

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

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Luke 1:41-45

December 19th Collection

Regular:	\$3,543.00
Parish Maintenance:	\$277.00
St. Vincent De Paul:	\$310.00
St. Anne's Altar Society:	\$105.00
St. Anne's Candles:	\$43.50
Bibles:	\$90.00
Bricks:	\$200.00
Retired Religious:	\$60.00
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Online 12/14—12/20:	\$150.00

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 26,



Bulletin printed in-house at:
**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**

1001 E Terrell Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76104

817-335-1695
ommftworth1@gmail.com

Pastor: Fr. Bartłomiej "Bart" Jasilek, SVD

**Secretary/Safe Environment Coordinator/
Facilitator:** Lydia Salas

Bookkeeper: Jennifer Rattliff

Musician: Zenobia Collins

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Help Line: 817-768-1950/svdppomm@gmail.com

Sick/Shut-In Outreach Ministry:
Beverly Carter
817-551-1449/bacarter913@gmail.com

Lector Coordinator:
Lanette Martinez Vidaurri
817-228-3338/lanettemartinez@ymail.com

Eucharistic Coordinator:
Lana Wilborn
817-980-0138/lolan42@yahoo.com

Pastoral Council:
Mrs. Linda Zamora
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**Christmas: December 26th
Feast of the Holy Family**

The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, 'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary's sake [...]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.' (First Homily on the 'Missus Est').

Today's celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, whilst also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping. The servant of God, Pope John Paul II, in 1989, entitled his Apostolic Exhortation, 'Redemptoris Custos' (Guardian of the Redeemer) which was dedicated to the person and the mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church. After exactly a century, he resumed the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, for who Saint Joseph 'shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he

was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men' (Encyclical Quamquam Pluries [1889] n. 3). Pope Leo XIII continued, 'Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was.[...] It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.' Not many years before, blessed Pope Pius IX had proclaimed Saint Joseph, 'Patron of the Catholic Church' (1870)

We can learn from Mary and Joseph! What would they ever have overlooked in the care of Jesus' physical body? Is there something, therefore, that we can withhold for the right and adoring care of His Eucharistic Body? On the contrary, our adoration and respect will always be inferior to the great gift that comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can not fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask for forgiveness and do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

From the Congregation for the Clergy

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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President

PHONE: 817.927.5545
EMAIL: gilbert@pic-printing.com
WEB: pic-printing.com
ADDRESS: 4521 S. Hulen St., Ste. 116
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In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

**My sisters and brothers:
Feast of the Holy Family**

Today, December 27th, is the feast day of the Holy Family, but also every family's feast day, since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. Today should be a huge family feast, since it is devoted entirely to the Holy Family as a model for the Christian family life.

Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.— Excerpted from *With Christ Through the Year*, Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S..V.D



Vocation View

Jesus grew in wisdom, age, and grace in the midst of his family. How is your family growing in the midst of these challenging times? Seek out God's grace.

Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

☒☒☒	Friday, December 31
☒☒☒	Monday, December 27
☒☒☒	Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.
☒☒☒	Tuesday, December 28
☒☒☒	Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.
☒☒☒	Wednesday, December 29
☒☒☒	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 30
☒☒☒	Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.
☒☒☒	Friday, December 31
☒☒☒	Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.
☒☒☒	Adoration: 8:00 a.m.—noon
☒☒☒	Confessions: 9:00 a.m.—noon
☒☒☒	Saturday, January 1
☒☒☒	Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m. (no Live Stream)
☒☒☒	Live Stream Mass: 10 a.m.
☒☒☒	Sunday, January 2
☒☒☒	Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.
☒☒☒	Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Weekly Readings

- 12/27—1 JN 1:1-4; JN 20:1a and 2-8
- 12/28—1 JN 1:5-2:2; MT 2:13-18
- 12/29—1 JN 2:3-11; LK 2:22-35
- 12/30—1 JN 2:12-17; LK 2:36-40
- 12/31—1 JN 2:18-21; JN 1:1-18
- 1/1—NM 6:22-27; GAL 4:4-7; LK 2:16-21
- 1/2—IS 60:1-6; EPH 3:2-3a and 5-6; MT 2:1-12

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PARISH CORNER

Sometimes it can feel as though we live two separate Christmas experiences. One is an endless round of parties, presents, food and socializing, the bright lights, late nights and overindulging at the forefront.

The other Christmas experience is the truth and beauty of what happened at Christmas time; God becoming man and coming into our world as a tiny helpless baby. In all the busyness of the run-up to Christmas day, it is easy to forget what it is really about.

“And in the end...everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child and Love.” **Pope John Paul II**

“We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate so warm with love for one another.”

Bl Teresa of Calcutta

“Christmas reveals **the immense love of God for humanity.** From that flows also the enthusiasm, the hope of us Christians, that in our poverty we know that **we are loved, we are visited, accompanied by God.**” **Pope Francis**

Dear brothers and sisters, “humility is the only way that leads us to God. At the same time, specifically because it leads us to Him, humility leads us also to the essentials of life, to its truest meaning, to the most trustworthy reason for why life is truly worth living.” **Pope Francis**



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Year Mass

Mass for the New Year is at Midnight and 10:00 a.m. on January 1st. There will not be a 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on January 1st. Sunday Mass on January 2nd will be at 10:00 a.m.

Parish Office Hours

Beginning January 5, 2022, the Parish office will open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. We will no longer observe office hours on Mondays. This slight change will help us to better accommodate the needs of our Parishioners and Parish.

St. Vincent De Paul Angel Tree



Thank you for your kindness and generosity in donating to the St. Vincent De Paul Angel tree. Many children were able to receive gifts thanks to you.



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.

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CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

"THE SUMMARY OF THE WHOLE GOSPEL"

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

2770 In the Eucharistic liturgy the Lord's Prayer appears as the prayer of the whole Church and there reveals its full meaning and efficacy. Placed between the anaphora (the Eucharistic prayer) and the communion, the Lord's Prayer sums up on the one hand all the petitions and intercessions expressed in the movement of the epiclesis and, on the other, knocks at the door of the Banquet of the kingdom which sacramental communion anticipates.

2771 In the Eucharist, the Lord's Prayer also reveals the eschatological character of its petitions. It is the proper prayer of "the end-time," the time of salvation that began with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and will be fulfilled with the Lord's return. the petitions addressed to our Father, as distinct from the prayers of the old covenant, rely on the mystery of salvation already accomplished, once for all, in Christ crucified and risen.

2772 From this unshakeable faith springs forth the hope that sustains each of the seven petitions, which express the groanings of the present age, this time of patience and expectation during which "it does not yet appear what we shall be."²² The Eucharist and the Lord's Prayer look eagerly for the Lord's return, "until he comes."²³

IN BRIEF

2772 In response to his disciples' request "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk 11:1), Jesus entrusts them with the fundamental Christian prayer, the Our Father.

2773 "The Lord's Prayer is truly the summary of the whole gospel,"²⁴ The "most perfect of prayers."²⁵ It is at the center of the Scriptures.

²² 1 Jn 3:2; Cf. Col 3:4.

²³ 1 Cor 11:26 24 Tertullian

²⁴ Tertullian, De orat. 1 PL 1, 1251-1255.

²⁵ St. Thomas Aquinas, STh II-II, 83, 9.