



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



**NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME** - Registration forms online at [www.lourdesvictoria.org](http://www.lourdesvictoria.org)  
or email: [ollvic@lourdesvictoria.org](mailto:ollvic@lourdesvictoria.org)



*Blessed  
are you  
among  
women*

**December 23, 2018 • Fourth Sunday of Advent**

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth follows a strong tradition of women in their culture, to come together to support each other during pregnancy. Mary likely carried a shadow of scandal in her pregnancy, since it began before her marriage. Elizabeth, having carried her own burden of social disapproval after many years without children, sees only cause for celebration. Elizabeth sees beyond the social shame of Mary's situation to observe how God is working, and how Mary has accepted joining in this work.

Unlike Elizabeth's husband Zechariah, who thought it unbelievable that God could bring them a son, Mary believed the angel's message. Elizabeth honors Mary, in part, for simply being able to imagine that God could do this extraordinary thing through her. Perhaps God had been preparing Mary's heart throughout her young life, so that she could be fully receptive to God's specific call when the time was right. Mary opened herself to an uncertain future, trusting that God would accompany her in the joys and sorrows of being the mother of Jesus.

## PREGNANT WITH GOD

Advent, as a time of preparation for Christmas, echoes the pregnancy of Mary. Something is stirring within us, and we await the coming of Jesus. Although we the Church have observed Advent and Christmas many times, God is always offering something new to us. Like the angel asked Mary, God is always asking us to allow Christ to be born in and through us. Christ wishes to make himself at home within us, and increase his presence in our hearts.

Like pregnancy, at times God's activity within us can be disorienting and confusing. The story of Elizabeth and Mary reminds us that however uncertain we may be about what God is up to in our lives, we have cause to rejoice—because God is indeed good, and will truly bring blessing to us. And through letting Christ be born in us, God will bring blessing to the world.

Today's Readings: Mic 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Thursday 8:45 a.m. -12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

### Parish Staff

**Rev. Albert Yankey, Parochial Administrator**  
Sr. Valerie Janecka, IWBS - Parish Secretary  
Janet Weaver, Bookkeeper  
Martha Nichols, PCL/Safe Environment Coordinator  
Tammy Fikac, PCL  
Sr. Miriam Perez, MCSH - RCIA  
Elaine Mayer, Music Ministry

The Faith Formation Program of Our Lady of Lourdes is for the purpose of bringing the Person, the Message, and the Hope of Jesus to every individual and family in our faith community and beyond. We are committed to helping everyone know, love, and experience the great love God has for us.

### 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.  
Holy Day Masses: 5:30 p.m. Vigil;  
8:00 a.m. Morning of Holy Day  
(except Christmas)

### 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:

Every Wednesday @ 6:15 p.m.

**THIS WEEK**

**SUNDAY - December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:30 am - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family  
10:00 am - William Strelczyk †

**MONDAY - December 24**

8:00 am - Frank L. Kandler †  
4:00 pm (Vigil of Christmas) - Jolly/Gleinser Families

**TUESDAY - December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

12:00 am (Midnight Mass) - Wallace & Kathy Bianchi †  
10:00 am - John Karl Loest

**WEDNESDAY - December 26**

8:00 am - Amanda Novian †

**THURSDAY - December 27**

8:00 am - G. C. Myers †

**FRIDAY - December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents**

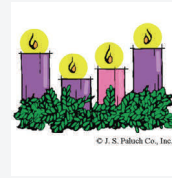
8:00 am - E. M. Myers †

**SATURDAY - December 29**

8:00 am - Charlie Tater †  
4:00 pm - John Anthony Perez †

**SUNDAY - December 30 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

7:30 am - Manuel Uy †  
10:00 am - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family



**SUNDAY - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**MONDAY - Vigil of Christmas**

**TUESDAY - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (Holy Day of obligation)**

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

**SUNDAY - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Collection/Envelope: *Weekly Stewardship*  
Annual Holy Family Parish Breakfast (after 7:30 am Mass)



Christmas Mass Ministers	4:00 PM Mass (Christmas Eve)	Mid-night Mass	10:00 AM Mass (Christmas Day)
Lector	Liz Lemke	David Post	Jeff Nunley
Eucharistic Ministers	Arleen & Pat Brennan, Joe Lara	L. Berger, J. Vecera, H. Suggs	A. Nunley, J. Loest, Standby

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79  
Tuesday: 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]  
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35  
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

**Question of the Week**

Do I, like Elizabeth and her baby, realize that I am in the presence of the Lord here today? Do I react with joy?

**NEXT WEEKEND - December 29/30, 2018**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**of HOLY COMMUNION and LECTORS**

Sat. 4:00 pm - Mary Herzogenrath, Stan Collins, Standby x1 Harvin Suggs  
Sun. 7:30 am - James Novak, Standby x2 Standby x1  
Sun. 10:00 am - Toni & Travis Schaar, Standby x1 Jeff Nunley

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

Sat. 4:00 pm - James Record, Standby x2  
Sun. 7:30 am - Karley & Katelyn J., Standby x1  
Sun. 10:00 am - Abby K., Joseph V., Cole W-J.

