



From the desk of our Parish Administrator

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1Thes 5:16-17). The Liturgy for this Sunday reminds us that we must rejoice. In the context of Advent, we must rejoice because the Jesus’birth is near at hand. We must rejoice because God constantly gives the gift of his friendship and of his forgiveness. We must rejoice because God Himself has not let our sins overwhelm our desires to be better persons. Just as much as we rejoice every year for the birth of Jesus, so often we must fill our hearts with joy. Is Christian joy superficial and careless about the injustices, sins and violence that go on around the world? Should, we as Christians not sympathize with all those suffering in other parts of the world and cry with them? Is Christian joy indifferent to the suffering of others? Our joy does not forget about the suffering and pain that go on in the world. Christian joy proclaims to the world that there are reasons to shed tears, but there are thousands of reasons more to rejoice. God has looked down on man, his creation, and has had pity on their suffering. It is not that Christians forget about the evil in the world. They know that evil will be overcome by God’s saving action. That the last word to be pronounced in history will be love, not hatred. Joy and peace are the two words that resound constantly in the Christmas season. Let us not be afraid of experiencing joy in spite of whatever evil and suffering might happen in our lives. It is time to celebrate the awesome message of God’s love: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn 3:16). Let us continue to approach Bethlehem with an open heart and to receive warmly the birth of our Lord. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely in the Lord Jesus,
Fr. Rodolfo Caballero



During this Season of Welcome you are encouraged to share the gift of your faith and mercy that you have received in the fullness of the Catholic Church. After prayer, you should befriend the person the Holy Spirit will lead you to. Make sure your invitation

is based on authentic care of the other, otherwise it might come across as superficial or agenda driven. Be confident in the Holy Spirit that he is preparing the heart of the person you have in mind so they are receptive to the invitation. However, do not be discouraged if your invitation is declined. Remember, God works in His time, not ours.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays has a time change. The new hours will be after the 8:00am morning mass until 7:00pm.

Our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for this Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00pm in the church. Several priest will be at our church to assist Fr. Rodolfo.

Altar Training for Christmas - December 18th from 7:00pm till 8:00pm in the church. For more information please contact Roxanne Zigmond at 415-7821.

Counselor Karen Bagwell has offered her counseling services free of charge to our parishioners between now and January, 2015. Contact information is 210-264-2565.

If you are interested in providing fresh flowers for the altar contact Marilyn Pruski at 215-8117.

Heed Pope Francis’ call to improve your marriage. Achieve a union of mind and heart you never thought possible on a Marriage Encounter Weekend, January 16-18 at the Oblate Retreat House. Call Rob & Cris Johnson at 361-537-4997 or apply online at www.mesanantonio.org/.

The Sanctuary Lamp is sponsored by Jeanette Morrisett In Memory of Fr. Tom O’Brien (12/07-12/20).

The Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Jerome & Our Lady of Guadalupe Statues are sponsored by John & Maria Castillo - Birthday Blessings for Albert , Gabriel, Michael & Christopher (12/07-12/20).



Third Week of Advent - “A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.” – (John 1:6-7). John the Baptist was a witness for Jesus. He gave witness to Jesus, the Light of the world. He testified by his

life and his words. John did not pretend to be the Messiah. He did not try to call people to himself. He was always pointing the way to Jesus. We too are called to be witnesses to Jesus and sent by God to testify to the Light.

Collection Attendance 629

Sunday December 7, 2014

Sunday Offering \$7,650.00

Building Fund \$3,169.00

Fr. Rodolfo’s B. F. Donation \$1,000.00



Third Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection today for the Retired Men & Women Religious

Please be generous to those who have dedicated their whole life in service to God and serving others.

Below is a statement from Pope Francis regarding consecrated Men & Woman and their importance.

Consecrated persons are a sign of God in the different areas of life, they are leaven for the growth of a more just and fraternal society, they are the prophecy of sharing with the least and the poor. Thus understood and lived, consecrated life appears as what it really is: a gift from God, a gift of God to the Church, a gift of God to his People! Every consecrated person is a gift for the People of God on their journey. (*Pope Francis*)

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul food Pantry will close December 18, 2014 for the Christmas season. The Pantry will re-open on January 7, 2015. Always, *Thank You* for your generosity.

