

A reflection from the Pastor

Today begins the season of Advent. A new liturgical year, marked by the Sunday Lectionary focusing on the gospel of St. Mark, we begin a time of preparation for the wonders of an approaching 2009. Furthermore, this season prepares us for the coming of Jesus Christ at his birth (the Incarnation) and it prepares us for his coming again in glory (the Parousia). It is an excellent time to focus on the life of Jesus and how our lives reflect his love for the world by becoming man.

This vigilance is reflected in the gospel for today from chapter 13 of St. Mark's gospel: "Be watchful, be alert." We need to keep our eyes fixed on the one who comes into our hearts and prepares us for our eternal happiness in heaven. Otherwise we will fall into the trap of focusing on ourselves and the world and a false sense of happiness that is fleeting and only leads to unhappiness.

Take the time with your family to pray more, to read more of the Bible, and to focus on the ways that Christ is coming into your lives.

May you have a blessed week. Fr. Ty

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Priest Intentions

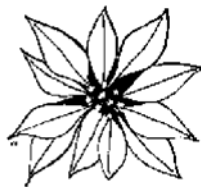
December 2 – December 7

Tuesday, 2nd	8:00 a.m. Mass	Mildred Hroch + by John Hroch
Wednesday, 3rd	8:00 a.m. Mass	Larry Maxwell + St. Francis Xavier by M/M Robert Cisneros & Family
Thursday, 4th	8:00 a.m. Mass	Edward Kocian + by Dorothy Kocian
Friday, 5th	8:00 a.m. Mass	Isabel Perez + by Ismael & Gracie Perez
Saturday, 6th	5:15 -5:45 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	5:40 p.m.	Rosary – leader: Lupe Olguin
	6:00 (vigil) Mass	Carl Brzozowska + by Russell A. & Sharon Stevens
Sunday, 7th	8:00 a.m. Mass	Joe Manuel Estrada Jr. + 2nd Sunday Of Advent by Abel Sanchez Jr. & Family
	10:00 a.m. Mass	Parish Family

Readings – Sunday December 7

First Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



Envelopes will be available at the church entrance during Advent, to make memorial donations in honor of your loved ones this Christmas by giving toward the Christmas flowers.

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 6th, 6 p.m.

Lectors	Jeanette West, Lisa Canales
Cup Ministers	Jeanne Lange, Veronica Garcia
Gift bearers	Alfred and Veronica Garcia
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	B. Hernandez, H. Cardona, I. Martin, A. Chamberlain

Sunday 7th, 8 a.m.

Lectors	Ted Cabral, Marianela Chapa
Cup Ministers	Lupe and Frances Rivera
Gift bearers	M/M Henry Estrada Sr.
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	M. Estrada, B. Gonzalez, A. Posada, H. DeLuna

Sunday 7th, 10 a.m.

Lectors	Maribel Gonzalez, Melinda Valenzuela
Cup Ministers	Ismael Perez, Gracie Perez
Gift bearers	Ramona Torres and family
Altar Servers	Elizabeth Rodriguez, A. Adkins, J. Adkins
Ushers	Lupe Rivera Jr., D. Hybner, A. Rodriguez, A. Reyes

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: \$ 2147.98
CHuman Development: \$ 346.43

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 10751

Chicken Barbecue

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 number of Sundays in Advent is:
b. four

This week's question:

The Immaculate Conception:

- means Mary was preserved from sin from the first moment of her conception in her mother's womb
- means Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit
- was proclaimed in the year 1215 A.D.
- none of these

(Answer coming next week)

Calendar – December

2 R.C.I.A. Mtg – Retreat Rite A&W 7 Heritage
14 Parish Christmas Dinner 5:30 Hall
16 R.C.I.A. Mtg.– Revelation: Tradition 7 Heritage

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.

First Communion Parent/Child Class with Fr. Ty
Sunday, December 7 – 9:05 a.m. Heritage Room

Parent note on Christmas pageant. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday, December 7 in the parish hall. A note will go out this week.

Diocese of Victoria in Texas

25th Anniversary Books

On Sale

As you know, I put together this book to commemorate the first 25 years of the diocese. Each parish is featured with a color picture and other information, including a study of each of the patron saints of the parishes in the diocese.

Several have expressed interest, and I still have about thirteen of these books which make great gifts. The books are \$32 each and checks may be made payable to Ty Bazar.

Please see me after Mass, the books will be available until they have sold out.

R.C.I.A.

Class this week for those adults preparing to receive sacraments at Easter will be our retreat in preparation for the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome.

The Rite of Acceptance and Welcome will be held at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on December 7.

This rite of the Church will take place during Mass, as we welcome those to be baptized and confirmed in the faith.

SAINT PATRICK'S  CATHOLIC CHURCH
BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS

The Reverend Ty Joseph Bazar
Pastor

(361) 897-1155 - voice Post Office Box 2122
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Pray for Married Couples

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

I am contemplating a parish pilgrimage/tour for adults to see the painted churches in Praha, Dubina, Ammannsville, and High Hill (about an hour from Victoria) during the Christmas Season.

Looking at dates, I am thinking Monday, December 29. The churches will be decorated for Christmas and most of us will be looking for some way to get out of the house by then.

The day might look like:

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Leave for Bloomington
- 2:00 p.m. Arrive in Bloomington

If you think you might be interested in this Christmas outing, please sign up at the entrance of the church. If you are thinking of another date, please suggest it, or if you would like to add other ideas please feel free to do so.

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.

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 . . .

St. Mary's Altar Society Harvest Bazaar Dec 4

10-4 Activity Center/Soup Sandwiches
New cookbook will be for sale - \$12
Christmas decorations for sale

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.