Christ the Newborn King

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish
December 25, 2013
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Dear Parishioners:

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ!

During this past year, we were surprised with the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and with the election of Pope Francis. Together, they gave us an encyclical letter entitled Lumen Fidei or The Light of Faith. This letter is a gift to us in celebration of the Year of Faith. In a world which often discounts the value of faith, the Holy Father notes in #25 that "we often tend to consider the only real truth to be that of technology: truth is what we succeed in building and measuring by our scientific know-how; truth is what works and what makes life easier and more comfortable...In the end, what we are left with is relativism, in which the question of God is no longer relevant." Christians however know that truth is not just a concept, but a Person, Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Once we come to really know and love Jesus, everything in life is transformed. The Holy Father writes in #26 & 27 that "Faith knows because it is tied to love, because love itself brings enlightenment. Faith's understanding is born when we receive the immense love of God which transforms us inwardly and enables us to see reality with new eyes...Only to the extent that love is grounded in truth can it endure over time, can it transcend the passing moment and be sufficiently solid to sustain a shared journey." That newness of vision is what we want to pray for and work for in the coming year. When we have the vision of Christ and the Church, we can see that all good things are possible with God in the long term journey of faith to life everlasting.

Please take this bulletin as an opportunity to review the many ministries of Annunciation Parish. We are blessed to have so many volunteers here and would be happy to have you join in as well. Know that there are many different ways to grow in faith as you share your faith with others, whether through the liturgy, the educational and youth ministries, the social outreach or one of the many other ways in which we become good stewards of God's gifts and blessings. Thank you to all who have responded so generously and welcome to all who are coming into the parish. We pray to be good servants of the Lord for all who come to us at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church to join in the journey of faith and life.

May you and yours be blessed this Christmas and share your blessings throughout the New Year 2014. Asking the Lord's continued blessings upon you, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. Bennett J. Voorhies
Pastor

Parish Mission Statement

Our Lady of the Annunciation Roman Catholic Parish is a people of living faith rooted in the Gospel, centered on the Eucharist and led by the Holy Spirit. We are inspired by the example of Mary to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by ministering to all.

Weekend Masses: Saturday: 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Holy Days: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (School Mass), 5:30 p.m.
First Saturday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: Saturday 3:30 p.m. and also by appointment
Liturgy and Music
Dr. Jane A. Smith, Director of Liturgy and Music
Rhonda Leonard, Assistant
298-9636
rleonard@annunciationparishabq.org

Assembly
“The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations called for by the very nature of the liturgy.”
(Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)

Communion Ministers
“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?”
(1 Corinthians 10:16)

Greeters & Welcomers
“Love your fellow Christian always. Do not neglect to show hospitality, for by that means some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
(Hebrews 13:1)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
“Jesus had a child stand near him. He put his arm around the child and said, ‘Whenever you welcome even a child because of me, you welcome me.”
(Mark 9:37)

Musicians & Parish Choirs
“Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, shout with joy before the Lord, the King!”
(Psalms 98:5-6)

Children’s Choir, Men’s Laudate Choir, Parish Mixed Choir, Cantor Ensembles, Spirit Night Group

Lectors
“Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise!”
(Liturgy of the Hours)

Altar Servers
“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”
(1 Peter 4:10)

Art & Environment
“Because the assembly gathers in the presence of God, liturgy’s climate cannot be satisfied with anything less than the beautiful in its environment, and all its artifacts, movements, and appeals to the senses.”
(Environment and Art in Catholic Worship)

Please keep the sick and homebound of our parish in your prayers.
PARISH LIFE AND PASTORAL OUTREACH
DIRECTOR: SR. CRISTINA OVEJERA, FdCC
Secretary: Mary Agnes Sain
299-9111
covejera@annunciationparishabq.org

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has visited and brought redemption to His people.” Luke 1:68

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Contemplative Prayer and Lectio Divina—every first Tuesday of the month, at 6:15—7:15 PM in St. Francis Hall.

Reflection on Sunday Scripture Readings—every Thursday, at 9:30—10:30 AM in St. Francis Hall.

Cenacle of Divine Mercy—every other Monday, at 7:00—8:30 PM in St. Francis Hall; please see the weekly bulletin for exact dates of Cenacle gatherings.

