



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16

Sunday, December 17

12:30PM MPB Parishoners

7:30PM Whitney Gutierrez Birthday by Martha Parra

Monday, December 18

8:30AM Vanessa Almanza by Family

⊕Antonia San Miguel by Rosie San Miguel
 ⊕Juan & Maria Martinez by daughter
 Powell Families by John Powell
 ⊕Tony & Terrin Arenas by Family
 ⊕Connie A. Castanon by Liliana Leal

Tuesday, December 19

6:00PM †Tomasa Dominquez by Cherrie Gerstner

Wednesday, December 20

8:30AM Joseph Abran Galindao by Family

6:00PM ⊕Rolando Saenz by Family

Thursday, December 21

Friday, December 22

⊕Ejiro Diejomaoh by Family

⊕Hubert Garza by Mary Esther Garza
 ⊕Jerry Ermis by Lynn Dornbusch
 Powell Families by John Powell
 ⊕Doris Tull by Robbins Family

Saturday, December 23

4:30PM Humberto Gutierrez Birthday by Martha Parra



Religious Education Classes
PK3-5th - St. Maria Goretti Youth Center
Middle & High School - Great Hall

PK3 - 5th Grades 8:45 or 11:45am

6th Grade 8:45am 7 - 8th Grade 1:45pm 9 -12th Grade 5:00pm

MPB Youth Ministry Staff:

Alexis Martinez - Director of Youth Ministry email: mpbccym@gmail.com
Tina Villegas - Director of Religious Education email: mpbreled@yahoo.com

Altar Servers

Altar Servers assist the priest and deacon with the celebration of the Word and the Eucharist at the Mass.

Please consider becoming an altar server if you are a Catholic in good standing, male of 7+ in age and have received Baptism, 1st Communion, and in a sacramental marriage (if married).

Training will be provided. For more information and /or to volunteer, please contact Joseph Hernandez at 361-854-3800.

The Sanctuary Candles are lit in the Church, St. Jude Chapel, and Adoration Chapel. These candles are perpetually lit for two weeks for your special intention in a high place of honor which lets us know that Jesus is physically present in the Eucharist. They can be in memory of a loved one, for a special intention, in thanksgiving, or any intention. The cost is \$15.00.

Week of December 10, 2023 - December 23, 2023

The Church Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in loving memory of Ronnie L. Varnado by Family.

The St. Jude Chapel Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for Special Intentions by Anonymous.

The Adoration Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for Powell Families by John Powell.

Scripture Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56 **Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



Third Sunday of Advent



Christmas Schedule

Dec 18 - 22, 2023

8-8:30am - Confessions

8:00am Mass

5-6:00pm - Confessions

6:00pm Mass

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023 Christmas Eve

5:00pm - Vigil Mass

6:30pm - Christmas Carols

7:00pm - Vigil Mass

Monday, Dec 25, 2023 Christmas

12:00am - Midnight Mass

8:00am - Mass

10:30am - Mass

(No 6:00pm Mass)

The Parish Office will be closed **December 25 - December 31, 2023**.



Prayer of the Immaculate Conception

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Thy Son, we beseech Thee that, as by the foreseen death of Thy Son, Thou did preserve her from all stain, so too Thou would permit us, purified through her intercession, to come unto Thee. Through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

"Unlock the Sacred Art of Prayer:

A Journey with Saints"

Experience the transformative power of prayer by following in the footsteps of holy men and women like Saint Benedict, Saint Theresa of Avila, and Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Join our three week mini course led by seminarian, Javier Ebertowski, and delve into the rich spiritual tradition of the Church. the third and final class will meet on Thursday, December 21st in the parish hall from 7-8:30pm. Bring you bible, notepad, and a friend.



Timu Suriday of Adverti

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of our deceased sisters/brother:

Irene Polanco Emilia Lugo Joe Gutierrez

Eternal rest grant unto them, Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace. Amen.

