



ST JOHN

THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH



DECEMBER 25, 2016

Merry Christmas

WELCOME TO SAINT JOHN

St. John the Evangelist, a Catholic Capuchin Franciscan Parish, welcomes all who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaims His Gospel through prayer, worship, His Word, the sacraments, and each other.

Members, inspired by the Holy Spirit through faith formation and spiritual renewal, witness to the Gospel in lives of justice and charity, build up families and children through education, hospitality and fellowship, and serve those in need with compassion and commitment.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Fr. Jeff Ernst
Associate Pastor.....Fr. Barnabas Eichor
In Residence..... Fr. Mike Scully
Business Manager.....Cris Denning
Catecísimo en español..... María Mota
Director of Liturgy & Music.....Lisa Roush
Stewardship Director.....Samantha Romero
Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke
Administrative Assistants..... Meg Milburn (mornings)
..... Patty Guadian (afternoons)
RCIA..... Michael Podrebarac
Principal, St. John School..... Pat Newton
Religious Education Director..... Lois Mersmann
Technology..... Karen Dixon
Pastoral Assistant/Events Calendar, Bulletin, & Worship.....Pete Haack

St. John School.....Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal
1208 Kentucky St. (785) 843-9511
www.sjevangelist.com/school

Catholic Charities.....Frances Rico
1247 Kentucky St. (785) 856-2694

Rummage House..... 13th & Kentucky.
Shop our second hand store of used items at discount prices.
Shopping Hours:
Wednesday — 11am-3pm
Thursday (first and last of month only) — 1pm-4pm
Saturday — 8:30am-12:30pm

Centro Hispano.....Lydia Diebolt
204 W. 13th St. (785) 843-2039

SIMON PARISH CENTER

Mailing Address 1229 Vermont
..... Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone.....(785) 843-0109
Office Hours..... Monday-Thursday: 8:30am—5:00pm
..... Friday: 8:30am—4:00pm

Weekend Masses

Saturday..... 4:30pm
Sunday..... 7:00am, 8:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Weekend Spanish Mass

Sunday..... 2:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday 7:30am
Saturday..... 8:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday..... 11:00am-12:00pm
..... 7:00-8:00pm
Saturday..... 3:00-4:00pm
(and by appointment)

Adoration.....Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,
6:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m. in the Padre Pio Chapel.

Bulletin Deadline. Submit info by noon on Thursday to bulletin@saint-johns.net ten days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear. Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Advertise in the Bulletin. Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call **Greg Proske:**

(800) 950-9952 x2551
GProske@4LPI.com
www.SeekAndFind.com

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

PRESERVING OUR PAST ... BUILDING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Preparation and Excavation have begun! The convent has been prepped and next to the Simon Parish Office is now a very large hole. The construction crew is preparing this area for a new basement and foundation for when the convent makes its move to Vermont street. Follow St. John the Evangelist on Facebook and Instagram for up to date pics of this phase of construction.

If you have not made a pledge to St. John or if you would like to extend your pledge please contact Samantha Romero at sromero@saint-johns.net or (785) 843-0109.

SAINT JOHN SCHOOL



Alleluia Singers Christmas Concert

On Friday, December 16, the Alleluia Singers choir gave their Christmas concert in St. John Church, under the direction of Ms. Alison Koelper, with special help from parishioner Angela Zysk and accompanist Lisa Roush!



Visit online at sjevangelist.com/school, call (785) 843-9511 or email Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal, at newton@saint-johns.net for more information and to schedule a tour for you and your student!



SAINT JOHN YOUTH

Have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy your vacation—discipleship groups will meet again in early January, and there will be Reservoir Adoration on Wednesday, January 11.



Learn more about St. John Youth and our upcoming events: sjevangelist.com/youth

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Location is the basement of St. John Church.

Our council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Darin Denning at (785) 760-0788.

On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church starting at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend!



