

# St. Mary Catholic Church ~ St. Joseph Catholic Mission

P O Box 388, Plantersville, Texas 77363

## December 2022



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo  
Fr. Edward C. Kucera, Jr. ~ Pastor  
Deacon David G. Garvis

Parish Office ~ 936-894-2223

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday: 8:00 am - 12 pm

\*\*\*Lunch: Closed from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm\*\*\*

Parish Fax ~ 936-894-3613

Website: [www.smsj.org](http://www.smsj.org)

General E-Mail: [info@smsj.org](mailto:info@smsj.org)



### MASS SCHEDULE

#### St. Mary—Plantersville

Monday through Thursday & First Friday—9:00 a.m.

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. & Sunday—7:30, 8:45, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.

#### St. Joseph—Stoneham

Sunday—7:30 a.m.

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

1st & 3rd Wednesday: 10a.m.-12p.m. & 5-6p.m.

Or by Appointment—Please Call the Office.

### SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Please call the parish office for information concerning  
Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony or Anointing of the Sick.

## *Church Organizations & Ministries at St. Mary's & St. Joseph's*

### Parish Administrator

Bill Jones 936-894-2223

### AA

Leland Fougeron 936-870-5102

### Adult Bible Study & Spiritual Enrichment

Jim & Mary Barnette 936-851-0155

### Adult Confirmation

Sharon Skeans 281-467-0217

### Altar Society-St. Mary

Rita Swonke 713-557-5817

### Altar Society-St. Joseph

Marcy Pavlock 936-661-6662

### Altar Servers

Steve Twining 713-344-6001

### Annulments

Call Parish Office 936-894-2223

### Art & Environment...etc.

Liz Torres 936-894-2223

### Baptism Preparation for Infants to 6

Email [baptisms@smsj.org](mailto:baptisms@smsj.org)

### CCE / RE

Cheryl Schratwieser 936-894-2223

### Extraordinary Ministers —

#### Holy Communion & Sacristans

Kerry Masson 713-824-8599

#### Gabriel Project

Wanda O'Brien 936-597-6328

#### GriefShare/S.A.L.T. Ministry

Mary Marshall 281-356-2497

#### Guardian Angels Senior Group

TBD 936.894.2223

#### Homebound Ministry

Larry & Patty Decker 936-228-9742

#### Lectors

Richard Prokop 936-597-8688

#### Marriage Preparation

Call Parish Office 936-894-2223

For Spanish speaking prep, call:

Brenda Martinez 936-777-9720

#### Church Greeters

Call Parish Office 936-894-2223

#### Music/Wedding Director

Sue Langston 979-268-6886

### Pro-Life Outreach

Nance Shaw 936-894-2512

### RCIA / Adult Faith Formation

Don Picard 936-697-0195

### Rummage Sale Coordinator

Lauren Twining 281-813-5355

### St. Joseph's Cemetery

Justin Mock 979-777-4993

### St. Mary's Cemetery

Rita Swonke 713-557-5817

### St. Mary's Corner Shoppe

Ethel Barbossa 936-588-4053

### St. Mary's Men's Club

Bob Daves 832-205-2791

### Stitchin' Sisters

Juli Murphy 936-206-0677

### St. Vincent de Paul (for help. 936-894-2362)

Bob Daves 832-205-2791

### Write for Life

Bob Dean 936-582-6314

### Youth Ministry

Susan Horne 281-536-0810

**If you are new to the area and would like to become a member of our parish, please call the office or pick up a registration form in back of the church.  
A registration can be completed online at [www.smsj.org](http://www.smsj.org).**

## AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR...



Recently I was asked the question: "Why does the priest (or deacon) pour a small amount of water into the chalice following his putting in the wine." A good question. It sparked my thinking of the other actions during the Liturgy that might seem rather odd or cause one to wonder 'what's that all about'? Like so much in life that is important, the more we understand what's going on, the more we can appreciate and enter into what's happening. Our Mass, our Liturgy, has quite a number of actions that, without explanation, can seem mysterious or just be taken for granted or overlooked. Let's start with:

The Entrance Procession of ministers: cross, acolytes (servers), lector, deacon, presider (priest). This procession is not just a means of getting the ministers to the front of the church and to their places but has a deep theological significance, reminding us all of the fact that the entire people of God are pilgrims—we are a pilgrim people on the road from here (the earth) to eternity (to heaven). It is important that this procession reflect and be seen as our pilgrimage ultimately to Christ. At a National Pastoral Musicians Conference years ago, we were cautioned that, if the procession was seen as a 'getting the priest to the altar', musicians might be careful in choosing the Gathering Hymn. "Hail, Holy Queen!" might not be too appropriate. This procession of ministers on pilgrimage is completed when each takes his place within the Assembly. The priest who presides and leads the Assembly takes his place at the presider's chair. Now that all are gathered and in place is the Gathering Hymn sung. (It might be observed that many parishes still utilize the Gathering Hymn as a means of 'getting the priest to the altar'.) One liturgist at a conference commented that no one wants to miss a parade and getting stuck singing a hymn does just that ... lol.

Before the presider (priest) gets to his chair, he does something that might look a bit strange: he venerates (kisses) the altar. What's that all about?