The family of Frank Lazar would like to express gratitude for all the love and support shown by the St. Jerome community. The family was appreciative of the help from the bereavement committee, musicians, choir, funeral coordinators and office staff in making their father's funeral touching and meaningful. The family would also like to extend a thank you to all the parishioners who provided the delicious food for the reception. A special thank you to Father Rodolfo and Deacon Ed for the recitation of the Rosary and celebrating the Funeral Mass.

The Office of Marriage and Family Life 2015 Marriage Formation Weekend Schedule English classes and *Spanish classes in italics*

January 17-18, 2015 (St. Jerome Catholic Church)

February 28- March 1, 2015 (Spanish class)

March 14-15, 2015

May 30-31, 2015

July 25-26, 2015

August 22-23, 2015 (Spanish class)

September 19-20, 2015

November 14-15, 2015



If you have any questions regarding the sessions or would like your name placed on the list please contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at 210-734-1650. You must be registered to attend.

The Knights of Columbus Council #4315 is inviting everyone to a New Year's Eve Steak Dinner and Dance on Wednesday, December 31, 2014. dinner will begin at 7:00pm and dance at 8:30pm. Music will be by Wrangler country. BYOB, set-ups will be provided. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Location is the Knights of Columbus Hall at 5721 Rigsby. For Tickets or more information you may call 210-648-0381.

Online Giving Program

We are excited to inform you that beginning this month we will offer the option of Online Giving for your donations.

As a parish that seeks to serve, this is our opportunity to provide you the convenience of being able to give your offering the way you want, whenever you want. Online

Giving offers you the opportunity to make secure, automatic contributions from your bank or credit/debit card account to St. Jerome. Online Giving costs you nothing.

Pavers For The Prayer Garden—Just a few spots left. Forms are in the Gathering Area of the church. Contact Frank Bennett for more information at 867-7281.

Join iGive.com for free so that St. Jerome Catholic Church can earn money whenever you shop online. You can help by signing up at <http://www.iGive.com/StJeromeCatholicChurch/>. Now, iGive is helping even more by donating \$5 for every new member who joins before December 15th. No purchase necessary.

Is a Wedding in Your Future?

Fr. Rodolfo has new guidelines for upcoming marriages. Please contact the parish office for more details. The Church Wedding date will not be scheduled until the necessary requirements are met.



Sausage Wrap/Bake Sale

The St. Jerome Girl Scouts are having a fundraiser this Sunday, December 14th starting after the 8:30am morning mass and continuing throughout the morning. The funds will help sponsor a planned ski trip for the Girl Scouts.

Holy Shroud Pilgrimage—from San Antonio

Join Fr. Ed Hauf, O.M.I. and Mary Jane Fox, Co-Director of the Pilgrim Center of Hope, on an incredible 12-day journey to Italy to view the original Holy Shroud. Imagine attending Mass in the presence of the Holy Shroud, on display in the Cathedral of Turin! This pilgrimage (June 7-19, 2015) includes 3 nights in Turin, a day in Castel Nuovo D'Asti (birthplace of St. John Bosco), 3 nights in Assisi, time in Cascia to pray at the tomb of St. Rita of Cascia and to view the Eucharistic Miracle of Cascia and, finally, 5 nights in Rome! For more information call Pilgrim Center of Hope at 210-521-3377.

St. Benedict Catholic Church

St. Benedict's Parish School will be celebrating its 55th opening on Saturday January 17, 2015, at the Whitley Center in San Antonio. Alumni, Staff & Friends are invited to attend. For more information you may contact Linda Murphy at 830-714-4182.

Called to Christmas

**This Sunday
December 14,
Time: 6:30 PM
untill 7:30 PM
Location:
O'Brien Hall,
7955 Real Rd**



**Refreshments and Cookies
will be provided after the program.**

Hosted by: St. Jerome Life Teen & CCD classes

All Parishioners, families and guests are invited attend!

