

First Sunday of Advent

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ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Message from Fr. Niall

Dear Friends,

The Church calendar gets a jump on the Julian New Year (January 1, 2020) by beginning her New Year this weekend with the First Sunday of Advent! And yes, I know we are all recovering from the Thanksgiving celebrations, and Christmas is only three and a half weeks away, and the other (Julian) New Year is a week thereafter. I hope you are up to all the partying and have learned to pace yourselves! Is it any wonder so many join the gym in the new year, and then after the initial enthusiasm, cancel their subscription two to three months later? After visiting the “torture chamber” a few times just to see what such a place looks like and who even goes there, it’s time for serious reconsideration! As for new-year resolutions, mine is never to make one; and I remain steadfast to my decision each year, without fail. Only make promises/resolutions you know you are going to keep.

Now, back to where I began before I digressed. Our Church calendar New Year begins for us with the baptism of Martin Nicholas Kinchen during the 8:30 morning Mass this Sunday, Dec. 1. Congratulations to his very proud parents, Kiersten and David; his twin brothers, Matthew and Thomas; and his godparents, Christina Kinchen and Jonathan Kalian. They will be with us here at Saint Catherine of Siena

Parish as we welcome Martin into the faith community of the Church to grow in the knowledge and love of God and of his neighbor. Welcome to our newest member, Martin!

Normal life (so called) will continue here for a couple of weeks. Bible Study has only two classes left for this semester; the last CCE class is next week, and they will resume Sunday, Jan. 5. Get ready for Christmas!

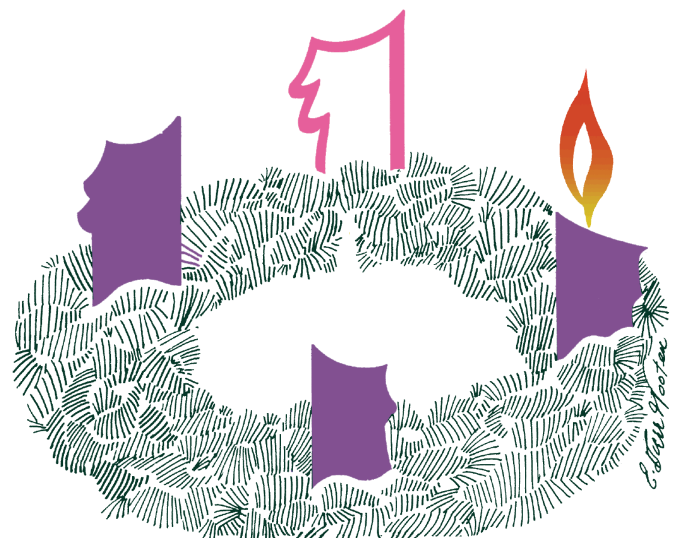
We have our Mingle get-together next Saturday, Dec. 7, after Mass and breakfast the following morning, Dec. 8, at 9:30. I know we are probably all partied out, but don’t think “food.” Instead think of “sharing” our Thanksgiving survival stories and the like; think about being with Church-family for a while. We might even have a good laugh at what, at the time, seemed to be the end of the world when for example someone forgot to turn on the oven for the Thanksgiving turkey or something equally creative – come and find out!

Get ready for Santa,

Fr. Niall

Advent: A New Year

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year and can be a time for us to embrace the light of God’s love more deeply. If we realize that we are failing to live as we know we ought, let this season be a time to reset our commitment to living and growing as people of faith. While much of these next few weeks will be consumed by our preparations for Christmas, it is good for us to also take some time to take stock and commend our hearts and lives to Christ. Let us “stay awake” to Christ’s higher purposes, not out of a sense of dread or fear of judgment, but rather in anticipation of the advent, or coming, of our Lord.



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Advent Ideas

What can you do as a family to help prepare yourself for the coming of Christ? Try one of these ideas:

- Make an Advent Wreath with greenery and candles and have a different family member read an Advent prayer or passage before mealtime each night.
- Make a family Jesse Tree using a wreath, potted plant or paper tree on a wall. Google “Loyola Press Jesse Tree” to find daily stories and ornament ideas.
- Celebrate Las Posadas with family and friends or put on your own homegrown re-enactment of Mary and Joseph’s journey.

Annual Mens Retreat

Our annual men’s retreat for the men of St. Catherine’s Parish will be held at Holy Name Retreat Center, 430 Bunker Hill Road, on January 10-12, 2020. This year’s theme is “Standing on Holy Ground: The Call to Holiness in Today’s World.” This is a great way to start the new year. Registration forms and brochures are located on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please contact Charles Hrachovy 713-468-0259 with any questions.

Club 55+ Christmas Event

Club 55+ is having a Catered Christmas Luncheon with Entertainment on Sunday, December 8, in the Church Hall after the 11:15 Mass. All parishioners 55 and older are invited to attend. Cost is \$15 each, payable in cash or check made out to St Catherine’s Church.

Attendees must sign up in the Narthex after any Mass the weekend of 11/30-12/1 to attend. The caterer order must be placed by 12/2 so there will not be any signup at the door on 12/8. If you will not be at Mass on 11/30 or 12/1 and want to attend, contact Bob Mitchell at 713-939-8880 or kwvarjm@aol.com to be added to the list and you can pay at the door on December 8.

Plan to sign up **this weekend** & join us for good food and great entertainment! - Bob M



Parish Calendar

For full calendar, visit stcatherine-houston.org

First Sunday of Advent

SAT 30	5:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass
SUN 1	8:30 AM Sunday Mass Baptism of Martin Kinchen 9:30-10:30 AM CCE Class 11:15 AM Sunday Mass
MON 2	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Office Open No Daily Mass
TUE 3	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Office Open 12:15 PM Weekday Mass
WED 4	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Office Open 12:15 PM Weekday Mass 7:00 PM Bible Study
THU 5	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Office Open 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:15 PM Weekday Mass
FRI 6	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Office Open 12:15 PM Weekday Mass
Next Week	Second Sunday of Advent
SAT 7	5:00 PM Sunday Vigil Mass 6:00 PM Parish Mingle Retirement Fund for Religious Collection Mission of Yahweh Food Collection
SUN 8	8:30 AM Sunday Mass 9:30-10:30 AM CCE Class 9:30 AM Parish Breakfast 11:15 AM Sunday Mass † Marie Cooper 12:30 PM Club 55+ Christmas Event 4:00-6:00 PM Confirmation Session Retirement Fund for Religious Collection Mission of Yahweh Food Collection

