

## December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent



The virgin  
shall  
conceive,  
and bear  
a  
Son

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### EMMANUEL

To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that entity. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being.

The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well.

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### REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

The Bible offers us a rich variety of men and women who qualify as heroes, warriors, prophets, and wise men and women. And every so often it places before us a dreamer. Jacob had the first big dream, with that ladder connecting heaven and earth, bearing ascending and descending angels.

His son Joseph started off with dreams that put himself at the center, much to his brothers' chagrin, but later he saved himself by interpreting the dreams of others, including Pharaoh. However, the most important dreamer of all was Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster father to Jesus.

Joseph was asked to live out his dream. "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her," he was told in a dream (Matthew 1:20). And not only that, he was to name the child Jesus, which means "God saves." What all this cost him we don't know. All we hear is that when he awoke from the dream, he did what had been asked and took Mary into his home.

That wasn't the end of the dreams. "Joseph, take the mother and child into Egypt—Herod is trying to kill him." "Joseph, take the mother and child out of Egypt—Herod is dead."

And Joseph did. Maybe once you begin to live God's dream it gets easier.

God's dream is that we live in the world as God's adopted and saved children, working to bring God's peace and justice, mercy and forgiveness into our world wherever they are needed. —James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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### REFLECTION

What does Christmas celebrate? Christmas celebrates a human event, an encounter with Jesus' humanity. Christmas recognizes how the God who created human beings to know, love, and serve realized that human beings could not know, love, or serve anything they couldn't wrap their arms around. Thus, God became a human being in Jesus.

As a human, Jesus was born, grew, worked, sweated, suffered, laughed, cried, and died as all humans do. In his body, he knew the smell of bread baking and the warm breath of animals. He felt the heat of the sun and the touch of a friend's hand. He woke up to the cooing of doves and was lulled to sleep by the slap of water on the side of a fishing boat. He heard the cry of a widow whose son had died. He tasted new wine, the dust of the road, and charbroiled fish shared with the apostles. He saw the world around him, and he looked into people's hearts.

On Christmas, the Church celebrates Jesus' experience of being a human being in a unique, concrete manner. More than that, we make memorial of that experience in our own life situation. At its core, Christmas celebrates the meaning of the experience of being human: pain and pleasure, suffering and joy, dying and rising to new life. That is why Christmas is such a hospitable feast. This hospitality is rooted in what it means to be a new creation, to be open to the stranger in our midst, and to be open to new experiences. Ultimately, Christmas means being willing to recognize that our everyday living is a sign of what will come. Why? Because the Word of God has taken on bone and blood and has entered into our human actions, experiences, and lives. Because of Christmas, our faith-filled eyes can see that our humanity now is our salvation. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

### COLLECTION DATA – 12/13-14

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$3997.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1228.00
<i>Retirement for Religious</i> .....	<u>872.70</u>
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$6097.70

### 2025 POSADA NOVENA FOR CHRISTMAS

Each day starts at 7:00pm *except Dec. 22nd & 24th*

Dec. 21 Aleja Ortega, Irene Montemayor--611 W. Broadway

**Dec. 22** Cursillistas—Mass 6:30pm with Bishop Sis IHM

Dec. 23 Argelia Gonzalez, 1211 Bawcom

Dec. 24 5pm Mass Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

**Saturday, December 20th 5:00PM-IHM-**

+Maria Morales & Carlos Guerrero & Rodolfo Morales;

+Ruben Gutierrez;

+Alma & Frances Solano



**Sunday, December 21st –  
“Fourth Sunday of Advent”**

**8:00AM** – +Martina Herrera;

+Rodrigo DeLoera;

+Christopher Cardoza

**9:30AM – HF** – For the People of Nolan County

**11:00AM** – +Marcelino & Esther Rodriguez;

For our seminarians Noah Hernandez,

Humberto Diaz, Martin Luna;

For the well-being of Solis Family

**Tuesday, December 23rd 9:00AM - HF**

For Deacon Humberto Diaz

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

**5:00PM-IHM** +Louis Torres

**12:00 Midnight-IHM** For the People of Nolan County

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

**10:00AM IHM** - +Sarah Gomez, Eulalio & Sarita Olvera,

Ysidro & Elvira Navarrette

**Friday, December 26th 9:00AM HF**

Communion Service

**Saturday, December 27th -**

**5:00PM-IHM-** +Daniel Grimaldo; +Gloria Castro, Delia

Sparkman, Rudy Torres, Nellie, Dolores, Francisco,

Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana, Tony y Patricia Gomez;

For the health and well-being of Joe Nathan Torres

**Sunday, December 28th -**

**8:00AM** – IHM Por la Gente de Nolan County

**11:00AM** – IHM +Daniel Solis

For our seminarian, Martin Luna

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 1Sm 1:24-28; Ps 1Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;  
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;  
Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: 2Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: 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]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14;  
Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;  
Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

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

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

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

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;  
Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Christmas Eve Masses –**

5:00pm and 12 Midnight – IHM

**Christmas Day Mass - 10:00am- IHM**

**“Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God”**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**December 31st, 2025 - Vigil Mass – 7pm IHM Spanish**

**January 1st, 2026 – 9am HF & 7pm IHM English**

**FINAL PREPARATIONS** – Soon we will celebrate the end of our Advent waiting and watchfulness. We will find fulfillment of our anticipation. For now, perhaps we need to quiet ourselves a bit. Let’s set about doing those small things necessary to be someone who is welcoming, but even more importantly, to be someone who is not frazzled. Saint Joseph can be our model for these final days of Advent. His openness to God’s will and his gentle acknowledgment of the great import of Jesus’ coming can guide us to the Christmas celebration. Copyright ©2004, World Library Publications All rights reserved

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS -RELIGION CLASSES ---**

●No Sunday Classes December 21st, 28th, & January 4th. Classes will resume Sunday, January 11th, 2026.