The kiss is intended first of all simply for the altar, the Lord's table. But eventually the meaning of the kiss was enlarged by the idea that the altar (usually built of stone) represented Christ Himself, the cornerstone, our spiritual rock. Thus, the kiss began to represent kissing Christ Himself. With the growth of the veneration of martyrs (the first saints), it gradually became a rule from the beginning of the Middle Ages on, that every church (not just the cathedral church) should have their martyr's grave, and finally that every altar must enclose a 'sepulcher' or little reliquary. Thus, the kissing of the altar is transformed into the kissing of the martyr and, through him, of all the saints. If you were to fold back the altar cloth, you'd find a stone imbedded in the altar. It's called the Altar Stone. Usually there are 5 crosses etched in the stone, representing the 5 wounds of Christ. You'll also find a small circle of stone, sealed. Sealed under this stone circle is the relic of a saint (now not necessarily a martyr). Unfortunately no record is available as to which saint is in the Altar Stone of our churches. Probably this is the case for most churches. You'd think that might be an important piece of information, but evidently not. We've asked the Archdiocese. No record.

I'm going to continue this exploration of other actions within the Mass in next month's bulletin. Hopefully, after reading this, these two liturgical actions will make more sense and give more meaning in our celebration of the Eucharist. Also, am wanting to keep you in suspense .... until next month ... .lol.

*Some years ago, I spent an afternoon caught up in a piece of sewing I was doing. The waste-basket near my sewing machine was filled with scraps of fabric cut away from my project. This basket of discards was a fascination to my daughter who, at the time was three years old. She rooted through the scraps searching out the long bright scraps of cloth, collected them and went off. I found her sitting in the grass with a long pole she had gotten from the garage. She was fixing the scraps to the top of the pole. I asked her what she was doing. She answered, "I'm making a banner for a procession. I need a procession so that God will come down and dance with us." With that, she lifted her banner to the wind, and slowly got up to dance.*

*Gertrude Mueller Nelson*

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## **Christmas Day Table Prayer**

**Lord God of Life,  
together with the beautiful traditions  
of decorating the Christmas tree,  
of singing carols and giving gifts,  
this Christmas dinner is an important part  
of our celebration of the birth  
of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**Come, Lord our God,  
and surround our feast day table  
as we delight in this joyous season of Christmas.**

**Gift us in this meal with the taste of happiness  
as we savor this coming together  
of family and friends.**

**As sparkling stars and singing angels rejoiced  
at the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem,  
so may we take great joy  
in this our Christmas dinner-celebration.**

**May You, our God, bless it and us  
in Your holy name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

**Amen+**

Hayes, Edward. Prayers For The Domestic Church. Forest of Peace Books, Inc., April 1993

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## **Special Collection Retirement Fund for Religious Weekend of December 10 & 11**

This collection is specifically for the Sisters who have  
devoted themselves to the Church.

**Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

**Elderly religious need your help.** Nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. Please give generously.



**BANNS – Ordination to the Diaconate for**  
***Anthony Olivieri***

It is herewith announced that **Anthony**, a candidate for the Order of Diaconate will be ordained a deacon on **Saturday, February 18, 2023**, at a Mass to be celebrated by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston.

If any persons know of a serious reason why this candidate should not be called to ordination, please notify

Deacon George Silva, Director of Formation

Office of the Diaconate

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

281-543-2986

[george.silva@smseminary.com](mailto:george.silva@smseminary.com)

Please keep **Anthony and Cynthia** in your prayers as he prepares for ordination into this sacred ministry. May he always be faithful to the diaconal ministry of service of word, liturgy, and charity to which he is about to be ordained.

*This announcement is in compliance with Canon 1051:2 of the Code of Canon Law.*



## THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

**Pope's Intention:** For volunteer not-for-profit organizations

We pray that volunteer not-profit-organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

### Please keep our sick in your prayers:

Jeffrey Anderson, Bernie & JoAnn Borski, Meredith Buck, Gary Carmouche, Holly Gilstrap, Frank Horvath, Barbara Hyde, Alice Johnston, Ruth Kolek, Angeline Kotch, Jimmy & Carol Kubeczka, Grant Larson, Patti Lott Stafford, Natalie Mattern, Hailey Minor, Chad Mock, Carmen Mock Ferraro, Thomas Noble, Matthew Oliver, Bill Parsons, Mary Riedle, Lisa Seigle, Fred & Marilyn Smith, Marie Staples, Craig Strickler, Daniela Syzdek, Yvonne Villalobos, Clara Walkoviak



*Names on the prayer list will be removed after two months.*

*If you want a loved one to remain on the list please contact the parish office.*



## **CONFESSIONS**

Confessions will be heard Wednesday  
December 7 & December 21  
10:00am-noon  
&  
5:00-6:00pm

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Otherwise, if available, Fr. Ed would be happy to hear confessions.

Call the office for an appointment  
at 936-894-2223

## **Anointing Mass for the Sick and Elderly**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

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**First Friday Mass**  
**December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am**



**St. Mary's Men's Club  
Blood Drive  
Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**



If you are new to our Parish or have been thinking about getting involved with one of our many Church Organizations or Ministries, please refer to the front page of the bulletin. You will find a complete list with the contact information of the person that can get you signed up.

