

St. Mary Catholic Church ~ St. Joseph Catholic Mission

December 2023



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



Parish Office
 PO Box 388, Plantersville, TX 77363
 936-894-2223
 Parish Fax - 936-894-3613

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am - 12 pm
 Lunch: Closed from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Mary - Plantersville
 Monday through Thursday & First Friday - 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday - 5:00 p.m. &
 Sunday - 7:00, 8:30, 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

ACTS Retreat

Karen Coffman 281.773.6081

Adult Bible Study & Spiritual Enrichment

Betty Hollas 713.419.6106

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

CCE / RE

Cheryl Schratwieser 936.894.2223

Church Greeters

Call Parish Office 936.894.2223

Extraordinary Ministers -

Holy Communion & Sacristans

Kerry Masson 713.824.8599

Gabriel Project

Wanda O'Brien 936.597.6328

GriefShare 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 936.827.1125

Little Lambs Playgroup

Wanda O'Brien 936.597.6328

Marriage Preparation

Dcn. Anthony Olivieri 936.522.8146

For Spanish speaking prep, call:

Brenda Martinez 936.777.9720

Music/Wedding Director

Michael Comeaux 936.894.2223

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

S.A.L.T. Ministry – Singles, Divorced,

Widows & Widowers

Mary Marshall 281.356.2497

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 936.760.9565

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

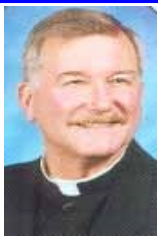
Write for Life

Bob Dean 936.582.6314

Youth Confirmation

smsjccce@gmail.com 936.894.2223

If you are new to the area and would like to become a member of our parish, please pick up a registration form in back of the church or complete online at www.smsj.org.



AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR ...

We're on the verge of a New Year, 2024. Hard to believe another year has flown by. I have been asked several questions lately that I'll try to answer now so as to start the New Year with a clean slate.

Recently the question has been asked, "What's happened to the expansion of the Family Life Center? Has it been put on hold?"

The expansion plans for the Family Life Center have been presented to the Building Commission of the Archdiocese and they have been approved. The architect's rendering has been on display in both entrances of St. Mary's and recently moved to be on display at St. Joseph. The working plans have taken longer than expected and, after several delays of being reviewed by the Archdiocesan Building Committee, we will be able to begin the addition. However, because we are so close to the Christmas Season, I personally don't want anything to begin until after the New Year. All we need for our Christmas and New Year's Masses is to have a construction site being set up and our parking flow disrupted. We have been assured that the construction site will not hinder the use of the existing building and we will be able to access the parking area on the north side of the FLC. I don't want to take the chance that a glitch happens that would ripple into all kinds of problems. I guess the key to the situation now is just to have patience while we await the presentation of the final working plans and the contractors' bids as to the actual cost of the project. We are doing our best to speed up the process or at least get an idea of when we might be able to start. We're not alone with delays. It seems to be the nature of things these days.

I've also been asked about how we're planning to handle the tight schedule of Christmas Masses this year. Christmas falls on the worst possible day this year, a Monday. This means Christmas Eve is on Sunday afternoon/evening. How are we going to handle Sunday as Sunday and Sunday as Christmas Eve?

Sunday is still the Lord's Day, the day we always gather and hold sacred as a Christian Community. Our Sunday obligation to gather is not abrogated (repealed, revoked, rescinded, or withdrawn).

So, keeping our Sunday Celebration is definitely important and necessary. However, our week-end schedule will be a bit simplified: Saturday Vigil 5pm at St. Mary; 7am St Mary; 7:30am St.

Joseph; 8:30am & 10am St. Mary. There will not be an 11:30am at St. Mary on Sunday morning. In addition, **in an** effort to highlight the Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord (Christmas), our Sunday Masses will be simplified...without music. The homily will also be brief, highlighting and leading to the Solemnity we'll be celebrating in a few hours at the Christmas Eve Masses and Christmas Day. The Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated as usual, with a minor exception. The schedule is as follows: 3pm SM in Church (traditional), 3:15pm SM in Hall (w/ Fr. Ed and the kids' horns); 5pm SM in Church (traditional). We have discontinued the 5:15 SM in Hall because of the low number attending which we feel can be fed into the main church at 5pm; 7pm SJ in Church. Christmas Morning (Monday): 10:30am SM.

