



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH + MCALESTER
EST. 1895

BLESSED SACRAMENT
ORATORY † COALGATE



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	10:00 am
Sunday (<i>Spanish</i>)	12:00 pm
First Sunday (<i>Bilingual</i>)	10:00 am
Tues. & Fri.	5:30 pm
Wed. & Thurs.	8:00 am
Saturday (Sunday Vigil)	5:00 pm
Sunday Vigil @ Coalgate	5:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Jovita C Okonkwo,
Pastor & Dean, Southern Vicariate
Rev. Khiet Nguyen,
In Residence @ Coalgate
Debbie Osborne,
Secretary & Office Manager
John Wolf,
Director of Communications
Pam Pulchny,
Director of Religious Education
Bill Avanzini,
Administrator, Coalgate Mission

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CHRISTMAS/HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH, YR C DECEMBER 25/26TH, 2021

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.—Lk 2:51-52

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

New Parishioners: Welcome! We are glad to have you. Please register in the vestibule, parish website, or at the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Offered on Saturdays 4:00 p.m. to 4:55 p.m.; Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of Anointing: Offered during *Mass for the Sick* on 1st Tuesdays of the month. Call the office/rectory for sick visits.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTION

DECEMBER 12TH, 2021

	Dec. 12, 2021	Dec. 5, 2021	Total M-T-D
Main	\$3,445	\$4,490	\$7,935
Assistance	\$165	\$380	\$545
Bldg/Main	\$120	\$30	\$150
Youth	\$85	\$15	\$100

*N/B Our budgeted operating cost for December 2021 is \$18,000. We are unable to publish last week's collection totals due to the submission deadline affected by the Christmas holiday. Next week's total will include both totals for last week and this week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 26—Chris Herandy, Merle Jenkins;

Dec. 28—Andrea Sellmeyer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

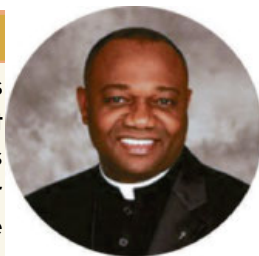
Dec. 30—Gerald & Isabelle Qullett, Mr. & Mr. William Washburn; *Dec. 31*—Frankie & Lynne Gonzalez

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ada Nell Ward, Alan Holloway, Amy Nohelty, Bette Santine, Bob Anderson, Bob Armstrong, David Griffin, Don Laws, Donna Espinosa, Donnie Sherman, Elizabeth Thompson, Elizabeth Tweedel, Frank Gonzales, Gary Jackson, Guy Hudson, Hal Dalton, Herman Seiter, Ian Leybas, Irma Gonzalez, James Gray, Jamie Keef, Jason Wright, Jesse & Johnny Stiles, Jim Kelley, Jim Lauerman, Jonathan Reed, Juanita Zimmer, Kimberly Thomas, Mark Grosfield, Mary Zoller, Mr. Homer Sr., Paul Mills, Paul Zoller, Ruth Lauerman, Sawyer Davis, Sue McMullin, Sue Tillman, Tad Bowden, Tammy Gardner, Teddy & Janet Bernasky, Tim Mills, Tony Helmert, Zearley Families, Andrew Zdeb, SSG Ben Ales, Edward Zdeb, PVT Erick Palacios, SGT Greg Thompson, AMN James Lisle, PFC John W. Pelzel, PVT J P Dunlay, AMN Michael Kaskie, SGT Pierre Tertaje, SSG Timothy Moore; those who suffer from Coronavirus.

(To add or remove a name on this list, please email stjohnmcalcator@yahoo.com or call 918-423-0810).

REFLECTION *Fr. Chukwudi Jo Okonkwo*



Merry Christmas to all you beloved parishioners and friends! The love of God made manifest in Christ shines anew in the life of believers as we rejoice in this unique event of God becoming one of us. It's an encounter beyond imagining. The All-powerful God could have chosen a nobler way to enter into the world to save humanity from the chaos of sin and death, but preferred the way of humility. A servant who washes his master's feet and runs errands is not called humble by the exercise of those functions. But a master who washes his servant's feet does something extraordinary, and would certainly be called humble. The humility of God shown in Christ re-writes the code for life in His kingdom. **We who have become citizens of God's kingdom through baptism must look at the cold manger, the shepherds and their sheep, the poverty of Mary and Joseph, and understand our vocation to humble Christlike existence.** The pilgrims who erected the Church of the Nativity made the entrance door so short that you can only enter on your knees; teaching that we reach Christ only on bended knee, head, and ego.

Christmas is also a feast of the family; first, the Family of God—the Church: with God as our Father, Jesus as our Brother, Mary as our Mother, and Joseph as our model of holiness and obedience to God's will. In this year of St. Joseph, we are presented with the opportunity to reflect on our families. **We should sit together as a family and have an honest discussion about the health of our family, how close-knit we are, how much we mirror the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.** I'm sure several are worried about today's family constructions—like that of Tom, Ted and Tim. Certainly, we are to look upon real families, not the mechanical constructions that society and the courts have forced on us. Yet, God's love goes to all His children and those who seek Him, even when they find it a daunting struggle to accede to His will.

