

4TH Sunday of Advent
December 23 – 24, 2017

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**Blessed are You
Among Women**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: During the Night: Is 9:1-6;
 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;
 Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;
 Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17;
 Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8;
 Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3;
 Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9;
 Col 3:12-21 or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;
 Lk 2:22-40

Budget to Actual

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Weekly goal | \$ 25,900.00 |
| Week of 12/17/2017 | 23,764.08 |
| Keep Praying!!!! | \$ - 2,135.92 |
| **TREASURE STEWARDSHIP** | |
| 12/17/2017 | |
| Envelope Receipts | \$ 12,108.50 |
| Online Giving | 9,989.75 |
| Loose Plate | 1,665.83 |
| Total | \$ 23,764.08 |

Catholic Charities Collection
 12/17/2017 \$ 946.00

Church Expansion

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Total Pledged | \$ 3,488,938.38 |
| Collection week of 12/17 | 22,419.50 |
| Online giving week of 12/17 | 8,555.87 |
| Total Given to Date | \$ 2,830,615.82 |

May God bless you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

“Mass is Heaven on Earth” – St. John Paul II

SATURDAY, DEC. 23: 4TH Sunday of Advent

4-4:45 pm Confessions
 5:00 pm +Humberto “Slim” Lara, by Margie Lara

SUNDAY, DEC. 24: 4TH Sunday of Advent

7:30 am +Bob & Paula Friday, by Mike & Patti Langford
 10:00 am +Louis & Dorothy Wiesman, by Marilyn Wacksmann
 11:30 am For the People of St. Elizabeth’s

No 5:00 pm for 4TH Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DEC. 24: Christmas Masses

5:00 pm For People of St. Elizabeth’s
 10:00 pm For the Donors to the Church Addition

MONDAY, DEC. 25: Christmas Masses

8:30 am +Esteban Herrera, by Herrera Family
 10 am +Dr. Chad Vanderford, by Gwen P. Landreneau

TUESDAY, DEC. 26: St. Stephen, Martyr

6:30 am +Mary Hodges Weaver, by David & Cathi Boutin

WED’DAY, DEC. 27: St. John the Apostle

6:30 am +Romelia Mata, by Family

THURSDAY, DEC. 28: Holy Innocents

6:30 am +Dr. Chad Vanderford, by Gwen P. Landreneau

FRIDAY, DEC. 29: Octave of Nativity

6:30 am +Connie Martinez, by Lisa Enriquez

SATURDAY, DEC. 30: Holy Family

4:-4:45 pm Confessions
 5:00 pm Karen Cleere (b’d), by Marilyn Wacksmann

SUNDAY, DEC. 31: Holy Family

9:00 am Friends/Family, Living/Deceased by Dan & Margaret Carpenter
 11:30 am +Michael J. Dominguez (b’d), by Emma Dominguez & Family
 5:00 pm +Dr. Chad Vanderford, by Gwen P. Landreneau

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, Dec. 25TH is Christmas.

Masses are:

Sunday, 5 p.m. & 10 p.m.
 Monday, 8:30 & 10 a.m.

Christmas Poem of St. John of the Cross

The Virgin, weighed
 With the Word of God,
 Comes down the road:
 If only you will shelter her!

Report from Fr. Mark on Catholic Charities Building

People have asked me what is happening with the Catholic Charities building on Andrews Highway. It has been closed for many months. Here is my report:

The June hail storm and the rains that followed heavily damaged the roof and interior of the building. Mold developed and asbestos was exposed. The building became unusable.

The leadership of Catholic Charities (executive director and board) started to work with the insurer (Catholic Mutual), the Diocese of San Angelo and roofing companies to repair the damage. I am not sure they were experienced enough in matters like these to handle this project by themselves.

A wiser plan would have been to reach out to the Catholic community of Odessa for help: the priests and people who support CC. In the Catholic community are lawyers, experts in insurance claims, civic officials, contractors, etc. With their expertise, these people – who love Catholic Charities -- could have formed a task-force and completed this project in rapid order, leaving the regular work of Catholic Charities to the director, staff and board.

Here's an instance that especially troubles me: Instead of asking us pastors if our parishes had space to house CC activities forced out of the building – activities like the pantry and the Cory Leaning Center -- the CC administration instead rented space at Parker Heights Christian Church for \$800 a month. The rent may be recouped from insurance, but all the parishes could have given space free of charge.

As things dragged on, the CC leaders hired a consulting firm to complete the job. CC does not pay the consulting firm; they earn their pay through the subcontractors and the insurance company. *(This was another missed opportunity to appeal to the Catholic community for help.)* While this firm appears to be doing a good job, they have a penchant for hiring out-of-town subs, not local ones. I think we should “buy the basin” whenever we can ...