**For questions regarding this special event,
please contact Jessica Lubianski @ 936-672-1448**

The Children's Choir sang on December 7th, at the 11:00am morning Mass. We are very proud of the children's dedication and enthusiasm. We also would like to thank Jessica Lubianski and Karen Foster for their leadership and musical talent.



All children of our parish are welcome to join this choir. Contact Jessica Lubianski!

Last Sunday, December 7th, at the 11:00am Mass the RCIA candidates celebrated the Rite of Acceptance. The candidate, known as an "inquirer," may seek acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, through the Rite of Acceptance. During this Rite, the inquirer stands amidst the parish community and states that he or she wants to become a baptized member of the Catholic Church. The parish assembly affirms this desire and the inquirer becomes a "catechumen." Our Candidates are: Deanna Gregory, Raymond Gregory, Sue Ann Hayes, Jenna Johnson, Elizabeth Kasper, Johnathan Malish, Gabriel Rios, Nicole Roman, Confirmandi are: Kenneth Hubbart, Patricia Esparza. Also the following will be completing their iniation sacraments: John Dix, Anthony Schultz Jr., and Joe Factor. Picture below are a few of the group.



The next 2nd Collection will be for Assumption Seminary during the Christmas Masses. Your generous support will help our Seminarians.



Last Sunday, December 7th the CYO Basketball Season had its kickoff. Fr. Rodolfo gave the children and their coaches a blessing at the 11:00am Mass. Pictured above are a few of the CYO basketball athletics representing various age groups. Wishing the coaches and children a safe and fun season. **Way to go Gators!**

Third Sunday of Advent

Please Pray for the following:

Jessica Ahr, Johnny Ahr, Glenn Andrews, Terri Appelt, Cooper Barnett, Ronnie Barnett, Marcy Berden, Terry Botkin, Courtney Burton, Charlie Chavez, Joseph CiHerski, Clarkson Family, Nancy Corando, Sandra Dorsey, Dora Esqueda, Judy Evans, Enrique Flores, Elaine Forrest, Shirley Friesenhahn, Stacy Hamilton Garcia, James Gawlik, Amanda Gawlik, Lambert Gawlik, Ramon Gaytan, Irene Gerlich, Mellisa Gonzales, Lucy Golla, Gina Guerra, Byrl Hester III, Bill Hosek, Jr., Susan Hosek, Larry Ibrom, Maggie Ibrom, Charles Kalka Jr., Gilbert Kiolbassa, Margie Kiolbassa, Tillie Kosub, Jennifer Kotrola, Robert Kurtz, Connie Kuykendall, David Kzapol, Charles & June Lammons, David Lammons, Frank Lazar, Jennifer Laskowski, Rosalie Leal, Susan Lyssy, Maddie, Doris Mergele, McClain, Margorite McMann, Theo Mihalski, Lenior Moy, Patricia Moy, Arnold Lyro, Karen Jo Marshal, Jacob Martin, Ronald Miller, Yolanda Moreno, Cindy Murray, Elaine Pawelek, Alice Pollok, Annie Pruski, Olga Quiroz, Deanna Real, Rita Real, Joseph Reese, Janet Rangel, Randall Reese, Catherine Richter, Terri Royce, Philip Scheel, Christine Scott, Jacob Scott, Raymond Skloss, Gene Snoga, Anton Strzelczyk, Jo Sturbe, Helen Syamken, Kathy Tausch, Tara Thurman & Baby Madison, John Thornton, Sylvia Trujillo, C. Barry Turk, Colby Turk, Thomas Turk, Louis Vontur, Elenor Vrsalik, Latham Walleck, Daniel Warzecka, Clara Wiatrek, Barbara Wiatrek, Kyle Wiatrek, Nicole Winston, Barbara Witherspoon, Carolyn Wollney, Mary Zrenner

Please Pray for our Military:

