

DECEMBER 23, 2018 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time

Sunday, Dec 23, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cherish the future

The future is a land to which we're all headed, and sooner than we imagine. You'd think we'd treat the future a little better, considering how much time we hope to spend there. One way to be kinder to our future is to invest very, very heavily in our children. Certainly our actual, literal offspring deserve every benefit we can provide, including especially our love and protection. The world's children could use the same advantages: homes that are stable and secure, proper nutrition, health care and education, safety from violence. What are you investing in the future?
TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (12).* "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Monday, Dec 24, 2018

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Peace is within our reach

The promise of peace is surely the greatest of all God's rewards. For a human race caught up in the throes of fear and competition year in and year out, the idea that there is a path toward peace is good news indeed. As Christians we believe Jesus was sent to us by God for the specific purpose of showing us the way of peace. Jesus is not only the Prince of Peace, he is peace itself. Embrace Jesus and you embrace peace. Then, as promised, you will be filled with a sense of wholeness, harmony, healing, and hope. What more is there to proclaim but hallelujah!
TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200).* "The dawn from on high shall break upon us, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Tuesday, Dec 25, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Rejoice, I say, rejoice!

Saint Augustine said that "God became human so that humans might become God." It's an amazing statement, when you think about it—and today's a pretty good day to do so! Both sides of the equation are astonishing, actually. First, the idea that the immortal, eternal, boundless God would willingly take on the limits, sorrows, and vulnerability of a human infant. And then, that by doing so, God invites limited and vulnerable humans like us to share in God's immortal and eternal nature. Could there

be a greater Christmas gift? A better reason to rejoice? Merry Christmas!
TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16).* "To those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God."

Wednesday, Dec 26, 2018

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

The good with the bad

It's the day after Christmas, and we're still cleaning up, wearing our new sweaters, and working on the leftovers. Why remember the first martyr—someone stoned to death? But for more than 1,500 years the church has celebrated this feast at this time. Before his death, Stephen, as Acts of the Apostles tells us, was a deacon (the first in that category, too) and was responsible for feeding the poor. He also worked a few miracles and debated with opponents of the early Christian community—one particularly nasty dispute got him killed. As the day-after-Christmas saint, Stephen reminds you that, in the midst of celebrating the birth of Jesus, service and sacrifice continue to be part of calling yourself a Christian.
TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696).* "Brother will betray brother to death, and you will be hated by all because of my name."

Thursday, Dec 27, 2018

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

The disciple Jesus loves

While it's usually assumed that the author of the Gospel of John is also the "beloved disciple" referred to in that gospel, nowhere is this identification explicitly made. Some scholars think this ambiguity means we are intended to see ourselves as the beloved disciple. Each one of us is the "disciple whom Jesus loved." In our faith lives, so much works itself out if we can really feel God's love for us, if we can feel our absolute value in the eyes of God and know in our hearts we are forgiven. Only then can we love and forgive others.
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697).* "The other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed."

Friday, Dec 28, 2018

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Kids don't ride free

Each day a great number of innocent people—many of them children—suffer and die because of war, disease, and

poverty. In our own country, school and gang violence, child predators, and other lethal forces threaten the lives of our young ones. The "holy innocents"—those King Herod ordered murdered in his vain hunt for the infant Jesus—are also all those who suffer from the violence humans inflict on one another and the planet. All destructiveness begins in the human heart when people do harm out of fear or selfishness. This year, this Christmas season, tell yourself that hate and neglect will stop with you.
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698).* "Herod . . . was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were 2 years old or under."

Saturday, Dec 29, 2018

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

Walk the walk

Thomas Becket began his career by serving in the household of Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury. He performed his duties so well that he was soon named archdeacon. King Henry II appointed him chancellor of England and later, after Theobald's death, archbishop. Thomas was not ordained at the time. After his ordination, he resigned as chancellor and worked to uphold the separation of church and crown, much to the surprise and anger of the king, who eventually encouraged Becket's murder. Thomas Becket excelled at everything he did, especially discipleship. He lived and died a true servant of God. Follow in his footsteps.
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202).* "Whoever says, 'I abide in him,' ought to walk just as he walked."

Next Sunday

Sunday, Dec 30, 2018

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Resume the conversation

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (17).* "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Dec. 22-23, Fourth Sunday of Advent
Especially appropriate for these days of suffering in our nation is the responsorial psalm for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved" (cf. Psalm 80). In a world that is becoming increasingly secular, not only must we invoke the remembrances of the mighty deeds of God as we implore his intervention to save the world, but also must we remember to bring about the plan of salvation through the work of our own hands. Let us be Christ for one another.

