



Third Sunday of Advent



Social Ministry News

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who have already brought in their gifts from the angel tree. All the toys and personal items will be going to the patients at the Austin State Hospital. Every Year, the Austin State Hospital helps over 4,000 adults and children who have a mental illness. One patient that benefits from donations like stuffed animals and toys is "Keisha." She is 8 years old, is crying and frightened in the children's admission area. Her parents have driven across three county lines to get help for their daughter. As she Waits, a staff member gives her a large stuffed animal to help ease her fears during her transition into the hospital. Please bring your donations to church on or before Sunday, December 20th.

Thanks again to all those who donated a thanksgiving basket this year. We were able to assist 83 families- This is a record number of families! We were very grateful that even during times of economic hardship our parish is able to sacrifice and help so many. Great job!

Thank you to wildflower Unitarian church who had their second annual food drive to benefit our food pantry. This food will help us meet the need of the community throughout the holidays.

Alternative giving

In a recent poll 82% of Americans indicated that they would rather receive a photo album of times shared than a store-bought gift. Alternative gifts can be much more meaningful and can help keep the real reason of the season at the center of your family's festivities.

Here are some ideas from <http://www.newdream.org/holiday/giftideastaff.php>

- 1) Give a donation to a local cause such as the church, a soup kitchen, a shelter for battered women, a local environment group, etc.
- 2) Give a friend a membership to a non-profit organization. JustGive.org allows you to donate online to thousands of charities.
- 3) [Buy renewable energy credits](#): Credits help offset the environmental costs of our energy needs by funding renewable energy sources, like wind and solar power, elsewhere on the grid.
- 4) Take a friend off of junk mail lists: give the gift of the [41 Pounds](#) service.
- 5) Help someone become a [Carbon Conscious Consumer](#): assemble a basket with items related to each of the six pledges.

Kitchens

Due to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe being celebrated on Saturday, we do not have a kitchen this weekend. Next weekend's kitchen is being sponsored by the Men's Ministry.

Our Parish News

Parish Holiday Schedule

The parish will close in observance of the Christmas and New Year Holidays on Thursday, December 24, 2009. The office will re-open on Monday, January 4, 2010. The campus is closed with the exception of Liturgy; no room reservations will be assigned

Upcoming Fundraiser

La Sociedad de la Vela Perpetua will be holding a raffle on January 6, 2010. The items to be raffled are an Our Lady of Fatima Blanket and a set of dishes. Tickets are \$2.00 dollars each. The group will be selling tickets throughout the month of December. They will be in front of the church on January 3, 2010. If you have any questions please call Sra. Gregoria Lopez at 472-1741

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Michael Bourgeois | Mary R Guerra |
| Edna and David Smith | Linda Martinez |
| Adele Camacho | Vicente Sandoval Sr. |
| Catherine H Sanchez | Maria Martinez |
| Linda Badal | Narciso Saucedo |
| James Crum | Roland Vela |
| Louise Kuhn | Mary Hernandez |
| Julian Hernandez | Frank Hernandez |
| Alice Chambers | Anna T Vasquez |
| Tara Penton | Gregorio Villalobos |
| Mary Vera | Devin Norman |
| Julian Castro | Amanda Barrientez |
| Sue Fowler | Gloria Gomez |
| Martha Patricia Sanchez Paredes | |
| Rose Perez | |