

# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUSTIN

Visit us at: [www.saintann-somerville.org](http://www.saintann-somerville.org)



Pope Francis  
Rome, Italy

January 4, 2015

## *The Epiphany of the Lord*



Joe S. Vasquez, Bishop  
Diocese of Austin



### **St. Ann Catholic Church**

PO Box 99  
333 Thornberry Drive  
Somerville, Texas 77879  
Office 979-596-1966  
Fax 979-596-2857



### **Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church**

PO Box 485  
17370 Sweed Road  
Washington, Texas 77880  
Church & Office 936-878-2910

**Reverend Father Uche Evaristus Obikwelu**  
Administrator

Email [pastor\\_stannsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:pastor_stannsomerville@yahoo.com)

**Maggie Orozco**, Office Administrator—Office Email [secretary.stanns@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.stanns@gmail.com)

**Office Hours: 11:00a—4:00p** ▪ Wednesday & Friday

**Web Site Address:** [www.saintann-somerville.org](http://www.saintann-somerville.org)

#### **ST. ANN MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday 5:30p**

**Sunday 9:00a**

**Weekdays**

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 6:00p

Wednesday 6:30a

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday – 4:00p to 5:00p or by Appointment

#### **Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament**

Friday – 7:00a to 5:30p

#### **Finance Council Chair**

Fran Thomas

#### **Pastoral Council Chair**

Lynda Mendizabal

#### **Director of Religious Education**

Sr. John 979-596-1494

#### **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday 11:30a**

**Weekday**

Wednesday 5:00p

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** after Mass

**Deacon:** Limas Sweed, Sr

#### **Finance Council Chair**

Limas Sweed, Sr

#### **Pastoral Council Chair**

Mary McCorvey

#### **Director of Religious Education**

Limas Sweed, Sr

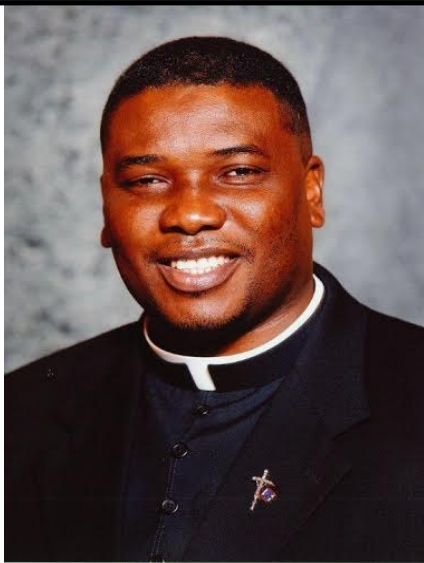
#### **Director of Youth Ministry**

Margaret Thomas

#### **Business Manager**

Limas Sweed, Sr

**Pastor's Corner**



**Father Uche Obikwelu**  
**Parish Administrator**

“Theotokos” is from two Greek words “Theo” which means God and “Tokos” which means Mother; meaning the Mother of God. The word was introduced at the fifth Century, during the Council of Ephesus around AD 431. It was at this Council that the early Church Fathers from the East argued and unequivocally stated that, since God chose Mary to be the Mother of His Only Begotten Son, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, it is proper and appropriate that Mary assumes the title of the Mother of God because Jesus is God.

Isn't it beautiful and amazing that some Countries Bishop's Conferences have chosen Our Blessed Mother, the Mother of God, to be the Patroness of their Countries? Some of these Countries are: United States of America, Nigeria, Spain, Tanzania, and the Republic of Congo.

The Holy Mother Church Chooses to celebrate Our Blessed Mother, as the Mother of God on the First of every January, so that She could bring us blessings for the first day of the secular year and guides us through that year. It is a way to say “thank you”, Our Blessed Mother for accepting to be the Mother of Our Savior, Jesus Christ and also to ask for her continuous intercession for the whole Universal Church.

Some people have questioned this title of the Mother of God, others have accused Catholics of worshipping Mary! For according to them, She, too, was created like us. This is true. Mary was created like you and I, but you and I were not visited by the Angel Gabriel. Hence, a simple humility is what it takes to say that if God chose Mary to be His Mother, who Am I to doubt or disagree with God?

I prayed that you had a blessed Octave of Christmas celebration!  
God bless you!

**The Epiphany of the Lord 2015**

Epiphany is the manifestation of something. So when we speak about the Epiphany of the Lord, we are talking about the Manifestation of Our Baby born Savior, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was in a manger but was able to manifest Himself to the whole world represented by the three Magi, sometimes called the three

kings or the three wise men from the East. Legend has it that the names of the three kings were Balthasar, Caspar, and Melchior, which were understood to be scholars from the Persian, Indian and Arabian Peninsula.

