

PRAYER CORNER

Hasten to the aid of your faithful people who call upon you, O Lord, we pray and graciously give strength in their human weakness, so that, being dedicated to you in complete sincerity, they may find gladness in your remedies both now and in the life to come. Through Christ, Amen.

Pray for the needs of Sick/ Shut-In

Agnes Wilson
 Barbara Hererra
 Mylo Salas
 George & Liz Scretchings
 Ben Swanson
 Linda Ornelas
 Tony Delgado
 Bastion Joseph
 Desiree Curry
 Mia Rubio Reyes
 Benny Cervantez
 Lico Cervantez
 Jamesha Hayward
 Jack Harrison
 Elizabeth Moreno
 Hector Huerta

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: Nov. 26, 2023

Regular Collection	\$1,714.50
Parish Maintenance	\$229.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$
Thanksgiving Offering	\$60.00
St. Anne's—Candles	\$104.05
7 am Weekday Mass	\$260.00
St. Anne's Spaghetti Dinner	\$1,012.00
CCE/Religious Education	\$
Mass Intentions	\$5.00
CC for Human Develop.	\$45.00

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Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church



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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 3, 2023



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Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church

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 Fort Worth, TX 76104

(817) 335-1695

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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.

First Sunday of Advent

On this first Sunday of Advent, we celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season in the church. We now prepare to officially remember and give thanks for the birth of Jesus, our Lord and savior.

This is no surprise to anyone. For some time now, all the stores and TV commercials have told us that Christmas is coming. But of course their focus is more on buying gifts rather than on adoration of the Christ child. Those three wise men had no idea the trend they would put into motion.

Our focus is on God's gift of the divine presence incarnate in Jesus. He was born of humble origins and destined to fulfill the promises made in the Hebrew scriptures, like the passage in today's first reading. In today's gospel reading, Jesus talks of his second coming and tells us to be vigilant at all times and to pray. So Advent has a double meaning. We celebrate the birth of Christ, and we wait in hope for his return at the end of time.

As a child, I remember asking my father if he thought that the end of the world would come soon. He told me, "Don't you worry about the end of the world, worry about when you die."

That is the end of the world for you." I have since learned that we are called to give an account of our life every day. In the seminary, we had an evening exercise called "the examination of conscience." We were asked to review the activities of our day in light of the commandments. I still find this an excellent time to thank God for the day's blessings and ask for ways to

improve. God's incarnation, or presence in Jesus, is a beautiful mystery to contemplate at this time of the year. Jesus's experience of God, his unity with the Creator, is part of the message he wanted to share with all of us, not just in words but in our own experience. Jesus invites us to experience that oneness, that unity of spirit, he had with God.

He saw this divine spark in the people he met. It did not matter if they were male or female, Jew or Gentile; all have God in them and are worthy of love and respect. In India, Hindus greet each other with the expression "Namaste." I am told that means "the God in me greets the God in you." Advent is a time to celebrate in a particular way the God present in each of us. Celebrating Christmas is also a reminder of God's presence in each of us and in all of creation.

Maybe the stores and commercials have got it right to some extent. It is all about the gift; not what we buy for one another; rather how we acknowledge one another as gifts from God. We are called to give ourselves to others as Jesus has done and continues to do through us and all people of goodwill.

To be vigilant and to pray means to be aware of the gifts all around us, and be that gift for others. So with the psalmist, we pray: "To you O Lord, I lift up my soul. Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."

—By Fr. Rosendo Urrabazo, C.M.F., <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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 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.

