



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**

**6:30 am** Donnie Slovak +  
**12:05 pm** Emeleen Maliska + and  
John E. Valek +  
**6:30 pm** Rayford Novy + and  
Agnes F. Kriska +

**TUESDAY, DEC. 21—St. Peter Canisius**

**6:30 am** John J. Dlabaj +  
**12:05 pm** Judy Almond + and Joe S. /Mary/Joe L. Liska +++  
**6:30 pm (Spanish)** Hugo Moreno +

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

**6:30 am** Emil and Ronnie Toupal ++  
**12:05 p.m.** Cynthia Zapletal + and  
Mary Mach +

**Adoration after 12:05 pm Mass until 5:00 pm**

**6:30 pm** Joe/Mary/George/Theresa and  
Raymond Sladeczek +++++

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23—St. John of Kanty**

**6:30 am** Frank Kriska +  
**12:05 pm** Mary (Carson) Dick +  
**No 6:30 pm Spanish Mass tonight**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24—Vigil of Christmas**

No Daily Masses today  
**6:30 pm Vigil** Bill & Mary and Jo Ellen Vitovsky +++  
**12:00 Midnight Mass for Christmas**  
Krista Wilson and Eileen Mitchell ++ and  
Christmas Novena begins

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, Christmas Day**

**9:00 am** Christmas Novena of Masses  
**11:00 am** Christmas Novena and For the Parish  
**1:00 pm Spanish** Christmas Novena

**No 5:00 pm Mass today**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26—Feast of the Holy Family**

**7:30 am** Alphonse & Agnes Novosad ++ and  
Anthony "Tony" Prachyl + and Novena  
**10:30 am** Tony/Nacha Zapata & Arturo/Mariana Casanova+  
and Dorothy Holy Harrison + and Novena  
**1:00 pm** Gonzalo Torres + and  
For our Parish Community  
**No 5:00 pm Life Teen Mass today**

**MASS INTENTIONS EPIPHANY MISSION, ITALY**  
**Sunday, December 19, 9:30 am**

Sabino & Eugenia Marquez Castillo ++

**Sunday, December 26, 9:30 am** Manuel Huerta +

**SPONSOR OF WEEK: MEDICINE CHEST PHARMACY**



Dear Saint John and Epiphany Parishioners,

Christmas is near! We have lighted the fourth candle on our Advent Wreath! It has been a long wait!

According to the Hebrew calendar, 3,000 years from the Original Sin of Adam and Eve to the prophesy that we hear from Isaiah in our first reading this Sunday. The Lord Our God speaks through Isaiah, "... the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel."

How excited those who heard this prophesy must have been! The Lord has promised to send a sign of His love and faithfulness to His people. Once again His favor will rest on His people! On you and me!

Seven hundred more years, from this Prophesy of Isaiah until its fulfillment and repetition by the Angel to St. Joseph in his dream, "... 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." St. Matthew adds in his Gospel, "all this took place to fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. ..."

What a long, long wait! But so worth it! For now we have a Savior! Now, God indeed, is with us! We have been taken out of the darkness of sin and death and brought into a new life with Jesus Christ. This is Christmas, the ultimate gift!

This last week of our Advent preparation we should each more fervently get ready to increase that presence of Jesus in us. We should diligently prepare ourselves to make an honest and complete Confession so that the Child Jesus can completely fill us up with His Christmas gifts of peace, love and joy. Do not let busyness keep you from getting to the beautiful Sacrament of Confession. The amazing experience of His forgiveness only increases our Christmas gift from Him!

See you in Church!

Love and prayers,

*Father John*

Pastor

**RCIA NEWS**

The RCIA group will continue "Dismissals" during Masses until the non-Catholic participants can participate fully in the Mass at the Easter Vigil. No RCIA sessions on December 26 and January 2. Please keep our candidates and catechumens in your prayers.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19

- 8:45 am** RCIA Session/Rm 102 Compound  
**9:00 am** Religious Education Classes and EDGE  
**10:30 am** Practice for Christmas Play/Cafeteria  
**9:00-1:00** St. John Library Open/Rm 106 Compound  
**5:00 pm** Life Teen Mass and Life Night

#### Tuesday, December 21

- 7:00 pm** Children's Christmas Play/Cafeteria  
**7:00 pm** Grief Recovery Session  
**6:00-8:00 pm** Winter Walkers in SJ Gym (see notice)

#### Wednesday, December 22

- 6:30 am Mass-** Teens "Food for the Soul" —free Breakfast  
**6:00-8:00 pm** Winter Walkers in SJ Gym (see notice)  
**No** Religious Education Classes and Life Teen D-Nite  
**7:30 pm** Choir Rehearsal/Church

#### Friday, December 24

- No daily Masses today  
Parish Business Office Closed for Christmas holidays  
**6:30 pm** Vigil Mass for Christmas Day

#### Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

- Masses: 12:00 am Midnight Mass, 9:00 & 11:00 am  
(English) & 1:00 pm (Spanish) (no 5:00 pm Mass today)

