

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2017**

The child to be born will be called holy,  
the Son of God. — Luke 1:35

Masses for  
the Week 



**SUNDAY - December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:30 am - Frank L. Kandler †

10:00 am - William Strelczyk

**Christmas Liturgy BEGINS**

**SUNDAY-DECEMBER 24- X-MAS VIGIL MASS (Children's Program)**

5:00 pm - John Karl Loest

**MIDNIGHT-12:00 am - Jerome† & Edith† Krenek**

**MONDAY- DECEMBER 25 - The Nativity of the Lord (CHRISTMAS)**

10:00 am - Blaine Sullivan†

**TUESDAY - December 26 - St Stephen, The First Martyr**

8:00 am - Winfred Kainer †

**WEDNESDAY - December 27 - St John, Apostle, Evangelist**

8:00 am - Rev. John Kollannur †

**THURSDAY - December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

8:00 am - James Sandelovic †

**FRIDAY - December 29**

8:00 am - Charlie F. Tater †

**SATURDAY - December 30**

8:00 am - Vlasta Dziadek †

5:00 pm - Gene Jolly †

**SUNDAY - Dec 31 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

7:30 am - Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family - Clergy

10:00 am - L. H. "Buddy" Waida†

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<b>X-Mas Liturgy Ministers</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Mid-Night</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>LECTOR</b>	Norman S.	Harvin S.	David P.
<b>EMHC</b>	Martha N, Pat/Arleen B.	Lillian B. James/Connie N.	Pat K. AlvinR/Claudia S.

**NEXT WEEKEND - December 30 & 31**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS  
of HOLY COMMUNION**

*and* **LECTORS**

**Sat. 5:00 pm - Norman Schoener Emily Yeary**  
Standby x2

**Sun. 7:30 am - James/Connie Novak John Novak**  
& Standby

**Sun. 10:00 am - Travia/Toni Schaar Jeff Nunley**  
& Standby

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

**Sat 5:00 pm - Kaden, Kylie, & Kalynn Fikac**

**Sun 7:30 am - Jenny Marbach, Katelyn & Karley John**

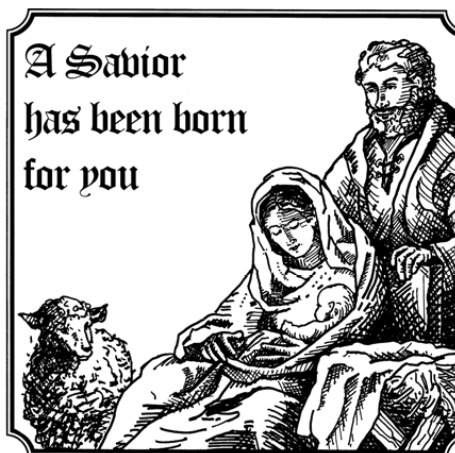
**Sun 10:00 am - Aaron Bradicich, David & Abbey Keyser**

**USHERS:**

**5:00 pm - M. John, F. Motal, R. Dominguez**

**7:30 am - F. Marbach, James Novak, M. Fikac**

**10:00 am - K. Spann, AR Schoener, H. Raska**



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**PARISH  
OFFICE  
CLOSED**

Re-opens  
January  
2nd,  
2018

**SUNDAY - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Weekly Coll. Envlps: Weekly Stewardship*

**Have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas... in Christ !**

**Christmas Liturgy BEGINS**

**5:00PM - Sunday, December 24th - Vigil of Christmas**

**11:40PM - Sunday, Dec. 24th- Carols preceding Mass**

**12:00AM - Midnight Mass - Monday, December 25th**

**10:00AM - Monday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**

**SATURDAY - Confessions - 4:00 - 4:30 pm**

*BAPTISM: John Walter Schmidt: Child of Bradley/Courtney*

**SUNDAY- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

*Weekly Coll. Envp: Weekly Stewardship*

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Offering**

**Annual Feast of the Holy Family Parish Breakfast**

*after 7:30 am Mass....until food runs out...*

*Weekly  
Offering*

**WEEKEND of 12-16/17-17**

**Count - 531**

**Total Operating Income.....\$ 6,126.00**

**Spec.Coll.Envlps...(Fund:RetiredReligious.).....\$ 568.00**

**Christmas Flowers.....\$ 155.00**

**Thank You! Your Generosity is Greatly Appreciated.**

**GOD'S PROMISE**

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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*Weekly  
Offering*

Due to the holiday schedules requiring early deadlines **there will be no NO WEEKLY OFFERING report** for the weekend of December 24, 2017.

