



*Mass Intentions
for the Week*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

6:30 a.m. Clara & Richard Miller ++

12:05 p.m. Larry Haskovec + Christmas Novena

6:00 p.m. Confessions

6:30 p.m. Wesley Mikel+ Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

6:30 a.m. No Mass

12:05 p.m. Catherine Hoefler + Christmas Novena

6:00 p.m. Confessions

6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Jenny Granado +

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2 St. Basil the Great

6:30 a.m. Isidro Castillo + St. Gregory Nazianzen

12:05 p.m. Rosie Krajca + Christmas Novena

Adoration after 12:05 Mass until 5 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Confessions

6:30 p.m. Rose Ann Vrana +

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

6:30 a.m. Willie & Mary Kriska ++

12:05 p.m. Ethelina & Wesley Knize ++

6:30 p.m. Guadalupe Pita Yopez + Christmas Novena

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

6:30 a.m. Viola & Charlie Dlabaj ++

12:05 p.m. Louise Haba + Christmas Novena

First Friday devotions after 12:05 p.m. Mass

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 St. John Neumann

8:00 a.m. Wilma Zhanel + Christmas Novena

First Saturday Devotion

5:00 p.m. Helen Dlabaj +

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 a.m. Irene Laza+

11:00 a.m. Bob Gaines +

1:00 pm For the Parish Community

5:00 Life Teen Mass Janet Rejcek Roach +

MASSES FOR EPIPHANY CHURCH

Sun., Dec. 30 9am Linda Rohmer +

Sun., Jan. 6 9am Julia & Jesse Guerrero ++

ALTAR SERVERS FOR WEEKEND LITURGIES

Saturday, January 5

5:00 pm Austin Spaniel/ Josef Galetka

Sunday, January 6

7:00 am Zachary Matous/Tyler Novy/Jake Kasowski

11:00 am Josef Woodward/Chris Trojacek/Tyler Dennie

5:00pmLTMass Matt Zajic/Alex Fry/Josh Zapletal

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK: Ennis Chiropractic

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saint John and Epiphany Parishioners,

As we have just spent time with family and friends to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, the Church gives us this beautiful feast of the Holy Family. Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Word made Flesh, reveals all that is good by His every action, word and thought. Emmanuel, God with us, literally shows us who we are to be; both as individuals and families. Many times, someone will be telling us how to accomplish a particular task, and after a moment of listening, we say, "Just show me how to do it!" God the Father had sent us many instructions from Heaven. Both spoken thru the Prophets and written in Scripture. But He decided that it would be better if He came, lived with us, and showed us, in person, how it is to be done!

First there is FAMILY; Jesus, Mary and Joseph. By choosing beforehand this family of God, He shows us that the important factor is holiness. Mary and Joseph are holy people before they bring Jesus into the world. They are people who are willing both as individual persons and as a couple to do God's will even when they can't understand or if it causes them anguish and suffering. They trust in God's Providence for them. They are a happy family in Him.

Fr. Roch Kereszty wrote in the Texas Catholic this week: "How desperately we all long to find happiness in our lives! This is most evident during the Christmas season. Sumptuous meals are prepared; expensive gifts are exchanged; cheerful reunions of friends and relatives interrupt the boring routine of life. But the greater the expectations before the feast, the worse the after-Christmas blues may become. This happens because our expectations always exceed what this world can deliver. Ironically, the one gift that can satisfy our deepest longings is right here in front of us: the Infant Jesus 'wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' All we need to do is take the tiny baby into our arms and look at His face."

If our time with family and friends has left an emptiness and was not what we hoped, then we need to make sure that when we are together we follow the advice of St. Paul in our Second Reading, and as we gather together, we, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. . .singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Praying for the Intercession of the Holy Family, upon all the Families of our Parish, I am,
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. John Dick

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Entrance: What Child Is This #387

Offertory: The First Nowell #388

Communion: One Bread, One Body #813

Recessional: Angels, from Realms of Glory #369



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 30

St. John Library closed
No Religious Education Classes
No RCIA Session

5:00 pm Life Teen Mass and Life Night / Concert

Monday, December 31

6:30 p.m. Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, January 1

Parish office closed

No Food for the Soul
No EDGE

Baptism Class — 7pm, Room102

Wednesday, January 2

Adoration after 12:05 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.

6-8 pm Life Teen “Into the Deep”

5:30-6:30 pm Winter Walkers/Gym (see notice)

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal/Church

No Religious Education Class

Thursday, January 3

No *That Man Is You*

Friday, January 4

First Friday Devotion after 12:05 p.m. Mass

Saturday, January 5

8:00 am First Saturday Devotion

No *That Man Is You*

3:30 pm Confessions/Church

Sunday, January 6

8:30-10:45 am St. John Library

8:30-10:30 am Religious Education Classes

8:45-10:45 am RCIA Session/Room 102

5:00 pm Life Teen Mass and Life Night

Epiphany Home Blessing

“Epiphany” means “manifestation” and is the celebration of Jesus’ manifestation and His glory as Savior to all nations symbolically through the Magi. Epiphany is also a day to share gifts, feast, and bless homes. **Next Sunday**, you can do this home blessing. (The letters stand for “Christ Bless this Home” in Latin and for the names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.)

