

DECEMBER 1, 2019

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
7026 FM ROAD 957
SCHULENBURG, TX 78956
ST. JOHN, TEXAS



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
11134 FM 957
SCHULENBURG, TX 78956
MORAVIA, TEXAS



REV. MSGR. JOHN C. PETERS, V.G., PASTOR

REV. SCOTT J. HILL

P.O. BOX H ♦ HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS 77964 ♦ (361) 798-5888 ♦ (361) 798-4970 FAX

Website: www.shcatholicchurch.org

E-mail: rectory@shcatholicchurch.org

MASS SCHEDULE

St. John the Baptist Church

Saturday..... 6:00 p.m.
(on 2nd and 4th)
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
(on 1st, 3rd, and 5th)
First Friday8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Hour

Ascension of Our Lord Church

Saturday..... 6:00 p.m.
(on 1st, 3rd, and 5th)
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
(on 2nd and 4th)

MARRIAGES

Consult the Pastor six (6) months in advance before making any plans or decisions.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our parish family. Please stop by the rectory or call to register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the rectory.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday Evening—5:30 p.m.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)

Dana Daughtry 713-822-3019-cell or 979-562-2381
EWTN..... Cable Channel 71 or Dish Channel 261
Direct TV Channel 370

WEBSITES

Cemetery: www.victoriadiocese.org
(Click on “Catholic Cemeteries”)
Safe Environment: www.victoriadiocese.org
(Click on “Safe Environment Program,” then on “eAppsDB”)

PARISH CONTACTS

St. John the Baptist Church

Elsie Farek.....979-562-2159

Ascension of Our Lord Church

Robert & Mary Kendall.....361-217-0624

HALL RENTAL

St. John the Baptist Church

Frank Forestier
Barbara Appelt832-643-4590 (cell)
..... 361-865-2446 (home)

Ascension of Our Lord Church

Kathy Guenther 979-562-2124 (home)
..... 979-562-2328 (work)
.....979-743-0369 (cell)

CEMETERY

St. John the Baptist Church

Dorothy Berger.....979-562-2187

Ascension of Our Lord Church

Kathy Guenther979-562-2124
..... 979-562-2328 (work)
.....979-743-0369 (cell)

MASS SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	November 30	6:00 p.m.	Royce & Jeanette Chudej-60 th Wedding Anniversary	Moravia
Sunday	December 1	9:30 a.m.	Alphonse Berger	St. John

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday	December 6	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention	St. John
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Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	December 7	6:00 p.m.	Evelyn Haas	Moravia
Sunday	December 8	9:30 a.m.	Cecilia Bujnoch	Moravia

Feast of the Immaculate Mary (not a day of Obligation this year)

Monday	December 9	8:00 a.m.	Edgar & Kenneth Bezetzny	St. John
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Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	December 14	6:00 p.m.	Alphonse Besetzny	St. John
Sunday	December 15	9:30 a.m.	George & Bernice Vasek	St. John

December 1: First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Let us rejoice in the Lord's peace., let us live honorably as we await his return.

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Reform your lives: live in God's peace so that justice may flourish.

December 9: Feast of the Immaculate of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 11:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Chosen by God, Mary reverses the sin of Eve. Because of her obedience, God's salvation is made known to all the nations.

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

In the person of Jesus, God has come to heal and save us. Patiently, yet joyfully, we await the fulfillment of his advent.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 30 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Harley Wilson, Heather Wilson,
 Sunday, December 1 – 9:30 p.m. – St. John – Wade Shimek, Bryce Machicek, Dylan Orsak
 Saturday, December 7 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Harley Wilson, Heather Wilson
 Sunday, December 8 – 9:30 p.m. – Moravia – Wade Shimek, Bryce Machicek, Dylan Orsak
 Saturday, December 14 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – Wade Shimek, Mary Beth Krischke
 Sunday, December 15 – 9:30 p.m. – St. John – Carson Pustka, Carter Pustka, Bryce Machicek



ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Desk of Msgr. John

Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

During Advent, we use the Advent wreath in Church and at home to remind us of the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Each week we light another candle to remind us we are one week closer to Christmas.

Let us use Advent to prepare ourselves well for the true celebration of Christmas.

