



Advent Is Not a Countdown instead It's a Comeback

When we hear the word Advent, many people think of a countdown: four candles, four Sundays, a few weeks left until Christmas. We mark the days on calendars, we prepare gifts, we plan meals, and the world around us becomes busy, noisy, and rushed. But Advent is not meant to be a countdown. Advent is meant to be a comeback—a time when we return to God with new strength, new hope, and new faith. Think for a moment about athletes who experience injuries. When they recover, their comeback is not easy. It demands discipline, focus, and courage. They must rebuild what was lost. They must fight discouragement. They must push past their old limits. But when they return, they come back stronger, wiser, and more determined. Advent invites us to the same spiritual comeback. Throughout the year, life can weaken our spiritual muscles. Work pressures, family worries, financial struggles, and hidden fears slowly pull us away from God. Maybe our prayer life has become weak. Maybe our Mass attendance has become casual. Maybe we stopped forgiving someone. Maybe we allowed worry or anger to settle in our hearts. Advent is God's gentle invitation: Come back to Me. Let Me restore what has been lost. In the Gospel, John the Baptist stood in the desert calling people to prepare the way of the Lord. People walked miles to hear him—not because they wanted a countdown, but because they wanted a comeback. They were hungry for a fresh start, tired of old sins, and longing for God's peace. John did not tell them to decorate their homes. He told them to decorate their hearts. He called them to repentance, renewal, and readiness. And that is what God asks of us now. Reality shows us how much we need this comeback. Today people are tired—emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Many feel disconnected even though we are always online. Families struggle to find time for one another. Children grow up faster because the world pushes them too hard. Adults carry silent burdens—stress, loneliness, guilt, or regret. Advent is like a spiritual breath, a pause from the noise, a chance to rebuild what the world has broken. Imagine a house after a long storm. The roof may leak, the windows may rattle, the paint may fade. The storm doesn't destroy the house completely, but it weakens it. In the same way, the storms of life weaken the soul. Advent is the season when God becomes the repairer. He patches the cracks, strengthens the walls, and lights the rooms again. Or think of a phone that has been running too long without charging. It becomes slow, confused, and almost dead. But once you connect it to the charger, life comes back. Advent is that spiritual charger. It reconnects us to the true source that is to say Jesus Christ so that joy, peace, and hope can flow into us again. So dear friends let this Advent be your comeback. Come back to prayer even if it has been weeks. Come back to forgiveness even if someone hurt you deeply. Come back to peace even if your heart has been restless. Come back to faith even if you struggled with doubts. Come back to Mass with new desire and new love. Because when we return to God, He does something beautiful: He doesn't shame us for being far away—He celebrates that we have come home. May this Advent season restore your strength, renew your joy, deepen your faith, and prepare your heart for the One who comes to make all things new.

Amen.

Fr. Joseph Puthen

Saturday, December 13

- 5:00 p.m. † Guadalupe "Lupita" Cuellar by the family
 † Onofre Lopez by M/M Manuel Garcia
 † Federico Lopez, Jr. (birthday & anniv) by Maricela & Federico Lopez, III
 † Rafaela Villarreal on the 1st anniversary by her children

Sunday, December 14

- 8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS
 9:30 a.m.(E) † Sylvia Lopez King (3rd anniv) by the family
 † Baldemar Perez (birthday) by the family
 † Melissa & Beleser Garza, Sr. (2nd anniv) by the family
 11:15 a.m. † Rito Rene Gutierrez (21st anniv) by the family
 † Luis & Emilia De Leon by the family
 † Elvira M. Gonzales by Selina Pena
 † Salvador H. Gonzalez on the 1st anniversary by the family

Monday, December 15

NO COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday, December 16

- 7:00 a.m. † Allen Burns on the 1st anniversary by Mari Garcia & the family

Wednesday, December 17

- 7:00 a.m. † Dora B. Salinas by Grace Charles

Thursday, December 18

- 7:00 a.m. † Onofre Lopez by Mary Hinojosa

Friday, December 19

- 7:00 a.m. † Cheryl J. Pena by the family

Saturday, December 20

- 5:00 p.m. † Johnnie Howell by Jesse Howell & family
 † Oscar Martin by Paulette Howell
 † Onofre Lopez by M/M Manuel Garcia
 † Rogelio Salinas, Jr. by the Salinas family
 † Victoria Hinojosa (18th anniv) by the family

Sunday, December 21

- 8:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS
 9:30 a.m.(E) † Jaime Villarreal (birthday) by the family
 † Angelita P. Cantu (5th anniv) by the family
 † Raymundo & Nicolas "Nicki" Cantu & Omar Longoria by the Cantu family
 11:15 a.m. † Bryan Rey Garza by the family
 † Maria Falcon by Robert & Elizabeth Morales
 † Patricia B. Munoz by the family
 † Marginia Garza by the family
 † Estella Benavidez (2nd anniv) by Nathan & Dominique Rodriguez

Parish Tithes and Offerings December 6 & 7

Sacred Heart Parish

Regular Collection: \$4291.61

Online Giving: \$960.00

St. Anne Mission

Regular Collection: \$413.05



Parish Meetings & Events

Dec 17 Adoration from 8:00 am. to 7:00 pm. Schoenstatt Chapel
 Dec 24-26 Parish Office Closed for Christmas Holidays
 Dec 31-Jan 2 Parish Office Closed for New Year's Holidays

A Decision of the Heart

By Sarah Christmyer

*...forgive us our sins for we ourselves
 forgive everyone in debt to us. . .*

Luke 11:4

As I prepare for Confession, "things I have failed to do" are sometimes at the top of my list. Especially when I have failed to forgive. Maybe I should say "refused to forgive" because forgiveness is an act of the will. St. John Paul II called forgiveness "above all a personal choice, a decision of the heart to go against the natural instinct to pay back evil with evil."