## St. Joseph Mass Intentions December 2022

| <u>Date</u>   | <u>Time</u> | <u>Intentions</u>                                              | <u>Requested by</u>                                               |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun., Dec. 4  | 7:30am      | Yvonne Wirzberg<br>Gay Imhoff                                  | Kevin & Julia Haag<br>Charlie Kubeczka                            |
| Sun., Dec. 11 | 7:30am      | Rufus Uilkie<br>Sylvester & Lillie Pavlock<br>Lester Tomkivits | Patsy Bartkowiak<br>Hortense Svenhlok<br>George & Janie Wishkoski |
| Sun., Dec. 18 | 7:30am      | Ramona Langley/<br>Frances Langley King<br>Larry Sechelski Sr. | Joette Jochen/Jacade Isbell                                       |
| Sat., Dec. 24 | 7:00pm      | Jeff Wetuski & Ramona Langley<br>Busa & Phillips Families      | Steven Husfeld<br>Tom & Kaky Wetuski<br>Debbie Nugent             |



PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE PRECEDED US IN DEATH. KEEP THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS.

**\*Mary Winter:** wife of the late Jim Winter, who died on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, whose funeral mass is yet to be determined.

**\*Leon Vasek:** husband of Sheryl Vasek, who died on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, whose funeral mass was at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:30am.

***Please visit:***

<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>

***For December's Liturgical Readings***



### Israel Trip with Fr. Ed

The trip is set for  
Feb. 4-14, 2023

**The trip is full & is on a waitlist only status. First on the list will be the first called if room comes available.**

Please email Cecilia Maddox to be placed on the waitlist or with any questions at Maddoxrc5@gmail.com. You may also call or text at (210) 383-8079.

***Please pray for all of our  
men & women  
in the military.***

## St. Mary Mass Intentions for December 2022

| <u>Date</u>    | <u>Time</u> | <u>Intentions</u>                                            | <u>Requested by</u>                                |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Thur., Dec. 1  | 9:00am      | Robert Ferris                                                | Jean Ferris                                        |
| Fri., Dec. 2   | 9:00am      | Cynthia Smith                                                | Leland & Barbara Fougeron                          |
| Sat., Dec. 3   | 5:00pm      | Patty Jones                                                  | Bill Jones                                         |
| Sun., Dec. 4   | 7:30am      | Philip Diehl<br>Stanley, Martha,<br>David & Paul Lewandowski | Clara Fridye<br>Elnora & Tina Lewandowski          |
| Sun., Dec. 4   | 8:45am      | August Nowa                                                  | Loretta & Randy Burleigh                           |
| Sun., Dec. 4   | 10:00am     | Jacob Diehl<br>Joe Gaetz                                     | Gary & Rhonda Kubiak<br>Linda, Wanda Earl & Cindy  |
| Sun., Dec. 4   | 11:30am     | For the People                                               | _____                                              |
| Mon., Dec. 5   | 9:00am      | Anita Hill                                                   | A. Janice Marie                                    |
| Tue., Dec. 6   | 9:00am      | Jack Demny                                                   | Denise Durel                                       |
| Wed., Dec. 7   | 9:00am      | Bob Riedle                                                   | Riedle Family                                      |
| Thur., Dec. 8  | 9:00am      | Gerry Mattern                                                | Patricia Bruce                                     |
| Sat., Dec. 10  | 5:00pm      | Anna Smith                                                   | Stanley, Diane, Susie<br>& Linda Massengill Family |
| Sun., Dec. 11  | 7:30am      | Janie Legge                                                  | Johnny Mock                                        |
| Sun., Dec. 11  | 8:45am      | Amber Hoffart<br>Richard "Ted" Stephen                       | Laveta Malek<br>Arlene Stephen                     |
| Sun., Dec. 11  | 10:00am     | For the People                                               | _____                                              |
| Sun., Dec. 11  | 11:30am     | Terry Gabriel                                                | Bill & Gloria Boehm                                |
| Mon., Dec. 12  | 9:00am      | Smith Family (Living & Deceased)                             | The Smith Family                                   |
| Tue., Dec. 13  | 9:00am      | (Charles & Lucy Mascarella Family)                           | Jackie & Niels Nielson                             |
| Wed., Dec. 14  | 9:00am      | Sammy Blair<br>Josephine Swonke                              | Fred & Carol Brandt<br>Suzie Bill                  |
| Thur., Dec. 15 | 9:00am      | Lorris Abshire<br>& Ellen Abshire Cherry                     | Ruth Phillips                                      |
| Sat., Dec. 17  | 5:00pm      | John & Mary Lebeck Family<br>Bernice Watson                  | Jerry & Martha Vickery<br>Debbie Austin            |
| Sun., Dec. 18  | 7:30am      | Averi Lucas                                                  | Ron & Mary Ann Kloster                             |
| Sun., Dec. 18  | 8:45am      | For the People                                               | _____                                              |
| Sun., Dec. 18  | 10:00am     | Frank Mock                                                   | Tootsie Mock                                       |
| Sun., Dec. 18  | 11:30am     | Lawrence Malek<br>Edward Tedo & Katie Smith                  | Selma Malek<br>Thomas Smith                        |
| Mon., Dec. 19  | 9:00am      | Jack Siersma                                                 | Kathy Wallace                                      |
| Tue., Dec. 20  | 9:00am      | Charlene Kucera                                              | Paul & Kathy Magliolo                              |
| Wed., Dec. 21  | 9:00am      | Bill Malek                                                   | Dan & Dianne Malek                                 |
| Thur., Dec. 22 | 9:00am      | For the People                                               | _____                                              |
| Sat., Dec. 24  | 3:00pm      | Lavall Lott<br>Christine Demny                               | Betty Lott<br>Her Family                           |
| Sat., Dec. 24  | 3:15pm      | Neil Rosenberg                                               | The late Anna Mae Smith                            |
| Sat., Dec. 24  | 5:00pm      | Kimberly Delgado                                             | Eddie & Dianne Delgado                             |
| Sat. Dec. 24   | 5:15pm      | For All Those Whom No One Prays                              | Mare & Tom Solcher                                 |
| Sun., Dec. 25  | 10:30am     | Tom Schwartz<br>Theresa Schwertner                           | Ann Schwartz<br>Frank Giglio Families              |
| Mon., Dec. 26  | 9:00am      | Mike Castleberry                                             | Paul & Kathy Magliolo                              |
| Tue., Dec. 27  | 9:00am      | Estelle Smith                                                | Jean Ferris                                        |
| Wed. Dec. 28   | 9:00am      | Thomas & Sport Diehl<br>Marcy Diehl Ellis & Ronnie Canatella | Sonny Diehl                                        |
| Thur., Dec. 29 | 9:00am      | Pat Holt                                                     | Kayla McCormick & Family                           |
| Sat., Dec. 31  | 4:00pm      | Wayne Young<br>Tommy Lebeck                                  | Paul & Kathy Magliolo<br>Jerry & Martha Vickery    |

