

5:30 P.M. MASS (TEX-MEX) +Rosa Linda Martinez (3rd Anniv)- Fam. Diaz +Salvador y Rafael Lopez-Family

Prayer in the family

As we begin Advent, a good question to ask ourselves is: "When does our family pray together?" At minimum, every family should begin any meal they

take together with a prayer. In the meal prayer we ask

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Monday, Dec. 12

WHAT AN AMAZING TIME OF THE YEAR! "LORD, I HOPE THIS DAY IS GOOD! I FEEL SO LONELY & MISUNDERSTOOD!" (DON WILLIAMS) "COMFORT, GIVE COMFORT TO MY PEOPLE, SAYS YOUR GOD." (ISAIAH) "THE LORD DOES NOT DELAY HIS PROMISE..." (ST. PAUL) "LIKE A SHEPHERD, HE CARÉS FOR HIS SHEEP... HE KEÉPS THEM CLOSE TO HIS HEART!" (ISAIAH)

La oración en familia

Al comenzar la temporada del Adviento, una buena pregunta que deberíamos hacernos es: "¿Cuándo oramos en familia?" Como mínimo, toda familia debería empezar cada comida que comen como familia con una oración. En esta oración le pedimos a Dios que bendiga la comida, que ayude a los pobres y a los que tienen hambre y al final de la comida le damos gracias por lo que hemos recibido. O podemos también orar espontáneamente, o sea, que cada miembro de la familia diga una oración personal y corta. En el mundo de hoy, muchas personas no comen juntas en familia, pero cuando haya una oportunidad de hacerlo, las personas deberían orar juntas en familia. No hay casi ni que decir que debemos celebrar la Eucaristía en familia. En las parroquias donde hay un salón para los pequeñitos, la familia completa puede sentarse junta allí para incluir a los bebés también. Cuando la parroquia no tiene uno de estos salones, puede que la familia tenga que celebrar la Eucaristía por turnos: la mamá va a una Misa con algunos de los hijos mientras que el papá se queda en casa cuidando a los más pequeñitos. Entonces le toca ir al papá y la mamá se queda en casa con los hijos. No nos gustaría que el llanto o el comportamiento de nuestros hijos fuera causa de distracción para los demás en la Misa. Esta temporada de Adviento, ¿podrían hacerse otra pregunta? ¿De qué otra manera podríamos orar en familia? ¿Podríamos leer la Biblia juntos? ¿Podríamos orar el rosario juntos, quizás ante el altarcito que tenemos en casa? Quizás tengamos que usar nuestra imaginación para conseguir esto, pero vamos a ver que mejoraremos como familia si lo hacemos.

7:00 P.M. FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS +Rodney Erlinger- Mom & Dad +Elva Hernandez (3rd Anniv)- Beloved Husband, Franscisco Hernandez & Children

3:00 P.M. WEDDING OF JAVIER OLIVARES & VANESSA TOVAR

A/G 15th Birthday Blessing of Diana Carolina Hernandez Leal– Fam. +Adalberto Ramirez– Eposa, Carmen Ramirez & Fam. +Santos L. Salinas- Oralia Diaz Health of Betty Garza- Guadalupanas



God to bless the food, we ask him to remember the poor starving, and at the end of the meal we thank him for what we have received. Or we can pray

"spontaneously," that is, with each family member making up his or her own short prayer. In today's fast-paced society, most often we do not even eat together as a family. But on those rare occasions when we do, we should pray together.

It goes without saying that we should celebrate the Eucharist together as a family. In parishes where there is a cry room, the whole family could sit together in the cry room to include the infants. When the parish has no cry room, the family may have to attend the Mass in shifts: Mom going to one Mass with some of the children while Dad stays at home to watch the little ones. Then it is Dad's turn to go to Mass, and Mom stavs home to watch the children. We would not want the crying or activity of our children to disturb others at Mass.

This Advent, could you ask yourself one more question? How else might we pray together as a family? Can we find time to read the Bible together? Could we say the rosary together, perhaps before the family altar*cito*? We may have to use our imagination, but we'll be a better family if we do.





JAMAICA & RAFFLE NEXT SUNDAY NICHT, DECEMBER 11TH!! WE HOPE AND PRAY (AND BEG) THAT EVERY FAMILY GAN SELL OR BUY ONE OR TWO BOOKS! MAYBE THIS'LL BE YOUR TRUCK NEXT SUNDAY!