Reading it this way may be a bit confusing. You'll find the Sunday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day schedules elsewhere in this bulletin, easier to post on your fridge. I wanted to explain the rationale of how we had to think outside the box to fit all these important celebrations into three days.

New Year's celebrations (the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) aren't so complicated. We'll have the regular Sunday Morning schedule with the addition of the Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Eve) At 4pm SM and Monday morning at 10:30am at SM.

We're going to see a lot of each other during these tightly packed days of celebrating and feasting. Just giving a heads-up: Christmas next year, 2024, is on a Wednesday. We'll have Monday to rest before Christmas Eve, Tuesday! I'm looking forward to the challenge and celebrating all of this with you this year. Say a prayer we all hold up.

UPCOMING SECOND/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

December 3: Christmas Flower Offering

December 10: Retirement Fund for Religious (Sister's Collection)

December 25: Christmas Offering





THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

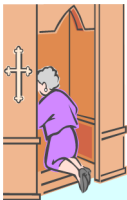
Pope's Intention: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs.

Please keep our sick in your prayers:



MaryAnn Benitz, Bernie & JoAnn Borski, Courtney Boyett, Delores Boyett, James & Meredith Buck, Jay Creighton, Nicholas Decker, Don Faughn, Jeff Faughn, Clara Fridye, Holly Gilstrap, Russell Grasshoff, Lyle Hamm, Catherine Hoffart, Karen Hoffart, Irene Hoffpauir, Frank Horvath, Barbara Hyde, Alice Johnston, Deborah Kennamore, Ruth Kolek, Jimmy Kubeczka, Grant Larson, Jack Letobitz, Chris Lobue, Patti Lott Stafford, Natalie Mattern, Mike Meador & Janie Houser Meador, Lance Miller, Hailey Minor, Chad Mock, Thomas Noble, Fred O'Connor, Matthew Oliver, Cleave Parks, Wendy Pitchford, Verena Podraza, CeCe Ray, Lisa Seigle, Bill Sellmeyer, Danielle Sharp, Angela Slater, Fred Smith, James Smith, Brian Stehling, Marie Staples, Craig Strickler, Daniela Syzdek, Leonard Treichel, Pat Walker, Clara Walkoviak



CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be heard Wednesday

December 20th
10:00am-noon & 5:00-6:00pm

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

No Anointing Mass

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**First Friday Mass**  
**December 1st at 9:00am**

## St. Joseph Mass Intentions December 2023

| <u>Date</u>   | <u>Time</u>      | <u>Intentions</u>                                                                                    | <u>Requested by</u>                                      |
|---------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun., Dec. 3  | 7:30am           | William & Frances Tomkivits<br>Louis Posinski, Jr.                                                   | Mary Ann Gurka<br>Karen Fishbeck                         |
| Fri., Dec. 8  | 5:30pm           | Shirley Bailey                                                                                       | Ben & Bernadine Syzdek                                   |
| Sun., Dec. 10 | 7:30am           | Jimmy Tomkivits<br>Sylvester Lillie Pavlock                                                          | Kay S. Tomkivits<br>Robert & Patricia Kimich             |
| Sun., Dec. 17 | 7:30am           | Thomas, Theresa, James, Cory<br>John Stepanski, Sherry Rice<br>Ramona Langley & Frances Langley King | Mary Sholler, Rice, Stepanski<br>Imhoff Family           |
| Sun., Dec. 24 | 7:30am<br>7:00pm | Ron Michno & J. Phillips Family<br>Jeff Wetuski<br>Billy & Yvonne Wirzberg                           | Pauline Michno<br>The Wetuski Family<br>Theresa Rausheck |



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

**Terry Michael "Mike" Rhodes:** husband of Jeanette, who died Tuesday, October 31, whose funeral mass was held at St. Mary's on Thursday, November 9.