## HEADS UP

Starting the week of December 26<sup>th</sup> we will be moving pews and other items out of the church in preparation of having the hardwood floors in the church refinished. The contractor is scheduled to start the project January 2, 2023 and it should take approximately (2) weeks. We are hoping to get everything moved back into the church during the week of January 23, 2023. During that time we will be celebrating mass in the Hall with hospitality being prepared in the Family Life Center and served in the large pavilion.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Bill Jones

We are such a Blessed Parish, the generosity of our parishioners of their time and financial support is amazing. It takes thousands of manhours to organize and execute our annual bazaar and our rummage sale. These events don't just get done overnight; they take months of planning by our dedicated volunteers and our staff. The results of all this effort are unbelievable.

|              |                  |                    |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Bazaar       | \$306,757.00     |                    |
| Rummage Sale | <u>71,076.00</u> |                    |
| Total        | \$377,833.00     | Net after expenses |

The above numbers may change slightly as invoices may still come in. A Big Texas sized thank you to all our parishioners who supported our events.

Thank You!!!!

### Knights of Columbus

#### Council #4054 - News and Member Update

\*Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - Immaculate Conception - Our Blessed Mother was free from original sin from the moment of conception!

\*Dec 11<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Breakfast, St. Joseph Parish Hall, Stoneham, TX

\*Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - Council Meeting, Fr. Domanski Hall, 1962 Hwy 90 South, Anderson, TX

\*Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> - Council Christmas Party for members and spouses, Fr. Domanski Hall, 1962 Hwy 90 South, Anderson, TX

\*Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - Nativity of the Lord - This day is born to you a Savior! (Luke 2:11)

\*Dec 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve - We look forward to the new year and resolve to better ourselves!!

## Altar Servers Needed!

We're looking for dedicated Young parishioners to be Altar Servers at St. Mary's.



**Note:** All Altar Servers must have received First Communion.

Please contact Steve Twining at [stevetwining88@gmail.com](mailto:stevetwining88@gmail.com) or at 713-344-6001 for more information.

## CALLING ALL KIDS !



*Fr. Ed will hand out Candy Canes at St. Mary's on December 11 during all Sunday Masses to celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas. Come on down for your candy cane!*

### UPCOMING SECOND/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- \*Dec. 4: Christmas Flower Offering
- \*Dec. 11: Retirement Fund for Religious (Sisters)
- \*Dec. 25: My Christmas Gift



### St. Joseph's Christmas Party

*Friday, December 9 @ 6pm*

A catered chicken fried steak meal will be served  
Beer, wine and setups available

Bring a gift (\$25 value) for either a man or woman for gift exchange

Please RSVP to Marcy Pavlock by Friday, December 2 with number attending



## **CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS**

**AT ST. MARY / ST. JOSEPH**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE ~ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**3:00PM....St. Mary/Church - Traditional**

**3:15PM....St. Mary/SM Hall - Children's Mass**

**5:00PM....St. Mary/Church - Traditional**

**5:15PM....St. Mary/SM Hall - Traditional**

**7:00PM....St. Joseph/Church**

**\*\*DUE TO THE INCREASED DANGER IN TRAVELING THE HIGHWAYS SO LATE AT NIGHT FOR THOSE ATTENDING AND FOR OUR LITURGICAL MINISTERS, WE WILL NOT HAVE A MIDNIGHT MASS\*\***

### **CHRISTMAS DAY ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**10:30AM...St. Mary/Church**



### **St. Mary's Holiday Parish Dinner**

**is set for the weekend of  
DECEMBER 10 & 11.**

**Come to the Hall after ALL the  
Masses for a delicious meal and  
good hospitality!**

**Plan on coming hungry, a fantastic  
traditional Christmas meal  
will be served.**

## **ST. JOSEPH ALTAR SOCIETY**

**Altar Society Meeting -**  
**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

Anyone who is not currently a member of the Altar Society, but would like to be, please plan on attending.