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Head of Household: *“Peace be to this house and: to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.*

All: *Blessed be God forever.*

Reader: *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..... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3.14)*

Using chalk, write above an entrance: **20+C+M+B+13**

All: *Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THANK YOU FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The religious education department would like to say thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in our Christmas play. It was wonderful! A special thanks to the KJT for letting us have the play at the KJT hall.

THANK YOU TO THE CATECHISTS

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and Catechists. We had a wonderful fall semester of religious education and we are looking forward to our spring semester. Please know that the time you spend volunteering is greatly appreciated. Classes start up January 6 & January 9.

SANCTUARY ALTAR CANDLES THIS WEEK

The 6 candles flanking the main altar in the sanctuary were donated in anticipation of the blessing of abundant rain in our area & thanksgiving for all God’s blessings for the week of 12/29– 1/4.

SANCTUARY LIGHT THIS WEEK

The sanctuary light is in memory of Catherine Hoefler donated by Ronnie & Susan Zmolek for the week of December 29-January 4.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING COURSE

Have you ever thought about what artificial birth control methods **really** do to your body? Or to your marriage? The Couple to Couple League has the answers and more. Attend a short course and learn a natural method of family planning that is safe, effective, and morally acceptable. It is great for achieving as well as postponing pregnancy. St. John will host a series beginning January 5th, which will be taught by Clayton & Julie Houston. The classes are approximately 3 hours long, one Saturday a month. For more information and registration, go to www.ccli.org.

CANDY & COOKIE DONATION

Epiphany Mission is asking for donations of candy and cookies for goody bags, which will be given to the children on the Feast day of Epiphany at Epiphany Mission. Please bring candy and cookies by the parish office by Friday, January 4. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

These people need our prayers: Alvin Kubin, Tommy Slama, Juanita Lowe, Lisa Newhouse, Walter Marusak, Janie & Richard Mraz, Nathan Gunn, Matthew Dixon, Becky Griffith, Alan Barak, Judy Zapletal, Darrell Patak, Betty Rogala, Maria Manriquez, Jimmie Trahan, Toya Vavra, Liam Shockley, Jimmy Garcia Sr., Sandy Wheeler, Roger Gagnon, Joy Moore, Charlie Honza, Frances Maliska, Jeff Sladeczek, Christine Hanson, Hannah Rejcek, Helen Zmolek, Cameron Wolf, Meg Routh, Ruperto Gomez, Mark Strunc, Monsignor Frank Miller, Lori Strunc, Edna Gonzalez, Georgie Ann Nekuza, Ophelia Esparza, Mary Hejny, Juanita LeVay, Anna Lee Weaver, Leo Rejcek, Helen Barak, Rose Sanchez, Alfred Martinez, George Spaniel Sr., Sister Genevieve and Frankie Prochaska, Mary Ann & Johnnie Hajek, Margie Patak, Millie Trojacek, Mildred Wickliffe, Joe and John Schlebach, Graciela and Rene Monreal, Steve and Bernard Betik, Edwin & Dorothy Langer, Brandi Schlottman, Ninfa Carrillo, James Pustejovsky, Gary Kidder, Jerry Dolezal, Raul Partida

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The first and most essential truth about Mary is that she is the Mother of God. Mary is the Mother of God because she is the mother of Jesus who is the Son of God. Sacred Scripture reveals this truth about Mary in a couple of passages. First, when the angel Gabriel greeted Mary and declared to her: “Behold...[t]he Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Lk 1:31,35). In another passage, Mary’s cousin Elizabeth greets her as “the mother of my Lord” (Lk 1:43). Though neither of these passages explicitly refer to Mary as the Mother of God, putting them together it is clear that, if Mary is the mother of the Lord and the Lord is God, then Mary is the Mother of God.



A mother gives her child the nature that she herself has. Mary gave her human nature to her Son, Jesus. She did not give Jesus his divine nature or his divine person. This was not possible because Mary is not divine. She is a creature, and Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity. His divine nature and divine person are aspects of his divinity that always existed. Scripture says, “when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman” (Gal 4:4). Mary was that woman. She only gave him his human nature, but a woman does not give birth to a nature; she gives birth to a person and in Mary’s case that person was divine. Then the second person of the Trinity became man, he “emptied himself...being born in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:7). Mary is the Mother of God because the eternal Son of God emptied himself of all his glory and freely subjected himself to the entire spectrum of human existence, from the moment of conception in the womb of

Mary to his terrible death on the cross. St. Athanasius had a saying: “What was not assumed cannot be redeemed.” If Jesus had not fully assumed every aspect of our humanity, then he could not have redeemed us. By proclaiming Mary as truly “Mother of God,” we are safeguarding the truth not only about the Incarnation but also about our redemption and bodily resurrection.

