

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Rejoice!*



Third Sunday of Advent • December 17, 2017



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

The "Boys" in the narthex (the Magi), as I referred to them in last weekend's homily, had a very good response to our Christmas gift card appeal to help our flooded and bewildered neighbors. There are still more stars, bells and candy cane cutouts available in the baskets at the feet of the Magi waiting for more gift cards to be attached. These gift cards can be left in the collection basket, handed into the parish office or given to me (Fr. Niall) before/after Mass. Following is a report of our Hurricane Harvey outreach. This is only possible because of your extraordinary generosity and that of others who are aware of our efforts from various parts of the country. To all who have helped in any way, thank you, thank you, thank you ...

*Fr. Niall*

HELP • HOPE • HEALING - HARVEY RELIEF UPDATE

"The glad tidings we hear about in today's reading come in many different forms. Just ask any of the families your generosity has helped in their post-Harvey recovery. From hugs of support and words of encouragement to cash and material goods, we are now helping 18 families (and that number is growing!

To-date we have made available more than \$80,000 in disaster relief. Here's a breakdown of how those funds have been used:

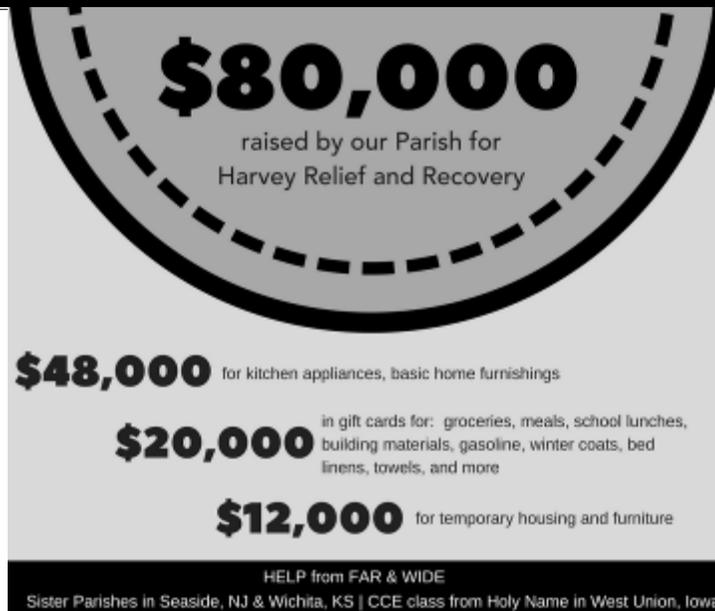
- \$48,000 for kitchen appliances and basic home furnishings
- \$12,000 to replace furniture or pay for temporary housing (through grants from Star of Hope Mission)
- \$20,000 in retail gift cards for groceries, meals, school lunches, building materials, gasoline, winter coats, bed linens, towels, and miscellaneous items for personal everyday living. These include contributions from other parts of the country such as our sister parish, St. Catherine of Siena in New Jersey, and Holy Name parish in Iowa.

In addition, our volunteers have delivered countless hours of priceless service - from tax and legal aid to fixing lawn sprinkler leaks and garage doors. They've provided free building materials and donated home repair/remodeling services. They've packed household items for storage and reassembled furniture. They've provided Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas treat baskets. Our volunteers are even helping bring a smile to children's faces by delivering toys to the Star of Hope Women and Family Development Center (with a little help from Blue Santa at the Houston Police Department).

It is only through the support and prayers of the people of our parish that any of this has been possible. We have much to rejoice about today.

Our journey continues ... "

Betty Vitek, coordinator, Disaster Relief Ministry



"During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of the Christ and reflect on the Holy Family's journey. They had to leave their family, friends, and familiar Nazareth neighborhood because of circumstances beyond their control.

In August of this year, numerous families in our area were struck by a disaster that, too, was beyond their control, including my own. Rains compounded by dam release, created flooding that has never been known to us. The only escape from the homes was by boat, something we could never imagine happening.

The aftermath of the storm was one of frenzy to get our homes stripped of contents, dry wall removed, and mold remediated. All this work was carried out by amazing teams of people who came from far and wide to help those of us in distress.

I called them my angels. Who would have thought that I would have people helping me who came from Washington state, Michigan, New Jersey, Kentucky and North Texas. These people were carrying out God's work by helping others. They were a disaster team who belonged to the Orthodox Presbyterian church, and they appeared in my home when I needed them most. I truly believe that it was the Holy Spirit at work.

We are now three months after the storm. Homes are still in various stages of repair. The hassle of dealing with the insurance and FEMA is an experience like no other. So many are in limbo and the feeling of hopelessness is not far from our minds. We are relying on friends to give us a home, or we are living as best we can, in places other than our own, but the one thing that we have in common is that as the Christmas season comes upon us, we are not in our homes.

