



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS CHURCH

Serving God's People and building His Kingdom since 1891

100 NORTH BRAZOS STREET PO BOX 608 GRANGER, TEXAS 76530

Email: sscmchurch@gmail.com Website: www.sscmchurch.org

Diocese of Austin~ www.austindiocese.org

SSCM Parish Office: 104 N. Brazos Street Phone & Fax: (512) 859-2223

Office Hours: Tuesday -Friday: 9AM-1 PM (After hours by appointment)

Parish Hall: 500 West Davilla Street (512)859-2236 sscmhall@gmail.com

Religious Education: Coordinator: Virginia Loza Lee 512-859-2634 sscmre@gmail.com

Youth Ministers: Wendy & Mark White hafa_adai65@hotmail.com

Bible Studies: Mondays 8:30AM; 1st Saturdays 8:30AM (FMI: Virginia Lee)

Holy Rosary: 30 minutes before every Holy Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5:15-5:45PM/Thursday 4:30-5:30PM during Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 4:00-5:45 PM concluding with Benediction

Healing Mass: First Thursday of every month

Baptism: Class Required/Darve Horak 512-859-2646 or darve.horak@gmail.com

Marriage: Meet with Pastor six months in advance to set date.

Marriage Prep required/Darve & Karen Horak 512-859-2646 or darve.horak@gmail.com

Quinceanera: Religious Education Attendance and Instruction required.

Pastor: Very Rev. Chris Ferrer

(512)859-2224-Rectory

pastorsscmchurch@gmail.com

Deacon: John Thornton

(512)627-1815-Cell

Executive Assistant: Joanne Selucky

Pastoral Council: Deborah Hensel

Finance Council: Chris Nemeec

Holy Cross Cemetery: Cecilia Stefek

Calvary Cemetery: James Cervenka

Third Sunday of Advent—December 14, 2014

Saturday Dec. 13	6:00PM	†Betty, Alfonse, Ted & Nicholas Stojanik; † Robert & Frank Jezisek; † Vince Marek
Sunday Dec. 14	10:00 AM	Living and deceased members of SSCM Parish
Tuesday Dec. 16	8:00AM	† Johnny P. Martinka; † Leonor G. Cortez
Wed Dec. 17	6:00PM	† George Vrana
Thurs Dec. 18	4-5:45PM	Adoration and Benediction 10AM: Will o Bell †Sister Martha Martinka
	6:00PM	† Emilie, Anton & Dennis Martinka
Friday Dec. 19	8:00AM	† Emil Matula; † Agnes Stojanik
Saturday Dec. 20	6:00PM	Living and deceased members of SSCM Parish
Sunday Dec. 21	10:00 AM	† Alfred, Sr. & Alfred, Jr. Cervenka & Thalia Bernal; † Margie Hajda; † Frank & Annie Vrana; † Liberty & Henry Bartosh

Christmas/New Year	
Masses	
Dec. 24	: 5PM
Dec. 25	: 12AM & 9AM
Dec. 31	: 5PM
Jan. 1	: 10AM

We pray for Healing: Gail Heger, Marie Repa, Mary Motloch, J.D. Shirocky, Julie Kaderka, Bryce Tubbs, Annie Vanek, Liz Vrana, Edith Kurtin.

Offering: Sunday: \$4,295.00 Children: \$23.00 Dec, 8: \$1,090.50 Retirement/Medical: \$ 1,339.00 Thank you!

Liturgical Ministers December 20-21

Saturday 6PM Lector: Ronnie Steffek EMHC: Henrietta Hajda, Beatrice Perez, Mike Vrana, Louis Repa
Music: Volunteer Servers: Colton & Colby Marek

Sunday 10AM Lector: Mark White EMHC: Baldo & Rosalva Degollado, Frankie & Shirley Volek
Music: Guitar Group Servers: Marcus Belcher, Ernie Valdez

EMHC Route: Deborah Hensel, Wendy White, John Pavelka, Ronnie Steffek

Religious Articles Store: 6PM -Cara Finn 10AM – Kay & Darwin Karkoska

Tithing Envelopes for 2015 are in the Cryroom. If you do not find one with your name and would like one please leave your name and address on the sheet by the envelopes and one will be assigned to you. You may also call or come by the office to request a box.

The Special Collection: This weekend is for our Parish Building and Maintenance Fund.

