



WEEK of 09 DECEMBER 2018

I was blessed to spend a month in Israel in 1999 to study. After visiting many churches and too many ruins, I had a startling realization: the Holy Land looks an awful lot like El Paso. This was disconcerting for me because it seemed so *ordinary*. The temptation in Advent is to look for God only in the exceptional, the dazzling, and the novel. In Sunday's gospel, John the Baptist promised that the salvation of God was coming. When a simple teacher from Nazareth arrived on the scene, many dismissed him as far too *ordinary* to be divine.

We now enter the second week of Advent and continue to look for the Lord. The challenge of the season may be to look in our *ordinary* lives. What opportunities under my nose are there to serve selflessly? Whose goodness in others has gone unappreciated and un-imitated? What qualities must I develop so that others see God in me?

Let us pray for faith that God can do much through us if we let Him. Paul wrote to the community at Philippi: *"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."* His hope for them was that their *"love increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value."* May we experience the ever-waiting God this week!

PRAYERS REQUESTED for:

- The Holy Spirit's grace during the second week of Advent;
- In thanksgiving for the healing and return of Adriana Zavala, our art teacher;
- Our upperclassmen taking EA exams this week;
- In thanksgiving for our generous benefactors;
- The needs of our staff, students, and families this week;
- Our young men to consider a life of service as a Brother, priest or deacon;
- Our seniors as they apply for university and scholarships;
- For peoples migrating around the world – especially those arriving in the borderland;
- For the ongoing healing of Ulli Reichenbach;
- Those in need of healing: the mother of Martha Garibay; the mother of Jeannette Peterson; our injured students; Mary Vallejo (mother of Yvonne Davis); those fighting cancer (Homero Silva, Brother Robb Wallace, alumnus John Armendariz, Mima Sofia Higuera, CHS mother Rosa Maria Sosa, alumnus Javier Olmos); those dealing with addiction; and for those struggling with mental illness;
- The repose of the soul of Pauline Woznicki, grandmother of longtime CHS teacher Michael Woznicki, and the consolation of his family;
- The repose of the soul of Michael Keogh II '60 and the consolation of his family;
- The repose of the soul of Ricardo "Ricky" Avila '79 and the consolation of his family;
- The repose of the soul of Shawn Matthew Hill '68, brother of Gerald Elliott Hill '71, and the consolation of his family;

- Families in mourning; especially the Arellano and Thompson families.

KUDOS and THANKS:

Welcome back to **Ms. Zavala**, our art teacher, who has been recovering from surgery. We're so grateful to **Mr. Sanchez** for being an effective long-term substitute for us.

Thank you to the many people involved in hosting the **Cathedral Varsity and JV Basketball tournaments** over the past two weekends. We're especially grateful to the **parents** for hosting the **Hospitality Room** for the coaching staff and officials. Thank you to the staff: **Mr. Puertas, Mr. Yanez, Mr. Vidales, and Mr. Rincon.**



CHS students participated in **Saint Mark's Parish** annual **Guadalupana Parade** on Saturday. Thank you to **Mr. Lopez** for making the arrangements and especially to the students for representing our school.

Thank you to the **Brothers of the Poor of Saint Francis community** for their recent donation of Biblical reference material for our school. Their generosity and ongoing support for CHS is always appreciated.

We give a shout out to our **baseball city league team** and **Coach Vazquez** for capturing 2nd place in the city-wide tournament. We look forward to an outstanding spring season!

Kudos to all of the **band and choir students** for a magical Christmas Concert on Thursday night. It was a wonderful celebration of student talent. We give a shout out to **Mr. Barba** and **Ms. Montoya.**

Kudos to the **Robotics team** for capturing 4th place at the robotics competition at **Montwood HS.** Congratulations to **Mr. Vazquez** and **Mr. Esparza.**

Congratulations to our **soccer league team** for winning three out of four games at the highly competitive Houston soccer tournament. The team hopes to face off with a number of those teams in the state playoffs.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Thank you to **Art Honor Society** and **Mr. Baca** for putting up tree in the school lobby. We're grateful to the **Mrs. Flores, Mrs. Martinez, and Mrs. Montanez** for decorating the school offices.