**\$\$\$ PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK \$\$\$**

Tina Moya, Clifton Lau, Cecilia Edwards, Mimi Waida, Joe Lara, Mary Ruth Kainer, James Rung, Tom Goslin, Michael Berger, Lawrence Yanta, Reinhart Schoener, Sue Rivera, Paul Tasin, Cheryl Blaylock, Mary Ann Bernhard, Fr. James Ramsey, Matt Brown, Wade Shumbera

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jésus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Sun:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**Mon:** **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

**During the Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

**Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**Tue:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

**Wed:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Thu:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Fri:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

**Sat:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

**Sun:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

## BAPTISMAL INSTRUCTIONS

are available the FIRST SUNDAY of every month at 6:00 pm in the Religious Education Bldg. Instructions are for the parents or sponsors of upcoming Baptisms who have not already been through the process. The next class will be on January 7, 2018, To register, please call 361-575-3813.

## Continuing Christian Education - CCE

### Religious Education Classes Contacts

**Martha Nichols - 571-0337 - marthan60@hotmail.com**

**Tammy Fikac - 361-573-1179 - tfikac@yahoo.com**

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA

"My soul longs for you, O God." (Ps 42.2)

COME AND JOIN A PROCESS OF ENCOUNTER WITH OUR LOVING AND MERCIFUL GOD WHO WELCOMES YOU TO HIS FAMILY.

Contact Sr Miriam, MCSH, at [sistermiriam@lourdesvictoria.org](mailto:sistermiriam@lourdesvictoria.org) or 575-3813

## Feast of the Holy Family -- December 31, 2017

### ANNUAL PARISH FAMILY BREAKFAST

Please join us in the Church Hall for breakfast following the 7:30am Mass. This is an annual event to celebrate The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is hosted by members of the Holy Name Society and the Altar Society.

Everyone is invited to attend this breakfast. Bring your appetites and enjoy good fellowship. For any more info, please call Dennis Boehm at 574-8569.

## Coming Soon ELITE MEDICAL IMAGING

will be hosting a vascular ultrasound screening on the 26th of January, 2018. Eight screenings are being offered: Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aorta, Thyroid, Liver, Spleen, Gallbladder and both Kidneys. Watch upcoming bulletins for more detailed information.

## - EVENTS ALL AROUND -

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #369** will meet on **Monday, January 8, 2018** at the Knights of Columbus Hall. (Please note the change in date for this meeting!!). Prayer starts at 6:10pm, followed by the annual shower for the Gabriel Project. The business-meeting will start at 6:30pm.

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**Amor Meus Spirituality Center** at Incarnate Word Convent 1101 NE Water St, Victoria will offer a **12-week Ignatian Retreat**, "*Finding Christ in the World*". This will be a group of 6-10 persons meeting weekly on Wednesday, 6:30-7:30pm beginning **Jan.3** thru **Mar 21**, to share and explore their experience of prayer. Retreat fee is \$10/week. To register: Call Sr. Digna, 485-0866.

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**Taizé Prayer Service:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 7:00 - 8:00pm. Taizé Prayer is a meditative Christian experience that includes singing and chanting or prayers, meditation, and periods of silence, reflection and liturgical readings. Amor Meus prayer room. Incarnate Word Convent. 361-575-7111. Please park in the back.

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## Knights of Columbus Council #1329 BINGO NIGHT

Every Wednesday evening: Hall opens 6 pm; Bingo games 7:30 pm until 10 pm. \$10 per Bingo sheet pack for 10 games. Food and drinks available. Located at Airline/BenWilson. Proceeds benefit various council charity projects. For info call the hall Wed. evening 575-9214. Future dates: Dec. 27; Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

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## Quarterly Bunco Party hosted by the Altar Society of Holy Family Catholic Church will be Wednesday, January 10, 2018, from 9:30 am til Noon at St Peter's Parish Hall. A free lunch will be served, and game prizes and door prizes will be awarded. Please invite a friend and enjoy visiting with the ladies from our five local Catholic churches. For information and reservations contact Ginger Wagner at 361-550-6444.

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## Diocese of Victoria 30th Annual Catholic Conference Sat, Jan 27, 2018 - Holy Family Church, Wharton, TX

This year the conference will focus on the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching, with 22 presenters offering 32 workshops. A newly revised flyer and registration form have been mailed. If you did not receive one, call 361-573-0828 ex. 2224, 2225, or 2227. On line registration is now open. Go to [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)