

December 25, 2011

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)



CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

6300 McKenna Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608

Email: Church@CorpusChristiParish.com ! Website: www.CorpusChristiParish.com

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313
School Office: 342-5474, ext. 1 • Fax 380-0325
Rel. Ed. Office: 342-5474, ext. 7 • Fax 380-0325
Preschool Office: 342-2424 • Fax 343-3119
Youth Ministry: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313

PASTORAL STAFF

Very Rev. James F. Zoghby, V.F., Pastor
Rev. John S. Boudreaux, Associate Pastor
Deacon Arthur W. Robbins, Deacon
Sr. Donna Cooper, R.S.M., Visitation Chaplain
Mrs. Linda M. Hawkins, Pastoral Assistant
Mrs. Judi B. Ankiewicz, Pastoral Assistant
Mrs. Joan T. McMullen, School Principal
Mrs. Kathleen Q. Jester, Parish Catechetical Leader
Mrs. Colleen DeVoe, Youth Ministry Co-Director
Mrs. Brenda Martens, Youth Ministry Co-Director
Mr. Matthew F. Purvis, Music Director
Mr. Jay H. Henley, Gym Manager

TO REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH

Please fill out a Census Form. Census Forms are available in the church vestibule and parish office.

COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS & SERVICES

For rental information and kitchen services, please call the parish office at 342-1852 or 342-1420.

SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil: 5:30 p.m. Saturday
Morning: 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 a.m.: Monday through Friday
8:15 a.m.: Monday through Saturday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and by request, particularly after the 6:30 & 8:15 a.m. weekday Masses.

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF SICK

Please call the parish office (342-1852) for information and scheduling baptism, marriage, anointing of sick.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Please see published schedule for specific dates and times, or call the parish office (342-1852).

SUNDAY SCHOOL (C.C.D.) Grades K-12, Sundays during school year, 10:05-10:55 a.m. in school bldgs.

SCHOOL, *SACS-accredited* for Grades K through 8. For info & registration, please call the school office.

PRESCHOOL, *State-licensed* for 6-week to 4-yr. olds. For info & registration, please call the preschool office

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Day, Dec. 25
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.



New Year's Masses

Regular Weekend Schedule
Sat., Dec. 31: 5:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 1: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

Open House

Sunday, Jan. 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

All interested parents are invited to tour our SACS-accredited school and meet our faculty and staff. You may also call the school office at 342-5474, ext. 1, to arrange a personal tour at your convenience. We offer many programs that provide a unique learning opportunity for all students.

Daily Religion class ! Weekly Mass ! Elementary and Junior High Resource Program ! Accelerated Reader Program ! K-6 Spanish ! 7th & 8th Grade Latin ! Interactive Boards in all classrooms ! Science Lab ! National Junior Honor Society ! Duke Scholars' Program ! Corpus Christi News (CCN) ! Scholars' Bowl Team ! Computer Club ! Shakespeare-After-School Drama Club ! Chess Team ! Running Club ! Scouting ! Elementary Band (5-8) ! School Newspaper & Yearbook ! CYO Sports

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL

New-Student Registration

for the 2012-2013 School Year

Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Info: www.CorpusChristiParish.com ("School") or 342-5474, ext. 1.

SCHOOL NEWS

Classes resume: Tuesday, Jan. 3.
In-House Registration: Monday-Friday, Jan. 9-13.
Archbishop Rodi's Visit: Tuesday, Jan. 17. 8:15 a.m.. Mass.

Sunday School

Classes resume Jan. 8, 10:05-10:55 a.m.
Info: Kathleen Jester, SundaySchool@CorpusChristiParish.com.

SPECIAL NOTES!

1. Send your email address to church@corpuschristiparish.com.
2. Please support our advertisers on the back of the bulletin. Their ads give us our bulletins & inserts free of charge.
3. Current & past bulletins are online: www.CorpusChristiParish.com; click "Church" then "Sunday Bulletin."

Extend a personal invitation . . .

If you know someone who has left the Catholic Church or someone who may want information or who may have questions about the Catholic Church ... Extend a personal invitation to them to call 342-1852 to speak with one of the priests who will be more than happy to take time to answer questions and provide information. Also extend a personal invitation to them to come to one of the Masses, or to come to our Adult Religious Education Classes. Or extend a personal invitation to fellow Catholics to learn more about their Catholic Faith in our continuing Adult Education program, or to phone or make an appointment with one of the priests to discuss any question, or request information.

