



Humilitas

Newsletter of Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church ~ December, 2020

In this issue . . .

The Santa Claus Chronicles —review
Single Parenthood and Faith, twice
An Interview with Carmen Santos-Heinen
Advent Attitude
Holiday Recipes
December Calendar
Parish Life

Book Review: *The Santa Claus Chronicles*

by Dan Short and Rene Gutteridge

He is a “very different” Santa. He has a “commanding yet gentle baritone . . . and twinkling eyes,”* just as you’d expect. But wait, as they say on TV, there is more.

The *Santa Claus Chronicles* is a compilation of memorable moments from Santa Dan Short’s 20-year career as “the decider of who is naughty and nice.” For many years, his workshop and listening ear could be found at the Christmas shop, North Pole City in OKC. Sadly, this year will be different.

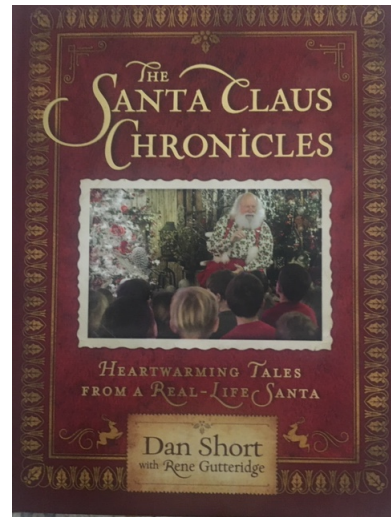
Read with a tissue the first story of Anna, a 5-year old girl with a terminal disease who had one Christmas wish—to visit Santa and sit on his lap. A Great Depression-era child, now grown, publicly upbraided Santa Dan for the Shirley Temple doll she never received. As Santa, he was able to finally fulfill her wish.

Being Santa has its holy moments, as children sometimes ask for things Santa can’t provide, such as healing a baby brother in the neonatal intensive care unit. For that, Santa and his young guest turn to a higher power, the Lord—and prayer. He considers it “a sacred role” and “one of life’s greatest privileges.”

Each chapter and story will amaze the reader with heartwarming vignettes, not necessarily confined to hearing children’s wishes. Santa Dan was the supervisor of a marriage proposal. His encounter with John, a homeless man with Santa aspirations has a surprise and upbeat ending. Santa’s visits also included a trip to the Navajo reservation and a meeting with a dying 89-year old World War II era Code Talker who thanked him for making his last Christmas so special.

Even when not in a red suit, Santa Dan can be besieged by children attracted to his white hair and beard, twinkling eyes and ample frame. During a mission trip to a South African township, he told crowds of children surrounding him and joyfully calling him Father Christmas that “Jesus came to love us and Father Christmas comes to remind us to love one another.”

He has seen it all, even a naked child: a twisted tale of an accident, ruined pants, a frazzled mother, and a jacket accidentally unzipped. Long lines, tired children, overtaxed parents—all must be met with aplomb, joy and grace. He often tells the children to remember to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus on Christmas morning.



Read of his circuitous path to becoming Santa and the great spiritual weight he attaches to it. Officially, he attended Santa University in Colorado Springs where students learn to be prepared with “the right words to meet the moment.”

Before he grew into Santa, Dan Short spent a lifetime in service to others; work for Catholic Charities in Maine, Maryland and Oklahoma, a Head Start teacher, community organizer and founder of Mustard Seed Community Development Corp, in OKC’s poorest zip code, to name just a few.

The last chapter concludes with the Christmas story he tells his guests at North Pole City. The book is beautifully and descriptively written. Unfortunately, this year will be different and Santa Dan will not be making appearances at North Pole City due to the pandemic.

The book is a nice reminder that “We can never outgrow God’s love for us.”

See page 9 for [Dan's Socially Distant 2020 Christmas](#).

All quotes from: Short, Dan and Gutteridge, Rene. *The Santa Claus Chronicles Heartwarming Tales from a Real-Life Santa*. Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2019.

Single Parenthood and Faith

Erika Diaz has been a St. Charles parishioner for fifteen years. She has two daughters, ages six and eleven. She works three part-time jobs in order to have a flexible schedule and be home more with her children. She has worked in sales, has owned her own insurance company and has taught at Positive Changes, a mental health organization. She has also worked for a psychiatrist.

