

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the second Sunday of advent and light the second candle that symbolize Peace, it reminds us of what we would be celebrating during this week: the Advent Parish Mission, the feast of Immaculate Conception and the Advent Penance Service. All of these spiritual activities are in anticipation of the peace of Christ in our heart. The message of the Scripture readings for the 2nd Sunday of Advent are quite challenging: prepare for the coming of the Lord by conversion of heart and by remembering the promises of God. The prophetic call to conversion is an urgent one. We are to make ready for the Lord's coming (advent) not just by shopping for gifts for friends and loved ones or by decorating our homes with Advent wreaths and Christmas trees, but by opening our hearts to the Word of God. This presumes on our part a deep desire to change our ways so that our behavior begins to reflect that of true disciples of Jesus.

The moderator for the English Parish Mission; Fr. James Misko has this message for us:

“A Fact...the Problem that arises from this Fact...and a Solution. *The Fact:* we don't like waiting for anything. It's just part of our human condition. *The Problem:* we are driven by immediate gratification. We see it. We make the judgment that we want it and we go and get it. Then, when we've gotten it, we enjoy it for a bit and then move on to our next conquest and repeat the cycle helplessly over and over and over again. *The Solution:* standing directly in the face of this almost uncontrollable human reality is Advent and the truth that Advent invites us to just the opposite, waiting.”

Please join us on Sunday 4th and Monday 5th for Spanish Parish Mission led by Fr. Uche Andeh Pastor of St. Margaret Giddings, Texas. While on Tuesday December 6 and Wednesday December 7 will be the English Advent mission, led by Fr. James Misko, pastor of St. Louis King of France in Austin. Fr. Andeh and Fr. Misko will celebrate Mass each evening at 6 PM in which a longer, more contemplative homily on the Advent message will guide us through the four Sundays of this holy season, preparing us for the most incredible Christmas gift ever given: *the God of history coming into our time and space to make holy the human experience.*

Our Parish Advent Penance Service is on Friday, December 9th at 7:00PM. We will have several Priests to hear confessions in both English and Spanish. Please avail yourself of this opportunity during this time of Advent, when we wait in hope for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ.

Have a Blessed Weekend

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP

2do Domingo de Adviento

El Salmo de Hoy es "Floreceará en sus días la justicia, y la plenitud de la paz para siempre".
¿Cómo estamos trabajando para la justicia y la paz hoy?

2nd Sunday of Advent

Today's Psalm is "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever." How are we working towards justice and peace today?

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

9:30-1 pm Breakfast with St. Nicholas
 10 am First Reconciliation Class
 1-4 pm Confirmation Class
 6 pm Spanish Parish Mission Mass
 7 pm Spanish Parish Mission

MONDAY DECEMBER 5

6 pm Spanish Parish Mission Mass
 7 pm Spanish Parish Mission

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6

6 pm Parish Mission Mass
 7 pm Parish Mission

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7

6 pm Parish Mission Mass
 7 pm Parish Mission
 No Faith Formation

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8

8:30 Immaculate Conception Mass
 7 pm Bilingual Mass
 Office Close

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

7 pm Penance Service

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

10 am Jayleen Garcia Baptism
 1-6 Confirmation Retreat (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Second Collection Retired Clergy & Religious

Monetary Stewardship

Collection Last Week:

Regular: \$3785.00
Online: \$ 425.86
Total \$ 4210.86

December 10-11

Second Collection Retired Clergy & Religious

... remembering the words of the Lord who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

Building for Our Lord Campaign

Construyendo Para Nuestro Senior

Total Pledge To Date:
\$1,421,876.00

Amount Collected To Date:
\$810,000.00

Pledges to be Redeemed:
\$526,020.00

Paid Diocese Months of October 31
\$41,998.00

Loan Balance to Date:
\$591,532.00

Original Loan Total
\$800,000.00

SAVE THE DATE • 2016 •

2016

Parish Mission

December 4-5, 2016
 Spanish Mission
 with Fr. Uche Andeh

December 6-7, 2016
 English Mission
 with Fr. James Misko
All Parish Missions
Begin with Mass at 6 PM

Mass Intentions

Sat.	Dec 3	5:30 pm	Leonard Lazarte +
Sun.	Dec 4	9:00 am 11:00 am	Leonard Lazarte + Fam Ortiz / Ashley Ortiz (Birthday)
Mon.	Dec 5		
Tues.	Dec 6	6:00 pm	Poor Souls
Wed.	Dec 7	8:30 am	Janice Piatek +
Thurs	Dec 8	8:30 am	Rowan Windham
Fri	Dec 9	12:00 pm	Gloria Guillen +
Sat	Dec 10	5:30 pm	Clarence Emtrop +
Sun	Dec 11	9:00 am 11:00 am	Janice Piatek + Guadalupe Loma (Birthday)

Ministry Schedule for December 10-11, 2016

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	M Reed O Moreno	J Young J McGregor	J Morin J Morin J LaCanne	Jennifer Mc. Tamara A T Schatte B Yanez
9:00 AM	E McBryde C Hudgens	C Carlson S Green I Collazo D Arias	H Cruz F Vargas L Chanz	Deacon Ernie M Riley K Cross A Krause C Brown
11:00 AM	Y Ortiz M Ramos	S Arias I Ramirez A Ortiz L Peralta M Baltazar N Baltazar	Diana A D Cortes E Loma	E Olalde R Urquiza M de la Hoya S Villarreal L Loma

Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Sunday December 4 from 9:30-1 pm



Please join us in the Parish Hall for a special Breakfast, includes pancakes, sausage, coffee/juice, and pastries. There will also be crafts, photos with St. Nicholas and holiday gifts from the "Amazing Grace" gift store. Proceeds will benefit the St. Stephen Catholic Youth Group.

Faith Formation

There will be **NO** Faith Formation classes on Wednesday, **December 7**. All families are encouraged to participate in the parish mission that week.

Office Closed

The Office will be Closed on Thursday December 8 in observance Immaculate Conception

The Giving Tree

Please be sure that The Giving Tree gifts are returned unwrapped by Sunday, December 4



St. Stephen Women's Society

Is having their **Membership Drive** for 2017 on Sunday December 4th at All Masses. Please respond with the envelope you will be given before Mass.

SSWS Sponsored **Christmas Dinner** on December 15 at the Inn of Salado \$20 per person. It is an opportunity to sit down and enjoy food, fellowship music in a Christmas atmosphere. Please RSVP to Dorothy Dentry 254-760-2456 or ddentry13@gmail.com deadline by December 8th

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

DECEMBER 9 2016

All Penance Services Start at 7:00 pm