

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Jesus Christ Amen.

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

Agnes Wilson  
Martha Luce  
Annie Gray  
Marcus Rattliff, Jr.  
Betty Levine  
Larry Breacher  
Ursula Paige  
Susan McDonald  
Wesley Matthews  
Luis Briseno  
Barbara Herrera  
Adela Aleman  
Mylo Salas  
John Daley  
George & Liz Scrotchings  
Sylvia Sykes  
Ben Swanson  
Tommy Carroll  
Linda Ornelas  
Sonia Munoz  
Tony Delgado  
Amelia Martinez  
Bastion Joseph  
Garcia Gomez  
Desiree Curry  
Betty Harris  
Mia Rubio Reyes  
Albree Haynes  
Benny Cervantez  
Malinda Walker  
Lico Cervantez  
Raven Anderson  
Jamesha Hayward  
Julian Elizondo  
Jack Harrison  
Pete Marquez  
Elizabeth Moreno  
Ysleta Franklin  
Hector Huerta

Amy Novacek  
Kevin & Juanita Thornton  
Blanche Malachi  
Erma Platte  
Albert Johnson, Jr.  
Trino Sanchez

**Deceased:**

Mary Reeves  
Mike Escobedo  
Raymond Hernandez  
Enedelia Silva  
Irene Hernandez

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Our Mother of Mercy

Collection Received: Dec. 17, 2023

Regular Collection	\$2,191.00
Parish Maintenance	\$35.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$321.00
St. Anne's—Candles	\$11.25
7 am Weekday Mass	\$115.00
Thanksgiving	\$25.00
Retired Religious	\$18.00
Mass Intentions	\$170.00
Popcorn Sales.	\$125.00
Nov. Online Donations	\$578.22
Catholic Campaign	\$50.00

DONATE TO:

Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church



SCAN this QR code using your mobile device and enter the amount and payment information

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

ONLINE DONATION CARD

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

# OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

December 24, 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 Jacquet, Director Liturgy & Development

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul Help Line:**

817-768-1950/svdpomm@gmail.com

**St. Anne's Society: Marie Guidry**  
marieguidry@sbcglobal.net

**Knights St. Peter Claver, Unit # 89:**

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

Dorthea Lee Menefee

Marie Barks

Monique Boudreaux

Shonta Giovannitti

Emma Umaniyigena

Harold Stewart

**Financial Council:**

Amanda Flood

Fred Bob

Romel Clayton

Yvonne Youman-Hall

**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 and New Years Holiday from Dec. 23, 2023-Jan. 3, 2024.**



This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his

reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

*From www.loyolapress.com*

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>

**ALERT 360**  
ALERT360.COM  
**JACK PAIS**  
Security/Consultant  
MOBILE 817-988-6344  
FREE DOORBELL CAMERA  
FREE SMART LOCK  
14500 Trinity Blvd #106, FTW, TX 76155  
[JACK.PAIS@ALERT360.COM](mailto:JACK.PAIS@ALERT360.COM)

**Safe & Sacred Certification**  
To renew/or start log in to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). 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.

**Bon Voyage Travels**  
Mary Pichon Battle  
Travel Agent/Owner  
985-774-3141  
[Bonvoytrav@gmail.com](mailto:Bonvoytrav@gmail.com)

**In Loving Memory of Larry & Olga Martinez, One Day at a Time.**

**CENTURY 21**  
MARIA CILICIA WARSITI  
Real Estate Advisor/Realtor  
C/ 817.441.0636 O /817-573-8801  
[mariaiw@c21propertyadvisors.com](mailto:mariaiw@c21propertyadvisors.com)

**MGC REALTY**  
Michael Fronk Broker  
817-901-7345  
[jmjmichael@yahoo.com](mailto:jmjmichael@yahoo.com)  
[www.MichaelFronk.com](http://www.MichaelFronk.com)

**HALO SANTO**  
A Spirited Cocktail Garnish  
www.halorim.com

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

**BULLETIN AD PRICES (MONTHLY)**

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

Bulletin Space Available

Bulletin Sponsors—Thank You for Supporting our Parish Family!

**Bulletin Reflections**

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

“Salve, Ilena de gracia, El Señor está contigo.” - LUCAS 1:28

Después de Jesús, vemos a María como un ideal de corresponsabilidad. Vivió su vida entera obedeciendo el llamado de Dios. María nos enseña a vivir con alegría por todo lo que nos ha sido dado. Así como la luna refleja la luz del sol, María refleja la luz de Cristo. Como María, somos llamados a reflejar la luz de Cristo al mundo a través de nuestra gratitud y generosidad.

*With Prayers and Love*

Dear God, you have given us the greatest gift ever - the ultimate sacrifice of love - your son Jesus Christ. Father we thank you for your unconditional love that offers us grace in the midst of our sin. Help us to show the same love to those around us. Let us be conduits of kindness and forgiveness. Fill us with your Holy Spirit who guides us as we wait for the return of your Son. Thank you for loving us so, Amen.