**Thomas "Tommy" Adair Hoffpaur, Sr.:** husband of Irene, who died on Tuesday, October 31, whose funeral mass was held at St. Mary's on Saturday, November 11.

**Sean Trenton Houston:** son of Greg and Mo, who died on Wednesday, October 25, whose funeral mass was held at St. Mary's on Friday, November 17.

**William Joseph Robertson:** husband of Vilia, who died on Thursday, November 2, whose funeral mass was held at St. Mary's on Saturday, November 18.

**Daniel "Danny" James Harris:** son of Dave and Claire, who died on October 26, whose funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's on Friday, December 1.

### Special Collection Retirement Fund for Religious Weekend of December 9 & 10

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.*



## St. Mary Mass Intentions for December 2023

| <u>Date</u>    | <u>Time</u> | <u>Intentions</u>                           | <u>Requested by</u>                    |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Fri., Dec. 1   | 9:00am      | Cherry Smock                                | Jeanne S. & Francisco Cabrera          |
| Sat., Dec. 2   | 5:00pm      | Annie Westerlage                            | Carol Fowler                           |
| Sun., Dec. 3   | 7:00am      | Jack Demny                                  | Denise Durel                           |
| Sun., Dec. 3   | 8:30am      | For the People                              | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 3   | 10:00am     | Tom Martin                                  | Marcia Corso                           |
|                |             | Betty Black                                 | Cathy & Bryan Trocquet                 |
| Sun., Dec. 3   | 11:30am     | Josephine Swonke                            | Suzie Bill                             |
| Fri., Dec. 8   | 9:00am      | Adrian Piperi, Sr.<br>& Nancy Strawn        | Carole Piperi                          |
| Sat., Dec. 9   | 5:00pm      | Tanya Toney                                 | Elaine Collings                        |
| Sun., Dec. 10  | 7:00am      | For the People                              | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 10  | 8:30am      | Jacob Diehl                                 | Virginia & Florence Jozwiak            |
| Sun., Dec. 10  | 10:00am     | Robert Riedle                               | Mary & Susan Riedle                    |
| Sun., Dec. 10  | 11:30am     | Danny Harris                                | Carol Ann Boulware                     |
| Mon., Dec. 11  | 9:00am      | Eugenia (Jean) Ferris                       | Debbie Galka                           |
| Tues., Dec. 12 | 9:00am      | Patricia Whelan                             | Jim & Katie Schwartz                   |
| Wed., Dec. 13  | 9:00am      | Jim & Mary Winter & Family                  | Barbara Killius                        |
| Thur., Dec. 14 | 9:00am      | John & Mary Lebeck Family<br>Sam Blair      | Jerry & Martha Vickery<br>Blair Family |
| Sat., Dec. 16  | 5:00pm      | For the People                              | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 17  | 7:00am      | Dcn. Ted Baker                              | Wayne & Dianne Blair Family            |
| Sun., Dec. 17  | 8:30am      | Patty Jones                                 | Bill Jones                             |
| Sun., Dec. 17  | 10:00am     | Bernice Watson                              | Debbie Austin                          |
|                |             | Ralph Felice                                | Pat & Marie Levantino                  |
| Sun., Dec. 17  | 11:30am     | For the People                              | -----                                  |
| Mon., Dec. 18  | 9:00am      | Mildred "Millie" Whaley                     | Marcella & Bryant Chapman              |
| Tues., Dec. 19 | 9:00am      | For the People                              | -----                                  |
| Wed., Dec. 20  | 9:00am      | Pat Cavanaugh                               | Tootsie Mock                           |
| Thur., Dec. 21 | 9:00am      | Deceased Mbrs Lebeck Family                 | Dorothy Pasket                         |
| Sat., Dec. 23  | 5:00pm      | Dolores Hoffart                             | Veronica Allen & Roby Whittaker        |
| Sun., Dec. 24  | 7:00am      | Lorraine Pfertner Wagner<br>Leonard Sumbera | Patrick & Ann Pfertner                 |
| Sun., Dec. 24  | 8:30am      | Sean Trenton Houston                        | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 24  | 10:00am     | Bob Amort                                   | Richard & Annette Prokop               |
| Sun., Dec. 24  | 3:00pm      | Lavail Lott                                 | Betty Lott                             |
| Sun., Dec. 24  | 3:15pm      | Neil Rosenberg                              | Cliff & Cindy Wishnewsky               |
| Sun., Dec. 24  | 5:00pm      | Christine Demny                             | Her Family                             |
|                |             | Kim Delgado                                 | Eddie & Dianne Delgado                 |
|                |             | William Mock                                | Mock Family                            |
| Mon., Dec. 25  | 10:30am     | Robert E. Tarbett                           | James Tarbett                          |
| Tues., Dec. 26 | 9:00am      | For the People                              | -----                                  |
| Wed., Dec. 27  | 9:00am      | Bill Malek                                  | Laveta Malek                           |
| Thur., Dec. 28 | 9:00am      | Jack Flannery                               | Mary Ann Flannery                      |
| Sat., Dec. 30  | 5:00pm      | Tommy Lebeck                                | Jerry & Martha Vickery                 |
| Sun., Dec. 31  | 7:00am      | Ben Clary                                   | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 31  | 8:30am      | For the People                              | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 31  | 10:00am     | Thomas "Tommy" Hoffpauir                    | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 31  | 11:30am     | William Joseph Robertson                    | -----                                  |
| Sun., Dec. 31  | 4:00pm      | Terry "Mike" Rhodes                         | -----                                  |

