



church of reconciliation



[View the Rec events calendar.](#)

## Weekly News, Events and Announcements

### Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

#### Generosity Campaign 2019

"Lord, where would you want me to be in my giving?"

Last Sunday was our Generosity Sunday. **We have gratefully received 60 pledges so far, totaling about \$250,000. Please fill out your Estimate of Giving Card and bring it to Sunday services to place in the offering plate.** If you are unable to be at services, you can put it in the offering plate at a future service or can drop it off at the church office.



**During this time of celebration, we encourage you to:**

- Pray for God to lead you on new steps in your faith journey.
- Ask, "Lord, where would you want me to be in my giving?"
- Deepen your sense of generosity and gratitude.
- Discover the joy of giving.
- Read *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*

#### Thanksgiving Week: Church Office Closures

In observance of Thanksgiving, the church office will close at **1:00pm on Wednesday, November 27th** and remain closed for the rest of the week, re-opening on Tuesday, December 3rd.



### Sunday's Preacher

This Sunday, we will welcome The Rev. Maria Elena Cristerna, who will preach at both services. She lives in Mexico, where she is assistant rector of two parishes, El Buen Pastor and The Resurrection in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, in the Diocese of Northern Mexico, along with her husband, The Rev. Miguel Cristerna. She was presented with the Ohtli Award at the Mexican Consulate at Eagle Pass, given to "Mexicans and friends of Mexico, who have dedicated their lives and professional activities, to forging a path for the Mexican community abroad." In 2014, she established a Women's Shelter to provide a refuge for women, sometimes with children, who need to escape from pain and fear in their domestic environment.



**All loose bills and change in Sunday's offering plate will go to The Rev. Maria Elena Cristerna. If you wish to donate via a check, please write "For Maria Elena Cristerna" on your memo line.**

She will also teach Adult Formation this Sunday, 9:15am-10:15am, in Alban Classroom

### Advent Events and Opportunities

#### FUNDRAISER FOR REC YOUTH!!!

#### "The Hapless Helper"

**Sunday, December 1st, 12:30pm (Coffee Hour)  
in Brown Hall**

Join the Encore Players from Bulverde as they perform again on Sunday, December 1 after the 10:30 service in Brown Hall. The show is one hour in length and it

captures the final meeting of Santa's Elves, prior to his big night of delivery! One of the Elves is unhappy because he has been making the same toy for 50 years! One of the Elves has lost the key to Santa's store room, and another can't seem to find any of the reindeer! Let this hour of calamity warm your heart and put a jingle in your step as you get a glimpse of what takes place behind the scenes at the North Pole!

The Encore Players have once again graciously agreed to donate ALL PROCEEDS to Rec Youth, to be used towards their Summer Mission Trips!! **The cost of this event is free; however, a suggested donation of \$10 would be much appreciated!! Desserts will be provided by our Rec Youth!!** Hope you will stick around and join us!!



#### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

If you wish to contribute funds for the special flowers and/or music to honor a loved one in your life, please complete one of the order forms that will be provided in this Sunday's bulletin. On your check, please indicate that the money is for flowers and/or music. Thank you!



### Christmas Eve Services

We hope you we will join us to celebrate the Nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ. Please note that Christmas Eve services will be held at **4:00pm** and at **7:30pm**. The 4:00pm service will be children and youth-led, including a pageant. There will be **NO** Christmas Day service.



### Advent in a Bag

We will once again be handing out "Advent in a Bag," beginning on **Sunday, December 1**, which is our first Sunday in Advent. These bags will contain all you need for you and your family to have a meaningful and memorable Advent Season. We had SO MUCH FUN with them last year, that we thought we would do it again (except with completely new and different materials). I have enough bags for every family who has children in our Elementary, Middle School and High School programs and then the rest of the bags will be gladly "gifted" on a first come, first served basis. Please call, text or email me at 210-725-3080 or [jennifer@cor-satx.org](mailto:jennifer@cor-satx.org), if you are interested in any of the extra bags!