#### Sunday, December 26

- Masses: 7:30 & 10:30 am(English) & 1:00 pm(Spanish)  
No RCIA Session Today  
**No** Religious Education Classes and EDGE  
**No** Life Teen Mass or Life Night

#### Monday, December 27

- Parish Business Office Closed for Christmas holidays

#### K.J.Z.T. JUNIORS CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The K.J.Z.T. Juniors will help to stuff bags for the homeless on Tuesday, December 21, at 6:00 pm. They will meet at the Knights of Columbus hall in Waxahachie, 325 Broadhead Rd. Off the 287 by-pass turn right on Broadhead, go past the theater and the KC hall will be on left about a mile down. Items needed for the bags are shampoos, soaps, toiletries, gloves or sweater caps. If you have any of these items to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. The items could be sent with the Juniors, or call Linda at 972-937-7269.

#### THANK YOU TO THESE HELPERS

These parishioners graciously helped to set up the beautiful flower display for the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration: Marian Zhanel, Margaret Bouska, Irene Kriska, Laura and Benny Trojacek, Betty Macalik, Evelyn and Benny Zmolik. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with our Hispanic ministry to ensure that the feast was a moving tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe. May God bless you.

#### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

These people need our prayers: Lucy Mikula, Jewell Freeman, Paul Latham, Earlene Slovak, Ella Patak, Viola Dlabaj, Kathy Toth, Deanna Slovacek Richardson, Nolen Dockery, Sandra and Marsela Montelongo, Bernard Betik, Olga Enriquez, Ruben Monreal, Elida Alvarado, Moses Zapata, Pete Cruz, Wanda Slovak, Mary A. Garza, Leslie & Millie Trojacek, Norma Martinez, Maria Manriquez, Helene Valek, Lillian Slovak, Olivia Widener, Helen Barak, Betty Zajic, Johnny Mensik, Josie, Elva, Henry and Ray Castillo, James Pustejovsky, Gary Kidder, Frankie Joe Patak, Sandra Horrell, Geri Melvin, Sr. Edna Gonzalez, Raul Partida, Steve Betik, Frances Kozlovsky, Betty Rogala, Tony Alvarez, Evelyn Dlabaj, Claudio Amador Jr. & Sr., Joe & Mary Patak, Ruphine Patak and Jerry Dolezal.

#### SANCTUARY LIGHTS THIS WEEK

Sanctuary light, south side of sanctuary, is in memory of Raymond J. Honza Sr. donated by Leona Honza & Family for the week of December 18-24.  
Sanctuary light, north side, is in memory of Frank & Mary T. Dick (Fr. John and Frank's parents).

#### CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

Christmas Novena cards are available at the back of church. Your intentions will be included in a special Christmas Novena of Masses. Nine consecutive Masses will be celebrated for intentions for the living or dead of those participating in the Novena. This Novena of Masses will begin on Christmas Day and go through January 2, 2011. This Novena offers greater benefit to the direct objects of this intention than is offered to all those Christian faithful whom the sacrifice always benefits in general. Please fill out the donation envelope, insert your offering (\$5.00 per name) and place the envelope in the collection basket or drop off at the business office **by December 22**. The beautiful greeting card is yours to send or keep.

#### COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER 11 & 12

St. John Church Support Collection	\$ 19,044.63
Religious Retirement Collection	1,449.07
Immaculate Conception Holy Day	1,761.37
Epiphany Church Support Collection	1,045.79
Immaculate Conception Holy Day	154.02

#### ALTAR SERVERS FOR LITURGIES

Altar Servers for Christmas Masses will be notified of the schedule.

#### December 26, Sunday

- 7:30 am** Josh Zapletal/Nate Allen/Joseph Baird  
**10:30am** David Janousek/Dylan Fisher/Dylan Honza

## PREPARING WITH CONFESSION

The days of Advent are marked by a heightened sense of prayer. Christmas Novenas, ancient ways of preparation, are prayed throughout the Catholic world. Advent re-sounds with the theme of reconciliation and the call to repentance. That call is not about dwelling on our sins and being even more burdened by them, but the opposite: bringing them to God in sorrow and hope for forgiveness. **More opportunities for individual Confessions will be offered in our parish this week before Christmas.** It is a fitting time to approach Jesus in this sacrament—and to be able to approach Him in the Eucharist on Christmas with a renewed heart.



### Confession Schedule

<u>Monday, Dec. 20</u>	6:00 PM-6:30 PM
Fr. John	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
<u>Tuesday, Dec. 21</u>	6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Fr. John and Fr. Antonio	
<u>Wednesday, Dec. 22</u>	6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Fr. John and Fr. Antonio	
<u>Thursday, Dec. 23</u>	6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Fr. Antonio—No Mass	

From Introduction to the Lectionary for Masses with Children:

### Plays within the Liturgy of the Word

52 “The Mass is not an historical reenactment of the events of salvation history and care should be taken not to give the impression that the liturgy of the word is a play. This is not to say that dramatic elements may not be used, e.g., the readings may at times be divided into parts distributed among the children; however, the use of costumes, etc., is more appropriate in the context of other celebrations or services. *Care should be taken especially at Christmas and during Holy Week and the Easter Triduum not to stage the various liturgies as plays.* The Christmas Mass should not be presented as a birthday party for Jesus, nor should secular notions of Santa Claus be introduced into the Christmas liturgy.”