Despite having a small team, the **Irish Swim team** earned the 2nd place at the EPISD tournament. Congratulations to the athletes, parents, and **Coaches White and Zielsdorf.**

We give thanks to God for those who celebrate their **birthdays**:

- Saturday, 01 December: **Tristan Angermaier, Andres Mercado**
- Sunday, 02 December: **Marcos Figueroa-Casas, Aaron Rodriguez**
- Monday, 03 December: **Sebastian Botello**
- Tuesday, 04 December: **Hector Martell**
- Thursday, 06 December: **Niklaus Felhaber**
- Friday, 07 December: **Diego Lopez-Molinar**
- Sunday, 09 December: **Noah Sepulveda**
- Monday, 10 December: **Pedro Borrego**
- Tuesday, 11 December: **Elias Franco, Federico Sosa**
- Wednesday, 12 December: **Aaron Tavizon**
- Friday, 14 December: **Grey Hansen**



NEWS YOU NEED:

El Paso Community College classes are having their **semester exams** during this week. **EA students** will be taking exams during regularly scheduled EA classes.

The **Winter Writing Workshop** is an all-volunteer effort to assist our students in writing essays for scholarship and college applications. Editors will be available in the school library to assist students. We are continuing our partnership with **Saint Mary's College of California**, a Lasallian university in the Bay Area, and they will provide two volunteer students for a month. It will be from: **December 26** (12:00 to 3:00 PM)
December 27-28 (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)
January 2-4 (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM).

The Cathedral High School community has volunteered to feed **dinner to approximately 200 immigrants** housed at the Diocesan Pastoral Center on **Tuesday, 11 December**. Mr. Lopez sent a letter inviting parents to contribute to and/or volunteer to prepare and/or serve the meal.

The **Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe** will be on **Wednesday, 12 December**, at 10:20 AM at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Families are invited to join us for the Eucharist. Students will sing to *La Virgencita* and offer flowers before Mass.

- Students will be in **Irish Standard**.

The Religion Department, Foreign Language Department, and the administration are sponsoring the **annual menudo feast** for the **school staff** to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on Wednesday in the Vandenburg Library.

All **student community service hours** are due on **Friday, 14 December**.

There is a meeting of the **diocesan principals** at Saint Joseph's School on **Friday**. Brother Nick will be off campus but available by email.

Looking ahead:

First semester exams will be Wednesday through Friday, December 19-21. The **ninety-minute exams** will be **comprehensive**. It is very important that your son is present and on time for exams. There will be a break in between exams. Students are encouraged to bring snacks. **Please note the dismissal times.**

Wednesday, 19 December:

- **Period 1: 8:05 - 9:35 AM**
- **Period 2: 9:50 – 11:20 AM**
- **Period 3: 11:35 – 1:05 PM**

Thursday, 20 December:

- **Period 7: 8:05 - 9:35 AM**
- **Period 8: 9:50 – 11:20 AM**

Friday, 21 December: **Period 4/5, 6**

- **Period 4 or 5: 8:05 - 9:35 AM**
- **Period 6: 9:50 – 11:20 AM**



The **Winter Writing Workshop** is an all-volunteer effort to assist our **seniors** in writing essays for scholarship and college applications. Editors will be available in the school library to assist students. We are continuing our partnership with **Saint Mary's College of California**, a Lasallian university in the Bay Area, and they will provide two volunteer students for a month. It will be from: **December 26** (12:00 to 3:00 PM)
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January 2-4 (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM).

Grades will be due by Thursday, 03 January at 8:00 AM.

Faculty will return on Monday, 07 January, for a **retreat**. There are no classes.

Students will return for **classes** on Tuesday, 08 January. This will be the beginning of the second semester.

ALUMNI and DEVELOPMENT:

The Cathedral High Alumni Association will have their January general meeting on Saturday, 05 January. **Ruben Escandon, Jr. '56** will be the speaker. The Escandon family has been involved with **Mt. Cristo Rey** for generations. He will speak on this religious and cultural borderland landmark. Breakfast begins being served at 8:30 AM for a \$6.00 donation. The meeting begins at 9:00 AM.

MEN OF IRON/MEN OF GOLD