BREAD TO OFFER



THE WORD BECAME FLESH

By Fr. Jeff Ernst, OFM, Cap.

Today we celebrate that truly awesome day when Jesus Christ was born into our world and into our human condition in the same way that we all entered this world! The notion that God would become a vulnerable human infant and be born into the humblest of conditions is unthinkable. Yet, that is precisely what happened! In ancient religion, it was unheard of that God would become part of the material world – God was always thought of as spiritual.

Matter was thought to be inimical to God. Most ancient religions believed that the material world was created by a demiurge at best or an evil god at worst. Judaism taught that the God we believe in today created the material world and that therefore, it was good (see Genesis 1-2). That in itself was radical. But then Christianity makes the further claim that, in addition to creating the material world, God became human – not created, but entering into created reality, including the human condition! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

- Fr. Jeff

PARISH INFORMATION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Come receive the sacrament of reconciliation in the Padre Pio chapel during any of the following times:

Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 3:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment. Call (785) 843-0109 to schedule, or email:

frjeff@saint-johns.net frbarnabas@saint-johns.net

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastoral Council

Frank Lemus, chair	Sarah Hartsig	Chris Wenger
Mary Menendez	Sean Smith	Nancy Albrecht
Brian Walter	Lily Romero	Bob Trepinski

Finance Council

Brad Finkeldei, chair	Teresa Kempf	Brian Green
Vince Romero	Meredith Lang	Chris Wenger

The parish office will be closed December 23-26. Office hours will be 8:30am-12noon December 27-30.

The office will be closed on Monday, January 2, and then open again (with regular hours) on Tuesday, January 3.

MINISTERS DEC. 31–JAN. 1

LECTORS

Saturday

4:30pm L1: M Mauler; L2: P Graves

Sunday

7:00am L1: M Delaney; L2: C Zebas

8:30am L1: E Dvorske; L2: K Kohnke

11:00am L1: Charlie D.; L2: J O'Brien

5:00pm L1: I Hartsig; L2: MJ Hobbs

CANTORS

11:00pm K Beisner

7:00am M Conn

8:30am T Noll

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday

4:30pmB Johnson, J Koster, J McGraw, L Reimond, MA Roesner, L Seidl

Sunday

7:00am L Wustefeld, J Grzymala-Busse, B Harmon

8:30am K Ostrander, Y Ruder, L Scott, M Steichen, B Volz,

..... J Dvorske, D Foster

11:00am T Towle, N Allensworth, B Baska, B Bermudez, C Bial,

..... D Bradley, A Brill

5:00pmD Wulf-Walter, N Albrecht, L Brey, S File, N Jones, M LeGresley

ALTAR SERVERS

Contact Sue Ohlmacher skohlmac@sunflower.com

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS

If you have given in 2016 we will send your Year End Tax Statement via email. If we do not have a current email address or if you wish to have a paper copy please contact Meg or Patty in the office at (785) 843-0109. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to St. John!

See page 11 of this bulletin for more information about giving to St. John, including Online Giving accounts.

2017 FINANCIAL PLEDGE FORMS

Thank you for your continued support and generosity of the St. John community. We ask that you return your pledge form to the parish office or in the collection basket at Mass. If you have not received your 2017 Financial Pledge Form or have questions please contact Samantha Romero at sromero@saint-johns.net or (785) 843-0109.

Your generosity helps to further the mission of this parish!

JUSTICE MATTERS

AN INTERFAITH NETWORK WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN LAWRENCE.

Pope Francis calls for a 4th World Meeting of Popular Movements to be held in the United States

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development along with the PICO National Network and the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace have announced a World Meeting to be held in Modesto, CA in February, 2017. It is part of an initiative begun by Pope Francis and the Pontifical Council known as the World Meeting of Popular Movements.