## Mass Schedule

Friday, Dec. 24, *Vigil of the Nativity:*  
6:30 PM



## Christmas Masses—Octave of Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 25,

*The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas Masses:*

Midnight Mass, caroling to start at 11:15

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

Sunday, Dec. 26,

2nd Day of the Octave of Christmas,

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph:*

7:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish)

Monday, Dec. 27,

3rd Day of the Octave of Christmas,

*Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist:*

12:05 PM only

Tuesday, Dec. 28,

4th Day of the Octave of Christmas,

*Feast of the Holy Innocents:*

6:30 AM, 12:05 PM, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 29,

5th Day of the Octave of Christmas:

6:30 AM, 12:05 PM, 6:30 PM

Thursday, Dec. 30,

6th Day of the Octave of Christmas:

6:30 AM, 12:05 PM, 6:30 PM

Friday, Dec. 31,

7th Day of the Octave of Christmas:

6:30 AM, 12:05 PM

Saturday, Jan. 1,

Octave Day of Christmas, *Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God:*

8:00 AM—First Saturday Mass, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated at the Sunday Masses so this is not a Holy Day of Obligation

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Let the Children come to me, do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”  
Mark 10:14

# Children's Christmas Play

Sponsored by Children's Religious Education

**December 21, Tuesday  
7PM in the Cafeteria**

All are welcome!

Is your child interested in participating?

Contact Annette Wright, (972) 875-9650

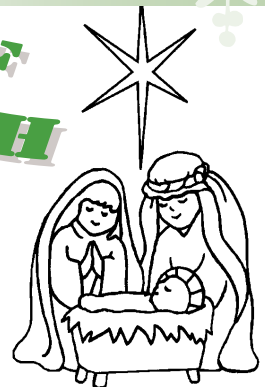
Practice for play: Today, Dec. 19, 10:30 AM, Cafeteria

**THE STORY OF  
CHRIST'S BIRTH**

**MUSIC**



**CAROLS**



LIFE TEEN



*Life Teen D-Nite*

## **Life Teen Calendar**

**DEC 19TH— MASS & LIFE NIGHT**  
**DEC 26- NO MASS & LIFE NIGHT**

**FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY**  
**ALL TEENS ARE WELCOMED TO COME TO**  
**6:30AM MASS FOLLOWED BY A**  
**FREE BREAKFAST!**

### **D-Nite**

Wednesday nights 7pm-8:15 in the Cafeteria  
**Our next D-Nite is January 5, 2011**

Questions? Contact Joey at 972-878-8336 or  
[joeyes@stjohnncc.net](mailto:joeyes@stjohnncc.net)

## **Life Teen Retreat**

**Hurry! Spots are almost gone!**

**Who: High School 9th-12th grades**

**Where: Sky Ranch , Van TX**

**When: Dec 31st-Jan 2**

**How Much: non Confirmation teens-\$100**

**(Includes transportation, meals, and lodging)**

**Contact Joey for a weekend of fun, faith, and food!**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS FOR PRIESTS

In the event of a real emergency, call Fr. John Dick, 903-624-6114, or Fr. Antonio Ormaza, 469-831-0607.

For day to day questions or concerns, and to make appointments, please call the business office phone number, 972-878-2834 or 972-875-2834.

### CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR 2010

Just a reminder that all charitable end-of-the-year donations to St. John Church and the St. Joseph Cemetery must be dated and postmarked by December 31st to qualify for 2010 tax deductions.

Thank you, and may God especially bless those who supported our parish and cemetery in 2010. We greatly appreciate your support.

### CHRISTMAS POLKA SHOW ON KBEC

Johnnie I. Krajca and KBEC 1390 will present the annual Christmas show on Saturday, December 25, from 8-11 am. There will be a variety of Christmas music, including Czech hymns from choirs from St. John Church. Include the show in your Christmas morning plans for a listening treat.

### RELIGIOUS ITEMS COUNTER

The Religious Store/Counter has many beautiful religious items that would make great Christmas gifts. Please stop by in the annex after Mass and check it out.

### WINTER WALKERS

Come to the St. John gym each Tuesday and Wednesday night from 6-8 pm to walk. The gym will be open on Dec. 21, 22, 28 & 29. Stay healthy, keep warm. Any children **must** be accompanied by a parent and supervised. For more info, call Joan Johnson, 214-728-6160. Sponsored by KJZT Society #16.

### CZECH CHOIR CHRISTMAS HYMNS

The St. John Czech Choir will sing for the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday, January 1, 2011. They will start at 4:45 pm with Christmas songs in Czech. Plan now to bring family members who would enjoy hearing these Czech hymns.