



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS CHURCH

Serving God's People and building His Kingdom since 1891

100 NORTH BRAZOS STREET PO BOX 608 GRANGER, TEXAS 76530

Email: sscmchurch@gmail.com Website: www.sscmchurch.org

Diocese of Austin~ www.austindiocese.org

SSCM Parish Office: 104 N. Brazos Street Phone & Fax: (512) 859-2223

Office Hours: Tuesday -Friday: 9AM-1 PM (After hours by appointment)

Parish Hall: 500 West Davilla Street (512)859-2236 sscmhall@gmail.com

Religious Education: Coordinator: Virginia Loza Lee 512-859-2634 sscmre@gmail.com

Youth Ministers: Wendy & Mark White hafa_adai65@hotmail.com

Bible Studies: Mondays 8:30AM; 1st Saturdays 8:30AM (FMI: Virginia Lee)

Holy Rosary: 30 minutes before every Holy Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5:15-5:45PM/Thursday 4:30-5:30PM during Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 4:00-5:45 PM concluding with Benediction

Healing Mass: First Thursday of every month

Baptism: Class Required/Darve Horak 512-859-2646 or darve.horak@gmail.com

Marriage: Meet with Pastor six months in advance to set date.

Marriage Prep required/Darve & Karen Horak 512-859-2646 or darve.horak@gmail.com

Quinceanera: Religious Education Attendance and Instruction required.

Pastor: Very Rev. Chris Ferrer

(512)859-2224-Rectory

pastorsscmchurch@gmail.com

Deacon: John Thornton

(512)627-1815-Cell

Executive Assistant: Joanne Selucky

Pastoral Council: Deborah Hensel

Finance Council: Chris Nemeec

Holy Cross Cemetery: Cecilia Stefek

Calvary Cemetery: James Cervenka

Epiphany of the Lord—January 4, 2015

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| Saturday Jan. 3 | 8:00AM | Communion Service |
| | 6:00PM | Living and deceased members of SSCM Parish |
| Sunday Jan. 4 | 10:00 AM | †Joe & Viola Sevcik; † Vince Marek; †Johnny P. Martinka; † George, Frank & Annie Vrana |
| Tuesday Jan. 6 | 8:00AM | † Frank Mikulencak, Jr.; † August Svehlak, Jr. |
| Wed Jan. 7 | 6:00PM | † Evelyn Pekar |
| Thurs Jan. 8 | 6:00PM | † Fred Strmiska |
| Friday Jan. 9 | 8:00AM | † Agnes Stojanik |
| Saturday Jan. 10 | 6:00PM | †Robert Jezisek; † Helen 'Licka' Muyres; † Rudolph & Hattie Polasek, Alphonse Polasek |
| Sunday Jan. 11 | 10:00 AM | Living and deceased members of SSCM Parish |

We pray for Healing: Alice Taisler, Joseph Campos, Albina Teltow, Mary Motloch, J.D. Shirocky, Julie Kaderka, Bryce Tubbs, Annie Vanek, Liz Vrana, Edith Kurtin, Isabel Luna.

Offering: Sunday: \$ 4,139.00 Children: \$54.43 Christmas: \$5,551.00 Holy Family: \$1,018.00 Thank you!

Liturgical Ministers January 10-11

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| Saturday 6PM | Lector: Ronnie Steffek | EMHC: George & Kate Strmiska, Mark White, Henrietta Hajda |
| | Music: Volunteer | Servers: Colton & Colby Marek |
| Sunday 10AM | Lector: Patsy Polasek | EMHC: Griselda Steglich, Elena Castro, Baldo & Rosa Degollado |
| | Music: Kathy Janke | Servers: Brian, Emily, Mary Unnasch |

EMHC Route: Carolyn Kaderka, Angie Pavelka, John Pavelka, Rosanne Naizer

Religious Articles Store: 6PM -Janice Novak 10AM – Bernice Jezisek

Granger Food Pantry collection begins this week. Next distribution is January 15 12PM -4:30PM. January Pantry needs are: Cereal, pastas, soups, canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, ketchup, mustard, flour, sugar, dessert items, breakfast items especially hot cereals for the winter months such as cream of wheat and oatmeal, toiletry items (toilet paper; paper towels; shampoo; soaps and detergent)or **money**.

