



“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is the Messiah and Lord, and this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, and suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest’.”

We are all very familiar with the report of Jesus’ birth. We know about the multitude singing, and we are aware of how the shepherds came from the fields to see and worship the child. On this glorious day we are the heavenly host singing and we in a sense are the shepherds who kneel in admiration of this child. This child is like none other. We know that every child changes the world in his or her own way. But the birth of Jesus, the Son of God and the son of Mary does more than change the world. He changes our lives completely. He comes to save us. He comes to embrace us. And He invites each of us to embrace Him.

Most of us are aware that the first four Books of the New Testament — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — are called the Gospels. We also know in general that these Gospels tell the story of Jesus Christ — His birth, ministry, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection. What you may not know nonetheless is that the first three Gospels, which we call the Synoptic Gospels, are very different from the Gospel of John, from which our Gospel for today comes.

The Gospel of John is unique in many ways. For example, almost 90 percent of the material it contains about Jesus’ life is not found in the other three Gospels. Also, you might say that the Synoptic Gospels tend to be more historical while the Gospel of John is more theological. Today’s Gospel Reading, which is the opening statement of John’s Gospel, is an example of this difference. Note how John describes Jesus’ birth: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him. And without Him nothing came to be. What came to be through Him was life; and this life was the light of the human race: the light shines in the darkness.”

On this magnificent Christmas Day we receive the life, and we receive His light. It is no wonder that all our readings reflect that life and that light and the joy that results. Just listen to the words and phrases we find in the First Reading from Isaiah. These are perfect descriptions of what we should feel on this day: “beautiful; glad tidings; peace; good news; salvation; shout for joy; break out in song.” What a summary of this day!

The Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews complements and affirms the feelings expressed in Isaiah. The writer makes it clear that Jesus is God and that today marks the beginning of salvation for us. This passage from Hebrews parallels our Gospel today in that it is the opening words of the letter to the Hebrews. The first word is “God” as that is where it all begins. God speaks to us in the birth of Jesus, and the author of the letter uses a word to describe Jesus that may be foreign to us: the author speaks of the “refulgence of his glory.” Refulgence means brightness or radiance. The original Greek word from which this is translated is *apaugasma*. That means brightness beyond our understanding. It is as if we cannot see or look upon the Lord — only through the light of Jesus His Son.

The Gospel, as explained previously, speaks of the Christ child in a way that is not found in the other Gospels. Jesus is the Word incarnate. If we review what we know about Jesus, we might say He was from Nazareth or He was born in Bethlehem, or He is descended from Abraham through David. However, John wants us to understand that Jesus has come to us directly from God as He is One with God. He is the Word. Toward the end of His Gospel John states of his Gospel: “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” Today is day of life and light. It is truly a day on which we must proclaim “Glory to God in the highest.”

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 18, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$	4626.45
Vigil Candles.....	\$	241.51
Facilities Improvement.....	\$	25.00
Helping Hands.....	\$	50.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$	10.00
STM School.....	\$	530.00
Christmas Poinsettias.....	\$	20.00
Donations.....	\$	500.00
Bulletin Adds.....	\$	230.00
Hope for the Future.....	\$	2.00

***Second Collection - January 1:
Facilities Improvement Fund***



LORD, WHAT'S
THE BEST WAY
TO WRAP A
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT?



1544200 11/23/01
©2001 LPI
WWW.TP

PUT IT
IN A
MANGER



Parish Festival Final Results

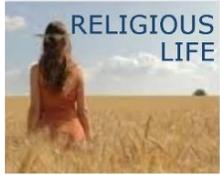
I know it’s been a while in coming... and a number of you have been asking how we did with our Parish Festival in October... I finally tracked down the numbers! This is just the Bottom-Line numbers. If you would like a *Complete Breakdown* of the income vs expenses... you can see that in the Parish Office. (FYI: *Fr. Mike’s Dunking Booth* netted \$381)

Total Revenue:	\$ 53, 089.51
Total Expenses:	<u>23, 997.98</u>
Net Income:	\$ 29, 091.53

Not Bad!

LIFE AWARENESS

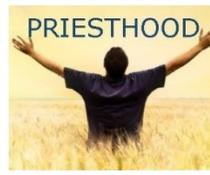
Religious Vocation Discernment Weekend



Life Awareness is a retreat event that provides time and space for single men and women to discern a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

The event brings participants (ages 18-40) together with priests and religious brothers and sisters, for a weekend of lectures, group discussions, private consultations and prayer.

The objective of the retreat is to help participants develop a realistic view of what it's like to serve God and the Church in today's world.



