

**PRAYER CORNER**

"Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their circumstances." We ask this through Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Pray for the needs of Sick/ Shut-In**

Elizabeth Moreno  
Hector Huerta  
Ursula Paige  
Wesley Matthews  
Barbara Hererra  
Mylo Salas  
George & Liz Sretchings  
Ben Swanson  
Linda Ornelas  
Tony Delgado  
Bastion Joseph  
Desiree Curry  
Mia Rubio Reyes  
Benny Cervantez  
Lico Cervantez  
Jamesha Hayward  
Jack Harrison

Malinda Walker  
Raven Anderson  
Julian Elizondo  
Pete Marquez  
Ysleta Franklin  
Amy Novacek  
Kevin & Juanita Thornton  
Ursula Paige  
Blanche Malachi  
Erma Platte  
Albert Johnson, Jr.  
Trino Sanchez  
**Deceased:**  
Mike Escobedo  
Raymond Hernandez

**Collection Received: Dec. 3, 2023**

Regular Collection	\$3,583.05
Parish Maintenance	\$322.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$210.00
Christmas Offering	\$45.00
St. Anne's—Candles	\$64.05
7 am Weekday Mass	\$245.00
Bulletin Ads	\$15.00
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St. Anne Spaghetti Dinner	\$10.00

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Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church



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Thank you for your contributions of financial support to the parish.

# OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

December 10, 2023



Bulletin printed in-house at:  
**Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church**  
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Fort Worth, TX 76104  
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Lydia Salas, Sec/Safe& Sacred Coordinator  
Jennifer Rattliff, Bookkeeper  
Michael Ussin, Maintenance/Custodial  
Charlotte Mitchell, Bulletin  
Tim Jaquet, Director Liturgy & Development  
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817-768-1950/svdppomm@gmail.com

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marieguidry@sbcgloabal.net

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**Office Hours**

**Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**  
**Friday: 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

**The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from Dec. 23, 2023-Jan. 3, 2024.**



fadamikecssp.com

It's ironic that our readings at this time each year so strongly feature John the Baptist. He is our primary spokesman for Advent and yet, what could be further from the cozy images of family celebrations under the soft glow of tiny tree lights than this wild, haggard prophet dressed in camel hair, smelling of bug-breath and the poverty of desert discipleship? Image aside, John was an incredible man of dedication and courage who lived what he preached with a depth of integrity that demanded a hearing. John understood his mission as one of preparation: to make straight the path for Jesus. Through the outer ritual of baptism he wished to facilitate an inner repentance. When we hear the word "repent," we often think of having feelings of deep remorse for our sinful ways and taking on some punishing hard work to make amends. But the English interpretation of our ancient texts often misses the mark and, in this case, rather spectacularly.

Repentance is a translation of the Greek word metanoia, which simply means to change our mind. The repentance John is initiating isn't one that would have us shamefully beat our breasts and undertake harsh acts of atonement. Rather, through the ritual of baptism he is hoping to change our thinking—to remove any obstacles that keep us from recognizing God's boundless love revealed in the person of Jesus. Meister Eckhart said, "Any talk of God that does not comfort you is a

lie." And isn't this at the heart of the good news? Jesus brought us this message: No matter who you are, what you believe, what you have done, if you attend religious services or not, you are loved... and there is nothing you can do about that. It is simply not in your power to change God's love for you. It is impossible, like turning off the sun. Yet two lies impede our acceptance of this truth: our persistent imaging of God as judgmental and stingy, and our overidentification with our unworthiness that keeps us mired in shame, unable to receive the love God is continuously offering us. We can't build the kingdom that Jesus dreams for us if we are stuck in the sludge of self-loathing and a skewed image of God. We can't give love, forgiveness, and unconditional acceptance unless we have received it ourselves. Offending God with our sin is not the problem. In fact, it is rather arrogant to even imagine there is any sin greater than God's mercy. The obstacle John is intent to remove is our conviction that we are unlovable, and our sins unforgiveable. How can we live out our baptismal call to share the good news if we haven't believed the news ourselves? Accepting God's acceptance is the metanoia, the change of mind, that marks the true repentance John is urging us to undertake. This Advent, may we do just that so we may be bold, faithful, living signs of God's compassion in our world. —By Lisa Brown—<https://uscatholic.org>

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL**  
CATHOLIC stewardship IN ACTION

Love one another as I have love you—  
Give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal at:  
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**BULLETIN AD PRICES (MONTHLY)**

B&W 1" X 2"	\$10 in color \$15
B&W 2" X 1"	\$10 in color \$15
B&W 2" X 2"	\$20 in color \$25
B&W 4" X 1"	\$30 in color \$35
B&W 4" X 2"	\$40 in color \$45

**Bulletin Reflections**

“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

“Prepare el camino del Señor...” - MARCOS 1:3

Todos somos llamados a vivir una vida santa. Todos somos llamados a invitar a los demás a vivir una vida santa. Vivir un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad, ser agradecido y generoso con nuestros dones, nos pone en el camino de la santidad y es también un ejemplo para los demás. Somos responsables no solamente de nuestras propias vidas, sino también de las vidas de los demás. ¿Cómo está ayudando a otras personas a llegar al Cielo?