**Your personal invitation could make
all the difference in the world.**

Women's Bible Study

A Marian Bible Study by Laura Marie Wells

Thursdays, 9:00-10:45 a.m., starting Jan. 12

Please sign up ASAP
so we can order books, and provide nursery.

Call or email:

**Penny Claiborne at 776-5850 or claiborneps@aol.com
or Joanne Donaghey at 554-6753 or joannekd@aol.com**

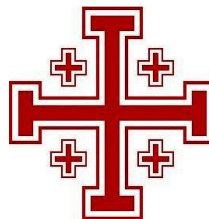
Studying the Bible is an important and integral part of our growth as Catholic Christians. Women of all ages are invited to join us as we study the Bible together, learn from Mary, and support one another on our faith journey. Mary was a daughter, wife, mother, friend and saint. She experienced many of the joys and sorrows that we face today as women. [Nursery available.](#)

Journey of Hope

For Separated & Divorced Catholics

Regular meetings start on January 3:

Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Room of the Corpus Christi Community Center. For more information please contact Patrick Collins (251) 421-5421 or pcollins1@farmersagent.com. You may also visit <http://divorcedcatholic.com/>



UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH

Starting Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Adult Ed. Room in the Community Center

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Continuing education for Catholic adults and other adults who wish to learn more about and/or join the Catholic Church.

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Adult Ed. Room in the Community Center.

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall

\$9.00 for Adults ! \$4.00 for Children (Age 12 & under)

Dec. 28 ~ No Wednesday Night Dinner [Christmas Break]

Jan. 4 ~ Wednesday Night Dinners resume. Menu is in vestibule.

Must RSVP with your name & number in your party: 1. Return an RSVP Card, or 2. Call 342-1852 or 3. Email church@CorpusChristiParish.com



Merry Christmas!

To Our Visitors:

Welcome! The Christian Community of Corpus Christi Catholic Church rejoices that we have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with you.

If you're not a Catholic and would like more information about the Catholic Church, please call 342-1852 to speak with one of the priests.

If you are a Catholic who has been away from the Church because of past hurts or difficulties (including sacramental marital status), please call one of the priests (342-1852) to talk it over. Returning to the Church and the sacraments of God's love may be far easier than you think. You are always welcome here. Merry Christmas on behalf of all at Corpus Christi!

To Our Parishioners:

We give thanks to God this Christmas for you and for the opportunity to serve you, and we give thanks for your faithful and generous support of God's work here.

We are grateful for all who serve this parish in so many ways: the Corpus Christi staff and the many volunteers taking care of various tasks, those serving in visitation ministry, liturgy, in our school, preschool and Sunday school, in the athletic, scouting and youth ministry programs and all organizations of the parish, the parish pastoral council, finance council and school board.

We thank God for all who materially and spiritually nourish the Body of Christ here at Corpus Christi as we continue to grow as the Body of Christ.

May God bless you, your loved ones and all the world with the peace only God can give. Merry Christmas!

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. James F. Zoghby

Fr. John S. Boudreaux

Dn. Arthur W. Robbins

Widowed Persons' Support Group

For information call parishioner Glen Porter at 666-8977.

Men of St. Joseph

Tuesdays, 7 to 8 a.m. in the Family Room

All men are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Jim Donaghey, jbd@orthomobile.com or www.MenOfStJoseph.com

Women of Mary

Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m. OR Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., in the Family Room

All women are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Judi Ankiewicz, 344-0321, or Sr. Deborah Kennedy, R.S.M., 316-3960.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Poor Box, Food, Clothing donations put in the designated places in the vestibule are distributed by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

To obtain assistance, call 432-5173 and leave name & phone no.

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Com. Ctr. Conf. Rm. (2nd Flr.)

ONLY ONE COLLECTION TODAY for all donations and tithes.

COLLECTION TOTALS for last weekend and Christmas will be posted in next weekend's bulletin.

Thank You and God Bless You

God bless all who faithfully tithe and contribute to the support of God's work here at Corpus Christi, and those who make a special bequest in their will for Corpus Christi Church. To make a direct donation of stock, contact your stockbroker, or call Steve Setterstrom at Citigroup Global Mkts. at 470-1060.

