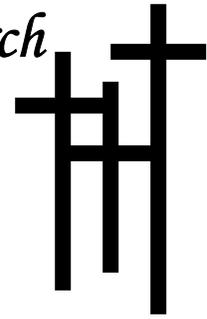


St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church

Rev. Arackathara Babychan msfs, Pastor
2102 Ave. J
Hondo, TX 78861
Telephone: 830-741-2236 • FAX 830-426-3339



November 21, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

It's been two years since Covid hit us. We lost many of our loved ones and many continue to suffer all across the world. Through God's grace we are moving towards a normal life which we have been eagerly waiting for, to get together, sing, and worship and to see the church packed again. We at St. John's have been very fortunate that our parishioners are slowly getting back, with an average 540 parishioners participating in the Holy Mass during October/November. However, we know that we miss so many of our parishioners who are yet to rejoin our weekend Masses.

Advent is a beautiful time for us to prepare for the coming of Christ in our world and into our hearts. Let us utilize this season of Advent as a time to get back to church to experience the divine in the sacrament of Eucharist and to initiate our family into the habit of praying each and every day.

While Jesus invites you personally to experience Him, I want to further invite you to challenge yourself to be a witness in the world by speaking about your God experience to your friend who does not frequent the church services. Inviting someone to church is challenging, but a sublime obligation for each of us. Have you ever considered simply to invite someone to church? This invite could take hold of them and change their life. All you need to do is to ask them to join you, perhaps ask them to join you for a coffee or a meal after the church service. The fact is that for various reasons we often hesitate to invite others to come to a church service. We allow fear of awkward conversations or rejection to stop us from inviting those close to us, as well as strangers, to a place where they can hear the good news and meet Jesus. Remember the words of the scripture: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."* (Rom 1:16)

Let us invite one or more to our weekend Holy Masses from the first Sunday of this Advent. You may use the attached invitation, and if needed, extra invitations from the church entrance to personally extend an invitation to St. John's. You and your friends are cordially invited to St. John's parish community for a Meet and Greet Breakfast on Sunday December 5th after Spanish and English Masses.

With every good wish and prayer,

Fr. Babychan, MSFS