**Weekly Mass Schedule**

Dates	Times
<b>Monday, December 25</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	<b>Mass 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 26</b> <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	<b>Confession—6:30 a.m.</b> <b>Mass 7:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 27</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	<b>Mass 7:00 a.m.</b> <b>Confession after Mass</b> <b>Adoration 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, December 28</b> <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	<b>Mass—7:00a.m.</b> <b>Confession—6:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday, December 29</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	<b>Mass 7:00 a.m.</b> <b>Confession after Mass</b> <b>Adoration 8 a.m.—Noon</b>
<b>Saturday, December 30</b> <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	<b>Adoration 4:00-5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Confession—4:30 p.m.</b> <b>Mass 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>Mass 10:00 a.m. (Livestream)</b>
<b>Monday, January 1</b>	<b>Mass: 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Rosary is Monday-Friday at 6:20 a.m.</b> <b>Rosary on Sunday at 8:30 a.m.</b>	

**Liturgical Ministry Schedule**

Live Stream Support	
10:00 am Mass	Sunday
12/24/2023	Debra Savage
12/31/2023	Lisa Jones
Jan 7, 2024	Lisa Jones
Jan. 14, 2024	Howard Rattliff

Lectors		
12/23-24	Charlotte Mitchell	Mary Battle Lydia Salas
12/30-31	Lanette M-Vidaurri	Carolyn Yusuf Zayne Willars

**Weekly Readings**

12/25—Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
 12/26—Acts 6:8-10, 7-54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
 12/27—1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20-1a, 2-8  
 12/28—1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18  
 12/29—1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35  
 12/30—1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40  
 12/31—Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

**Announcements**



**Christmas MASS SCHEDULE 2023**

Sunday, Dec. 24:  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
10:00am Mass

Monday, Dec. 25:  
Mass at Midnight & Christmas Pageant  
12:00 AM-Mass  
Join OMM Gospel Choir for Christmas Caroling beginning at 11:00pm

Monday, Dec. 25  
The Nativity of The Lord  
10:30 AM Mass

\*\*\*\*\*

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**  
Don't give each other things this Christmas, give each other the gift of great communication, a deep love and a marriage filled with God by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4, 2024. To apply go to [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*



To the Knights of St. Peter Claver, Unit # 89 for the donation of \$1,000 to Our Mother of Mercy Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

Get Rent Help: [www.GetRentHelp.com](http://www.GetRentHelp.com)  
Tarrant County Department of Human Services: [Tarrantcounty.com/en/human-services.html](http://Tarrantcounty.com/en/human-services.html).  
Assistance with rent utilities: **817-531-5620**  
If you are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness call:**817-996-8800**.

**The Gift of an Endowment**

Establishing a memorial or tribute endowment is a meaningful way to honor a loved one, or a favorite priest, sister or teacher this Christmas. An Endowment Fund in the Advancement Foundation provides a source of annual income to the Catholic organization(s) of your choice. Once established, anyone can make additional contributions to the fund in any dollar amount, even through bequests or beneficiary designations.

There is still time to establish an endowment fund before year end. Please contact Renée Underwood, CFRE at 817-533-7242 or [plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org](mailto:plannedgiving@adv-fdn.org), or visit [www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds](http://www.advancementfoundation.org/endowment-funds).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Offering Envelopes**

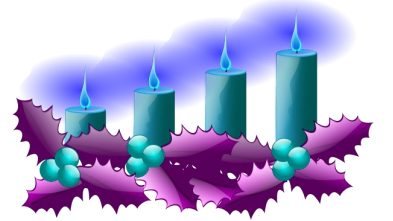


As we begin to prepare for the new year, we anticipate some challenges that lie ahead regarding sustaining our parish through financial contributions. Currently the cost of producing and shipping the set boxed envelopes has increased significantly. Less than 2% of our parishioners are currently using the traditional boxed envelopes. In addition, innovative technology has made it possible to easily submit your donations in a more environmentally sustainable and convenient manner. Because of these reasons, we will no longer order the box sets and invite you to explore an option that is most convenient for you. All options may be set up daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly.

**Offertory Envelopes:** Generic offertory envelopes will still be available in the pews every Sunday. You may take more than one with you to prepare in advance. Simply fill out the envelope and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office. (Note: Parishioners who wish to continue using the traditional box set of envelopes, must contact the office)  
**Online Donation:** Donate online via the OMM website. [www.omomftworth.org](http://www.omomftworth.org)  
**QR Code:** QR code cards will be available in each church pew. Use your smart phone to scan code to make your online donation.

**Bank Draft:** Visit your local bank to set up your account to automatically draft a check to the parish on your behalf. This service is free and convenient and highly encouraged.

We are grateful for each member of our church family, and we are confident that with your continued support, we will thrive in the coming year



The fourth Sunday of Advent we meditate on the peace that Jesus brings our hearts and our world.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 says, “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

This week we focus our hearts on the “Lord of peace” who came down from heaven in the form of a baby. God knows that we are in a constant battle against fear! Fear wants to cripple us, to push us to react rather than carefully respond, and fear steals our joy. God has given us the gift of peace so we can live joy-filled lives!  
 Over this Advent, would you pray that God’s unexplainable peace would be evident in your heart and home. This year we all have faced so much chaos and uncertainty. God’s peace is something we need to grab tightly on to more than ever. May God’s spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time to joyfully await our King!

\*\*\*\*\*

As we begin to prepare to welcome our Lord and Savior this Christmas, it is with great excitement and gratitude that we reflect on the blessings we have experienced together as a faith community. The spirit of unity, love, dedication, and generosity that defines our church family continues to inspire us all. Our church is truly blessed to have you here and participating in the mass and other activities within the parish.

May the peace of God be with you and your family this Christmas and continued blessings in the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Deacon Tom Giovannitti  
Parish Life Coordinator

