

December 26, 2010

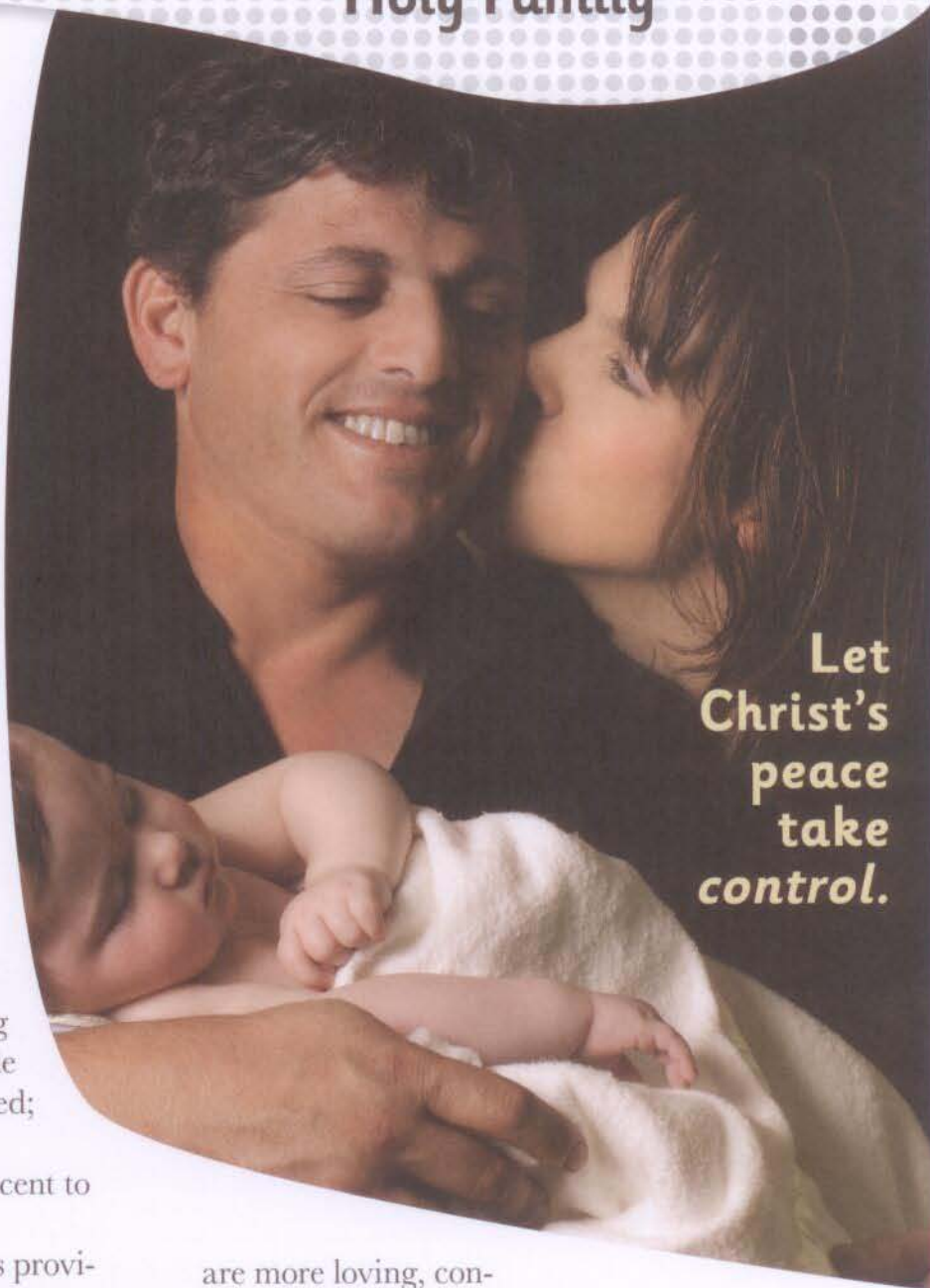
Feast of the Holy Family

anyone who has ever moved to a new residence knows it's an exhausting experience. I have yet to meet someone who finds it stress-free. Imagine then, the experience of Mary and Joseph. We hear of their three moves—to Egypt, to Judea, and to Nazareth—all within a very short time. How difficult that must have been! Granted, Mary and Joseph didn't have to haul a big-screen TV or a washer/dryer combo. They also didn't have a moving truck, bubble wrap, or GPS navigation. Imagine the chaos and stress of moving without the modern conveniences we take for granted.

