



# ALL SAINTS

*A Stewardship Parish*

*Volume 16, Issue 12*

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*Our Parish Newsletter:*

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

## *Caring Card Ministry*

REACHING OUT DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

**"G**od will keep them in His tender care and bless them with His healing touch."

"May God's peace, comfort and courage be with you."

These are both sayings that are often written on cards sent to our fellow All Saints parishioners who are experiencing a health-related issue — from surgery to those under hospice care — or are grieving loss of a loved one.

The dedicated members of the Caring Card Ministry, coordinated by Judy Vidas, take their time to send these cards. Sometimes it's that personal touch that can make all the difference.

"We never truly know what someone's situation is, and we never know the impact that simple words have," Judy says. "Someone may be depressed and living alone, just needing a few kind words to lift them up. Or, with a death, a spouse may be alone after the funeral. Being able to reread our personalized card of sympathy may bring comfort in the days and weeks to come.

The members often respond on short notice based on names sent to them from the Pastoral Office.

"We wish the recipients to know that All Saints is a community and family," Judy says.

Importantly, this ministry goes beyond a card in the mail. Ministry members continue to pray for the card recipients, long after the envelope is sealed. In turn, a kind word or a Bible verse can offer a loving reminder that God is there with us in the struggle.

"Our Caring Card may be received on a particularly hard day for the recipient when they had things other than prayer on their minds," Judy says. "This card may be just a flicker of light to start those prayers and to remember Christ's love and compassion."



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## RECOGNIZING THE

# *Season of Advent,*

## WE CAN CREATE FAITHFUL AND LOVING TRADITIONS

**A**s the season of Christmas approaches, it is all too easy to get swept up in the frantic commercialism that tells us that Christmas is already happening — from now up until the 25th, and not a day more. To combat this misguided understanding, and to embrace what this time of year truly means, we might consider how to enter into the sacred quiet and careful preparation of the Advent season with our families.

Starting new Advent-centered traditions within our homes is a simple way to differentiate between the two seasons and embrace the grace that comes with this season of preparation. While hanging up the stockings, consider hanging up a stocking for Jesus. Family members can place their “gifts” for Jesus there. These can be sacrifices like giving up desserts during the week or committing to doing one extra chore for another family member. Advent can be as much of a time for fasting and almsgiving as the season of Lent — after all, both seasons are preparing our hearts for a great feast of the Church.

A similar activity is to create a manger bed for Jesus. For every good deed that a family member does, have them place a little straw in a small manger in a prominent place in the house. By Christmas, there will be a fluffy bed in which the Christ Child can be placed.

If your parish has an angel tree or participates in a gift outreach, be sure that the whole family is included in the shopping by making it a family outing, or make a card for the child together. It’s easy to see those activities as a quick good deed, but anything that helps emphasize that there is another person on the receiving end helps to make the act much more meaningful.

While there are lots of activities that can help to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas, nothing centers us securely in this season of Advent quite like participating in the liturgy already prepared for us. As you are able, go to any penance services or live nativities, or take part in service opportunities on offer in our parish. Spend some time with your kids in the adoration chapel or in front of the Blessed Sacrament, reminding them that the Christ Who dwells there in the monstrance is the same Christ Who came to this world as a tiny baby — for it will be there in the presence of Christ that we can truly sing, with hearts ready to receive Him, “Oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him.”







*A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator*

## A Steward's Response to the Ultimate Christmas Gift

Dear Saints,

Christmas is America's favorite holiday. Consider for a moment the amount of effort we put into the holiday — decorating our homes with ornate light displays, buying boxes upon boxes of presents, addressing Christmas cards and attending seasonal get-togethers. When taken all together, it staggers the imagination. Whatever might happen to be next on the list of “favorite holidays” — Valentine's Day, Halloween or Thanksgiving — it can't hold a candle to our investment in Christmas.

Don't get me wrong — I love Christmas, too. But I'm afraid that many of us somehow miss the main reason for our Christmas celebrations.

I've sometimes heard people say things like, “Getting everything ready for Christmas becomes so hectic, I don't want to do it every year. But, you know, Christmas is really for the children.” And occasionally, I've heard or read in a letter to the editor that Christmas is about the hope that a newborn baby brings to the world. Even in the early winter, when the days are short, we can celebrate babyhood, a new human life.