Cherise Klekar, daughter of Robert and Margaret Klekar, of the Sacred Heart Parish Family will be making her First Profession of vows with the Sisters of the Apostles of the Interior Life at St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station, Texas, next Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Next Sunday, December 8, 2019, Cherise will be at Sacred Heart Church at the 10:30 a.m. Mass to celebrate her Profession. Come to congratulate her and wish her well. Keep her in your prayers.

Ascension of Our Lord/Moravia Church Flower Donations

Anyone wishing to donate toward Ascension of Our Lord Church Christmas Flowers in memory of loved ones may contact Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169 or mail to her at 1721 CR 248, Schulenburg Texas 78956.

Please indicate who your memorial is for and checks can be made out to Moravia Altar Society.



Ascension of Our Lord/Moravia Choir

Ascension of Our Lord/Moravia Choir will rehearse the Christmas Eve Mass Czech hymns on Sundays, December 8, 2019, and December 22, 2019, after Mass. We welcome all singers!



St. John the Baptist Flower Donations

The Christmas flower envelope is in your Offering Box for December 8. (It has a space for "memory/honor of your loved ones.") Please place the envelope in the Collection Basket on December 9 or give your donation to Patricia Berger or Dianne Roeder.



St. John Christmas Decorating

The St. John Christmas Crib and decorations will be put up on December 15 after the Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Mass. Do stay to help make our Church more beautiful for Jesus!

ASCENSION CHURCH CLEANERS FOR DECEMBER: Roxanne Deem, Colleen Deem, Caitlyn Deem

ASCENSION CHURCH USHERS FOR DECEMBER: J. G. Hrnecir, Allen Becan

ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS FOR DECEMBER: Sharon Bujnoch, Vicky Kainer, Tracy Kristinik

ST. JOHN CHURCH USHERS FOR DECEMBER: Scotty Brossman, Nathan Redman

FRIENDLY REMINDER TO PARISHIONERS

If you have information for the Bulletin, please be reminded that the Deadline for Bulletin entries is Monday at Noon.



L.A.M.B. Thrift Shop. The hours are Tuesday & Wednesday from 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The location is 1429 U.S. Hwy. 90A East. (361-217-0119).

We are still in need of a **Youth Director** and a **Religious Education Director at Sacred Heart**. Please pray about this! Please call the Rectory at 798-5888 if you are interested in either position.

PRO-LIFE CORNER—What does the Bible say about Euthanasia and *Assisted Suicide*?

The Bible tells us that human beings are unique amongst God's creatures in being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and it is on this basis, after the flood, that God introduces to all humankind the death penalty for murder (Genesis 9:6, 7).

The prohibition against killing *legally innocent* people is later formalized in the sixth commandment, "*You shall not murder.*" (Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17). The Hebrew word for "murder" is *ratsach* and its meaning is further defined in four main passages (Exodus 21:12-14; Leviticus 24:17-21; Numbers 35:16-31; Deuteronomy 19:4-13).

These passages resolve any ambiguity for us and give a precise definition of what is prohibited, namely the "*intentional* killing of an innocent human being" (Exodus 23:7; 2 Kings 21:16; Psalms 106:37, 38; Jeremiah 19:4). Euthanasia clearly falls within this biblical definition. There is no provision for compassionate killing, even at the person's request and there is no recognition of a "right to die" as all human life belongs to God (Psalms 24:1).

Our lives are not actually our own. Suicide (and therefore assisted suicide) is therefore equally wrong.

[From Dr. Peter Saunders' article from LifeNews at lifeneews.com (11-11-2013) and printed in ALLNEWS -American Life League (Dec, 2018)]

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS #797—Sacred Heart

The Craft Day for Monday, December 2, 2019, has been cancelled.

The Catholic Daughters/Knights of Columbus Christmas Party is Monday December 16, 2019 at the KC Hall starting at 6:00 p.m. Social Hour. Please bring an appetizer for the Social Hour.



Please take note that on **Sunday, December 29, 2019, (Fifth Sunday)**, we will gather as a body to attend **8:00 a.m.** Holy Mass at Sacred Heart.

Know that your participation, in Mass as a Catholic Daughter, serves as witness to the congregation of our commission to serve Christ and as an invitation to other women to join us.

★
This night!
the stars
are brightly
shining... it
is the night
of our dear
family with

Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Please pray for the Veterans who have served Our Country & have sacrificed & given so much for our freedom.

