



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 N. William Street • Victoria, Texas 77901
Rectory Ph. (361) 575-3813 or (361) 485-0501
Fax Ph. (361) 575-3837



Fourth SUNDAY of *Advent*

December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel said to Mary,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31



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When we think of today's Gospel, the image of this meeting between the Angel Gabriel and Mary by Fra Angelico (1440–1445) likely comes to mind. In this fresco, Gabriel and Mary are outside sitting among the columns, and Gabriel, with his big wings and hands crossed, gazes upon Mary and gestures towards her. She is well dressed in a traditional blue garment, and though her face shows shock, her folded hands model submission and humility. This work of art is so beautifully executed that we can miss some of its finer details. Similarly, because the Gospel scene is so familiar, we can forget to take in its small details. A few years ago, this author found a children's book called "The Nativity" illustrated by Julie Vivas. Because her drawings were so fresh and charming and simple, she invited new perspective on the story.

LOOKING AGAIN

Luke says that Mary "was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be." She asks, "How can this be?" These questions don't fit with how Fra

Angelico positioned Gabriel and Mary. In the Vivas illustrations, the Angel Gabriel sits down with battered wings and a balding head and has a cup of coffee with Mary as the two of them try to figure it out together. The text is the same, but the message conveyed is different. There is a different degree of comfort and familiarity to these illustrations.

This "having a cup of coffee" is something we need to learn to do with the scriptures and with our lives. After this event, pregnant Mary traveled into the hill country to be with Elizabeth; an older, wiser, mentor—a mother figure. She spent three months there reflecting and preparing for the birth of her child. In this final week of Advent, take a few moments to find a Gabriel/Mary or an Elizabeth/Mary moment and read the Christmas readings again to see what you might have overlooked, and to find a new way for Christ to dwell in you.

Today's Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday 8:45 a.m. -12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Parish Staff

Rev. Greg Korenek, Pastor

Sr. Valerie Janecka, IWBS - Parish Secretary

Janet Weaver, Bookkeeper

Martha Nichols, PCL/Safe Environment Coordinator

Tammy Fikac, PCL

Thomas Santos & Tracie Tibiletti, Music Ministry

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Daily (Mon-Sat): 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Before daily Mass

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

BAPTISMAL INSTRUCTIONS:

First Sunday of every month

CHOIR PRACTICE:

Wednesday Evening

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME

Registration forms online at www.lourdesvictoria.org

or email: ollvic@lourdesvictoria.org



SUNDAY - December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 am - Franklin J. Sedlar
10:00 am - Jerome & Edith Krennek

MONDAY - December 21

8:00 am - Caroline Lee †

TUESDAY - December 22

8:00 am - Marian Bolech †

WEDNESDAY - December 23

8:00 am - Caroline Lee †



THURSDAY - December 24

8:00 am - John Carl Loest †
4:00 pm (**Vigil of Christmas**) - Frank L. Kandler †
10:00 pm (**Christmas Night**) - Franklin J. Sedlar †

FRIDAY - December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

7:30 am - Mary Ruth Kainer †
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family
10:00 am - John Michael Hammack †

SATURDAY - December 26

8:00 am - Anita & Edward Amador †
4:00 pm - John Anthony Perez †

SUNDAY - December 27 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 am - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family
10:00 am - Wallace & Kathy Bianchi †



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

THIS WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Collection/Envelope: Weekly Stewardship
2nd Collection: Diocesan Services Appeal
Set-up the Nativity in the Church after the 10:00 am Mass

MONDAY - Altar Society Christmas Party & Member of the Year Recognition (6:00 pm)

WEDNESDAY - Choir Practice (6:00 pm)

THURSDAY - Vigil of Christmas

FRIDAY - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (Holy Day of Obligation)
Collection/Envelope: Christmas Offering

SATURDAY - Confessions: 3:15 pm - 3:45 pm

HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH

Collection/Envelope: Weekly Stewardship
2nd Collection: St. Vincent de Paul

| Christmas Mass Ministers | Lector | Eucharistic Minister |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 4:00 pm Mass (Christmas Eve) | Greg Richter | Geralyn Biediger |
| 10:00 pm (Night Mass) | David Post | Donna Maxey |
| 7:30 am Mass (Christmas Day) | Sherry Kainer | Joy Loest |
| 10:00 am Mass (Christmas Day) | Wendy Eggert | Carol Bludau |

NEXT WEEKEND - December 26/27, 2020



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION and LECTORS


Sat. 4:00 pm - Standby Norman Schoener
Sun. 7:30 am - Standby Bud Tucker
Sun. 10:00 am - Standby Liz Lemke

ALTAR SERVERS:

Sat. 4:00 pm - James Record, Suzie Ryan
Sun. 7:30 am - Standby
Sun. 10:00 am - Carlie & Cy R., Cole W-J.

