

From the Pastor

Advent, Part 1

In our present disposition of the liturgical calendar, the liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent, but it was not always this way. In the ancient Sacramentaries, the liturgical year began with the solemnity of Christmas. The reason for this is that the Incarnation of the Word is the central point in the long history of humanity and it marks the beginning of the fullness of time, and so it was also used for the beginning of the liturgical year. The present arrangement in the missal is perhaps more logical since it corresponds more with the history of humanity, whereby the time of Advent represents the time before Christ and Christmas marks the veritable center of our history with the remaining parts of the liturgical year marking the time after Christ's birth.

It was in the 5th c. with the Christological heresies of Nestorius that the commemoration of the birth of the Saviour was given a greater importance and fervor. The proclamations against these heresies brought out more clearly the dogma of the two natures in Christ, the divine and human, with one unique divine person. These clarifications of the dogma showed forth more clearly the glory and prerogatives of the Theotokos and a real impetus of Catholic piety toward the mystery of the incarnation (Card. Schuster commentary in his Liber Sacramentorum). It is likely that during this period the season of Advent developed into what we have today.

Advent is a penitential season, though not as strict as Lent. The spirit of penance and sorrow consumes us during Lent in view of Holy Week, when our Lord enters His Passion for our sins. The Advent liturgy, on the contrary, is looking to the joyous coming of our Savior and our liberation from sin which His coming announces. The liturgy during Advent is seasoned with tender feelings and desires for the coming of the Savior. Though it is a penitential season, the spirit of penance is quite different from Lent. As our Lord said in John 8:56, "Abraham your father rejoiced that he might see my day: he saw it and was glad."

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

A Special Request

Because of your steadfast commitment to this parish and the blessings of our merciful God, Regina Caeli closed its first capital campaign debt free. We can now plan for the urgently needed expansion of our parish complex. A second capital campaign will be launched in the fall of 2018.

If you are able to make an additional year-end contribution to be used as seed money for the upcoming second campaign, please note capital campaign on the donation. Actual pledges for the campaign will come later; however, funds will be needed soon for the preliminary building plans, so please be as generous as you can.

May God, Whose munificence cannot be outdone, reward you.

Weekend church hours. The church is open for private prayer on Fridays-Sundays as noted below. Please consider committing to one hour of prayer at least one day a month.

Fridays & Saturdays, 4-7 p.m.      Sundays, Noon-5:30 p.m.

Saturday work days, 10-4 p.m. If you can spare time on Saturday to assist on parish projects and grounds maintenance, please come at any time during these hours.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena, 6:40 p.m. every Wednesday

Legion of Mary, 7 p.m. every Thursday in the large meeting room, unless noted differently below

**2018 FSSP Liturgical Calendars on Sale** at the hall table, \$13 each, cash or check. Please make checks payable to Regina Caeli Parish and note "calendar" on the memo line.

**Ushers needed at all the Masses.** Please consider signing up to serve at the Mass you most commonly attend. Sign up sheet on the hall table.

**Christmas Flowers.** Please consider offering a cash or check donation for flowers to adorn the altar and chapel during the Christmas season. Donation box is on the hall table. Checks are payable to Regina Caeli Parish. Please note "flower donation" on the memo line. Thank you for your gift!

Saturday, Dec. 16, 6:30 a.m., our first candlelight Rorate Mass in honor of Our Lady!

TODAY:

- ~ CCD resumes.
- ~ Please consider a cash or check donation at the hall table for Christmas altar flowers. Thank you.
- ~ Please pick up your boxed set of 2018 stewardship envelopes. If you registered with the parish and do not see a boxed set of envelopes in your name, please contact C.C. Grant or the parish office.

Mon., Dec. 4, Troops of St. George meeting, 7-8:30 p.m. Open to boys and youth, ages 6 and older.

Tues., Dec. 5, First Festival Committee, 6:30 p.m. in the large meeting room

Fri., Dec. 8, Holy day: Immaculate Conception. 6:30 a.m. Low Mass, 7 p.m. High Mass

Sat., Dec. 9:

- ~ Altar Society meeting after the 7:30 a.m. Mass in the small meeting room
- ~ Altar server practice immediately following the 7:30 a.m. Mass
- ~ Little Flowers meeting, 9 a.m. in the large meeting room

Fri., Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m., Men's Recollection. Open to all men.

Sat., Dec. 16, 6:30 a.m. Rorate (High) Mass, 7:30 a.m. Low Mass

Special Tribute to Our Lady, Sunday, Dec. 10, after the 10 a.m. Mass

*CCD Children Lead Song in Honor of the Immaculate Conception*

*followed by*

*Traditional Mexican Reception in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe!*

There will be Vespers after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

## December 3, 2017 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

### Liturgical Calendar & Mass Intentions

*December 3 – 9, 2017*

#### Sun., 12/3, First Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m., RIP Ruth & Arrel Carrier, requested by Cindy Limes

10:00 a.m., Pro Populo

5:30 p.m., Intentions for Hector A. Estrada, requested by a friend

#### Mon., 12/4, St. Peter Chrysologus

6:30 a.m., In thanksgiving, requested by Laura Hollingsworth Garza

#### Tues., 12/5, Feria of Advent

7:00 p.m., Jeremy Monceaux, by Chuck Bienvenu

#### Wed., 12/6, St. Nicholas

6:30 a.m., Conor McArdle, by Chuck Bienvenu

#### Thurs., 12/7, St. Ambrose

7:00 p.m., RIP John the Baptist Glas, requested by Chris Oba

#### Fri., 12/8, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 a.m., Pro Populo

7:00 p.m., Al Shelton by Marion LaRose

#### Sat., 12/9, Feria of Advent

7:30 a.m., RIP John Laza, Sr., by John Laza, Jr.

*First Friday of each month*, there is an additional public Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by First Friday devotion, which includes exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

*First Saturday of each month*, First Saturday devotion with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 7:30 a.m. Mass.

#### 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. Advance notice of cancellations will be posted in the bulletin whenever possible.

### Directory

Parish Office office@reginacaeliparish.org  
Open: Mon. & Fri., 8:30-4 p.m.  
Telephone: 832-328-0876  
To confirm Mass requests or dates:  
registrar@reginacaeliparish.org

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

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

Website reginacaeliparish.org

### Parish Organizations

#### Men's Schola

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

#### Altar Society

Contact: Juana Maria Olvera  
altarsoc@reginacaeliparish.org

#### Youth Group

Contact: Rev. Joshua Houck

#### Contacts for other groups

Please check the bulletin boards or go to the parish website and click on Groups/Ministries

### Sacraments

Please check the parish website for more information.

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

Marriage—contact parish eight months before proposed 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., 10:00 a.m. (High), 5:30 p.m.
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