The 2023 Life Awareness Retreat will take place at the Cordi-Marian Retreat Center on **February 3 - 5, 2023**

If you are a person who is:

- Looking for an opportunity to provide service to others,
- Wondering if the religious life as a Priest, Brother or Sister might be what you're looking for, or...
- Even if you haven't reached that point, but you have that quiet, subtle, nagging feeling that this is something you should know more about... Then... ***This is for YOU!***

This retreat is sponsored by the San Antonio Archdiocesan Vocation Office. The Archbishop's appeal is generously covering all expenses for this retreat.

Therefore, it is free for participants.



Register Today!



Life Awareness es un evento de retiro que proporciona tiempo y espacio para que hombres y mujeres solteros discernan una vocación al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada.

El evento reúne a los participantes (de 18 a 40 años) con sacerdotes y hermanos y hermanas religiosos, para un fin de semana de conferencias, discusiones grupales, consultas privadas y oración.

El objetivo del retiro es ayudar a los participantes a desarrollar una visión realista de lo que es servir a Dios y a la Iglesia en el mundo de hoy.



El Retiro de Life Awareness 2023 tendrá lugar en el Centro de Retiros Cordi-Marian ***el Febrero 3 - 5, 2023***

Si usted es una persona que:

- Buscando una oportunidad para prestar servicio a los demás,
- Preguntarse si la vida religiosa como sacerdote, hermano o hermana podría ser lo que estás buscando, o...
- Incluso si no has llegado a ese punto, pero tienes esa sensación tranquila, sutil y persistente de que esto es algo sobre lo que deberías saber más ... Entonces... ***¡Esto es para ti!***

Este retiro es patrocinado por la Oficina Arquidiocesana de Vocaciones de San Antonio. La petición del arzobispo cubre generosamente todos los gastos de este retiro.

Por lo tanto, es gratuito para los participantes.



40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion in America.

With 40 Days for Life 365, you can sign up to pray on the sidewalk any day of the year! Abortion may be gone here in San Antonio, but our prayers are still needed to change the hearts and minds of the abortion-minded.

Vigil Location: Planned Parenthood abortion clinic; 2140 Babcock Rd. San Antonio, TX

To Sign up, Visit: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/sanantonio>



A CHRISTMAS WISH:

During this most holy time of the year, my prayer is that the Christ Child and His Mother, Mary most holy, continue to bless our parish and each of you during this Christmas Season and throughout the coming year.

On behalf of our Parish Staff, our Deacons, our School Faculty and Staff, and all our various Organizations and Ministries...

Merry Christmas... and God Bless.

Fr. Mike



Question: Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer: Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So, we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches, or plaques making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of His Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

MEDITACIÓN DEL 25 de diciembre de 2022 - La Natividad del Señor

¡Feliz Pascua de Navidad! Es el saludo que escucharemos en la Misa de Nochebuena y en el día de Navidad. “Hoy nos ha nacido un Salvador: el Mesías, el Señor” (Salmo 95). Vengan todos, cantemos al Señor himnos de alabanza. Pues, Jesús ha nacido en Belén, Dios ha cumplido su promesa de salvación. Hoy es el día de contemplar agradecidos y extasiados al recién nacido, es un regalo de amor para todos. Las palabras, paz, alegría, gozo, regalo, felicidad, ternura, son de gran ayuda para esta celebración.

Gracias, Señor, por mostrarnos tanto amor en medio de nuestras tribulaciones. Te pedimos por los que viven solos y tristes, por los huérfanos y los que perdieron a sus seres queridos en la guerra y en todo tipo de violencia. Hazte presente en sus corazones para que puedan regalarles a otros el amor que tú les muestras a ellos. Que en el mundo se escuche el canto de los ángeles. “Gloria a Dios en lo más alto del cielo y en la tierra paz a los hombres: está es la hora de la gracia” (Lucas 2,14). Al contemplarte en el nacimiento junto a María y José, quisiera ser uno de los pastores, que presuroso fue a adorarte y se postró ante tu bondad, inocencia y dulzura. Solamente, puedo decirte desde el fondo del corazón: Jesús, gracias por haber nacido entre nosotros, y sufrir como nosotros. “Dios nos lo recuerda hoy, tomando con amor nuestra humanidad y haciéndola suya, desposándose con ella para siempre (Papa Francisco).

¡Feliz Navidad!



St. Vincent de Paul at St. Pius X

St Vincent de Paul is asking for our continuing and generous support.
Our need for food is great and it is on-going!



Your donations of food allow us to keep our shelves stocked.

In addition, money donated can then be used for financial assistance for rent and utilities.

By purchasing a few extra food items each week, you can make a difference in the lives of those who need help. The items listed are placed in food bags which those in need can get once every 30 days.

Food can be dropped off at SVdP on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10 am - 1 pm.

Or, you can drop food off in the blue bins during the week.

