

# Holy Family Catholic Church

NOVEMBER 30, 2014



## First SUNDAY of ADVENT

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*Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
with the mountains quaking before you,  
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for,  
such as they had not heard of from of old.*

Isaiah 63:19b; 64:2-3

**Mailing Address:** P O Box 482  
Van Alstyne TX, 75495  
**Parish Office:** 903-482-6322  
**For a Priest:** 972-542-4667  
**Website:** [www.holyfamily-vanalstyne.org](http://www.holyfamily-vanalstyne.org)

**Clergy**  
Fr. Salvador Guzmán, Pastor  
Fr. Eugene Azorji, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Patrick A. Hayes

**Mass Schedule**  
Sunday: 9:00 am - English Mass  
12:00 pm - Spanish Mass  
Thursday: 9:00 am - Daily Mass

**Baptism**

Baptisms in English: 2nd Sunday of each month  
 Baptisms in Spanish: 1st Sunday of each month

**Pre Baptismal Class Registration:** Registration required by the Sunday before class begins. Classes are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **Parents:** Bring copy of child's birth certificate. Both parents must attend class. **Godparents:** Must be practicing Catholics. Copy of marriage certificate through the Catholic church. Both godparents must attend class. **As a courtesy, please do not bring children to class.**

**First Communion**

April 11, 2015 Saturday 10:00 am

**Confirmation:**

March 24, 2015 Tuesday 7:00 pm

**Sacraments**

**Anointing of the Sick**

Please call the Parish.

**Reconciliation/Confession**

Immediately following the 1st Mass

**Marriage/Wedding**

Both must be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Arrangements should be made at least 6 months prior to planned Wedding date.

**Holy Orders/Priesthood**

Talk to your Parish priest or call Father James Swift, C.M., Rector of Vocations of the Diocese of Dallas at 214-379-2860.

*Prayer Request*

Holly Basterling	Elaine Clark	Toby Mills
Arnie Clark	Connie Miller	Debra Hooper
Ann Lageose	Stella West	Tommie Rosenthal
Brooklyn Schulze	Anonymous	Carlene Ewing
Corinne Lageose	Blake Knowles	Maryl Ellis
Susie Powell	Louis Lesmes	Bernadine Dill
Steve Sanchez	Andy Karl	Karen Elliot

**Names will be removed by December 6th. Should a name need to remain please call the Church 903-482-6322. Thank You**

**Second Week of Advent**

**The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent focus on John the Baptist. He stands in the desert, roughly clothed, ascetic, stark, preaching a message of power. The One is coming, he says, Repent!**

**John the Baptist is not the only saint we celebrate during Advent. The calendar is full of holy men and women who, like John, call us conversion and hope through the most powerful witness of all: their lives.**

**Prayer Starter for Week 2:**

**Lord Jesus, I hear the call of John Baptist. I come to You in sorrow for my sins, open to Your grace.**

**Weekly Calendar**

**Sunday, November 30**

8:30 am Rosary  
 9:00 am Mass  
 10:15-11:30 am Faith Formation Pre K-5th  
 12:00 pm Spanish Mass  
 1:30-2:45 pm Faith Formation 6th-Confirmation

**Monday, December 1**

9:00 am Rosary

**Tuesday, December 2**

7:00 pm RCIA Classes

**Wednesday, December 3**

**Thursday, December 4**

9:00 am Mass Bible Class Following Mass  
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class  
 7:00 pm Spanish Youth Choir

**Friday, December 5**

4:00 pm Quince

**Saturday, December 6**

**Holy Family Youth Group**

Meet on December 7th after the 12:00 pm Mass. We are grateful for their helping on the 1st Sunday of each month being ushers. If you are a 9th through 12th grader, please come join our Youth Group.

**Alma and Julio Salas- Youth Leaders**

*Thanks to our Knights of Columbus #16047 Carl Vogel Council as they have signed up for the Social Host the Third Sunday of each month. Bless You All*

**Offering**

Attendance:	November 23, 2014	
Offerings:	November 23, 2014	\$
Building Fund:	November 23, 2014	\$

**Totals available next Bulletin**

## Holy Day of Obligation

### **Question: When Is Immaculate Conception 2014?**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the saving work of God in preserving the Blessed Virgin Mary from the stain of original sin. Because of His foreknowledge that Mary would consent to bear Christ, God kept Mary free from original sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. What is the date of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 2014?

**Answer: Immaculate Conception falls on Monday, December 8, 2014.**

#### **Monday December 8, 2014**

Holy Family will have Mass at 6:00pm for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This a Holy Day of Obligation.

