



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
CATHOLIC CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent



December 3, 2017



<p>PASTOR Fr Niall Nolan, fniall@stcatherine-houston.org</p> <p>BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR Marcela Swihart, marcela@stcatherine-houston.org</p> <p>PARISH COMMUNICATIONS Mary C. Jones, communications@stcatherine-houston.org</p> <p>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Robin L. Hayes, REcoordinator@stcatherine-houston.org</p>	<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM Sunday 8:30 AM and 11:15 AM</p> <p>WEEKDAY MASS Tuesday - Friday, 12:15 PM</p> <p>RECONCILIATION Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 PM</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 3 PM</p>
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Dear Friends,

Once again, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who generously contributed to our recent Thanksgiving food drive for East Spring Branch Food Pantry. Many, many food bags were distributed to families in need. In a most wonderful way you helped to brighten many people's Thanksgiving.

If you are reading this before Mass, don't forget to join your fellow parishioners and visitors for our Saturday Evening Mingle after the 5:00 pm Mass or for Breakfast after the 8:30 am Sunday Mass. It will give us all a chance to catch up on our Thanksgiving stories, mishaps and laughable moments, among other things.

We also begin our New Year in the Church (First Sunday of Advent) by welcoming Connor Anthony into the church community through the sacrament of Baptism at the 11:15 am Mass this Sunday, December 3. Connor is the first child of the very proud parents, Christie and Brian Raupp; he will be supported and encouraged on his faith journey through the example of his godparents, Courtney Raupp and Richard Lahrman, as well as the community that gathers here every weekend to hear the Word of God and share with each other at the Table of the Lord.



To get a head start on the Christmas party circuit, the Bible Study group ends the fall semester this Wednesday, December 6, and Thursday, December 7, with their Christmas party. Bring your favorite "dish" and or "beverage" to celebrate after having faithfully pursued St. John's not-always-easy-to-follow insights into the life and death of Christ. If you haven't been at the classes as much as you would have liked or are interested in joining and might like to see what kind of people we are, just join us; but don't forget that "dish" and/or "beverage." The times are on the calendar across the page from you. Normal (Is there even such a thing?) Bible Study classes will resume in the New Year on January 10 and 11.

Those of you who have little ones and would like to begin some family traditions of a religious/faith-based nature with them, you might want to avail yourselves of our "Help Prepare Jesus' Manger" by taking as many of the paper straws/strips as you like from the basket near the Nativity Scene in the narthex. During the week help your child(ren) write their acts of loving kindness on them; bring them to church and place them the following week in the manger so that when Jesus arrives at Christmas, his bed will be lined with the "straw of acts of loving kindness." This is a "little way" for all of us of to prepare for Christmas and to engage our little ones as well!

"All powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever." (From Evening Prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent)

God bless,

Fr. Niall

 <p><i>Christmas Mass Schedule</i> As Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, see Mass Schedule below</p>		<p>SUNDAY, DEC 24th Sunday Mass 10 AM only, NO CCE Christmas Eve Masses, 5 and 7 PM</p>	<p>MONDAY, DEC 25th Christmas Day Mass, 8:30 AM only Merry Christmas!</p> 
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DECEMBER 3, 2017 • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MEN'S RETREAT

ALL MEN OF ST. CATHERINE'S PARISH are invited to attend our annual retreat at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center, 430 Bunker Hill Road, on January 5-7, 2018. The theme for this year's retreat is "Hail to the Cross, Our Only Hope." This is a great way to begin the new year! Registration information can be found in the brochures on the bulletin board. For more information please call Charles Hrachovy at 713-468-0259.

CLUB 55+

CLUB 55+ CHRISTMAS EVENT

On Sunday, December 10 we will be having a catered luncheon plus entertainment. The cost will be \$10. per person. We invite all St. Catherine Seniors to join us. We will be signing people up after all Masses on December 2 and 3, to obtain a head count for the caterer. **You must sign up in advance.** There will not be enough food for anyone showing up on December 10 who has not previously signed up. The menu and the entertainment will be posted at the sign-up table. This should be a great event for all. Please plan to join us.

PARISH CALENDAR

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Mission of Yahweh Food Collection</i>			
SAT	12/2	5 PM MASS	†Mark Banuelos 6:00—7:30 PM Saturday Mingle
SUN	12/3	8:30 AM MASS	CCE 9:30—10:30 AM Sunday Breakfast
		11:15 AM MASS	
MON	12/4	NO WEEKDAY MASS, OFFICE OPEN	
TUE	12/5	12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS	
WED	12/6	12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS	†Joe Pavelka 7 - 8:30 PM Bible Study, John Chapter 7
THU	12/7	12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS	†Arglia Nuñez 10:30—12 noon Bible Study, John Chapter 7
FRI	12/8	12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS	†Rowley (Sonny) Hymel
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Retirement Fund for Religious Collection</i>			
SAT	12/9	5 PM Mass	†Gene Even
SUN	12/10	8:30 AM Mass	CCE 11:15 AM Mass †Francis Ulloa 12:30—2 PM Club 55+ Lunch & Entertainment

HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

As the holidays approach and we all think about giving to others, consider a donation to St. Catherine of Siena Church, Harvey disaster relief ministry. There are many families in our area still struggling, living in temporary housing, not able to celebrate the upcoming holidays in their own homes. A one-time gift of any amount is appreciated. The online process is simple and does not require the donor to setup a Faith Direct account. Spread the word to friends, family, coworkers, and all those with a generous heart.

GO TO: <https://www.faithdirect.net>

- Click "Give Now"
- Enter church code TX536
- Choose "Make a one-time gift now"
- Write in notes section: **For Harvey disaster relief**



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS can be made in honor of a loved one or in memory of a loved one. Envelopes are due in the Parish Office on or before December 17, 2017. It is important to us to list the names of those you are remembering with a flower donation correctly in our bulletin, so please **PRINT** your dedications. The list of those being remembered with a Christmas Flower Donation will be printed in the bulletin for **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**. If you have any questions, please email Marcela Swihart at marcela@stcatherine-houston.org