Reports of Contributions can be checked and mailed or emailed any time by calling the parish office (342-1852), and they will also be mailed out in January for parishioners and all who request them. If you do not receive a report, or if you find any error in your report, please call the parish office so that corrections can be made promptly. God bless you for your support and generosity.



Online Giving

With Online Giving you can either make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings or credit card account: Go to www.CorpusChristiParish.com; click "Church"; then click the green Online Giving icon on the left, and follow the instructions to contribute to the tithing or building fund or special collections.

For assistance, call 1-800-348-2886, ext 4, or parish office, 342-1852.



The Gift of Christmas

L~O~V~E

**Dear Padre,
Can you give me a simple explanation of the real meaning of Christmas?**

Aimee

Dear Aimee

The feast of Christmas is a feast of love! It commemorates the birth of Jesus: Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Word of God made flesh. Its surpassing message captures our hearts: See how much God loved us! “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we have seen his glory: the glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love” (Jn 1:14).

Nothing is more important for us to grasp than how much God loves us. It makes all the difference in our lives. The awareness of God’s love warms us when our hearts are cold and dreary, strengthens us when we are weak and wavering, holds us up when we feel like falling down. We cannot be faithful disciples of Jesus unless we recognize God’s love for us. When we do recognize it, we can become saints!

The Qualities of God’s Love

When we speak of God and his love, we speak of great mysteries. Even though we cannot understand everything about God and his dealings with us, we CAN understand some things.

1. God’s love for us is gratuitous, free. Sometimes we are given the impression that God loves us because we perform good deeds, because we live a good moral life. The Scriptures tell us that such is not the case. “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us; not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of his mercy (Ti 3:4-5).

2. God’s love for us is unconditional. Conditional love is partial love. “I love you because you are smart or beautiful or humorous.” The implication is that I won’t love you if you somehow become dumb or ugly or grumpy. It is not so with God. Not even sin can make God stop loving you, although sin may stop you from responding to God’s love. As someone put it: “God says, I want to love you. That is all. I just want to love you. If you choose to leave me, I will not stop you. I will leave you free, but I will always love you. There may be a time when you will put something between our love for each other. There may be that time in your life when you separate yourself from my love, but never believe that you have lost my love. You can refuse, but you can never lose my love.”

3. God’s love for us is everlasting. In a tender analogy, easily appreciated by almost everyone, the Scriptures compare God’s love for us to the love a mother has for her child. “Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you (Is 49:15). Saint Paul, who experienced the love of God so deeply, writes that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor powers, nor height nor depth nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord” (Rom 8:38-39).

The way we think about God, the image we have of him, is very important for our moral life. If we think of God in a negative way, then our response to him will be minimal and joyless. If we believe that God’s love and goodness are dependent on our own good actions, then we will easily doubt his love and goodness. If, on the other hand, we really believe in God’s free, unconditional, and everlasting love for us, then we will be eager and willing to live a life of love in response.

The Padre, Fr. Dan Lowery, C.S.S.R.

You Can No Longer Fear Me, You Can Only Love Me!

God's sign is simplicity. God's sign is the baby. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby — defenseless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness. He asks for our love; so he makes himself a child. God, who has become a child, says to us: you can no longer fear me, you can only love me.

Christmas 2006

Pope Benedict XVI,



Every Child Asks For Our Love

We draw near this night to the child of Bethlehem, to the God who for our sake chose to become a child. In every child we see something of the Child of Bethlehem. Every child asks for our love. This night, then, let us think especially of those children who are denied the love of their parents. Let us think of those street children who do not have the blessing of a family home, of those children who are forced to become soldiers and made instruments of violence, instead of messengers of reconciliation and peace. Let us think of those children who are victims of the industry of pornography and every other appalling form of abuse, and thus are traumatized in the depths of their soul. The Child of Bethlehem summons us once again to do everything in our power to put an end to the suffering of these children; to do everything possible to make the light of Bethlehem touch the heart of every man and woman.

And speaking of the Child of Bethlehem, let us think also of the place named Bethlehem, of the land in which Jesus lived, and which he loved so deeply. And let us pray that peace will be established there, that hatred and violence will cease. Let us pray for mutual understanding, that hearts will be opened, so that borders can be opened. Let us pray that peace will descend there, the peace of which the angels sang that night.

Pope Benedict XVI, Christmas 2008

Wipe away, Baby Jesus, the tears of children!

Embrace the sick and the elderly!