Have you sold or bought your tickets yet? Let's make A BIG PUSH this week and surpass the 1000 book, \$100,000.00+ mark!! We CAN do it!!

This is the weekend of the Second Sunday of Advent, time of preparation, of "tuning in" to the energy of Christ, who is already coming, is already at work in the stories of our lives, even in ways we can't really perceive at all yet, kind of like the wonderful, mysterious growth of that baby in his mother's womb after the miracle of conception takes place. Can you hope, expect, believe that the mystery of Christ is at work and has been and will be in the messy, funny, wonderful, magic, tragic, adventure and story of your life? That's what we're sensing, savoring, sharing, communicating & celebrating.

TUESDAY, Dec. 6th, is the Feast of the great St. Nicholas! Somebody on TV was saying that "Santa Claus" is not really a religious symbol. Oh, yes he is! St. Nick was a big-hearted priest of Jesus Christ and a bishop in Myra, near modern-day Turkey back in the 4th century. He was famous for his generosity, especially to the poor and to children. Also, Dec. 6th would have been +Augie's 10th Birthday! He died last Nov. 29th. His fine brother and "litter mate," Chunkly, celebrates his 10th birthday without his noble brother. Happy sweet, sad, birthday Chunkly!

Thursday, December 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. That is, she was conceived already baptized in a sense, and so, prepared by God to be the Mother of His Son. We'll honor her in these weekend masses and there will be a special mass of the Immaculate Conception at 6:55 A.M. and 7 P.M. on Thursday. You can consider this weekend the "Eve of the eve" of her feast if you can't come on Thursday. We'll be honoring her "big time" next weekend with the great feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

"The Earth is full of the maternity of Mary, and souls are also replete with it." "When the angel greets Mary with the words, 'Hail, full of grace!' in a certain sense, but one that is nonetheless real—God awaits her personal choice. For freedom is the indispensable condition of love and of self-giving to God. May Mary grant us that faith with which she chanted her "Magnificant:" MAY WE SHARE HER FAITH, WHICH IS SUCH THAT IT CAN RENDER US STRONG AND UNWAVERING IN OUR ADHERENCE TO CHRIST" (+John Paul II)

Monday, December 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! We'll honor her with MAÑANITAS & PROCESSION AND DRAMA at 6:00 A.M. and MASS at 7:30 A.M. with the beautiful drama of her apparitions to Juan Diego presented by our fine senior Youth Group, Class of 2012. After mass, everybody's invited to the hall for chocolate & pan dulce, courtesy of our Guadalupanas. It'll be the beginning of a beautiful day in the neighborhood! NO CCD NEXT SATURDAY, DEC. 10th!

We'll also be honoring and remembering her with dramas presented by our fine Youth Groups at all the masses next weekend. You might want to bring your camera for those beautiful celebrations on Saturday and Sunday in honor of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of Christ and Our Mother! THE JAMAICA BEGINS AT 4 P.M. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH. THE RAFFLE STARTS AT ABOUT 8 P.M.(?)! (Mas o menos) The truck out to be raffled by about 10 P.M.. Somebody will win it! It could be you! (If you bought a ticket!)

We'll be needing volunteers to help out with food, with setting up & running boths, to assist Mr. Beltran on the electrical necessities and to help manage the tremendous trash flow!

As the great mid-Advent Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe draws near, we pray and scramble to get ready for our BIG, wonderful, and enjoyable Jamaica, Raffle, and Masses in her honor. We're looking forward to some more volunteers and donations. Cakes for cake walk, 3 liter cokes, flour tortillas, maseca, napkins, Funnel cake makers and makings, raffle prizes. Pitch in if you can and how you can. It'll be a beautiful day and night in the neighborhood!! Lord, send us Your spirit!

Then... after that... The fantastic and fine Feast of Christmas! Nobody does it like we do! How sweet it is!

LET'S PREPARE	THE BIRTH
TO CELEBRATE	OF CHRIST!!
WITH FAITH	"DOWN HOME"
HOPE, AND LOVE	WITH US.