In the parish, Erika has also taught third grade Sunday school and second grade First Communion preparation, as well as preparing the parents for their children's Confirmation.

She said, "Being Catholic is everything to me. I would do everything to have my children know God loves them. I want to be a good example for them."

"We pray every night. We never go to sleep without saying what we are most thankful for. I ask God what he wants me to do every day."

"I don't think I could make it through the difficult times without my faith. God gave my daughters to me and He has a plan for them. I pray for the strength and wisdom to take them through life."

Erika credits her family for having helped her tremendously along the way.

For someone new to the situation of being a single parent, Erika advises, "Keep with the sacraments. Don't get away from them. Lots of prayer and communion helped. We may be an example for others who are suffering through the same thing. Father Tim was a big support and the church. I didn't feel judged. No one made me feel that way. I still have a lot of support from the church."

She also recommends the class *Surviving Divorce*. "That helped me a lot in my healing. I would encourage anyone going through that to take the classes."

* I'm working on a fitness routine for insects. It's going well, but I'm still trying to work out the bugs.

Paternidad soltera y fe

Erika Diaz ha sido feligrés de St. Charles por quince años. Trabaja en tres trabajos de medio tiempo para tener un horario flexible y estar más en casa con sus hijas. Ha trabajado en ventas, es dueña de su propia compañía de seguros y ha enseñado en Positive Changes, una organización de salud mental. También ha trabajado para un psiquiatra.

En la parroquia, Erika también ha enseñado en la escuela dominical de tercer grado y preparación para la Primera Comunión de segundo grado, además de preparar a los padres para la Confirmación de sus hijos.

Ella dijo: "Ser católica lo es todo para mí. La iglesia lo es todo para mí. Haría todo lo posible para que sepan que Dios los ama. Quiero ser un buen ejemplo para ellos."

"Rezamos todas las noches. Nunca nos vamos a dormir sin decir por qué estamos más agradecidos. Le pregunto a Dios qué quiere que haga todos los días."

"No creo que pudiera superar los tiempos difíciles sin mi fe. Dios me las dio (sus hijas) y teine un plan para ellas. Oro por la fuerza y la sabiduría para llevarlas por la vida."

Erika da crédito a su familia como quienes la ayudaron enormemente en el camino. "El padre Tim fue un gran apoyo para la iglesia. No me sentí juzgada. Nadie me hizo sentir así. Todavía tengo mucho apoyo de la iglesia."

Para alguien que para ser madre soltera, es algo nuevo, Erika aconseja: "Segan con los sacramentos. No te alejes de ellos. Ayudó mucha oración y comunión. Podemos ser un ejemplo para otras que están sufriendo por lo mismo."

También recomienda la clase *Sobrevivir al divorcio*. "Eso me ayudó mucho en mi curación. Animaría a cualquiera que esté pasando por eso a que tome las clases."

Surviving Divorce Classes

The *Surviving Divorce* program offers hope, healing and community to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. This 14-week Catholic ecumenical program is for the newly separated and divorced and anyone still struggling with issues. It will help them answer their questions, restore hope and begin authentic healing. Contact Brenda Arambula for information about dates, times and locations for upcoming sessions at

survivingdivorceok@gmail.com

Source www.archokc.org

Padres Solteros y la Fe

Cynthia Aranda se percató de la iglesia de St. Charles mientras conducía a su hija hacia y desde la escuela secundaria en Putnam City Original y se convirtió en feligresa en 2011. Católica de toda la vida, nació en Santiago, Panamá y llegó a los Estados Unidos en 1989 como estudiante en OCU, luego en Oklahoma City Community College y UCO. Se convirtió en madre soltera en 2001 cuando su hija tenía siete años.

Cynthia trabajó en Hertz hasta hace poco y ahora trabaja para la Arquidiócesis. Su hija se graduó de la escuela secundaria como Salutatorian (la segunda más alta en una clase de graduados) en 2012 y ahora vive en Houston y trabaja para una compañía petrolera.

Sobre el papel de la fe en su vida, Cynthia dijo: “Sabendo que Dios estuvo ahí para mí todo el tiempo y para mi hija. Sentí su presencia. Nunca me sentí sola. El siempre esta ahí. Ni mi hija ni yo estaríamos donde estamos sin Él.”