Both those sentiments are too limited. Of course, it's true that many of our Christmas customs are for the children — we might not get to hang our stockings to be filled by Santa Claus otherwise. And it's true that the birth of a baby, any baby, brings joy and hope to all those around. Yes, many of our Christmas celebrations are centered on the children, and the birth of a child offers a promise for the future.



At Christmas, we celebrate not just any baby, but a particular baby. We celebrate His birth not because it's cute to see a baby in a manger filled with hay and surrounded by farm animals — instead, we celebrate this birth because of Who this baby is and what He did as an adult, for all of us.

A human baby is certainly a wonderful creation, made in the image of God. But Jesus is more than that, not less, for He is God the Son who took on human nature in order to redeem us from the results of the sin into which we had fallen. He didn't stay a baby.

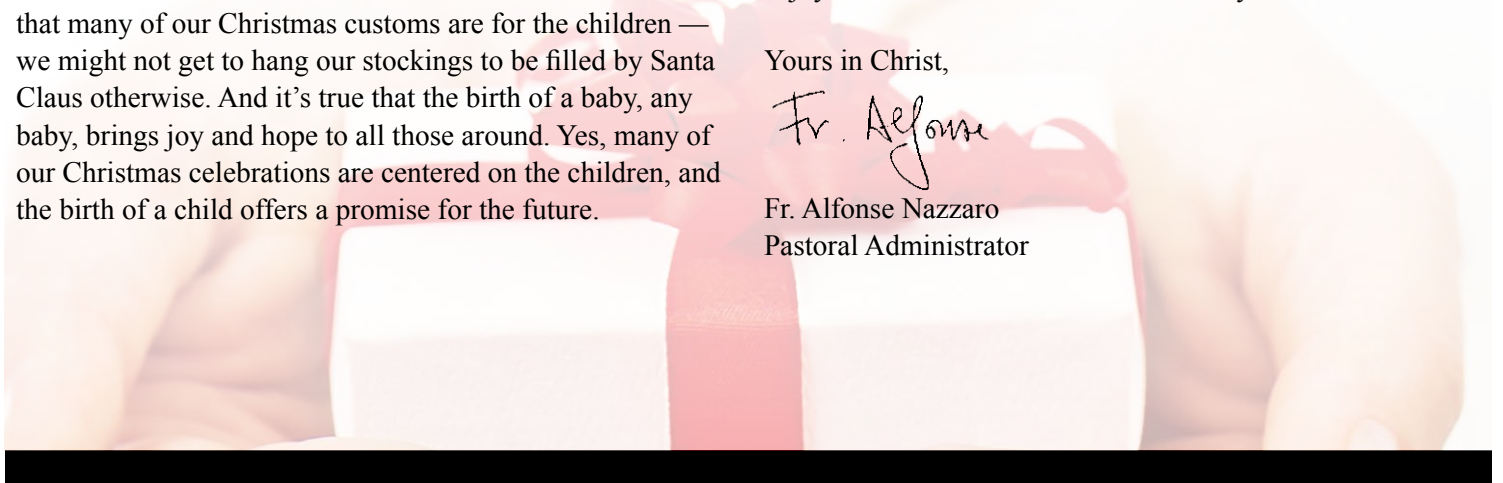
He grew up and taught and preached and healed. Finally, He was put to death “for our sake” as the Creed affirms and rose from the dead. That's why we celebrate His birth more than 2,000 years later. That's why normal routines are suspended for a few joyful days each year.

In response to the gift the Father gave us with the birth of His Son, we joyfully exchange gifts with each other, share with the poor, and offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure to the Church. God gives to us — and as stewards, we must do our best to faithfully use those gifts.

A joyful and blessed Christmas to all of you!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro  
Pastoral Administrator





# ALL SAINTS

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## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year: *Advent and Christmas*

**I**t's a familiar feeling — the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Whether you're rushing through stores searching for the perfect gift, baking dozen upon dozen of delicious Christmas cookies or creating an incredible light display in your front yard, it can be easy to forget the true meaning of this holy season.

The season of Advent is a reminder to step back, slow down and be reminded of what really matters. Here at All Saints, we hope to give people an opportunity to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ, along with the rest of our parish family.

Our parish Advent Mission will take place over two evenings, December 9 and 10, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the church. Our speaker will be Fr. Anthony Borrow, the Retreat Director at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, Texas.

Our parish Advent Penance Service will take place on Wednesday, December 18, in our church and chapel from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at every parish in the diocese at the same time.

The Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows, with Christmas Eve liturgies being celebrated at 4:00 p.m., 4:15 p.m. (Children's Liturgy, in the gym), 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. Prelude Christmas carols will begin at 10:30 p.m. for the 11:00 p.m. Mass. On Christmas morning, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Families are also invited to join our All Saints Catholic School community for our Festival of Lessons and

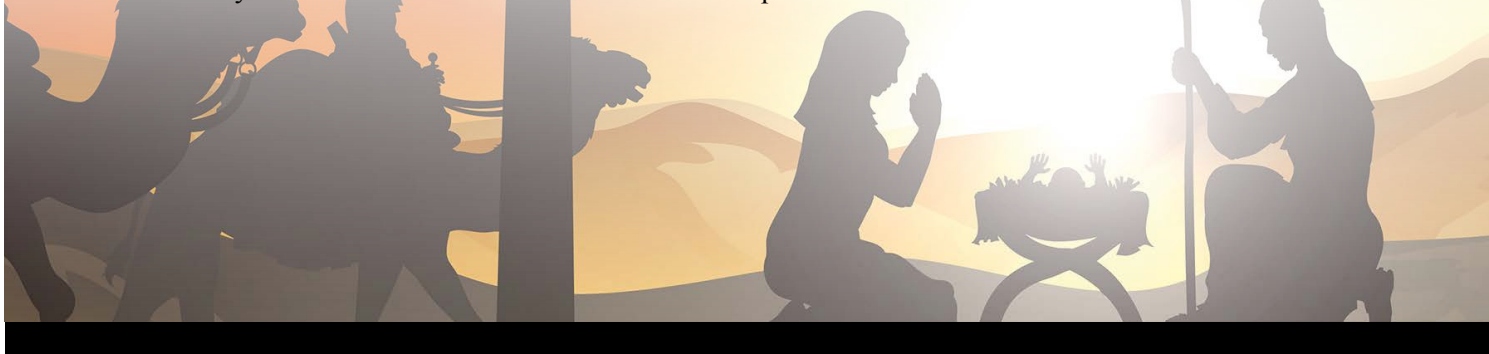
Carols, with our school orchestra performing, on Sunday, December 15, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the school. The school Christmas Pageant will take place on Thursday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m., at the church. All are invited to join this special event.

In the spirit of giving, we welcome our parishioners' participation in a number of special service opportunities throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Sponsored by our parish Outreach Ministry, our Caring Tree gives people an opportunity to purchase a gift for someone in need — anything from a toy or car seat for a child, to jackets for those in homeless shelters. Our donations support 20 local charities, with 1,500 items being purchased and donated by parishioners each year, delivered to local agencies by our Empty Nesters group. All gifts are due on or before December 8.

Our Faith Formation families are collecting blankets and fast food gift cards for Families to Freedom, an agency that provides transportation for victims of domestic abuse, a shelter or to reunite victims with family. Our middle and high school families are "adopting" families through Catholic Charities, ensuring that their needs are met for a joyful Christmas celebration.

Our parish also serves a hot meal at the Austin Street Shelter in downtown Dallas each month, and makes additional donations during the holiday season. We make donations to Vision Food Share, a local food pantry, which provides food for families in need.







## at All Saints

In addition to opportunities for prayer and service, we also hope to be a part of your family's fun traditions and preparation for Christmas.

Our annual Knights of Columbus "Light Up For Christ" event will take place on Tuesday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m., beginning in the Fellowship Hall. This community building event is a chance to start off the Advent season with fellowship, prayer, music and refreshments — culminating with lighting the Christmas star on our parish building.

For children, our St. Nick's Christmas party, hosted by the St. Nick's Circle — part of our All Saints' Women's Organization — is a chance for the kids of the parish to bring a gift for a child in need and enjoy an afternoon of fun. Taking place on Sunday, December 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall, this event designed for children ages 3 through fourth grade includes crafts, a puppet show, music and a visit from St. Nick.

With so many opportunities, we hope you'll join us to pray, serve and celebrate during this happy and holy season!

Information for all our Christmas and Advent events can be found in the bulletin, on pew cards and our website, and via our informational monitors. If you have additional questions, please contact the parish office at 972-661-9282.

