

# St. Mary Catholic Church

*Est. 1855*

**Mission Parish**

815 St. Mary's Church Rd.  
Fayetteville (near Ellinger)  
www.stmaryellinger.com



**Weekly Offering:** \$ 2,562.00  
**Online Giving:** \$ 453.44  
\$ 3,015.44  
**Cemetery:** \$ 364.00

*Average Weekly Operating Expenses*  
\$ 2,492

## MASSES

**Wednesday at 7:00 a.m.**  
*Marie Cook †*

**Friday at 7:00 a.m.**  
*Dorothy Selzer †*

**Saturday Vigil at 4:00 p.m.**  
*Paula Canik †*

**Sunday at 8:00 a.m.**  
*Henry & Alma Mrkwa †*

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

*Est. 1870*

207 E. Bell St.  
Fayetteville

www.stjohnfayetteville.com



**Weekly Offering:** \$ 3,897.00  
**Online Giving:** \$ 966.79  
\$ 4,863.79  
**Faith Formation:** \$ 648.00

*Average Weekly Operating Expenses*  
\$ 5,011

## MASSES

**Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.**  
*No Mass*

**Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**  
*Lorena & Rudolph Canik †*

**Thursday at 7:00 a.m.**  
*Lillian Ann Krenek †*

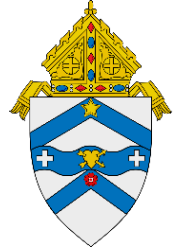
**Saturday at 7:30 a.m.**  
*Joe & Sophie Kaspar †*

**Saturday Vigil at 6:00 p.m.**  
*Mary Barber †*

**Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**  
*For the People*



**Pope Francis**  
**Vatican City State**



**Bishop Joe S. Vásquez**  
**Diocese of Austin**



# St. Martin Catholic Church

**Historic Chapel**

3490 State Hwy 237

Round Top (near Warrenton)

## MONTHLY MASS

**Tuesday, January 4, at 8:00 a.m.**  
*For the intentions left on the altar*

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

**St. John:** Wednesday 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
First Fridays 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**St. Mary:** Available before every Mass

## Mailing Address and Contact Information

P.O. Box 57

Fayetteville, Texas 78940

Phone: 979-378-2277 Fax: 979-378-4407

Email: stsjm@stjohnfayetteville.com

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 8:30-4:30 (closed for lunch)

**Rev. Steve Sauser, Pastor**  
pastor@stjohnfayetteville.com

**Deacon Robert Jasek**

## Administrative Staff

Lexus Zika

Sheryl Malinowski

Sue Zapalac

## Faith Formation

Lexus Zika lzika@stjohnfayetteville.com

## Knights of Columbus

Jim Sula kofc3168@gmail.com

## Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Suzanne Mattair njm18@flash.net

**Marriage preparation:** Contact the priest before setting the date and at least six months before the date desired.

**Baptism Preparation Classes** will be held on the fourth Monday of each month. Parents & Godparents must have attended a Baptism Preparation class within three years of the Baptism. Contact the parish office to register.

**Parish Registration** forms available at the entrance of the Church and online.

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 12, AD 2021

### PARISH LIFE

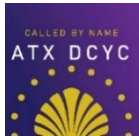
**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Hoyt Bell, Dan Castillo, Margie Chovanec, Brian Fruge, Waldine Fruge, Dan Hall, Bernita Hlinsky, Christine Kaspar, Kathy Kneblak, Betty Jean Kulhanek, Helen Mikus, Leo Miller, Richard Mueller, Cynthia Niesner, Kaycee Roesler, Barbara Tieken, Nancy Klawinsky Till, Ben Tucker, Rick Vandel, B.J. Vasek, and Maggie Williams *(Though they will remain in our prayers, names will only remain on the prayer list for two months, unless a new request is received.)*

**IN MEMORIAM:** Our parish families extend sympathies and prayers towards the families of *Mary Ann Sommerfeld* and *Nancie Harlan* who were buried recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

**YOUTH CHOIR:** The youth choir will sing for the Christmas Eve Mass at St. John on Friday, **December 24** at 5:00 p.m. Practices will be TODAY, **December 12** and Sunday, **December 19**, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass, and Tuesday, **December 21**. Students in grades 2 through 12 are welcome. For more information, call or text Rachel Schley at (979) 249-7501.

#### **FAITH FORMATION 2021-2022**

- **Grades K-1** meets **Wednesday from 6:00-6:50 p.m.**
- **Grades 2-6** meets **Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m.**
- **Grades 7-12** meets **Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**



**DCYC 2022:** All High School students are invited to celebrate their faith at the 2022 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference, **February 5-6**, where hundreds of young Catholics from across the diocese will gather for a dynamic weekend of keynote speakers, workshops, praise & worship, and fun free-time activities. Registration forms *must be returned by Friday, December 17*.