Cynthia recomienda establecer metas y lograrlas como una forma de mantenerse fuerte y seguro/segura. Está orgullosa de haber podido enviar a su hija a la universidad y pagar su educación sin el beneficio de la manutención infantil.

Estar allí para su hija y enseñarle acerca de Dios fue una ventaja en su relación y las acercó mucho. La parte difícil de ser madre soltera para ella eran las horas que pasaba trabajando. “Trabajé muchas, muchas horas. Siempre le pedí disculpas por eso”. Su hija le dijo: “Mamá, estoy bien”. Cynthia dijo que eso fortaleció a su hija y le enseñó a ser autosuficiente.

Cynthia “definitivamente” le da crédito a sus amigos y familiares como sus pilares de apoyo, especialmente a su tía que ayudó a criarla, Graciela de Vasquez, quien falleció hace tres años. Ella fue la persona que modeló el ejemplo de la caridad cristiana y el amor de Dios a través del servicio. Su consejo para Cynthia fue “estar disponible, estar allí para satisfacer una necesidad”.

En la parroquia, los compromisos voluntarios de Cynthia han incluido la enseñanza de la escuela dominical de quinto y segundo grado, RCIA en español y preparación para la Confirmación. También ha ayudado en el Dorothy Day Center y ha servido en la clínica de salud parroquial como traductora, saludadora y ayudando a los pacientes a completar el papeleo. En 2014, recibió el premio Humilitas de la parroquia.

El consejo de Cynthia a otros padres solteros: “Cree en Dios. Cree en ti mismo. Fija metas. Anote sus metas. No dejes que nada te impida lograrlos”.

“Podemos hacer cosas. No dejes que nadie te diga que no puedes. Despierta todos los días y ora a Dios para que te ayude. Sé optimista. Encuentra buenos amigos. Sigue

buscando personas positivas”.

Cynthia Aranda noticed St. Charles church as she drove her daughter to and from high school at Putnam City Original and then she became a parishioner in 2011. A lifelong Catholic, she was born in Santiago, Panama and came to the U.S. in 1989 as a student at OCU, Oklahoma City Community College and UCO. She became a single parent in 2001 when her daughter was seven years old.

Cynthia worked at Hertz until recently and now works for the Archdiocese. Her daughter graduated from high school as Salutatorian (second highest in a graduating class) in 2012 and now lives in Houston and works for an oil company.

Of the role of faith in her life, Cynthia said, “Knowing God was there for me all the time and for my daughter. I felt His presence. I never felt alone. He is always there. I wouldn’t be where I am or my daughter without Him.”

Cynthia recommends setting goals and accomplishing them as a way to stay strong and confident. She is proud of being able to send her daughter to college and pay off her education without benefit of child support.

Being there for her daughter and teaching her about God was a plus in their relationship and brought them close. The difficult part of single parenthood for her was the hours spent working. “I worked long, long hours. I always apologized to her for that.” Her daughter told her, “Mom, I’m fine.” Cynthia said it made her daughter strong and taught her to be self-sufficient.

Cynthia “definitely” credits friends and family as her pillars of support, especially her aunt who helped raise her, Graciela de Vasquez, who passed away three years ago. She was the person who modeled the example of Christian charity and God’s love through serving. Her advice to Cynthia was “just be available, be there to meet a need.”

In the parish, Cynthia’s volunteer commitments have included teaching fifth and second grade Sunday school, Spanish RCIA, and Confirmation preparation. She also has helped at the Dorothy Day Center and served at the parish health clinic as translator, greeter and helping the patients complete paperwork. In 2014, she received the parish’s Humilitas award.

Cynthia’s advice to other single parents “Believe in God. Believe in yourself. Set goals. Write down your goals. Don’t let anything stop you from achieving them. We can do things. Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t. Wake up every day and pray to God to help you. Be optimistic. Find good friends. Keep looking for positive people.”



Christmas Toys
(Library of Congress)

Making a List, Burning It Twice

In England, before central heat was common, children threw their Christmas wish lists into the fireplace. Father Christmas read their wishes in the smoke. If the letter fell out of the fire, they wrote a new one.

Dresdens, Kugels, Gewgaws and Scraps . . .