**USHERS:**

Sat. 4:00 pm - Richard Dominguez, Michael John, Frank Motal  
Sun. 7:30 am - Michael Fikac, Frank Marbach, James Novak  
Sun. 10:00 am - Alvin Schoener, Kenneth Spann, Standby x1

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Jacob Alvarado, Cody Arnold, Cheryl Barker, Michael Berger, Monsignor Gerard Cernoch, Cecilia Edwards, Frances Espino, Tom Goslin, Carson Halterman, Bill Hough, Monsignor Joseph Hybner, Monsignor Casey Jarzombek, Darren Mikulik, Steve Motal, Tina Moya, Cole Ohrt, Patty Pantel, Ramona Perez, James Rung, Wade Shumbera, Carly Walker, Jimmy Whitaker, MaeJean Willemmin, Gerald Yankey, Piper Eloisa Lara, Winston Wilson, Teresa Berger Dodson, Steve & Veronica Serrill, Mae Jean Willemmin, Johnnie Bomersbach, Dayle Lemke, David Dierlam



There is no **WEEKLY OFFERING** report due to early publishing deadlines during the holidays.

### Holiday Hours for the Parish Office

Beginning at noon on Friday, December 21 & thru December 26, the Parish Office will close in observance of Christmas.

Likewise, the office will close on December 31 thru January 2 in observance of the New Year.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS and A BLESSED NEW YEAR*



### Keep Christ in Your Christmas and Share Your Faith

Shop the Incarnate Word Gift Shop  
@ 1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Saturday 9:30 am to 3:30 pm



### Advent Angel Giving Tree

Please consider helping the needy in Victoria by supporting the Gabriel Project and/or the Perpetual Help Home. Take an ornament(s) from the tree next to the altar and return your contribution with the angel attached.



Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society will be upgrading the church **Christmas Decorations** starting with the pew markers and the window arrangements. If you would like to

make a donation, please put it in an envelope labeled "Christmas Decorations". It can be placed in the offering basket or taken to the church office. Thank You.

### MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

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Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish** is seeking a part-time/hourly **Church custodian**. Experience is preferred but not necessary. One must be instructed in the Safe Environment protocol as adapted by the Diocese of Victoria. For more information, please call the rectory at 575-3813 during business hours.

### - EVENTS ALL AROUND -

#### Solemn Advent Vespers

December 23, 2018 (5:00 pm - 5:45 pm)

Incarnate Word Convent Chapel ([1101 N. E. Water Street, Victoria](#))



Solemn Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church. This prayer focuses on praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day and offering praise to God. Vespers closes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

#### HOLY FAMILY ALTAR SOCIETY QUARTERLY BUNCO

The **Quarterly Bunco Party** hosted by the Altar Society of Holy Family Catholic Church will be Wednesday, **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, from 9:30am til noon. It will be held at **St Peter's Parish Hall**. A free lunch will be served, and game prizes & door prizes will be awarded. Please invite a friend and enjoy visiting with the ladies from our five local Catholic Churches.

For information and reservations contact Ginger Wagner at (361) 550-6444.

#### Come and See!

Single Catholic women 18 to 40 years of age are invited to come meet religious Sisters and examine their call to make Jesus, the Incarnate Word, known and loved. Explore your own call to follow Jesus through marriage, single state, or religious life on January 19-20, 2019 at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, Texas. Call (361) 575-7111 or email [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com). See [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org) for more information.



#### January 19, 2019—God Works with our Hands: Knitters, Crafters, Quilters; etc. Sister Roselle Haas, rc.

Reflectively working with your hands helps you discover the stillness within. Listen to God as you explore the spirituality of crafting. A box lunch is available. \$25.00 Suggested Donation or Love offering. Incarnate Word Convent [1101 N. E. Water Street Victoria, TX 361-575-7111](#). We invite those attending to join the Sisters for their 8:30 am Mass in the Convent Chapel.



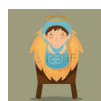
#### Knights of Columbus Council #1329 Chicken

BBQ will be held January 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am until sold out. Prices are \$8 per chicken or 3 for \$22. Spanish rice and beans are available for \$1.50 per pint. Proceeds benefit various council charity projects. Location is Airline at Ben Wilson. For info, call the hall Sunday morning at 575-9214. NOTE: There will also be a bake sale in conjunction with the BBQ. Lots of delectable items!



#### Nazareth Academy will hold it's annual Open

**House** for prospective students in PK3 - 8th grade on **Tuesday, Jan. 22, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm**. Information about the school's history and curriculum will be shared and tours will be given. Teachers, parents & students will be available to answer your questions. Registration information for the 2019-2020 school year will be provided, as well. We look forward to visiting with you and showing you what is special about Nazareth Academy. If you have questions, please email [dmichalski@nazarethacademy.org](mailto:dmichalski@nazarethacademy.org). or call 361.573.6651.



We rejoice in God's gift to us, not to be found under a tree, but in a manger and in our hearts.

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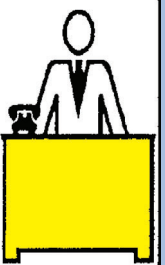
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