The event in Modesto being planned now will be the 4th World Meeting in a series of meetings organized by the Pontifical Council. Previous meetings have been held in Italy and Bolivia in South America. The other meetings have all been international events and this will mark the Council's first effort at organizing a national meeting. There will however be international delegates but the majority of groups, organizations, cooperatives, and movements invited will all be from the United States.

The goals for this meeting are three:

- Deepen solidarity between & among US and international social justice organizers/movements
- Equip & inspire grassroots leaders to organize for structural changes that promote racial & economic justice
- Deepen solidarity between the US Catholic Church & social justice movements

The meeting itself will focus upon the "Economy of Exclusion" which Pope Francis has spoken about frequently since assuming the role as head of the Catholic Church. In particular, the World Meetings thus far have zeroed in on how this Economy of Exclusion pushes people to the periphery of public life and excludes them from the wealth being generated by the system. They have focused on how those who are excluded are impacted around three particular areas: Land, Labor and Lodging (housing).

This World Meeting, because it is in the United States, will also add Immigration, the Environment, and Racial Justice as areas of focus.

A board range of community organizing, labor organizing and Immigrant led groups will come together along with groups working on housing issues, environmental issues and issues of racial justice. Participants will hear from both the President of the Pontifical Council, Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana, and Pope Francis (via skype) and hope to be able to engage the Holy Father in dialogue around concerns raised by the group. The Catholic Bishops of the United States have been invited to participate.

Pope Francis has stressed in his public discourse the need for "encounter" – that the Church should reach out to encounter those excluded from power in our societies and living on the periphery. Also, communities who have been excluded should reach out to each other to develop new relationships and a deeper level of solidarity in order to take on the huge challenges facing our planet, not the least of which is shared specter of Global warming which threatens us all. Hopefully, this, "Spirit of Encounter" will inspire us to seek new ways of working together and new visions of shared future.

Note: Grants from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development help fund new community justice ministries such as Justice Matters in the early years of formation.



FAITH FORMATION

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH

Christ Renews His Parish is a spiritual renewal process that calls together the members of our parish—priests, religious, laity—to experience personal conversion and Christian community in the environment of their own parish. It is completely oriented to the parish in order to give both the individual and the parish an opportunity for renewal and growth in the spiritual life. **There is an opportunity for Women on February 25-26 and Men on March 11-12.**

Please contact Jake Weeks at jakeandlaura@sunflower.com for any questions or see the CRHP webpage for more info or to register online: sjevangelist.com/crhp

ST. JOHN CAFÉ

Join us January 22! St. John Café meets Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the St. Bosco Room of St. John School. Come enjoy good coffee and interesting conversation with your fellow parishioners—everyone is welcome!

We are taking a break for Christmas and New Year's Day. We will start back up again on January 22—see you there!

ST. JOHN ON TAP

We are excited to roll out a new way get together with other people in the parish—or friends from outside the church—in a laid-back, social atmosphere: kick off your weekend with St. John on Tap! Join us **Friday, January 20, from 5-7pm** in the St. Bosco Room—the food and drinks are on us!

MARRIAGE MINUTE

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" How many times have you heard that song over the past several weeks as the barrage of "Christmas songs" have reached a crescendo on this day? It's the most wonderful time because it's the most wonderful day of the year! It is the day where we began to realize the fullness of God's love by taking on our humanity and pledging to never abandon us!

For married couples, Christmas is analogous to our wedding day. We committed the entirety of our being to our spouse and pledged to "take on the other's humanity" in every aspect. In other words, we committed to bringing joy and happiness to our beloved like the Christ child pledged to bring us joy and happiness.

This Christmas, let's recommit to bringing our spouse joy and being more concerned with their happiness than our own. This recommitment is the greatest gift we can give. For practical ways to live this commitment, go to:

www.joyfulmarriageproject.com

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (aka the Atrium) sessions will not meet December 25, 2016- January 2, 2017. All sessions resume and meet as usual January 8 and January 9, 2017. Atrium sessions do not meet January 15 and January 16, 2017.