These funny names are Victorian-era Christmas ornaments. Dresdens were manufactured in Germany from about 1880 until World War I. They were made from cardboard, painted silver or gold, with red or green trim and look as if they were stamped from tin or gold plate. Popular themes were ships, carriages, musical instruments, trains, exotic animals and shoes.

Kugels are the ancestor of colored glass ball ornaments. Also from mid-19th century Germany, kugels come in fruit shapes, especially grape clusters.

Gewgaws were trinkets, such as candies in shiny paper, gilded pine cones or walnuts, colored paper and yarn ornaments. If you hang your youngster's hand-made paper chains and a few candy canes, there are gewgaws on your tree, too.

Scraps were mass-produced chromolithograph pictures, part of a larger home decorating and collecting craze from 1870 to the early 1900s. Paper flowers, hot air balloons, birds, fruit baskets, musical instruments, cherubs, camels, sleighs and of course, Santas, hung on trees and decorated stockings and greeting cards.



Christmas Tree in the Wright Brother's Home
(Library of Congress)



Christmas Morning
(Library of Congress)

* Did you know you can actually listen to the blood in your veins?
You just have to listen varicosely



First Communion, Confirmation, Religious Education and a Pandemic An Interview with Carmen Santos-Heinen, Religious Education Director

“I struggle the most with missing my kids and the families.”

Carmen Santos-Heinen has been St. Charles’ Religious Education Director since 2015. This year of helping children and their families prepare for sacraments has been unlike any other.

“We were three to four classes from the end for First Communion and Confirmation. We just had spring break, Holy Week (no classes), then Easter. First Communion was to be the end of April. I believe the Fathers, Alejandra Godinez and I got together either late March, or the very beginning of April, to decide we couldn’t have the First Communions or Confirmations as we had previously scheduled them. I never imagined it would be this long. I thought, ‘Oh, we’ll get back and we’ll finish.’ It didn’t happen.”

“There was no closure for Religious Education. We couldn’t say goodbye to the kids, give them their gifts and there was no carnival. No one felt safe. We couldn’t have a drive-through because there are seventeen different classes and how do I know which car is which? The plan never really developed.”

“The same with Confirmation. This is when they develop relationships. Then all of a sudden, nothing. It was so sad because the First Communion and Confirmation kids (who aren’t in Catholic schools) have two years of instruction.”

“There were 142 children, pre-K to 12th grade awaiting First Communion, 70 for Confirmation and a total of 390 enrolled in Religious Education. They met once a week, either on Wednesday evening or Sunday morning. Those who received both sacraments together came twice a week.”

“A lot of families didn’t have e-mail so we had to call each one. It was a big task. The office staff started working from home right after mid-March. It took a month or so to reach everyone. But it was also nice because we could talk with them and see how each family was doing and was there anything we could do to help.”

Carmen did notice as the months wore on, more people had Facebook and email.

“There were also many staff Zoom meetings and phone calls from families asking when there would be

* I married my wife for her looks.

Just not the ones she’s been giving me lately.

First Communion and Confirmation. In July we decided to have it by limiting the number of people who could come into the church. Each child could bring only two people. They received First Communion 25 at a time in four Masses on August 15th, August 29th, September 5th, and September 12th, of 2020. Some decided not to do it at this time and are waiting.”

“On October 17, 2020 we had a fifth Mass for Confirmands.” Sadly, the Confirmands could not bring family but the Mass was viewable on Facebook Live. It was a Mass for them and their sponsors only. “Normally I love to hear all the sounds in church, including crying kids. But this Mass was more focused and more of a personal thing for them. It was a beautiful, focused, peaceful Confirmation Mass.”

“It was really hard to tell people (about the limits). For the Hispanic families, the godparents presence at sacraments is as important as the parents. They were understanding. The children still wore pretty dresses and suits and brought their banners. They had beautiful, decorated masks that said ‘My First Communion.’ It was different but it turned out to be nice.”

One person impressed her. He was a high schooler receiving First Communion and Confirmation. When told he needed to come twice a week for two years, he was devastated. Two years was eternity. Carmen told him, “I know it seems such a long time but you have to prepare for this. At the very end you’re going to appreciate it.”

Then the pandemic hit. At home, he worried about what he had to do to study and called to check often. Carmen said, “His enthusiasm was amazing to see. I was inspired by him. He never gave up.”