*With Prayers and Love*

**Liturgical Ministry Schedule**

Live Stream Support	
10:00 am Mass	Sunday
12/10/2023	Howard Rattliff
12/17/2023	Isabel Garza
12/24/2023	Debra Savage
12/31/2023	Lisa Jones

Lectors		
12/9-10	Natasha Cha	Debra Savage K. Weckherlin
12/16-17	Charlotte Mitchell	L. Peoples Amanda Flood
12/23-24	Charlotte Mitchell	Mary Battle Lydia Salas
12/30-31	Lanette M-Vidaurri	Carolyn Yusuf Zayne Willars

**Weekly Mass Schedule**

Dates	Times
<b>Monday, December 11</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession After Mass
<b>Tuesday, December 12</b> <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	Confession—6:30 a.m. Mass 7:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, December 13</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, December 14</b> <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	Mass—7:00a.m. Confession—6:30 a.m.
<b>Friday, December 15</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 8 a.m.—Noon
<b>Saturday, December 16</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Adoration 4:00-5:00 p.m. Confession—4:30 p.m. Mass 5:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 17</b>	Mass 10:00 a.m. (Livestream)

Rosary is Monday-Friday at 6:20 a.m.  
Rosary on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.



Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who brings peace to our hearts and minds. As we light the second candle of the Advent wreath, we are reminded of the peace that Christ brought to mankind with His birth and incarnation. We pray that you would fill our hearts with your peace, that we may be a light to others in this world. Help us to be peacemakers in our families, our communities, and our world. May we be instruments of your peace, spreading love and joy wherever we go. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**Weekly Readings**

12/11—Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-25  
 12/12—Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
 12/13—Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30  
 12/14—Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15  
 12/15—Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19  
 12/16—Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 12/17—Phil 4:4-5; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



**Announcements**

**Christmas Gifts**

The church is selling genuine leather bound copies of the Great Adventure Catholic Bible for \$45. See Lydia Salas to purchase.

**Christmas Nativity Program**

Our parish children will present a Christmas Pageant on Monday, December 24, 2023, at 12:00 a.m. Christmas Midnight Mass. The presentation will be proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word's Gospel Reading. Please support our children. **Children's Choir:** Rehearsing every Sunday December in the church.



**OMOM CCE Calendar -December**  
 CCE Classes will be 12/10, and 12/17 **no CCE Classes on 12/24 or 31.**

**Popcorn Fundraiser for CCE**

Support the Our Mother of Mercy CCE and Youth Ministry Fundraiser on December 7th- December 11th. This fundraiser will help to fund OMM CCE and Youth Ministry programs, events, and purchase materials. CCE will also host a Double Good Popcorn Fundraising table at the Parish Life Center on December 9th and 10th.



**OMOM Christmas Wish List**

Help support the everyday business of OMOM parish. Please consider a donation of the items below:

- Rolls of USPS Forever Stamps
- Cash donation for new flooring in parish life center.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Is your marriage prepared to be blessed by the Lord? We invite you to prepare to have the best marriage ever by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4, 2024. To apply go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org). Questions – email [applications@dfwme.org](mailto:applications@dfwme.org). Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a [mdgallegos06@gmail.com](mailto:mdgallegos06@gmail.com) 214-497-0188.

**Special Collection—Retirement Fund for Religious December 16-17, 2023**

You can help. “Religious are blessed to serve,” says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously, online go to: <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections>



Monday Bible Study is on a holiday break. Class will resume on January 8, 2024 at 6 p.m. Join Deacon Tom to learn the history of the Bible.

**When Advent Collides with Christmas**

Advent is often four weeks of preparation for the beginning of the Christmas season. This year that preparation will be shorter than usual, in fact, short as possible, thanks to peculiar dates in the calendar. This year, Advent's end will coincide with Christmas Eve, and that fact can wreak havoc for some pastors and those in parish ministry who need to complete Advent in a solemn way, yet joyously bring in birth of the Christ child. The U.S. Bishop's Committee on Divine Worship has indicated that Catholics should participate in two Masses, once for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas.—*excerpt from When Advent Collides with Christmas by Sharon Crews Hare*



**OMOM parish we are asking all who can to stay after church on December 24 to help decorate the church. Please sign up at back of church.**

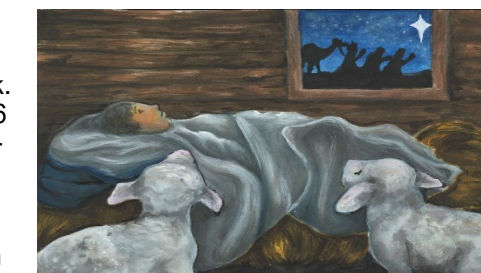
**December Special Collections**

Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception  
 Dec. 10—St. Vincent De Paul  
 Dec. 17—Retired Religious  
 Dec. 25—Christmas

**Congregational Meeting**



A State of the Parish Meeting is scheduled for **January 7, 2024** after mass. This is a time for us to contemplate the future as we identify challenges facing us in our mission and ministry.



By Jenna R (Diocese of Ft. Worth, National Winner of 2022-2023 National Christmas Artwork Contest)

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) of the Pontifical Mission Societies sponsors an annual Christmas Artwork Contest for young Catholics in grades K-8. Twenty-four winners will be selected in this national competition, including two grand-prize winners. All winners will receive a commemorative plaque; grand-prize winners will have their artwork appear as the official Christmas card of the National Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Please visit [https://info.missio.org/2023\\_24\\_entryform](https://info.missio.org/2023_24_entryform) for the Entry Form and Contest guidelines.

All entries must be postmarked or received by the Diocesan Office of the Propagation of the Faith or via our online webform, **no later than January 31, 2024.**

