

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

Elizabeth Moreno
Deacon Tom Giovannitti
Juantia Cruz
Annie Gray
Betty Levine
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

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

Deceased:

John Daley
Sylvia Sykes
Ben Swanson
Tommy Carroll
Sonia Munoz
Amelia Martinez
Garcia Gomez
Betty Harris
Alberree Haynes
Malinda Walker
Raven Anderson
Julian Elizondo

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Our Mother of Mercy

Collection Received: Dec. 24, 2023

Regular Collection	\$2,526.00
Parish Maintenance	\$48.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$12.00
Christmas Offering	\$575.00
St. Anne's—Candles	\$61.55
7 am Weekday Mass	\$
Popcorn Fundraiser	\$510.00
Mass Intentions	\$15.00
Social Outreach	\$43.00

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 31, 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@sbcgloabal.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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As a cradle Catholic, I recall the holy family was held up as a model for emulation, even though the qualifier “holy” seemed to render it an unattainable ideal. What qualified Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as holy? Each one possessed a unique identity, but together they experienced God’s eruption into their lives.

From the gospel narratives, God’s eruption into their lives was disruptive. It required an unqualified and absolute acceptance. Mary responded with complete availability, serenity, and trust. She said, “Yes,” not knowing what the future held. By trusting in God’s promise, she became, in the words of Pope Francis, the forebear of “all those unknown or forgotten women who, each in her own way, sustained and transformed families and communities by the power of their witness” (Gaudete et Exsultate). Joseph embraced God’s will as “the father in the shadows”—as Francis describes him in *Patris Corde*—who exemplifies the love, courage, creativity, tenderness, acceptance, and hard work of a beloved father for his family. Likewise, Jesus’ response to God was firm, albeit progressing through moments of temptation to completely abandon God’s will.

Opening their hearts to God interrupted and changed the course of their lives radically. Mary became a contemplative at heart. Joseph became deeply attuned to the silence within. And Jesus incarnated the presence of the compassionate God-with-us. Yet heeding God’s will wasn’t an easy path for the holy family. Mary and Joseph gradually embraced their understanding of their roles as parents. There were moments of anxiety, like when they lost Jesus among the crowd; there were times of perceived rejection, when Jesus seemingly relativized their role in his mission, and even outright rebellion: “Didn’t you

know that I have to be about my father’s business?” Eventually, Mary would witness the horrific murder of her son. Those moments revealed the conviction of Mary and Joseph that theirs was a journey of faith, hope, and love.

Like many parents, they remained committed to their parenting vocation, celebrating its joys and hopes, embracing its pain and anxiety. Their example of holiness isn’t ethereal; it is borne of their interior freedom and radical commitment to their roles as parents even in the face of difficulties and challenges. They didn’t have all the answers. In fact, in raising Jesus they learned what it meant to be a family—not a perfect or holy family, but a family of mutual love, care, and sacrifice. As Francis reminds us, holiness is manifest “in those parents who raise their children with immense love” (Gaudete et Exsultate).

The feast of the Holy Family offers an opportunity to reflect on our call to holiness. Holiness is a path for each person to discover, not a portrait to be copied and imitated sheepishly: “The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts” (Gaudete et Exsultate).

*From Sister Anne Arabome., S.S.S.
Www.uscatholic.org*



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

Safe & Sacred Certification
To renew/or start log in to 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

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

CENTURY 21
MARIA CILIA WARSITI
Real Estate Advisor/Realtor
C/ 817.441.0636 O /817-573-8801
mariaw@c21propertyadvisors.com

MGC REALTY
Michael Fronk
Broker
817-901-7345
jmj michael@yahoo.com
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

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” - *colossians 3:13*

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

“...Como el Señor los ha perdonado, así deben ustedes perdonar.” - *COLOSENSES 3-13*

Perdonar es una de las cosas difíciles para las personas. No podemos dar lo que no tenemos. Necesitamos recibir la misericordia y el perdón de Dios antes de darlos a otras personas. Acérquese al sacramento de la Reconciliación y reciba la misericordia y el perdón de Dios. Entonces, comparte el don del perdón con alguien - un miembro de la familia, un amigo o un compañero de trabajo. Tome su teléfono y llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a alguien, justo en este momento.