Another First Communicant also made a lasting impression. “After Mass I was dismissing them by groups one by one and a little boy ran up and hugged me before anyone could do or say anything to stop him. How could you say no to that? I couldn’t even think about getting Covid. That so showed his appreciation.”

Carmen said the spiritual lesson is “. . . people need people. We need each other. We can’t say, ‘I don’t need anyone.’”

—Monica Knudsen



Advent Attitude

In full disclosure, the bolded wording below has been appropriated from an inservice speaker the Archdiocese Zoomed in for a fall staff inservice. Everyone, whether a student or on the job, knows how difficult it is to listen to the speaker who is brought in to speak to the entire assemblage; so, I was pleased when I found myself writing down the vocabulary of the paradigm shift Christians are called to in order to respond to the Gospel command, “Go make disciples.”

The attitude shift seems applicable to the Advent season, which anticipates the coming of Son of God who will make that command, “Go.”

Institutional faith to intentional faith—Goodness knows, the lighting of purple candles could very well stand as a symbol of institutionalization. We’ve grown up with the three purple candles and one pink circled with greenery and lit throughout Advent. Why purple? Why pink? Those colors are established and there are answers to those questions of course (you can find a myriad of internet articles on the topic), But it is the answer to the question “Will it matter if I can’t find those colors at Target?” that brings us to considering intention.

Candles are a light in the darkness. With each candle lit as the weeks of Advent march toward Christmas, the world becomes brighter. Your intention of entering into the communal four weeks of anticipation, prayer and preparation for the coming of Jesus into the world, that is keeping with the spirit of tradition. Intention is the church, living body.

Engagement to encounter—The church, living body, calls for individuals to encounter one another: meet not just greet. Jesus’s ministry provides us with the names of who climbed up a tree, who asked to sit at his right hand, and descriptions of those who begged for their daughter’s life. But the Gospel is the good news of Jesus, the person who touches folks, leads friends from the tomb, eats with people, spits in the dirt and rubs it on their eyes. These are acts of one fully human whose incarnation redeems us by simply sharing in our humanity.

Maintenance to mission—The heavy load of keeping tradition, perpetuating parish activities, and maintaining Catholic perimeters around how we interact in the world is work. That work requires church members to volunteer and show up and is a valid interaction. When and if the Spirit is absent though, that work is social work. The mission is so much bigger and so much smaller that it might actually be lighter.

It is easy to say that encountering people and putting them at the center of the mission is lighter, but the paradox is that to feed the hungry, for example, as Jesus commanded, calls for a great deal of organization and volunteers. The programs of the parish are one significant component of the St. Charles ministry to the community.

Programs to people—Programs, like advent wreaths, are a container to hold our desire to be involved and to walk forward in faith. Our desire, our habit of interaction, though is not the goal of discipleship. Being “good” is not even the goal of discipleship—look at Peter’s struggles and consider the central role of forgiveness in the Gospel message.

Encountering others in the name of God and participating in the mission to make disciples shifts the focus from our desire to be good—good disciples, “good Catholics”—to other people. If I enjoyed faith as a framework for my life, who else might I meet that would enjoy such faith? If I am engaged in the institution of the church, its programs and traditions, where do I speak aloud God’s name to another? When do I facilitate *with intention* another person’s encounter with the Divine Mystery?

Advent is four weeks anticipating the coming of Christ. What a glorious time set aside to reestablish intention and for, perhaps these last few weeks of the season, our intention might shift from holiday engagement to holy encounter and festive maintenance to spiritual mission, so we are not caught up in programs and overlook the loving word of God that the people right in front of us need.

—Kathy Judge

* The movie Speed didn’t have a director.

Because if Speed had direction, it would have been called velocity.

* I am on the moon and there is nowhere to get a beer.

There is no space bar.



