

**Mass Intentions for the week of December 25**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**—Saint Stephen, First Martyr

No 6:30 a.m. Mass today

**12:05 p.m.** Christmas Novena +

No 6:30 p.m. Mass today

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**—Saint John, Apostle

No 6:30 a.m. Mass today

**12:05 p.m.** Henry Zapletal +

**6:30 p.m.** Christmas Novena

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**—The Holy Innocents

**6:30 a.m.** Christmas Novena

**12:05 p.m.** Arturo & Mariana Casanova

**6:30 p.m.** Mike Dlabaj +

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29** - The Fifth Day within the Octave

**6:30 a.m.** Christmas Novena of the Nativity of the Lord

**12:05 p.m.** Christmas Novena

**6:30 p.m.** Jose, Josefina, Bernardo Sandoval +++

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30** - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, &

**6:30 a.m.** Christmas Novena Joseph

**12:05 p.m.** Raymond Honza Sr. +

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**-The Seventh Day in the Octave

**3:30 p.m.** Confessions of the Nativity of the Lord

**8:00 p.m.** Albin and Mike Dlabaj ++

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, THE SOMLEMNITY OF MARY,**

**THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**9:00 a.m.** The Parish Community

**11:00 a.m.** Anthony Alvarez +

**1:00 p.m.** Arturo Renovato +

**5:00 p.m.** Edwin Svhelak +

**MASSES FOR EPIPHANY CHURCH**

Sun. Dec. 25, 9 am Estanislao Gonzalez + (Pbro)

**HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**Entrance:** O Come, All Ye Faithful

**Offertory:** What Child Is This - 387

**Communion:** O Little Town of Bethlehem - 359

**Recessional:** Joy to the World - 353

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:** Quality Inn Ennis

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
+ 2016

Dear Saint John and Epiphany Parishioners,

Each and every year on December 25<sup>th</sup> we as Catholic Christians celebrate the wonderful gift of our Father who created us. The gift of His Son, Jesus, becoming human like us, inside of Mary, and being born into the world just as each of us.

God, who is pure spirit, took on human flesh in order to be able to suffer pain and death! WHY?

The punishment for our parent's sin, Adam and Eve's sin, was death. They received and all their children born after them for all time, received the life of Sin and it's Death Penalty.

Until their execution they were sentenced to live in prison, on death row, waiting for their execution. The world became a prison with no escape, only death. Satan and his fellow devils are the guards and allowed to beat, inflict pain and suffering on the prisoners, you and I, until our execution and death.

The effect of the sin we inherit makes us weak and more likely to choose evil. The devils tempt us to do evil to ourselves and others. We, the prisoners on planet Earth, hurt ourselves and our fellow prisoners making our time in prison, until our execution, even more painful and miserable.

The HUMAN CONDITION was terribly miserable. To be born a human was to be born in prison, with a painful disease, to suffer until the inherited death penalty was carried out.

**Then CHRISTMAS!** “And the angel of the Lord said to the shepherds who were watching over their flocks that night, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Love and Prayers,  
Fr. John

**IN OUR PARISH WEEK OF DECEMBER 25**

**Sunday, December 25**

Second Collection: None  
 No Religious Ed  
 No RCIA/ Compound Room 101  
 No Life Teen

**Monday, December 26**

No Confessions

**Tuesday, December 27**

**10:30 am** Little Saints Playgroup/301  
**5:30-6:30 pm** Confessions  
 No Upper Room

**Wednesday, December 28**

No Religious Ed  
 No EDGE  
 No Adult Choir Practice/ Church

**Thursday, December 29**

No Wild Goose Life Teen Bible Study

**Friday, December 30**

**Saturday, December 31**

**9:30 pm** Mary, Mother of God & NYE Party/ Cafeteria

**Sunday, January 1**

Second Collection: Capital Improvements  
 No Religious Ed/ Elementary  
 No RCIA/ Compound Room 101  
**6:30 pm** Life Teen

**NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY**

*Merry Christmas*

*Love & Prayers*

- Fr. John
- Fr. Antonio
- Jeff Johnson
- Maria Leos
- Seth Wright
- Patricia Riley
- Juanita Tapia
- Rosanna Baw
- Stephen Thompson
- Joanna Gallegos
- Dominic Tartaglia
- Rose Cooke
- Karim Sullivan



**NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY**

**HOLY FAMILY PRAYER CARDS**

The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas-KJZT will have Holy Family prayer cards available after masses on Dec. 31 & Jan. 1.

**PARISH OFFICE will be closed on 12/26/2016**

If you have an emergency that requires a priest please call Fr. John at 903-624-6114 or Fr. Antonio at 469-831-0607.

**WINTER WALKERS**

Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas, Ennis Soc. 16, is sponsoring Winter Walkers. This is an opportunity to walk in the gym during the winter months. The gym will be open after the noon weekday Masses starting Dec. 1st for at least 30 minutes. Contact Joan Johnson 214-728-6160 for more information.