Also, **Mark your calendars for Wednesday December 17th**

"The Light is On" Confessions during Advent in preparation for Christmas. 6:00-7:30 pm or until no one is coming. This gives us all the opportunity to receive the graces of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation of the Celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

### **Pregunta: Cuando es el dia de la Inmaculada Concepcion 2014?**

La Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepcion celebra la obra salvadora de Dios en conservacion de la Bendita Virgen Maria de la mancha del pecado original. Porque debido a su conocimiento previo que Maria habia dado consentimiento de Dar a Luz a Cristo. Dios guardo a Maria libre del Pecado Original desde el momento de Concepcion en su seno de su madre., Santa Ana. Cual es la fecha de la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepcion en el 2014?

**Respuesta: La Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepcion es el Lunes, 8 de Diciembre del 2014.**

#### **Lunes, 8 de Diciembre del 2014**

La Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia tendra Misa a las 6 P.M. para Celebrar la Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepcion. Este es Dia que obliga como si fuera Domingo.

Tambien, **marquen sus calendarios para el miercoles 17 e Diciembre** "La Luz esta prendida" Confesiones durante el Adviento en preparacion para la Navidad De 6 a 7:30 P.M. o hasta que ya no llegue nadie. Este nos dara la oportunidad a todos de recibir la las Gracias de este cramento de Reconciliacion o Confesion en preparacion de la Celebracion de Nacimiento de Jesus.

## How to Reach Out to the Homeless, the Poor and the Lonely Bishop Kevin Farrell

The chill winds of November are upon us reminding everyone that the happy business of the Holiday Season is just around the corner. The warmth of the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas makes the cold winter more endurable...for most of us.

Unfortunately there are many for whom the holidays bring only loneliness and bone-chilling cold. Instead of sitting in front of a welcoming fireplace, they huddle around a fire kindled in a garbage can. The homeless among us are invisible, except when one approaches our car at a traffic stop asking for a handout.... making us very uncomfortable and maybe a little scared. Most of us pretend we don't see them and turn away.

For others, the holidays mean working two or three jobs to buy a few gifts for the children and manage a small tree to bring a bit of the spirit of Christmas into their lives. Jesus' statement that the poor will always be with us (Mt 26:11) was a lament not a prophesy. Jesus also judged harshly those who did not feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger or visit the imprisoned. (Mt 25).

I was shocked and saddened by the front page story in Monday's Dallas Morning News on the number of homeless children in our country. It is shameful that in our time and place there can be 2.5 million homeless children. There are many reasons, but two primary causes are domestic violence and the lack of affordable housing, particularly for families with children. Affordable housing is being demolished to build new upscale condos and town houses. Landlords are refusing to rent to families with children.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis is committed to clarifying Jesus' Gospel of mercy and compassion. His words to us are not his message, but Jesus' message. Reach out to the homeless, the poor and the lonely. Reach out to bring hope to the hopeless and to dispel the darkness that overwhelms so many with the light of love, compassion and mercy.

Give of yourself, give of your treasure, become a light in the darkness. There are many ways to help as a volunteer or by monetary assistance. Make your own holiday happier by giving of yourself or your treasure. If you do not know where to start, Catholic Charities Dallas offers many opportunities. Check out their website at [www.catholiccharitiesdallas.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdallas.org).

You will be blessed!

Los vientos helados de noviembre nos hacen recordar que la alegría de las Fiestas Navideñas está a la vuelta de la esquina. La calidez del espíritu de Acción de Gracias y Navidad hace que el frío de invierno sea más soportable... para la mayoría de nosotros.

Desafortunadamente, hay muchas personas para quienes los días de fiesta solo traen soledad y un frío que cala hasta los huesos. En lugar de sentarse frente a una acogedora chimenea, se reúnen alrededor de una fogata encendida en un bote de basura. Las personas sin hogar son invisibles para nosotros, excepto cuando se acercan a nuestro coche en una parada de tráfico a pedirnos limosna... lo cual nos hace sentir muy incómodos y tal vez con un poco de miedo. La mayoría de nosotros pretende no verlos y se voltea.

Para otros, los días de fiesta significan trabajar en dos o tres trabajos para comprar regalos para los niños y un pequeño árbol que traiga un poco del espíritu navideño a sus vidas. La declaración de Jesús que siempre tendremos a los pobres con nosotros (Mt 26,11) fue un lamento, no una profecía. Jesús también juzgó duramente a quienes no alimentaron al hambriento, no vistieron al desnudo, no alojaron al extranjero o no visitaron a los encarcelados (Mt 25).

Me conmovió y entristeció leer la noticia en la primera página del Dallas Morning News que habla del número de niños sin hogar en nuestro país. Es vergonzoso que en nuestro tiempo y lugar puedan haber 2.5 millones de niños sin hogar. Existen muchas razones, pero dos de las causas principales son la violencia doméstica y la falta de viviendas accesibles, especialmente para familias con niños. Las viviendas accesibles están siendo demolidas para construir nuevos condominios y casas de lujo en la ciudad. Los propietarios se están negando a alquilarlas a familias con niños.

