

# Advent



December 21, 2008

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Do you want to build God a house?

David did. He felt awkward living well in his own place. God gave him a break from his enemies. David could see well enough to count his blessings. Now he felt dumb that the ark of God was in a tent. Yet God tells Nathan to tell David, I don't want a house. I want *you*. I have plans for *you*.



It's hard to get our imagination around this image. Of course, the One who creates the universe doesn't need a building. But then, does God need the tent? If we identify with David, something here throws off our expectations, our sense of how to respond.

What have you received that you didn't deserve? We admire saints like Francis and Ignatius, who exchanged their clothes with beggars to identify with the poor. Maybe we've thought of doing something like that. Ever identify with the other person in the story? What does it feel like to be the guy who received the new clothes? We can imagine gratitude was one feeling. Surprise might be another. How about awkwardness? Why me? Do we know how to be grateful? Are we embarrassed by someone else's generosity?

Take a minute to dig into your memory and recall a gift you received, where all you could do was say thank you. Were you able to give up control of the situation?

The model for how to do this is described in Luke's Gospel. Here is a young woman who was clear-sighted enough, and clear-hearted enough, to know she was being offered a gift and responsibility to live an open-ended gratefulness, no matter what God did next. She did not accept the gift blindly; she asked enough questions, and the angel gave her enough answers, so she knew what the Giver could do.

Then her response was simply, "Here am I, ...let it be with me according to your word" (1:38).

DAN FINUCANE

[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)

### Today's Readings

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

## Liguori

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# St. Stephen Catholic Church

**Pastor: Rev. Fr. John Casey, SAC**

**Deacon: Carlos Frias (817-307-8332)**

Office – 1802 Bethel Road

Weatherford TX 76086

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](http://www.ss-cc.org)

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM

Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM

Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423

Pro Shop—817-599-8431

Pastoral Assistant—

Sister Mildred Gordon, SHSp.

817-596-9587

Director of Religious Education –

Jeanette Houle-817-613-8008

[doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net)

Secretary – Dorothy Mendolia

Accountant – Ron Westendorf

Parish Interfaith Ecumenical

Representative—

LaVerne Cardwell 817-594-3805

Choir Director – Dave Mees

817-596-5097

Parish Pastoral Council President—

Chuck Schabow 817-599-6644

## 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**

## WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	December 20	6:00 PM	Our Community	<i>Advent Weekday</i>
Sunday	December 21	8:00 AM	Robert Langley, RIP	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
		10:45 AM	Genaro Rivera, RIP	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
		12:30 PM	Jose Martin Perez, RIP	<i>4º Domingo de Adviento</i>
Monday	December 22	8:45 AM	Lawrence & Barbara Bierschenk	<i>Weekday</i>
Tuesday	December 23	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Memorial of St. John of Kanty, priest</i>
Wednesday	December 24	6:00 PM	In Thanksgiving	<i>Bilingual Children's Mass</i>
		8:00 PM	Accion De Gracias	<i>Spanish Mass</i>
		10:00 PM	Our Community	<i>English Mass</i>
Thursday	December 25	10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving	<i>The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</i>
Friday	December 26	8:45 AM	Kelli Young	<i>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</i>
Saturday	December 27	6:00 PM	Peace	<i>Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
Sunday	December 28	8:00 AM	Faithful Departed	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
		10:45 AM	Catie Lusk	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>La Familia Santa de Jesús, Mary, y Joseph</i>

**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) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

**Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins.** Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

**Census Information**—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move 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 13-14**

**\$11,566.00**

## RETIRED RELIGIOUS

**\$7,633.00**

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend  
Are A Gift from  
Betty Mendenhall  
In Memory of my Dad, Robert Bond*

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

*Jesus calls us to live in the present and to let go of the regrets of the past and the exaggerated anxiety about the future. In Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation, The Emmanuel: God-is-with-us now.*

## WELCOME TO ALL, INCLUDING VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS.

Please join us this Sunday between Masses for breakfast in the parish hall, provided by the Hispanic Group.

## 4th Sunday of Advent

Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say "let it be" in response to God's call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always.

(Luke 1:26-38)

## 4º Domingo de Adviento

Por la invitación de un ángel. Maria recibió y respondió a la voluntad del Señor. ¿Quiénes son los mensajeros de Dios en tu vida? Escucha a Dios hablándote a través de ellos.

(Lucas 1:26-38)

## PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00

Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00

Total Contributions to Date—\$65,016.59

Interest Paid to Date—\$59,219.31

## SHARING IN MINISTRY UPDATE

Parish Goal: \$43,024.00

Pledges: \$29,013.00 (67% of Goal)

Contributors: 148

There will be no Religious Education Classes, Adult Bible Study, Adult Catechism, or breakfast on Sunday, December 28 and January 4.

All classes and activities will resume as scheduled on January 11 at 9:15 and 11:15.

#### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24

6 PM Bilingual Children's Mass

8 PM Spanish Mass

10 PM English Mass

Thursday, December 25

10 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday, January 1

10 AM

*The Church Office will be closed  
December 24 - January 4.*

THANKS to everyone who helped with the Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

MUCHAS GRACIAS a todas las personas que ayudaron en el Festival de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU. Dear Parishioners: I sent a letter regarding the struggles my sister is faced with, and it's as if the angels were watching over her. It was last Tuesday when I mailed the letter in to St. Stephen and the very next day I received a wonderful phone call stating that Lisa's rent and electric bill was paid by several sponsors. What a blessing! There are people with a big hearts that answered Lisa's prayers. Thank You so much for your kindness.

LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY will decorate the Church on **December 22 beginning at 11 AM**. If you love to decorate for Christmas, please join us as we prepare to welcome Our Lord Jesus at His birth. We will order pizzas to keep up our strength! Details and information call Nancy Klein at 817-341-1372.

2009 COLLECTION ENVELOPES are available in the church foyer. They are arranged alphabetically, so it should be easy for you to find your name. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box for 2009, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

BULLETIN NOTICES. Because of the holidays, bulletin notices for the weekends of December 27 & 28 and January 2 & 3 are due in the church office by 12 Noon the Monday before.

CHILDREN'S BILINGUAL CHRISTMAS EVE MASS. The 6 PM Christmas Eve Mass will be a Children's Mass with a Nativity presentation during the Gospel. Christmas Carols to begin at 5:30 PM. Come join in the celebration!

*Dear Parishioners,  
Have a Blessed and Grace  
-filled Christmas! May  
you experience the rebirth  
of Christ in your hearts  
and in your homes. May  
His presence overflow  
into your New Year. May*

*God Bless You. God loves you and so do I!*

*Fr. John*



**Ministry Formation Day**, Saturday, January 10, 2009, Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth, TX 76103, 8 AM—3 PM. To register call 817-560-3300 or call the church office at 817-596-9585.

**Día de Formación**. El sábado 10 de enero 2009, Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth TX 76103. 8 AM—3 PM. Registrar llamada 817-560-3300 o llamar la oficina de iglesia en 817-596-9585.

#### "HELP WANTED"

Couples on Friday afternoon, 1-4 PM  
for Parker County Jail Ministry.

**Wages:** Countless Blessings  
and a good deposit in your Heavenly account.

**Contact:** Paul or Barb Claffey at 817-220-2681.

#### 2009 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE-THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

**WHO:** Girls and Boys Ages 10-14  
Proof of age and written parental consent required

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 10, 2009  
Registration at 8:30 AM, Start at 9:00 AM

**WHERE:** Poolville Jr. High Gym, 16025 FM 920, Poolville

**CONTACT:** Jesse Chavez 817-269 4865 or Chuck Schabow  
817-597-6120

#### TEEN CORNER

**YOUTH GROUP.** Our next meeting will on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

#### PURE REALITY RALLY: SIGN-UP NOW—STILL TIME.

Youth rally for grades 8-12 presented by the Catholic Pro-Life Committee and Catholics Respect Life on **Sunday, February 8, 2009, 4-9:30 PM in Arlington**. The rally will focus on teaching teens that chastity and abstinence are the true paths to freedom. Cost is \$25.00 to include transportation, entrance, dinner, and t-shirt. Contact Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872 or Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net).

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All activities held at Bethel Road)

##### Sunday, December 21

9:15 AM Religious Education Classes (English)  
9:15 AM Adult Catechism (Room 19)  
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (Room 3)  
11:15 AM Religious Education Classes (Spanish)  
6:00 PM Youth Music Ministry

##### Monday, December 22

6:00 PM Las Posadas  
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72

##### Tuesday, December 23

6:00 PM Las Posadas

##### Wednesday, December 24

6:00 PM Bilingual Children's Mass  
8:00 PM Spanish Mass  
10:00 PM English Mass

##### Thursday, December 25

10:00 AM The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

##### Saturday, December 27

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—Bilingual

# dear Padre

## What does Jesus' title *Son of Man* mean?



Why does Jesus refer to himself as the *Son of Man*?  
What does the title mean?

Steve

Dear Steve,

Jesus refers to himself as the *Son of Man* seventy-six times in the Gospels, so it's clearly his favorite title. When people call him the Messiah, Jesus often corrects them by calling himself the *Son of Man*.

That title has three meanings: the Son of Man in all his humanity, the suffering Son of Man, and the Son of Man who will come again.

Jesus uses the title to stress his true humanity and identify with us. Jesus as Son of Man must suffer and die. Every time Jesus prophesies about his death, it is as the Son of Man. Jesus connects the title with his passion and death, linking it to Isaiah 53, the great Song of the Suffering Servant.

The Son of Man is God's powerful representative (Daniel 7:13) coming to establish the kingdom of God. The Son of Man suffers, dies, and rises to establish the kingdom of God.

That one title *Son of Man* captures the full extent of Jesus' work of redemption: He became fully human, suffering and dying to establish the kingdom of God.

John Murray, C.Ss.R.



OPHÉLIE DE LA TOUR, THE NATIVITY



PAOLO VERONESI, SUFFERING THE CROSS

### Monday December 22

Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28

Lk 1:46-56

### Tuesday December 23

Advent Weekday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24

Lk 1:57-66

### Wednesday December 24

Advent Weekday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Lk 1:67-79

### Thursday December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Vigil: Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14

Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12 / Ti 3:4-7

Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### Friday December 26

Saint Stephen, first martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Mt 10:17-22

### Saturday December 27

Saint John, apostle and evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

### Sunday December 28

The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

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

Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



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