Calendar of Events

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| Sunday | Jan. 4 | : 11:30AM KJT hamburgers |
| Monday | Jan. 5 | : 7PM KC meeting |
| Tuesday | Jan. 6 | : 5PM Bingo Kitchen |
| Wednesday | Jan. 7 | : 6:30PM RE Teacher and Aide Christmas Dinner |
| Sunday | Jan. 11 | : 11AM Youth Ministry hamburgers |

Parish

Welcome and Congratulations to Amanda Huf, Jesse Frank, Matt Edwards, Sara Holly, and Tracie Hohman, who entered the Catholic faith this weekend. May the Lord bless them as they begin this new and wonderful journey in their lives of faith.

Tithing Envelopes Since April 1 we are no longer a Sister Parish with Holy Trinity of Corn Hill. Out of consideration to them please do not use your SSCM Envelopes while attending their Masses. We appreciate your generous support of our parish and request that you simply bring your offering to the next Mass you attend in Granger.

Religious Education & Youth Ministry

Children RCIA Meeting: Does your child (over the age of 2nd grade) need sacraments? We will begin a new sacramental prep class at the end of January. Please attend a meeting on January 14 after Religious Education in the 10th & 11th grade room to discuss what will be required for Sacramental preparation. For more information email the DRE at sscmre@gmail.com or call 512-859-2634. If your child is younger than second grade and needs Baptism, please contact the DRE.

Mexican Dinner Raffle Prizes Needed: Did you receive a Christmas gift you already have or just can't use? Religious Education would love to have it and use it for their March 1 raffle. We would like to raffle off different gift basket, along with a few bigger prizes, so no item is too large or small. If you would like to make a donation, please email sscmre@gmail.com or call 512-859-2634. Thank you for your generosity.

Area Events

Please join Our Lady of the Angels Maternity Shelter as we celebrate our 12th Annual Benefit Banquet Friday, January 23, 2015 at the Bell County Expo Center. This year's Banquet will feature Reverend Bruce Nieli, CSP, Paulist Evangelist Missionary. Social and Bucket Raffle 6-7 pm followed by a Dinner and Program 7:15-9 pm. Tickets are \$50.00/person or \$375.00/table of 8. Contact St. Luke Parish 254-773-1561. All proceeds will be used for the sole purpose of operating and maintaining the shelter.

Epiphany House Blessing

Using blessed chalk, mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways to your home. Place a cross in between each of the letters. It should look something like this. 20+C+M+B+15

After completing the above markings, pray the following prayer:

"May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord of all people forever and ever. Amen."

The legendary names of the three Magi are: *Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar*. (KMB in Czech) The initials C-M-B also stand for the Latin words "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means: *"May Christ bless this dwelling."*

The markings over the doors should be left all year round as a sign that yours is a Christian home.

Message from Our Pastor

Today's gospel shows through many symbols how Jesus was understood by the early Church to be God-sent, divine, priestly, and prophetic, and to be meant for the salvation for Jews and all Gentiles. The Christ-child becomes the ultimate gift of the Creator God to his creation, a gift "unwrapped" at the Epiphany ("revelation"). Humankind (the magi) responds with its own gifts in thanksgiving and worship.

EXEGESIS:

This gospel reading sparkles with religious symbolism through which it is best understood. "The east" in Jewish thought represented mystery and sometimes divinity; hence the magi are men of mystery sent by God. In reality, they probably were Jewish astronomy scholars living in Persia (Iran, Iran), who were descendants of the Jews exiled there centuries earlier. Hence they symbolize both Jews and Gentiles (universal salvation) for whom the Messiah-King is being born. The unusual star, which also symbolizes divinity, guides them to Israel. They exercise common sense in asking final directions to the newborn child. Jesus' effect upon the political establishment begins, as Jewish King Herod senses that the child will be a threat to his rule, and he chooses to deal privately with the magi; later he will seek the death of the infant Jesus.

The star (divine guidance) somehow leads the wise men to the Holy Family's dwelling place (Jesus is now weeks or months old). (The "star" could have been a bright and moving convergence of two or three planets, known by astronomers today to have occurred back then.) The magi, of course, were told by the Jerusalem scholars that Bethlehem was the likely place of the Messiah's birth because of the association of that village with the great King David of lore. Then the magi in Bethlehem would have been informed by locals about the one and only birth in the small town at that time and where to find the Holy Family.

The magi are not actually numbered as three in the gospels, but they offer three gifts. Gold symbolizes royalty and divinity (Jesus as king-messiah); frankincense is the perfumed incense used by Jewish priests in the Temple rituals (Jesus as high priest); and myrrh usually was used to anoint the ill and the dead (Jesus as prophet because all the great prophets eventually suffer martyrdom).