We would like offer our heartfelt thanks to the parishioners of St. Catherine's for your generosity in this time of need, and to Fr Niall and Betty Vitek. Your generosity lifts our spirits and makes us realize that we are not alone. We will get through this, in time, and our neighborhoods will come back, with the help and support of people like you.

Wishing you all many blessings this Christmastide."

Grateful parishioners

## DECEMBER 17, 2017 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### CCE NEWS

#### CCE – Fall 2017 Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following students who had a perfect attendance record in CCE for the Fall 2017 semester:

Nelson Choi (1st grade)  
 George Fair (1st grade)  
 Anusia Sokalski (2nd grade)  
 Jack Bielamowicz (3rd grade)  
 Lauren Conticello (3rd grade)  
 Mitchell Kim (4th grade)  
 Tomasz Sokalski (4th grade)  
 Jay Bielamowicz (5th grade)  
 Adam Teske (5th grade)  
 Jacob Eggert (6th grade)  
 Sophia Choi (7th grade)

Special thanks as well to their parents and families for their support and encouragement along the way! **See you next semester when classes resume on January 7, 2018.**

### UPDATE—CLUB 55+ DEC. BUS TRIP

**Our December bus trip has been rescheduled for Wednesday, December 20.** The Magical Winter Lights festival contains: seven themed sections of lights, a Holiday Market Square, acrobatic performances, authentic Chinese arts and crafts, amusement rides and games, and live entertainment. To prepare for the large amount of walking, this time we will have dinner at Kelley's Country Cookin nearby. **We will leave the church at 3:00 pm and return by about 10:00 pm.** The cost is \$14 per person not including dinner for persons age 65+, and \$22 for persons age 50-64. Contact Diane at [diane@goyette.info](mailto:diane@goyette.info) or 713-540-7884, or Henry at 281-684-7030 to reserve your spot.

**The family of Baylon A. Pereira would like to thank you all for your prayers and support during this difficult time. God Bless.**

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Sunday, December 17th is the last day to turn in Christmas Flower donations. Names of those listed in Memory and in Honor of will be printed in the Epiphany Sunday bulletin. For questions contact Marcela Swihart, [marcela@stcatherine-houston.org](mailto:marcela@stcatherine-houston.org).



*Holiday Cheer!*

Moms' Group Holiday Gathering  
 December 20 | 6- 8 PM  
 RSVP to [scsmomsgroupe@gmail.com](mailto:scsmomsgroupe@gmail.com)

### OPEN HOUSE

#### **Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart Open House - Sunday, January 7 at 2 p.m.**

Attend Open House to learn more about Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Houston's only Catholic, all-girls', Pre-K3 through grade 12 school. The event will include presentations from faculty, staff, students, and alumnae. [Duchesne.org/visit](http://Duchesne.org/visit) | 10202 Memorial Dr. Houston, TX 77024 p. 713.468.8211

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>5 PM Mass</b> †Clem Petru
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/17</b>	<b>8:30 AM Mass</b> †Don & Carol Maas NO CCE <b>11:15 AM Mass</b> † Baylon Pereira
<b>MON</b>	<b>12/18</b>	<b>Office Hours 10:30 AM - 4 PM</b> <b>NO WEEKDAY MASS</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>12/19</b>	<b>Office Hours 9:30 AM - 4 PM</b> <b>12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS</b> †Rowley (Sonny) Hymel
<b>WED</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>Office Hours 9:30 AM - 4 PM</b> <b>12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS</b> †Julio H. Flores
<b>THU</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>Office Hours 9:30 AM - 4 PM</b> <b>12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>12/22</b>	<b>Office Hours 10:30 AM - 4 PM</b> <b>12:15 PM WEEKDAY MASS</b>

#### • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/23</b>	<b>5 PM Mass</b> † Baylon Pereir
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>10 AM Mass (only)</b> NO CCE

### *Christmas Mass Schedule*

**Christmas Eve Mass**  
**5 PM and 7 PM**

**Christmas Day Mass**  
**8:30 AM**

*Merry Christmas!*

### **Grammy Award Winning Christian Music Legend Coming to Houston Co-Cathedral**

Christian music legend John Michael Talbot will bring his "Lifetime of Music & Ministry" Concert Tour on Thursday February 8th, 2018 to the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart located 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy, Houston, TX. Tickets are \$30 for General Admission and \$50 for a special VIP Package that includes preferred seating, early admission to artist's sound check and an autographed CD. The concert is sponsored by **God's Embrace Ministries** and tickets can be purchased online at [www.godsembrace.org](http://www.godsembrace.org). For questions and group rates please call Ministry Office at 979-561-8883.