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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 5:30PM

For the repose of the soul of Deitra Darden Williams, requested by Barbara Scott

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 8:00AM

For the repose of the souls of Esther Usiade and Joseph Adeduro, Mary Oluyede, Adebimpe Barmmeke, Oluwaseun and Adekunle Oyewole, Tolulope Alegbeley-Toye, Omobolaji Salem and Tife Bodede, requested by Abiola Asojo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 10:00AM

For the repose of the souls of Margaret Mullen and Mauritia Naletam by requested by The Mullen

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018

For the repose of the souls of, James E. and Eva Marie, James E. Mosby ,III, Richard Mosby, Vercias Mae Cay and Clarence Cay, requested by Bernadette Cay

TUESDAY, December 25, 2018

For the repose of the souls Dolores and Billy Fontenette, Lonnie Colson, Jr., Gregory Garrett, DeShawna Washington-Nelson, Nicholas Sanders and Lisa Jennings, requested by Troy and Mary Anthony

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY DECEMBER 23, 2018

Mass 8:00AM
Rosary 9:30AM
Mass 10:00AM

Monday Dec 24, 2018

Carolling by Holy Cross Choir 11:30PM

Tuesday Dec 25, 2018

Mid-Night Mass 12:01AM
Christmas Day Mass 10:00AM

Weekend December 15/16, 2018

ATTENDANCE

VIGIL MASS 29

SUNDAY

8:00 am 48

10:00 am 245

Weekend December 15/16, 2018

OFFERTORY	\$4570.00
Children	53.00
E-GIVING	1,935.23
SVDP (E-GIVING)	110.00
SVDP	625.00
Feast of Holy family	50.00
Immaculate Concept	50.00
Mary Wood	60.00
MSP	15.00
Gift store	240.00

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas Lunch is today Sunday, December 23, 2018, 1:30PM; at Pappadeaux's(Research Blvd location), cost \$45.00 per person, includes drink and dessert, cash bar is available. See insert in bulletin, for your choice of menu Entrée, But most importantly! JOIN US TODAY

CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

Everyone is called upon to give a befitting Christmas donation towards the completion of the Family Life Center Building. Please make FLC your priority this Christmas.

DCYC

The Holy Cross Youth Group will be attending the 2019 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference in Waco Texas on February 1-3. This year's conference theme is "To the Heights" and is set to be one to remember. The price for the entire weekend is \$100.00; this includes, DCYC registration, T-shirt, goodie bag, hotel, transportation, and food. Our hope is for all our youth to experience this amazing event filled with dynamic speakers, and worship with thousands of teens across our diocese. The deadline for registration is **December 30, 2018**. If you would like to make a donation or sponsor a youth, please see Felicia McClain, or Jennifer Brooks. Thank you in advance for your support, God loves a cheerful giver.

TRAVELING CHALICE

Thank you to these families who have received the Traveling Chalice into their homes and prayed for vocations for one week: The Michel Ukanda Family, Alice and Ron Scharfe, Tina and Tony Frank, Debbie Ruiz, and The Patrick Onyenaka Family, The Agwuncha Family, Marie Thompson, Ed and Elina Mullen, Johnnie and Dean Dorsey, and Tammie Javey. This Sunday, the Traveling Chalice will be returned by Tammi Javey and received by JoAnn Meadows.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Social Justice Ministry invites you to attend our next Courageous Conversation at 6:30pm on Monday, January 7th. Among topics of discussion will be the recent USCCB (US Conference of Catholic Bishops) pastoral letter against racism: "Open wide your hearts."

IGBO MASS JANUARY 27, 2019 Next IGBO Mass, is Sunday, January 27, 2019, 1:30pm. Help spread the news. All Catholics are welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY: December 24/25, 2018, 11:30PM caroling by Holy Cross Choir, 12:01AM Midnight Mass.

TUESDAY: December 25, 2018, Mass 10:00AM

TUESDAY: January 1, 2019, Mass 10:00AM

The church office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. If you are in need of a Priest, please call the church office, the phones will be monitored during the holiday.

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH

We welcome Father Pascal Kumanda of Cross Catholic Outreach, will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the Priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.



CONSIDER HOLY CROSS IN YOUR WILL
Call the Church Office 512 472 3741