### **DECEMBER ALTAR CARE:**

Theresa Rausheck & Dianne Phillips

### **COFFEE SERVERS:**

Dec. 4: Kaky Wetuski

Dec. 11: Santa's Breakfast

Dec. 18: Donna Burzynski & Kathy Burzynski

Dec. 25: None (Christmas Day)



The Parish office will be closed on Thursday, December 8 in observance of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary & Monday/Tuesday, December 26 & 27 for the Christmas Holiday.

***Don't wait until the last minute . . .***

**Get your cemetery plots & niches at St. Mary's as soon as possible.**

**Prices on each are:**

**PARISHIONER—\$1,200;**

**NON-PARISHIONER—\$4,000**

**Urn prices are:**

**Brass Box \$100;**

**Brushed Brass Vase \$140.**



## **AA MEETINGS:**

**Every Monday evening  
@ 8 p.m. in St. Mary's  
Kelly House.**



## **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANER PROGRAM**

St. Mary's has a loaner program for anyone who is in need of Medical equipment. For equipment availability, contact the office at 936-894-2223.

**We have walkers, bedside commodes,  
& various other items available.**



## **Come join us for choir!**

**St. Mary's choir rehearsal is on Wednesdays  
@ 6:30pm in SM Hall**

**St. Mary's ensemble rehearsal on  
1st & 2nd Wednesdays  
@ 7:15-8:00pm. Ensemble sings each 3rd  
Sunday of the month.**

**There is always room for you!**

## ST. MARY'S GUARDIAN ANGELS SENIOR GROUP NEWS

The Guardian Angels is **NOT** having a meeting in December.

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**BINGO** will be Wednesday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center ( F L C )

*Entrée provided, please bring a side dish. Bring a friend and enjoy the fun.*

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**The Domino Group will play every Tuesday in the Family Life Center**

*Remember to bring a dish to share with everyone*

### ST. MARY MEN'S CLUB

The St. Mary Men's Club will be celebrating their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00pm in the St. Mary's Hall.

The meal will be catered and music will be provided by Ramon Torres. Dress is casual. Wives or significant others are invited to join us. Let's celebrate together during this wonderful Christmas season.

All parish men are members of the Men's Club and are encouraged to participate in our monthly fellowship.

*"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful" - St. Teresa of Calcutta*



### St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Mary/St. Joseph SVdP Conference will be celebrating their Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 17 after the 5:00pm Mass. All members and spouses are invited to attend mass together as a group, then proceed to the SM Hall for our Christmas Celebration.

*Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference welcomes new members.  
If you are interested in becoming a Vincentian, please call our President:  
Bob Daves at 832.205.2791.*



\*\*\*\*\*



**For anyone needing assistance from the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call:  
(936) 894.2362**



## JOIN THE STITCHIN' SISTERS

Are you interested in bringing back a lost art?

Are you interested in having a good time with a great group of ladies?

Think about joining the Stitchin' Sisters. Hand quilting seems to be a lost art that we are trying to keep alive. We are a group of ladies that hand quilt three donation quilts a year. One for the Plantersville Fire Department Auction, one for St. Joseph's Bazaar Auction and one for St. Mary's Bazaar Auction.

If time permits between those quilts, we will quilt member's quilt for a nominal fee. If you do not know how to quilt, we will do our best to help you out. We all have opinions! We can show you how to put up a quilt on a frame, how to mark it, how to quilt it, and how to finish it.

**We meet every Wednesday from 9:30 to 2:00 at the St. Joseph Hall. Bring your own lunch.**

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**For more info, Juli Murphy: at 936-206-0677 or email julimurphy1988@gmail.com.**



**THE GABRIEL PROJECT** is a pro-life parish-based apostolate of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston offering assistance to women experiencing difficult circumstances during pregnancy. Gabriel Project volunteers act to provide practical advice and help, as well as spiritual support and Christian witness to mothers in need.

Our St. Mary's Gabriel Angels are trained to provide some of the following:

- \*\* Be a resource to answer questions about pregnancy, child care, and parenting
- \*\* Provide friendship, emotional, and spiritual support
- \*\* Help with items for a new baby
- \*\* Knowledge about available community resources to meet your needs

Pregnant and need maternity clothes? We have a large supply of items.

Please phone to set up a time to come and pick out what you need.

**Thank you for your donations. Our families are very grateful! Call Wanda O'Brien 936-597-6328 for more info.**



## **MEN'S ACTS RETREAT**

**February 16-19, 2023**

All St. Mary/ St. Joseph men (18 and older) are invited to spend time with fellow parishioners for a three-day retreat at the St. Agnes Retreat Center in Waller, Texas. Spend time deepening your FAITH, re-centering your FOCUS on what's really important in life...and most importantly, growing in your relationship with JESUS. For more information, contact Mike Fortunato [m\\_j\\_fortunato@yahoo.com](mailto:m_j_fortunato@yahoo.com)

# Rummage News

It's hard to believe, but the rummage sale is over for another year, and soon we will open our doors and begin accepting new donations for Rummage Sale 2023. Before we do that, we wanted to let you know all that we did this year. Do you know what really happens to all your donations? As you know, we sell quite a bit that comes through our barn doors, but more importantly, there are many in our community that benefit from your generosity.