Yet they were led by profound trust in the providence of God. Their "holy family" life, chaotic as it was, was rooted in the belief that God was leading them and would never abandon them.

We know well the chaos beyond the Christmas season that characterizes family life today. "Soccer parents" chauffeuring children everywhere; elderly parents unable to live alone; isolated aunts or uncles in need; adolescents grappling with hormones and identity issues. The chaos can make us reticent to call family life "holy."

Yet as Mary and Joseph trusted in God's providence, Saint Paul reminds us today to "let the peace of Christ control your hearts." In the midst of the *chaos* of our family life, we're challenged to let Christ's peace take *control*. This doesn't necessarily mean we need to go to daily Mass together (though that's a great idea). But we *can* let the peace of Christ guide our family's everyday actions—so that conversations



Let
Christ's
peace
take
control.

are more loving, conflicts are discussed with greater gentleness, and times together are celebrated more joyfully.

With Christ at its heart, ours too can be a holy family.

JANEL ESKER

sundaybulletins@liguori.org



Today's Readings

Sir 3:2-7, 12-14

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Liguori

PUBLICATIONS

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

Pastor: Rev. Fr. John Casey, SAC

Deacon: Carlos Frias (682-239-9241)

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)

Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Daily Mass 8:45 AM at the Chapel (211 South Main Street)

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

Office – 1802 Bethel Road
Weatherford, TX 76086
Phone 817-596-9585
Fax 817-613-0808

Office Hours – Monday through Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road
817-596-9586

Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

Youth Web Page—

www.ststephenyouth.com

Gift Shop – 30 minutes before and after
each weekend Mass and during
Religious Education Classes

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	December 25	10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving
		6:00 PM	World Peace
Sunday	December 26	8:00 AM	Lawrence & Barbara Bierschenk
		10:45 AM	Our Community
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad
Monday	December 27	8:45 AM	Catie Lusk
Tuesday	December 28	8:45 AM	Communion Service
Wednesday	December 29	8:45 AM	Albina Gianardi
Thursday	December 30	8:45 AM	Bob & Marlene Fronk
Friday	December 31	8:45 AM	In Thanksgiving
Saturday	January 1	10:00 AM	Our Community
		6:00 PM	George & Mary Yaniko
Sunday	January 2	8:00 AM	Philip Jones, RIP
		10:45 AM	Our Youth
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad



The Faith of the Church

“God’s sign is the baby in need of help and in poverty. Exactly the same sign has been given to us... God’s sign is simplicity... God’s sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby—defenseless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness. He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child. He wants nothing other from us than our love, through which we spontaneously learn to enter into his feelings, his thoughts and his will—we learn to live with him and to practice with him that humility of renunciation that belongs to the very essence of love. God made himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him, and love him... Christmas has become the Feast of gifts in imitation of God who has given himself to us. Let us allow our heart, and soul, and our mind to be touched by this fact!” (Pope Benedict XVI).

Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria

Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey

Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) Linda Graham (817-596-0113)

Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins. Contact the church office at 817-596-9585 to be on the schedule.

Annulments—If you are divorced and need a church annulment, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or moved to another Parish.

Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

REGULAR COLLECTION
December 18-19
\$15,120.50



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 25

10 AM

NEW YEAR’S DAY

Saturday, January 1

10 AM

There will be no Religious Education Classes, Adult Bible Study, Adult Catechism, or breakfast on Sunday, December 26 and January 2. All classes and activities will resume as scheduled on January 9 at 9:15 and 11:15.