With Prayers and Love

Dear Heavenly Father, As we step into the unknown of 2024, we pray for hope to light our way. May this year be filled with renewal and rejuvenation, allowing us to leave behind the burdens of the past. Grant us the strength to face challenges with unwavering faith and the belief that each day brings new opportunities. We trust in Your divine guidance, knowing that You are the source of all hope and inspiration.

Thank you for Your eternal love and support. Amen.



Weekly Mass Schedule

Dates	Times
Monday, January 1*** Fr. Richard Flores	Mass 10:30 a.m. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, January 2 Fr. Bob Strittmatter	Confession—6:30 a.m. Mass 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 3 Fr. Richard Flores	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 4 Fr. Bob Strittmatter	Mass—7:00a.m. Confession—6:30 a.m.
Friday, January 5 Fr. Richard Flores	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 8 a.m.—Noon
Saturday, January 6 Fr. Richard Flores	Adoration 4:00-5:00 p.m. Confession—4:30 p.m. Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 7	Mass 10:00 a.m. (Livestream) The Epiphany of The Lord

Rosary is Monday-Friday at 6:20 a.m.
Rosary on Sunday at 8:30 a.m.
***—Holy Day of Obligation



Liturgical Ministry Schedule

Live Stream Support	
10:00 am Mass	Sunday
Dec. 31, 2023	Lisa Jones
Jan 7, 2024	Lisa Jones
Jan. 14, 2024	Howard Rattliff
Jan. 21, 2024	Isabel Garza
Jan. 28, 2024	Debra Savage

Lectors		
12/30-31	Lanette M-Vidaurri	Carolyn Yusuf Zayne Willars

Weekly Readings

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

Announcements

Monday Bible Study will resume on **January 8, 2024 at 6 p.m.** Join Deacon Tom to learn the history of the Bible.

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

As we celebrate Holy Family Sunday, let us remember that God's love for us is reflected in the love for each other in our family. Why not celebrate and encourage that love by giving your spouse the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4, 2024. To apply go to www.wvme.org. Questions – email applications@dfwme.org. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a mdgallegos06@gmail.com 214-497-0188.

The 38th Annual Martin Luther King Diocesan Memorial Mass

The 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Good Shepherd Catholic Community, 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville, TX, at 5:00 PM. The homilist will be Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, St. Louis, Mo. and the main celebrant will be Bishop Michael F. Olson, STD, MA. All are encouraged to attend.



Women's Vocation Retreat

Join us Saturday, January 13, 2024 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM for a special 'High School Girls' Day with the Sisters' retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe Priory in Georgetown, Texas! Hosted by the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, this free one-day event is for young women in grades 9-12 in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Transportation to and from the event will be provided. For more information or questions, contact us at: Vocations@fwdioc.org or call 817-945-9321. Don't miss this opportunity for a day of reflection and connection!

St. Andrew Breakfast

Join us for the St. Andrew Breakfast on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth. This event is a unique gathering for high school and college men in the Diocese of Fort Worth, featuring Holy Mass, engaging prayer and discussion. Mass begins at 8:00 am, followed by breakfast in the Parish Formation building. Limited space so reserve your spot by January 12, 2024, through email at vocations@fwdioc.org or call 817-945-9321.

Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth!

STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER

Reclaiming Our Black Catholic Liturgy 2024 Archbishop Lyke Conference

Join us June 18-22, 2024 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, Grapevine DFW Airport North, 2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine TX 76051. To obtain direct information and updates, please go to the website, www.lykeconference.com and join our mailing list.



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)

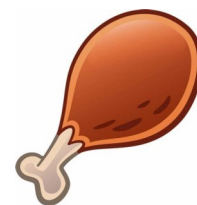
- Online Donation:** Donate online via the OMM website. www.omomftworth.org
 - QR Code:** QR code cards will be available in each church pew. Use your smart phone to scan code to make your online donation.
 - Bank Draft:** Visit your local bank to set up your account to automatically draft a check to 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



Have you moved within the last year? Please update your address with the church. We will be sending out end of the year tax statements, and want you to receive yours. Contact the parish office by phone or email.



Knights of Peter Claver, Council #89 Presents:



TURKEY LEG POP-UP KITCHEN

Sunday-February 4, 2024
11am-1pm
Claver Hall Across the Street from OMOM

Contact Art Sanford at:

Sanford.a@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 817-296-3921
Menu: Turkey Leg \$12
Red Beans & Rice \$8
Turkey Leg, Red Beans & Rice, Drink-\$20