## ♪♪ Musical Notes ♪♪

Happy New Year!

The Church Liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, this year falling on December 3.

Advent occurs as the days are getting shorter and the nights longer. Think of experiencing this before electricity and documented history. Is the sun burning out? Are our days numbered? We gradually need more candles to keep the light steady...one will do this week, next week we may need 2, then 3, then 4...waiting for THE LIGHT to finally “dawn” on us!

We have “frostier” music as well. Waiting music, more pensive. When you have a long night ahead of you (and no TVs or devices!)... you have time to think... perhaps ponder...perhaps worry...perhaps even panic. There is plenty of time moving more toward contemplation than activity.

Our Mass acclamations during Advent will likewise be more pensive. They will be based both on Advent carols and on the tune “Picardy” (“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”; “Christians, Let Us Love One Another”). As our petitions in the darkening sky become more urgent, we plead “O God, hear us, hear our prayer.” After the shortest day of the year (our educated civilization suggests around December 21 or 22), we start noticing slightly longer days, there is a slow warming up of our climate, and of our desires and needs, and of our ability to meet those needs. The sun stays out longer, and HOPE slowly returns.

The Christian breakthrough occurs on December 25, just when we’re starting to realize that the light will return, it is not burning out, that this is a cycle of life and death, birth into rebirth. We sing joyful glorias. And we follow that bright star that stands out against the night sky.

I will be recording MP3s of our acclamations for Advent. If you’d like me to email these acclamations to you, just drop me a line at [mike.comeaux@smsj.org](mailto:mike.comeaux@smsj.org).

Mike Comeaux

## LITTLE LAMBS PLAYGROUP



Are you looking for a playgroup for your children to get together with others? Moms or Dads, are you looking to connect with other parents and visit while your children play? Homeschool families, are you looking for a few hours of socialization for your children and conversation with adults? If the answer is YES, then come and join us this month in the hall at St. Mary's from 9:00am-11:00am.