Buñuelos

Buñuelos are a traditional dessert made from fried dough and covered in cinnamon sugar. They are usually served in many Mexican households around Christmas and New Years.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 to 1 cup of warm water
- Oil for frying, enough to cover about 3/4 inch of frying pan when ready to fry
- Granulated sugar, ground cinnamon, enough to make a mixture to sprinkle on both sides of each buñuelo
- Will make about 12 buñuelos

How to make the buñuelos:

1. Make the dough by adding all-purpose flour, baking powder and salt into a large bowl. Mix together until combined. Add warm water and 4 tablespoons of oil. Mix together with a fork until the dough comes together.
2. Transfer the dough onto a clean work surface and knead the dough for 8 to 10 minutes, until the dough is smooth and elastic. Roll the dough into a ball, place it in a bowl, cover with a kitchen towel and let it rest for 30 minutes.
3. Roll out the dough by dividing it into separate pieces and rolling each piece into a ball. On a lightly floured surface, use a floured rolling pin to roll out each ball into an 8 - 10 inch circle. You can stretch over your knee or over a big bowl covered with a thin kitchen towel or rag. It must be rolled out very very thin, almost paper thin.
4. Fry the dough by heating frying oil to 350°. Fry each dough circle for about 60 seconds, turning once with metal tongs, until golden brown on both sides. Transfer to a prepared plate with paper towels to drain excess oil.
5. Sprinkle the buñuelos with a cinnamon/sugar mixture almost right after transferring to the plate. Be generous when sprinkling and enjoy!

Tips/Tricks:

- Buñuelos can fluff up a lot when frying, creating huge air pockets that look cool but aren't very conducive to eating. To minimize the very large air pockets, it is recommended using metal tongs to keep the dough fully submerged in the oil for the first 10-15 seconds of frying. This will help to fry both sides at the same time, reducing the amount of air pockets.
- Sprinkle the cinnamon-sugar mixture on both sides of the buñuelos as soon as possible to ensure that it sticks

to the just fried dough.