Early in the Church’s history, there was a controversy over this truth. Some people denied that Mary was the Mother of God. They believed that Jesus Christ was divided into two separate persons, the son of Mary and the eternal Son of the Father. They were willing to call Mary the mother of Christ, because to them Christ was a human person. Others saw the error of this thinking and fought to defend the truth that Christ was a divine

person with two natures, one human and one divine. A council of the Church was called to settle the dispute. In 431 AD at Ephesus, the Church declared that Mary could indeed be called Mother of God, because she gave birth to Jesus, the eternal Son of God. This definition made it clear that Jesus is one person, truly God and truly man. The Church declared that Mary was Theotokos, a Greek word that means “God-bearer” (see CCC 495).

Every year on January 1 we celebrate the gift of Mary’s divine motherhood. We remember her humble acceptance of this great gift when the angel Gabriel Came to her and remember her cooperation with the Holy Spirit when he came and overshadowed her. Inspired by her example, we pray: “Father,...[m]ay her prayer, the gift of a mother’s love, be your people’s joy through all ages. May her response, born of a humble heart, draw your Spirit to rest on your people” (*The Roman Missal*, Opening Prayer). (CCC 466, 495)

“And why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” - Luke 1:43

Text from Association for
Catechumenal Ministry
Participant’s Book.

We miss you!

If you were raised Catholic but no longer practice the Catholic Faith, you are invited to come to four informative sessions about commonly misunderstood Catholic teachings.

If you have family or friends who have left the Church, invite them to come to these sessions. Cards with an invitation to and basic information about times and days are available at the back of the Church. Pass them out to friends and family.

**Wednesdays, Jan. 16
through Feb. 6**

7:00-8:00 PM

**Compound Room
101-102**

Come Home to the Catholic Church

Know someone who needs to receive missed sacraments?

Need to receive missed sacraments yourself?

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Want to join the Catholic Church?

Want to learn more about God and His Catholic Church?

New group starting in January!

Tell your family and friends!

**Wednesday evenings,
beginning Jan. 16
7-8 PM, Room 101-102
in the Compound**

Contact Seth Wright in the Parish Office for more information.
(972) 875-2834
sethw@stjohncc.net



Nepomucene's Teens

INSANCTITY
St. John Nepomucene Life Teen Winter Retreat

SIGN UP TODAY!
January 18th-20th
Sky Ranch
\$125/person
(Do not let price prevent you from going)

Great opportunity to get away for a weekend with your friends and your faith!
Life Long Total-Spiritual Conditioning Program

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

YES! I WANT TO TAKE THE INSANCTITY CHALLENGE >>>

All LIFE TEEN/High School students!!! Do NOT miss out on this amazing retreat! Take the "Insanctity Challenge" and Sign-up today! Forms will be at all Life Nights and can be found at www.stjohncc.net!

Special Life Teen Announcement!
Sunday December 30th after the Life Teen Mass, Ike Ndolo will be returning to St. John for a Life Night "Christmas with Ike" party! You do not want to miss out!
INVITE ALL YOU FRIENDS!



Wishing all of our Edge and Life Teen students a very Merry Christmas!

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR 2012

All charitable end-of-the-year donations to St. John Church and St. Joseph Cemetery must be dated and post-marked by **December 31, 2012** to qualify for 2012 tax deductions. Thank you for your consideration.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH

Save the date.

Encounter the loving mercy of Christ!

Men's Weekend: February 16-17

Women's Weekend: February 23-24

BAPTISM CLASS ON TUESDAY

The Baptism class for January will be on Tuesday, January 1st, at 7:00 p.m. in room 101 in the compound. This class is mandatory for godparents who haven't attended a class in the past year, and for parents for each child baptized. Baptisms will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, January 13th and 27th at 3:00 p.m.

THAT MAN IS YOU

The *That Man is You* men's program is on Thursdays, 7:00 pm, and Saturdays, 7:00 am, in Room 103 in the compound. This program is teaches Christian Catholic men how to live their lives in today's world. For info see: THATMANISYOU.ORG

WINTER WALKERS PROGRAM

Catholic Family Fraternal Texas-KJZT Society 16 is sponsoring the 3rd annual Winter Walkers' program. St. John gym is open on Tuesday & Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm. Join them for a safe, warm, dry place to walk, and it's FREE! Children **must** be accompanied by adults and closely supervised.

ALTAR CARE FOR JANUARY 5 & 12

Margaret Bouska / Susan Zmolek

BULLETIN SPONSOR ADS

For follow up questions or concerns re: bulletin ads please call Rey Barron at **512-577-9411**.

BEGINNING APOLOGETICS

Beginning Apologetics sessions are on Tuesday nights, 7:00 pm, room 301 in the high school. The class will start again January 22, 2013. Come learn more about and understand our Catholic faith and be able to explain to others.

FIRST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Benediction will follow the 12:05 pm Mass on Friday, January 4th.
Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, the Rosary, and Benediction will follow the 8:00 am Mass on Saturday, January 5th.