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1st Sunday of Advent
 Jesus said to his disciples:
 "Be watchful! Be alert!
 Mark 13:33

Bulletin Reflections

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

“¡Vigile! ¡Manténgase alerta! Usted no sabe cuándo llegará el momento.” - MARCOS 13:33

Damos las cosas por sentado. En particular, damos el tiempo por sentado. Tenemos nuestras vidas demasiado ocupadas. Planificamos por adelantado nuestros días, semanas, meses y aún nuestros años. Recuerde, nuestro tiempo en la tierra es un regalo. Ninguno de nosotros sabe cuánto tiempo estaremos aquí. Empiece hoy y comience a darle gracias a Dios por todos y cada uno de nuestros días. Tómese un tiempo en silencio, todos los días, y escuche cómo Dios lo está llamando en este momento para ayudar a construir Su reino en la tierra

With Prayers and Love

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

Live Stream Support	
10:00 am Mass	Sunday
12/3/2023	Lisa Jones
12/10/2023	Howard Rattliff
12/17/2023	Isabel Garza
12/24/2023	Debra Savage
12/31/2023	Lisa Jones

Weekly Mass Schedule

Dates	Times
Monday, December 4 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession After Mass
Tuesday, December 5 <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	Confession—6:30 a.m. Mass 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 6 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 7 <i>Fr. Bob Strittmatter</i>	Mass—7:00a.m. Confession—6:30 a.m.
Friday, December 8 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i> <i>Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary</i>	Mass 7:00 a.m. and 7:00p.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 8 a.m.—Noon
Saturday, December 9 <i>Fr. Richard Flores</i>	Adoration 4:00-5:00 p.m. Confession—4:30 p.m. Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 10	Mass 10:00 a.m. (Livestream)

Rosary is Monday-Friday at 6:20 a.m.
Rosary on Sunday is at 11:30 a.m. after Mass



Lectors		
12/2 &3	Lanette M-Vidaurri	L. Peoples Zayne Willars
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 Readings

12/4—Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
 12/5—Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
 12/6—Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
 12/7—Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 12/8—Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Holy Day of Obligation
 12/9—Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 12/10—Is 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8



Announcements

Sunday Mass Missals for Sale
 See Frank Novel or Mike Barks for missals. They are \$6. Read along with the priest during Mass.

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: Will rehearse every Sunday, beginning December 3, 2023, in the church.



OMOM CCE Calendar -December
 CCE Classes will be 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17

Popcorn Fundraiser for CCE
 To help support Religious Education Classes, there will be a Double Good Virtual Fundraiser. Double good popcorn will be sold with prices starting at \$9. Be watchful for students selling popcorn. Please help our CCE Classes and children.



The OMOM Angel Tree is up. Please use this opportunity to pick an Angel from the tree. This year we have 48 angels. Please return your gifts by 12:00 p.m. Sunday December 10. Thank you.

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Thanks to all who helped with preparation of and bought spaghetti dinners/desserts.

St. Anne's Society

Christmas Baskets

St. Vincent DePaul is currently accepting the following food items for Christmas Baskets: Frozen turkeys, mac/cheese, stuffing, green beans (canned), sweet potatoes (canned), cranberry sauce (canned), cake mix (boxes), frosting. Please bring items to parish life center or to back of church. **Items are needed before December 10.**



OMOM Christmas Wish List
 Help support the everyday business of OMOM parish. Please consider a donation of the items below:
 1. Case of 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper.
 2. Case of 11 x 17 copy paper
 3. Rolls of USPS Forever Stamps
 4. Coffee pods (decaf and caffeinated)
 5. Cash donation for new flooring in parish life center.
 6. 3 oz paper cups
 7. Paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.” Don't wait – take time now for your marriage by participating on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4, 2024. To apply go to www.wwme.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>

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

Volunteer Opportunity with Fortress!!

Join Fortress as a volunteer at their gift wrapping party (Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 until finish), or at the Annual Fortress Family Christmas Party on Friday, December 15th. They need decorators, cooks and servers (it's a Christmas pajama party and they are serving breakfast for dinner! Come flip pancakes and scramble eggs with them!), gift distributors, photographers, and a clean-up crew. The party itself is 6:00-8:00, but they'll be busy from 4:30- 8:30. Just reply to email (fortressydc@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com) and Remy will reach back out with all the details.



December Special Collections

Dec. 3— Parish Maintenance
 Dec. 8— Immaculate Conception
 Dec. 10— St. Vincent De Paul
 Dec. 17— Retired Religious
 Dec. 25— Christmas

