



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

Dec 2 – Dec 3, 2017

P.O. Box 130 – 411 Ware St., Groom, TX 79039

Tele. & Fax: 806.248.7584,

Cell Phone: 806.316.4146

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Arokia Raj Samala – Parish Council: Jason Eugea

Finance Council Chair: Rodney Bohr, Altar Society President: Debbie Ollinger

RCIA: Tabitha Eggemeyer, DRE: Nicole Kuehler,

Youth Director: Kathleen Barkley, Bookkeeper: Sherri Wieberg

Parish Email: immaculateheartgroom@gmail.com Website: immaculateheartgroomtx.com



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT - "Be constantly on the watch!" Mark 13:33

We begin a new Church year and Advent with Jesus commanding us to watch vigilantly for His Christmas coming and His final coming. Chances are that Jesus' message will go largely unheeded in a culture which has generally displaced even the name of His birthday, "Christmas," with the politically correct "holidays."

Vigilance and waiting come naturally to those in love (see Sg 3:1-3). The loving father of the prodigal son waited and watched for a long time for his boy's return. So vigilant was his watching that he was able to spot his son "while he was still a long way off" (Lk 15:20). "Jacob served seven years" to gain the privilege of marrying "Rachel, yet they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her" (Gn 29:20). Simeon loved God and so waited vigilantly in the temple for the appearance of the Infant Jesus (Lk 2:26ff). Jesus, Who is Love (1 Jn 4:8), waited several decades in the obscurity of Nazareth until the right time to begin his public ministry. We'll wait enough for what we love enough.

This Advent, some folks will wait hours in line to buy this year's popular toy. Many children will rise well before dawn on Christmas morning and wait for hours until they can open presents. Parents and children will wait in long lines to visit Santa. Who we wait for says a lot about who we really love. Who will wait for Jesus? Who will love Jesus? We will watch and wait for Jesus if we love Him enough. Ask the Holy Spirit to pour out the love of God in your heart (Rm 5:5). Then "wait for the Lord" (Ps 27:14).

Masses & Information

Monday, Thursday, Friday.....7:30 a.m.
 Saturday:.....5:30 p.m.
 Sunday:.....8:30 a.m.
 Wednesday:.....6:00 p.m.
 Confession: Saturday.....4:30-5:15 p.m.
 Sunday:.....7:55-8:15 a.m. or by appointment
 First Wednesday Adoration.....7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

MARRIAGE PREPARTION: Contact Father Raj at least six months in advance.

BAPTISMS: Call the rectory for an appointment.

COMMUNION to shut-ins or the ill, call Fr. Raj at 248.7584 or 316.4146

Anyone who cannot come to the communion rail during Mass should let Father Raj know before Mass. Those who are ill or shut in should contact Bill Homer, if you would want communion brought to your home during the week or on weekends.

Masses Intentions

Friday, Dec 01 7:30a.m. Mary Ann Bowling By Msgr. Raymond
 Saturday, Dec 02 5:30pm Sambo Kotara By Alice Kuehler
 Sunday, Dec 03 8.30 a.m. Sambo Kotara By Alice Kuehler
 Monday, Dec 04 7:30 a.m. Mary Ann Bowling By Msgr. Raymond
 Wednesday, Dec 06 6:00p.m. Mary Ann Bowling By Msgr. Raymond
 Thursday, Dec 07 7:30 a.m Barber Family By Msgr. Raymond
 Friday, Dec 08 7:30a.m. Barber Family By Msgr. Raymond
 Saturday, Dec 09 5:30 p.m Sambo Kotara By Doris Britten

Stewardship Reports

11/26/17 Stewardship Report

Individual	\$1,535.00
Loose	\$ 177.00
Children	\$ 11.00
Total	\$1,723.00

11/26/17 Building Fund

Individual	\$100.00
Loose	\$ 25.00
Total	\$125.00
\$220.00	

Pray for Our Sick

Brandi Sustaire, John Detten, Emma Detten, Tammy Bivens, Celeste Connelly, Conner Homer, Daniel Hinson, Schellon Major, Ralph Hutsell, Shamara Husemann, Bill Becker, Jim Eakin, Charlene Weller, Leonard Koetting, Alina Becker, Anna Marie Wink, Gary Collins, and Juanita Stacy

Family Chalice Program

December 2/3 Brad and Tabitha Eggemeyer
 December 9/10 Joanie Kling Family
 December 16/17 Alice Kuehler
 December 23/24 Krista Johnson Family
 December 30/31 Krista Johnson Family
 January 6/7 Mike and Rita Lister
 January 13/14 Nick and Cara Ashford

Birthdays

Dec 3rd Jill Britten
 Dec 7th Tonda Torres
 Dec 8th Kay Britten

Anniversaries

Church Cleaning for December

Sandie Hickey, Marcia Conrad, Donna Barnett, Melanie Britten, Janice Koetting, Michele Bohr, Rita Lister, Connie Britten, Susan Britten, Rita Poor, Vanessa Eugea, Krista Johnson, Marissa Clement, Melanie King Britten, Lucita Hinson, and Dayna Britten

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, Dec 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Servers: Phineas and Saffron