### One Song: An Advent Retreat Saturday, December 7, 2019, 8:30am-2:00pm in the Library



Jana Orsinger and Rev. Judy invite you to an Advent experience of contemplation, reflection, silence, and holy Encounter with the Divine. The commercial season never lends itself to adequate self-care and nurture of one's soul in preparation for the miracle of the birth of Jesus.

From the beginning of her translation, Jana's words set the tone for joyful contemplation:

***Our Loving Creator, Silent Music of the Universe,  
Awaken us with the shimmering light of your Love...***

We invite you to listen to the choirs of angelic hosts in heaven and on earth as we sing the Divine Love into this hurting world. And as we look to the stars in the night sky and as we contemplate the shimmering presence of the Divine within our hearts and beyond in the whole of Creation, we become the One Song of Love, only Love meant for all Creation. Join us for the gift only you can give yourself!

**We will begin our day with a gathering circle and refreshments (8:30am-9am) and the retreat will begin promptly at 9am. Snacks will be provided and please bring a brown bag lunch with you. Sign up in Brown Hall or call the church office at (210) 655-2731.**

We conclude this beautiful Advent day with Holy Eucharist... to go in Peace and in the power of Love.

Blessings on the way... Jana and Judy+

### "It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Planning is underway for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant and service!! As you all know, this service has a lot of moving parts and we could use all the help that we can!!



#### **Elementary Kiddos and Families:**

Our pageant this year will be based on the book "**Twas the Evening of Christmas**" by Glenys Nellist. Each elementary child will have the opportunity to have a speaking part, as well as dress up in costume. I will be sending out the "script" in a week or so, just so that we might be able to get a head start on assigning parts and having the kiddos practice reading their lines at home. As always, our goal will be to tell the story of the birth of Jesus, in the most non-stressful, fun-filled way possible!! **"Official" pageant practices will be held on Sunday, December 22 (after the 10:30 service) and Tuesday, December 24 at 2:00 p.m.**

#### **Middle School and High School:**

Once again, I am looking for MS/HS'ers who play musical instruments, who would be willing to play a Christmas song, as our prelude music to the service. This was a HUGE HIT last year, so I hope you will strongly consider sharing your amazing talent with your church family!!! What a gift that would be!! Also, we will be looking for a few MS/HS'ers who will not mind dressing up in costume, to help "shepherd" the elementary kiddos, during the pageant. Finally, if there are any MS/HS'ers who might be interested in ushering, greeting, being a lector or helping serve communion, please let me know that also!! **"Official" pageant practices will be held on Sunday, December 22 (after the 10:30 service) and Tuesday, December 24 at 2:00 p.m.**

#### **Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting for Children, Youth and Families**

We will continue our Reconciliation tradition of lighting the Advent Candles during our 10:30 service and I am looking for families who would like to help light the candles on December 1, 8, 15, and 22. Please let me know if your children, youth or family is interested in helping with readings or candle lightings. **I am looking for at least 10 families to help make this happen!!** Please text, call or email Jennifer Murphy at 210-725-3080 or [jennifer@cor-satx.org](mailto:jennifer@cor-satx.org) with the exact date that your family can help!



#### **Alternative Gift Market Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**9:00 am to 10:30 am and 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm, Brown Hall**

Unlike traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts purchased at the Church of Reconciliation's Alternative Gift Market don't contribute to the consumer stream; they don't need to be dusted, and they always fit. Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with gifts that inspire change through humanitarian and environmental causes. Honor your loved

ones with donations to one of 17 carefully selected non-profit agencies, world-wide and in San Antonio. [View the shopping list here.](#)

Reconciliation's members participate in several of these ministries, many benefitting our own community. They include support for ABODE, Serna and Barrington Neighbors Projects, Texas Water Mission. Representatives will offer information about the various organizations.

Gift cards and inserts for friends and family describing the wonderful projects you have supported in their honor will be available. Everyone is welcome. For information contact the church office at 210-655-2731.