Traditional Religious Education

Traditional Religious Education classes do not meet December 25, 2016- January 15, 2017. All R.E. classes resume January 22.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor, Social Concerns Committee

Thank You!!!

As I write this, my heart is so full and I have no idea what I can write that will effectively express all that I feel. My heart is overflowing with gratitude to you, St. John's! You are awesome! Your incredible generosity never ceases to thoroughly and completely amaze me!

On behalf of all of us—the social concerns committee, Catholic Charities, Centro Hispano, the Haskell Catholic Campus Center and others who help with the giving tree project, thanks to all of you for making this Christmas holiday season brighter for families who are struggling this year! From all the gifts you purchased to the monetary donations you made, it all came together and we successfully helped a record number of people this year; I can give you the final number later, as I'm writing this while loose ends are still being tied together.

Your caring generosity shows that you understand God's desire for us to show mercy and generosity to our brothers and sisters who struggle with the ravages of poverty every day. Thus, Christmas will be more joyful for those you helped, as the visitors and gifts that came to the infant Jesus and his family brought them comfort as well. Your outpouring has touched the hearts of those of us who pray for and work this huge caring tree outreach ministry project every year. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, and the Merriest of Christmases to each and every one of you!

Jesus Christ is born! Alleluia!

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

Frank Acinger, brother of Bernadette West
Nicole Allensworth
Grace Austin
Gayla Barnes
Mariele Berthold
Remi Brown
Chris Crandon
Mary Felton
Buddy Hadl
Terry Hadl
Judy Hill, mother of Marti Frost and Tim Hill
Bob Holek
Paula Hollen, sister of Bev Mater
Barb Marden
Patricia McGlamery, mother of Cheryl Hunter
Lou Musante
Theophilus Obiefule
Julie Patterson, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter
CB Riling
Mark Salaman
Teresa Schwartz
Julia Scott, friend of Monica Cordova
Mary Kay Seidl
Gerald Simon
Ruth Thesing
Chuck Umscheid
Angelica Villa
Cindy Vasquez, sister of Gina Hodges
Dick Volmer, uncle of Jane Arnold
Greg Walker, brother of Ted Walker
Tasha Williams
John Woods

ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN

The power of prayer is truly an amazing thing and something all parishioners at St. John can do to help those among us in need of God's divine mercy. Please join our prayer chain to lend your voices and thoughts for those in need. For more information contact Lois Mersmann at lmersmann@saintjohns.net.

ST. MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP

This prayer group meets every Monday at 12:00 noon in the Padre Pio Chapel to pray for our children and grandchildren. In addition to the prayers to St. Monica, we pray the rosary and other prayers for special intentions. Everyone is welcome!

Our Spanish community will be hosting a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday, December 31, from 11:00pm to midnight. Come join us for some or all of that hour, and celebrate the New Year with St. John!



MASS INTENTIONS: DEC. 26 - JAN. 1

Monday: 7:30am God's Mercy and Healing
Tuesday: 7:30am John Carlost
Wednesday: 7:30am Susan Mitzlafft
Thursday: 7:30am Rudy Oberzant
Friday: 7:30am Mhari Rowellt
Saturday: 8:00am Melania Thomast
4:30pm James Staust
Sunday: 7:00am Susan Gelvin † & Family
8:30am Dan Menket
11:00am Sue Glatz's Mom†
2:00pm (Sp.) Jesus & Ester Del Realt
5:00pm St. John Parish

ATTENTION WOMEN SINGERS

Threshold Choir is a national women's organization with a local chapter of women from several faiths here in Lawrence. We provide ease and comfort through singing to those on the threshold of living and dying. We seek to provide a calm, focused presence with gentle voices to various local senior homes and hospices. To join our simple practice sessions, contact Jean Drumm at **(785) 841-6067**.

