

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

Jamesha Hayward
 Jack Harrison
 Mary Reeves
 Elizabeth Moreno
 Betty Levine
 Hector Huerta
 Ursula Paige
 Agnes Wilson
 Wesley Matthews
 Martha Luce
 Barbara Hererra
 Marcus Rattliff, Jr.
 Mylo Salas
 Larry Breacher
 George & Liz Scretchings
 Susan McDonald
 Ben Swanson
 Luis Briseno
 Linda Ornelas
 Adela Aleman
 Tony Delgado
 John Daley
 Bastion Joseph
 Sylvia Sykes
 Desiree Curry
 Ben Swanson
 Mia Rubio Reyes
 Tommy Carroll
 Benny Cervantez
 Sonia Munoz
 Lico Cervantez
 Amelia Martinez
 Garcia Gomez

Betty Harris
 Albert Haynes
 Malinda Walker
 Raven Anderson
 Julian Elizondo
 Pete Marquez
 Ysleta Franklin
 Amy Novacek
 Kevin & Juanita Thornton
 Blanche Malachi
 Erma Platte
 Albert Johnson, Jr.
 Trino Sanchez
Deceased:
 Mike Escobedo
 Raymond Hernandez
 Ene delia Silva
 Irene Hernandez

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL
 CATHOLIC stewardship IN ACTION

Love one another as I have love you—
 Give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal at:
<https://bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal>

Collection Received: Dec. 10, 2023

Regular Collection	\$2,136.25
Parish Maintenance	\$98.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$195.00
Christmas Offering	\$25.00
St. Anne's—Candles	\$47.57
7 am Weekday Mass	\$195.00
Bulletin Ads	\$540.00
Retired Religious	\$184.00
Mass Intentions	\$20.00
Immaculate Conception.	\$18.00
Donations KPC	\$1,000.00
St. Anne's Spaghetti Dinner	\$20.00
Donations—Wedding	\$350.00
Catholic Campaign	\$10.00
KPC Utility Reimbursement	\$220.35

OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

December 17, 2023



Bulletin printed in-house at:
Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
 1001 E. Terrell Avenue
 Fort Worth, TX 76104
(817) 335-1695
ommftworth1@gmail.com

Pastoral Staff

Deacon Tom Giovannitti, **Pastoral Life Coord**
 Lydia Salas, Sec/Safe& Sacred Coordinator
 Jennifer Rattliff, Bookkeeper
 Michael Ussin, Maintenance/Custodial
 Charlotte Mitchell, Bulletin
 Tim Jaquet, Director Liturgy & Development

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Help Line:
 817-768-1950/svdppomm@gmail.com
St. Anne's Society: Marie Guidry
marieguidry@sbcgloabal.net

Knight St. Peter Claver: Michael Barks
 817-845-1125

Hospitality Ministry: Ianthe Youman

Lector Coordinator:

Lanette Martinez Vidaurri
 817-228-3338/lanettemartinez@ymail.com

Pastoral Council:

LaWonda Peoples, Chairperson
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Religious Education:

Shonta Giovannitti, Director

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.



Perhaps we are experiencing increased stress, painful family memories, broken relationships, shattered dreams, unrealistic expectations - to name a few experiences that impact us in this season.

Does it not seem inappropriate, incongruous to hear about rejoicing? Not at all!! The reason for rejoicing is not finding the perfect gift for someone you really love or finding the adequate gift for someone you really don't. The reason for rejoicing is not a shallow, temporary change from emotional "business as usual."

Where is joy to be found? Today's scripture readings teach us our source of rejoicing. Isaiah, in the first reading, speaks to the children of Israel who suffered so much for so long "Rejoice in the lord."

In the responsorial psalm, we answered: "My soul rejoices in my God."

Paul was shipwrecked, flogged to within an inch of his life several times, publicly mocked, run out of town. He said to those who were waiting for the second coming of Christ: "Rejoice always, render constant thanks." This was surely more than urging a positive attitude toward life, more than a first-century, pop psychology of positive thinking. Paul also says, "render constant thanks" for the forgiveness Jesus brought. He deeply believes that real joy abides in the soul of the one who has absorbed this and has entrusted

himself totally to the hands of God. It is anchored in something more stable than the shifting sands of life's fortunes. It is rooted in God himself. Joy is a resilient choice no matter what happens to us. Joy arises out of a contented heart where the contentment is based on the lasting presence of God.