### *Ways to Serve in December*

Reconciliation is an amazing church community that seeks to serve our San Antonio community all year round, but December seems even a little more busier than "usual"!! Please prayerfully consider how you might help this Advent season.

#### **Interfaith Welcome Coalition Lunches and Gifts:**

We provide lunches for asylum seekers coming through San Antonio, and will next provide lunches on **Sunday, December 1** and **Saturday, December 21**. Ways to help include assembling lunches, bringing sandwiches, fruit, and other items for the lunches, or assisting monetarily.



They are also asking for help to be able to provide Santa Claus' goodies for immigrant children alone on the Texas-Mexico border. They are asking for toys (dollar store) coloring books, socks, crayons, hair barrettes. Please bring items to church office or money donations (Betty and Ron will shop) by **December 7th**. For more information, please email Ron and Betty Graham.

#### **"Stuff the Stockings" for Magdalena House:**

The Adult Formation team would like to invite you to serve the women and children at Magdalena House!

**Magdalena House** is a transitional home in San Antonio that serves mothers and children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives.

They provide transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. They rescue the least and the lost, sharing hope for a new beginning.

There are 2 ways to serve this precious community during this season:



1. We are looking to provide "small" gifts for stockings for women and children. In Brown Hall, we have put together some lists of suggested items and sign-up sheets. Please prayerfully consider donating items that will be placed in the stockings. All donated items must be brought to the office on or before **Friday, December 6**.
2. Join us on **Sunday, December 8** during our Adult Formation time in Brown Hall, where we will be "stuffing the stockings" with all the sweet treasures that have been donated by our church family! All adults and children are invited to help!!

Contact Jennifer Murphy at [jennifer@cor-satx.org](mailto:jennifer@cor-satx.org) or Erica Valle at [erica@cor-satx.org](mailto:erica@cor-satx.org) for more details! To view the list of items needed, [click here](#).

### **Good Sam Holiday Bag Distribution:**

Your partnership with Good Sam will help make the holiday season special for more than 500 families in our community. Together we can help provide all the items our neighbors need to celebrate and gather together. **Please place all items in a reusable grocery bag. You may drop off bags at our church office no later than Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.** For more information, contact the church office at (210) 655-2731.



### **Needed items:**

- 2 cans of green beans
- 2 cans of corn
- 1 can of sweet potatoes
- 1 box of mashed potatoes
- 1 box of stuffing
- 1 jar/package of gravy
- 1 can of cranberries
- 1 package of Christmas napkins
- 1 package of Christmas plates
- 1 boxed dessert mix
- 1 small family gift (Board game, book, etc.)

### **Christmas Shoebox Gifts:**

Last year J-JIREH Ministries collected and donated almost 6,500 shoebox gifts filled with toys, clothes, gloves, t-shirts, sweaters, socks, mittens, scarves, puzzles and lots of love and healing! All the gifts go to children and teens living in shelters, foster and group homes, needy families and children in hospitals right here and around San Antonio.



### **How to help:**

- Donate funds and/or gifts to be used in our shoeboxes and foster agency.
- Sponsor children/teens at \$25 per shoebox gift.
- Donate shoebox gifts for children. Ages: 1 day to 17 years of age, male and female.
- Get 3 others to do the same! And volunteer at the Christmas workshop.

### **Click [here](#) for directions on how to prepare Christmas Shoebox Gift.**

Thank you for your love and generosity! Know that each box deposits a seed of love and hope into their heart and healing grows from that. You may drop off your boxes at our church office by **Tuesday, December 10th**. For more information, please email Ron and Betty Graham.

## Upcoming Events

### Ultreya

The Ultreya will take place on Thursday, December 5th, at 6:00pm in the church Library, pot luck dinner. The 4th day speaker is Jennifer Murphy and Facilitator is Wayne Currier, a member of our Ultreya group who worships at St. Thomas.



### Newcomer Photos

Calling all Newcomers! We would love to get to know everyone's faces! During Coffee Hour for the next few Sundays (Nov. 24-Dec.15), you will be invited to have your photo taken for our upcoming parish directory and our bulletin board.