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Our Parish Activities

Sunday, December 17

8:30AM RCIA FC

8:45 / 11:45AM CGS **SMG**

8:45AM 6th Grade CGS SMG

1:45PM MS RE GH

2:00 PM Baptism C

5:00PM HS RE GH

Monday, December 18

Tuesday, December 19
7:00PM Advent Reflection Series GH

Wednesday, December 20

9:45AM WINE Wednesday **GH**

3:00PM Divine Mercy SJC

6:45PM WINE Wednesday GH

7:00PM KC Assembly C1

Thursday, December 21

7:00PM Real Men's Group SMG

8:00PM AA **C2**

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24

8:30AM RCIA FC

8:45AM / 11:45AM No CGS **SMG**

8:45AM 6th Grade No CSG SMG

1:45PM No MS RE Classes GH

5:00PM No HS RE Classes GH

Legend:

C - Church

C1-C2 - Classrooms in Family Center

FC - Family Center

GH - The Great Hall in Family Center

BR - Brides Room

RG - Rose Garden

Sch - MPB School Building

SJC - Saint Jude Chapel

SMG - St. Maria Goretti

Please Pray For:

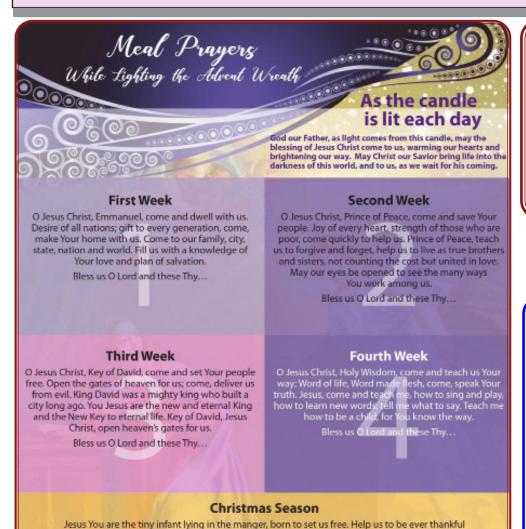
Erica Hopkins, Laura Garza,
Rosita Garza, Jackie and Lucas
Stas, John Exquivel, Terrie
Villarreal, Cynthia & Arnold
Villagran, Raymond & Alessara
Martinez and for all those who
have asked us to pray for
healing and their special
needs.

Eucharistic Adoration



"Come to Me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you..." You are greatly needed! Hours for adoration are available, contact Alice Polansky at 361-737-6360.





for your gifts and loving care. As we eat this food we do so because of your goodness to us.

So we say... Bless us O Lord and these Thy..

Third Sunday of Advent

During Lent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas 2,000 years ago at Bethlehem. For four weeks, we light candles in an Advent wreath and recall that Jesus is the "Light of the world" (John 8:12)



"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me." God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by servig in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest, Fr. Joseph Lopez at 361-854-3800 or via email at jlopez@mpbchurch.org.

Catholic Daughters Bake Sale



CDA Court Most Precious Blood invites all parishioners to our annual Christmas Bake Sale after the 4:30pm mass on Saturday, **December 16** and after the 8:00am, 10:30am, and 12:30pm masses on **December 17**. Come by our table in the church foyer for some delicious treats to share with your family and friends!

Proceeds will be used for CDA charities and projects. May God's love and peace be with all of you!

Bambinelli

Sunday (Baby Jesus' Sunday)

December 16 - 17, 2023

The faithful (especially the children) are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figurines from their home Nativity sets to the church for a special blessing at the end of each Mass that weekend.





Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

Glad you can join us!

Most Precious Blood Church

Where we strive to be Christ for each other and to lead others to Christ.

One Minute Meditations

St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England,

St. Edmund left
a brilliant
academic
career at
Oxford to
become a



Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.

Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"
(Luke 2:40).

A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

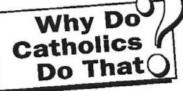
Encourage joyful anticipation. As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. "But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

Focus on prayer. Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

Serve. Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should continuously ask God

what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the

Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.

sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the

Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

Be realistic. It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.

Soothe the beast. Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

Reach out. Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

Seek the eternal. Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.

from Scripture

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it

was time to present
Jesus in the temple, His
parents couldn't afford
the customary offering
of a lamb, and instead
made the offering of
the poor – two

pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.

Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives

us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.



Q How can I& make ChristmasA joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:

Feast of the Holy Family, December 31. Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

Solemnity of Mary,

Mother of God, January 1.

Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed

Mother, asking her to help you grow
in love and trust.

Epiphany, January 7. The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8. Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.



December 3 – First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 15 – St. Maria di Rosa (1855). Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

December 27 – St. John the
Beloved (1st Century). As an apostle
and friend of Jesus, St. John was
known for his fiery
temper. Scholars
believe he is the
"beloved disciple"
who sat by
Jesus at the Last
Supper in John's

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Gospel.

Filiberto Garcia Jr. You Were So Loved... Missing You, Sylvia



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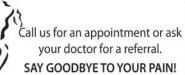
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