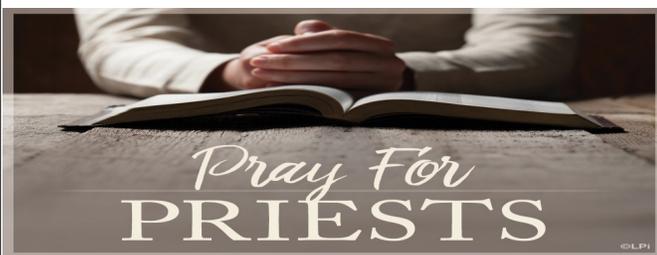
Items needed: Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti, White Rice, Pinto Beans, Canned Tuna or Chicken, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Canned Beans, Canned Soup, Ramen Noodles, Toilet Paper

Every donation (big or small) is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all your support to this ministry!

This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day
Monday, December 26, 2022
 *** *Parish Offices Closed* ***
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - Church
Tuesday, December 27, 2022
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - Church
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy - Rectory Mtg Room
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - Rectory Mtg Room
Wednesday, December 28, 2022
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - Church
Thursday, December 29, 2022
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour - Church
 7:00 pm RCIA - Cancelled
Friday, December 30, 2022
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - Church
Saturday, December 31, 2022 - New Year's Eve
 4:00 pm Reconciliation - Church
Sunday, January 1, 2023 - New Year's Day



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 24, 2022 - Christmas Eve
 8:00 am †Gregory Tatum
 5:00 pm †Roxanne Espinoza by Joseph Weich Family
 †Angel Sanchez by Alredo & Irma Sanchez
 7:00 pm †Ralph Garcia
Sunday, December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day
 12:00 am †Domingo Delgado & Diana Sue Rangel Duncan by Delgado / Gonzalez Families
 †Sr. Rosemary & Henry Rangel by Family
 10:00 am Daniel, Ezra & Isabella Acosta by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased
 12:00 pm †George Omar & George Christopher Garcia by Anna & Jonathan Garcia
 †Ines Quiroga by Malacara Family
Monday, December 26, 2022
 8:00 am †Robert Garcia, Jr by Theresa Garza
All Souls by Kim Nguyen
Tuesday, December 27, 2022
 8:00 am †Alejandro Hernandez by Flor & Atticus Mata
 †Theresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
Wednesday, December 28, 2022
 8:00 am †Marguerite McCoy by Pansza Family
 †Fr. Gilbert Pansza
Thursday, December 29, 2022 (Communion Svc)
 8:00 am **All Ordained Clergy and Religious**
Friday, December 30, 2022
 8:00 am †Vicente Nghiep by Kim Nguyen
 †Rosie Reyes & Suzell Waller by Eddie Reyes
Saturday, December 31, 2022 - New Year's Eve
 8:00 am **STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased**
 5:00 pm †Joe Ramirez by Edward Ramirez
 †Roxanne & Jeremy Espinoza by Mom, Dad & Family
Sunday, January 1, 2023 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 8:00 am Ramon Mata Jr. - **Healing and Good Health**
 10:00 am †Medardo E. and Evangelina G. Morales by Morales-Briseno Families
 †Bob, Gloria, and Inga Garcia by Vicky Smith
 12:00 pm †Kathryn Sweet by Maria T. Sweet



Sanctuary Light Intention:
Ramon Mata, Sr

Lecturas de la Semana del 26 dic - 1 enero

Lunes: Hch 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Sal 30:3-4,6,8,16,17; Mt 10:17-22
Martes: 1Jn 1:1-4; Sal 96:1-2,5-6,11-12; Jn 20:1,2-8
Mercoles 1Jn 1:5-2:2; Sal 123:2-5,7-8; Mt 2:13-18
Jueves: 1Jn 2:3-11; Sal 95:1-3,5-6; Lc 2:22-35
Viernes: Eclo 3:2-6,12-14; Sal 127:1-5; Mt 2:13-15,19-23
Sábado: 1Jn 2:18-21; Sal 95:1-2,11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Domingo: Nm 6:22-27; Sal 66:2-3,5,6,8; Gal 4:4-7; Lc 2:16-21

Readings for the week of Dec 26 - Jan 1

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4,6,8,16,17; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12; Jn 20:1,2-8
Wednesday 1Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-5,7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3,5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Friday: Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15,19-23
Saturday: 1Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2,11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3,5,6,8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, December 31, 2022
 5 pm Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - T.guerrero, J+B.Hernandez, L.Volpenhein
 Lector - T.Garza
Sunday, January 1, 2023
 8 am Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - R.Saldiva, B.McQueen, P.Klar, +1 Vol
 Lector - S.McCarthy
 10 am Altar Servers - (Volunteers)
 Eucharistic Ministers -N.Rodriguez, V.Smith, W+M.Torres,
 T.G.Garza, Y.Aguilar
 Lector - Ali.Perez
 12 pm Altar Servers - (Volunteers)
 Eucharistic Ministers - M.Pina, D+F.Malacara, I.Hernandez
 Lector - H.Gomez / I.Hernandez