Caleb Brooks, Derek Christa, Ryan Deuwall, Wayne Hosek, Michael Weston, Eric McDonald, Eric Williamson, Omero Lopez, Ryan Clemons, Kevin Kotrola, Matt Kuwamoto, Sicily Rios, Elizabeth Ferris, Suzanne Lonsberry



SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Engaged couples should make arrangements with Pastor at least six months in advance. Sponsor couple or engaged encounter weekend required before a wedding can be scheduled.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptismal Instruction for parents and sponsors is held the third Thursday of each month from 7:00pm-8:00pm. Participants MUST register prior to the class by contacting the Parish Office. A birth certificate must be brought to the class. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 p.m.-4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Please notify the church office of a parishioner who is homebound or ill at home or in the hospital.

FUNERALS

If a member of the immediate family dies in the Lord, please notify the parish office before making arrangements with the funeral home.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 16, 8:00pm

†Alouis & Ernestine Lejeski,
†Sonny and Fred Kotara

Wednesday, December 17, 8:00am

†Henry Bronder

Thursday, December 18, 8:00am

For the Healing of Lambert Gawlik,
For a Special Intention

Friday, December 19, 8:00am

†James McDaniel,
†Ellen Tabbert

Saturday, December 13, 5:00pm

†Charlie, William and Dorothy Kalka,
†Alouis & Ernestine Lejeski, †Luis Garza,
†Butch Bednarz, †Pat Traugott Sr.,
†Janice Norman

Sunday, December 14, 8:30am

†Klepac, Schneider, Wenzel and Christa Families, †Hilmar Wenzel, †Larry Yanta, †Leroy Lutz, †William Schick, †Frank Tudyk, †Kaitlyn Minter, †Clarence Shodrok, †For the Intention of Mr. & Mrs. John Morgan, For the Healing of Lambert Gawlik, For the Healing of Carolyn Wollney

Sunday, December 14, 11:00am

†Bill Gillespie, †Joyce Rawley,
For a Special Intention

Sunday, December 14, 5:00pm

For Our Sick Parishioners

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Rodolfo Caballero, Administrator

Edward Jimenez, Deacon

Charles Lammons, Deacon

Diane Davis, Parish Secretary

Patricia Flores, Part-Time Secretary

Sandra Dorsey, DRE Contact 260-3489

Tom Haltzenbuehler, General Manager

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meets 1st Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Cartwright, *President*

Larry Keller, *Vice President*

Kellie Wiatrek, *Secretary*

Members

Cynthia Farmer, Joe Jasik, Lloyd Welty, Bill Thoms, Frances Zunker, Catherine Richter

FINANCE COUNCIL

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:00pm

Members

Jerry Pruski, George Kiolbassa, Burnell Gates, Pelagius Moczygamba, Wayne Pape, Mark Blandford, Anthony Mihalski

PARISH LIFE

Eucharistic Ministers Beth Pape 254-7819

Altar Servers Roxanne Zigmond
415-7821

Altar Society Last Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Darlene LaVelle,
274-2555

Senior Gathering 2nd Thurs. 11:00 a.m.
Joyce Royce 649-1210

A.C.T.S. Daryl Wagoner 316-2160

Men's Club 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m.

Mike Kallies 649-3606

C.Y.O. 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Jessica Ahr 218-0862

Boy Scouts Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Jason Eittriem 627-3844

Cub Scouts Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

Richard Ruiz 636-8933

Girl Scouts Debbie Balderas 648-6107

Music Ministry Frances Zunker 380-3295

Youth Ministry Daniel Rocha 286-1944

Little Rock Scripture Louis Rios 648-1900

R.C.I.A. Every Monday 7:00 p.m.
Edward Jimenez 649-2070

Hall Rentals Diane Swientek 219-6646

St. Jerome Cemetery Marilyn Rivas 846-5038

Ushers Wayne Pape 336-5854

Companions for the 3rd Tuesday 10:00 a.m.

Journey Alice Rutkowski 296-1380

Baptismal Class Conrad Urteaga 838-4186

3rd Thursday 7:00pm

Life Teen Cynthia Farmer

685-1581