

A reflection from the Pastor

"One mightier than I is coming after me," John the Baptist speaking of Jesus in today's gospel.

John, who heralded the coming of the Messiah, was out preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins. His admission that one mightier was coming, reveals for us the idea that no matter our position or status, if we do not point to the Lord, then we count for very little. John would go on later to say, "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease," further revealing his attitude of preparing for the one who is to come.

In our world today, many want to be recognized, lauded, awarded, honored; and yet the example of John the Baptist should show us that it is about our witness to the one who came, comes, and is coming into our lives and world. It is so easy to fall into the trap of doing for the sake of self and worldly fame, that when it happens, we are immediately lowered to be reminded of the one who gives us life and ability.

This week of Advent, focus on how you might get out of the way for Christ's coming. It may be the sacrifices you make so that your family will have a better life, it may be an old attitude or habit changed, or it may be a way of service which points toward the Lord.

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Holy Day: Dec. 7-8: Volunteers

Saturday 13th, 6 p.m.

Lectors	Carol Sutton, Jeanne Lange
Cup Ministers	Paulette Brandl, Jeanette West
Gift bearers	Alex and Rosie Chamberlain
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	P. Canales, C. Sutton, J. Canales Jr., R. Brandl

Sunday 14th, 8 a.m.

Lectors	Martina Aguayo, Bacilio Gonzalez
Cup Ministers	Emilio and Veronica Ledezma
Gift bearers	Henry and Minnie Chacon
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	T. Cabral, A. Escalante, M. Garcia, D. Robles

Sunday 14th, 10 a.m.

Lectors	Lupe Olguin
Cup Ministers	Mary Helen Garcia, Margaret Escalante
Gift bearers	Hybner Family
Altar Servers	A. Gonzalez, A. Valenzuela, M. Valenzuela
Ushers	J. Troncoso, H. Longoria, C. Martin, M. Gonzales

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Priest Intentions December 7 – December 14

Sunday, 7th	6:00 p.m. Mass - Vigil <i>Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation</i>
Monday, 8th	8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Guadalupe Gonzalez + Immaculate Conception</i> by Santos and Mary Alvarado
	6:00 p.m. Mass - <i>Poor Souls in Purgatory</i> by Mary L. Moya
Tuesday, 9th	5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Penance/Reconciliation 6:10 p.m. Mass <i>Maria Ortiz +</i> by Ramon S. Torres
Thursday, 11th	8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Anne Mundine +</i> by Alice Jones
Friday, 12th	5:00 a.m. Las Mañanitas 6:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Paul Lerma +</i> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> by Ernest and Mary Moya
Saturday, 13th	5:15 -5:45 p.m. Sacrament of Penance 5:40 p.m. Rosary - leader: Carol Sutton 6:00 (vigil) Mass - <i>Geraldine Peter +</i> by Sylvia Peter
Sunday, 14th	8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Pro Populo</i> <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 10:00 a.m. Mass - <i>David Escalante Sr. +</i> <i>2nd Col: Ret. Religious</i> by Ernie & Debbie Escalante

Readings – Sunday December 14

First Reading – Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Second Reading – 1 Thess. 5:16-24

Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28

SAINT PATRICK'S  CATHOLIC CHURCH
BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS

The Reverend Ty Joseph Bazar

Pastor

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Help for Marriages

RETRouvaille – A retreat for married couples that feel bored, frustrated, or indifferent in their marriage. There will be a weekend dedicated to helping your marriage, Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2009. Please call 979-543-3493 or email lbconner@sbcglobal.net or visit the website at www.retrouvaille.org for more information.

2ND ANNUAL KNOWLEDGE BOWL

The diocesan Catechetical office is once again sponsoring the knowledge bowl. If you are interested in getting together a team of four adults, registration deadline is January 16, 2009. The fee is \$20 per team and study questions may be found at www.victoriadiocese.org. The date of the bowl is January 25, 2009 at Holy Family Church in Victoria from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: \$ 1547.29

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10751 Chicken Barbecue

Today: Sunday, December 7, 2008
Plates - \$7.00

(1/2 chicken, potato salad, beans, cake)
Or Whole BBQ Chicken - \$6.00
Serving begins at 9:00 a.m.

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Answer from last week:

The Immaculate Conception:

a. means Mary was preserved from sin from the first moment of her conception in her mother's womb

This week's question:

What year was the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception formally declared a dogma or truth of the Catholic Church?

a. 1950 b. 1854 c. 33 d. 1545

(Answer coming next week)

Calendar – December

7 Youth/Choir Practice – Christmas Dinner	4:30 Hall
9 Parent Safe Environment Mtg.	7 Heritage
14 Parish Christmas Dinner	5:30 Hall

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Wednesday Regular Class

Grades K – 6 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Grades 7-12 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Parent note on Christmas pageant. There will be a rehearsal today, Sunday, December 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Financial Statement - October

Beginning Balance (10/01/2008)	\$42,139.74
Income	
Building Fund	593.98
Sunday Collections	8461.60
Candles	180.15
Hall Rental	200.00
Designated Funds	285.55
Turkey Dinner	329.00
Religious Education	28.00
Interest Income	2.54
Total Income	\$10,080.82
Expenses	
Salaries	750.00
Asst. Clergy	350.00
Pension	97.00
Gas & Electric	4512.33
Garbage	159.46
Water	92.25
Insurance	11,474.39
Health Insurance	524.00
Satellite TV	71.21
Telephone	93.43
Repair and Maintenance	1428.47
Rectory Expense	167.68
Church Expenses	678.16
Subscriptions	110.00
Auto	620.27
Turkey Dinner	548.75
R.E. Expenses	461.73
Bishop's Capital Campaign	1361.92
DSA	1000.00
Total Expenses	\$24,501.05
Bank Balance (10/30/2008)	\$27,719.51
Money Market CD	\$20,000.00