Calendar of Events

Sunday Dec 14 : 11:30AM KJT Bingo Kitchen—Hamburgers (Hall)
: 2PM Nativity Set Up in Church
: 4PM Help needed to debone turkeys at the Hall

Wednesday Dec. 17 : 6PM Upper Room for High School Students
: 7PM Posadas (See RE Announcement)

Sunday Dec. 21 : 12 noon KC hamburgers (Hall)

Monday Dec. 22 : 7PM Guitar Group Practice for Christmas

Marriage Recognition certificates presented at Mass next Saturday and Sunday. Please remember to turn in your request.

Parish

Lectors, Musicians, Singers are always needed. If you would like to know more about any of these ministries please call the Parish Office. Whenever you see VOLUNTEER on the list and you would like to fill that position call the office so we know that someone is covering. You are also always welcome to join the choir at any and all Masses. We are in need of music ministers the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the Month.

Year End Giving: Remember to make all 2014 donations to the Church by December 31. The Parish Office will be closed from Dec. 24-January 6 so please mail or use the Sunday collection basket to make your year end donation. Thank you for your generous support of our Parish.

Christmas Flower Fund envelopes are available at the bulletin tables.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: The new 2015 route list is now available. If you did not receive it electronically by email, a few copies are in the sacristy. Thank you for serving in this most important ministry.

The SSCM Christmas meal for the homebound, sick & elderly, widows & widowers, & disadvantaged will be on Monday, December 15th. If you or someone you know should be included to receive a meal please call John Pavelka @ [512-859-2748](tel:512-859-2748). Volunteers will be needed to help prepare the meal on Monday (7am) and deliver plates (10:30am).

Mission to McAllen: While doing your Christmas shopping consider buying one item for the undocumented immigrants that the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McAllen is determined to help. This month we are focusing on collecting belts, bras and snacks. Last month we focused on backpacks and we were pleased to collect 75 of those. Any items you chose to donate will be most welcome. To see the list of most pressing needs please go to CatholicCharitiesRGV.org. Please drop your donations off at the church office by Dec. 19. If interested in volunteering, please call Deborah at 979-571-0461. We anticipate traveling to McAllen either Dec. 29 or Jan. 5.

Religious Education & Youth Ministry

Posadas: Please join Religious Education as we relive Mary and Joseph's journey to the manger in the Posada. We will begin at 7:00PM on Wednesday, Dec. 17 under the porch of the DPC. We will conclude with punch, cookies and hot chocolate in the hall. Please dress accordingly as we will be processing outside.

Bake Sale: Youth Ministry will be selling sweets after both Masses the weekend of Dec. 20 & 21. All money raised will go towards the Diocesan Youth Conference in Waco. Thank you for your support.

Communal Advent Penance Schedule

Holy Trinity – Corn Hill: Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 pm

St. William – Round Rock: Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 pm

St. Elizabeth's - Pflugerville: Thursday, December 18, at 7:00 pm; Monday, December 22, from 1:00 - 6:00 pm

St. Mary's – Taylor: Sunday, December 21, at 7:00 pm

Message from Our Pastor

In today's gospel, John the Evangelist gives us a more-detailed picture of John the Baptist in his role as the forerunner of Jesus the Messiah. Unusual preaching and baptizing characterize John Baptist, but his style and power will be surpassed by Jesus himself. Now the Church over the centuries has continued the life-giving preaching and liturgy (sacraments) of Christ Jesus.

EXEGESIS:

John the Evangelist throughout his gospel emphasizes "testimony" regarding Jesus, thus creating a context of Jesus being on legal trial for his ministry. Jesus' "legal" adversaries usually are "the Jews" (meaning those Jewish leaders--not the people as a whole--intent on destroying Him) and demonic forces symbolized by darkness and blindness but opposed by divine power symbolized by light, vision, and flowing water.

Here John Evangelist focuses on John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus. John Baptist's preaching and baptizing have been so unusual, they have caught the attention of many of the common-folk and some of the prominent Jewish priests and Levites. Because the latter had their professional association with liturgical activities in the Temple, they probably sensed that John Baptist's unauthorized and crude preaching/baptism ritual was becoming a threat to their livelihood. On the popular level, many Jews expected the appearance of the three great persons about whom the Jewish leaders question John. No, answers John, he is not the Messiah, the new military king of Israel who would overthrow the pagan Romans. No, he is not Elijah, the famous Old Testament prophet thought to be kept miraculously alive in the sky by God, to be sent back to Earth to announce the end of the world. No, he is not the Prophet, an anonymous God-sent preacher who would also announce the restoration of the Jewish kingdom. Rather, John describes himself as a God-sent preacher who is introducing the imminent appearance of another God-sent man greater than he. This new man (Jesus) will baptize not with water but with fire (symbolizing soul-searing power, crisis, and change).