



As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. As we reflect on the enormity of this gift, let us ask ourselves what we can offer in return?

In our first reading, from Isaiah, the Lord invites King Ahaz to "ask for a sign from the Lord, your God." And not just any sign. The Lord says, "let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!" Ahaz, though, cannot arouse himself from his bleak and limited outlook, and actually refuses this invitation. Undeterred by his negativity, the Lord says through the prophet Isaiah, that he himself will provide the sign: "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" and his name will be Emmanuel which means, "God with us." What great love and patience our heavenly Father has shown his people throughout all ages!

In the second reading, from Paul's letter to the Romans, St. Paul sends a blessing of "Grace... and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This — grace and peace — is precisely the gift we celebrate on Christmas Day. Through his incarnation, Jesus brings the intimate love of God right into our midst; and through His death and resurrection, He saves us from our sins and restores us to right relationship with the Father. This is the peace that the world cannot offer.

In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do except offer our lives as gift in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he responds to God's call to him through the message of an angel. St. Joseph immediately and humbly obeys the instruction from the angel: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Open to this extraordinary role, he did as the angel commanded and "takes Mary into his home."

We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection and service.

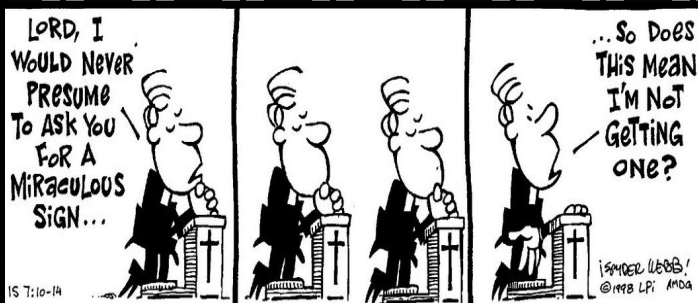
Let us imitate St. Joseph then as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ. We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace — these are truly the best Christmas gifts we could receive.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 11, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 5,333.50
Vigil Candles.....	\$ 206.07
Facilities Improvement.....	\$ 220.00
Helping Hands.....	\$ 22.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$ 575.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe.....	\$ 912.68
Retired Religious.....	\$ 560.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$ 15.00
Festival.....	\$ 75.00
Christmas Poinsettias.....	\$ 160.00
Donations.....	\$ 75.00
Bulletin Adds.....	\$ 320.00
Christmas Offering.....	\$ 20.00

*Second Collection - December 25:
to Support Assumption Seminary*



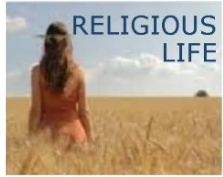
LIGHT THE FIRE WITHIN YOU

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET YOUR
COMMEMORATIVE ASSEMBLY CANDLES
QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED! COST \$5
CALL PARISH OFFICE TO ORDER**

(210) 655-5070

LIFE AWARENESS

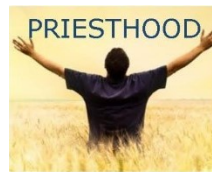
Religious Vocation Discernment Weekend



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.



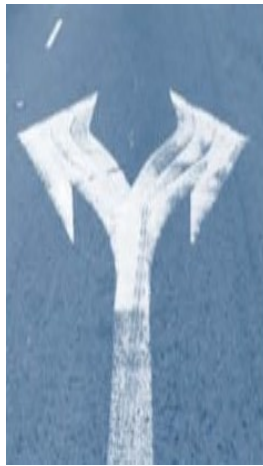
The 2023 Life Awareness Retreat will take place at the Cordi-Marian Retreat Center on **February 3 - 5, 2023**

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>

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Before COVID we had 2 '*Teams*' of *Dedicated Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* that would bring Our Lord in the Most Blessed Eucharist weekly (*usually on Saturday mornings*) to the residents of the Northeast and Heritage Rehab Centers (*on Corrine and Eisenhower Rd respectively*).



The Pandemic shut everything down and the '*Teams*' fell apart. The Nursing / Rehab Centers have reopened and the residents have been asking us to return.

If you would like to be on a '*Team*' to bring Our Lord to our brothers / sisters please let Deacon Tim - or - the Parish Office know.

Thank you in advance for your caring response...

God Bless-

VISITAS A HOGARES DE ANCIANOS

Antes de COVID teníamos 2 '*Equipos*' *Dedicados* de *Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión* que llevaban a Nuestro Señor en la Santísima Eucaristía semanalmente (*generalmente los sábados por la mañana*) a los residentes del NorthEast y Heritage Centros de rehabilitación (*en Corrine y Eisenhower Rd respectivamente*).

La pandemia cerró todo y el los '*equipos*' se deshizieron. Los Centros de Enfermería / Rehabilitación han reabierto y los residentes nos han estado pidiendo que regresemos.

Si desea estar en un '*Equipo*' para traer a Nuestro Señor a nuestros hermanos / hermanas por favor déjele saber a el diácono Rolando - o - la Oficina Parroquial.

Gracias de antemano por su respuesta cariñosa...

Dios los bendiga-

**Christmas - Midnight Mass**

Yes... This year's Midnight Mass *DOES*, in fact, begin at Midnight!
But...

It will be preceded by a Musical Presentation given by our Music Ministry

Beginning at 11:30 pm

Come... enjoy the festivities...

Hope to see you there.

