

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH
DECEMBER 18TH—24TH

Saturday & Sunday, December 16th & 17th

Giving Tree Gifts due by noon on Sunday

Sunday, December 17th

Faith Formation Christmas Party—10:15 AM (2)

High School "GIFT" Program—5:45 (3)

Monday, December 18th

K of C Blood Drive—1 to 7 PM (2)

Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions - 5 to 8 PM

Benediction—7:50 PM

Tuesday, December 19th

Gospel Faith Sharing—11 AM (3)

Legend

Church (1) Padua Hall (2)
Religious Education (3) Ewald Center (4)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 18TH—25TH

Monday: Veronica Disney
r/b Gracie Rymer

Tuesday: Lauren D'Errico
r/b Weilmuenster Family

Wednesday: James Coker
r/b Barbara Coker

Thursday: Luke & Allison Garrison (L)
r/b Meg Ims

Friday: Lou Decolator
r/b Bob & Delores Bryant

Saturday: Albert & Kit Verhofstadt (L)
r/b Meg Ims
Ernest Arhar
r/b Judy Foist

Sunday: 8:15 —Paul Baxter
r/b Gerry & Al Size
11:15—Parishioners

Christmas Eve:
4:30—Joseph Cecil
r/b Dottie Cecil
6:30—Barbara & James Saunders
r/b James & Diana Johnson
12 Midnight—Parishioners

Christmas Day:
10:00—Alex Roper

"AND I WILL GIVE THEM REST"

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph Tayman,
Eileen Blaine and all deceased members and
their families.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please pray for all members of our parish serving
our country both here and overseas.

2018 Offertory Envelopes are available for
pick-up outside of Padua Hall.

Please call the office if you did not receive
envelopes and would like to.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

The Holy Trifecta

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

Back in the 80's, I was sent to Kentucky, by Cardinal Hickey to study Philosophy. That great common wealth is usually known for two things; horse racing and good bourbon. I never went to the Kentucky Derby because it was the first Saturday in May (a holy day of obligation for Kentuckian's), because we always had final exams. So, I never won the trifecta. In horse racing if you pick the horses that win, place and show i.e., pick the first, second and third place horses in that order, you hit the jackpot!

Today, which is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I write on three topics. To me this is a Holy Trifecta, the winnings are Eternal Treasures!

First, I thought that Santa Claus made an early stop here at St. Anthony's the other day because of the number of presents that are in the parish center. I don't think I was that Good. "They are not for you Father" someone shouted. "They are for the less fortunate." And that person was so right. The outpouring of goodness and generosity that the people of our parish show when there is a great need is awesome. This is the fruit of the parish Giving Tree. We are receiving 40 presents for the children of Birthright, 138 gifts for the children of St. Bernadine (one of our archdiocesan parishes) and 140 gifts to be distributed by the good Ladies of Charity. That comes to 292 gifts to make Christmas a little brighter for the less fortunate. I would like to personally thank all those who went out of their way to get a gift for a child.

Second of the trifecta list is the beautiful celebration we have today of the Patroness of the Americas; Our Lady of Guadalupe. Starting on December 9th, 1531 and continuing for a few days after that, the blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a recently converted Aztec Indian. She told him to have the Bishop of that place build a shrine to her honor. Juan, who was probably scared about this whole matter literally "took to the hill" and ran away from Our Lady. Well, as the story goes, she chases him down and finally gave him a sign to show the Bishop that would be convincing. This sign is the impressed image of Our Lady on the Tilma of Juan Diego. This image now hangs in the basilica in Guadalupe in all its splendor. It is a modern-day miracle that it has lasted this long.

Third, we celebrate "Gaudete" Sunday. This is the third Sunday of Advent when we light the rose colored candle and the priest wears the rose vestment. I always look forward to this special Sunday because the theme is drawn from the letter of Paul to the Philippians. Paul says: "Rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again Rejoice!..... The Lord is near!!

May you continue your holy journey through this most blessed time of year. At the end of our pilgrimage on this earth may the Lord reward us with the trifecta of eternal life.

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

FAITH FORMATION

The Faith Formation Christmas Party for the children will be held on **Sunday, December 17th at 10:15** in Padua Hall. Refer to the December newsletter for further information. Keep Christ in Christmas Posters will be displayed and winners announced.

Share your ideas about "Preparing your Hearts and Homes for Jesus."

Don't forget to "Fill the Manger" in Padua Hall with food for the needy.

No Faith Formation Classes December 24th or 31st. Classes resume January 3rd (Wednesday) and January 7th (Sunday).

"GIFT"

The high school "GIFT" program will meet this Sunday, December 17th, at 5:30 pm. They will go caroling and have a Christmas party afterward.

All Are Welcome!

UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Sunday Mass Obligation)

Saturday, December 23rd—5:30 PM

Sunday, December 24th—8:15 AM and 11:15 AM

Christmas Masses

(Christmas Mass Obligation)

**Sunday, December 24th—Christmas Eve
4:30 PM and 6:30 PM**

Midnight Mass (Carols begin at 11:30 PM)

**Monday, December 25th—Christmas Day
10:00 AM**

New Years Day, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(Holy Day, no obligation when it falls on a Monday)

10:00 AM

Additional Confession Times During Advent

Monday, December 18th, 5 to 8 PM

(with Eucharistic Adoration)

December 23rd, 11 to 12 PM and 3 to 5 PM

ST. BERNARDINE'S

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we invite you to bring non-perishable foods to any Mass for St. Bernardine Parish (in Suitland) for their parish food pantry. You may leave your donations in the large white baskets in the foyer of the Church.

Designated dates this month: December 23rd & 24th.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vicki Baxter, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Marlene Bradshaw, Ralph Carrello, Bill Carroll, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Luke Engler, Jo Finch, Anthony Fowler, Taylan Fowler, Louise Floren, John P. Flynn, Noah Christopher Haas, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Roza Ivanac, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, Rick Kollinger, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Mark Mann, Walter Matziet, Kelly McCarley, Jennifer Melanab, Margie Edwards Morgan, Joanne Nielsen, Mary Ogle, William Owens, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Ray Pyles, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Joel Rivera, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Bunny Tate, Betty Theurer, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Shannon Wink, Richard Walton.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24TH, 2017

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter to Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

GOSPEL QUESTION

When have you recognized the light of Christ in someone? In what ways do others recognize the light of Christ in you?

CONTRIBUTIONS

As always, we are most grateful for your generous contributions to our parish.

December 10th weekly collection—\$7,534.85

Immaculate Conception—\$1,050.00

Retirement for Religious—\$2,510.00

Faith Direct for November—\$11,667.00

CARDINAL HICKEY OPEN HOUSE

January 28th, from 12:30 to 2 PM, Cardinal Hickey Academy will hold their open house! Get more information on how to start a faith based education for your children. We are now enrolling Pre K—8th grades. If you can't wait until then, visit our website at www.cardinalhickeyacademy.org or email us at development@cardinalhickeyacademy.org.