To make a long story short, the roof is repaired, the mold and asbestos are being treated and the final phase of the project – re-sheet rocking and re-tiling – will begin shortly. With luck, the building may be open by the end of January.

The insurance company (Catholic Mutual) has been most generous and Catholic Charities will come through this crisis without much financial loss. The ones who have suffered are the poor of Odessa because so many aspects of CC have

been out of commission for far too long.

Hopefully lessons were learned here, and when the next hail storm comes – as indeed it will in West Texas – we will all be ready!!!

New Sunday Mass Schedule

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 31 our Sunday Mass schedule will be:

5 p.m. Saturday

9 a.m. Sunday

11:30 a.m. Sunday

5 p.m. Sunday

Church Dedication

Sunday, January 14

9 a.m.

Bishop Michael J. Sis will dedicate our enlarged church & bless the new altar;

All Parishioners should attend this very historic liturgy.

Project Andrew Dinner for Priesthood Vocations:

Do you know a young man ages 15-45 who would make a good priest? Bishop Sis wants Fr. Mark to invite him to what is called a “Project Andrew Dinner.” Andrew the Apostle invited his brother Peter to meet Jesus and become an apostle – hence the name. The dinner will be at St. Stephen's in Midland on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 6 pm. *Moms, dads, CCD teachers – if you know a young man who might make a good priest, give his name and address to Fr. Mark 367-4657 so he can extend him a personal invitation.*

Question of the Week

(from Deacon Gary Brooks)

What would you do if the angel Gabriel came to you?

Breaking Open the Word

There will be no classes on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31! Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

*The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.—Luke 1:35*



BAPTISM

PREP CLASS-Our next baptism preparation class is Saturday, January 6 @ 9 a.m. **You must call to register for this class.** Please call after December 19. If there is no answer, dial 21 for Vickie's ext. and leave a message.

To Schedule a Baptism-In order to baptize at St. Elizabeth's, the parents of the child should be registered members of St. Elizabeth's, or live within our boundaries. Parents please come to the office to schedule your child's baptism. You will need to bring in the baby's birth certificate, **from the county**, the godparents' confirmation certificates, if the godparents are married, a copy of their church marriage certificate and proof of baptism prep classes for parents and godparents. We do baptisms the 1ST, 2ND and 3RD weekends of each month. Baptisms held on the 3RD weekend will be in **Spanish, if requested**. The first person to come into the office with all necessary paperwork to register for a weekend will get to pick which day, Saturday or Sunday, for **all** baptisms that weekend. You must register in the office, before the date of your child's baptism and you must have all paperwork!

In Memoriam

We remember deceased parishioners who died in the month of December in years past.

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Carol Chenot | 1 | Johnnie Williams | 18 |
| Lewis Hoover | 2 | Helen Chambers | 19 |
| Ollie Blank | 2 | Genowefa Starnes | 19 |
| Diego Pazos | 3 | Mary Jo Rauscher | 19 |
| Charles Dickey | 4 | Myla Madrid | 20 |
| Vidal G. Ramos | 4 | Linda Bell | 20 |
| Leo Goulet | 5 | Humberto "Slim" Lara | 22 |
| Julian Cardenas | 5 | Margarita Sanchez | 23 |
| Sonia Camacho | 5 | Prudencio Minjarez | 24 |
| Tink Schott | 8 | Marion Tiner | 25 |
| Lillian Buss | 9 | Patti Hardison | 25 |
| Esther Leal | 10 | Russell Strasser | 26 |
| Herman Lawson | 12 | Marie Martin | 26 |
| Jesus Aguirre | 12 | Al McAllister | 28 |
| Ted Dutchover Sr. | 13 | Sisto Gonzales | 28 |
| Virginia Nagel | 14 | Eleanor Rivera | 29 |
| Paula Sanchez | 14 | Stacey Fingerle | 29 |
| Ruben Gandara | 14 | Robert Ganter | 29 |
| James Hoffman | 15 | Jerry Martel | 30 |
| John Clark | 16 | Carlos Hernandez | 30 |
| Betty Strackbein | 16 | Louis Wiesman | 30 |
| Charles Tacker | 18 | Michael Dominguez | 30 |
| Barbara Landa | 18 | James Puga | 31 |
| Thelma Moyaert | 18 | Florence Richey | 31 |
| William Edmiston | 18 | Charles Blythe | 31 |

Elementary CCD

December – January News
Christmas/New Year Break

NO CCD

December 24, 27, 31
January 3, 7, 10, 14

**ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE
ASKED TO ATTEND THE DEDICATION OF
THE CHURCH AND ALTAR
ON SUNDAY, JAN. 14TH – 9 AM**

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Pope's December Intention

The Elderly.