**CONFIRMATION** will be celebrated on Sunday, **January 30**, during the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. John. Please pray for our Confirmands, that they will be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

#### **SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CATECHETICAL RETREAT**

The Annual Catechist Retreat will be on Saturday, **January 8**, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in College Station from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The theme of the retreat is "Say the Word and my soul shall be Healed." All Catechists, Aides, substitute instructors, and anyone interested in serving in the Faith Formation of children or adults are asked to attend.

**CYM CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** CYM youth will be decorating St. John Church on Sunday, **December 19**, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. **All high school students** are asked to participate as we set up the manglers and decorate the church for Christmas. **Parents are welcome to join; your help will be appreciated.**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Monthly Meeting** will be on Tuesday, **December 21**, at 7:00 p.m.

**ST JOHN'S ALTAR SOCIETY** invites all ladies of the parish to their annual **Advent Party** on Tuesday, **December 14**, at 1:00 p.m. There will be a short meeting followed by bingo, lunch and more bingo! Bring a lunch item and, if you want, a gift to exchange (\$7.00 value). Make plans to attend! For questions, call Madeline at (979) 378-2361.

**ST. MARY'S ALTAR SOCIETY Annual Candy/Bake Sale** will be **next Saturday, December 18**, at the St. Mary Parish Hall, starting at 8:00 a.m. We are raffling off a beautiful quilt along with numerous nice prizes. Tickets are available from any member or after Mass. Hotdogs, sandwiches, and many Christmas items will be available. We hope to see you there!

**ST. MARY'S PARISH ADVENT DINNER** will be held on Sunday, **December 19**. A catered dinner will be served at 12:00 noon with social time beginning at 11:00 a.m. If you plan to attend, sign up on the sheet at the church entrance or call the office. Please specify if you need to bring a meal to any homebound parishioners. RSVPs should be made by **TODAY, December 12**.

**ANGEL TREE:** The CDA's "Angel Tree" gifts are due **TODAY** so that they can be distributed this week. Thank you for your generosity!

#### **CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS**

- **RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED:** The CDA will have their fundraiser meal and raffle on March 6. If you wish to donate a raffle prize, please contact Jeanne Schilling at (979) 966-7358 or Mary Jane Toddy at (979) 249 -6231 by **December 31** so that tickets can be printed in time. Prizes should not be turned in until the day of fundraiser.
- **CDA SCHOLARSHIPS:** Graduating seniors related to a living CDA member in good standing are eligible to apply for the State Scholarship. Local Scholarships are offered to graduating seniors whose mother is a CDA member of Court 1440. Contact Donna Shula at (713) 818-1470 for applications and for more information. Applications are due by **January 31**.
- **CDA EDUCATION CONTEST:** This year's topics are "With God All Things Are Possible" and "Where is God in My Life When I am Struggling?" Students in grades 4-12 and CDA members may enter. **December 31** is the deadline to for entries. For more info, please call Suzanne Mattair at (979) 249-3901.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** for members of *both* Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of America will be on Tuesday, **December 28**, at St. John's Parish Hall. The social begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Ladies are welcome to bring desserts. Each person is asked to bring a dry good item for the AMEN Food Pantry, such as cereal, rice, pasta, etc.

**2022 MISSALS:** We have a limited number of 2022 Missals available in the office for homebound parishioners.

**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES** will be distributed at the Sunday Masses, celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family, on **December 26**.

**USHERS:** We need your help during Christmas. Please let the office know if you would be available to serve at one of the Christmas Masses.

**2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES** with your name on them are on the tables at the entrance of the church. The boxes have been placed in alphabetical order. Anyone not having an assigned box, and wanting one, is asked to pick up a blank set. **EVERYONE using envelopes should place their name on the first few envelopes**, so we can be sure all information is accurate. *Please be aware that your number may have changed due to our database being updated.*

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 12, AD 2021

**2021 RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS IS TODAY!** Help the aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection. Thank you!

**CLERICAL ENDOWMENT FUND CHRISTMAS CARDS** are a good way to remember someone at Christmas and support the CEF. Purchase cards at the parish office, at Fayetteville Bank, or after Mass at St. Mary every second Sunday. For more info, call Donna Shula (979) 378-2749, or Margaret Kubala (979) 378-2877.

