

St. Mary's Chapel

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC



CAMPUS MINISTRY

At Stephen F. Austin State University

211 E. College Street, Nacogdoches, Texas-75965

Office Phone : 936-564-0661

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stmarysccm@gmail.com

Most Reverend Joseph E. Strickland, Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas

Welcome y'all!

Sunday, November 29, 2015

First Sunday of Advent

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

Chaplain:	Fr. Denzil Vithanage— denzilvithanage@gmail.com
Deacon	Dcn. David Darby —936-560-3249
Program Director:	Jodi Phillips —402-650-4234
Development Director:	Michael Molina —936-414-8205
Pastoral Assistant:	Kim Briggs —936-564-0661
Spiritual Direction	Aloma Marquis —936-414-2405
<i>For sacramental emergencies call:</i> —903-578-2277	

CATHOLIC STUDENT ORGANIZATION HEADS

Kappa President:	Sara Bushland —612-636-9985
Grand Knight:	Austin Thurman —972-765-8335
Dancers of the Son	Sam Schroll —979-665-8678
Awakening	Keara King —469-237-5605
	Katherine Janusa—936-371-0279

Mass Times

Sunday	11:00 AM, 1 PM, & 6:00 PM
Tuesday— Friday	5:05 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM

*During summer & other SFASU breaks, such as Thanksgiving weekend, 1 pm Mass is dropped.
On Holy Days of Obligation & Ash Wednesday, Mass is at 12:05 & 5:05 pm*

Confession

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:	4:00—4:55pm
Wednesday:	3:30—4:45pm
Sunday:	10:00—10:45 5:00—5:50 & by appointment

(Sacred Heart has confession @ 4:15 Saturday if you can't make one of these times)

Upcoming Events

November 30	Monday Funday—7pm
December 1	Study Breakfast with FOCUS—9 am RCIA—7pm
2	The Circle
3	DotS dance practice—3:30 DotS rehearsal—5:45 Faculty, staff & adult Bible Study—6 pm Knights meeting 8 pm
4	FOCUS Breakfast—8 am Christmas PJ Party
6	Pizza Dinners
7	Dead week begins
14	Finals begin Senior & Staff Mass & Dinner—5:05

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Daily from	— 4:00 pm
Every Wednesday	—9 am—5 pm With Benediction @ 4:50 followed by Mass
Monday & Friday	—9 am—10 am

If your schedule doesn't permit you to sign up for a hour or half hour, then just stop in anytime to visit Jesus and say "I love you...."

The chapel is open 24/7 (side door).

We are a Catholic Campus Ministry at Stephen F. Austin State University dedicated to bringing Christ to the lives of the whole campus community.

With our eyes on Him, we strive to pursue our faith, friendships, & vocations as students with a holy guidance. We're not perfect (far from it), but we would like to try to get there as a family.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sunday, November 29	11:00 am	Benefactors
	1:00 pm	
	6:00 pm	Missa Pro Populo- <i>For the People</i>
Tuesday, December 1	5:05 pm	Walter Ledet †
Wednesday, Dec 2	5:05 pm	
Thursday, Dec 3	11:00 am	Justin Briggs
Friday, Dec 4	5:05 pm	Pray requests from our website
Saturday, Dec 5	9:00 am	David&Bekka Najvar - anniv 12/6
Sunday, December 6	11:00 am	Benefactors
	1:00 pm	Kenneth Najvar - b'day
	6:00 pm	Missa Pro Populo- <i>For the People</i>

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS — *Saints & Readings*

Sunday, November 29— First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:4-5,8-10,14;
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2; Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Monday, November 30— Feast of Saint Andrew

Romans 10:9-18; Psalm 19:8,9,10,11; Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday, December 1—

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 2—

Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23:1-3,3-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 3—Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier

Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 4—Saint John Damascene & First Friday

Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 5—First Saturday

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26; Psalm 147:1-6; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5, 6-8

Sunday, December 6— Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6;
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Joseph Edward Strickland By the Grace of God & the Apostolic See Bishop of Tyler

**To the Clergy, Religious & Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Tyler,
Health and Benediction**

Jesus Christ, True Mercy

This Sunday we begin the holy season of Advent and with it our solemn preparations for Christmas when we welcome our Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnation and true face of the Father's mercy. We also make ourselves ready to enter the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, a time in the life of the Church declared by Pope Francis to encourage us to contemplate the mystery of mercy as a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. The Holy Year will begin on December 8, 2015 and conclude on November 20, 2016. Bearing in mind these two events, I would like to take a moment to share this reflection on mercy and how it is incorporated into our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, and specifically as Catholics.

We live in the Age of Mercy because we live in the world after the saving work, the Paschal Mystery, of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In this context I believe we can say that the Catholic Church, founded by Christ Himself, exists as an instrument of mercy, a house of mercy, and a place from which the mercy of God should always flow. We see the foundation of mercy in the oft quoted and beautiful Gospel verse of John 3:16: the Father's preeminent act of mercy was to share with humanity His only begotten Son. Embedded in this profoundly loving act of the Father is an acknowledgment that humanity was broken and deeply in need of a savior, deeply in need of mercy. The mercy which Jesus Christ offers to the world through His Church is hard-won, not only through his passion, death and resurrection, but truly through every moment of his time on earth as the God-Man. I believe placing mercy in this context is essential if we desire to pursue true mercy in the way we live.