Joy is a fundamental stance of the heart: a conviction, a gift of God. It is rooted in our enduring relationship with God, remembered during advent as we recall the coming of Jesus who made our relationship a reality. Jesus' gift of joy is recalled in the holy card that portrays him in the scene described in the book of Revelation: standing outside a door knocking. The door has no handle on his side; it has to be opened by you, by me on our side of the door.

In the morning, preferably, before the day begins to roll like a snowball downhill, gathering chaos, we take the time to enter within ourselves. We picture our lord vividly before us. We look at the expression in his eyes. We "waste" time with him - first in total silence -- just looking at him with his loving eyes that encompasses forgiveness, acceptance, and value. I acknowledge my total reliance on him, and the experience that follows is joy.

—Excerpt from www.oblates.org

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Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time.

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URL <https://qrs.ly/5wf2p6y>

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

Bulletin Space Available
 Contact Lydia Salas -
(817) 335-1695

Safe and Sacred Certification
 To renew/or start the safe and sacred training, log in to www.virtus.org and select a time, date, and location. Training for employees & adult volunteers are required prior to serving in ministry and renewed every two years. For assistance, call Lydia Salas/church office|817.335.1695|email ommftworth1@gmail.com.

BULLETIN AD PRICES (MONTHLY)

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Bulletin Reflections

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

“Estén siempre contentos. Oren sin cesar. Den gracias en todas las circunstancias, porque esa es la voluntad de Dios para ustedes como creyentes en Jesucristo.” - 1 TESALONICENSAS 5:16-18

Esta lectura de las escrituras resume a la Corresponsabilidad. “Estén siempre contentos” quiere decir colocar su confianza en el Señor; Él proveerá para todas nuestras necesidades. “Orar constantemente” significa que la oración debe ser una conversación fluida con Dios a través de todo el día, todos los días. “De gracias en todas las circunstancias” quiere decir dar gracias aún en las malas situaciones, agradezca siempre a Dios. Sufrir un poco ayuda a construir empatía con los demás en situaciones similares, y muestra nuestra dependencia de Dios.

With Prayers and Love

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

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

Weekly Mass Schedule

Dates	Times
Monday, December 18 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession After Mass
Tuesday, December 19 <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	Confession—6:30 a.m. Mass 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 20 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 21 <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	Mass—7:00a.m. Confession—6:30 a.m.
Friday, December 22 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 8 a.m.—Noon
Saturday, December 23 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Adoration 4:00-5:00 p.m. Confession—4:30 p.m. Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 24	Mass 10:00 a.m. (Livestream) Midnight Mass
Monday, December 25	Mass 10:30 a.m.

Rosary is Monday-Friday at 6:20 a.m.
Rosary on Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Father God, today we shout for joy and sing praises for the birth of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. Because of your grace and love for us, you sent your son to earth to gift us our eternal salvation. We repent of our sins and offer thanksgiving for all you have done for us. We await the return of your Son and our rejoicing in heaven. Amen.

Lectors		
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 Readings

12/18—Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
 12/19—Jgs: 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
 12/20—Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
 12/21—Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
 12/22—1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
 12/23—Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
 12/24—2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Announcements

Christmas Nativity Program

Our parish children will present a Christmas Pageant on Sunday, 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 of December in the church.

OMOM CCE Calendar –December
CCE Classes will be on 12/17 no CCE Classes on 12/24 or 31.

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

“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord.’” Whose voice are you listening to, the world or God. Invite God into your marriage by participating in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4, 2024. To apply go to www.wmme.org. Questions – email applications@dfwme.org. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a 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

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 your help is needed!!!
Please stay after 10:00 a.m. mass on December 24 to decorate the church for Christmas. Please sign up at back of church.

December Special Collections

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.

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 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.**

Thank You!

May the Lord Bless you this holiday season as you have blessed us. Please know how much your support was appreciated in our endeavor to help those in our community. With your help, we were able to raise \$850.00 through our igivecatholic campaign. These funds will be used to help many of our Neighbors in need. So we Thank You for your prayers, donations, and encouragement in our many endeavors. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.



Cynthia Sanford,
OMM St Vincent de Paul Conference.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. During this third week of advent:

- ◆ Make time for quiet. Advent can become a hectic time with Christmas shopping and gatherings. Because Advent is a time of waiting and preparing, make sure to make time for quiet periods to refocus yourself on spiritual preparation and anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth.
- ◆ Break out the Bible. Saint Jerome said, “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” We can all do more prayerful reading of the bible.

Advent—A time of repentance, penance and renewal. Slow down, prepare the way of the Lord.