I like that definition. It reminds me that I can feel hurt, or remember the injury, or live with the loss and still forgive.

"Forgive and forget" may not be possible, but it's also not necessary. Jesus looked at the men who crucified him and said, "Father, forgive them," He didn't wait until after he rose and felt no more pain. He does that for us as well.

Lord, give me the grace I need to forgive those who have hurt me.

DECEMBER & JANUARY

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass: Sacred Heart: 5:00 pm

St Anne Mission: 7:00 pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass: Sacred Heart at 10:00 am

Dec 26 NO MASS

Jan 1 New Year's Day Mass: 10:00 am

Sacred Heart Raffle Ticket Fundraiser

Donations: \$ 3,950.00

Ticket Sales: \$22,600.00

Total: \$26,550.00

Expenses: \$ 2,656.80

Profit: \$23,893.20

We want to thank everyone who helped make our ticket raffle fundraiser such a success!

Gulf Shores Rehabilitation Center

Christmas Angel Tree

Take a tag From Our Giving Tree &
 Bless A Resident!

December 1st - 15th

Drop off Your Wrapped Gift By

December 15 with the

Angel Tag attached

@1301 South Terrell St

For info: Claudia Mangel

361-325-3658

ext.115



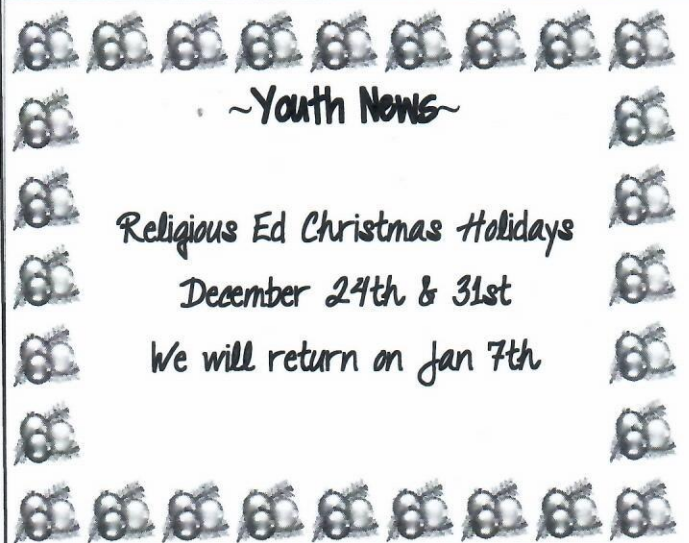
Advent Prayer



Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Spirit, help me to clearly see my sins so that I can have a lively sense of my need for a Savior. Don't leave me discouraged but give me hope that I might share more deeply in the life of Jesus through this season of preparation. As I wait on the coming of the Lord, help me to do what I can to serve those whose need is greater than my own.

Amen.



~Youth News~

Religious Ed Christmas Holidays

December 24th & 31st

We will return on Jan 7th

VOCATIONAL CROSS



5:00 p.m. Mass

Dec 13-Dec 20 Esmeralda Hinojosa
Dec 20-Dec 27 Edna Balderas
Dec 27-Jan 3 Claudia Cantu

8:00 a.m. Mass

Dec 14-Dec 21 Oralia & Rosendo Garcia
Dec 21-Dec 28 Connie & Arturo Garcia
Dec 28-Jan 4 Grace Charles

11:15 a.m. Mass

Dec 14-Dec 21 Lupe Saenz, Jr.
Dec 21-Dec 28 Pam Cabrera
Dec 28-Jan 4 Gilbert & Dominique Alegria

St. Anne Misson

9:30 a.m. Mass

Dec 14-Dec 21 Diana Martinez
Dec 21-Dec 28 Pete Rodriguez
Dec 28-Jan 4 Dora Barrera

Prayers Before Mass

Schedule for Saturdays at 4:25 pm

DEC 06 Dora Garza
13 Martha Ruiz
20 Mary Costley, Dora Garza
27 Esmeralda Hinojosa



Altar Society Schedule

For the Month of December:

Having the privilege of cleaning this month

Cleaning the altar & robes:

Mari L. & Patti Ann

Cleaning the side altars:

Irene E. & Enedelia S.

Dec 13th all members report to Church at 9:00 am



**Knights of
Columbus**

Family of the Month

Eric & Rita Ramos



Dec 7-20

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Church** is burning for:

Elvira M. Gonzales

By Selina Pena

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Guadalupe Chapel** is burning

for:

Sylvia Lopez King

By the family

The Sanctuary Candle in the **Schoenstatt Chapel** is burning

for:

B.J. Benavides

By the family

The Sanctuary Candle in **St. Anne Mission** is burning

for:

Baldemar & Delia Perez, Irene & Macie Barrera, Norma

Ramirez

By the family



Prayer Blanket Ministry

This ministry will be making blankets for people in our parish who are seriously ill. These blankets will be blessed and given to everyone on our list. Prayer is very powerful and we ask everyone in our parish to pray for these individuals on the prayer list:

12-14-25

San Juanita Perez
Agueda A. Garza
Antonio Eden Escobar
Rosalinda Escobar

12-7-25

Alberto Villarreal
Diana Barrera
Yolanda & Jesus M. Longoria
Lily Garcia
Nori Garcia
Ofilia J. Chavera
Estella Ansualda

11-30-25

Bobby Pulido
Grace Zepeda
Dolores Abrego

11-23-25

Robert Lopez
Zoe Sanders

11-16-25

Ana Gloria Guerra
Imelda Cantu