Here are just a few:

- \*The Gabriel Project is generously supplied with gently-used baby items throughout the year.
- \*St. Vincent de Paul friends receive clothing, household goods, appliances, and items needed to repair their homes.
- \*Four local nursing homes receive books, puzzles, clothing, and hygiene items.
- \*The Montgomery County Women's Center provides us with a list and we donate anything that they request, such as cleaning supplies, clothing, bedding, and stuffed toys for their children.
- \*Sober Living Men, another organization, receives suitable business suits and shoes for job interviews.
- \*Our own St. Mary's Bazaar (2022) received not only items for the live and silent auctions, but also all of the toys for the children's kid zone.
- \*Our own St. Mary's Men's Club received items for their auction.
- \*St. Dominic's Retired Priests received books and puzzles.
- \*St. Ann's in Tomball received items for their school.
- \*Ukrainian, Columbian, and Venezuelan refugees, moving into our local communities, who have lost everything, received beds, couches and other items they needed.

We were able to help various shoppers on the day of the sale, including someone in need of a wheelchair lift, which we happened to have; a local shelter needing a washing machine; and many who came to do their Christmas shopping. "Thank You" was heard over and over again by our volunteer cashiers. In the end, nothing goes to waste. THANK YOU volunteers for your help and being a part of this great community.

Every year we make a difference in so many lives and we look forward to the  
Barn Doors being opened in 2023!!!!

## ***RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults***

Are you not baptized and thinking you would like to be a Baptized Catholic? Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic? Do you know someone interested in Baptism in the Catholic Faith? Or have you been away from the Catholic Faith and would like to inquire on returning to the faith?

RCIA "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" is the process of educational formation and spiritual formation by which adults become full members in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

We invite all those who are not baptized, those who are baptized in other faiths and those baptized in the catholic faith that would like to increase their knowledge in Catholicism.

Anyone interested in learning more about the possibility of joining the Roman Catholic Church or is interested in increasing their adult faith formation are invited to contact RCIA director Donald A Picard Jr at [dpicard0710@gmail.com](mailto:dpicard0710@gmail.com) or 936-697-0195



## ST. MARY ALTAR SOCIETY

Christmas Party on:

Tuesday, December 13th  
at 12pm in SM Hall

DECEMBER ALTAR CARE:  
Jackie Haese & Patti Kling



### THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**WOMEN'S CENTER** is a parish supported ministry of the St. Mary's Altar Society offering support to women/families experiencing difficult circumstances with domestic violence. Some families will experience this during the upcoming holiday season.

To help the Women Center prepare, they are in need of warm winter clothing:

- Jackets/ light coats
- Sweaters
- Sweat shirts and pants
- Sizes Medium, Large and Extra Large.
- Please place your donations in the baskets provided.

For more information about the Women's Center go to <https://mcwctx.org>



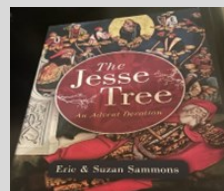
## The Corner Shoppe

Brand new Sunday missals will be arriving in The Corner Shoppe soon.



### CHRISTMAS IS AT THE CORNER SHOPPE!

Stop in to see a variety of brand-new articles and books that make great Christmas gifts for the entire family! Come and Shop!



The Corner Shoppe is open  
After each Weekend Mass &  
Wednesdays 10am to 2pm

## Rowan's Prayer

*One day God will Bring us back together, United  
with your child, you'll cry no more.  
Till then, may we draw strength from each other,  
knowing that they wait by Heaven's door.*

If you have or you know of someone who just experienced a miscarriage, still birth or infant loss or you know someone with a neonatal diagnosis.

Contact Bonnie Haytcher: by calling  
941-302-6310,  
or emailing [haytcherb@gmail.com](mailto:haytcherb@gmail.com)



*Faith Formation  
&  
Children's Sacraments*



**CCE December Events**

**CCE Calendar**

December 4 Confirmation Class  
2:00-3:30 pm

December 7 Wednesday CCE  
7:00—8:00 pm

December 11 Sunday CCE  
10:00—11:00 am

Confirmation Class  
2:00-3:30 pm

December 14 Wednesday CCE  
7:00—8:00 pm

Visit the Religious Education website page:  
<http://smsj.org/cce-children-youth-sacraments/>  
Contact the Religious Education Office-

# **St. Joseph**

## **CALLING ALL KIDS ~ YOUNG & OLD!**

**Join Santa for Breakfast after the 7:30am Mass  
on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022 in the St. Joseph's Parish  
Hall.**

***Take a picture with Santa too!***

*Hosted by the St. Joseph's Altar Society.  
Breakfast cooked by the Knights  
of Columbus.*



## **Baptisms:**

### **Infant baptism through age 6.**

Baptisms are scheduled quarterly and are usually on Saturday mornings.

Parents must take a preparation class beforehand. Our program currently consists of an online course followed by one in-person session. Godparents are asked to attend this session as well.

Information and a link to the registration form can be found on our webpage at this address:  
<http://smsj.org/baptism/> once you have completed the online course please forward your certificate of completion.

