

Saint Matthias Catholic Church
116 Kenway St, Rockwall, TX 75087
972-771-1378 www.saintmatthias.net

Volume XII, Issue XII

December 2018

A Mini-Lent



So often the Season of Advent is looked at as an early extension of Christmas, but this is not at all the purpose of the season. Advent has historically been purposed as a mini-Lent. It is a season of preparing ourselves for the coming of the King. If we knew that in the next few weeks, Jesus would be literally and physically standing in front of us, what would we do to get ourselves ready? That is the question that is posed to us as we begin this season. It is not yet time for mistletoe, presents and caroling. Now is the time to clean house and get our lives in order. The season of Christmas begins with Christmas Day and continues through Epiphany, so do not be distracted by the stores and the stations, now is a time to ready ourselves for the great celebration.

As we begin this month with the First Sunday in Advent, it is our Liturgical New Year. We begin each and every year with a season of preparation and this is not accident. Along the journey of life we pick up a lot of dirt and grime as we trudge through the world. Now as we look forward to the Glory of the Kingdom of God, we get our lives physically and spiritually clean in expectation and anticipation for the coming of the Lord.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Todd F. Pen".

Mass Schedule Sunday

8:30am & 10:30am

Childcare is available for children under the age of 7 during the 10:30am mass.

Children's Church School

Sunday's at 9:45-10:15

Daily Mass Schedule

Thurs.@ Evergreen—9:00 am

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Calendar of Events

- Monday, 12/3 & 12/17, Women's Bible Study at 7pm.
- Wednesday, 12/5 & 12/19, Men's Bible Study at 7pm
- Tuesday, December 11th Adoration @ 7pm
- Saturday, December 15th Ministry to the Homeless @ 11am

Del Sacerdote

Con la fiesta de Cristo Rey los cristianos terminamos el año litúrgico confesando a Jesús como el centro de nuestras vidas, como el eje sobre el que gira toda nuestra existencia, confesando –como nos ha recordado el Papa Francisco en el Mensaje con motivo de la primera Jornada mundial de los pobres– que “el inocente clavado en la cruz, pobre, desnudo y privado de todo, encarna y revela la plenitud del amor de Dios”.

El **Adviento** nos abre las puertas de un nuevo año. Del mismo modo que el inicio de cada año natural se nos ofrece como una oportunidad, como una **posibilidad abierta**, para dar lo mejor de nosotros mismos en los 365 días que tenemos por delante..., así tendríamos que vivir el comienzo de cada año litúrgico que se nos ofrece como novedad, oportunidad, nuevo comienzo...

Creo –es mi percepción, quizás equivocada– que los cristianos solemos caer en un error: considerar el año litúrgico como un “ciclo” como un tiempo circular que vuelve una y otra vez, sin cambio, repitiéndose monótonamente: otro Adviento, otra Navidad..., después vendrá otra Cuaresma, otra Pascua..., y así para volver a empezar.

Esta sensación de circularidad imprime monotonía y rutina y no se corresponde con lo que proclamamos como creyentes que es, justamente, lo contrario: **domingo a domingo celebramos al Dios de la sorpresa, al Dios de la novedad**, a Aquel que va siempre por delante, que no se repite, a Aquel que sostiene y empuja nuestra historia (personal, comunitaria, mundial, eclesial...), que nos interpela y compromete en la construcción del Reino, hasta que Jesús (el centro de nuestra vida) sea realmente todo en todos.

Nuestro caminar personal, familiar, social, histórico... **es un caminar hacia delante, hacia lo mejor, hacia la superación constante...**, es un caminar que se nos abre lleno de posibilidades, que nos debe ilusionar, que nos debe llenar de nuevas energías... porque **Dios**, que es novedad constante, **lo impulsa desde dentro**.

Creo que si miramos el nuevo año litúrgico desde esta perspectiva, seremos capaces de **romper con la rutina para dejarnos sorprender, con mover y movilizar**. Ya no será “otro Adviento más”, sino “un Adviento nuevo y distinto”; ni “una Navidad más”, sino “una Navidad nueva e inolvidable”...

