

St. Anthony Church
1602 Bowie / P.O. Box 669 ~ Columbus, Texas 78934
(979)732-2562 ~ www.stanthonycolumbustx.net

Pastor: Rev. Augustine Nsiah Asante
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Nelson Gonzalez
Deacon Bennie Holesovsky
Deacon Charlie Novosad
Deacon John Glueck
Deacon Rusty Theut
Secretary: Tracey Lanham & Chrissy Espinosa: (979)732-2562, sec.stanthony@gmail.com
Church Office: 635 Bonham; Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-3:30pm

Youth Minister: Jonathan Dooley 733-7740
Bible Study: Lorraine Novosad 733-3872
Religious Education: Lorraine Novosad 733-3872

St. Anthony Catholic School
(979) 732-5505
stanthonycolumbus.net
John O'Leary, Principal

Weekday Masses: Mon, Wed & Fri 5:30pm - Tue & Thurs 7:30am
Weekend Masses: Sat. Vigil - 6:00pm; Sun. 8:00am, 10:00am, & 12:00noon (Spanish)
Confessions: Sat. 4:30pm-5:30pm in the Church & 15 min before Weekday Masses in Church Office

Liturgies for the Week

Mon	Dec 14	5:30pm	+James Hanak
Tues	Dec 15	7:30am	+Charles Besch
Wed	Dec 16	5:30pm	+Lewis Epps
Thur	Dec 17	7:30am	Daniel & Lexxus Zika (S.I.)
Thur	Dec 17	8:15am	+Hedwig Jendry
Fri	Dec 18	8:15am	+Emily Schneider Skokna
Fri	Dec 18	5:30pm	+Ramiro Garcia
Sat	Dec 19	6:00pm	Living and Deceased Members of the Roman Polach Family
Sun	Dec 20	8:00am	Living and Deceased Members of the KCs
Sun	Dec 20	10:00am	+Albert Hoelscher
Sun	Dec 20	12:00noon	Adan Alvarez (S.I.) & +Esperanza Hernandez

Lectors serving Dec. 12 & 13
6pm T. Lilie
8am J. Rau
10am N. Nelson
12pm Ma. A. Sanchez

Lectors serving Dec. 19 & 20
6pm C. Kuhn
8am M. Stavinoha
10am S. Hall
12pm V. Sanchez

Sunday, December 13, 2020
 Third Sunday of Advent

"There is one among you whom you do not recognize" (John 1:26). Today is Gaudete Sunday, or "Pink Candle" Sunday, as some children call it. It's a day for rejoicing, to rejoice "without ceasing" and "in all circumstances," St. Paul tells us (1Thessalonians 5:17-18). But why rejoice today? Because Jesus is near!

In today's Gospel, some Jewish leaders are interrogating John the Baptist about who he is. John replies that he isn't the Christ who would come to save Israel. He is merely testifying to him, proclaiming, "Make straight the way for the Lord" (John 1:23). But then he turns the conversation toward them. "There is one among you," John says, "whom you do not recognize" (1:26). *He* is the Messiah. He is so holy that John wouldn't even untie his sandal. John hoped that they would rejoice that the Messiah was near- but these men couldn't see him.

Jesus is near to us too, but sometimes we have trouble recognizing him. In the flurry of our Christmas preparations. In our grieving over a deceased loved one. In our worries about the future. Our faith tells us that Jesus is there, but it feels hard to sense his presence in our midst. Even John had trouble: "I did not know him," he says later, but "now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:33, 34).

So who makes the difference? The Holy Spirit. Jesus calls his the "Spirit of Truth" who guides us to all truth (John 16:13). The Spirit is the One who makes Jesus present to us and helps us understand who he is. John tried to show his questioner that they were missing something important. Similarly, the Spirit can open our eyes so that we don't miss seeing Jesus present in our lives.

Jesus isn't hiding he gave us the Spirit so that everyone can know him. And that's a reason to rejoice.

"Open my eyes, Holy Spirit. Help me to recognize Jesus today."
(From "The Word Among Us")

CCE Families:
 Return and Pickup Lessons in your Family Envelope at the entrance of the church.