AREA EVENTS

MEN'S DAY OF FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Schulenburg, Texas, Saturday, December 7, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., starting with a Rosary at Church and a Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. to close. For additional information, call Eamon McCourt at 512-848-6259.



LIONS CLUB 40TH ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW AND COOKIE SALE—

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Hallettsville, KC Hall. Many new vendors. Door prizes and Raffle. Lunch for Sale by Knights of Columbus. Santa is visiting – 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Cookie Walk featuring over 50 varieties of home baked cookies.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Church, or if you are missing the Sacrament(s) of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation, please contact the Sacred Heart Rectory to sign up for the RCIA Classes. RCIA Classes are being taught by Father Scott Hill at Sacred Heart.





Did you know that Christmas will be here before you know it? You can get some of your early Christmas Shopping done at the Sacred Heart Church Rectory. We have added many new items, such as Children's Christmas Books, Coloring Books, ornaments and so much more. Don't forget we also have Advent Wreaths and candles.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SWEEPSTAKES RAFFLE

Once again, Catholic Life Insurance is sponsoring the Catholic School Sweepstakes Raffle that will benefit Sacred Heart Catholic School (SHCS). Tickets are only \$5.00 each and all money collected stays at SHCS.



Prizes as follows:

2020 Ford F-150 Truck or 2020 Ford Focus Sedan or \$20,000 Prepaid Visa Credit Card

Participating School Prize:

Each participating school will have a \$1,000 prepaid Visa Credit Card Individual Winner drawn from tickets sold at their school.

Tickets are available at the School, the Rectory, or any SHCS student. Drawing to be held Friday, February 14, 2020

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:
Sacred Heart Catholic School—361-798-4251

Czech Heritage Cookbook

Need a gift for someone? Buy a *Moravia Czech Heritage Cookbook*! Only \$10 each. Available at Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church (Moravia) or at Found Antique (306 N. LaGrange St., Hallettsville).



SACRED HEART BOOSTER CLUB CHRISTMAS FUDGE

The Sacred Heart Booster Club is selling homemade fudge (plain or pecan) for Christmas. It makes a perfect treat to take to your family or friends Christmas gatherings or as a great gift. The fudge comes in an 8 inch x 8 inch pan wrapped with a nice bow for \$10. If you would like to order, please contact Shanna Clark at 361-772-8527 or call the Sacred Heart School Office at 361-798-4251.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AWARDS NIGHT

Date: Monday, December 16, 2019, Place: KC Hall—Hallettsville
Social: 6:00 p.m.

Meal: 7:00 p.m., Awards Presentation to follow.

The Annual Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters Christmas Party and Awards Night has been scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2019. A delicious Roast Beef meal with an irresistible dessert will be served around 7:00 p.m. KC Service Awards and Knights of the Year plaques will also be presented. There will be plenty of door prizes including gift cards, ornaments, plants and other gifts. Doors open at 6 p.m. with an Open Bar Happy Hour including snacks. Please RSVP to KC Hall by December 11, RSVP to attend -in order to get an accurate head count. KC Hall 798-2311.

Santa is scheduled to make an appearance and a movie for the kids will be shown in the Hall of Fame room during the awards meeting.

All widows of our Deceased members please come out and join us! A Canned Good Food Drive will be held this night also. Please bring your canned goods or cash and help feed the hungry in our community, which will be donated to the Manna Food Pantry.



**2020
EXTRAVAGANZA**

The
ROARING 20s
to benefit Sacred Heart Catholic School

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020
Hallettsville Knights of Columbus Hall

**TICKET FOR ONE \$65.00 or
TICKET FOR TWO \$125.00**

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES

Hors d'oeuvres & Social	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Steak Dinner & Desserts	7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Music by Texas Dream	8:30 PM - 12:00 AM

*Enjoy an Elegant Fun-Filled Evening of Great Company,
Great Food & Music along with Amazing Silent Auction Items*

Contact Any of the Following to Get Your Tickets Now:

Sacred Heart Catholic School 361-798-4221	Bentley 361-798-5888	Peoples State Bank 361-798-3237
Sacred Heart Credit Union 361-798-4161	Huffer's Drive-In 361-798-5883	Morbox's Drive-In 361-798-4800

