

A reflection from the Pastor

“Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand,” John the Baptist in today’s gospel. This familiar saying is one that should move us this second week of Advent to begin looking interiorly as we prepare for Christmas. There is no better way to experience the peace of Christ’s birth, than to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and receive reconciliation. This Tuesday is the first of additional times during the season. There will be more during the third week.

I know the season is one of busyness and maybe even shopping. But take some time to prepare yourself – so that you might give yourself as the perfect gift to the Lord on his birthday.

May you have a blessed week,

Fr. Ty

**Annual Christmas Parish Dinner
Sunday December 16, 2007
5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

All are welcome. It is a time for us as a parish to celebrate the joy of Jesus’ birthday.

The Knights 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 to be given to VCAM. CHILDREN’S PAGEANT/CAROLS/DOOR PRIZES.



Religious Education This Week

This Wednesday, December 12
Faith Building - Prayer
Regular Times – Parish Hall

Grades 1-6 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Grades 7-12 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Intentions

December 11 – December 16

Tuesday, 11th	5:15 p.m. Penance 6:00 p.m. Angelus 6:10 p.m. Mass – <i>Guadalupe Gonzalez + by Raul & Yolanda Aguillon</i>
Wednesday, 12th	5:00 a.m. Las Mañanitas <i>Our Lady Guadalupe</i> 6:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Paul Lerma + by Mary L. Moya</i>
Thursday, 13th	8:00 a.m. Mass - <i>Roque Pena, Sr. + by Leonila Pena</i>
Friday, 14th	8:00 p.m. Mass - <i>Special Intention St. John of the Cross by Theresa Kubenka</i>
Saturday, 15th	5:15 -5:45 p.m. Penance 5:40 p.m. Rosary – leader: <i>Lupe Olguin</i> 6:00 (vigil) Mass – <i>Carl Brzozowkse + by Shane, Linda, & Brandon</i>
<i>Lala</i>	
Sunday, 16th	7:30 a.m. Santissima Rosario <i>3rd Sunday Advent</i> 8:00 a.m. Mass – <i>Donato Rodriguez y Rita Reyes</i> <i>by Juan Rodriguez</i>

10:00 a.m. Mass – *Pro Populo*

Sunday Readings: December 16

Isaiah 35:1-6a
James 5:7-10

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Lectors

Saturday 6 p.m.	Jeanette West, Lisa Canales
Sunday, 8 a.m.	Bacilio Gonzalez, Veronica Ledezma
10 a.m.	Gracie Perez, Ismael Perez

Ministers of the Precious Blood

Saturday 6 p.m.	Veronica Garcia, Carol Sutton
Sunday 8 a.m.	Santos and Mary Alvarado
10 a.m.	Mary Helen Garcia, Margaret Escalante

Gift Bearers

Saturday 6 p.m.	Raymond and Paulette Brandl
Sunday 8 a.m.	Fidel and Pat Galicia
10 a.m.	Marie Boedeker

Ushers

Saturday 6 p.m.	A. Reyes Sr., A. Garcia, N. Posada, B. Hernandez
Sunday 8 a.m.	T. Cabral, E. Ledezma, A. Escalante, M. Garcia
10 a.m.	C. Martin, M. Gonzales, J. Sanchez, J. Canales Jr.

Altar Servers

Saturday 6 p.m.	Gabriella & Madeline Canales, Matthew Vela
Sunday 8 a.m.	Kellsey Monroy, Raul Monroy, Juan Castellanos
10 a.m.	Angelica, Michael, Jason Valenzuela

Parish Meeting Calendar – December

11	Catholic Daughters	7	Heritage
16	Parish Christmas Dinner	5:30 p.m.	Hall
29	Baptismal Instruction	10-12	Heritage

Last Sunday's Collection:

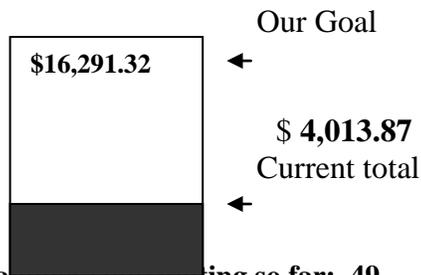


General: \$ 1662.24

Building Fund: \$609.53

Diocesan Services Appeal (D.S.A.) Update

This annual appeal goes to help the bishop run the diocese. I know we can do it; **there is power in numbers.** Thank you to those who have already given. To those who have not, you still have time. We now have a total of \$4,013.87 toward our goal.



Number of Families contributing so far: 49
Total Number of Parish Families: 330
Percentage of families that have given: 15 %

If every family can help, as I suggested \$50 or if you can give more, we would more than reach our goal. Please feel free to give what you can. We would also not have to have the January raffle which requires selling \$50 tickets.