**Liturgical Schedule for Christmas**

Sat, Dec 24: 5 pm
7 pm - Spanish
Sun, Dec 25: Midnight
10 am
Noon - Spanish
Sat-Sun, Dec 31 - Jan 1:
Normal Sunday Masses

**During Christmas Holidays,
The Parish Offices will be closed
on the following****Holy Days and Holidays:**

Fri, Dec 23rd - In observance of
Christmas
Mon, Dec 26th - In observance of
Christmas
Mon, Jan 2nd - In observance of
the Solemnity of
Mary, Mother of God

**St. Vincent de Paul
at St. Pius X**

St Vincent de Paul is asking for our continuing and generous help.

Are you looking for a way to celebrate this season of Advent? SVdP needs assistance with their annual Christmas Project!

You can make a monetary donation, purchase a HEB or Walmart gift card, or donate food for the Christmas food bags.

Monetary donations and gift cards can be dropped off at SVdP or the SPX Church office.

Food can be dropped off at SVdP or placed in the blue bins located at the church entrances.

We are in need of basic items: Stuffing Mix, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Chicken Broth,
Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Canned Cranberry Sauce, 1 lb. bags of Pinto Beans etc.

Your donations of food and / or monetary gifts make a tremendous impact in the lives of many and are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all your support to this ministry!



This Week at Our Parish

Sunday, December 18, 2022
 8:00 am Guadalupanos Mass - *Church*
 10:00 am CDA Mass - *Church*
 6:00 pm Coro Alegria Posada - *Church Parking Lot/Hall*

Monday, December 19, 2022
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - *Church*
 5:00 pm Cenaculo de la Divina Misericordia - *RMR*

Tuesday, December 20, 2022
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - *Church*
 5:30 pm Divine Mercy - *Cancelled*
 6:30 pm Coro Alegria Choir Practice - *Rectory Mtg Room*

Wednesday, December 21, 2022
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - *Church*

Thursday, December 22,
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour - *Church*
 7:00 pm RCIA - *Cancelled*

Friday, December 23, 2022
 *** *Parish Offices Closed* ***
 12:00 pm Daily Holy Hour (12 - 1p) - *Cancelled*

Saturday, December 24, 2022 - Christmas Eve
 4:00 pm Reconciliation - *Church*
 11:30 pm Music Ministry Christmas Music - *Church*

Sunday, December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17, 2022
 8:00 am †Vicente Khanh by Kim Nguyen
 †Jan Riles & Donald Rand by Rand Family
 5:00 pm †Antonio Cortez , †Isaias Gutierrez, and
 †Mary Frances Gutierrez by Debra Cortez
STM Parishioners - Living and Deceased

Sunday, December 18, 2022
 8:00 am †Vicente Nghiep by Kim Nguyen
 †Mary Monteverdi by Parish Friends
 10:00 am †Juan Urbano & †Mike Urbano by Teresa Clark
 †Salome H Briseno & Carolina B Briseno by Family
 12:00 pm †Rosie Reyes & Suzell Waller by Eddie Reyes
 †Jose Jesus Cortez by Cortez Family

Monday, December 19, 2022
 8:00 am **Anniversary - Kristy & Ian Fluckiger** by Ken and Anne Nutt
Family Prosperity & Peace by Sylvia Roman & Family

Tuesday, December 20, 2022
 8:00 am †Abigail Ravayo by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
 †Vicente Khanh by Kim Nguyen

Wednesday, December 21, 2022
 8:00 am †Kathryn Sweet by Maria T. Sweet
 †Dora Litterio Martinez & Hector Manuel Roman
 by Sylvia Roman & Family
 †Peter S. Johnson, Jr by Johnson Family

Thursday, December 22, 2022 (Mass)
 8:00 am **All Ordained Clergy and Religious**

Friday, December 23, 2022
 8:00 am **Thanksgiving** by Rosemary Saldiva
 †Theresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen

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



Sanctuary Light Intention:
Ramon Mata, Sr

Lecturas de la Semana del 19 - 25 Dec

Lunes: Jue 13:2-7,24-25; Sal 70:3-6,16-17; Lc 1:5-25
Martes: Is 7:10-14; Sal 23:1-6; Lc 1:26-38
Miércoles: Cant 2:8-14; Sal 32:2-3,11-12,20-21; Lc 1:39-45
Jueves: 1Sm 1:24-28; 1Sm 2:1,4-8; Lc 1:46-56
Viernes: Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Sal 24:4-5,8-10,14; Lc 1:57-66
Sábado: Mañana: 2Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Sal 88:2-5,27,29;
 Lc 1:67-79
Vigilia: Is 62:1-5; Sal 88:4-5,16-17,27,29;
 Hch 13:16-17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Domingo: Noche: Is 9:1-6; Sal 95:1-3,11-13; Tit 2:11-14;
 Lc 2:1-14
Día: Is 52:7-10; Sal 97:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Readings for the week of Dec 19 - 25

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Ps 71:3-6,16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1Sm 1:24-28; 1Sm 2:1,4-8; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday-Morning: 2Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14a,16;
 Ps 89:2-5,27,29; Lk 1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29;
 Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Sunday-Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3,11-13; Ti 2:11-14;
 Lk 2:1-14
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1,2-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, December 24, 2022
 5 pm Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - +2 Volunteers - if needed
 Lector - M.Briseno
 7 pm Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - +2 Volunteers - if needed
 Lector - *Volunteer*

Sunday, December 25, 2022
 12 am Altar Servers - (None)
 Eucharistic Ministers - +2 Volunteers - if needed
 Lector - Rita Davis
 10 am Altar Servers - (Volunteers)
 Eucharistic Ministers - +2 Volunteers - if needed
 Lector - *Volunteer*
 12 pm Altar Servers - (Volunteers)
 Eucharistic Ministers - +2 Volunteers - if needed
 Lector - H.Gomez / A.Chavez