We will also need a copy of the child's birth certificate. This may be uploaded to the registration form in the spot provided. You may also send it as an attachment to this email address: [smsjbaptism@gmail.com](mailto:smsjbaptism@gmail.com)

### **Age 6 and over:**

The preparation for these children is facilitated through the CCE program. For registration information visit the CCE webpage: <https://smsj.org/cce-children-youth-sacraments/>  
For more information contact: Cheryl Schratwieser – [smsjcce@gmail.com](mailto:smsjcce@gmail.com)

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: ONLINE**

**C.C.E.:** The C.C.E. office may be contacted at: [smsjcce@gmail.com](mailto:smsjcce@gmail.com).





# GriefShare



***Thank You*** to the Participant's that attended  
this session & the Facilitator's who gently  
guided their footsteps through grief.

## ***Surviving the Holidays Seminar***

***Thank you*** to all that attended. With the helpful tips the  
Holidays may be more manageable this season.

***"Trust in Him at all times, pour out your heart before him" Psalm 62:8***

## **S.A.L.T. Ministry**

Welcoming all Singles, Widows, Widowers and Divorced folks

***Jingle Mingle into the Holiday Season 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Bash***  
***Friday December 2 Parish Hall 3:00 PM***

***A Celebration of Joy, Cheer & Fellowship***

***Please bring a few canned goods or an unwrapped toy which will be  
distributed to needy families in our area***

***We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon/evening***

***For more information please contact Mary Marshall(281-356-2497)***

**Mark your calendar:**

**\*Tuesday December 13 "Ladies Tea Party" 2-4 pm. Wear your  
most festive hat & come join the Ladies at Live Oak Senior Cen-  
ter for a fun afternoon full of Joy, Laughter, yummy cocoa &  
cookies. Please meet in the lobby at 1:45 pm**

**(For more information contact Kim Leshick at 832-707-5095)**

## **2023 St. Mary Men's Club scholarship**

St. Mary's Men's Club scholarship applications for 2023 are now available in the parish office (see Karen Molina). Applicants must be active members of the parish of St. Mary's, Plantersville/St. Joseph's, Stoneham Catholic Church for a minimum of one year.

This scholarship is for each of the first two years of enrollment at a state-accredited trade school, college or university and is to be used for tuition, school fees, required class books and living expenses directly related to school. Grades are not the major criteria in the award of this scholarship. Rather, emphasis is placed on work ethic, attitude, and need.

Participation in parish activities (bazaar, rummage sale, etc.) counts heavily. Completed applications are to be returned to the parish office to Karen Molina by Thursday, April 13, 2023, by 4:00pm.

Do not wait until the last minute to submit your applications!



## **News Years Eve and New Years Day Masses**

**Saturday, 12/31 - 4pm @ SM**

**01/01 - 10:30am @ SM**



**Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center**  
Houston, TX

## **Holy Name Passionist Women's Retreat**

In this unsettled world today, where do we find peace and allow it to inspire our society across generational lines?

Christ extends a special invitation for you to spend time at a place "where miracles happen". The theme for this year is Rise up in Christ's Love: Generations in Action. Think about taking your mother, daughter, nieces, and/or best friends to grow together in holiness.

To for more information and to register go to <https://holynameretreatcenter.com/catholic-weekend-retreats>

### **Women's Retreat Dates:**

February 24-26, 2023

May 19-21, 2023

June 23-25, 2023

# Support Your Local Parishioners

## *Auto Repair Services*

**ToyoMasters Auto Repair**  
Toyota/ Lexus Expert  
Mark Strong  
Phone: (936)701-5236

**Poton Automotive**  
Gary Ponton  
Phone: (936)894-3409

## *Bakery/ Sweets*

**Sonia's Sweet Side**  
Decorated Sugar Cookies  
Sonia Drabek  
Phone: (979)739-4551

## *Dental Services*

**Montgomery & Conroe**  
Comprehensive Dental Centers  
Dr. Timothy E. Gardner  
Phone: (936)242-0319 - Conroe or  
(936)585-6611 - Montgomery

## *Food/Grub*

**Old Oak Taphouse**  
17527 Highway 105 E  
Plantersville  
Dog & Family Friendly  
440.281.0354

## *Interior Design*

**Designed Interiors**  
by Terri  
Terri Furce  
(936)718-5002

## *Misc. Services*

**Saddle Fitting by Denise**  
Dressage, Jumping,  
and Polo Saddles  
Denise Waszak  
Phone: (240)315-4575

**KWM Services**  
Roll-off Dumpster Rental  
& Pasture Mowing  
Kenny & Suzie Mock  
Phone: (936)232-3757  
or (936)760-5379

