



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2015

Mass Intentions

Sunday

8:00 AM ✠ Ted Geraets
10:30 AM Living & Deceased of St. Joseph Parish

Monday

8:00 AM ✠ Brad Pinegar / Mick & Susan Donovan

Tuesday

8:00 AM ✠ Marie Schwieterman / M. Schwieterman

Wednesday

8:00 AM Janell Chubb Quaderer / P. Chubb

Thursday ~ Christmas Vigil

6:30 PM ✠ Mr. & Mrs. Consolacion Agabin
/ Nori Corpuz Family

9:00 PM Christmas During the Night

Universal Church

Friday ~ The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM Jason Scott (birthday) / Family

Saturday

5:00 PM ✠ Jerry Chubb / Patricia Chubb

Sunday

8:00 AM Living & Deceased of St. Joseph Parish
10:30 AM Al & Judy Urbanski / B. & M.L. Partridge

Please contact the office for Mass intentions for a deceased loved one or for a special intention.

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Kindly pray for our parish family and all those who are journeying in a special way with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Larry Bovat, Paul Bruechner, Patricia Caudill, Deacon Pat Clemens, Ginny Cook, Ed Dubin, Ed & Eleanor Feeney, **Harry Fletcher,** Jo Flynn, Antonieta Geronilla, **June Henderson, Dot Holman, Margie Kings,** Joe Lacoy, Cece LaManna, Germaine LaPlante, Mary Link, Monk Manning, Monroe Matheny, **Sara Manning,** Mary Miller, Bob & Margaret Nail, **Vera Patterson, Marvin Peterson,** Claire Patton, Marsha Porter, Sr. M. D. Richardson, **Babe Rohan, Anita Sanford,** Ruth Sas, Margaret Schaff, Kristie Toohey, **Rick Van Norden,** Bootsie Williams

~ Prayer Requests ~

Terry Danson – 251-961-2165 or
tsdanson@gmail.com

This Week's Schedule



Sunday 9-10 AM "Coffee with the Padre"
Monday 8:30 AM Rosary Cenacle – IM Hall
Monday 5:00 PM Advent Penance Service
Tuesday 9:00 AM Children's Vigil Mass Practice
Tues./Wed. 9:00 AM Church Christmas Decorating
Wed. 10:30 AM Adult Christmas Practice
Sunday 11:00 AM 50+ Wedding Anniv. Reception
(see below)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND

5 PM = 108 8 AM = 63 10:30 AM = 82 Total = 253

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory gift for December 13 = \$2,180.00

Maintenance = \$310.00

Retired Religious = \$833.00

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Dec. 24 – Christmas Vigil Mass - 6:30 PM

Prelude: 6 PM - Children Program

Christmas Night Mass - 9 PM

Prelude: 8:30 PM - Adult Choir

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass - 9 AM

Prelude: 8:45 AM - Jill Byerly &

Miles Doolittle

Jan. 1, 2016 – New Year's Mass - 8 AM, 7 PM
(Holy Day of Obligation)

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – December 27

We would like to congratulate all those who have been married 50 years or more at the 10:30 AM Mass. A reception will follow in Immaculate Mary Hall. Everyone is invited.



ADULT SINGERS ARE NEEDED for our

9:00 PM **Christmas Night Mass.** All

children are invited to participate

in our **6:30 PM Vigil Mass** program.

If you are ill or know someone who is ill, due to have surgery, or is in the hospital and would like a visit from the pastor, please call the rectory.

Gospel Reflections

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.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December, were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the Church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous Church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

May God bless you and your loved ones,
and may each of you have a merry and holy Christmas.
Sincerely in the Lord,
Father Maria



A BIG THANK YOU and APPRECIATION

to all who participated and helped in any way to make our Christmas Dinner Party such a joyful event — especially the dancers and carolers!



Christmas Flowers - Please fill out an envelope located in the pews and place it in the offertory collection. Thank you for all you do to help beautify our church.



"Coffee with the Padre" – Thank you to the Parish Council for hosting this month. Next month the CCD Class will be our host. If you would like to help any of the host groups, please let us know by signing the schedule on the table in the vestibule or calling the office. All are invited to join us for fellowship every 1st and 3rd Sunday in the Parish Hall.

KEEPSAKE PARISH COOKBOOK REMINDER ~ We will be collecting recipes until December 31. Recipe sheets are available on the table in the vestibule. Please fill one out for each recipe and return them in the tray provided. **We need at least 50 participants** to have cookbooks printed. For more information, please call Harriet at 251-961-1611.

Catholic Social Service Food Pantry

December is our month to provide nonperishable food for the CSS food pantry in Robertsdale. Please place items in the container provided in the vestibule. You may also bring them to the Parish Hall and put them in the blue container in the classroom. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please make checks payable to CSS. For more information, call Sally McKinney at 961-2620.

The Old Country Philosopher Sez - Bob Nail

Don't cause your brother to falter—
That results in him to stray.
Woe be to him at judgment,
For with his soul he'll pay.

NOTICE: The rooms, auditorium and kitchen in Immaculate Mary Hall are available for rent. For more information, please contact the office.

First Friday Memorial Mass Association

Our Loved Ones – Bob & Margaret Nail

Living & Deceased Kaiser, Klein & Murphy Families

Living & Deceased Scott & Weiss Families

Living & Deceased Bush, Alvarez & McAleer Families

Living & Deceased Mullek & McCandless Families

Living & Deceased Patton & Norton Families

Living & Deceased Shields & Self Families

Living & Deceased Cretaro Family

✠ James E. Link

✠ Deacon John

Cartaro

✠ Anita Warriner

✠ Joseph LaManna

✠ Doris Mullek

Mignon Kilday

Living & Deceased Kilday Family

Living & Deceased Chubb & Burns Families

Living & Deceased Fehn Family

Living & Deceased Lacoy & Clancy Families

Living & Deceased Kearns & Paterson Families

Living & Deceased Altar Society Members

For the Baptized Who Do Not Practice Their Faith

The Holy Souls in Purgatory