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec 24 – Greg Martin, Sharon Massey, Ricardo Fierro Jr., Magan Bermea, Adrian Kinman, Lou Navarrette, Adison Walker, Korina Bustamante, Braxton Barragan, Angie Root, Gregoria Lee, Nataly Hernandez, Conner Anastasio, Jesus Duran Sr., Marissa Salcido, Marissa Magallanez, Kristan Legaspi, Diane Martinez, Kameron Martinez

Dec 25 – JESUS!, Isabella Aldas, Richard Garza, Alyssa Vasquez, Cuauhtemoc Rodriguez, Maci Gutierrez, Adrian Escobedo, Emilio Ibarra

Dec 26- Mary Stutes, Jaime Castillo, Brian Voss, Araceli Perez, Jose Rodriguez, Sandra Medrano, Francisco Ruiz, Carol Hinojos, Mitzie Diaz, Veronica Caballero, Raul Carrillo, Margaret Carpenter, Albert Rincon

Dec 27- Fr. Mark Woodruff, Johnny Aldas, Alberto Garcia, Jason Trevino, Isaac Rios, Carissa Rede, Casey Hunt, Joshua Carrillo, Michael Mendoza, Miranda Baumgardner, Alina Franco, Gladys Chavarria, Sydney Martinez, Azael Berumen, Avani Zubiarte

Dec 28- Joseph Munoz Jr., Perla Ramos, Katherine Watkins, Debra Sanchez, Agustin Munoz, Juan Terrazas, Mary Gonzales, Eddy Bello

Dec 29- Tomasa Telles, Michael Hyde, Erika Fanous, Beyonce Garcia, Jenifer Flores, Tenesia Pointer, Desiree Baiza, Jane Anne Dial, Yaritzah Galindo, Leticia Ramirez, Anthony Lujan, Oscar Hernandez

Dec 30- Tim Parker, Maureen Pinkstaff, Sylvia Clark, Vickie Branch, Karen Cleere, Jaqueline Franco, Nickolaus Garcia, Linda Bustillos, Ezra Rodriguez, Melissa McClure, Ivan Lozano, Diana Gallegos, Beatriz Arroyo, Ailene Castillo, David Barrientes, Jacqueline Torre, Stephanie Gonzalez

Please pray for:

Lois Chorney, Donovan Crawley, Dan Carpenter, Noah Johnson, Juan Urias, Jason Miller and family, Rhina Toruno-Haensly. Joe Villarreal,

Deacon Gary's Prayer Chain

If you are in need of prayers or would like to be a prayer warrior with him and others in the community, please contact him at gbrooks@sanangelodiocese.org.



HOW BRIGHT IS YOUR LIGHT?

Our parish is growing in size and activities. As such, we need more volunteers to help spread the word of God. Please commit to helping the people of your community and yourself by volunteering in one of these ministries.

- Religious Ed teachers and aides
- First Communion teachers and aides
- Quincenera class teacher
- RCIA team member
- Youth Group leaders and chaperones
- Youth Confirmation leaders/teachers
- Steubenville chaperones
- Marriage Retreat team
- Baptism Prep class teacher
- Choir member
- Cantor
- Bell Choir member
- Hospital and Homebound Minister
- Eucharistic Minister
- Lector
- Ushers at all Masses (Sat. & Sun.)
- Marriage Retreat team member
- Altar server
- Altar linen laundering group
- Catholic Charities Volunteer

Call the office (367-4657) for more information.

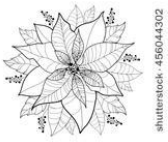
To help us share our time and talents with our church community we have these opportunities to enrich our faith.

- Rosary Group
- ACTS
- Men's Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study
- Spanish Prayer Groups
- Knights of Columbus
- Adoration

Corinthians 12:7-11 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

What is your gift?

Are you helping others



Christmas Flowers

In Memory Of...