**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed in observance of Christmas on Friday, **December 24**. Contact the parish office by noon, Friday, **December 17**, with any items for the bulletin.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT: Online EIM Training ends on January 2!** Everyone who is due to renew EIM compliance, or whose compliance is coming due soon, is strongly encouraged to update your compliance now online – otherwise, after January 2, you will have to attend an in-person EIM Workshop in order to update your training status. To complete the online training, go to [www.austindioocese.org/workshop](http://www.austindioocese.org/workshop).

**SENIOR CITIZEN SOCIAL WILL BEGIN AGAIN** in January on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at St. John's Parish Hall. All senior citizens are invited for an afternoon of games, fellowship and refreshments. New faces are always welcome!

### **YEAR OF THE DOMESTIC CHURCH** **December Theme: Hail Mary, Full of Grace**

In a homily given by John Paul II on the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God he made the following statement: "Mary was the memory of the Church." In the Advent season the Church's memory becomes reflected through the memory of Mary. To identify with Mary in faith during this season of Advent is to be open to receive what she received.

The first gift was that of a profound sense of gratitude for the warmth of God's love given to her in Christ. His birth, his coming into this world was to reveal the fullness of God's love, and Mary was the first to believe in this love and to experience it in her life.

The second gift that Mary received was the grace of being ready and attentive, of being open to God and the power of this event in her life. This coming of Christ would disrupt her plans, it would challenge her life, the relationships of family and friends, yet through her 'yes' she would begin to see how God had chosen to reveal the Incarnate vision of His Son through her life. This is the grace that each of us receives to respond in truth and freedom to our vocation and calling in life. We are called to model our response to that of Mary in accepting and choosing our life's vocation.

As Advent unfolds may the gifts Mary received be part of our own preparation and reflection of the coming of Christ in our lives: a gratitude for our faith and an openness to live our vocations in Christ with greater fidelity. -Bishop William McGrattan

**COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US!** Prayer is powerful! Bring your intentions and come pray the Rosary at St. Mary on **Mondays at 6:00 p.m.** and/or at St. John on **Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.**

## OTHER NEWS

**SACRED HEART PARISH IN LA GRANGE** will have their parish Advent Mission, "Prepare for the Lord", on **December 14** and **15** with Father Jared Cooke. It will include talks, adoration and confession. This is a great opportunity to prepare your hearts during this Advent season!

**BROTHERS, MIGHT GOD BE CALLING YOU TO THE PRIESTHOOD?** *Heart of Jesus* is a discernment retreat for men. Take this opportunity to consider this question, listen to various talks by priests and seminarians, and socialize with brothers who are discerning the same questions as yourself. We'll also celebrate Mass and spend time in prayer and adoration. *Heart of Jesus* will take place at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton from Wednesday, **December 15** at 6 p.m. to Friday, **December 17** at 1:00 p.m. Men 18 to 40 years old are invited. RSVP at [www.godiscalling.me](http://www.godiscalling.me).

**MARRIED COUPLES:** Want to give each other something really special this Christmas? What could be a better gift for your spouse than the gift of yourself? The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be held **January 7-9** at the Wingate Hotel in Round Rock. See [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information and to apply. At the bottom of the Home Page you can even download a special gift card to tuck into your spouse's Christmas stocking. For the upcoming January Weekend only, use this code when applying: GIFT20 for \$20 off the application fee. You can also sign up by emailing [wwmeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:wwmeaustin@gmail.com) or by calling 512-677-WWME (9963). Apply early to ensure a space!

**SUPPORT OUR PARISHES WHEN YOU SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT AMAZON!** Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), sign in to your Amazon account, and select **St. John** Catholic Church, Fayetteville or **St. Mary** Catholic Church, Ellinger as your organization of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the parish you choose at no cost to you. For help or more info, visit [org.amazon.com](http://org.amazon.com).

**FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE:** Couples planning to marry should contact their priest or deacon at least nine months prior to their wedding date in order to begin the marriage preparation process. Your parish is always the best choice for your marriage preparation. Your parish priest is part of your spiritual lives. Schedule an appointment with a priest in your parish.

## Catholic Social Teaching Corner

### Dec. 11-12, Third Sunday of Advent

On this Gaudete Sunday, we await with great joy and hope for the birth of Our Savior. How does Jesus come to you today, in the whisper of the wind or in the cries of a child? How are you preparing your heart for when he will come again? Have you been to confession lately?

### Diciembre 11-12, Tercer domingo de Adviento

En este Domingo Gaudete, esperamos con gran gozo y esperanza el nacimiento de Nuestro Salvador ¿Cómo viene Jesús a usted hoy, en el susurro del viento o en el llanto de un niño? ¿Cómo está preparando su corazón para cuando Él venga de nuevo? ¿Ha asistido a la confesión últimamente?