December

MEMORIALS



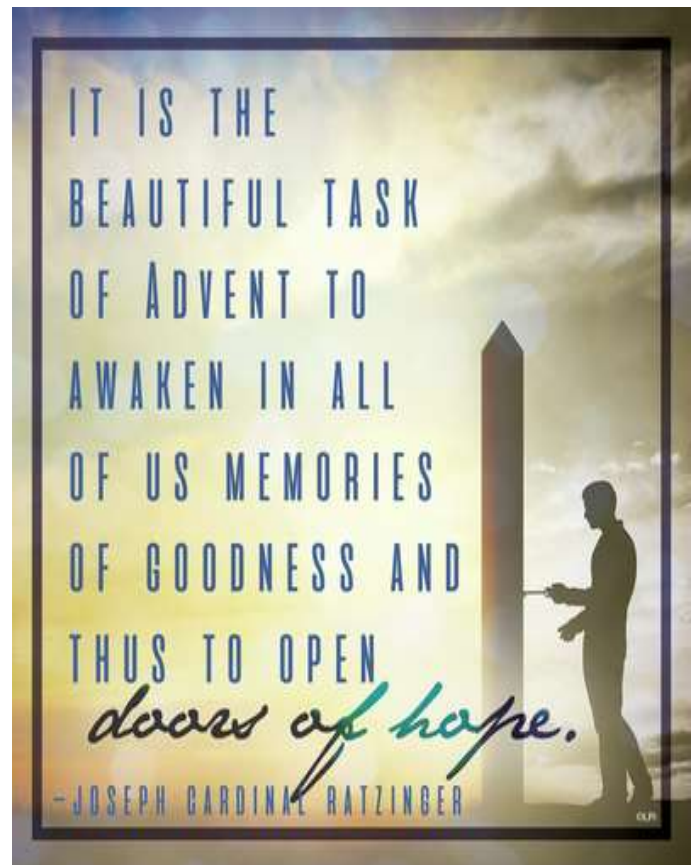
Ascension of Our Lord (Moravia) Building Fund

In Memory of Larry D. Kocich: Compassionate Care Hospice, Houston, Texas-\$25; Barbara Haas-\$50; Angela Kocich-\$50; Michael and Alesia Haas-\$100

In Memory of Bethany Simon: Barbara Haas-\$20; Dennis and Barbara Janak-\$25; Georgia Pavliska-\$20; David and Dorothy Young-\$50; Dolores Janak-\$20; Leo and Dorothy Henke-\$10; E.J. Filip-\$20; Gayle Kocich-\$20

Mary Magdalene Prison Ministry

Mary Magdalene Prison Ministry is looking for women volunteers for two upcoming retreats in Gatesville. Dates for the retreats are March 25-28, 2020 and April 22-25, 2020. Team members must be practicing Christians and must have attended an ACTS Retreat. If you are interested, please call Christie Steffek at 361-798-0841 or Karen Kahanek at 361-772-4748 for more information.



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2019

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

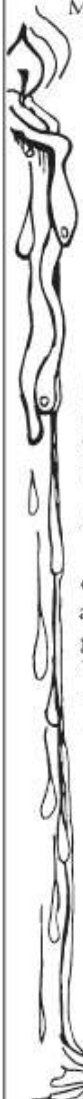
St. Maria di Rosa

Born "Paula" in Brescia, Italy, Maria di Rosa was the daughter of a mill owner and a countess. Coming from a wealthy family didn't spare her from difficulty. She lost her mother when young. At seventeen years old, she left school to work with her father at the mill. During the cholera epidemic of 1836, she cared for the sick. In 1840, she founded the Handmaids of Charity to care for the wounded during the wars.

Agent of change

True conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Salvation and faith are gifts from God – gifts that are not ours to give. Yet, believers are called to join with the Holy Spirit to bring others to God. When we have a strong and personal relationship with Jesus, we can be his agents of change.

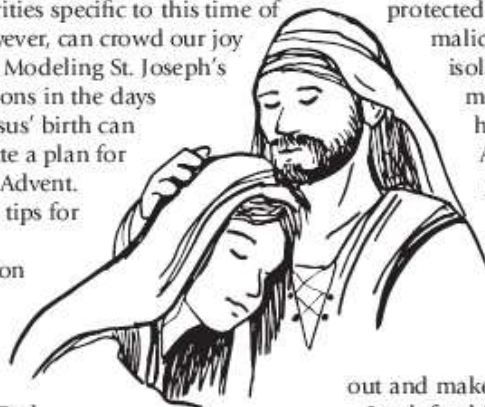
"Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
(Isaiah 40:5).