Lectors: Jason Eugea

Extraor. Com. Minister: Vanessa Eugea

Sunday, Dec 3, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Servers: Jackson and Grace

Lectors: Nick Kuehler

Extraor. Com. Minister: Nicole Kuehler,
Barbara Homer, Melanie K. Britten

Saturday, Dec 9, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Servers: Stephen and Damon

Lectors: Gary Britten

Extraor. Com. Minister: Sharon Britten

Sunday, Dec 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Servers: Lauren and Alex

Lectors: Ron Kuehler

Extraor. Com. Minister: Susan Britten, Sandie
Hickey, Cari Weinheimer

Saturday, Dec 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Servers: Derek and Ryan

Lectors: Cari Weineimer

Extraor. Com. Minister: Nick Weinheimer

Sunday, Dec 17, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Servers: Kate and Wesley

Lectors: Kay Britten

Extraor. Com. Minister: Joanie Kling, Michelle
Bohr, Nicole Kuehler

Saturday, Dec 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Servers:

Lectors:

Extraor. Com. Minister:

Sunday, Dec 24, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Servers:

Lectors:

Extraor. Com. Minister:

Announcements:

We need servers for Christmas Eve and Christmas day Masses.

Christian Mothers will have their Christmas party on Dec 3rd @ 6pm in the home of Susan Britten with hostesses Rita Lister, Krista Johnson, Carolyn Brooks, Melanie Hinson and Tami Keese. There will a \$20 gift exchange bring a gift if you would like to participate

Christ Child shower will be donations to Snak-Pak 4 Kids collections will during the Christian Mothers party and all through December.

Mark your calendars for the holiday edition of the Parish Council Pot Luck December 9th immediately following mass. Thanksgiving and Christmas are a special time to spend with family. Please come celebrate this season with your church family.

Christmas decorating will be immediately following Mass Dec 10th.

Faith Formation Calendar:

Dec. 6th choir and Christmas Program practice @ 5:15pm followed by mass and classes until 7:50pm

Dec 13th Parish Advent Penance service begins @ 6pm followed by Grades K-6th choir and Christmas program practice until 8pm. TYM for grades 7-12

Dec 20th Mass @ 6pm Grades K-6 choir and Christmas program practice after mass until 8pm. TYM for grades 7-12!

Christmas Program Jan 7th following 11am Mass

*Immaculate Conception Feast Day Mass: Friday, December 8th at 7:30am and 6:30pm

*Christmas Masses: Sunday, Dec 24th at 5:30pm and Monday, Dec 25th at 9am

*New Year Masses: Sunday, Dec 31st at 5:30pm and Monday, January 01st at 9am

*Changes in Catholic Attitudes Toward Bible Readings: Average Catholics asked today how often they read the Bible likely would say that they do not read the Bible regularly. However, if asked how often they read Scripture, the answer would be different. Practicing Catholics know they read and hear Scripture at every Mass. Many also recognize that basic prayers Catholics say, such as the Our Father and the Hail Mary, are scriptural. But for most Catholics, the Scripture they hear and read is not from the Bible. It is from a worship aid in the pew.

Scripture always has played an important role in the prayer life of the Catholic Church and its members. For the ordinary Catholic in earlier centuries, exposure to Scripture was passive. They heard it read aloud or prayed aloud but did not read it themselves. One simple reason: Centuries ago the average person could not read or afford a book. Popular reading and ownership of books began to flourish only after the invention of the printing press.

Once the printing press was invented, the most commonly printed book was the Bible, but this still did not make Bible-reading a Catholic's common practice. Up until the mid-twentieth Century, the custom of reading the Bible and interpreting it for oneself was a hallmark of the Protestant churches springing up in Europe after the Reformation. Protestants rejected the authority of the Pope and of the Church and showed it by saying people could read and interpret the Bible for themselves. Catholics meanwhile were discouraged from reading Scripture.

Identifying the reading and interpreting of the Bible as "Protestant" even affected the study of Scripture. Until the twentieth Century, it was only Protestants who actively embraced Scripture study. That changed after 1943 when Pope Pius XII issued the encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu*. This not only allowed Catholics to study Scripture, it encouraged them to do so. And with Catholics studying Scripture and teaching other Catholics about what they were studying, familiarity with Scripture grew.

Scripture awareness grew after the Second Vatican Council. Mass was celebrated in the vernacular and so the Scripture readings at Mass were read entirely in English. Adult faith formation programs began to develop, and the most common program run at a parish focused on Scripture study. The Charismatic movement and the rise of prayer groups exposed Catholics to Scripture even more. All of this contributed to Catholics becoming more familiar with the Bible and more interested in reading the Scriptures and praying with them.

In a round-about way, aspects of U.S. culture also have encouraged Catholics to become more familiar with the Scriptures. References to John 3:16 appear in the stands at sporting events. Catholics who hear of and see other Christians quote or cite Scripture verses wonder why they cannot. Such experiences lead Catholics to seek familiarity with the Bible.

Such attitudinal changes bode well for Catholics, especially when reading and praying with the Word of God leads to lessons learned, hearts inspired and lives profoundly moved for good.