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 12, AD 2021**

**ST. JOHN LITURGICAL DUTIES**

**LECTOR**

**Wednesday** – Grade 8  
**Saturday** – Herman Schramm  
**Sunday** – Janell Warschak

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**Wednesday** – Christine Wied, Lori Spiess  
**Saturday** – Yvonne Smith, Sharon Martinek  
**Sunday** – Mary Quiros, Jim Mattair

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Wednesday** – Grade 3 (2), Grade 5 (2)  
**Saturday** – Luke Huebner, Gregory Huebner, Lydia Huebner  
**Sunday** – Mackayla Griffin, Luke Beseda, Scotti Beseda

**GIFT BEARERS**

**Wednesday** – Grade 2  
**Saturday** – Matt Taylor Family  
**Sunday** – Brian Warschak Family

**ALTAR DUTY FOR DECEMBER**

Carrol Hollimon, Lisa Hollimon, Sara Vandel, Heather Jurecka

**USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

**Saturday** – Ronnie Chernosky, Robert Janish, Betty Kovar, Erwin Kovar  
**Sunday** – Kenneth Noska, John Spiess, David Bertsch, Lee Matocha

**ST. JOHN CONTACTS**

Pastoral Council Chair	Leslie Little	mic-all@att.net
Finance Council Chair	Steve Pavlicek	spavlicek@cvctx.com
St. John Altar Society	Madeline Kovar	979-378-2361
Pro-Life Coordinator	Nikki Beseda	nbeseda@gmail.com
K.J.Z.T.	Mary Jane Toddy	979-249-6231
Hall Rental	Parish Office	979-378-2277
Cemetery	Ronald Kramr	979-249-6152

***A Note from the Pastor***



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Advent season is a time to grow in faith, express thankfulness and embrace serving one another. In the Lord's Prayer, "thy Kingdom come" refers primarily to the final coming of the reign of God through Christ's return. This desire commits us, God's church, to eagerly wait for his coming. This Advent season as we prepare for the coming of our Lord, we should ask ourselves, "What is driving us in this preparation?"

We must become people of radical gratitude, because gratitude leads us to thanksgiving. In order to live a life of gratitude, we must drill down to the root by thanking God for everything we have, the good and the bad. Only then we can understand that we are not complete, that we are a work in progress. But, we must also understand that others are a work in progress too.

The number one enemy of gratitude is forgetfulness. Throughout the Bible, we are reminded over and over to remember. God continues to remind us of his covenant with humanity. Every day we celebrate the Eucharist because we are called to remember to be members of church, to be community, to remember the birth of Christ for our salvation. May God Bless you all. -Fr. Steve

*Third Sunday of Advent*



**ST. MARY LITURGICAL DUTIES**

**LECTOR**

**Saturday** – Rose Urban  
**Sunday** – Ashley Havel

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**Saturday** – Kole Schmitt  
**Sunday** – Luke Korenek

**USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

**Saturday** – Mark Schmitt, Mark Matocha, Bruce Kubena, Eduardo Alvarado  
**Sunday** – Luke Orsak, Donnie Becka, James Korenek, Bradley Divin

**ST. MARY CONTACTS**

Pastoral Council Chair	Joe Lamer	jaksemasok@yahoo.com
Finance Council Chair	Ed Alvarado	979-378-2348
St. Mary Altar Society	Donna Shula	979-378-2749
Pro-Life Coordinator	Aimee Korenek	amskorenek@yahoo.com
K.J.Z.T.	Mary Vrazel	979-966-8962
K.J.T.	James Korenek	amskorenek@yahoo.com
Hall Rental	Parish Office	979-378-2277
Cemetery	Vlasta Korenek	979-732-2836

**ADVENT PENANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>Dime Box</b>	Monday	December 13	7:00 p.m.
<b>La Grange</b>	Tuesday	December 14	7:15 p.m.
	Wednesday	December 15	7:15 p.m.
<b>Lexington</b>	Thursday	December 16	7:00 p.m.
<b>Fayetteville</b>	Thursday	December 16	6:00 p.m.
<b>Giddings</b>	Friday	December 17	6:00 p.m.
<b>Rockdale</b>	Monday	December 20	6:00 p.m.

**NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE**

Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m. at St. John  
 Mass during the night - 11:00 p.m. at St. Mary

**DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary  
 10:00 a.m. - St. John

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**DECEMBER 26**

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary  
 10:00 a.m. - St. John

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD** *(Not a Holy Day of obligation this year)*

**DECEMBER 31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Vigil Mass - 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary  
**JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY**

7:30 a.m. - St. John

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 1**

4:00 p.m. - St. Mary  
 6:00 p.m. - St. John

**JANUARY 2**

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary  
 10:00 a.m. - St. John