**ORDER OF LEPANTO**



The Order of Lepanto is an apostolate that combines Western Martial Arts with the Catholic Faith. The Order's mission is to create an active movement of men who enjoy physical activity and camaraderie in a setting that is also faith-building. The decisiveness and audacity required to be a good martial artist are key to getting men prepared

to defend their families, the Church, and society from spiritual threats. Men ages 18 and up, join us at Lions Park (Lampasas entrance) here in Ennis **Saturday, Jan 7th at 9AM – 11AM** for our 2 hour Study Group. For more information please contact Kevin Ford at 469-245-9169 or visit OrderofLepanto.com.

**END OF YEAR GIVING**

Consistent with Internal Revenue Service regulations, all year end gifts must be postmarked with a 2016 date to be recorded as a gift in 2016. The postmark on the envelope will determine what year the gift is recorded in. Examples for clarification are listed below:

- If we receive a gift with a check dated 12/31/2016 on 1/3/2016, but the postmark on the envelope reads 12/31/2016 (or earlier) then we will post the date of the gift as 12/31/2016.
- If we receive a gift with a check dated 12/31/2016, but the postmark of the envelope reads 1/1/2017 (or later) then it will be posted as a gift received in 2017.

We will also record all hand delivered gifts received at the office on **Dec. 31, 2016 by noon** as a 2016 gift.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH**

**Sanctuary Light : December 24—December 30**

In Memory: Frank & Carrie Gelnar, Joe & Julie Zmolik  
 By: Benny & Evelyn Zmolik

**Altar Candles : December 24—December 30**

In Memory: Frank Zabochnik  
 By: Matt & Amy Hutyra

**DIVINE PROVIDENCE HALL CHAPEL**

**Altar Candles: December 23—December 29**

For: Parish  
 By: Parish

**ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**972-875-2834 · 972-878-2834 · 972-875-2452 (FAX)**

**401 EAST LAMPASAS, ENNIS, TEXAS 75119**  
**[www.stjohncc.net](http://www.stjohncc.net)**

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*Come Celebrate*  
*Mary, Mother of God*

*&* 2017



*Happy New Year*

**CELEBRATION  
PARTY**

**Party begins after 8 pm Mass on December 31st  
Ends at Midnight  
Fun for the whole family– Food, Music, Games  
\$10/person suggested donation at the door.**

Get away

Reset

Spend time  
with  
Jesus



Christ Renews

Women's Retreat  
January 14-15

Men's Retreat  
January 21-22

His Parish

# RCIA

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



New group starting!  
January 8

- Become Catholic
- Receive missed Sacraments
- Just learn more about the Faith and God

Contact Seth Wright at the Parish Office for more details.

Sundays, beginning January 8  
9:30-10:30 AM  
Room 104 in the compound

### RCIA Class Project Update!

Our current RCIA class has committed to help raise money for the construction of two chapels in remote villages in Bolivia so that the people there can have Mass said indoors. Through their efforts and your generous donations, **almost \$3,000** has been raised for this project! Thank you to the KJT, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Golden Crusaders, and all the individuals who contributed to this effort! A book outlining the efforts of the RCIA group on behalf of His people in Bolivia will be presented as a gift to Jesus at the 11:00 AM Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 8.

### RCIA Project Raffle Winners

\$250 Visa Gift Card (donated by the Knights of Columbus #1353)

**Dominic Tartaglia**

125 \$1 Texas Lotto Scratch Off Tickets

**Doreen Watson**

Handmade Rosary (donated by Nancy Gaines)

**Kevin Valles**

3 Metal Crosses Wall Décor (donated by Joel & Theresa Suarez)

**Debbie Vitovsky**

Over \$120 of various Gift Cards to Local Restaurants

**Jose Sanchez**

Inspirational quote plaque (donated by Sharon Kudrna)

**Mike Preston**

# *A letter from the desk...*



**LIFE TEEN**  
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Christmas Blessings to you all:

I have been the Youth Minister at this Parish for four and a half years. These years have not been without some trying times, but they have been filled with much joy! During the Advent season I had prayed for our parish and all our people. From that prayer time, I have received much consolation and been filled with peace!

*Our community is unlike that found anywhere else and is very unique.* In the past I had used that sentence when describing certain struggles I was having in our parish and within the ministry. Now I say it almost as a tagline to market our church to anyone who will listen.

*Our community is unlike that found anywhere else.* I have the unique privilege of being around and directly involved with many of the ministries here at St. John, ranging from the very young up to various adult programs. Our parish is alive and breathing the Breath of the Spirit. It doesn't seem to matter where I am, which age group I am with, or what time or day; our parish is seeking the person of Jesus Christ and inviting the Spirit in their lives!

