

READINGS

December 20, 2015

4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Micah 5: 1-4A

Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday December 13th.....\$2,101
Diocesan Collection Retired Clergy & Religious..\$332
Our Lady of Wisdom relies on Bobcat Catholics like you for more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to their Catholic faith. Contact our Development Director, Zane Stehling, to join this mission at 512-392-5925.

Jesus is born but have we found Him yet? Once again we are in the season of Advent indicating that Christmas is just around the corner. His birth should bring us hope and triumph which will dispel the sadness from our lives. But after years of celebrating Christmas after Christmas many of us are yet to see that triumph in our lives and our hopes may be giving way to despair. Has the Messiah really come? If He has where is He? The real problem today is that we are waiting for God to literally come to us. We celebrate His birth just like that of any one of us - offering prayers, eating, drinking and making merry. We celebrate his coming into the world but we do not welcome Him into our hearts and lives. By being born to poor parents, in an environment of extreme poverty, Jesus is telling us where He dwells - not in places of majesty and glamour but among the poor and the down-trodden, the sick and dying, the hungry, the oppressed and in those we love

and even in those we hate. In short He is among the masses. Amidst our celebrations this Christmas, let us pause a while to look around us to recognize that Jesus who was born into the world two thousand years ago. He is among us in every person and in every trial and tribulation we encounter in our lives. Let us take a moment to look around to recognize Him in those who do not have joy and peace in their lives. Let us do whatever we can to give them the hope that triumph will one day wipe out the sadness in the hearts. If we isolate ourselves from the masses by building a fortress of our wealth and power together with greed, selfishness and pride, then we can keep waiting for Jesus but it will only be in vain. To us then His birth into this world, that is Christmas, will be just another day to celebrate, eat, drink and make merry. It will never become the day when hope shall sing of triumph and sadness flees away.

Adapted from CatholicOnline.org

PLEASE CONSIDER POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER REQUESTS FOR DECEMBER:

That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving

AND

That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope ...

ALSO

BISHOP VASQUEZ' PRAYER INTENTION FOR TODAY:

May all the faithful continue to listen to and follow God's will, so we might give birth in our lives to Christ, who is peace for all the world...

GOSPEL REFLECTION

"I come to do your will." This was Jesus' mission statement. By Mary's obedience to God's will, the Divine Word becomes man. When we do God's will, God's presence is made manifest in us. Do we take time to listen to and cooperate with God's will or are we too focused on our own will? What is God asking of you today and this week?

All **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES** will resume with the start of the spring semester. January 19, 2016. Have a great winter break!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

ROSARY every Sunday 9:30am in the Lounge

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament *Tuesdays* 5:45-9pm and *Mornings* Mon-Fri 8:30-9:30am in the Chapel

NIGHT PRAYER hosted by the men of Lambda Omega Alpha, 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings after Adoration.

FREE LUNCH every Tuesday 11am-1pm in the Lobby

BOBCATS FOR LIFE Wednesdays 6:15pm in the Library

BIBLE STUDIES every day!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION www.txstatecatholic.org

TEXAS CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE DAY Catholics from across the state will join to promote a Culture of Life on Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day Saturday, January 23rd.

CEDARBRAKE RETREATS Healing Hearts is a weekend retreat designed for women who have suffered any kind of sexual trauma. The retreat begins Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and concludes at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. The cost for the retreat is \$135 and includes 2 nights, linens, materials and meals. The next retreat will be Jan. 22-24. For more information and to register, call (254) 780-2436 and ask for Beverly.

AND Encountering Christ is a retreat co-sponsored by Cedarbrake and led by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist on Jan. 30 at St. John Vianney Parish in Round Rock. The day retreat will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be based on the diocesan Pastoral Plan entitled "Encounter that Leads to Transformation." The cost is \$25 with lunch included. Register through Cedarbrake at (254) 780-2436

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



Be spiritually prepared for the Christmas season! Kyle, Mon., Dec. 21st **Service begin at 7pm.**

PASTORAL PLAN UPDATE The Diocese of Austin's implementation of the new Pastoral Plan coincides beautifully with the Jubilee of Mercy. Parishioners across the diocese received a complete copy of the Pastoral Plan in their December issue of the *Catholic Spirit*. Take these weeks and months to study the plan, access the Study Guide on the diocesan website and renew your personal encounter with Jesus Christ and receive his mercy.

WINTER BREAK SCHEDULE

Except for Masses, the office and the building will be closed from

Fri., Dec. 18th-Mon., Jan. 4th.

Masses during that time:

Sun. Dec. 20 10:00am

Mon. Dec. 21 12:30pm

Tues. Dec. 22 5:15pm

Wed. Dec. 23 12:30pm

Thurs. Dec. 24 6pm

(Christmas Eve)

Sun. Dec. 27 10:00am

Fri. Jan. 1 12:30pm

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Sun. Jan. 3 10:00am

Regular Daily Masses resume

Mon. Jan 4– Fr. Jan 8

Sun. Jan. 10 10:00am