Masses: If you would like a Mass said for a loved one, living or deceased, see Tracey in the Church Office

Prayer Chain: If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of the St. Anthony Prayer Chain, please call Tracey or Chrissy in the Church Office.

St. Anthony is in charge of the Food Pantry this week.

Calendar for the Week

Mon	Dec 14	Parish Advent Confessions, 4:00-5:00pm (with Fr. Nelson)
Tues	Dec 15	TNT Quilters, 8:00 am at Columbus Hall
Wed	Dec 16	Parish Advent Confessions, 4:00-5:00pm Youth Group, 6:00pm at Mentz Hall
Thurs	Dec 17	SAS Mass for ECH, 1st, 2nd, & 4th grades, 8:15am in Church Parish Advent Confessions, 9:00-10:00am Food Pantry will be bagging groceries, 9:00am (Volunteers needed)
Fri	Dec 18	SAS Mass, 8:15am in Church Food Pantry, Distribution of groceries, 10:00am (Volunteers needed)
Sat	Dec 19	Parish Advent Confessions, 4:00-5:00pm

Last Weekend's Collection

\$	5109.00	Envelopes
\$	627.00	Loose
\$	321.00	Paving the Way

Donations Made Last Week

\$	2015.00	Capital Campaign Donations
\$	295.00	Capital Campaign Memorials
\$	225.00	Legacy Fund Memorials
\$	50.00	A/C Donation
\$	5000.00	New Liturgical Vestments

Donations for New A/C in the Church

\$ 59,088.00 (\$130,000.00 Needed)

Donations for New Liturgical Vestments

\$ 12,444.00 (\$13,000 Needed--ALMOST THERE!!)

"Thank you for your generosity!"

"Building on our Legacy, Building for Christ!"

Your donations are appreciated. Construction of our beautiful school is complete, but we still have a loan with the Diocese, which to date totals **\$1,188,848.92**. (The loan started at \$1,300,214.50, with an interest rate of 4%.) If you would like to make a donation, please see Tracey in the church office. No gift is too small! Thank you!

The flowers on the altar this weekend were donated by the Parra and Contreras Families in honor of our Lady of Guadalupe, and by the Altar Society for Gaudete Sunday.

The **Surviving Divorce** group will meet on Thursdays at 7pm, starting on January 7, 2021, at the Cathedral Center of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. **Surviving Divorce** was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Sign up and get more information at <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/survivingdivorce>.

Parish Advent Confession Schedule:

Monday, Dec 14	4:00-5:00pm
Wednesday, Dec 16	4:00-5:00pm
Thursday, Dec 17	9:00-10:00am
Friday, Dec 18	4:00-5:00pm
Saturday, Dec 19	4:00-5:00pm

Please remember
St. Anthony Church and School in your end of year donations.

St. Anthony is in charge of the Food Pantry this week. We are looking for volunteers to help out on Thursday and Friday. Call Dennis Wagner 732-2422 with questions.

The Altar Society is accepting donations for **poinsettia plants** to decorate altars for Christmas. To donate or to remember someone special, use the envelopes at the entrances of the Church or go by the Church Office. You may put your envelope in the collection basket.

Volunteers needed to help decorate the altars for *Christmas at 9:00am on December 23.*

With the reemergence of COVID and in an effort to keep our parishioners safe, we will be limiting the amount of people at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses to 100. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church for each Mass. We know that this year has been filled with countless surprises and we thank you for patience. **Please note that the Christmas Eve Masses at 5:00pm and 9:00pm are FULL. Please select another Mass time.**

This is the Year of the Family:
 With your family this week:
Pray. Pray a Glory Be each time you are frustrated
Eat. Try a new recipe this week.
Play. Add an ornament to your tree that is rooted in the bible.

The Emmaus Center in Victoria provides individual, marital and family counseling services from a Catholic perspective. The counseling staff devotes themselves to assisting those in need regardless of their religious affiliation, gender, race or age. To schedule an appointment or for information call (361) 212-0830.