Friday, Dec. 15

## 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

*We must remember that God has no other hands but ours, no other feet but ours, no other mouth but ours. Therefore, God is still going to work miracles of love, miracles of freedom and liberation through people like you and me."*

~~~*Blessed Mother Theresa*





Rummage News

Every year, this parish generously gives of its time and possessions for its annual rummage sale. 2023 was no exception. The parishioners showed up in countless ways and helped to make this year remarkable. We are always asked what happens to everything that gets donated and we are happy to share just a few of the many charities your donations helped support:

Items for the bazaar live auction, silent auction, Gabriel project, St. Vincent de Paul of St. Mary's, Helping Hands ministry, Twin Cities Missions, Toys for Tots of the Plantersville Fire Department, St. Vincent de Paul of Corpus Christi, St. Vincent de Paul of Bryan-College Station, Angelic Resale Shop in Montgomery, several nursing homes, retired priests home, W.A.R.M., House of Help, several local libraries, clothing for the Big Blue Box, a sober living home, Women's Shelter of Montgomery County, Meals on Wheels, and a local animal shelter.

Know that your donations are put to good use. We do our best to get them where they will best serve our community. Everything else, we sell at a low price.

We want to thank the parishioners of St. Mary's for everything you did this year to make the rummage sale a huge success. THANK YOU!!

We will start accepting donations again next Spring. Watch the bulletin for more details. And, if you would like to be a part of our amazing group, make plans to join us Wednesday mornings 8-12, in the barn, when we reconvene next Spring.

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;

Urn prices are:

Brass Box \$100;

Brushed Brass Vase \$140.



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

**St. Mary's Men's Club
Blood Drive & Breakfast
Sunday, January 14**



The Parish office will be **closed** on Friday, December 8th in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Also, December 22, 25 & 26 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas.



ST. MARY MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club along with the Altar Society will celebrate our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 pm in the Hall. We encourage all Men's Club Members with their spouse or significant other to join us in this celebration. Food, drinks, and entertainment. Please let Dan Macholan know if you will be attending.

There will be no December meeting.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

"The wealth of the rich is their fortress; the poverty of the poor is their ruin." Proverbs 10:15

Please keep in your prayers those neighbors who continue to struggle with poverty during this Christmas Season. If you wish to help these families with the Joy of Christmas, please make a donation to SVdP. You may drop your gift in the Sunday Collections or mail it to the Church office. Place it in an envelope and mark it for SVdP.

Our SVdP Conference members and our friends thank you and will pray that you have a most Blessed Holy Christmas.



If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance from the
St. Vincent de Paul Society, call: (936) 894.2362

Please note: you can find the bulletin on our website www.smsj.org

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR SOCIETY

Altar Society Meeting in the parish hall

**Tuesday, December 5
6:30 pm - SJ Hall**

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

ALTAR CARE:

Theresa Rausheck & Dianne Phillips

COFFEE SERVERS:

Dec. 3: Kaky Wetuski
Dec. 10: Santa's Breakfast
Dec. 17: Donna Burzynski & Kathy Burzynski
Dec. 24: Coffee will be served
Dec. 31: Coffee will be served



St. Joseph

CALLING ALL KIDS ~ YOUNG & OLD!

Join Santa for Breakfast after the 7:30am Mass on
Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023 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.*



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.**



St. Mary's Cemetery Association

There is a lot of confusion as to who is allowed to purchase a burial plot or niche in the cemetery. Only registered, active, and contributing parishioners and immediate family are allowed to be buried in the cemetery. This is due to the limited amount of spaces available for our parishioners. Immediate family is husband and wife, children, and parents of parishioners. If you have any questions, please call Bob Daves.