+Daniel L. Moreno
+Louis & Dorothy Wiesman, by Karen & Fred Cleere
+Michael J. Dominguez, Elena & Chon Tarango Sr., Elisa & David Dominguez, Abel Tarango, Carmen T Ramirez, David Dominguez, Delma Dominguez, Tomasa & Sabino Aguirre, Manuela & Roberto Tarango, Robert Tarango, Elidia Iniguez, by Emma Dominguez & Family
+Clarence & Mertle Geschweather
+Chad V. Vanderford, by Emilie & Nichole Rougeau-Vanderford
+Nita & Jim Cummins, by Amy & Greg Martin
+Of All Lost Loved Ones, by Chad & Sunshine Thompson
+Nilo & Elisa Minjarez, by Anthony & Angela Minjarez
+Amador Perez, by Rita Perez
+Manuel Cortes, Juan & Catalina Rodriguez
+Rose M. Cuba, by Rosetta & Stanley Cuba
+Junar Foronda, by Cuauhtemoc & Arlene Rodriguez
+Jim Flickinger, by Kristine Flickinger
+Richard Roel Garza, by Corina Garza
+Mrs. Oma Lea Kirk, Mr. & Mrs. John J. Reisner, by Frank Reisner
+Our Beloved Deceased Family Members, by Sheila & Butch Denton
+VanVeen & Resendez Family, by Tina VanVeen
+Jeremy Torres & Oscar Torres, by Lydia Torres
+Bevanie Wade & Martin Gonzales, by Jennifer Wade
+Alvina Cadena, Alvin V. Tovar, by Syndi & Vidal Cadena
+Frank Mijares Sr., Ismael Tavaréz Sr., by Angie Mijares
+Manuel L. Lujan, Josefina H. Lujan, by Linda & Albert Bustillos
+Luis D. Dominguez, Mr. & Mrs. Benito Medrano Sr., by Sandra & Benny Medrano
+Mr. & Mrs. Fred Paynter, by Ann Lustgarden
+Adelita Reyna, Gustavo Reyna, Carlos Vera, by Reyna Family
+George D. Neal, Thomas P. Neal, Lloyd Legendre, by Ida Neal
+Jerry Garvin Sr., Yolanda Garvin, Diego Pazos, by Luz Garvin
+Marie Martin, Ed & Kate Manzo, Irene & Joe Emery, by John Martin
+Katherine Rylee Chorney, The Pradon, Chorney, Drolesky & Proko Families, by Andrea & Walter Chorney

+Loe Wagner, Loretta Wagner, Bob Wagner, by Linda Tilton
+Felipe Carrillo, Luis Ortega, Juanita Ortega
+Emil & Claudia Holub, Lawrence & Martha Friske, Dan Holub, Lawrence Holub, by Anton & Dianna Friske
+Alex Ramirez, Johnny Herrera, Alfredo Herrera, Maria Longoria, by Rosa & Alex Ramirez
+Jesus & Selsa Herrera, Guillerma Marquez, Manuel & Grace Herrera, Connie Rodriguez, by Jovita & Bernardo Marquez
+Silvestre G. Silvas, Rita Silvas, Mario Aguilar, Silvestre P. Silvas, by Emma Aguilar
+Mr. & Mrs. Geronimo Munguia, Mr. & Mrs. Dearl Flowers, Mr. Julian Munguia, Mrs. Julia Rodriguez, Mr. Sammy Jacobo, by Lupe Munguia
+Manuel Aragon, Gerardo Aparicio, Eusebio & Rita Carrasco, Ma de Jesus Granados, Cheno Aragon, by Maria Aparicio
+John & Julia Schepis, Carolina & Carlo Feleppa, Carmela & Albert Schepis, Yolanda Schepis, Carmela B. Valentine, by Juliette Andreopulos
+Eddie & Liz Villarreal, Lillie, Pedro, & Pete Gonzales, Billie & Jose Rodriguez, by Faye Rodriguez
+Betty Marquez Tarango, Julia Salcido Marquez, Herbey G. Armendariz, Ismael G. Armendariz Jr., Sandra Jean Villaloboz, by Barbara & Anthony Villaloboz
+Carmen Hernandez, Delia Subia, Johnny Subia, Francisco Hernandez, Abraham Barrera, by Frank & Angela Hernandez
+R.G. & Dorothy Lester, Aubrey & Virginia Barlow, Deceased Relatives & Friends, by Elizabeth & Bob Barlow
+Sharon & Donna Rieves, Virginia Gonzalez, Rueben Nino, Manuela & Mike Nino, Lupe Nino, Lucas Gonzales, by Alice Rieves
+All Pepper Family, All Hoffman Family, Jim & Shannon Hoffman, by Cathy Hoffman
+Josefina Cantu, Angela Sosa, Amparo Sosa, Rebecca Oliviera, Rudy DeLos Santos, Arthur DeLos Santos, Blankenship Family, Scotty Sierra Mulkey, by Ernesto & Mildred Sierra Jr.

In Honor Of...

-Our Children & Grandchildren, by Drew & Pam Crutcher
-Our Children, Robert, David, & Tasha, by Elizabeth & Bob Barlow
-Joniee & Coda Wright, Zander Hoffman, & Grandsons, by Cathy Hoffman
-Eloisa Delos Santos, by Ernesto & Mildred Sierra Jr.