Pray for all preparing for Marriage

Annual Parish Christmas Dinner

Sun. December 14, 2007 - 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall

All are welcome. It is a time for us as a parish to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birthday. The parish will supply the meat and each family should bring a side dish. We will also be collecting food for the hungry. Each family please bring canned or non-perishable food. The evening will include:

- ✓ BLESSING OF OUTDOOR NATIVITY SCENE
- ✓ CHILDREN'S PAGEANT
- ✓ CAROLS
- ✓ DOOR PRIZES



**Monday, December 8,
Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin
Mary is an Obligatory Holy Day**

This year this solemnity, which is always obligatory, falls on a Monday. Therefore the times will be:

Vigil: 6:00 p.m. Sunday December 7

Day: 8:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. Monday, December 8

In the Area . . .

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tivoli Annual parish festival. This year: chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Sandwiches lunch, **Sunday, December 14**. Serving starts at 11:30 a.m. Other games, activities.

Parent/Parish Adult Safe Environment Meeting

This annual meeting to update and discuss the safety of children and youth will be held **Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Heritage Room. All interested parishioners and parents are invited to attend this meeting.

Collection for Archdiocese of Galveston Houston
Hurricane IKE Recovery

As you may know, the Archdiocese was hit by this major hurricane, one that could have come our way, but did not. The archdiocesan insurance only covers a portion of the rebuilding and humanitarian recovery. It was projected that they will have to make up around \$10 million to rebuild/recover. **We will take up a second collection to be sent to the Archbishop, Sunday, December 21 at each Mass.**

*Pray for those who still are going without
due to this storm.*

Pre-Baptismal Instruction Class

Please note, there will be no baptismal preparation class during the month of December. The next session will be January 31, 2009.

Parents of the parish, please remember that the classes may be attended before the birth of the child, and need be attended by godparents.

PAINTED CHURCH PILGRIMAGE

There has been a good response to the pilgrimage, about 25 have signed up so far. That only leaves four places. Today is the last day to sign up.

The Pilgrimage is Monday, December 29.

Schedule of the Day:

- 7:30 a.m. Leave St. Patrick's
- 8:45 a.m. Visit Praha
- 9:45 a.m. Visit Dubina
- 10:30 a.m. Visit Ammannsville
- 11:15 a.m. Mass High Hill
- 12:00 a.m. Lunch at Frank's
in Schulenburg
- 1:30 p.m. Visit St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg ?
- 2:00 p.m. Leave for Bloomington
- 3:00 p.m. Arrive in Bloomington

Cost: There may be a small collection for vehicle gas. It looks like \$10 per person to rent the vans, if we go that direction, which is what I am leaning toward. The other cost would be your meal at Frank's - between \$7-10. And then any other incidentals such as souvenirs would be up to you.

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de las Américas
FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS
December 12, 2008

En 1531 una *Señora del Cielo* se apareció a un pobre indio en un cerro al noroeste de la actual ciudad de México; se identificó como la siempre-virgen María, Madre del verdadero Dios por quien se vive: del Creador de todas las cosas: Señor del cielo y de la tierra.

Le manifestó que era su deseo que una iglesia le fuera construída en ese lugar, y le encargó que vaya a transmitirle su deseo al Obispo local. Cuando el Obispo dudó sobre la autenticidad del mensaje y le pidió una prueba, Ella, la Madre de Dios, obedeció prontamente al pedido del obispo y envió a su humilde mensajero a la cima del cerro a recoger, en medio del invierno, un ramo de rosas de Castilla para el Obispo.

Luego de que las flores le fueran entregadas al Obispo, dejó una imagen de sí misma impresa milagrosamente en su tilma, un tejido de cactus de poca calidad que se debió haber deteriorado en 20 años pero que no muestra señales de corrupción 475 años después y aún desafía toda explicación científica sobre su origen.

El Misterio de los ojos de la Virgen

Según varios estudiosos y hombres de ciencia que han inspeccionado la imagen se pueden ver reflejadas, en ambos ojos y en la ubicación precisa en que se reflejarían en un ojo humano vivo, algunas figuras que han sido extensivamente analizadas y parecen corresponder a la forma y tamaño de figuras humanas localizadas enfrente de la imagen.



Celebration of the feast

**Friday, December 12,
2008**

5:00 a.m. Las Mañanitas

6:00 a.m. La Misa/Mass (en español)

7:00 a.m. Reception/gathering hosted by

A Brief History

In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to Juan Diego at Tepeyac. She identified herself as the ever virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth. She asked a church to be built on the site, and submitted her wish to the local Bishop. When the Bishop hesitated, and requested her for a sign, the Mother of God obeyed without delay or question, sending Her native messenger to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses for the Bishop. After complying to the Bishop's request for a sign, She also left for us an image of herself imprinted miraculously on the native's *tilma*, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 475 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin. According to scientists who have inspected her eyes, in *both of them* and in the precise location as reflected by a *live human eye*, could be seen many figures that have been extensively analyzed and seem to correspond to the shape and size of human figures located in front of the image.



Padre de misericordia, que has puesto a este pueblo tuyo bajo la especial protección de la siempre Virgen María de Guadalupe, Madre de tu Hijo, concédenos, por su intercesión, profundizar en nuestra fe y buscar el progreso de nuestra patria por caminos de justicia y de paz.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo y es Dios por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.