Nuestro Santo Padre Papa Francisco se comprometió a clarificar el Evangelio de la misericordia y compasión de Jesús. Sus palabras no nos expresan su mensaje, sino el mensaje de Jesús. Llegar a los desamparados, los pobres y los solitarios. Llevar esperanza a los desesperanzados y disipar la oscuridad, que embarga a tantos, con la luz del amor, compasión y misericordia. Dé sí mismo, dé de su tesoro, conviértase en una luz en la oscuridad. Hay muchas maneras de ayudar como voluntario o a través de asistencia monetaria. Haga sus propias vacaciones más felices dando de usted y de su tesoro. Si no sabe por dónde empezar, Caridades Católicas de Dallas le ofrece numerosas oportunidades. Visite su sitio web en <http://www.catholiccharities>

¡Usted será bendecido!

# Less People Are Going to Church – Whom to Blame?

It's no secret that today there's been a massive drop-off in church attendance. Moreover that drop-off in church-going is not paralleled by the same widespread growth in atheism and agnosticism. Rather, more and more people are claiming to be spiritual but not religious, faith-filled but not church-goers. Why this exodus from our churches?

The temptation inside religious circles is to blame what's happening on secularity. Secular culture, many people argue, is perhaps the most powerful narcotic ever perpetrated on this planet, both for good and for bad. It swallows most of us whole with its seductive promises of heaven on this side of eternity. Within our secularized world, the pursuit of the good life simply squeezes out almost all deeper religious desire. Interestingly, this is also the major criticism that Islamic extremists make of Western culture. For them it's a drug, which once ingested, has no cure. That's why they want to block their youth from Western influences. But is this true? Is secular culture the enemy? Are we, church-goers, the last true remnant of God and truth left standing, prophetic and marginalized in a society that's shallow, irreligious, and godless? Many, including myself, would argue that this conclusion is far, far too simple. Secular society can be shallow, irreligious, and godless, there's more than sufficient evidence for that; but, beneath its shallowness and its congenital allergy to our churches, real religious desire still burns and the churches must ask themselves: Why aren't more people turning to us to deal with their religious desires? Why are so many people who are seeking spirituality not interested in looking at what the church offers? Why, instead, are they turning to everything except the church? Why, indeed, do so many people have the attitude: "The church has nothing to offer me: I find it boring, irrelevant, caught up inside its own petty issues, hopelessly out of step with my life."

Secularity is, no doubt, partly to blame, but so too are the churches themselves. There's an axiom that says: All atheism is a parasite off of bad theism. That logic also holds regarding attitudes towards the church: Bad attitudes towards the church feed off bad church practices.

The great Jewish scholar, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, would agree. In his book, *God In Search of Man*, he writes: "It is customary to blame secular science and anti-religious philosophy for the eclipse of religion in modern society. It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid. When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendor of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than the voice of compassion – its message becomes meaningless."

Novelist Marilynne Robinson (who has both a deep sympathy for and a commitment to the church) echoes Heschel. For her, as churches today, we are not radiating the immensity of God and the larger mystery of Christ. Rather, despite our good will, we are too much subordinating the mystery of Christ to tribalism, resentment, fear, and self-protection. This is one of the major reasons for our marginalization. Christianity, Robinson submits, "is too great a narrative to be reduced to serving any parochial interest or to be underwritten by any lesser tale." It is our narrow attitudes, she believes, that denigrate the Christian message and leave the churches, for good reason, marginalized: "Undignified, obscurantist, and xenophobic Christianity closes the path for many" to enter the church." Blaming the world for our problems, she argues, does nothing to enhance the respect the world has for religion or for Christianity. The drop-off in church attendance is very much our own fault because far too often we are not radiating a church with a compassionate embrace and we are not in fact addressing the real energies that are burning inside people. For Robinson, the secular world isn't, per se, irreligious. Rather it sees our churches as self-absorbed, non-understanding, and non-empathetic to its desires, its wounds, and its needs. And so her challenge to us, church-goers, is this: "It behooves anyone who calls himself or herself a Christian, any institution that calls itself a church, to bring credit to the faith, at very least not to embarrass or disgrace it. Making God a tribal deity, our local Baal, is embarrassing and disgraceful."

Some years ago, I heard an Evangelical minister state the problem this way: As Christian churches we have the living water, the water Christ promised would quench all fires and all thirsts. But, this is the problem: We aren't getting the living water to where the fires are! Instead we are spraying water everywhere, except where it's burning!

He's right. The answer to the mass exodus from our churches is not to blame the culture; it's to make better churches!

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Information Page

Holy Family Quasi-Parish

020915

Date: Sept 18, 2011

Janis Hicks 903-744-7999

Transmission Date / Time Tuesday 12:00pm

Special Instructions