

# St. Charles Catholic Church

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## Mission:

### Our Lady of the Lake Sunrise Beach

Pastor: Rev. Anthony Alphonse ~ Diocese of Austin

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2013

##### Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm at Our Lady of the Lake,  
Sunrise Beach

Saturday 5:30 pm at St. Charles, Kingsland

Sunday 9:00 am at St. Charles, Kingsland

##### Weekday Masses

8:00 am Tuesday-Friday at St. Charles

##### Reconciliation

Before Masses and by appointment

##### Mass Intentions

Sat. 12/21 4:00 pm Bobbie Simmons †

5:30 pm Robert Timrick †

Sun. 12/22 9:00 am All Parishioners

Mon. 12/23 NO MASS

Tues. 12/24 4:00pm OLOL

5:30 pm St. Charles

10:00 pm St. Charles

Wed. 12/25 9:00 am St. Charles

Thurs. 12/26 NO MASS

Fri. 12/27 NO MASS

Sat. 12/28 4:00 pm Special Intention

5:30 pm Kevin Anzivino †

Sun. 12/29 9:00 am All Parishioners

"Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head." St. Charles Borromeo

#### TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION FROM FR. ALPHONSE

God speaks to us in many ways. To Mary He spoke through the angel, to David through the prophet Nathan. Often he speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, through the Church. He manifests Himself in the sick, poor and lowly, in everyone we meet. Whatever we do to the 'least of our brothers' Jesus accepts it as if done to Him (Mt. 25:40). Today Jesus speaks to us through His little ones.

Just as many reflected and meditated on the words of the angel, we too should reflect on the words spoken by the divine voice: God's word must move us to respond to His salvific plan. That is, we must do what God designs for our salvation and for that of the world. Mary's "yes" to God's will is a great lesson for us. Her fiat, 'thy will be done', that is "whatever God says, I accept" must be also our motto. We must be able to say, "Here I am let your will be done."

Christmas is the festival of love, involving the entire community "God loved the world so much that He sent His only son." ***I wish you a Happy Christmas.***

#### CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE:

12/24 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM OLOL 5:30 PM St. Charles 10:00 PM St. Charles

12/25 Christmas Day

9:00 AM St. Charles

12/31 New Year's Eve

4:00 PM OLOL 5:30 PM St. Charles

1/1 New Year's Day

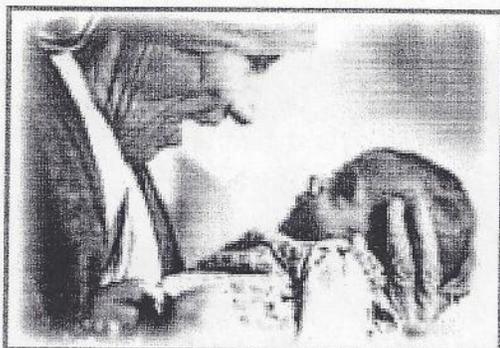
9:00 AM St. Charles

Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory. The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel. Alleluia, Alleluia

#### **SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH.**

**DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTION NEXT  
WEEKEND** December 28/29 – Feast of the Holy Family – benefiting Family and Pro-Life Activities, and Maternity homes in the Austin Diocese.

Please consider sponsoring a weekend in 2014 with flowers for the altar with your special intention. In thanks and adoration or remembrance we bring to the altar fresh flowers each week. You can honor a loved one's birthday or anniversary or life or perhaps a special thanksgiving. Forms can be found in today's bulletin and at the entrances of the Church. (Reminder: no flowers during Advent & Lent)



**"It's a poverty to decide that a child must die, so you can live as you want."**  
 ~ Mother Theresa

We must pray for an end to all abortions.

Life begins at conception.

The RCIA class will meet on Sunday from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm instead of Monday for the next five weeks. We will go back to Monday evenings Jan. 6th. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome.

The annual Fireside retreat at Cedarbrake will be Feb. 7-9. The retreat begins on Friday evening at 6:00 and ends on Sunday after Mass around 11:30. The retreat will be based on the movie "Of Gods and Men". The price for a private room is \$195 and a shared room is \$160 per person. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to come together and share time reflecting on Christian life. Registration forms are on the table in back of church. For more information call Joan Woods at 830-596-8569.

**NEWCOMERS OR VISITORS**

Newcomers or visitors wishing to become members of St. Charles or OLOL, please fill out a membership form located in the back of church and give the form to one of the greeters/ushers.

Send bulletin announcements by noon on TUESDAY to [stcharles@nctv.com](mailto:stcharles@nctv.com). Please put in subject line of email "bulletin announcement". This will help us and it will ensure your important information is not overlooked.

We will be decorating the church on Monday, December 23rd, at 9:00 AM. We know that this is a busy time of the year, but any help will be appreciated.  
 Liturgy Commission

**Preparing for Visitors to My Home**

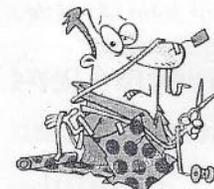
They are coming! Oh, dear Lord, like the Wise men wandering toward the stable, visitors are heading to my house. I am so excited about this visit. But I can get so side-tracked about how my house looks, or the food that I serve. I can only keep this prayerful with your help.

Help me to stay humble this Advent and Christmas season. You invite us into the humility of the stable where you were born. Help me to remember that humble-ness and the simple joy of your birth. Let me stay focused on my guests, not on myself and my worries about my house. Guide me in rejoicing in who these people are and in loving them freely.



**Wrapping gifts**

Dear Lord, I am tired. I sit here surrounded by ribbons and paper, gifts and tags and I struggle to feel the spirit of giving. I can barely remember which gift is for whom and at moments it all seems so far from your birth. Help me to take this moment to think of the many gifts you have given to me, the many ways your grace has blessed my life. Help me to remember that each gift is a tiny mirror of the generosity I see so clearly in your life and of the many ways you shower me with such lavish and undeserved love. Let me sit here for just a moment and feel that joy in my heart. Thank you. Thank you.



Care of the poor is a basic Catholic Christian value for all of us. We touch the Lord when we serve the poor. In the end, the Great Judge will say that's what it's all about. (Matthew 25)

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS**

St. Charles Parish	\$2636.81
Our Lady of the Lake	\$ 554.00

We give back to the Lord only what He has first given us – we come into this world with nothing; we shall leave with nothing. Freely we have received of the Lord's blessings; let us graciously return to him the first and the best that we have.

The Offertory is more than the "collection of money." Our offerings represent ourselves and our dedication to God. God loves a cheerful and generous giver. We have freely received an abundance of his blessings; let us freely and humbly return thanks to him by giving of our material gifts.