

READINGS

December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

STEWARDSHIP

November 27th.....\$2,414

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 the their Catholic faith. Contact our Development Director, Daniel Glaze, to join this mission at 512-392-5925.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some think the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without a human father; but that is the Virgin Birth. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect. The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—"immaculate" means without stain. The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace. The grace given to Mary is of a unique kind. It extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence. Another misconception comes from Romans 3:23,

where we are told that "all have sinned." Like all other descendants of Adam, she was subject to the necessity of contracting original sin. But by a special intervention of God, she was redeemed by the grace of Christ, but in a special way—by anticipation. Consider an analogy: Suppose a man falls into a deep pit, and someone reaches down to pull him out. The man has been "saved" from the pit. Now imagine a woman walking along, and she too is about to topple into the pit, but at the very moment that she is to fall in, someone holds her back and prevents her. She too has been saved from the pit, but in an even better way. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that Mary was "redeemed in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son" (CCC 492). By receiving Christ's grace at her conception, she had his grace applied to her before she was able to become mired in original sin and its stain.

from Catholic Answers

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today we hear that is it not enough to simply know Christ. Our lives are to bear good fruit. Discipleship requires ongoing conversion and formation through an intimate relationship with Christ. Do we bear good fruit? Where do we need to repent, and to turn away from sin and toward Christ as we prepare for His coming?

PLEASE CONSIDER BISHOP VÁSQUEZ'

INTENTION FOR TODAY: For the Church, the Body of Christ, that by bearing good fruit of love and mercy, we would be the vehicles of God's presence to those in most need: the poor, the sick, the oppressed, and the marginalized ...

Interested in leading a 9:30am Sunday morning Rosary? Even if you are inexperienced! Contact Sawndra in the office M-F 512-392-5925

FR. CHARLIE BANKS

is available for Spiritual Direction this Tues., Nov. 8th. Sign up in the Lobby for 30 min. appointments.

SPECIAL GUEST

Fr. Jonathan Raia, Vocations Director of the Austin Diocese will be here to celebrate Mass on Wed., Dec. 7th at 12:30pm.

AVERAGE SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER
10am, 267; 5pm, 90;
7:30pm, 85

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

ROSARY every Sunday 9:30am in the Chapel
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 Tues., 11am-1pm in the Lobby
BIBLE STUDIES every day!
Visit
www.txstatecatholic.org

LATE NIGHT MASS & BREAKFAST

Thursday, Dec. 8th, with Mass at 10:00pm followed by breakfast. Volunteers are needed to assist. Please contact Alex Martinez, Business Administrator, if you are interested.

24HR. BUILDING HOURS start after the Late Night Mass and Breakfast on Thursday, December 8th-Thursday, December 15th for finals studying. Please remember to keep the center clean.



ATTENTION DECEMBER GRADUATES

BACCALAUREATE MASS Next Sunday we would like to recognize all of our December graduates at our 5pm Sun., Dec. 11th. All are welcomed. Reception to follow.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Alexias Ferrer, the pianist at 10am Sunday morning Mass, would like to invite everyone to his senior piano recital. Thursday Dec. 8th at 6pm at the Performing Arts Center Recital Hall here in San Marcos, 405 Moon St. He will be playing works by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Ravel, and Balakirev.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Be spiritually prepared for the Christmas season! Penance Service **here is Tues., Dec. 6th**

Advent began Nov. 27, 2016

Wimberley, Mon., Dec. 5th
Buda, Wed., Dec. 14th
Kyle, Mon., Dec. 19th
San Marcos, Wed., Dec. 21st

ALL services begin at 7pm.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Thursday, December 8th

Mass at **5:15pm & 10pm**
(10pm Late Night Mass & Breakfast)

Community Christmas Party

Fri., Dec. 9th at 6pm here in our Lobby. Everyone is welcome! B.Y.O.B. Our Pastoral Council is taking care of the main dishes. Please bring a side or dessert item to share. Don't forget your White Elephant gift!

NATIVITY PLAY next

Sun., Dec. 11th during our 10am Mass. Our religious education classes will participate in a reenactment of the Nativity of the Lord.