



# ALL SAINTS

*A Stewardship Parish*

Volume 15, Issue 12

## Inside

- 2 Let Us Find the Many Opportunities to Share and Encounter Christ this Season
- 3 Working Together at All Saints Catholic School to Make "Christmas for Everyone"
- 4 Bringing Others into the Loving Arms of Christ During Advent and Christmas
- 6 Masters of Ceremony Working to Ensure a Smooth and Sacred Liturgy
- 7 Neglect of a Child: *The Most Common Form of Abuse*

*Our Parish Newsletter:*

*Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.*

*A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator*

## Stewardship Possibilities are Endless at Christmas

Dear Saints,

When I think of December, the first thing that comes to mind is Christmas. While that may seem to be the obvious topic, there really are a number of other possibilities. I could think of *Advent*, a season of preparation. I could think of the *Immaculate Conception*, as we celebrate God's gift to the world in Mary. I could think of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, whose popularity has spread far beyond the Hispanic community. Of course, December also holds the first day of *winter*. And because December marks the end of the civil year, I might be developing my resolutions for the New Year!

But instead, I think about Christmas. It is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Babe in the manger in Bethlehem, who is the eternal Son of God made man.

The basic truth of Christmas — celebrating the birth of Jesus the Messiah, God Incarnate — is plenty of reason for us all to rejoice and worship. But we've piled such an additional load onto our Christmas observance that worship may be lost in the shuffle.

Think about what weight Christmas has to bear. We have to put up the decorations, or make travel plans to visit relatives. There is also the Christmas dinner to plan and cook. And then, we still have Christmas presents to buy. No wonder the Christ Mass becomes an afterthought!

Yet, we still have a wonderful opportunity this season — an opportunity to combine our Christmas activities with our stewardship commitments. Treasure, although challenging, is the simplest. Shouldn't the most expensive Christmas present we give be the one to Jesus, Whose birthday we're celebrating? Risen and glorified, He needs nothing we have. But His Body, the Church, continues Jesus' mission here on earth and always needs additional resources.

Time and Talent may be a little more complicated, but can't we spend a little more of our time in worship and prayer? Maybe you can attend Mass each day of the Christmas



*continued on back cover*



# ALL SAINTS

page 2



## LET US FIND THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AND ENCOUNTER CHRIST THIS SEASON

**W**e all know classic stories of Christmas spirit instilling new life and bringing about a deeper sense of joy and gratitude — Dr. Seuss’ Grinch, whose heart grows three times its size; or Buddy the elf, who brings Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear; or even the cold and greedy Ebenezer Scrooge, who awoke on Christmas morning a changed man, sharing in joy and treating all with kindness. We enjoy certainly hearing these stories every year. But sometimes, even as Christians, it is so easy to forget the source of these lessons — the birth of Christ, the first Christmas itself. And there are so many characters from this ancient story that remind us how to embrace this season as Catholic stewards.

Let’s start with the innkeeper, the first character Mary and Joseph encounter before Jesus even enters the world. He does what he can — there is no room, just a stable. He has little, but what little he has he gives away freely. And unknowingly, the Christ Child enters into this world in the midst of one man’s humble offering. What a beautiful example of stewardship! Is there some small thing into which you could invite Jesus? Perhaps there is a new parishioner you could invite over for dinner, or a new mom for whom you could prepare a meal. In whatever way you might reach out, be sure to make a place at the table for your new guest and allow yourself to encounter Christ in them.

Next in this story, we meet the shepherds — the first people to meet Jesus, to see their Savior face to face. Even in their poverty, they simply bring Jesus their very selves, this gift of their presence and eagerness to encounter Him. Consider visiting a nursing home to be with those who might not have company during this Christmas season. Or have a neighbor over who you haven’t seen in a while. Sometimes, we forget that just taking time to be present to another person can be a gift of self.

And then there are the Wise Men. Though they are better off perhaps than the shepherds or the innkeeper with their offerings, they still chose to give their very best gifts, not out of excess or what was left over. Though such finery would not usually be seen in Bethlehem, the Wise Men went out from the comfort of their homes to encounter the newborn King. Consider starting a coat or sock drive in your parish to give to those in need in the community. Spend time serving in the local soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Go where the giving is not glamorous.

No one of these characters is better than the other — in fact, without even one, the story of the birth of Christ would not be the same at all. In turn, we all have something to offer, a way that we can allow the Lord to enter into our lives during this season, or to bring Him to others that we encounter. However we may choose to give this season, let us give with the same generous spirit as those who welcomed the Christ Child on that first Christmas.