*The season of Advent is a reminder to step back, slow down and be reminded of what really matters. Here at All Saints, we hope to give people an opportunity to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ, along with the rest of our parish family.*

# ADVENT

## Activity Schedule

November 16 thru December 8 – Caring Tree – Atriums

### DECEMBER

30-1 Saturday–Sunday – First weekend of Advent  
Blessing of Advent Wreath | Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

3 Tuesday – Light Up for Christ | Fellowship Hall & Outside  
Featuring music at 7:00 pm performed by the  
All Saints Children's Choir and All Saints School Orchestra  
Lighting of Christmas Star at 8:00 pm

8 Sunday – St. Nick's Christmas Party  
Fellowship Hall | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

9 Monday – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
not Holy Day of Obligation | Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 am

9-10 Monday & Tuesday - PARISH ADVENT MISSION –  
"O Come Let Us Adore Him"  
Day 1 – What it means to adore and prepare ourselves for Christ  
Day 2 – Who is this Christ who comes?  
Presented by Fr. Anthony Borrow, SJ  
Director, Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House  
Church | 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

12 Thursday – Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration  
Bilingual Rosary – 6:30 pm  
Bilingual Mass – 7:00 pm  
Reception following in Fellowship Hall

15 Sunday – Festival of Lessons & Carols  
Music by All Saints Catholic School Orchestra  
All Saints Catholic School | 7:00 pm

18 Wednesday – Diocesan Wide Reconciliation Services  
Chapel and Church | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

19 Thursday – ASCS Band Concert and Christmas Pageant  
Church | 6:30 pm



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## Merry Christmas!

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

**T**he Christmas season is upon us and many of us will begin our hunt for all the things we need to make our Christmas experience a special one. Going to store after store for the best sales and trying to beat the crowds has become somewhat of an American Christmas tradition. I find it interesting that the Christmas season comes right after the Thanksgiving holiday. It seems our culture decided to separate gratitude from giving and receiving, and the day set aside for gratitude is ending sooner and sooner with Black Friday sales starting on Thanksgiving Day! I guess 24 hours of gratitude is too much to ask.

Well, this Christmas season, All Saints Catholic School would like to express its gratitude for you. Thank you for your unwavering support. Thank you for spreading the word about our wonderful school where children learn how our faith illuminates reason and brings us closer to God through our pursuit of excellence. The simple action of telling people about the great things happening at All Saints Catholic School is multiplied when they tell their friends and so on. Thank you for your presence on campus. The students love seeing parishioners and visitors at



the school and can't wait to come say "hello." Thank you for the numerous prayers you say for our little ones. These prayers are answered every day they come to school and experience the warmth of the love each and every teacher has for them. Thank you for your participation in the life of All Saints Catholic Church. Your time and effort will pay dividends when the youth of our school go on to become strong, educated Catholics who will look to make our community the best it can be and adhere to the values our faith has instilled in them.

And lastly, thank you for being you. I had the occasion to hear Pope Francis give a sermon on the Gospel

message of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. In his sermon, Pope Francis reminded us that while Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000, it all started with a simple unselfish gift. A meager gift of what the boy had and could share with his fellow man. Pope Francis went on to explain that God performs miracles, but we must be willing to share of ourselves and of our gifts in order for these miracles to happen. I am fortunate to work in a place where I can witness the transformational miracles of education in a Catholic atmosphere. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure make All Saints what it is. You are the greatest gift All Saints has yet to receive.

*continued on page 6*

*This Christmas, let's be thankful for and present with each other. Let's give of ourselves to make our community a true light in the city of Dallas. Let's slow down and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with each other and be thankful for the gifts that His death and resurrection have allowed us to have and be a part of.*





## *Merry Christmas!* continued from page 6

This Christmas, let's be thankful for and present with each other. Let's give of ourselves to make our community a true light in the city of Dallas. Let's slow down and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with each other and be thankful for the gifts that His death and resurrection have allowed us to have and be a part of. I invite you to forgo the busy-ness of the typical American holiday, and slow down and enjoy the festivities of the season. Join us for one or all of the listed upcoming events. After all, Jesus came down from heaven and spent time with His fellow man. Let's follow His example and be intentional about spending time with those we love.

***Be sure to join us at All Saints Catholic School for the following events:***

- **School Atrium Decorating** — Friday, December 6, at 3:30 p.m.
- **Admissions Open House** — Wednesday, December 11, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- **Lessons and Carols** — Sunday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.
- **All Saints Band Concert and Christmas Pageant** (All Saints Catholic Church) — December 19, at 6:30 p.m.