WOMEN'S PRAYER & REFLECTION GROUP

Women's Prayer and Reflection Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month to be prayerfully inspired by Biblical women and the third Tuesday of the month to be inspired by Women Saints.

Join us any time, no preparation necessary. We will meet in St John's school library. If interested contact: Beth Fox **(785) 840-5561** or Sophia Compton **(785) 727-5784**.

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

Meets every **Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.** in St. John's Church. The Queen of Peace Prayer Group is committed to responding to the Blessed Mother's call at Medjugorje to pray from the heart to bring about her plan for peace in the world. The hour includes the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Everyone welcome.

STEWARDSHIP OF GENEROSITY

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
Information below reflects donations received
July 1, 2015 through December 11, 2016.

Budgeted weekly amount \$27,403.84
Average weekly amount **\$26,205.37**

Budgeted YTD.....\$657,692.16
Actual YTD.....**\$628,929.04**

Net Shortage \$28,763.12

Contact Cris Denning at cdenning@saint-johns.net
or **(785) 843-0109** if you have any questions.

ONLINE GIVING

We are grateful for your support of St. John Parish. Our online giving program allows you to make contributions to St. John without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. You may set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time. You may also make pledges and manage your contributions to the pledge amount, and you may make one-time donations to special causes. Visit sjevangelist.com/giving for more information or to set up and manage your account today!

ONLINE GIVING RENEWAL PROCESS

How to renew your Online Giving account:

Thank you for generous support of St. John through the online giving program. There are some steps you will need to take in order to update your information in Online Giving for the coming pledge year. Each year these steps can be taken only if changes need to be made in the amount or the date that your tithe is withdrawn.

Steps to take:

1. Login to your ACCOUNT. You can find the Online Giving link on the St. John website home page www.sjevangelist.com. (If you need to find out your username or password check your junk mail when they send the email with that information)
2. Click on "My Active Online Giving" — This gives a list of all your active giving. Take a note of the gift type that you have clicked. (Pledge or Recurring)
 - A. If the "Gift type is Pledge" — Payments will end when that pledge amount is reached. You will need to go in and change that to a recurring gift. You can do that by clicking on "Give a New Gift" and enter as a recurring gift.
 - B. If the "Gift type is Recurring" — Payments will continue until you tell them to stop. If you wish to change the amount or the date which the payment is withdrawn you will do this from the "My Active Online Giving" screen (at the end of the line there is a little pencil, click on the pencil to change the amount and/or date).

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

MENTOR MINISTRY

We are looking for individuals and families who would like to help by being mentors to new parishioners! For more information, contact Samantha Romero :

sromero@saint-johns.net or **(785) 843-0109**

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

St. John is starting a new ministry called the Marriage and Family Life Ministry. We are looking for people to serve in a helping capacity on three sub-committees. Your commitment can be as little as helping with the various events or you can actually be someone who helps to organize and facilitate.

Please contact Samantha Romero with any questions at sromero@saint-johns.net or **(785) 843-0109**.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for people to help with a new Hospitality Committee. The mission of the St. John Hospitality Committee is to make every new and current parishioner feel that they are part of a warm, supportive and hospitable community where "all are welcome."

If interested please contact Samantha Romero at:

sromero@saint-johns.net or **(785) 843-0109**.

ST. JOHN RUMMAGE HOUSE

The Saint John Rummage House is run by volunteers from the Saint John Community and is in need of new volunteers to help keep the ministry thriving.

If you are interested in helping the parish with this ministry, email Linda Brey (lbrey525@gmail.com) for more info.

FOCUS ON THE WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Today we celebrate that the prophetic dream of St. Joseph was fulfilled! Jesus is born! A Savior has come to deliver us--Emmanuel, "God is with us." Christmas is a feast of fulfillment, a holiday of deep and enduring happiness not only because God became man and was born of a woman, but because along with his Incarnation, God brought us freedom. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who sets us free from the misery of our own sins. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas Day.

