ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA HOUSTON, TEXAS

Dear Friends and Visitors,

Welcome to all of you who visiting with family and friends for the holy holiday celebrating the birth of our Lord. He continues to make His home among us wherever we may be or however we find ourselves; surrounded by many or by few, but hopefully sustained by His Word of Promise to be with us till the end of time. A special welcome to all our fellow Christians who join us for this Holy Feast of Christmas to share the Word that nourishes and guides us and calls us to be light in our world. Welcome also to those of you from other religious traditions or none who join us in this celebration of life and all that is good in the human family: liberty, respect, and acceptance.

This will be the first year in probably 14 years that I will be hitching a ride on Santa's sleigh and heading across the Pond to make a surprise visit to my family for Christmas. This of course, will be totally dependent on the weather on the other side. Around this time last year all the airports in Western Europe were closed because of unseasonal heavy snow, even in Ireland. I believe it is worth the gamble, considering that my parents are now "getting up there" in age, my father being on the brink of 92. When I return in a week I will let you know how the surprise visit went. Hopefully it didn't startle them too much. As a result of my trip, no daily mass will be celebrated at St. Catherine's next week. The parish office will be open as usual, except for Monday, December 26, and the following Monday, January 2; thereafter all will be back to normal again.

I hope all your surprises this Christmas from Santa or otherwise are equally enjoyable and full of laughter and fun. No matter what, do your best to make the Season enjoyable, as stress free as possible and when all fails, adjourn to your favorite sanctuary and do some light reading and threaten not to come out until all is silent or everyone has gone to bed or gone home.

May the joy of Christmas be in your hearts and in your homes.
Fr. Niall

Christmas Schedule

Saturday December 24th – 5:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.
Sunday December 25th – 8:30 A.M.

New Year's Schedule

Saturday December 31st – 5:00 P.M.
Sunday January 1st – 8:30 A.M and 11:15 A.M.

THANK YOU: The Piper family thanks all of you who were kind enough to acknowledge our loss. There were so many kind responses we wanted you to know how grateful we are. May the Christ child bless you.
Frank and Merryl Piper

CARING HEARTS is the St. Catherine's support group for those who have had a death loss, whether recently or from a more extended time. You are welcome to come and receive the comfort and support that one receives from being with others who can understand.

Meeting – Wednesday, December 28th, beginning at 2:00 P.M. Contact Charlotte Maluski 281-589-8729.
Charlotte Maluski

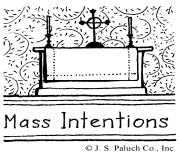
SUPER SENIORS TRIP: The Super Seniors have scheduled a trip to the historic Cotton Gin and Museum in Burton, TX. on Fri. Jan. 6, 2012 . The Precinct 3 free bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:30 AM. Tour of the Gin/Museum at 10:00 AM. The cost is $6.00 plus your lunch at an eatery in the area. For reservations call Kay Cary at 713-896-6837 or Christa Hinojosa at 281-496-6062.
Christa Hinojosa

RETREAT FOR MEN OF ST. CATHERINE'S PARISH: Our annual men's retreat is scheduled at the Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center, 430 Bunker Hill Road, on January 6-8, 2012. This year's theme is "Our Road to Emmaus". For more information contact Charlie Hrachovy at 713-468-0259, Mike Boone at 713-460-3912, or Jeff Walton at 713-826-5522.
Charlie Hrachovy

SILENT LENTEN RETREAT: The Lenten season offers us an opportunity to link our lives with Jesus and to draw strength from the Lord for ourselves and those who are dear to us. St. Catherine will be participating in a Silent Lenten Retreat at the Cenacle Retreat House February 24 - 26, 2012. The retreat will be led by Rev. Richard Buhler, SJ. Contact Mary Malicki at 713-465-3652 for more information.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 24 - 25, 2011



Sat. 12/24 5:00 P.M. † Glenn Hettler
7:00 P. M.

Sun. 12/25 8:30 A.M.

Tue. 12/27 - Fri. 12/30 No Mass

Sat. 12/31 5:00 P.M. † Glenn Hettler

Sun. 01/01 8:30 A.M.
11:15 A.M. † Salim Delly

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

PS I

Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday:	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Sat. 12/24 Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
5:00 P.M. Mass
7:00 P.M. Mass

Sun. 12/25 The Nativity of the Lord
8:30 A.M. Mass

Tue. 12/27 - Fri. 12/30 No Mass

Sat. 12/31 Solemnity of Mary
5:00 P.M. Mass

Sun. 01/01 8:30 A.M. Mass
11:15 A. M. Mass

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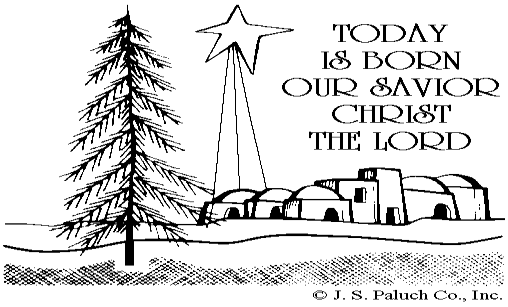
READER AND EMHC SCHEDULE

December 24 - 25, 2011

	Reader 1	Reader 2	Reader 3
5:00 P.M	M. Green	M. Hernandez	L. Powell
7:00 P.M.	A. Babin	E. Smart	D. Thompson
8:30 A.M	E. Garrison	M. Beard	E. McMaster

EMHC

5:00 P.M.	M. Truxillo
7:00 P.M.	S. Salanitro
8:30 A.M.	R. Hettler