Move men to lay down their arms

And to draw close in a universal embrace of peace!

Invite the peoples, O Merciful Jesus,

To tear down the walls created

By poverty and unemployment,

By ignorance and indifference,

By discrimination and intolerance.

It is you, O divine child of Bethlehem,

Who saves us, freeing us from sin.

It is you who are the true and only savior,

Whom humanity often searches for with uncertainty.

God of peace, gift of peace for all of humanity,

Come to live in the heart of every individual and of every family.

Be our peace and joy! Amen.

Pope John Paul II





God Is Good For You!

Many studies have shown that people of faith who regularly attend services tend to be happier and healthier than those who don't.

Back in the 1990s a study by psychiatrist David Larson found that:

Regular church attenders live longer, have fewer heart attacks and a lower incidence of arteriosclerosis, high blood pressure and hypertension.

Religious people are less likely to abuse alcohol and are far less likely to use illicit drugs.

Prison inmates who make a religious commitment are less likely than their counterparts to return to jail.

Marital satisfaction and overall well-being tend to increase with church attendance.

Blessed be the Lord, my Rock, my refuge and my fortress, my stronghold, my deliverer, my shield, in whom I trust.

Psalm 144

According to a study published in December, 2010, in the journal, *American Sociological Review*, religious people were more satisfied than non-religious people. According to the data, about 28 percent of people who attended a religious service weekly were "extremely satisfied" with their lives, compared with 19.6 of people who never attended services.

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy! Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. And may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours!

Psalm 90

In 2010, the Pew Research Center released a study which found that people who attend religious services weekly or more are happier (43% very happy) than those who attend monthly or less (31%); or seldom (26%). This correlation between happiness and frequency of church attendance has been a consistent finding of the Research Center's General Social Surveys taken over the years. The same pattern applies within all major religious denominations. For example, 38% of all Catholics who attend church weekly or more report being very happy, while just 28% of Catholics who attend church less often say they are very happy.

Only in God is my soul at rest, for from him comes my hope. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed.

Psalm 62

According to an article in Time magazine in 2009, "A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that faith may indeed bring us health. People who attend religious services do have a lower risk of dying in any one year than people who don't attend. People who believe in a loving God fare better after a diagnosis of illness than people who believe in a punishing God. No less a killer than AIDS will back off at least a bit when it's hit with a double-barreled blast of belief."

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

Psalm 145

Social demographer Robert Hummer of the University of Texas has found that "those who never attend religious services have twice the risk of dying over the next 8 years as people who attend once a week. People who fall somewhere between no churchgoing and weekly churchgoing also fall somewhere between in terms of mortality."

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own! Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield, for in him our hearts rejoice; in his holy name we trust.

Psalm 33

God Is Good For You!

New Study Finds Less Depression Among Weekly Churchgoers

Past studies have shown that those who attend religious services at least weekly tend to live longer and healthier lives. Now, new research indicates that frequent churchgoers also face those additional years with more optimism and greater social support than other people. A study released in November, 2011 involving nearly 100,000 postmenopausal women showed



that those who reported weekly attendance at religious services were 56 percent more likely to be above the median in terms of their optimism level. They were also significantly less likely to be depressed or to be characterized by cynical hostility. The study was funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

Catholic News Service

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart.
In the presence of the angels I will sing your praise.* Psalm 138

Neal Krause, a sociologist and public-health expert at the University of Michigan has found that parishioners naturally benefit when they receive social support from their church. But he also found that those people who give help fare even better than those who receive it.

Out of love, place yourselves at the service of one another. The whole law has found its fulfillment in this one saying: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Gal 5:13b-14

Krause also found that people who maintain a sense of gratitude for what's going right in their lives have a reduced incidence of depression. In another study, he found that people who believe their lives have meaning live longer than people who don't.

Sing joyfully to the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful song. Know that the Lord is God, he made us, his we are, his people, the flock he tends. The Lord is good, the Lord, whose kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness, to all generations. Psalm 100

A 30-year study by Cornell University sociologist Phyllis Moen shows that women who volunteered in churches, civic groups and schools reported good health and high self-esteem. They described their lives as meaningful, and their outlook was more optimistic than most of their peers. It seems that people who volunteer at least two hours a week show significant reductions in their stress levels. Once they see how much better off they have it than the people they help, they lose their self-pity.

All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. John 15:11-12