# Working Together at All Saints Catholic School to Make “Christmas for Everyone”

*By Gabe Moreno, ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission*

Christmastime at All Saints is always special and busy. Our parish community is so alive with activity, generosity and fellowship. At our school, two of the four pillars are excellence in service and excellence in character. All Saints Catholic School believes the formation of an individual person is not complete unless these two traits are present. ASCS stresses the importance of both service and character throughout the year, but it seems Christmas is the best time to put these traits in action.

All Saints Catholic School is launching the inaugural “Christmas for Everyone” campaign. This campaign is designed to help our students understand the needs of our community, both at All Saints and abroad. As a part of the “Christmas for Everyone” campaign, ASCS students will provide toys that will be donated to Vision Food Share for those in our community who need assistance. Other students will provide gifts to families through the Angels of Giving program at Catholic Charities. These gifts will go to needy families throughout our city who otherwise would not receive Christmas gifts. Still other ASCS students will donate jackets, coats and blankets to the homeless in downtown Dallas.

The result of the “Christmas for Everyone” campaign will be much more than the gifts that are provided to those less fortunate than ourselves. The result is the gift we receive by giving, the gifts of perspective, humility and empathy — the gift of a Catholic worldview and our place in it. All Saints Catholic School students understand it is their duty to help as they are able. This Christmas, while our students are enjoying a break from school with their families, they can also enjoy knowing that they made a difference in someone’s life.

Merry Christmas.



To donate or for more information about this program please contact Gabe Moreno at [gmoreno@allsaintsk8.org](mailto:gmoreno@allsaintsk8.org)

*The result is the gift we receive by giving, the gifts of perspective, humility and empathy — the gift of a Catholic worldview and our place in it. All Saints Catholic School students understand it is their duty to help as they are able.*





# ALL SAINTS

page 4

## BRINGING OTHERS INTO THE LOVING



*Children's Choir singing during Light Up for Christ*



*Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration*



*Christmas décor in church*

If you celebrate Advent and Christmas along with our parish community, you can't help but find yourself opening your heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From Advent Bible studies and beautiful Christmas music concerts, to an endearing Christmas pageant put on by our parish school students, All Saints Catholic Community strives to bring people into the loving arms of Christ during the holidays.

"There was no place for the Christ Child to be born — no room for Him in the inn," Pastoral Administrator Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro says. "We can think of our Advent journey as a sort of analogy, and give the Lord a 'place to be born' in our hearts. We can also help others feel welcome at our parish during the Christmas season, and share the gift of our community and our events with others, regardless of their backgrounds."

The true meaning of Christmas — which is the celebration of the birth of Our Savior — will continue to unfold and come to life at our parish through numerous events, including the Holly and the Ivy Concert, our parish mission, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, and a St. Nick's Party for our parish children.

"Christmas is a time of year that involves much revealing," Fr. Alfonse says. "During this holy season, God reveals His Son, and we reveal the tremendous love that our community has for Christ — in the way that we give, and in the way that we share our talents among each other. We also show our love for Him in how we express our joy, faith, hope and love. All of the amazing Advent and Christmas activities and



*Parish students reenact Christmas pageant*





## ARMS OF CHRIST DURING *Advent and Christmas*



***The Children's Liturgy on Christmas Eve***



***Epic Big Band at Christmas Pancake Breakfast***

events we have at our parish are a great revelation of what it means to be a member of All Saints. Underneath all of the beauty, glitz, glamour and pageantry, is the humble presence of God, living in each one of us."

All will be encouraged to prepare their hearts for the coming of Emmanuel, our Messiah and King, by participating in the holiday events, and bring others along with them as well.

"During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we have a great opportunity to invite friends and family who may not have been to church recently to come and enjoy our parish celebrations," Fr. Alfonse says. "This is so important! What makes All Saints really special is the hospitality that we have. We have such a great group of family and friends that volunteer their time and talent to make our church a welcoming community. We should all be inspired to share the gift of our wonderful community during the Christmas season."

Everyone is encouraged to pick up a pew Advent and Christmas event card and keep it handy. Jesus is waiting for each one of us to come, spend time with Him, and receive the rich graces He has in store for us!

For more information, please contact  
the parish office at 972-661-9282.



***The Festival of Lessons and Carols***



***Bell Choir***





## Masters of Ceremony Working to

In any given day, our parish priests are faced with dozens of different tasks and roles. They are our comforters during times of sorrow and our counselors during times of discernment. They are there to administer the sacraments at key moments of our lives and to help form and lead us in the faith. With so much care and responsibility placed upon them, the Masters of Ceremony Ministry is there to help free up a bit of our priests' time by caring for the preparations and logistics behind each sacred liturgy.