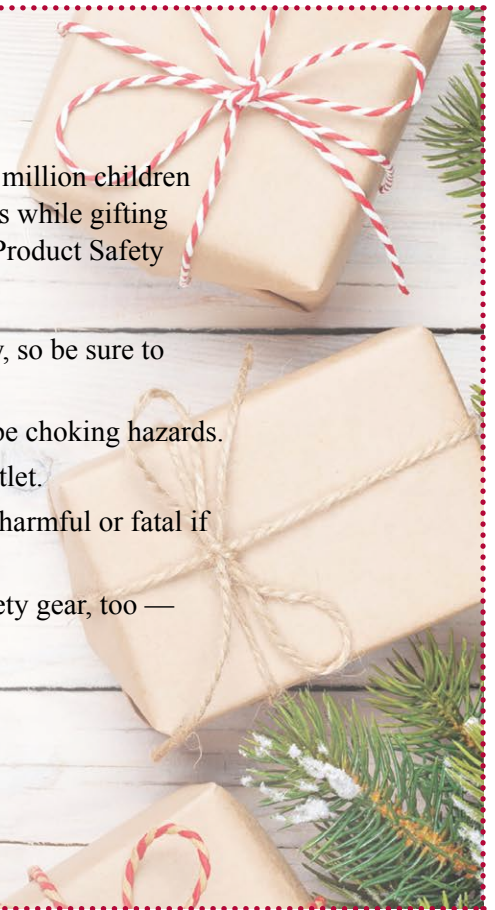
## It's Better to Give Safely

**G**ifts and toys should inspire joy, not cause injuries. More than a quarter of a million children were seriously injured in toy-related incidents in 2017. Avoid safety hazards while gifting with these tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Toys are age-rated for safety, not for children's intellect and physical ability, so be sure to choose toys in the correct age range.
- Choose toys for children under 3 that do not have small parts which could be choking hazards.
- For children under 10, avoid toys that must be plugged into an electrical outlet.
- Be cautious about toys that have button batteries or magnets, which can be harmful or fatal if swallowed.
- When giving scooters and other riding toys, give the gift of appropriate safety gear, too — helmets should be worn at all times and they should be sized to fit.

To find out about holiday toy safety and recalls, check the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at [www.cpsc.gov/Recalls](http://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls)

For more important home safety tips during the holiday season, check the National Safety Council website at [www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/winter/holiday](http://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/winter/holiday)





# ALL SAINTS

## Caring Card Ministry

*continued from front cover*

With the great care members take to let all parishioners know they are cared for, this simple ministry is a huge blessing to our parish community.

“We write the cards during a quiet time in our day so that we may take time to reflect not only on the person we are writing to, but also on our own blessings,” Judy says. “When I think about the recipient’s special circumstances, I think about what my mother would say — ‘Therefore, but for the grace of God, go I.’”

As we approach the Christmas holiday, let’s all lift up our fellow parishioners in prayer, for whatever they are going through.

“Being alone or sick is always hard, but especially during the holidays,” Judy says. “I think it is easier, or it should be easier, to reach out to others, especially during this joyous time. It could be something as simple as telling someone ‘have a wonderful week,’ or ‘I’m remembering you in my prayers.’”

Judy appreciates that this ministry can help those who don’t want their names printed in the church bulletin under the Prayers of Healing section. These parishioners still receive a card and prayers from the ministry members.

*"Our Caring Card may be received on a particularly hard day for the recipient when they had things other than prayer on their minds. This card may be just a flicker of light to start those prayers and to remember Christ's love and compassion." — Judy Vidas*

If you would like more information on the Caring Card Ministry, please contact Judy Vidas at [jmvidas@yahoo.com](mailto:jmvidas@yahoo.com).

## CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

### Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)

*(Holy Day of Obligation)*

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Vigil Mass):

4:00 pm (Church)

4:15 pm (Children's Mass | in the Gym)

6:00 pm (Church)

8:00 pm (Church)

11:00 pm (Christmas Mass during the night)

with Christmas Prelude Music beginning at 10:30 pm (Church)

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day Mass):

9:00 am (Church)

11:00 am (Church)

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 28 at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 29 at 7:15 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am and 5:00 pm

### Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

*(Holy Day of Obligation)*

Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 pm

Wednesday, January 1 at 10:00 am

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 4 at 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 5 at 7:15 am,

8:30 am (Children's Mass),

10:00 am, 11:30 am and 5:00 pm



### Save the Date:

All Saints Catholic School Gala and Auction

Saturday, February 29, 2020

Venue Forty 50 | 4050 Belt Line Road | Addison, TX 75001



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**Weekend Liturgy:** Saturday, 5:00 p.m. | Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 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.