*The Church Office will be closed
December 24 - January 2*

Please keep Marlene Fronk and Barbara Schmitzinsky in your Prayers. Their funeral services were December 21.

Flowers for the Altar

Are a Gift From

The Mike Gremminger Family

In Memory of The Sam Carter

And Walter Gremminger Family

And

The Children of Bill McGrath

In Memory of Bill McGrath

As you look on the Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God’s love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness, He became a person like us. From The Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano.

May the gift of His love bring you joy this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

THANK YOU. Robert Fronk and Family wishes to thank the Altar Society, Funeral Committee for the delicious food, Bishop Vann, Fr. Casey and the parishes for their prayers and support during Marlene's illness.

CHRISTMAS SHARING. Thank you for your very generous sharing with our senior members in the nursing homes and our shut-ins. The Tuesday Morning Bible Group sorted the gifts and delivered several large bags. Thank you Linda Wright for organizing this project.

PRISON MINISTRY. Thank you for your very generous sharing. Tony and Elva Perez, with youth representatives, delivered the gifts this week to the families.

2011 COLLECTION ENVELOPES are available in the church foyer. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Please call the church office at 817-596-9585 if you have questions. **Church calendars will be available next weekend.**

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS/COMMENTATORS. It's time to prepare the rotation schedules for 2011! Thanks to those who are willing to serve in this important ministry. Letters of Interest have been prepared and sent to all those who have served this year. Please ensure you return the letter by **December 26.**

A welcome is extended to all who desire to become Eucharistic Ministers, and/or Lectors/Commentators! Our parish could certainly use more people in these areas at all Masses. Let God shine His light through you in these important parish ministries. If you have an interest in becoming a Eucharistic Minister and/or a Lector/Commentator, please join us for a training meeting in the church on Friday, January 7 beginning at 7 PM. For more information, please contact Sharmayne Bierschenk at sbiersch@ont.com or 817-596-9141.

BLOOD DRIVE. We are a four-season donor church. The first drive for 2011 will be **Monday, January 10.** The December drive was a "make-up" for those who were out of town or were deferred for low iron. Thank you for giving service in this important way. Photo ID required. There has to be 56 days between regular donations. Phone Sophia at 817-596-5665 for scheduling questions.

DONACION DE SANGRE. Somos una iglesia de donacion de cuatro estaciones. La primera colleccion para el 2011 sera el Lunes, Enero 10. La coleccion de Diciembre fue una oportunidad ofrecida para aquellos que no estuvieron en la ciudad o bien fueron rechazados por niveles de hierro bajo. Gracias por servir en esta causa tan importante. Se necesita documento de identidad con foto. Deben pasar 56 dias entre una donacion y la otra. Si tiene preguntas sobre las horas, por favor llame a Sofia al 817-596-5665.

SECOND ANNUAL HIKE FOR LIFE. Register now and start creating your teams! The hike will be held on January 22, 2011. Opening ceremonies begin at 2 PM. Register on line at www.hikeforlife.org. Monies raised will go to help stop the genocide that is abortion.

"WHY CATHOLIC"
The Lord has come to free us.

PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Loan on New Property—\$1,381,582.71
Monthly Interest Payment—\$6,141.42
Total Contributions to Date—\$218,737.83
Interest Paid to Date—\$205,394.80
Principal Paid to Date—\$250,259.00
December Contributions—\$8,219.15
December Interest Payment—\$6,388.64

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Important Information about 2010 Year-End Giving and Tax Deductions. The Catholic Center will be closed from **December 24 through January 3.** Contact by phone and email regarding year-end giving is available to donors at 817-560-3300 or YearEndGiving@fwdioc.org. Messages will be monitored and returned as soon as possible. There is also a mail slot accessible at the front entrance to the Catholic Center for hand-delivered gifts.

- Checks must be dated and mailed with a postmark on or before December 31, 2010.
 - Credit card gifts are effective on the date the card is charged.
 - Electronic funds transfer is effective on the date of the transfer.
 - Stocks transferred electronically are effective on the date of transfer.
- For more information about 2010 year-end giving to the Diocese of Fort Worth visit www.fwdioc.org. Click on Giving & Donations.