USHERS/Door Monitors:

Sat. 4:00 pm - John Novak, Norman Schoener
Sun. 7:30 am - Kaden Fikac, Michael Fikac, Matt Warwas
Sun. 10:00 am - Kaden Fikac, Michael Fikac, Matt Warwas

 Due to the early publication deadline of this bulletin, the weekly offertory count for the WEEKEND of December 14/15, 2019, will be printed in a future bulletin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Katrina Marbach, Hailey Vasquez, Lillian Kozielski, Patricia Pooley, Samuel William Bek, Matt Brown, Marvin Kucera, Milton Greeson, E. J. Bammert, Steve & Veronica Serrill, Michael Johnson, Bernita Korenek, Michael Krenek, John Correll, Cheryl Barker, Ruben & Frances Espino, Larry Vitek, Kathleen Edwards, Helen Schoener, Darren Mikulik, Tina Moya, Cole Ohrt, Ramona Perez, Jo Ann Hough, James Rung, Wade Shumbera, Frank & Gloria Wearden, Marjorie Anders, Joe Lara, Dolores Kilgore, Eunice Brosch, Frank Reyes, Jr., Carly Walker, Julius Belicek, Gerald Yankey, Ann Hagel, Rachel Wiesner, Piper Eloisa Lara, Kevin Quinn, Joel Nava, Bernice Drost, Clifford Moczygemba, Mae Jean Willemin

Question of the Week

How do I bear witness to my faith?
How can the world see that the Lord is with me?

Finding Christ in the World (12-week Ignatian Retreat)

Amor Meus Spirituality Center is offering a 12-week Virtual Ignatian Retreat, "Finding Christ in the World". Participants will meet virtually either on Wednesday mornings 9:30-10:30 am or Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm, beginning January 6, 2021 through March 24, 2021. The retreat moves through twelve themes for prayer. The persons making the retreat pray at home each day with a given scripture passage and meet for one hour each week to share. Brief notes help move the retreat into prayer.

The retreat is limited to no more than 10 persons. Call early to secure a space.

To register or to inquire about the retreat, call Sister Digna at (361) 485-0866.

NOT TOO MUCH

If you have too much to do,
with God's help you will find time to do it all.
—St. Peter Canisius

Looking for a Special Way to Rekindle the Spark in Your Marriage?



Choosing to L.O.V.E. is a retreat for married couples seeking to enrich their marital commitment, by focusing on what brought their covenant into existence—their marriage vows.

Father Gary Janak, along with several married couples, will hold this retreat for married couples at the Spiritual Renewal Center, on **February 12 - 14, 2021**. The cost for the retreat is \$275.00 per couple, which includes lodging, food and materials. We are now accepting applications for registration. Space is limited, so contact Jenny Vincent at jvincent@olvcathedral.org to ensure a spot.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart.

—Washington Irving



- EVENTS ALL AROUND -

The 10:00 am Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church continues to be live-streamed on Facebook.

- Parishioners should take their temperatures before coming to Mass and should not attend if exhibiting any signs of sickness.
- Parishioners attending Mass are asked to **wear a face mask, bandana, scarf, or other covering for the mouth and nose while on church grounds.**
- Please follow all civil orders: www.VictoriaTXOEM.org

Holiday Hours for the Parish Office

The Parish Office will close on December 24th and 25th in observance of Christmas.

Likewise, the office will close at noon on December 31st thru January 1st in observance of the New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A BLESSED NEW YEAR



The 2021 Our Lady of Lourdes Church calendars have arrived. Each parish family is entitled to a calendar. It is our hope that you display this beautiful calendar, depicting exquisite religious art, in a very prominent space in your home. May God bless you with many happy days during the upcoming year!

AN INVITATION TO ADVENT VESPERS

(Live streamed from Amor Meus Spirituality Center)

Despite the pandemic, Amor Meus Spirituality Center is still here for you. Please join us in a Virtual Advent Solemn Vespers at Incarnate Word Convent on the Sundays of Advent at 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm. You can join us by "liking" our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/iwbs.victoria> on Sunday December 20, 2020.

Solemn Vespers consists of chanting the psalms, singing the hymns and canticles with a brief talk based on the Advent Sunday Scripture readings.

Advent is a liturgical season of expectation, blending together a penitential spirit, preparation for the second and final coming of the Lord while joyfully getting ready to celebrate the birth of Christ. We joyfully invite you to celebrate these themes with us during the four Solemn Vespers.

CONTINUAL CHRISTMAS

A good conscience is a continual Christmas.

—Benjamin Franklin

Please be reminded that the weekly parish bulletin is downloaded on the website every week at www.lourdesvictoria.org. In the event someone does not use technology and is unable to obtain a bulletin from church, please call the church office at 575-3813 and efforts will be extended to assist.

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