**Moon Light Venue**  
(Max 200 People)  
Brenda Martinez  
(936)777-9720

**Rafter R Ranch**  
Services and Barn  
Building  
Rusty & James  
Maddox  
(210)844-3844

**Rocky Creek Metal**  
and Art  
Facepainting by  
Sherry  
(936)524-3879  
Metal Work by Frank  
(936)524-7999

**Medicare Specialist**  
Broker  
Russell Ross  
(214)458-6027

## *Plumbing Services*

**Willburn Plumbing**  
Robert Willburn  
Master Plumber  
Phone: (832)294-3399

## *Real Estate*

**BCS Properties**  
Barbara Shrader (Broker)  
Phone:(936)443-6320

**Carswell Real Estate Co. Inc.**  
Joann Kaminski Kutac  
Phone: (281)799-6019

**Strong Real Estate Co.**  
Tracy Strong  
Phone: (936)718-8766

**Realty Associates**  
Sherry Henderson, GRI  
Broker Associate  
(713)306-4719

**Tametric Realty**  
Eric Gensheimer (Broker)  
Tammy Gensheimer (Agent)  
Phone:(713)416-5280  
or (281)844-2534

**Tailored by Design Realty**  
Team by United RE  
Cecilia Maddox  
(210)383-8079

**Texas Patriot Realty**  
Todd Ubanoski  
(713)304-8827

**The Bric Group**  
Brittany Gutierrez  
(469)371-9478

## *Roofing Services*

**Territo Roofing**  
Paul Territo  
Phone: (281)356-5124

## *Veterinarians & Boarding Services*

**Animal Hospital of Montgomery & The Lodge Luxury Boarding Retreat**  
Veterinary Hospital & Pet Boarding,  
Grooming & Day Care Facility  
Joey L. Romero D.V.M. and Mandy Romero  
Phone: (936)582-1555

**South Central Veterinary Services**  
Veterinary and Boarding Services  
John L. Walla, DVM  
(936)870-4033

| December 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>Regular Weekend Mass Schedule</div> <div>Saturday: 5:00pm (SM)<br/>Sunday: 7:30am (SJ)<br/>(SM) 7:30, 8:45, 10:00 &amp; 11:30am</div>                                                                                                           |                                        |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Monday                                 | Tuesday                                                                                                                                | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                | Thursday       | Friday                                                                                         | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                        |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                          | 1              | 2                                                                                              | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                        |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                          | *9am - Mass    | *4 <sup>st</sup> Friday Mass<br>*3:00pm - S.A.L.T. - Mingle Jingle - Christmas Party - SM Hall | *5pm - Mass<br>*Youth CCE Christmas Party - SM Hall (RSVP)<br>*Christmas Flower Offering                                                                                                                       |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 5                                      | 6                                                                                                                                      | 7                                                                                                                                                                        | 8              | 9                                                                                              | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| *Regular Mass Schedule<br>*2-3:30pm - Confirmation Class - FLC<br>*Christmas Flower Offering                                                                                                                                                         | *9am - Mass<br>*8pm - AA - Kelly House | *9am - Mass<br>*11am - Domino Club<br>*6pm - SJ Altar Society - SJ Hall                                                                | *9am - Anointing of the Sick & Elderly<br>*10-noon & 5-6pm - Confessions<br>*10-noon - GriefShare - Kelly House<br>*6:30pm Choir Rehearsal - SM Hall<br>*7pm - CCE - FLC | *Office Closed | *SJ Christmas Party - SJ Hall                                                                  | *5pm - Mass<br>*SM Christmas Party After Mass<br>*2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious (Sisters)                                                                                         |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 12                                     | 13                                                                                                                                     | 14                                                                                                                                                                       | 15             | 16                                                                                             | 17                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| *Regular Mass Schedule<br>*After Mass - SJ Breakfast w/ Santa - SJ Hall<br>*SM Christmas Party After Each Mass<br>*10am - CCE - FLC<br>*2-3:30pm - Confirmation Class - FLC<br>*2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious (Sisters) | *9am - Mass<br>*8pm - AA - Kelly House | *9am - Mass<br>*11am - Domino Club - FLC<br>*Noon - SM Altar Society Christmas Party<br>*6pm - SM Men's Club Christmas Party - SM Hall | *9am - Mass<br>*10am-2pm - BINGO -FLC<br>*6:30pm Choir Rehearsal - SM Hall<br>*7pm - CCE - FLC                                                                           | *9am - Mass    | *No Mass                                                                                       | *5pm - Mass<br>*St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Party After Mass - SM Hall                                                                                                                                       |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 19                                     | 20                                                                                                                                     | 21                                                                                                                                                                       | 22             | 23                                                                                             | 24                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| *Regular Mass Schedule<br>*SM Men's Club - Blood Drive - SM Hall                                                                                                                                                                                     | *9am - Mass<br>*8pm - AA - Kelly House | *9am - Mass<br>*11am - Domino Club - FLC                                                                                               | *9am - Mass<br>*10-noon & 5-6pm - Confessions<br>*6:30pm Choir Rehearsal - SM Hall                                                                                       | *9am - Mass    | *No Mass                                                                                       | *3:00pm - Mass (SM Church)<br>*3:15pm - Mass (SM Hall Children's Mass)<br>*5:00pm - Mass (SM Church)<br>*5:15pm - Mass (SM Hall)<br>*7:00pm - Mass (SJ)<br>*My Christmas Gift Offering<br><i>Christmas Eve</i> |
| 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 26                                     | 27                                                                                                                                     | 28                                                                                                                                                                       | 29             | 30                                                                                             | 31                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| *10:30am - Mass (SM Church)<br>*My Christmas Gift Offering                                                                                                                                                                                           | *9am - Mass<br>*8pm - AA - Kelly House | *9am - Mass                                                                                                                            | *9am - Mass                                                                                                                                                              | *9am - Mass    | *No Mass                                                                                       | *4:00pm - Mass                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Merry Christmas</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>*Office Closed</i>                  | <i>*Office Closed</i>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                                                                                                | <i>*New Year's Eve</i>                                                                                                                                                                                         |