

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

and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in
Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted
(and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of
many hearts may be revealed.”

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the
Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the
favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:34-35, 39-40

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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

December 27, 2020



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

Parish Secretary: Lydia Salas

Bookkeeper: Jennifer Rattliff

Musician: Zenobia Collins

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

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**Christmas: December 27th
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

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Phone: 817-641-4890
Onlayanru@icloud.com

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

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zenobiacollins@sbcglobal.net 682.365.4156
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February 26, 1930—January 7, 2019

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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):

Friday & Saturday Confessions
9:00 a.m. — noon

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

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

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S..V.D



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, December 28

Live Stream on
our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Tuesday, December 29

Live Stream on
our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Wednesday, December 30

Live Stream on
our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Thursday, December 31

Live Stream on
our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Friday, January 1

Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m.
(no Live Stream)

Live Stream on
our Church Website

Mass: 10 a.m.

Saturday, January 2

Live Stream on
our Church Website

Mass: 8 a.m.

Mass: 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 3

Live Stream on
our Church Website

Mass: 10 a.m.

Weekly Readings

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—1 JN 2:22-28; JN 1:19-28

1/3—IS 60:1-6; EPH 3:2-3a, 5-6;
MT 2:1-12

Vocation View
The angels announced tidings of great joy for all the people. Jesus is born in you today. Celebrate the presence of Emmanuel in a special way.

Luke 2:9-11

Divine Word Vocation Office

1-800-553-3321

www.svdvocations.org

PARISH CORNER

Congratulations Saint Vincent de Paul Society on your successful Angel tree and food gift projects.

Thank you so much all supporters of these projects!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Year's Mass Schedule

Midnight Mass-New Year's:
Friday, January 1, 2021
at 12:00 a.m. (will not be live
streamed)

New Year's Day Mass Friday:
January 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

On Friday, New Year's Day, we will not be having adoration, nor confessions.

Holy Family

Today 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. As Rev. Edward Sutfin states:

"The children must learn to see in their father the foster-father St. Joseph, and the Blessed Mother as the perfect model for their own mother. The lesson to be learned is both practical and theoretical, in that the children must learn how to obey and to love their parents in thought, word and action, just as Christ was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Helping mother in the kitchen and in the house work, and helping father in his odd jobs about the home thus take on a new significance by being performed in a Christ-like spirit." (*True Christmas Spirit*, ©1955, St. Meinrad Archabbey, Inc.)

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Jesus teaches us how to pray

2607 When Jesus prays he is already teaching us how to pray. His prayer to his Father is the theological path (the path of faith, hope, and charity) of our prayer to God. But the Gospel also gives us Jesus' explicit teaching on prayer. Like a wise teacher he takes hold of us where we are and leads us progressively toward the Father. Addressing the crowds following him, Jesus builds on what they already know of prayer from the Old Covenant and opens to them the newness of the coming Kingdom. Then he reveals this newness to them in parables. Finally, he will speak openly of the Father and the Holy Spirit to his disciples who will be the teachers of prayer in his Church.

2608 From the *Sermon on the Mount* onwards, Jesus insists on *conversion of heart*: reconciliation with one's brother before presenting an offering on the altar, love of enemies, and prayer for persecutors, prayer to the Father in secret, not heaping up empty phrases, prayerful forgiveness from the depths of the heart, purity of heart, and seeking the Kingdom before all else.⁶⁴ This filial conversion is entirely directed to the Father.

⁶⁴ Cf. 5:23-24, 44-45; 6:7,14-15,21,25,33.

That God will provide us the strength to forgive those that have hurt us.