



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

The K of C's will meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory All Knights, past Knights or men interested in becoming a Knight are encouraged to attend.

Next meeting will be December 21, 2023

7PM in the Rectory

Deceased Knights upcoming Masses



Happy birthday to these Knights born in December! *Reno Hammond, JR Upmeyer, Alan McCauley, JR Vela, Joe Shaffer, Chip Keithley, Mike Skidmore.*

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Celebration

5:00 AM—Mañanitas

9:00 AM—Daily Mass

5:00 PM—Our Lady's Mass

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner in Hall.

Advent Wreaths



The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd. If you need candles for your Advent wreath or need a wreath please contact the office. We have metal wreaths for \$15.00 and candles for \$10.00.

THE ADVENT WREATH



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles (three purple and one rose are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Each candle

symbolizes:

1st Purple Candle—Prayer

2nd Purple Candle—Penance

3rd Pink Purple Candle —Rejoicing as we are close to Christmas

4th Purple Candle—Preparatory sacrifices

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

A 5th white candle may be added to the wreath, "The Christ candle" this candle is lit on Christmas eve or Christmas day and reminds us that Christ is the light of the world.

Religious Education

Sunday December 3rd is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. 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 to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. (usscb)

Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to desire a new world. (Pope Francis, Angelus, 2018)

Decorating the church for Christmas



Every year we decorate the church with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to donate a poinsettia, please bring them to the office starting December 18. Please let us know if you are donating it in memory of someone.

Where do they come from and why do we use them as decorations for Christmas?

The poinsettia is native to Central America and they bloom in the winter. In 1825 a man named Joel Robert Poinsett, Ambassador to Mexico became fascinated with this beautiful flower and sent some back to his greenhouse in South Carolina. They were sold as cut flowers and later in pots. In the mid-1830s these beautiful flowers became known as Poinsettias after the man who first brought them to the United States.

THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA AND WHY WE ASSOCIATE THEM WITH CHRISTMAS

There is an old Mexican legend about Christmas and Poinsettias and a young girl named Pepita.

Pepita was a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to give the Christ child at Christmas Eve services. She and her cousin Pedro were on their way to church and Pepita was feeling sad that she had no gift for the Christ child. Pedro told her: "I'm sure even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus happy." As they walked to the church, Pepita picked a small handful of weeds growing by the road side. She made them into a small bouquet to present to the Christ Child. She was embarrassed that she didn't have more to offer but remembered what Pedro had told her. As she knelt at the foot of the nativity scene, she laid her bouquet down as her gift to the Christ child. Suddenly the bouquet turned into bright red flowers and those that were there thought they were witnessing a miracle. From that day on the bright red flowers became known as "Flores de Noche Buena" or "Flowers of the Holy Night".

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red leaves symbolize the blood of Christ and the white leaves his purity. (Whychristmas.com)