*Our community is unlike that found anywhere else.* Recently, I went to the parish I grew up in for a wedding, at which I read, and I was saddened at the participation of the parishioners. **Our parish** responds to the Second Vatican Council by giving "full, conscience, and active participation" in the Mass and truly PRAYS the Mass. For that, I am abundantly over joyed and grateful!

*Our community is unlike that found anywhere else.* Weekly, our middle school program, EDGE, serves almost 270 young teenagers. Weekly, Life Teen sees almost 100 teenagers and additionally serves hundreds more on our annual retreats! Our Church has a bright future and will continue to grow and will continue to be unlike anywhere else. St. John Nepomucene in Ennis will be a beacon of light to this city and to beyond!

I enter this Christmas Season with great Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love unlike that ever before for our Parish Family, both present and future.

Thank You for this Christmas Present,  
Stephen Thompson





# Life Teen Epiphany Ball

Sunday January 8, 2017 after the Life Teen Mass

**Tickets - \$5**  
Come celebrate  
with your friends!



# Religious Ed Christmas Plaza



**Merry Christmas!**

**Religious Ed & EDGE classes resume on  
Sunday, January 8th & Wednesday, January 11th.**

**Big thanks to the Golden Crusaders, RE volunteers and CRHP group**

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

*If you have a loved one who is sick or in need of special prayers (not deceased) please contact the parish office by phone or email joannag@stjohncc.net. Your loved one's name will appear on this prayer list for 4 consecutive Sundays. If a longer period of time is needed, please call the parish office to renew your request 2 weeks before the printed date to the right of your loved one's name.*

Jo Ann Dolezalik—12/18/16	Norma Jean Horrell—1/1/17	Mary Nell Witt—1/8/17	Paul Tolliver—1/1/17
Georgie Ann Nekuza-12/18/16	Sherri Longoria—1/8/17	Jennifer Wright—1/8/17	Wayne Sylvester, Jr.—1/1/17
Sr. Genevieve Prochaska-12/18/16	Calvin Baw, Jr. —1/22/17	Joe Baird—11/27/16	Dorothy Langer—1/8/17
Sr. Redempta Bradley—12/18/16	Stella Tobola—12/18/16	Luciana Rigante—11/27/16	Dianne McCarty—1/8/17
Rachel Zmolik—1/8/17	Dave Wilson—11/20/16	Carmen Nelson—1/1/17	Lynn Carter—1/8/17
Catherine Roberts—1/8/17	Marion Haba—12/25/16	Mary Trojacek—11/27/16	John Matous—1/15/17
Mildred Trojacek—12/18/16	Alfred Martinez—12/18/16	Gilbert Olalde—11/27/16	Joe Barak, Jr.—1/15/17
David Trojacek—12/18/16	Janie Marusak—12/18/16	Barbara Slovacek—12/4/16	Julio Olbera—1/15/17
Jane Rychlik—12/18/16	Nancy Valek—12/18/16	Rachel Dyson—12/4/16	Una Rae Mahaley—1/15/17
Richard Mraz—12/18/16	Maura Meza—12/18/16	Riley Emerson—12/11/16	Braydon Divin—1/15/17
Margie Dvorak—12/25/16	Loretta Dlabaj—11/6/16	Mary Ludwig—1/15/17	Geraldine Kubin—1/15/17
Betty Rogala—12/18/16	Mildred Liska Koehn—11/13/16	Adolph Janacka—12/11/16	JoAnn Strunc—1/15/17
Mary Ann Felcman—12/18/16	Dorothy Sonka—11/13/16	Linda Torres—12/11/16	Angelina Navarez & Fam.-1/15/17
Joan Gura—11/13/16	Helen Slovak—11/13/16	Michael Jez—12/11/16	Clarissa Gonzalez—1/15/17
Jerry Zmolek—12/18/16	Jennifer Sullivan—11/13/16	Lori Parker—12/18/16	Nancy Escobar—1/15/17
Marguerite Patterson-1/8/17	Johnny Joe Lopez—11/20/16	Georgia Hejny—12/18/16	Teresa Wiebold—1/22/17
Herminia Perez—12/18/16	Bonnie Bacak—11/20/16	Emily Peppers—12/18/16	Betty Honza—1/22/17
Patti Youngblood—12/18/16	Joe Luis Garcia—11/20/16	Analiese Mahaley—12/18/16	Melissa Patterson—1/22/17
Kati Betik Arnold—1/15/17	Tom Youngblood—11/27/16	Patsy Rickerts—12/18/16	Evelyn Zmolik—1/22/17
Arnold Twins—1/15/17	Larry Christopher—11/27/16	Kevin Woodley - 12/18/16	Raymond Honza—1/22/17
Jeanette/Martin Hunter—1/1/17	Tina Jones—11/27/16	Epi Garfias—1/1/17	