For the celebration of Christmas, please do not place breakable glass or other items on the graves of your loved ones. Flowers and other decorations must be placed on the monuments.

ST. MARY'S GUARDIAN ANGELS SENIOR GROUP NEWS

Meeting: No Meeting in December

BINGO: Tuesday, December 12 at 10am - 2pm in St. Mary's Hall.

An entrée will be provided. Please bring a side dish and a friend. The more the merrier.

**The Domino Group will play on Tuesday in the
Family Life Center Kitchen.**

Remember, please bring a dish to share with everyone

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 | \$308,437.93 | |
| Rummage Sale | <u>70,572.75</u> | |
| Total | \$379,010.68 | 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.

CALLING ALL KIDS !

*Fr. Ed will hand out Candy Canes at St. Mary's & St. Joseph's
on December 10 during all Sunday Masses to celebrate the
Feast of St. Nicholas.*

Come on down for your candy cane!





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 quilts 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 a quilt up 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's 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

The Gabriel Project is the pro-life apostolate offering assistance to a woman and her family during and after her pregnancy. We offer the following to ALL parishioners and those in the surrounding community:



- Maternity clothing
- Baby & Infant clothing from size 0 thru 2T
- Diapers/wipes/toiletries
- Crib/car seat/toys/other baby needs

We have a **well-stocked storage room** of new and very gently used items **waiting to be gifted** to our parish families and those in the area who are pregnant or have little ones!

Contact Wanda O'Brien 936-597-6328(phone) or Karen Smith 936-689-3618(text) to set up a time to pick up the items needed or to visit with us for any special needs.

While you're waiting for the RUMMAGE SALE to start collecting items, THE GABRIEL PROJECT will accept your BABY/TODDLER items (clothes, carseats, infant toys, etc.). Drop off on the porch of THE GABRIEL STORAGE ROOM or contact Wanda O'Brien or Karen Smith for assistance.



Please visit:

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

For December's Liturgical Readings



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 list with the contact information of the person that can get you signed up. If you don't see what you are looking for please ask.

ST. MARY ALTAR SOCIETY

Christmas Party on:

Tuesday, December 12
at 6:00 pm in SM Hall



ALTAR CARE:

Jackie Haese, Mary Hollar, Patty Kling

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

WOMEN'S CENTER is a parish-supported ministry of the St. Mary's Altar Society offering support to women and families experiencing difficult circumstances with domestic violence.

The shelter is in need of the following items:

- Paper plates
- Paper bowls
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Forks
- Spoons

Please place your donations in the baskets provided in the church and the hall.

The Women's Center thanks you for all of your donations.

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



The Corner Shoppe

November is the month of saints, all souls, and prayers for the holy souls in purgatory.



ALL SAINT STATUES
are 20% off all month.



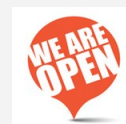
SUNDAY MISSALS

There is a supply of brand-new Sunday missals in The Corner Shoppe. Stop by to buy yours.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE

CORNER SHOPPE! Be sure to stop in The Corner Shoppe to see the many new items arriving for the holiday season.



THE CORNER SHOPPE HOURS

The Shoppe is open after each weekend Mass and on Wednesdays from 10:00am-2:00pm.

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



Women's **ACTS** Retreat

January 18-21, 2024

Register Today! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to spend time with **Jesus**.

What is an ACTS retreat?

A parish-based event offering individuals the opportunity to experience the love of Jesus Christ. This ACTS retreat is given by parishioners utilizing prayer, music, service, and teachings, allowing the individual to experience God personally and communally with other women of this fantastic faith community. St. Mary's St. Joseph's ACTS community invites any woman 21 or older to attend this upcoming 2024 event, regardless of parish location or religion.

What is **ACTS**?

Four Pillars of ACTS apostolate:

Adoration: A response to God's love through prayer and worship

Community: Participating in the One Body of Christ as Church

Theology: Deepening our relationship with God to better fulfill his will

Service: Answering the call to discipleship by following the model He gave us

