



## Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.  
— Mark 1:3*

### Mass Intentions (Dec. 12 - 17, 2017)

Tues.	Robert Blackwell
Wed.	Donald & Wayne Cole
Thur.	Jeremy Jackson
Fri.	Walter Piat
Sat.	Linda LeLeux
Sun: 8 am	Melvin D. Scales
10:30 am	For the Parish

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Second Sunday of Advent; International Human Rights Day
Monday:	St. Damasus I
Tuesday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe; Hanukkah begins at sunset
Wednesday:	St. Lucy
Thursday:	St. John of the Cross
Saturday:	<i>Las Posadas</i> begins

### TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.  
—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

**The Ladies of St Henry** will have their annual Christmas Social on Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 11:30 am at Southern Charm Restaurant in Orange. If you like to carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 11:00 am. For more information, call Tenna Walker (409) 313-6596.

### ATTENTION LECTORS

**LECTOR WORKBOOKS FOR CYCLE B ARE IN THE SACRISTY. PLEASE PICK ONE UP AFTER ANY MASS.**

**Sister ACTS** will have their Christmas Party this Tue, Dec. 12th at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room of the Education Building. Please bring a snack to share. Christmas socks stuffed with goodies (\$20 limit) will be exchanged. For more info, contact Robin (749-0433) or Randie (735-5816)

### Annual Parish Christmas Dinner...

This Sunday, we will have our annual Christmas Dinner in the Activities Building following the 10:30 am Mass. Please bring a dish to share...the parish will provide the meat. For more information, see the bulletin boards at all church doors.

The Office of Worship will hold a CEMI workshop entitled *Lent and Easter: The Season, the Music* on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm at the Pastoral Center. We will reflect on Lent, it's meaning, the Triduum, the Easter Season, the high points of the Church year and sample music. Register at [www.dioceseofbmt.org](http://www.dioceseofbmt.org) or call (409) 924-4341.

Pray for  
the sick of  
our Parish

*George Peery    Betty Duhon*  
*Carol Faulk    Lou Garriga*



### Collections for December 3, 2017

Envelope Collection .....	14,733.00
Loose Collection .....	764.00
<b>Total Operating Income .....</b>	<b>15,497.00</b>

Building Fund .....	4,803.00
Good Samaritan.....	40.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development.....	30.00
Retirement Fund for Religious.....	80.00
Christmas Offering.....	5.00

We have open weekends for Memorial Tabernacle Flowers. Cost is \$45 and you may book your weekend in the Parish office.

Flowers at the tabernacle are in memory of

**The DeRouen & Dufrene Families**



**The Church mailing address is: PO Box 427, Bridge City, TX 77611.  
We do NOT receive mail at the physical address.**



### Children's Choir

If your child would like to be in the Children's Choir that will sing before the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass, there will be practice next Sunday, Dec. 17th at 2:00 pm in the Church.

**Our bulletin, schedules and calendar are on our website.  
[www.sthenrybctx.org](http://www.sthenrybctx.org). Check it out, day or night.**

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).  
**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).  
**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).  
**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



12/10	Parish Christmas Dinner 11:30 am	12/13	Adoration 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
12/11	SHARE 6:00 pm	"	Ladies of St Henry Lunch 11:30 am
12/12	Legion of Mary 5:30 pm	"	RE Classes
"	Sister ACTS Party 6:00 pm	12/14	RCIA 7:00 pm
"	KC Meeting 6:30 pm	"	Choir Practice 7:00 pm

For more info go to:  
[www.sthenrybctx.org](http://www.sthenrybctx.org)

## Our Parish in Action...

**Eucharistic Adoration Every Wednesday**—after 8 AM Mass until 8 PM. Call Odette Hill at 344-2005 if you are able to dedicate an hour of prayer on a weekly basis.

**Legion of Mary**—meets each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the RE Bldg. For more info contact Judy at 749-4101 or Annette 735-9342.

**10:30 AM Choir**—meets for rehearsal every Thursday at 7 PM in the Church. New members are always welcome.

**Al-Anon Meetings**—meetings are every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Library of the Education Building. For more information, call Cindy at 749-9036 or Mike at 718-0333.

**S.H.A.R.E.**—St. Henry Apologetics and Religious Evangelization is open to all men and women of St. Henry and meets Mondays at 6pm in the Education Building. Call Ron Jackson at (409) 351-9876.

**Ladies of St. Henry**—meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month (Sept-May) at 10 AM in the Activities Bldg. Call Tenna Walker at 313-6596 for info.

**Young at Hearts Group** meets the 1st Tuesday each month for a pot luck luncheon in the Religious Ed. Bldg. at 11:30 a.m. Contact Peggy Biddle, Ruth Wallace or Judy Cole for more information.

**Bunco** meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in RE Bldg. Call Tracey Broussard at 344-2341 for more info.

**Knights of Columbus**—Officer's Meeting the Wed. before the Business Meeting; Business meetings are the 2nd Tues.; Family Night 3rd Tues. Call Carl Thibodeaux at 238-2116 for more info.

**R.C.I.A.** - meets on Thursday's at 7pm in Religious Ed Building.

**Bereavement Committee**—If you would like to help provide food for families of deceased parishioners, call Barbara Piat at 735-5119.

**Social Committee**—plans and hosts Parish dinners and receptions at our Parish. Call Debbie Gregg at 988-1243 for more info.

**Gather the Children** will be every Sunday at the 10:30 am Mass (except for holiday weekends). Contact Alicia Romero (718-6407) if you are interested in helping.

Parishioners preparing to enter the hospital for non-emergency medical treatment or surgery are asked to call our parish office and make an appointment to receive the Anointing of the Sick **BEFORE** entering the hospital, if so desired.

If anointing is desired **AFTER** entry into the hospital, please contact the following:

- For **Christus St. Mary Hospital** contact the chaplain department of the hospital
- For **Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital** contact the chaplain department of the hospital
- For **The Medical Center of Southeast Texas** contact St. Charles Church in Nederland at 722-3413

### ARE YOU REGISTERED WITH OUR PARISH?

If you are not currently receiving mail from the Parish office, either we do not have your correct address or we do not have you on the Parish roll. All persons who attend St. Henry Catholic Church should be registered with our office and should be using our envelope system. Census forms may be obtained from the Parish office. Please complete and return. If you have a new address, please contact the office with the correct information.

You must be registered to baptize your child, prepare for marriage or enroll someone in our education program. **DON'T DELAY!!!**

### Altar Cleaning for December

Donna Fults Nancy Landry  
Barbara Piat Maudrey Schur Bea Werkheiser

## NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge."

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where's Waldo?* children's book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

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

### CATHOLIC CLERICAL STUDENT FUND...

sponsored by the DCCW of the Diocese of Beaumont. You can remember a loved one living or deceased with enrollment for \$5 and for \$10 or more the name will be printed in the ETC. This fund benefits the education of men for the priesthood. Call Runella Primeaux at (409) 332-5098 for more information.

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