### Rector's Discretionary Account

We have been using money donated to our "Rector's Discretionary Account" to assist Reconcilers & others from the neighborhood with emergency assistance. If you could make a donation to our Rector's Discretionary Account, that would be very helpful. Please make checks out to Church of Reconciliation, and note on the donation envelope or the check that you want these funds to go to the "Rector's Discretionary Account." Thank you for considering making a donation.

### Lunch with Rev. Judy Tuesday, December 3rd

Following the 12:30pm Holy Eucharist, let's have a "Lunch Bunch" with Rev. Judy! Bring a brown bag lunch and gather with fellow Reconcilers and Rev. Judy+ for conversation and sharing. No agenda, just being together around another table to celebrate holy friendship. If you are reading an especially fascinating book, tell us about it! If you have ideas for community fellowship and ministry, share them! Let's take a breath, slow down, and enjoy the blessings of friendship and faith.



## Opportunities and Announcements

### Parish Directory 2020

It's time to put together our parish directory for 2020! If you want to be added to our directory, or if you are a current member and have a new address, phone, e-mail, or photograph to share, please e-mail it to [info@cor-satx.org](mailto:info@cor-satx.org) or call the church office at (210) 655-2731.



*An Afternoon with Mary Earle*  
*Reflections on "An Altar in Your Heart"*  
*by Bishop Robert Hibbs*

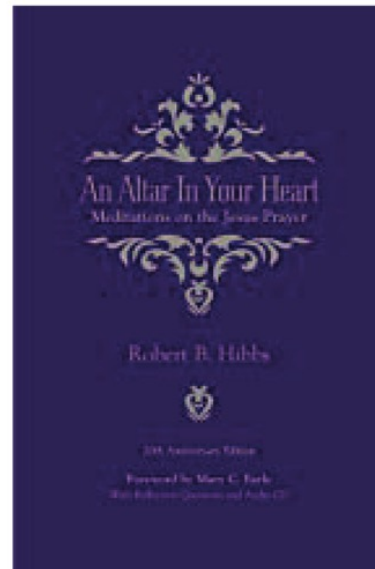


**Friday, December 6**  
**1:30-3:30**  
*Las Almas at Los Patios*  
**Free**  
Books & CDs will  
be available for purchase

**A Message from Mary...**

“Using material from **An Altar in Your Heart** by Robert Hibbs, we will spend time reflecting on the Jesus prayer, and practicing that prayer together. If you have prayer beads, feel free to bring them.

The time together will include some teaching and conversation, as well as quiet and stillness.”



**Parents In Prayer**

Let's face it, parents, it takes a village to raise up our sweet babies, tweens, and teens (and I bet adult children too)!! We all need each other...to cheer each other on...to lift each other up...during the victories and the challenges! What if we had time to just sit and share life, to seek words of wisdom from one another, to laugh, to cry, to even vent. And when it's all over....what if we had time to pray!!! **Our NEXT Parents in Prayer meeting will be on Sunday, December 15, from 9:15-10:15 in the Library!** Bring your coffee and your breakfast and come join us!





### Reading The Gospel In Spanish

If you are a Spanish speaker and would like to read the gospel in Spanish on alternate Sundays, please email [info@cor-satx.org](mailto:info@cor-satx.org) or call (210) 655-2731 to sign up for a time slot. You may read the gospel at either the 8:00 or 10:30 services, or both. The church office will send you the gospel ahead of time if you'd like to practice.



Time Slots Available:

December 8 \_\_\_ 8:00am service \_\_\_ 10:30am service

December 22 \_\_\_ 8:00am service \_\_\_ 10:30am service

### NEW!! Middle School and High School Fundraiser "Hire-A-Youth!"

Need a little help around the house?!? Have a project you've been meaning to get to, but you haven't had time?!? Why not hire the Youth?!?!?



