am Autumn Casper  
12:10pm Tatiana Beltran

Wed., Dec 2

- 6:30am In Thanksgiving  
12:10pm Ralph Marek †

Thur., Dec 3

- 6:30am Helen Mitchell †  
12:10pm Success of Fearless Catholic Writing Camp

Fri., Dec 4

- 6:30am Ashley Casper  
12:10pm Wayne Hale †  
Secondary intention Protection of the Unborn

Sat., Dec 5

- 8:00am L.O. Mitchell †  
5:30pm Spencer and Julie White

Sun., Dec 6

- 7:00am Laurel Hergert  
9:00am Ralph Marek †  
11:00am Cabrin Kelly-Hale  
5:30pm Mary Casper



### Fasting for Advent

David G. Bonagura / *The Catholic Thing.org*

Christmas is here. Or so the shopping malls, television ads, newspaper circulars, and radio waves would have us believe. Advent, the season of spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ, has long been swallowed up by the glitter and lights of "the Holiday Season," which reaches its climax not with the Epiphany of the Lord on January 6, but with the Epiphany of a New Year. Consumer Christmas, lamented by believers for years, is not likely to relinquish its grip anytime soon.

But there is something we can do as individual believers both to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas and to fight the secular tide. It is a practice older than Christmas itself, a mandatory observance in centuries past, and a discipline recommended by our Lord himself: We can fast for Advent.

Fasting is a form of penance, which at first glance seems out of step in the season of hope. Yet it is the need for and the action of penance that prepares us for the coming of the Savior, who has come to save us from our sins. And He will not save us unless we first repent – acknowledge our sins and our need to be forgiven – and then manifest our repentance through acts of penance: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer and almsgiving are still rightly associated with Christmas, the season of giving. But fasting in the month of December, as the sermons of Pope Leo the Great (reigned 440-461) show, is a practice once encouraged of the faithful.

"What is more effective," Leo proclaimed one December, "than fasting, by which we approach God, and, resisting the devil, we overcome indulgent vices. For fasting has always been food for virtue: chaste thoughts, reasonable desires, and more sound deliberations profit from fasting. And through these voluntary afflictions, our flesh dies to concupiscence and our spirit is renewed for moral excellence."

Fasting, by depriving us of worldly goods, sharpens our efforts at combatting sin and acting charitably. But we see from Leo's exhortation that fasting and the spirit that comes with it, far from turning Advent into a shorter Lent, help us resist the temptation of reducing Advent into an extended shopping spree. From fasting, we receive the grace to gaze upon the manger instead of ritzy displays, the shepherds instead of models, the Magi instead of Macy's.

Of course, combatting sin is never out of season, and the Sunday Mass readings for the first half of Advent point us in this direction. The first Sunday of Advent is not directed toward the advent at Bethlehem, but at the end of the world when Christ will return as our judge: "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33) The second Sunday introduces St. John the Baptist, the gateway to the Nativity, who bids us to prepare our hearts for the Lord by accepting "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." (Mark 1:4) For the Baptist, there can be no Christmas without prior penance.

Fasting produces in us one further effect that is not often discussed, and it is one that points to the essence of Advent – longing. When we fast, our bodies clamor for what we have willingly forsaken, be it food, comfort, entertainment, or other goods. Rather than respond with indulgence, we can respond with prayer: "Lord, hasten to fill the emptiness within me this Christmas, as I know only you can fully satisfy the longings of my soul." With an empty stomach and an expectant heart, the age-old prayer of Israel – O come, O come, Emmanuel – rings with new poignancy and vigor.

Consumer Christmas would have us believe that our longings can be satiated with the latest gift item or fashion trend. But fasting's discomfort reminds us that satisfaction from material goods is fleeting; only God, the source and end of all regular desires, can truly satisfy. Hence fasting can fortify us to perform the necessary material preparations for Christmas – shopping, baking, decorating, card writing, wrapping, cooking – in a spirit that looks beyond the trimmings to their ultimate purpose: the great celebration of God coming to live among us. Even children, teeming with excitement over coming gifts and arrivals, can be reminded of the real Gift who comes at Christmas simply from encouragement to give up one small thing during Advent.

In the same sermon, Pope Leo adds that "since salvation of our souls is brought about not only by fasting, let us add works of mercy for the poor to our fasting... so that whoever from his just labors offers a sacrifice of piety to God, the author of all goods, he may merit to receive from them the reward of the heavenly kingdom."

This Advent, as we add fasting to our prayer and almsgiving, may we also merit to receive the same reward, found not in a store or catalogue, but away in a manger.

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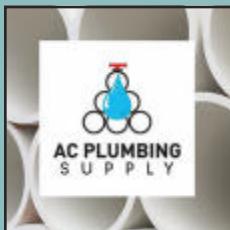
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