The joyful expectation of Advent

Jesus' birth at Christmas is real and amazing evidence of God's love. The priorities specific to this time of year, however, can crowd our joy and awe. Modeling St. Joseph's preparations in the days before Jesus' birth can help create a plan for our own Advent. Try these tips for joyful expectation of our Savior's birth.

Create silence. God found the quiet he needed in St. Joseph's life to speak and be heard over the noise of the carpenter's shop, the needs of neighbors, the demands of tax collectors. In the silence St. Joseph created just for him, God was able to work miracles.



Keep out the devil. When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he protected her from the evil of malicious gossip and isolation. He helped her to make a God-centered home filled with Love. Although the devil is powerful, he cannot go where he is not permitted. When we stay close to the Sacraments and live a God-centered life, we, too, keep the devil out and make room for Love.

Look for him. Can you imagine the joy with which St. Joseph expected Jesus' coming? We celebrate Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem with joy. We can joyfully welcome him into our lives now. And, with joy we can look forward to Christ's coming in glory on the Last Day.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Christmas after December 26?

The Catholic Christmas is not just one day but an entire liturgical season. It begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12th this year). During the celebration of Christmas,



we rejoice in the realization of God's plan for our salvation. God became man to save us. Thus, the Church makes sure we have enough time – almost a month – to fully celebrate such a joyful, hope-filled, destiny-altering event.

Open your heart to the Christmas promise

This time of year reminds us of our hope for a future of peace. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas.

"One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again" (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable. The world can change if the love of the Christmas Child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love.

"The poor will eat their fill; those who seek



the Lord will offer praise" (Psalm 22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable efforts a year-round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true.

"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Trust God like St. Joseph did

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, St. Joseph was used to following orders from God without question. So when the angel appeared to him in his sleep urging him to flee to Egypt, Joseph obeyed immediately. He trusted that God would take care of him and his new family.

Joseph's unquestioning obedience is remarkable when we think about what the birth of Jesus must have been like. Mary and Joseph had traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Whether on foot or donkey, it was a dirty, exhausting journey.



Once there, there was nowhere to stay except with the animals. After a short time, they fled to Egypt to escape danger, and stayed there for some years without family or friends. Through it all, Joseph trusted God to protect his family.

Being perfect didn't shield the Holy Family from experiencing pain and difficulty much like we do. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

Q & A Why does the Church year begin in Advent?

The Church has a liturgical year with its own seasons that help us to mark events that are important to Catholics. However, the Church year doesn't start on January 1, or even on December 25 — when we celebrate Christ's birthday. Instead, it begins on the first Sunday of Advent, the season before Christmas.



Advent is the perfect season for new beginnings. It's a season of preparation: the King of Kings is coming! There are three "arrivals" of Christ to prepare for and celebrate: as an infant at Bethlehem, at Mass in the Eucharist, and as the King of Glory at the end of time.

In order to properly greet such a Guest, the Church sets aside this time for us to purify our hearts and souls. Whether that means being with God in prayer, attending Confession, volunteering in the community or cleaning house, Advent is the time for it. The Church wants us to begin the year well by preparing to welcome the King who comes to "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

Feasts & Celebrations

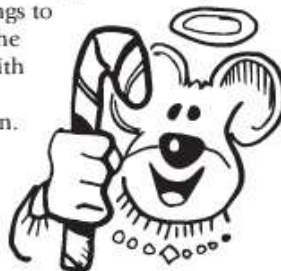
Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent. During this season, we anticipate Christ's coming. Catholics around the world light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

Dec. 9 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (1854). This feast day commemorates that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. Attending Mass is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She

asked that a chapel be built and sent him to the bishop with roses as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his cloak, it retained the image of Our Lady which can still be seen today.

Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597). Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and worked strenuously through his writings and teachings to safeguard the Catholic faith after the Reformation. His work, *The Catechism*, is still used today.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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Next Bulletin: Sunday, December 15, 2019

All announcements can be sent by email to the Rectory at

rectory@shcatholicchurch.org or can be called in to the Rectory to 361-798-5888.

Any announcements after the due date and time, will be published in the next bulletin, if applicable.

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019