"Masters of Ceremony [MC] are there to assist the presider at all weekend and special liturgies, making sure that everything is in place so that the only thing the priest has to worry about preparing is the homily," says Liturgy Coordinator Mary Davis. "The MCs make sure that there are always enough hosts and wine prepared for the con-

gregation, that the altar servers have been assigned their specific duties, and that any and all items needed for any special rites are both prepared and ready."

Open to any male or female of the parish who is familiar with the liturgy and eager to serve, the Masters of Ceremony Ministry uniquely allows parishioners to serve at the Lord's Table. Their purpose is to ensure a smooth flow to the liturgy and to serve as a sort of liaison for other liturgical ministries, answering questions and offering guidance when necessary. And as Mary points out, while it can seem intimidating to serve so prominently on the altar, the blessings of this ministry are truly indispensable.

"I can tell you from experience that an MC ends up praying quite often for guidance and patience," Mary says. "I know several people have said to me over the years, 'Oh, I couldn't do what you do on the altar. I'd



*MCs Susan Holmes, Mary Davis and Margie Medlin during opening procession for All Saints Day Liturgy*



*MC John Roberts and altar server wait to clear altar following Communion.*



## Ensure a Smooth and Sacred Liturgy

be too nervous.’ Well, let me tell you, after being an MC for 14 years now, I still get nervous, most especially if a bishop is in the house. But the Holy Spirit always sees me, or, I should say, us through it.”

An important part of becoming a Master of Ceremony, Mary says, is becoming familiar with the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. Ministers spend time carefully observing the liturgy in all of its symbolic beauty and intricacy. This, in turn, leads to a much greater appreciation for the liturgy as a whole.

“This ministry does take a bit of a time commitment, but it is truly so worth it because a person will learn a great deal not only about what happens on the altar and why, but also about their faith in general,” Mary says. “Being so close to the altar like that, too, you can’t help but realize that the Holy Eucharist is the center of our entire Christian life.”



*MCs Bill Moloney and Jack Ayers remind altar servers of some of the special nuances before the Holy Thursday service.*

As they remain devoted to assisting our parish priests and serving our parish family better, Masters of Ceremony welcome any new members to their ministry. For more information, please contact any MC after Mass or call the Liturgy Office at 972-778-0310.

## Neglect of a Child: *The Most Common Form of Abuse*

According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, about 71 percent of confirmed child abuse cases in 2017 were for Neglectful Supervision, the most common form of child abuse by far. Neglectful Supervision is defined as “Placing the child in or failing to remove the child from a situation that a reasonable person would realize requires judgment or actions beyond the child’s level of maturity, physical condition, or mental abilities and that results in bodily injury or a substantial risk of immediate harm to the child; or placing a child in or failing to remove the child from a situation in which the child would be exposed to a substantial risk of sexual conduct harmful to the child.”

Some possible signs of neglect include obvious malnourishment or lack of nutrition, lack of personal cleanliness, unattended medical needs (such as a need for glasses or dental care), lack of supervision for long periods of time, frequent absence or tardiness from school, reports that no caretaker is at home, self-destructive behavior, or extreme loneliness and need for attention. Not all neglected children will display these signs and there may be other red flags.

If you suspect that a child is being neglected, call the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or go to [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org) to make a report. You could make a positive difference in a child’s life.





# ALL SAINTS

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DALLAS, TX  
PERMIT 1922

5231 Meadowcreek Drive  
Dallas, TX 75248  
(972) 661-9282

**Weekend Liturgy:**

*Saturday, 5:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.*

*Teen Mass, 5:00 p.m.*

**Weekday Liturgy:**

*Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.*

*Saturday, 9:00 a.m.*

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

*Monday, December 24:*

*4:00 p.m. (Church)*

*4:15 p.m. (Children's Liturgy in the Gym)*

*6:00 p.m. (Church)*

*8:00 p.m. (Church)*

*11:00 p.m. with Prelude Music beginning at 10:30 p.m. (Church)*

*Tuesday, December 25:*

*9:00 a.m. (Church); 11:00 a.m. (Church)*

Address Service Requested

## Stewardship Possibilities are Endless at Christmas

*continued from front cover*

Octave. Have your family gather for prayers together in the morning or at dinner, in preparation for Christmas Day and through the Christmas season.

And there are so many opportunities to share our Talent! Sing in the choir for the Christmas Masses. Help decorate the Church. Cook or bake for someone who is shut-in. Invite someone who will be alone to share Christmas dinner with your family. Offer to work in a soup kitchen. The possibilities are endless.

With a little planning, we can make this hectic time one of real blessing both for ourselves and others. Pray for me that I can keep Christmas properly, and I'll pray for you. And by the way, have a merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro  
Pastoral Administrator