Of course, as we get to the great Feast of O.L.G, we're movin' on to Christmas. We'll have FIVE beautiful night (midnight style) masses on the 24th and one (maybe two) beautiful daytime mass on the 25th. Among the many beautiful experiences of the Christmas mass is the arrival of the "multitude of heavenly hosts!" We're looking for angels for all those masses. The more the merrier! Call the office to "be an angel!" or to sign your son or daughter up as an angel! One of our sweet, sad, powerful memories this Christmas is our soldier hero, +Alex Gonzalez, as the angel of the Lord announcing to the shepherds the good news at the midnight mass in 2005, his senior year. iQue cosas! God blesses us as we celebrate the great mystery! Powerful, sweet, sad prayers rise up from our hearts and we offer them to God with the bread and wine and we are nourished by His love as we celebrate the great mystery of His love!

Did you see that stack of old cedar shingles out on the SE corner of the church yard and think "old Fr. Roy is sure a slob!"? Well, that's true, BUT those are old shingles from the La Lomita chapel that you might want for a souvenir, "recuerdo," and maybe some homemade art project. So, there is sometimes some method to my messes.! If you'd want to make a donation for the shingles, we'd put it in the restoration expansion fund and we'd sure appreciate it and need it!

**Last week's Collection: \$13,935.38

Your parish envelopes are already at the back of the church. Thanks for your faithful & big-hearted support!

We will tenderly and lovingly remember all our sick friends and parishioners at all our week-end masses. Also please remember in your prayers, <u>+Ramiro</u> <u>Tijerina & +Leo Madrid Robles</u>, who died last week, and their families in their great sorrow. Que brille para ellos la luz perpetua.

ADVENT PRAYER: WATCHING AND WAITING, for you, Lord Jesus, watching and waiting, for you in prayer. Jesus, you are the beginning and the end of everything. You touch my life from A to Z. You are the Alpha and the Omega. You are the center around which my life keeps spinning from birth till death: my Bethlehem to my Calvary. Watching and waiting for you, Lord Jesus, watching and waiting for you in prayer. Jesus, you stand there on the shore of my life, calling me to drop everything and follow you. You are still the Storyteller, telling me about the Kingdom. You are still the Healer, ready to heal me of bad memories and of my mistakes. You are still the Lover, standing on the lakeshore of my death, ready to feed me, ready to love me, ready to bring me into eternity. – Andrew Costello

Advent St. Nicholas Blessing Prayer

St. Nicholas, holy patron of Children, Bishop of the East, we invite you to come among us to grant us your holy blessing. Help us in this busy, busy season not to miss the miracle of the coming of Emmanuel in the days of preparation as well as on the feast itself. Help us not to be blind to the gifts of getting ready. Protect us from insincerity. May every greeting we send be signed with love, friendship, and prayer. May our greetings, so written, be fun to open and treasures to keep. Kind, St. Nicholas, protect us from shopper's fatigue. Show us how to take delight in the marketplace, now transformed in beauty, lights, and music. Save us all from anxiety over what to give that we may concentrate on how to give. Stand by the stepladder as we decorate our homes and trees and lives. May our decorations not be mute but rather singing symbols, sacred signs of the evergreen coming of the Lord of Life. Help us to remember that mistletoe, holly, and all other ornaments of the season were sacred signs to ancient believers. But, most of all, jolly saint of toys and sweets, help us to stay youthful, humorous, playful, and dream-filled as we prepare together for the coming of Christ with Advent longing. St. Nicholas, pray for us! Amen. (Edward Hays)

This week, we think a lot about Mary wondering, waiting, longing, hoping, yearning, for that beautiful baby to be born! She's a great patron Saint for our wondering, searching and longing. We hope this day is good and the wisdom of the sacred scriptures tells us, "It will be good! Good days are on the way!" Mary must have felt and prayed a lot like Don Williams.

"Lord, I Hope This Day is Good" by Don Williams

Lord, I hope this day is good,		Lord, I hope this day is good,	But it would be easy for you
I'm feeling empty and misunderstood.	I don't need fortune and I don't need	I'm feeling empty and misunderstood.	
I should be thankful Lord I know I should,	fame,	I should be thankful Lord I know I should,	Lord, I hope this day is good,
But, Lord, I hope this day is good.	Send down the thunder, Lord, send down	But, Lord, I hope this day is good.	I'm feeling empty and misunderstood.
	the rain.		I should be thankful Lord I know I should,
Lord have you forgotten me I've been	But when you're planning just how it will	You've been the King since the dawn of	But, Lord, I hope this day is good.
prayin' to you faithfully	be,	time,	
I'm not saying I am a righteous man	Plan a good day for me.	All that I'm asking is a little less cryin'.	
But Lord I know you understand.		It might be hard for the devil to do,	