Where is the retreat held?

St. Agnes Le Thi Thanh Retreat Center in Waller, Texas. Transportation is provided.

What is the cost of the retreat?

\$250.00 (double occupancy room) or \$300.00 (single occupancy room). A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is requested to register which is applied to balance. Remaining balance due on or before retreat date. Partial finance assistance is available upon request.



St. Mary's St. Joseph's
Catholic Church

Register / Questions:
Denise Waszak
(240) 315 – 4575
dwaszak@me.com



“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men”

- MARK 1:17 CPDV

Faith Formation & Children's Sacraments



December Events

Wednesday Classes:

December 6th and 13th, 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Sunday Classes:

December 10th and 17th, 10:00 to 11:00 am.

Sunday Confirmation Class:

December 3rd, 10:00 - 11:15am

If you have any questions you can contact us by email:
smsjcece@gmail.com

*Visit the Religious Education website page:
<http://smsj.org/cce-children-youth-sacraments/>
Contact the Religious Education Office-
by phone: 936-894-2223
or by email: smsjcece@gmail.com*

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 or 936-697-0195



Baptism ~ Infants to Age 6



Baptisms are scheduled quarterly and usually occur on Saturday mornings.
Available dates will be provided upon completion of all requirements.

Parents must take a preparation course (if they have not previously completed one within the past 3 years). Godparents are asked to complete one as well. We will also need a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Further information and a link to the registration form can be found on our Web page at <https://smsj.org/baptism/>

Please send all questions and inquiries to smsjbaptism@gmail.com

Baptism for Ages over 6:

Please contact Cheryl Schratwieser at smsjcece@gmail.com for information.

GriefShare Ministry

May God's loving presence comfort you, His perfect peace restores you and His promise of eternal life sustain you during your time of loss.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted, Matthew 5:4

Our GriefShare Session is already in motion,

Our last session to join would be Dec.6
Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 pm at the Kelly House



This program *Welcomes* all who have experienced a loss of a loved one in their life. Everything that is discussed or shared in our session is private and confidential. The foundation for the program is based on *Community, Understanding, Support* and *Encouragement*. Our Facilitators understand and have experienced what you are currently going through. They are here to offer comfort and encouragement during this difficult time while sharing the knowledge to help you move forward.

GriefShare teachings are biblical based on grief and recovery topics. To locate a GriefShare session and resource please go to www.griefshare.org. If you want/need to talk to someone please call Mary Marshall(281-356-2497)

Surviving the Holiday Seminar

Thank you to all that attended the seminar. The participants enjoyed learning about how to manage the holidays, along with sharing thoughts and ideas on how they would get through their holidays.

S.A.L.T. Ministry Single Adults Living Truth

Welcoming all Singles, Widows, Widowers and Divorced folks

Mats for the Homeless, Will be meeting in December on the following Mondays, 4, 11 & 18 from 10-12ish at the Kelly House. Anyone is welcome to join us. You do not have to have a talent to help us assemble the mats just a willing heart to help folks in need. The mats are used to help the homeless have a more comfortable and cleaner place to sleep. We have 6 mats made so far and will distribute them in Dec. to Conroe House of Prayer, their mission is to provide a sanctuary for the homeless population where can find a safe comfortable environment of support & worship. Let us be the hands that help the needy.

Please contact Mary(281-356-2497) if you have any questions.

Live Oak Senior Care Annual Christmas Tea Party, December 12 Tuesday at 2:30, We are hosting the annual Christmas Tea Party for the Ladies. It is a Joyful & Festive time as we serve the Ladies refreshments. We need your help to come decorate, setup & serve. Please call/text Kim (832-707-5095) if you can give us a hand. They are located at 115 Lone Star Bend, Montgomery 77356 (936-597-4140) The Ladies truly love their High Tea Parties. Help us to make them feel Special this Holiday Season.

S.A.L.T. has a **Facebook Page** by the name, **S.A.L.T. Ministry**. If you are on Facebook, find us & join the group. Send a comment or ask a question, we will be happy to respond.