Padre Oscar Castillo

Parroquia San Matias
Padre Oscar Castillo
972-977-3594

- Bautismos
- Bodas
- Quinceañeras
- Bendición de casas
- Confesión antes de la Eucaristía o para cita



PERSONAL HYGIENE

Helping Hands Items of the Month *Personal Hygiene* Helping Hands

Our church collects these items throughout the month and the food is delivered to the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

Peek Into December

Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 1/9 & 1/23

Women's Bible Study

Monday 1/7 & 1/21

Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, 12/24 @ 10pm

Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday, 12/25 @ 10am

News and Updates

Please remember to keep up with the weekly bulletin announcements for more up-to-date activities in the life of the church.



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"We are a hospital for sinners, not a country club for saints."

Fellowship & Study Groups

Men's Bible Study

Wednesday's, December 5th & 19th @ 7:00pm

Women's Bible Study

Monday's, December 3rd & 17th @ 7:00pm

Spiritual Growth & Devotional

Adoration

Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month @ 7:00pm

Activity In The Community

Parish Christmas Party, Sunday December 16th, 5-8

Bring your favorite dish and if you wish to take part in the gift exchange, there is a \$20 limit on gifts for adults and \$15 for children under 12 yrs.

Christmas Eve Mass: Caroling at 10:00pm, Mass at 11:00pm

Christmas Day Mass: 10:00am

Server's List

8:30am Mass

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Eucharist	Usher	Altar Guild
12/2/2018	Marguerite Brindock		Gerry Lamb	Albert Hernandez	Margie Chung
12/9/2018	Gerry Lamb	Gerry Coppler	Andrew Brindock	Brandon Morgan	Marguerite Brindock
12/16/2018		Gerry Lamb	Marguerite Brindock	Luke Krawietz	Jody McGee
12/23/2018	Jim Davis	Jim Davis	Gerry Lamb	Albert Hernandez	Emily Hernandez
12/30/2018	Bonnie Penny	Adam Dingwell	Andrew Brindock	Brandon Morgan	Margie Chung

10:30am Mass

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Eucharist	Ushers	Altar Guild	Torch Bearers	Childcare
12/2/2018	Deacon David		Juan Garza	John and Jaci Bulsterbaum	Cristina Castro	Emma Linehan/Angela Garza	Allie/Tessa
12/9/2018	Josh Zachary	Juan Garza	Tina Lewandowski	Erv and Pam Slovack	Janet Jackson	Ramon Garza/Ryan Holmes	Cathy/Emma
12/16/2018	Jeff Gay	Kathy Oehler	Yolanda Garza	Bobbie W./Sara L.	Karen Anderson	Logan Zachary/Noah Danna	Juliana/Angela
12/23/2018	Bonnie Penny	Jeff Gay	Jeff Gay	Randy and Tina Lewandowski	Jaci Bulsterbaum	Emma Linehan/Angela Garza	Yolanda/Tessa
12/30/2018	Greg Oehler	Angela Garza	Cristina Castro	John and Jaci Bulsterbaum	Cristina Castro	Ramon Garza/Ryan Holmes	Allie/Emma

Please mark your calendar's. If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please send an email to Email@saintmatthias.net

Parish Council Members

Jeff Gay

Bobbie Walker

Bonnie Penny

Marc Holmes

Greg Oehler

Parish Council Rotation

Date	Collections	**Backup**
12/2/2018	Jeff G	Bobbie W.
12/9/2018	Marc H.	Bonnie P.
12/16/2018	Bonnie P.	Greg O.
12/23/2018	Greg O.	Jeff G.
12/30/2018	Bobbie W.	Marc. H

Advertisements

Are we asking the wrong questions?

"Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." (John 4:20)

"...a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24)

Juan Garza

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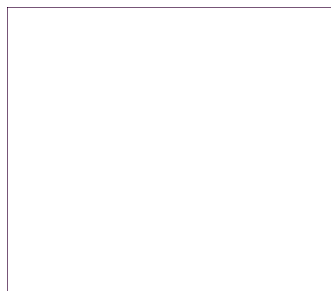
ADVENT

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NOT A COUNTRY CLUB FOR SAINTS ."**