

Dec. 25, 2016 - The Nativity of Our Lord

From the Pastor

On behalf of Fr. Houck and myself, I would like to wish you a grace-filled and joyous Christmas. Thank you to all who helped out in so many ways this past year to bring us to our own chapel on the land that was donated for this purpose. We have been working toward this for over five years, and through the sacrifices of so many, God has rewarded us. Let us return thanks to God for His graces and blessing. One way to show gratitude to God is to renew our efforts and sacrifices for His greater glory. May God love you all.

Series on the Mass, Part 52

The Canon: Memento for the deceased. "Remember, Oh Lord, your servants, who have gone before us marked with the sign of the faith..." In the first part of the Canon, we prayed for the Church Militant here on earth with the "Te igitur" and the "Memento" for the living prayers. We also invoked the Church Triumphant in heaven with the "Communicantes" prayer. Now we pray for the Church Suffering, the souls in purgatory. At this point the priest pauses to pray for the souls in particular for whom the Mass is being offered, if it was for a deceased person, but also for all those who are dear to him that have gone to their eternal reward. At a High Mass, the master of ceremonies (MC) steps back a little, as he did at the memento for the living, so he cannot hear the names that the priest might be whispering to himself.

The priest bows his head while praying for the souls of the faithful departed, and this is a sign that the faithful should pray for those who are dear to them. We should not forget to remember the souls who have been most abandoned. The souls in purgatory can no longer pray for themselves and any prayers that we offer to them will be greatly appreciated. If we help release a soul from purgatory, we will have a dear friend in heaven to intercede for us while we are still in this vale of tears. That purgatory exists is a truth of the Faith defined at the Councils of Lyon (1274), Florence (1439), and Trent (1563). The "mark of the sign of Faith" is the character of a child of God that was received at baptism. The place of refreshment, light and peace that we pray for these souls to be released to is, of course, the full beatific vision in heaven, where there will be no more suffering and where we will see God face to face. The custom of praying for the souls in purgatory can be traced back to the Old Testament in the books of the Maccabees.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP



*Please stay current on your pledge commitment.
Pledges finance construction and retire interim bridge loans.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY Mass Schedule

Christmas—Midnight, 7:30 a.m. Low, 9:30 a.m. High, 5:30 p.m. Low
Sun., Jan. 1, Octave Day of Christmas, 7:30 a.m. Low, 9:30 a.m. High
Thurs., Jan. 5, 7 p.m. Low Mass followed by Blessing of Epiphany Water
Fri., Jan. 6, Epiphany, 6:30 a.m. Low, 7 p.m. High Mass followed by First Friday devotions

NEW SUNDAY Mass & CCD Times, effective January 8, 2017

7:30 a.m. Low Mass 10 a.m. High Mass
8:45-9:35 a.m. CCD; classes resume January 8.

Announcements

PLEASE CONSIDER making a special year-end donation to the capital campaign. God has been good to us in providing us with this building and parish, but for us to expand, we must retire our existing debt. If you can make an extra donation this month, it would be greatly appreciated. May God reward you.

2017 Boxed Envelope Sets are on the hall table for pick up. *Please pick up your box and save the parish postage.* Everyone who is registered has a box. If you do not have a boxed set, you are not registered with the parish. Registration forms are on the table. If you are registered and do not see a boxed set, please contact C.C. Grant or email office@reginacaeliparish.org.

FSSP 2017 Liturgical Calendar on sale at the table, \$13 each, cash or check payable to parish.

Cleaning the building. Special thanks to all who volunteered. May God reward you. Gretchen Richardson is the coordinator. Anytime you can stop by and help, even if you did not sign up, please contact her to see what needs to be done. Contact information: 281-734-3337.

Silent prayer in the church. We would like to keep the building open for silent prayer during the following times, but need firm commitments that at least two people will be on the premises in prayer during these hours: 4-7 p.m. Friday, 4-7 p.m. Saturday, noon-5:30 p.m. Sunday. Please sign up at the hall table.

Today:

- ~ Please sign up if you can commit to silent prayer in the church on Friday or Saturday evenings, or on Sunday afternoons (see above for more information).
- ~ Please sign up if you assist with cleaning of St. Athanasius Chapel Hall. If you cannot commit to a specific week but can come in from time to time, please note that on the sign up sheet or call Gretchen Richardson at 281-734-3337.

Saturday work days (grounds maintenance and other chores) resumes in January. Hours are 10-4 p.m. You may come for all or part of the time. You can also come during the week, but check with Fr. Van Vliet first.

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Liturgical Calendar & Mass Intentions

Dec. 25-Jan. 1, 2017

Sun., 12/25, The Nativity of Our Lord

Midnight Mass, Pro Populo

7:30 a.m., RIP Sydney Cordeiro; requested by Vickie Cordeiro

9:30 a.m., RIP Fred Rodriguez; by J. Rodriguez

5:30 p.m., Private intentions

Mon., 12/26, St. Stephen

6:30 a.m., RIP Mrs. Consuelo Careaga; requested by Estella LeBlanc

Tues., 12/27, St. John the Evangelist

7:00 p.m., Jewel Puckett Martinez; by Cody Sain

Wed., 12/28, Holy Innocents

6:30 a.m., Souls in Purgatory; by Ron Truong

Thurs., 12/29, 5th Day in the Octave of Christmas

7:00 p.m., Souls in Purgatory; by Ron Truong

Fri., 12/30, 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

6:30 a.m., Souls in Purgatory; by Ron Truong

Sat., 12/31, 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

7:30 a.m., Private intentions

Sun., 1/1, Octave Day of Christmas

7:30 a.m., Pro Populo

9:30 a.m., RIP Ruth and Arrel Carrier; by C. Limes

First Friday of each month, there is an additional public Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by First Friday devotions, which includes Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Private Mass Schedule

Mon., Wed. 7:00 p.m.

Tues., Thurs., Sat. 6:30 a.m.

You are welcome to attend private Masses, but they are subject to cancellation if a priest is not available. Planned absence of a priest will be posted in the bulletin whenever possible.

Directory

Parish Office office@reginacaeliparish.org
Open: Mon. & Fri., 8-4 p.m.
Telephone: 832-328-0876

Pastor Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP
pastor@reginacaeliparish.org

Parochial Vicar Rev. Joshua Houck, FSSP
frjhouck@reginacaeliparish.org

Website reginacaeliparish.org

Parish Organizations

Contact in person or email

Men's Schola

Practice Thursday nights, 7 p.m.
Contact: Mark Holt or Kyle Lartigue
schola@reginacaeliparish.org

Young Adult Group

Contact: Stephen Gann
youngadults@reginacaeliparish.org

Youth Group

Contact: Rev. Joshua Houck

Regina Caeli Moms

Contact: Jennifer McDonald
reginacaelimoms@reginacaeliparish.org

Sacraments

Please check the parish website for more information.

Infant baptism—contact parish at least one month before due date.

Regina Caeli Parish

The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



Pastor: Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Joshua Houck, FSSP

Address: 8121 Breen Rd., Houston, Texas 77064
Telephone: 832-328-0876

Website: reginacaeliparish.org
Email: office@reginacaeliparish.org



Mass and Confession Schedule

Sundays	7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (High)
Mon., Wed., Fri.	6:30 a.m.
Tues., Thurs.	7:00 p.m.
Saturdays	7:30 a.m.
Confession	30 minutes before each Mass; ends 5 minutes before Mass starts