We hold the Holy Family as an ideal family. And the most important thing we can learn today is that it is important to strive for an ideal. We do have an idealized conception of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and it wouldn't be wrong to ask us to live up to that ideal. That is why our Christmas cards with the idyllic nativity scene of the Holy Family, the animals, the manger, the angels and wise men stand out this season. **Do you put up the Christmas tree and the paraphernalia around the tree and not worry to live like the Holy Family? Then, tell yourself the truth: You are a hypocrite.** We must strive to be holy like the members of that family, obedient to the will of God like the animal companions of Jesus at his birth, detached from material things as represented in the manger, rejoice and carry the good news like the angels, and follow the star of divine wisdom like the wise men who sought out Jesus. The Holy Family stands in contradistinction to many modern families where pride, pleasure, confusion, sinful, unnatural and abominable lifestyles are praised as noble goals.

Lest we forget, life was not completely smooth sailing for the Holy Family. The members experienced the same complexities, uncertainties, messiness, and worries that comprise everyday family living. For example, in the Gospel, we could see Mary at least mildly upset, and her words carried some fire: "Son, why have you done this to us?" Like a typical 14 year old who wants to celebrate his coming of age, Jesus answers: "Why were you searching for me?" It would be quite alright to read the theological import of the statement by Jesus, as an invitation to a daily purposive search for Him. But perhaps, it didn't sound quite theological to Mary and Joseph who for three days had anxiously searched the entire neighborhood for their lost son. However, like the Holy Family, we should quickly resolve our misunderstandings and continue to grow in wisdom, age and grace before God and man. Our affiliation with them opens for us a storeroom of grace. Merry Christmas!

MASS INTENTIONS:

- Sunday, Dec. 26. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
10:00 am † Annette Davis // Steele; Fox; Silva
- Monday, Dec. 27. Christmas Octave; Saint John, *Apostle, Evangelist*, (Parish Feast)
8:00 am † Martin & Priscilla Okonkwo
- Tuesday, Dec. 28. Christmas Octave; The Holy Innocents, *Martyrs*
5:30 pm † Priscilla Okonkwo // Carol Wright
- Wednesday, Dec. 29. Christmas Octave; Saint Thomas Becket, *Bishop, Martyr*
8:00 am † Annette Davis // Joe & Nancy Massaro
- Thursday, Dec. 30. Christmas Octave
8:00 am † Leigh Ann Ouellette // Carol & Don Laws
- Friday, Dec. 31. Christmas Octave; Saint Sylvester I, *Pope*
5:30 pm † Fr. Hung Lee // Philip & Laura Stizza
- Saturday, Jan. 1. The Octave of Christmas and Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
5:00 pm † Monte Hendrix // KoC Oklahoma St. Council

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

SAT. JANUARY 1, 2022 5 PM MASS

Lector: Linda Faber, Steve White; EMHC (Body) — Regina Edwards
Servers: TBA Music: TBA
Ushers: David Stizza, Tony Fields, Tom Steidley

SUN. JANUARY 2, 2022 10 AM MASS

Lector: Al Ross, Ariana Marquez; EMHC (Body) — Walter Descher
Servers: TBA Music: TBA
Ushers: Donnie Pulchny, Frank Gonzalez, John Gleese

NOTICES:

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR, AND EPIPHANY SCHEDULE

Monday is the feast of St. John the Evangelist, patron of our parish, and we have Mass at 8am. Next Saturday is New Year Day, but more importantly, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. The 9am Mass is that of the solemnity and New Year Day. Saturday 5pm is vigil of Epiphany. Masses for the celebration of Epiphany Day, January 2, 2022 will be at 10am and 12pm (Spanish). Please pick up the Christmas schedule to guide you with Mass times for this week.

NEW YEAR OF GRACE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Together with the entire Church, we journey along the way to God's kingdom during this new Liturgical Year C. with the Evangelist Luke as our guide — meaning that most of our gospel readings will come from Luke. As Luke did in his *Gospel to the Outsider*, we will vigorously pursue the re-evangelization of lapsed Catholics and non-believers and seek to invite them home. Everyone is charged with bringing one member (or seeker) back to Mass and fellowship.

CHRISTMAS AND END OF YEAR APPEAL!

As we celebrate Christmas and prepare to enter the New Year, we would like to use this medium to thank all of you, especially benefactors of the parish who have taken extra steps to lift us out of the economic burden brought about by the current inflation. Christmas is a time of giving, and we beg for your continued support to enable us finish the year without debts. May the newborn King fill your hearts and lives with all the blessings of heaven!

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

Join us for Mass and Eucharistic adoration at 5:30 p.m. Respond to the love of Christ by spending an hour every week in His Living Presence.



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ST. JUDE'S CENTER

The requested items for the St. Jude's Helping Center this week are pumpkin and dressing. The center is accepting winter items: coats, blankets, socks and gloves. You may drop them off at the center or bring them to Church. Also contact Amelia London at 918-424-8833 to volunteer.



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JOB OPENING

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