

STEWARDSHIP

December 3rd	\$MGW	Immaculate Conception.....	\$269
December 10th.....	\$2,587	Retired Clergy & Priest Fund.....	\$583
December 17th.....	\$1,111	St. Vincent De Paul.....	\$424

Bobcat Catholics like you provide more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to Christ. Contact a staff member anytime to join our mission at 512-392-5925 or giving@txstatecatholic.org



Mary, Mother of God

While much of the world marks the new beginning of the calendar year, the Church commemorates the great solemnity of the Mother of God. This celebration highlights the pivotal truth of the Church's Faith- that God has, in Jesus Christ, accepted a human nature, chosen to be born into this world as we have all been born into this world, and has lived a real, human life. How God accepted human nature is an absolute mystery. While it can be appreciated and believed, it can never be fully explained.

That the Blessed Virgin Mary is called Mother of God is not pious boilerplate, a kind of title by which we honor the woman who is the mother of Jesus Christ. To testify that the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of God is simultaneously a statement about her and a statement about Christ.

On the one hand, it highlights the absolutely singular and unique identity and mission of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is human, not divine. She is like us, but there is something so radically different about her identity and mission that while we can love her, we cannot fully understand her. She is a mystery. So it is with her Divine Son. When we identify the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God, the emphasis is primarily about Christ. Mary being referred to as the Mother of God tells us that Jesus Christ is God and was always God. Christ did not "turn into" God. And calling Christ God is not just some kind of projection by which we make Jesus of Nazareth someone very important. That Jesus is really and truly is God is a fact. God accepting a human nature in Christ and living a real, human life is not just a story we tell that is all symbol, myth and legend - it is all true and it really happened. Now, you might be waiting at this point for the "lesson"- a point of contact between the testimony I have given and

your experience. But in this case, if there is a lesson, it is that God will always exceed human expectations and will do so in ways that are absolutely extravagant. What God has done and will do will not fit neatly into our categories of understanding, nor will he be bound by what we think he should do. What God will deliver to us are mysteries, and it is through these mysteries that we will be able to see and, in our own limited way, understand who God is and what he asks of us. But what is given to us is not a way of figuring God out. The Incarnation of God in Christ is the singular and privileged way by which God reveals himself to the world. We see in Christ with the greatest clarity possible who God is and what he is all about. What we see in Christ is a mystery. And that is the lesson: God has, in Christ, accepted a human nature and lived a real human life. It is this mysterious revelation that the Church, like Christ's Mother, the Mother of God, contemplates and treasures.

from Fr. Steve Grunow

BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!



OFFICE SCHEDULE

Fr. Craig will be OUT of the OFFICE Mon., Jan. 8th– Fri., Jan. 12th

The Office and the Building will be OPEN that week.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 31– Feast of the Holy Family, Pro-Life activities for the Diocese of Austin

January 21– St. Vincent De Paul

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the interest of our mission in service to the student population, there are opportunities for students to volunteer in local works of charity while learning from the experience of the permanent community members. Help the poor, homebound and sick through connections with St. Vincent De Paul, Meals on Wheels, etc. You may contact:

Lena Sanders
Lns@centurytel.net or
 512-757-2601 or
 Charlene Viscardi
 512-749-0138

Next Bulletin will be published February 4th

VISITING PRIESTS

Sun., Jan. 7th
 Fr. Rich Andre, Paulist
 Vocations Director -10:00am &

Fr. Brian Phillips, Associate
 at St. Anthony-7:30pm Mass

WOW (Women of Wisdom)
 Sunday 11:30am
 in the Library
January 7th

PASTORAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC)

Meet Sunday 11:30am
 in the Library all community members are welcomed!
January 14th

MATCHING GIFT COLLECTION

Thank you to all those who participated in our Matching Gift collection this month. We did not quite meet our desired goal but we DID raise a total of \$58,551.40! With this we can continue our mission of reaching every student on campus!

MLK DAY

Monday, January 15th The office will be closed. Building will be open and we will have Confessions and Mass.

CHRISTMAS BREAK SCHEDULE

Except for Masses listed below, the office and the building will be closed from Thu., Dec. 21st- Sun., Jan. 14th

Masses during that time:

Sun. Dec. 24 10:00am
(Sunday Mass)

Sun. Dec. 24 7:30pm
(Christmas Eve)

Mon. Dec. 25 10:00am
(Christmas Day)
(Rosary 9:30am)

Sun. Dec. 31 10:00am & 7:30pm

Mon. Jan 1 10:00am
(Mary, Mother of God)
(Rosary 9:30am)

Sun. Jan. 7 10:00am & 7:30pm

Sun. Jan. 14 10:00am, 5:00pm & 7:30pm

TEXAS CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE DAY

Sat., Jan. 27. 10am Mass celebrated by Bishop Joe Vásquez at San José Parish. 10:30am Mass celebrated by Bishop Daniel Garcia at St. Louis Parish. The Divine Mercy Chaplet we be previous to each Mass. The March and Rally will follow downtown Austin. Visit www.austindiocese.org/texas-catholic-pro-life-day.