Our Savior Has Come!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Little Rock Sacred Scripture Study (LRSS) - meets on Wednesday, at 9:30—11:30 AM in St. Bakhita Hall. Six week sessions are held in the Spring and in the Fall; please see the weekly bulletin for specific topics of study and exact dates of meetings.

History of the Church—meets on Monday, at 7:00—9:00 PM in the school’s portable building room 304. Nine week classes are held in the Spring and in the Fall. Topics and dates are announced through the bulletin and information flyers.

Faith in the Workplace—meets every first Saturday of the month, at 9:45—11:00 AM in St. Bakhita Hall. Reflections and discussions about issues that challenge a Christian in a secular place of employment, over a potluck breakfast.

That Man is You is a twenty-six week Catholic men’s leadership program—meets on Saturdays at 7:00—8:30 AM in the school gym. Breakfast is provided. Exact dates are announced in the bulletin.
PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES
Marianites—meets every Monday, at 9:30—10:30AM in St. Francis Hall; followed by Communion visits to the sick and the homebound parishioners.

Companions on the Journey—hold quarterly meetings at 6:30—8:00PM in St. Francis Hall. They provide spiritual companionship to those who are permanently homebound or terminally ill, through a weekly Communion visit.

Visitation Ministry—volunteers go to selected nursing homes, within or beyond our parish boundaries, spending time with residents who don’t have family or friends who visit them regularly. This is a compassionate way of reaching out to the lonely and the abandoned.

PASTORAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES
Ministry to the Seniors-GEMS “Generous, Enthusiastic, Motivated Seniors” - seeks to provide pastoral care to elder parishioners, in the areas of spirituality, education, and recreational activities, which are organized throughout the year.

St. Vincent de Paul Society—meets every third Monday, at 6:30—8:00PM in St. Magdalene Hall.

Social Concerns Committee—meets every first Sunday, at 11:30—12:00 Noon in St. Francis Hall; coordinates the monthly collection for the poor around our city, and the annual “Adopt a Family for Thanksgiving” project.

Women’s Guild—meets every second Wednesday, at 9:30—11:00AM in St. Magdalene Hall, included in their many activities is the Bereavement Ministry, serving a luncheon for families and guests after a funeral Mass in our parish.

Respect Life Committee—meets every first Tuesday, at 9:30—11:00AM in St. Bakhita Hall. An off-shoot of this ministry is the Life and Dignity Education Team, which organizes a quarterly forum on pro-life issues, healthcare, social justice, human dignity, and Christian morality.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR ADULTS
Infant Baptism Preparation for Parents and Godparents—is held every second Monday, at 7:00—9:00PM in St. Magdalene Hall.

Marriage Preparation—is a spiritual partnership between the engaged couple and a Marriage Sponsor Couple, who explore together the meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage, and identify issues that may need further dialogue. The Natural Family Planning (NFP) Sympto-Thermal method is a mandatory 3-session part of the preparation.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - meets every Tuesday, at 7:00—9:00PM, from mid-August to mid-May. Registration is required, to participate in this process of preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, confirmation and the Holy Eucharist.

Merry Christmas
Our Youth & Young Adult Ministry is growing as we strive to serve more young people, exposing them to the Word of God and forms of Prayer. In order to evangelize more teens, we need more mentors willing to make a gift of themselves. We have been extremely blessed by all of our current mentors; may the Lord continue to bless each of you for sharing your gifts with our youth! Want to help, contact Sr Lisa Marie or Barry at 505-293-6760.

Endow is a women’s study group dedicated to exploring the Church’s teachings to women, calling to mind the nature and dignity of women. Wednesdays, 4:00PM.

Theology of the Body for Adults An eight-part study on Pope John Paul II’s teaching on holiness of the human person. Considering: “What exactly is love? The purpose of married and celibate vocations; True Happiness; meaning of life, and more!”