Información Importante Sobre Las Donaciones De Fin De Año 2010 y Las Deduciones Impositivas (De Impuestos). El Centro Católico (Las Oficinas Pastorales y Administrativas de la Diócesis) estará cerrado desde el 24 de diciembre de 2010 hasta el 3 de enero de 2011. Se puede comunicar por teléfono o por correo electrónico en relación a las donaciones de fin de año al 817-560-3300 o YearEndGiving@fwdioc.org. Se escucharán los mensajes y serán respondidos tan pronto como sea posible. Puede llevar su donación al Centro Católico en un sobre y echarlo por la ranura de correspondencia de la entrada principal de edificio.

- Los cheques deben estar fechados y enviados por correo con matasellos del 31 de diciembre de 2010 o antes.
- Las donaciones hechas con una tarjeta de crédito son efectivas en la fecha que se haga el cargo.
- La transferencia electrónica de fondos es efectiva en la fecha que se haga la transferencia.
- Las acciones transferidas electrónicamente son efectivas en la fecha que se haga la transferencia.

Para conseguir más información sobre las donaciones de fin de año 2010 a la Diócesis de Fort Worth visite www.fwdioc.org. Haga el Clic en "Donaciones y Regalos" (Giving & Donations).

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Fort Worth is looking for a **Business Manager** with knowledge of bookkeeping. The applicant must be a practicing Catholic and must be bilingual. Please apply at our office. Phone 817-923-6323.

TEEN CORNER

Youth Grades 7 and above

Youth Group Schedule: December 29—no meeting. See you on January 5 for our first meeting in 2011. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 26
3:30 PM Youth Praise & Worship Practice (Church)

Monday, December 27
6:30 PM Spanish Children's Choir Practice
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72 (Clubhouse)

Tuesday, December 28
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

Wednesday, December 29
7:00 PM Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, December 30
10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 PM Spanish Adult Choir Practice

Saturday, January 1
10:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Mass
7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya

What is the Feast of Stephen?

Q My favorite Christmas carol is “Good King Wenceslas.” The lyrics say he “looked out on the Feast of Stephen.” When is that?

Steve

Dear Steve,

Since the end of the fourth century, the feast of Saint Stephen has been celebrated December 26, but since that’s a Sunday this year (today, as a matter of fact), we won’t be celebrating it.

Stephen is first in the long line of Christian martyrs. We meet him in chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles. He heads the list of the seven men chosen by the apostles to “serve at table” so the apostles could devote themselves to the service of the Word. These seven are traditionally considered the first deacons in the Church.

Acts then tells how Stephen did great wonders and signs among the people and debated with certain Jews of the Synagogue of Freedmen. Those he debated brought him up on charges of blasphemy before the *Sanhedrin*, the supreme Jewish court, saying he had spoken against God and Moses.



STATUE OF SAINT WENCESLAS, PRAQUE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Acts 7 records Stephen’s long, apologetic speech before the Sanhedrin. He defended his faith in Jesus by appealing to the history of God’s dealings with the Jewish people. His hearers would have none of this and condemned him death by stoning.

Like Jesus on the cross, Stephen prayed that God “not hold this sin against them” (7:60). Those who stoned Stephen “laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul” (7:58), who was to become the great Saint Paul, the apostle to the gentiles.

Harry Grile, CSsR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
□	■	□	□	□	□	□
December 27	December 28	December 29	December 30	December 31	January 1	January 2
<i>Saint John, apostle and evangelist</i>	<i>Holy Innocents, martyrs</i>	<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God</i>	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8	1 Jn 1:5–2:2 Mt 2:13–18	1 Jn 2:3–11 Lk 2:22–35	1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	1 Jn 2:18–21 Jn 1:1–18	Nm 6:22–27 Gal 4:4–7 Lk 2:16–21	Is 60:1–6 Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 Mt 2:1–12