We exchange gifts today as a sign of our love for one another to be sure, but also as a concrete, visible way to celebrate the gift that we have first received from God. We are free people! We are not slaves but rather the children of God whose priceless inheritance is to dwell in his kingdom for all eternity. On this most festive day of the year, we are invited to exult in this fact and spare little effort or expense to show our gratitude and joy.

We only must be careful not to reduce our celebrating today to something less glorious, something less meaningful, or less profound. This is no mere secular holiday. This is not just a ritual of family gatherings, elaborate evergreen trees and sumptuous meals. Christmas is a holy day and as Christians it is our day in a most definite and undeniable way. The treats and trimmings are all signs that remind us of what lies ahead for those who accept the real gift of Jesus Christ: an unending banquet of eternal delights and divine gifts that will never fail to satisfy. Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the perfect gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.

WEEKLY READINGS

- Sunday: Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
- Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
- Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
- Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35
- Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128/
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18
- Next Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

FOR KIDS: SHARING THE GOSPEL



The angels shared the good news about Jesus so people could worship him, too. Maybe it was the way they glowed when they sang about Jesus. Maybe it was the words or the tune of their songs. After the angels left, those shepherds were curious enough to stop what they were doing and look for Jesus themselves. When they found him, they were thrilled. Everything the angels told them was true.

PRAYER

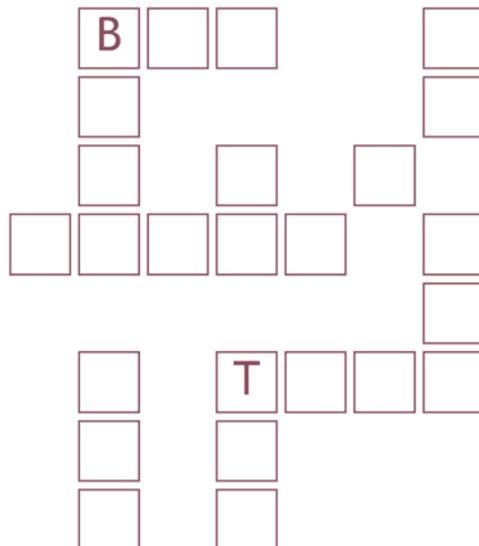
God, I am thankful that the angels and the shepherds spread the good news about Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Ask your parents to light candles and join you in singing songs about Jesus.

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

They saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.



©LPI

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA ¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **(785) 218-1511**.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

CLASE PREBAUTISMAL La clase pre-bautismal es **cada segundo sábado del mes** en un salón del Ministerio Hispano. Es obligatorio registrarse primero en la oficina parroquial llamando a Jessie al tel. 913 321 1958.

25 de diciembre de 2016

LA NATIVIDAD DEL SEÑOR

El Adviento ha terminado, llegamos por fin a la gran celebración del Nacimiento del Señor. Todos contemplamos las figuras del Nacimiento. Al centro, Jesús con sus padres al lado y con las demás figuritas que tradicionalmente lo acompañan en la escena. Esto es lo emotivo, lo espiritual es punto y aparte. Al ir escuchando la narración del Evangelio nos damos cuenta de que uno de los puntos importantes a reflexionar es que José estaba en la oscuridad, él no sabía cómo es que María estaba embarazada. Pero cuando Dios intervino y le clarificó lo sucedido la luz del entendimiento y la razón le revelaron el misterio de la Encarnación. La esperanza en esta Navidad es que también a nosotros se nos disipen todas las dudas que posiblemente tengamos como le pasó a José. Hoy es el día que la luz opaca a la oscuridad y se canta con júbilo en el cielo y la tierra: "¡Gloria a Dios en el cielo, y en la tierra paz a los hombres de buena voluntad!" (Lc 2, 14).