Scouting is an integral part of our youth ministry, developing the future leadership of our Church and community. Our Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venture Crew, and Heritage Girls serve the youth of our parish through their formative years.
FAMILY CENTERED
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Leslie Monette-Director
lmonette@annunciationparishabq.org
Becky Winebrenner-Secretary
rwinebrenner@annunciationparishabq.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
- Pre-Kinder - Grade 5
- Meets on Wednesdays - 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
- Loyola Press-Finding God Series
- Registration year round

MIDDLE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
THE WAY
- Grades 6-8
- Meets on Wednesdays - 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Ignatius Press-Faith and Life Series
- Registration year round

RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)
- Unbaptized children age 7 & older
- Received into the Church at the Easter Vigil

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST
- For children in third grade
- Need to have at least one previous year of faith formation

ADULT FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

ADULT CONFIRMATION
- 8 week program for catechized adult Catholics who are baptized and made their First Communion.
- Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated at the Archdiocesan Adult Confirmation Mass.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
- Meets on Thursday evenings in St. Bakhita Hall from 7 to 9 p.m.
- All are welcome to join us as we use various DVD series and small and large group discussions to enrich and grow in our faith.

ADORATION CHAPEL
ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT
All are welcome to spend time in prayer in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in our Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel located in St. Magdalene Hall and on 1st Fridays in the Church. Hourly assigned adorers are needed for the Adoration Chapel. Contact the office to sign-up for this rewarding ministry.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
St. Magdalene of Canossa
Council 14920
A fraternal Catholic men’s order that meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Our Council leads and supports Church, community, council, family, pro-life and youth activities.
Annunciation Catholic School’s vision is to provide a Catholic Education that recognizes and respects each student’s uniqueness as a member of the Body of Christ. We awaken, recognize and honor the God given abilities of each student by providing active learning experiences using innovative techniques and cutting edge technology. We challenge students to accept responsibility to continue Jesus’ mission, by being people of prayer, service, wisdom and compassion.

Catholic Formation
Weekly Student Mass
First Friday Adoration
Reconciliation Opportunities
Classroom Patron Saints
Religious Values Taught
Vocation Prayers
Stations of the Cross
Mass Servers
Grade Level Service Projects
Retreats and Prayer Services
Living Rosaries
Daily Religion Curriculum
8th Grade Bible Study
The Point & Friday Night Live

ATHLETICS
Basketball
Cross Country
Flag Football
Softball
Tennis
Track
Volleyball
Golf
Soccer

Parent Involvement
Consultative Council
Halloween Happenings
Talent Show
Multiple Parent Committees
Art Parents
St. Gabriel Committee
Coaching
Classroom Help
Fall Benefit

Students of Service
During the 2012-2013 school year our students serviced the community in the following ways.

By Collecting
- $565 for Catholic Charities
- $550 for Kids Against Hunger
- $1926 for Operation Rice Bowl
- $1100 to purchase bicycle helmets for Catholic Charities Refugees
- $1600 in supplies, toys, games and teaching materials to Catholic Charities’ Childrens’ Learning Center
- $7000 for St. Jude’s Childrens’ Research Hospital

By Providing
- 78 blankets for Catholic Charities
- 85 Catholic Refugee Children’s Christmas presents
- 161 pots and pans to Catholic Charities Refugee families
- 136 pairs of pajamas and 22 boxes of books to Catholic Refugee children
- 30 pots of soup for Lenten Soup Supper
- 252 hours of assistance to Roadrunner Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry
- 44 bicycles to Catholic Charities’ Refugees
- Art work for the home-bound
- 20 families Thanksgiving food boxes (120+ boxes of food)

Special Activities
After School Program
Evening of the Arts
Christmas Program
Chess Club
Scouts
Grade Level Musical Programs
American Heritage Girls
Student Council
Talent Show
Yearbook Staff
Band
Chorus

Academic Programs
Spanish Program (Grades PreK-8)
- Technology: Instruction PreK - 8
- Integrated Daily
- 14 Interactive White Boards
- Robotics, STEM & GUTS
- Elementary Science Lab
- Weekly Science Labs (Grades 3-8)
- Accelerated Reader
- Fine Arts Program: Music & Art
- Comprehensive Spanish Program
- Physical Education
- Accelerated Math

Interscholastic Activities
- Science Fair
- Spelling Bee
- Robo Rave
- Geography Bee
- Super Computing Challenge
- Faith Challenge Bowl
- Destination Imagination
- Science Olympiad
- 1st Lego League

Annunciation Catholic School’s mission is to provide a Christ-like and learner-friendly environment to better serve God and community.