Please watch the Flocknotes and your Emails for more activities to be announced.

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

Dental Services

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

Florist

Bride and Bloom
Alisa McCorquodale
936.597.4626

Interior Design

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

Misc. Services

ACT SEPTIC SOLUTIONS, LLC
Septic Installation & Maintenance
Services for Home or Business
Austin & Keri Tucker,
Owners/Operators
832.922.2666

Constance Marie Photographer
United REAL ESTATE
Constance Hanak
(713)751-9090

Misc. Services Contin.

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 & Art
Facepainting by
Sherry Imhoff
(936)524-3879
Metal Work by Frank Imhoff
(936)524-7999

Medicare Specialist
Broker
Russell Ross
(214)458-6027

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

Wood Waterworks
Pressure Washing Services
Andy Wood
Phone: (936)276-7843

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

Veterinarians & Boarding Services

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

**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

December 2023

| Regular Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday: 5:00pm (SM)
Sunday: 7:30am (SJ)
7:00, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30am (SM) | | December 2023 | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|----------------|--|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| | | | | | *9:00 – 1 st Friday Mass | *2:30pm—Mingle Jingle—SMH
*5:00pm – Mass
*2 nd Collection:
Christmas Flower Offering | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| *Regular Mass Schedule
*2 nd Collection:
Christmas Flower Offering | No Mass
*10:00am – Mats for the Homeless - KH
*8:00pm – AA Meeting - KH | No Mass
*11:00am - Domino Club - FLC
*6:30pm – SJ Altar Society - SJH | No Mass
*9:30am – Stitchin' Sisters – SJH
*10:00am – GriefShare - KH
*7:00pm – CCE - FLC | No Mass | Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
*9:00am – Mass @ SM
*5:30pm – Mass @ SJ
*6:00pm – SJ Christmas Party – SJ Hall
*Office Closed | *5:00pm – Mass
*2 nd Collection: Retirement Fund for the Religious (Sisters)
*After Mass - SM Christmas Party – SM Hall | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| *Regular Mass Schedule
*10:00am – CCE – FLC
*After Mass – SJ Breakfast w/ Santa – SJH
*After Mass - SM Christmas Party – SMH
*2 nd Collection: Retirement Fund for the Religious (Sisters) | *9:00am – Mass
*10:00am – Mats for the Homeless - KH
*8:00pm – AA Meeting - KH | *9:00am – Mass
*10:00am – BINGO - SMH
*11:00am - Domino Club - FLC
*6:00pm – SM Altar Society & SM Men's Club Christmas Party – SMH | 9:00am – Mass
*9:30am – Stitchin' Sisters – SJH
*7:00pm – CCE - FLC | *9:00am – Mass | No Mass
*9:00am - Little Lambs - SMH | *5:00pm - Mass | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | |
| *Regular Mass Schedule
*10:00am – CCE – FLC | *9:00am – Mass
*10:00am – Mats for the Homeless - KH
*8:00pm – AA Meeting - KH | *9:00am – Mass
*11:00am - Domino Club – FLC | *9:00am – Mass
*Confessions
10:00am – noon & 5:00pm – 6:00pm
*9:30am – Stitchin' Sisters – SJH | *9:00am – Mass | No Mass | *5:00pm - Mass | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| *Please see the schedule attached.

Christmas Eve | *10:30am – Mass
*Collection:
My Christmas Gift
OFFICE CLOSED
Merry Christmas | *9:00am – Mass
*11:00am - Domino Club – FLC

OFFICE CLOSED | *9:00am – Mass
*9:00am – Mass | *9:00am – Mass | No Mass | *5:00pm - Mass | |
| 31 | | | | | | | |
| *Please see the schedule attached.

New Year's Eve | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Building Abbreviation Key
FLC – Family Life Center – SM
KH – The Kelly House – St. Mary
SJH – St. Joseph's Parish Hall
SMH – St. Mary's Parish Hall |



St. Mary's Holiday Parish Dinner
is set for the weekend of
DECEMBER 9 & 10.

**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's Christmas Party

Friday, December 8 @ 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 936.661.6662
by Monday, December 4 with number attending***

4th Sunday of Advent - December 24 Schedule

St. Mary - 7:00am, 8:30am , 10:00am

St. Joseph - 7:30am

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

AT ST. MARY / ST. JOSEPH

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS DAY ~ MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

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

Sunday, New Years Eve, and New Years Day Masses

Sunday, 12/31 -

7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am, 4 pm @ SM

7:30 am @ SJ

Monday, 01/01 - 10:30am @ SM

**Happy
New Year!**