The Youth will be working hard on Monday, November 25, but **our next available date with open slots is January 3, 2020! Please sign up TODAY in Brown Hall!!! Spaces go FAST!!**

**Please sign up in Brown Hall for your time slot:**

9:00-11:00 a.m

12:00-2:00 p.m.

3:00-5:00 p.m.

**Project Ideas:** wash dishes, clean pantries, organize cabinets, clean your garage, rake leaves, wrap gifts, polish your silver, poop scoop, take down Christmas decorations, bake/cook, scrub toilets and bathtubs, shred papers, file papers, "you name it," etc. All projects will be fully supervised by Jennifer Murphy and must be approved, prior to our arrival. Nothing that is considered "dangerous" in any way will be scheduled. Hopefully just some good old-fashioned hard work!!!

**Cost:** \$40 per 2 hour shift and all proceeds will go towards the Rec Youth 2020 Mission Trips

**Future "Hire-A-Youth" Dates:**

January 3, January 20, March 13

Questions?!? Please chat with Jennifer Murphy at [jennifer@cor-satx.org](mailto:jennifer@cor-satx.org) or at 210-725-3080. Thank you for your support of our Rec Youth!

**Come study the Book of Acts!!**

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Brown Hall**

**Because of a scheduling conflict, our next meeting will be  
Wednesday, January 8!!**

**6:00-8:20 p.m.**

Please join us as we study the Book of Acts! It is never too late to jump in to this exciting intergenerational event. Let's walk



alongside our High School Youth and adults, as we learn about the early church, during their time of transition! **Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8 and we will be discussing Acts Chapters 11-13.** All you need to bring is a Bible and your dinner!

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (2:42)

**Childcare is available upon request and must be reserved with Jennifer Murphy at [jennifer@cor-satx.org](mailto:jennifer@cor-satx.org) or 210-725-3080 at least 24 hours in advance. Thank you!**



Duncan  
Park



Mustang Island  
Conference Center



Camp  
Capers

### Camps and Conferences

Nestled in beauty, founded on fun, rooted in faith: Registration is open for 2020 Mid-Winter, Summer, and Family Camps at [Camp Capers](#), [Mustang Island Conference Center](#), and [Duncan Park](#). Our diocesan camping programs provide opportunities for children, adults, and families to experience the beauty of creation, have fun with friends, and grow in faith, rooted in the transforming love of Christ. Visit [dwtx.org/camps](http://dwtx.org/camps) for more information and registration.

#### **Holiday on the Island - Mustang Island Conference Center, December 6 - 8**

Holiday on the Island at Mustang Island Conference Center invites families to begin your holiday celebrations on the beach. Enjoy games, walks along the sand, arts and crafts, worship, and delicious, family-style meals. Save the date and invite your extended family. Online registration will open in October 2019. For more information, contact Lynn Corby at [lynn.corby@dwtx.org](mailto:lynn.corby@dwtx.org)

### Adult Formation

**December 1:** We will welcome The Rev. Maria Elena Cristerna, who will preach at both services. She will speak during our Adult Formation time on: Why is Jesus important in our life? Who does Jesus call? What does He promise to those who answer? What are the characteristics of a follower of Jesus? How do we show God we love Him? **Join us in Alban Classroom.**

**December 8:** "Stuff the Stockings" for Magdalena House Intergenerational Adult Formation. **Join us in Brown Hall**, where we will be "stuffing the stockings" with all the sweet treasures that have been donated by our church family! All adults and children are invited to help!! **Magdalena House** is a transitional home in San Antonio that serves mothers and children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives. They provide transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. They rescue the least and the lost, sharing hope for a new beginning.

### Ongoing and Outside Events



**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study:**  
1:30pm-2:30pm in the Library  
Led by Ted Ressler



## Centering Prayer

Our Centering Prayer group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, September through May.

