

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.
May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah in the desert.
He went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:
"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Luke 3:2-4

December 5th Collection

Regular:	\$3,680.00
Parish Maintenance:	\$132.00
St. Anne's Altar Society:	\$117.00
St. Anne's Candles:	\$75.07
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$60.00
Mass Intentions:	\$20.00
Social Outreach:	\$1,050.00
Bricks:	\$350.00
World Mission:	\$20.00
Christmas Offering:	\$35.00
Retired Religious:	\$200.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$230.00
Thanksgiving Offering:	\$200.00
Online 11/30-12/6:	\$50.00

Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

December 12, 2021



Bulletin printed in-house at:
Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
1001 E Terrell Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76104
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—December 12th

Christ Even Now on the Way to Bethlehem

Evidently, in the mind of holy Church, neither the prophecy concerning Bethlehem Ephrata nor its fulfillment in the day of Caesar Augustus is to be considered merely a glorious divine disposition and achievement. No, the prophecy of Micheus is still being verified every day, but predominantly during the annual Advent season; for the selfsame incarnate eternal Son of God who journeyed to Bethlehem to be born there physically, now to the end of time comes to human souls as to spiritual Bethlehems, there to be born anew, again and again.

But be sure to picture these merciful spiritual journeyings of Christ to the Bethlehem of souls as all too often sadly realistic spiritual repetitions of His first long journey over the rugged road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Meditate long on the wanton and malicious opposition He encounters on His way to them from souls that leave their senses and heart and mind to be ruled by earthly vanities, and their whole selves to be willing victims of the sensual and selfish illusions and witcheries of the seven capital vices.

Can you still fail to see why Isaias

and the Baptist compare the hardships of the way of the world's Messiah-King to souls with a rough, crooked, and almost impassable road up steep hills and down precipitous valleys and through dangerous mountain passes? Do you wonder that these prophets of His coming insist so strongly that merely sentimental longings and routine prayers, however multiplied, cannot prepare us worthily for the entrance He must expect and the welcome He craves?

Pray very honestly, therefore, that you may begin to see the practical reasons for the Church's crying out in the desert world, and even into your own interior soul and heart:

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord: Make straight in the wilderness His paths; Every valley shall be exalted; Every mountain and hill shall be made low; And the crooked shall be made straight; And the rough ways plain" (Is. 40:3, 4). Then shall you see the salvation of God!

Excerpted from *Our Way to the Father* by Rev. Leo M. Krenz, S.J.



Mass Schedule:

Monday—Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

Reconciliation (Confession):

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.— noon

Saturday 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri

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In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time.



FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The surrounding traditions go as far back as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday" which marks the mid-point of Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S..U.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, December 13

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 14

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 15

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration: 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Confessions: 5:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Thursday, December 16

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Friday, December 17

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration: 8:00 a.m.—noon

Confessions: 9:00 a.m.—noon

Saturday, December 18

Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration: 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Confessions: 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 19

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Vocation View

"What ought we to do?"

Let joy and gladness show forth in you.

You are called to be the presence of Jesus.

Divine Word Vocation Office

1-800-553-3321

www.svdvocations.org

Weekly Readings

12/13—NM 24:2-7, 15-17a;

MT 21:23-27

12/14—ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13;

MT 21:28-32

12/15—IS 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25;

LK 7:18b-23

12/16—IS 54:1-10; LK 7:24-30

12/17—GN 49:2, 8-410; MT 1:1-17

12/18—JER 23:5-8; MT 1:18-25

12/19—MI 5:1-4a; HEB 10:5-10;

LK 1:39-45

PARISH CORNER

In order to give additional time for Adoration and Confessions during Advent, Father Bart has increased the time for Wednesday Night's Adoration to 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCING THE 2021-2022 MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHRISTMAS ARTWORK CONTEST!

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) of the Pontifical Mission Societies sponsors an annual Christmas Artwork Contest for young Catholics in grades K-8. The contest invites our children to share their God-given artistic talents to proclaim the *Good News* of Jesus' birth.

Twenty-two winners will be selected in this national competition, as well as two grand-prize winners whose artwork will be the official National Christmas card of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Contest winners will be notified in late spring 2022 and announced to Catholic media in fall 2022. All winners receive a commemorative plaque, and will be celebrated at an event in December 2022.

For Entry Form and contest guidelines:

<https://info.missio.org/2021entryform>

All entries submitted must be accompanied by a completed entry form, and postmarked or received by The Diocesan Office of Pontifical Missions Catholic Center 800 W Loop 820 S Fort Worth, TX 76108

no later than January 31, 2022.



Everyone involved in any ministry at any Catholic Church or school is required to attend a Safe and Sacred/Environment class every 2 years. Please create a profile under Virtus.org. and then it will prompt you to sign up for a class. You can pick a location, time and date convenient to your schedule.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

"THE SUMMARY OF THE WHOLE GOSPEL"

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

2767 This indivisible gift of the Lord's words and of the Holy Spirit who gives life to them in the hearts of believers has been received and lived by the Church from the beginning. the first communities prayed the Lord's Prayer three times a day,¹⁸ in place of the "Eighteen Benedictions" customary in Jewish piety.

2768 According to the apostolic tradition, the Lord's Prayer is essentially rooted in liturgical prayer:

[The Lord] teaches us to make prayer in common for all our brethren. For he did not say "my Father" who art in heaven, but "our" Father, offering petitions for the common body.¹⁹

In all the liturgical traditions, the Lord's Prayer is an integral part of the major hours of the Divine Office. In the three sacraments of Christian initiation its ecclesial character is especially in evidence:

2769 In Baptism and Confirmation, the handing on (traditio) of the Lord's Prayer signifies new birth into the divine life. Since Christian prayer is our speaking to God with the very word of God, those who are "born anew". . . through the living and abiding word of God²⁰ learn to invoke their Father by the one Word he always hears. They can henceforth do so, for the seal of the Holy Spirit's anointing is indelibly placed on their hearts, ears, lips, indeed their whole filial being. This is why most of the patristic commentaries on the Our Father are addressed to catechumens and neophytes. When the Church prays the Lord's Prayer, it is always the people made up of the "new-born" who pray and obtain mercy.²¹

¹⁸ Cf. Didache 8, 3: Sch 248, 174.

¹⁹ St. John Chrysostom, Hom. in Mt. 19, 4: PG 57, 278.

²⁰ 1 Pet 1:23.

²¹ Cf. 1 Pet 2:1-10.