Jesús está aquí con nosotros para ir más allá de su Nacimiento. Él quiere que aprendamos sus enseñanzas, que imitemos su ejemplo de amor, de aceptarlo como Maestro y encontrar en él la esperanza y la paz. ¿Dónde está esa parte oscura de mi vida? ¿Dónde necesito el gozo de su Nacimiento? Ojalá que como nos dice el Papa Francisco, salgamos a las plazas y a las periferias para anunciar y dar ese pedacito de amor y responsabilidad que les debemos a los más pobres. Navidad es compromiso. ¡No defraudemos con nuestra actitud opacada al recién Nacido!



Hermanos y hermanas, para agradecer a Dios el año que termina y pedirle bendiciones para el próximo. Los invitamos el 31 de diciembre de 11:00pm a 12:00 de media noche a la Hora Santa en la Iglesia, traer su Rosario.

Las lecturas de la semana del 25 de diciembre de 2016

Domingo: Vigilia: Is 62, 1-5/Sal 89/Hch 13, 16-17. 22-25/Mt 1, 1-25 o 1, 18-25

Misa de medianoche: Is 9, 1-6/Sal 96/Tit 2, 11-14/Lc 2, 1-14

Misa de la matutina: Is 62, 11-12/Sal 97/Tit 3, 4-7/Lc 2, 15-20

Misa del día: Is 52, 7-10/Sal 98/Heb 1, 1-6/Jn 1, 1-18 o 1, 1-5. 9-14

Lunes: Hch 6, 8-10; 7, 54-59/Sal 31/Mt 10, 17-22

Martes: 1 Jn 1, 1-4/Sal 97/Jn 20, 1. 2-8

Miércoles: 1 Jn 1, 5--2, 2/Sal 124/Mt 2, 13-18

Jueves: 1 Jn 2, 3-11/Sal 96/Lc 2, 22-35

Viernes: Eclo 3, 2-6. 12-14 o Col 3, 12-21 o 3, 12-17/Sal 128/Mt 2, 13-15. 19-23

Sábado: 1 Jn 2, 18-21/Sal 96/Jn 1, 1-18

Domingo siguiente: Nm 6, 22-27/Sal 67/Gal 4, 4-7/Lc 2, 16-21

La Natividad del Señor

Si ponemos atención a la oración colecta de la Misa de la Noche de Navidad, nos daremos cuenta de su impresionante hermosura y sencillez. Esta afirma que Dios ha hecho "resplandecer esta noche santísima con el nacimiento de Cristo, verdadera luz del mundo" que ilumina cada rincón de la tierra y cada oscuridad de nuestra vida. Dios inicia con luz el camino del ser humano, y al ser iluminados por este gran misterio podremos disfrutar de la gloria. ¿Es esto lo que celebramos estos días de Navidad? ¿Es esto lo que nos llena de alegría?

La liturgia de este día nos propone cuatro Misas con lecturas y oraciones propias, y a la misma vez, diferentes: la Misa vigilia, la Misa de Gallo (o de Medianoche), la de la Aurora y la del Día. Lo que se pretende es que nadie de la comunidad se quede sin ser iluminado por la luz de Cristo. El Evangelio de Lucas que hoy escuchamos nos ofrece claros contrastes de pobreza y riqueza: un poderoso palacio en Roma, un Belén con su pesebre; elegancia de ropas imperiales, unos pañales que cubren el cuerpecito indefenso de un niño; no guardias sino pastores; no el mensajero del palacio sino un ángel del Señor que anuncia, "¡en la tierra paz a los hombres de buena voluntad!" (Lc 2, 14). Para muchos de nuestra sociedad este mensaje es pérdida de tiempo y locura. Pero nosotros gozamos esta noche con la celebración del Niño, de María y de José, no con el egoísmo de César Augusto. El deseo de Dios es que siempre tengamos un espacio para su Hijo en nuestro corazón, y que no desaprovechemos este mensaje de salvación y de paz que él nos ofrece. ¡Feliz Navidad!