

A reflection from the Pastor

"My kingdom does not belong to this world," Jesus in today's gospel. This is yet another glimpse into the portrait of Jesus' life by Saint John. Remember that St. John begins his gospel by inviting us to meditate on the fact that Jesus was the Word from the beginning – the Word of Life that existed with the Father of all Truth – who came to earth to show us the way to his kingdom. We will celebrate the fact of the Word being born among us in just a few weeks. We often forget that we are supposed to follow Jesus' way; especially in the world of individualism. Jesus did not come into our world looking for a scepter, a robe, a ring, or a seat of honor to rule; he came humbly and simply as a baby and the elements of his kingship were those imposed upon him at his death: a bruised reed, a purple cloak, a crown of thorns, and a cross, by which he freed us to become citizens of his everlasting kingdom, if we but choose to leave behind sin and stay faithful to the gospel. Sit this week and think about your citizenship with Jesus Christ the King, awaiting in heaven.

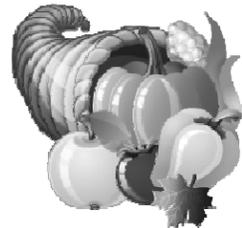
The Season of Advent

The new liturgical year begins with Evening Prayer 1 of the First Sunday of Advent. In this new year (Year C) the Sunday Gospel readings will come from St. Luke. The weekday lectionary will come from year two. The two-fold purpose of Advent is to prepare our hearts for Jesus' first coming at Christmas as we celebrate his birth on December 25th, and His second coming in glory. Let us prepare ourselves well. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus, Come!

Bloomington Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Celebration

Today Sunday, November 22, 2009
St. Patrick's Hall 6:00 p.m.

This year, we will be hosting the Bloomington community for this annual gathering at Thanksgiving. If you plan on attending, **please bring a covered dish** to share with our guests. Turkey will be provided by the parish. **If you are interested in volunteering to be a greeter or help in the kitchen, please phone.**



Liturgy / Mass Schedule for the week ahead

Tuesday, 24th 8:00 a.m. Mass – *Beatrice Cantu + S. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions, Martyrs* by *Lucia Mascorro*

Wednesday, 25 8:00 a.m. Mass – *Anne Mundine +* by *Therese Hernandez*

Thursday, 26th 8:00 a.m. Mass – *David Escalante, Sr. +* by *M/M Pablo Padilla Sr.*

Saturday, 28th 2:00 p.m. Mass – *Quinceañera - Cabrera*

5:15 -5:45 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
5:40 p.m. Rosary – *leader: Lupe Olguin*
6:00 (vigil) Mass – *Catholic Daughters +*

Sunday, 29th 8:00 a.m. Mass – *Pro Populo*
First Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Mass – *Dr. Domitila Irma Torres* by *Ramona S. Torres & Family*

Readings – Sunday November 29 First Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 28th, 6 p.m.

Lector Lisa Canales
Altar Servers Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Gift Bearers Mary Galvan Family
Ushers M. Lange, R. Reyes, B. Cantu, D. Hybner

Sunday 29th, 8 a.m.

Lector Marianela Chapa
Altar Servers April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Gift Bearers Pete and Elena Guerra
Ushers D. Robles, M. Estrada, B. Gonzalez, A. Posada

Sunday 29th, 10 a.m.

Lector Melinda Valenzuela
Altar Servers Anaysa Gonzalez, Albert Adkins, Jason Valenzuela
Gift Bearers Hybner Family
Ushers C. Martin, M. Gonzales, J. Sanchez, L. Rivera, Jr.

Religious Education News

No Classes this Wednesday
Enjoy your Thanksgiving Break

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: \$ 1751.15

Advent Bible Study

Advent is soon approaching. In this Church proclaimed "Year of the Priest," I will be leading a four week biblical study of the priesthood. This will be a great opportunity to study the Word of God concerning this sacred ministry. Classes will be each of the Mondays of Advent: November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 from 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. in the Heritage Room. No registration is required. Please bring a bible, pen, paper, and open heart.

