



**“GOD IS NOT THERE”** Tonight (Christmas) we do not seek Christ among the opulence of the world, in the idolatry of wealth, between the cares of power, from the intrigues of the wealth. **God is not**

**there.** We seek God with the sign of the angels, lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes that the poor could make a humble farmer from Nazareth, a poor veil and a bit of grass as rest for the God who became man, the King of the centuries that is accessible to men as a poor child.

Now is the time to look today at the Child, Jesus not in the beautiful images of our cribs, Jesus is to be found among the malnourished children who have gone to bed tonight with nothing to eat, among those poor homeless people who are sleeping wrapped in newspapers in doorways. Among the poor laborer that has earned perhaps the bare necessity to buy a gift for his mother, or who knows the paperboy who failed to sell newspapers; who will get a tremendous reprimand from his stepfather or stepmother. Or the young peasant worker, who is unemployed, the disease gets tonight. Not everything is happy, there is much suffering, there are many broken homes, there is so much pain, and there is so much poverty. How sad is the story of our children. Jesus takes all of that tonight.



(San Oscar Romero)

Four Sundays of Advent:  
Dec.1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, Dec. 22

Wednesday, December 6. St. Nicholas Memorial.

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin**

**Mary, Patronal Feast day of the United States of America , Solemnity**

Monday, Dec. 9 - Holy Day of Obligation  
Schedule: 8:00am (English); Spanish 7:00pm

**“Denim and Diamond Gala Celebration”**

Friday, Dec. 6 – 6:00pm-Midnight  
Hall Center.

**Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe:**

Thursday, Dec. 12

Schedule: Las Mañanitas (5:30am)  
followed by Mass at Church)

Agape: Church Lobby

Las Posadas: From

**Saturday, Dec. 16-to Sat., Dec. 24. 6:30pm**



Tuesday, December 24

Reconciliation. All Day

From 9:00am to 5:00pm (Rectory)

Las Posadas 6:00pm

English Mass: 7:00pm

**Christmas Day and New Year’s day.**

**Holy Days of Obligation**

Christmas : 10:30am—Spanish;  
12:00pm English



**ST. CLARE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**



**Advent Reconciliation Service:  
Tuesday, Dec. 10: 6:45pm-9:00pm**

**“My Christmas in Heaven (Church)”**

4:00pm Las Posadas and Christmas Carols

5:00pm Mass followed by Reception at

The Hall Center.

Church Address

7701 Somerset Rd

San Antonio, TX 78211

[www.stclaresatx.net](http://www.stclaresatx.net)

**Hall Center: [www.stclarehall.info](http://www.stclarehall.info)**

Emergency Number: (210) 996-1371

Office: (210) 924-5252

Fr. Richard M. Samour—Pastor

Rev. Mr. Gilbert Maldonado-Deacon

## ADVENT SEASON



The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which is depicted in the lovely Four Weeks of Advent Pewter Wreath:

The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Love (Faith) with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

## YOU ARE INVITED!

Join us during this blessed seasons of Advent and Christmas for one or more of the spiritual growth offerings listed below:

### Octave of Christmas:

Masses every morning 8:00am:

Thursday, Dec. 26

**Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr.**

Friday, Dec. 27

**Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist;**

Saturday, Dec. 28 followed by tacos

**Feast of the Holy Innocents.**

Sunday, Dec. 29 **Holy Family**

Monday, Dec. 30.

Tuesday, Dec. 31.

### Monday January 1, 2020.

10:30am Spanish Mass

Noon—English Mass.

**Solemnity of Our Blessed Mother Mary**

Solemnities Holy Days of Obligation  
Schedule Regular as Sunday

Epiphany of the Lord

Weekend, January 4 & 5, 2020

Baptism of the Lord

Weekend, January 11 & 12, 2020

Christmas season Ends. .

*St. Clare Church...*

*"Where Everybody is*

*Somebody."*



## CHRISTMAS SEASON



Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us).

Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones. Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.