## REGULAR EVENTS

- **Tuesdays at 12:30pm** - Mid-Week Eucharist
- **Tuesdays at 1:30pm** - Bible Study
- **1st Tuesdays** - Lunch Bunch w/Rev. Judy
- **3rd Tuesdays** - Mid-Week Eucharist with Laying on of Hands for Healing
- **Wednesdays at 10am** - Prayer Shawl Ministry
- **Wednesdays at 7pm** - Choir Practice
- **1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm** - Centering Prayer
- **1st Thursdays** - Ultreya
- **2nd Saturdays** - Red Hats
- **3rd Sunday** - Matthew 25 Team
- **3rd Sunday** - Mental Health and Wellness Ministry meeting

For more information on any of these events, call the church office at (210) 655-2731.

## Notices

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[Donate](#)

## SERMONS ONLINE

Did you miss last Sunday's service? Or the week before? Don't worry. You can listen to our sermons online. Click [HERE](#) to listen.

## FROM THE DIOCESE

Check out what's going on around the diocese - the [Diocesan Weekly e-News.](#)



[Read the latest Reflections.](#)

Want to get involved? Click [here](#) to view a full list of Rec's ministries. E-mail [info@cor-satx.org](mailto:info@cor-satx.org) with any questions.

**Thank you for remembering to wear your nametag each Sunday. This really helps visitors, newcomers and everyone to get to know each other.**

## **Reconciliation Nursery, Elementary, Middle School & High School Ministries:**

### **Rec Nursery and Elementary Ministry:**

**Sundays in December:**

**Nursery Ministry:** Ages: 6 weeks old through 3 years old  
9:15-Noon: Please join us in the Children's Building!

**Elementary Ministry:** Ages: 4 years through 4th Grade

**Sunday School: Godly Play** is from 9:15-10:15 in the Children's Building.

#### **During the 10:30 Service:**

- Children's Chapel (short)(20 minutes)
  - Second, Fourth and Fifth Sundays
- Children's Chapel (long)(entire 10:30 service)
  - First and Third Sundays
  - called Instructional/Traditional Children's Chapel

#### **Dates to Remember:**

December 1: Godly Play from 9:15-10:15 in the Children's Building

December 1: Children's Chapel (long)(Instructional/Traditional) during 10:30 service

December 1: **Fundraiser: Family Friendly Play "The Hapless Helper" after the 10:30 service**

### **Rec Middle School Ministry:**

**Middle School (MS) Ministry:** Ages: 5th Grade through 8th Grade

#### **MS Sunday School:**

Meets every Sunday from 9:15-10:15 in the Rec Room!

#### **MS Youth Group:**

#### **Middle School Youth Group Gatherings:**

- **TBA**

#### **Dates to Remember:**

December 1: MS Sunday School from 9:15-10:15

December 1: **Fundraiser: "The Hapless Helper" Christmas Play with desserts**

### **Rec High School Ministry:**

**High School (HS) Ministry:** Ages: 9th Grade through 12th Grade

**OUR HS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP IS BECOMING A HYBRID!!!**

**HS Sunday School:**

## Fall HS Sunday School Plans:

\* For the month of December, we will not have an "official" Sunday School.

## HS Youth Group:

- **November Youth Group:**
  - TBA

## Dates to Remember:

December 1: **Fundraiser: "The Hapless Helper" Christmas Play with desserts**

## Prayer

### *Prayer for Calling a New Rector*

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *Book of Common Prayer, p. 818*

## Mark Your Calendars

Nov. 27 - Church Office Closes at 1:00pm  
Nov. 28-29 - Thanksgiving; Church Office Closed  
Dec. 1 - "The Hapless Helper" Youth Fundraiser  
Dec. 3 - Lunch with Rev. Judy  
Dec. 8 - Alternative Gift Market  
Dec. 15 - Festival of Lessons and Carols  
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve services at 4:00pm and 7:30pm

## Serving This Sunday

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

## Contact Info

Church of Reconciliation

Phone: (210) 655-2731

Email: [info@cor-satx.org](mailto:info@cor-satx.org) Website: <http://web.cor-satx.org>

The Reverend Judith L. Rhodes, Interim Rector