- These are usually served with either hot chocolate, or with "Atole blanco," but that is a whole other recipe. In some areas in México, they are also dipped in a special "Piloncillo syrup," but again, that is yet another recipe.

~~~Carmen Santos-Heinen



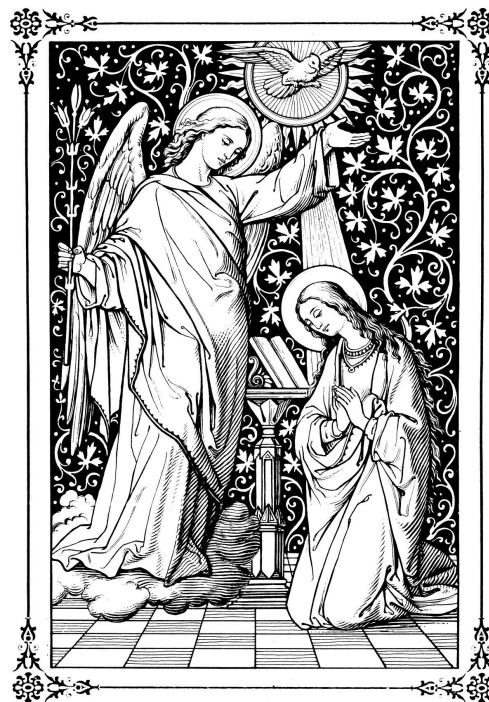
## Kathy Johnson's Famous Holiday Dessert

- 1 small pkg. of oreo cookies
- 1 stick of butter - melted
- 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream softened
- 1 lb salted spanish peanuts
- 2/3 cup chocolate chips
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1 large can evaporated milk (1 1/2 cup)


Crush cookies and mix with melted butter to form a crust. Spread ice cream, sprinkle peanuts. Cover and freeze.

Mix other ingredients.

Boil for 2 minutes then simmer for 10 minutes. Cool completely. Pour over others.



# St. Charles Borromeo—December 2020

| Sunday                                                                                                                 | Monday                                              | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                     | Wednesday                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                  | Friday                                                                                                                    | Saturday                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Confessions every Saturday at 3 pm<br>Adoration every Wednesday at 11:00 am - 3:00 pm                                  |                                                     | <b>1</b><br><br>7:00 PM Baptismal Seminar EN in mtg Room C                                                                                                                  | <b>2</b><br><br>Adoration 11AM - 3PM Wednesday<br><br>6:00 - 8:00 PM Virtual RE Classes<br><br>Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00 PM     | <b>3</b><br><br>4:30 PM Newsletter Meeting                                                | <b>4</b><br><br>7:00 PM RICA                                                                                              | <b>5</b><br><br>9:00 AM Baptismal Seminar Esp. in Beckman Hall                                                                 |
| <b>6</b><br><br>9:00 - 10:30 AM Virtual RE Classes<br><br>9:30 AM Confirmation - Zoom<br><br>Building & Maintenance    | <b>7</b><br><br>6:00 PM Social Minstry Board - ZOOM | <b>8</b><br><b>Immaculate Conception</b><br>Holy Day<br>Spanish Mass 8:00 PM<br>English Masses 7:00 AM; 12:10 PM, 6:30 PM<br><br>7:00 PM Baptismal Seminar EN in mtg Room C | <b>9</b><br><br>6:00 - 8:00 PM Virtual RE Classes<br><br>5:30 PM Stewardship Meeting - ZOOM<br><br>Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00 PM | <b>10</b>                                                                                 | <b>11</b><br><br>11:30 PM Mañanitas en el estacionamiento<br>11:30 PM Manianitas - in the parking lot<br><br>7:00 PM RICA | <b>12</b><br><br>9:00 AM Baptismal Seminar Esp. in Beckman Hall<br><br>Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass 7:00 PM - in the parking lot |
| <b>13</b><br><br>9:00 - 10:30 AM Virtual RE Classes<br><br>9:30 AM Confirmation - Zoom<br><br>Retirement for Religious | <b>14</b><br><br>10:30 AM Food Bank Delivery        | <b>15</b><br><br>5:30 PM Finance Board                                                                                                                                      | <b>16</b><br><br>6:00 - 8:00 PM Virtual RE Classes<br><br>6:30 PM Peace & Justice - ZOOM<br><br>Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00 PM    | <b>17</b>                                                                                 | <b>18</b><br><br>7:00 PM RICA                                                                                             | <b>19</b><br><br>11:00 AM Baptisms Spanish<br><br>6:00 PM Baptisms English<br><br><b>Holiday Program goes out</b>              |
| <b>20</b><br><br>9:00 - 10:30 AM Virtual RE Classes<br><br>Altar Expense                                               | <b>21</b>                                           | <b>22</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>23</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>24</b><br>Christmas Eve<br><br>English Mass 4:00 PM<br>9:00 PM<br>Espanol Misa 6:30 PM | <b>25</b><br>Christmas Day<br><br>Mass 10:00 AM                                                                           | <b>26</b><br><br><i>Catholic Worker moved to Jan 1 - 2 2021</i>                                                                |
| <b>27</b>                                                                                                              | <b>28</b>                                           | <b>29</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>31</b><br><br>New Year's Eve Mass 6:00 PM                                              |                                      |                                                                                                                                |



| Nov 2020 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1        | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8        | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15       | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22       | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29       | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

| Jan 2021 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3        | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10       | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17       | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24       | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31       |    |    |    |    |    |    |