True mercy always flows from God's love and directs us toward God's will for us - that we share His gift of everlasting life. This focus regarding mercy is essential because we are so easily tempted to move toward a superficial understanding and application of mercy that is actually not mercy at all.

Announcements

- ⇒ The **Adult Bible Study** has started and welcomes anyone wanting to join us weekly on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm in the front room at St. Joseph's.
- ⇒ **Dancers of the Son** will be having their second annual **recital** on **Sunday, December 6th** at **3pm** in **Kennedy Auditorium**. **Free admission!**
- ⇒ Donuts and Devotions, our monthly morning of recollection for Women, will be happening again on Saturday, December 12th at 10am in St. Joseph's Home! This month we will be talking about Joy as a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Dear friends in Christ,

The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!

This is a new journey of the People of God with Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, who guides us in history towards the completion of the Kingdom of God.

Let us rediscover the beauty of being together along the way: the Church, with her vocation and mission, and the whole of humanity, the people, the civilizations, the cultures, all together on the paths of time.

*God bless!
Fr D*

Our Sunday Offering

St. Mary's Chapel & the Campus Ministry mainly depends upon the generous support of all who join with us in the celebration of the Lord's presence in the Eucharist, which really means "thanksgiving." What we offer to God through our donations is also a sign of our thanksgiving to God for his generosity. Without your help and support, our Chapel and Campus Ministry cannot function. Please be generous as God is generous to you in many ways. "God loves a cheerful giver."

St. Mary's is not a traditional parish. We must rely on financial support from persons who understand the very important role of campus ministry in the nurture of Catholic youth. We are a dynamic growing ministry and need your support. Consider a 1 to 4 year financial commitment through our Living Faith Society. Call the office at 936-564-0661, talk to our staff— Fr. Denzil, Michael, Jodi, or Kim or go to our website at sfacatholic.net.

Thank you for your generous support!

Stewardship - A Way of Life

Sunday Collection (11/22) \$1814
2nd Collection—Catholic Campaign for Human Development \$125

Thank You!

In our modern culture, mercy is too often equated with "being nice" or "being soft." Rather, if we return to the foundation of true mercy mentioned above, the mercy rooted in God's will, which is love and mercy itself, we find that mercy is actually anything but soft. Real mercy is strong and powerful because it does not shy away from our broken existence, but instead it stands face to face with the ugly and the broken and calls us to turn away from those things by bringing the healing balm of truth and genuine freedom to bear. True mercy is transformational! Ultimately mercy is bound up with facing the truth and being challenged to move from brokenness to wholeness. The denial of this is possibly at the very heart of our modern dilemma. Too often mercy is interpreted as removing the challenge, being tolerant of the transgression and passing over the consequences of our broken reality, rather than facing it head on and being freed by that very confrontation.

Once again I cannot resist returning to the model of mercy that is the life of Jesus Christ. In the ultimate act of mercy, He embraces the cross in order to open the floodgates of mercy. In the same way, any authentic mercy demands that we hold the cross close as well. If we ignore the only authentic model of mercy we are at risk of promoting a false mercy which leads us away from life and ultimately abandons us to death. The mercy that Christ shows the world through every act of His life here on earth, and especially in His crucifixion, is a mercy that faces down the power of sin by allowing the power of love to overcome the darkness. In this way, the grace of God not only covers our sins, but it transforms us in Christ's image.

Through the intercession of the Mother of Mercy, I pray that this Jubilee Year may have a profound effect on the human family by allowing us to live more deeply in the Gospel message of the author and face of mercy, Jesus Christ.

*Given at the Diocesan Chancery on November 21, 2015,
the Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

The Beautiful Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

For many Christians, Advent Wreaths are a favorite way to celebrate the month of December leading up to Christmas. Even though Advent Wreaths are popular, many are not aware of the meaning and symbolism of the tradition.

The Advent candles readily demonstrate the strong contrast between **darkness** and **light**. In the Bible, Christ is referred to as the “Light of the World” contrasted with the darkness of sin. Human history spanned long ages before our prophesied Savior would finally make his appearance, and with him God’s promise to make all things new through him. As his Advent, or “coming,” draws nearer another candle is lit, each candle dispelling the darkness a little more. Thus, the Advent wreath helps us to spiritually contemplate the great drama of salvation history that surrounds the birth of God Incarnate who comes to redeem the human race.

SHAPE: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God’s complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

NUMBER: The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays in Advent. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world’s Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament. Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white “Christ” candle, symbolizing purity that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day. Many circular wreaths can incorporate a white candle by adding a pillar candle to the wreath center.

COLOR: Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. [Advent](#), also called “little Lent,” is the season where we spiritually wait in our “darkness” with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ’s birth, and just as the whole world does now as we eagerly await his promised return.

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Hope with the “Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Faith with the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy.

Then on the 4th Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings. The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Peace with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

Gretchen Filz

**GOD BLESS
ALL
CATHOLIC JACKS!**

Hebert Health Care, Inc.

**Pray for
our seminarians!
“Nick and Nick”**

-The Bolinger Family



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*Blessing to all who serve
on the altar of the Lord
at St. Mary's.*

-Betty Ledet



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