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Last week's question:

How many weeks are there in Advent? c. four

This week's question:

Starting on the first Sunday of Advent, many families and parishes light candles

- to pray for world peace
- on a wreath to joyfully await Jesus' birth
- to save on electricity

Answer coming next week.

Immaculate Conception

December 8, 2009

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 8, 2009, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation for all Catholics. Mass times will be:

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

Day: 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. December 8th

Financial Statement – September

| Income | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Building Fund | 488.77 |
| Sunday Collections | 6287.27 |
| Designated Collections | 283.30 |
| Candles | 138.80 |
| Other | 65.00 |
| Interest Income | 2.87 |
| Turkey Dinner | 175.00 |
| Total Income | \$7,441.01 |
| Expenses | |
| Salaries | 750.00 |
| Assistant Clergy | 300.00 |
| Health Insurance | 570.00 |
| Pension | 97.00 |
| Gas & Electric | 223.09 |
| Garbage | 36.43 |
| Water | 61.64 |
| Lawn Maintenance | 700.00 |
| Church Cleaning | 123.25 |
| TV | 79.74 |
| Telephone | 105.89 |
| Repair and Maintenance | 243.98 |
| Rectory Expense | 539.47 |
| Church Expenses | 589.08 |
| Auto | 412.01 |
| R.E. Expenses | 29.67 |
| Bank Charge | -30.00 |
| Uncategorized | .45 |
| Property Insurance | 12,217.85 |
| Bishop's Capital Campaign | 1361.92 |
| Diocesan Services Appeal | 1000.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$19,411.47 |
| Overall Total | -\$11,970.46 |

Bank Balance (as of 10/23/09): \$31,649

Certificate of Deposit (as of 10/23/09) \$21,125.20

November Meeting Calendar of Events

22 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Celebration 6 Hall

28 Baptismal Class 10-12 Heritage Room

To baptize, you must live within the parish boundary and should be attending Mass. If from another parish (immediate family [i.e., parents or grandparents] are active parishioners) you must provide a letter from your pastor stating you are active and you must attend your parish's baptismal class. Baptisms are held the first Sunday of each month except during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Birth certificate of child is required before baptism.

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

December 12, 2009

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.



Celebration of the feast

Saturday, December 12, 2009

5:30 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



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.

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

ADVENT

➤ Nature of the Season

Advent is the season of the expectation of Jesus Christ, as we celebrate his Incarnation, his coming among us as man in his birth at Christmas, and his second coming in glory at the end of all time.

➤ Liturgical Celebration of Advent - Calendar of Events

First Week of Advent

- **Sunday, Nov. 29 – Blessing of the Advent Wreath and Candles**
- Begin Year C (*Concentration on St. Luke's Gospel*) of the Sunday Lectionary

Second Week of Advent

- Monday, Dec. 7 – Immaculate Conception, Anticipated 6:00 p.m./church
- **Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Sacrament of Penance** 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m./church
- Tuesday, Dec. 8–Immaculate Conception, *Holy Day of Obligation* 8:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m./church
- **Saturday, Dec. 12 - Las Mañanitas** 5:30 a.m./church
La Misa – Mass -Our Lady of Guadalupe 6:00 a.m./church
Reception to follow Parish Hall

Third Week of Advent

- **Sunday, Dec. 13 – Parish Christmas Dinner** 6:00 p.m./Hall
 - ✓ Lighting of outdoor Nativity, Singing Carols, Live Performance by our youth.
 - ✓ All families are invited to attend. Please bring covered side dish to share with others.
 - ✓ This year we will be collecting food for VCAM. Please bring canned food/non-perishable food.

Fourth Week of Advent

- Wednesday, December 23 - Decorating of the sanctuary for Christmas 9:00 a.m.

➤ Art and Environment

• Candle Stand and Wreath

The four candles situated in the circular wreath represent the weeks of the season; three violet blue candles mark the first, second, and fourth weeks, the rose candle marks the third, since the first word of the third Sunday entrance antiphon is "Gaudete", meaning "Rejoice." It shows our eager anticipation for the coming of the Lord.

Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus!

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 2009