## Welcome to Santa Dan's Socially Distant 2020 Christmas

Santa Dan normally arrives at Oklahoma City's North Pole City to visit with children to hear what they would like for Christmas and to tell them the story of the first Christmas. This year, out of an abundance of caution and concern about COVID-19, Santa will not be making appearances at the Christmas shop.

For those families who make an annual pilgrimage to see Santa Dan or for newcomers, he will be available to schedule several COVID safe options including Santa video messages, in-home family visits and more.

To schedule, go to Santa Dan's "Santa Visits" page at [SantaDanShort/ScheduleSanta2020.com](http://SantaDanShort/ScheduleSanta2020.com)

Have a safe and peaceful Christmas celebration and remembrance of the birth of Christ.

## December Saints and Days

- 03 St. Francis Xavier; *Memorial*
  - 04 [St. John Damascene]
  - 06 **Second Sunday of Advent**
  - 07 St. Ambrose; *Memorial*
  - 08 **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Solemnity**
  - 09 [St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin]
  - 11 [St. Damasus I]
  - 12 USA: **Our Lady of Guadalupe; Feast**
  - 13 **Third Sunday of Advent**
  - 14 St. John of the Cross; *Memorial*
  - 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
  - 21 [St. Peter Canisius]
  - 23 [St. John of Kanty]
  - 25 **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas); Solemnity**
  - 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr; *Feast*
  - 27 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; Feast**
  - 28 The Holy Innocents; *Feast*
  - 29 Fifth Day in the Octave of the Nativity [St. Thomas Becket]
  - 30 Sixth Day in the Octave of the Nativity
  - 31 Seventh Day in the Octave of the Nativity [St. Sylvester I]
- 
- 01 **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God; Solemnity**
  - 02 Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen; *Memorial*
  - 03 **The Epiphany of the Lord; Solemnity**

## A Gift Giving Tip

Making a gingerbread house is an annual tradition in many households. If your family makes one, sneak a clue or a small gift inside the house before you put on the roof. Then let the kids eat their way to a gift! Can't bake from scratch? There are several easy and tasty gingerbread house kits available commercially.

Sign seen on a church:  
"In a distanced world, we draw near to God."

\* What do you call a dinosaur who is easy to clean, heat resistant and long lasting?  
Py-rax.

\* Do they allow loud laughing in Hawaii?  
or just a low ha.

## Josh and Brendan's Unforgettable Nap

One day, shortly before Christmas, Josh and Brendan were having a bad day. Three and six years old, they were in super-orbit and spinning ever faster beyond the limits of Mom's endurance. They were going to see Santa Claus, who was making a personal appearance at their dad's staff Christmas party.

When Joanna, their mom, could take no more, she commanded, "Lie down and rest first, or no Santa!" The exhausted boys slept long into the afternoon. The workplace party came and went. Mom called Dad and said both kids were asleep. When the little fellows woke, Joanna broke the sad news about missing the festivities. But suddenly, there was a jingling and a "Ho Ho Ho!"

They blinked and rubbed their eyes. Santa, direct from the Christmas party, stood in the bedroom! He gently explained that he heard they had been misbehaving. He patted their heads, gave them each a gift, wished them better behavior and a Merry Christmas. That was over ten years ago but Josh and Brendan are still always extra good at Christmas.

# Parish Life



## Weddings-October

Lucas Tribble and Liz Elena Pasillas

## Baptisms-October

Alonso Escobar Nieto  
 Adalee Nicole Ramos  
 Axel Jadiel Calderon  
 Armando Antonio Tapia  
 Mariana Elizabeth Trinidad Martinez

## Anniversaries-December

| Dec.             |                               | Anniv.           |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 01 <sup>st</sup> | Mike and Angela Magness       | 28 <sup>th</sup> |
| 07 <sup>th</sup> | Miguel and Maria Ramirez      | 28 <sup>th</sup> |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Jose and Maria Esparza        | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Luis and Marycruz Martinez    | 7 <sup>th</sup>  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Jose and Susana Contreras     | 28 <sup>th</sup> |
|                  | Esteban and Maria Ramirez     | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Gerardo and Maria Escobar     | 56 <sup>th</sup> |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Joe and Deana Ellis           | 24 <sup>th</sup> |
|                  | Raul and Maria Escalera       | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
|                  | Jesus and Albertina Sifuentes | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Michael and Alice Wheeler     | 47 <sup>th</sup> |



## New Parishioners-October

Adrian and Rosa Silva  
 Salvador and Lorena Guerrero  
 Luis and Yvette Guzman  
 Salvador and Maria Guadalupe Figueroa  
 Karla Rivera  
 Rosa Esparza  
 Nahum Jalapa and Ivonne Martinez  
 Maximino Yanez and Lidia Lopez  
 Tony and Brenda Luevano  
 Jesus and Maricela Luevano  
 Elia Ramos



## Deaths-October

Lupe Elizondo  
 Rita Busch  
 Jerome Scheer  
 Elaine Clemens  
 Lola Wilmes  
 Fred Turpin

\* I told my daughter, "Go to bed, the cows are sleeping in the field."  
 She said, "What's that got to do with anything?"  
 I said, "That means it's pasture bedtime."

A Blessing:  
 May you encounter the Divine today  
 and the joy of God's grace.

## Humilitas

We, your newsletter team, submit this issue with humility and thanks to God: Cynthia Aranda, Michael Carpenter, Erika Diaz, Kathy Judge, Monica Knudsen, Margaret Phipps, Carmen Santos-Heinen  
 print shop: Karen Flores, Jennifer Hernandez-Reyes

*Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church*  
 5024 N. Grove, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73122  
 (405) 789-2595 ~ [www.stcharlesokc.org](http://www.stcharlesokc.org)