Thank you again for your support. Encourage one another.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tues. Dec. 24 - 7:00 p.m.
- Midnight

Christmas Day, Tues. Dec. 25- 10:00 a.m. *Bilingual*

Lectors, if you will be able to read at one of these, please sign up in the sacristy. Ministers of the Cup and servers also sign up. Thank you.

Fall Scripture Class

Understanding the Bible

The fall scripture series ended this last Tuesday, the first week of Advent. We looked at the book of the prophet Ezekiel, the Psalms, and the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Stay tuned to the bulletin for future classes.

I am thinking about a new class on the Holy Father's new Encyclical letter, *Spe Salvi*. Here is a little from it:

1. "SPE SALVI facti sumus"—in hope we were saved, says Saint Paul to the Romans, and likewise to us (*Rom* 8:24). According to the Christian faith, "redemption"—salvation—is not simply a given. Redemption is offered to us in the sense that we have been given hope, trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present: the present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey. Now the question immediately arises: what sort of hope could ever justify the statement that, on the basis of that hope and simply because it exists, we are redeemed? And what sort of certainty is involved here?

32. A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer. When no one listens to me any more, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation that goes beyond the human capacity for hope, he can help me.²⁵ When I have been plunged into complete solitude ...; if I pray I am never totally alone.

47. Some recent theologians are of the opinion that the fire which both burns and saves is Christ himself, the Judge and Savior. The encounter with him is the decisive act of judgment. Before his gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with him, as it burns us, transforms and frees us, allowing us to become truly ourselves. All that we build during our lives can prove to be mere straw, pure bluster, and it collapses. Yet in the pain of this encounter, when the impurity and sickness of our lives become evident to us, there lies salvation. His gaze, the touch of his heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation "as through fire". But it is a blessed pain, in which the holy power of his love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God. In this way the inter-relation between justice and grace also becomes clear: the way we live our lives is not immaterial, but our defilement does not stain us for ever if we have at least continued to reach out towards Christ, towards truth and towards love.

Jesse Tree
Readings/Symbols
for the Second Week
of Advent

Date	Person	Event	Scripture	Symbol
Dec 10	Moses	Leadership	Exo. 2:1-4:20	Burning Bush
Dec. 11	Israelites	Passover	Exo. 12:1-14:31	Lamb
Dec. 12	God	Torah/Sinai	Exo. 19:1-20:20	Tablets
Dec. 13	Joshua	Fall of Jericho	Josh 1:1-11,6:1-20	Ram's horn
Dec. 14	Gideon	Unlikely heroes	Judg 2:6-23, 6:1-6:11-8:28	Clay water pitcher
Dec. 15	Samuel	Beginning of Kingdom	1Sam 3:1-21, 7:1-8:22, 9:15-10:9	Crown

Dec.16 David A Shepherd For people 1 Sam 16:1-23-17:58, 2 Sam 5:1-5, 7:1-17 Staff or Harp

About the Jesse Tree: this custom from the Middle Ages comes from the words: 'A shoot shall come up from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a branch will bear fruit' (Isaiah 11. 1). Jesse was the father of King David and the Bible tells us that Jesus will be born 'of the house of David'. By going back to David's father, Jesse, the Jesse Tree can be thought of as Jesus' family tree.

Each day of advent a new symbol will be added to the tree beginning Dec. 3. I will be putting the weekly scripture readings and symbols in the bulletin if you

All Souls Pictures

As we end November, I ask that those of you who so graciously brought pictures of your loved ones, please reclaim them at the entrance of the church.

May the souls of the departed rest in peace

Advent 2007

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

- Be sure and **sign up for the ministry** you feel you can best serve the Lord at the entrance of the church.

- **Penance** this Tuesday, the 11th from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. in the church.

- This week, **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** on Wednesday morning (see bulletin for more info)

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Answer from last week:

The name *Emmanuel* means?

- a. "God is with us"

This week's question:

The name of the angel who came to announce Jesus' birth to Mary was:

- a. Michael b. Gabriel
c. Raphael d. Moroni

(Answer coming next week)

2008 Parish Calendars

The Parish calendars have arrived. Please pick one up at the entrance of the church. We thank Artero Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars again this year.

SAINT PATRICK  CATHOLIC CHURCH
BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS

The Reverend Ty Joseph Bazar
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La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, *Patrona de las Américas*
December 12, 2007

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

December 12, 2007

5:00 a.m. Las Mañanitas

6:00 a.m. La Misa/Mass (en español)

7:00 a.m. Reception/gathering hosted by
Guadalupanas in Heritage Room

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.