●No Wednesday Classes December 17th, 24th & December 31st. Classes will resume Wednesday, January 7th, 2026.

**WHY AM I CATHOLIC?** Deacon Bill’s sharing session is every Tuesday at his home, @6pm. All are invited!

**ULTREYA** in English will not meet until after the new year. Date to be determined.

**PARISH MOVIE GROUP** – will meet this Sunday, December 21st, @4:00pm at Holy Family Hall.

**MUCHAS GRACIAS** a todos los ministerios que nos apoyaron con trabajo y donaciones para hacer posible la fiesta el día de la Virgen de Guadalupe; pero sobre todo, muchisimas gracias a la comunidad que nos apoyó comprando comida. Muchisimas gracias a Fr. Josh que nos permite utilizar el salón. *Bendiciones y Feliz Navidad*

**HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE**

Dec. 27 – All Groups help

**From the Clergy and Staff of Holy Spirit Parish**



We wish all our families the blessings of Peace, Love & Joy this Christmas and always. The Parish Office will be closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, and Friday, December 26th.

## Last chance for Jubilee indulgence

By Bishop Michael J. Sis

In the West Texas Angelus of November 2024, I published an explanation of how to obtain the plenary indulgence in the Jubilee Year 2025. Lately, some have been asking again for that same information. Since we are in the last month of the Jubilee Year, I am happy to share that information again. Catholics around the world have observed the year 2025 as an Ordinary Jubilee Year. In Rome, the Jubilee began on Dec. 24, 2024, and will conclude on Jan. 6, 2026. In local dioceses, the Jubilee began on Dec. 29, 2024, and will conclude on Dec. 28, 2025. According to Church teaching, the four normal conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence are the following: (1) truly repenting of our sin and letting go of our attachment to sin; (2) sacramental confession; (3) reception of the Eucharist; and (4) praying for the intentions of the pope. A member of the Church who has fulfilled those conditions may acquire a plenary indulgence by carrying out any one of the various particular actions which the Church has designated for a plenary indulgence. In this Jubilee Year 2025, the Jubilee indulgence can be received in a variety of ways: by making a pilgrimage, piously visiting a sacred place, performing a work of mercy and penance, or carrying out acts of prayer. Regarding pilgrimages, a plenary indulgence may be received by those pilgrims who travel to any sacred Jubilee site and participate in a Mass, a Liturgy of the Word, one of the major hours in the Liturgy of the Hours, or a devotion such as the Way of the Cross, the Rosary, the Akathist hymn (an ancient Byzantine hymn to Mary), or a penance service with sacramental confession. Additionally, one may obtain the indulgence by making a pilgrimage to one of the four papal major basilicas in Rome, one of the three basilicas in the Holy Land, any Catholic cathedral anywhere in the world, or another sacred place that has been designated by the local bishop. A person may obtain the Jubilee indulgence if, individually or in a group, they devoutly visit any Jubilee site and engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation for at least a half hour, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed, and prayers to the Virgin Mary. In addition to the places named above under pilgrimages, the following sacred places have been designated by the Holy See as Jubilee sites: the Roman catacombs, several particular churches in Rome and Italy, and many places around the world, such as any basilica, any minor basilica, any cathedral, any Marian shrine, or any sacred place designated by the local diocesan bishop. In the Diocese of San Angelo, the places that carry the Jubilee indulgence include Sacred Heart Cathedral in San

Angelo and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Midland. Besides those, I have chosen to designate the following sacred places in the Diocese of San Angelo as places where the plenary Jubilee indulgence may be received: the perpetual adoration chapel at Sacred Heart Church in Abilene, the perpetual adoration chapel at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Midland, the perpetual adoration chapel at St. Mary Church in Odessa, and the perpetual adoration chapel at St. Margaret Church in San Angelo. Those who cannot participate in visits to these places (especially cloistered monks or nuns, the elderly, the sick, and prisoners) can obtain the Jubilee indulgence in their homes or wherever they are confined, if they recite the Our Father, the Creed, the Hail Mary, and the official Jubilee prayer, offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives in prayerful union with Christ. The Jubilee prayer can be found in this same edition of the *West Texas Angelus* or at the following website: [www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubi-leo-2025/preghiera.html](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubi-leo-2025/preghiera.html).

One may also obtain a Jubilee indulgence by carrying out any of the following works of mercy and penance: parish missions, spiritual retreats (such as Search, ACTS, Cursillo, Kolbe, Awakening, Engaged Encounter, and Marriage Encounter), faith formation activities on the documents of Vatican II or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the performance of corporal or spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works of mercy are the following: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. The spiritual works of mercy are as follows: counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear wrongs patiently, and pray for the living and the dead. The Jubilee indulgence may also be received by the following acts of prayer: devoutly praying the Rosary in a church, or in a family, or with a group of fellow believers; prayerfully reading the Bible for at least half an hour; devoutly praying the Way of the Cross, going from station to station, in any of our churches, or at any of our outdoor sites of the Way of the Cross, such as Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo, Sacred Heart Church in Abilene, Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Midland, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Odessa, and Holy Trinity in Big Spring.

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