The important question, my dear brothers and sisters, which we need to address is: why did the pagan kings from the East choose to bring the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the baby Jesus in a manger? Why were these kings not from the tribe of Judea or land of Israel? The homage of the Magi to the baby Jesus underscores the reality of Jesus' Universal Kingship. It also shows that the coming of the Messiah is not only limited to the land of Israel, but rather extends to the entire world. Salvation, which Adam and Eve lost due to their sin of disobedience against God, is today, and through the birth of Jesus has been redeemed by His Incarnation: taking our flesh and blood in the womb of Our Blessed Mother; being like us in everything except sin. Isn't it amazing that the Baby Jesus in a manger had already preached his Gospel of salvation to all the nations, because the star led the three wise men from the East to Herod, (The Evil king), from there they went and paid homage to the baby born king? The Magi gifts represented the Kingship of Christ, His Priesthood and His Death. I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year 2015!  
God bless you!

**Next Week's Ministers**

	Sat—Jan 10 5:30p	Sun—Jan 11 9:00a
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion</b>	Sr Rocio Alice Perez Larry Valigura	Frank Vega Sr. Rocio Melissa Williams
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	Peggy Jablonski Debbie Zaharis	Zapalac Family
<b>Lectors</b>	Dee Turner	Irene Bacak
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Richard Sifuentes	Benjamin Zapalac Briana Hernandez

**Other Ministries**

	Wed-Jan 7	Wed-Jan 14
<b>Church Housekeeping Duties</b>	<i>Team 4</i> Linda & Bob Hays	<i>Team 5</i> Carol & Sammy Brinkman
<i>If you can help, please call Buddy or Kathy Walters 979 535-4530.</i>		
<b>Collection Counting</b>	Fran Thomas Larry Valigura Sr. Rocio	Peachie Burlin Lynda Mendizabal Sr. Rocio

**Adopt a Seminarian Project**

- .....Jan 4.....Frank Vega
  - .....Jan 11.....Valeria Schoppe
  - .....Jan 18.....Dorothy Woods
  - .....Jan 25..... Shirley Jackson
- Amado Ramos  
c/o Notre Dame Seminary  
2901 S. Carrollton Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70118

**See new sign up Sheet in the back**

**CHURCH LIFE...one body-many members.**

**Bishop Vásquez' Prayer Intention for this Week**

That we may all have a willing spirit of adoration and service....

The sanctuary lamp is given for the honor and glory of God and in memory of Agnes & Arnold Zapalac.....



**Please pray for the needs of our parishioners & friends**

- |                      |                     |                 |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Johnnie Sweed Jr.    | Pete Zedlitz        | S. Sweed        |
| Lucy Jimenez         | Dena Janish         | Buddy Walters   |
| Ronnie Sweed         | Patricia Sweed      | Allen Labay     |
| Jim Turner           | Truman Sweed Sr.    | Jim Arredondo   |
| Larry Sweed          | Elizabeth Milsaps   | Linda Oppermann |
| David Earl Sweed Sr. | Mario Munoz         | Cindy Maldonado |
| Rick Mantey Sr.      | Joanie Arias Torres | Betty Bayless   |
| Lupe Arredondo       | Margaret Thomas     | David Jimenez   |
| Elinor Simmons       | J. Moton            | Ralph Winkler   |
| Bernarda Escobedo    | M. Smith            | Carmen Negrete  |
| Leroy Stavinoha      | M. Sweed            | Linda Wernecke  |
| Carol Winkler        | C. Sweed            |                 |



**Mass Intentions: Jan. 3-11**

Sat. Jan. 3	5:30p	†Newton & Mary Burlin
Sun. Jan. 4	9:00a	For the People
Tues. Jan. 6	6:00p	Mary Polanco
Wed. Jan. 7	6:30a	†Milady Kristof
Thurs. Jan. 8	6:00p	Living & deceased members of SACCW
Fri. Jan. 9	6:00p	†Ralph & Charlotte Kincaid
Sat. Jan. 10	5:30p	For the People
Sun. Jan. 11	9:00a	†Juan Vega †Manuel Vega

**Finances—St. Ann**

12/25/2014 Christmas Collection	\$ 1,334.05
12/28/2014 Sunday Collection	\$ 836.00
12/28/2014 Holy Family Collection	\$ 231.00

**Important Notice**

With permission from the Diocese and due to the flu and other illness, we are temporarily suspending the serving of the Blood of Christ until further notice.

**Year of Consecrated Life**

**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH LIFE...  
consider yourself at home!**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Wed. Jan. 7** 5:00p Ruth Banks & Family

**Sun. Jan. 11** 11:30a For the People

Altar Servers—Delvin Taylor  
Lector—Ocia Sweed

Ministers need to be at church at least 15 minutes before Mass.

**Wed. Jan. 7** 4:00p to 4:45p **Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament**



**Happy Birthday  
&  
God Bless You!**

The following Blessed Virgin Mary Parishioners will celebrate a birthday in *January*

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Katherine Jones</b> | <b>Marilyn Rylander</b> |
| <b>Dontavia Taylor</b> | <b>Nathiel Shelton</b>  |
| <b>Ruth Banks</b>      | <b>Sabrina Green</b>    |
| <b>Margaret Thomas</b> |                         |

*If your name is not on this list, please call the office and let us know (979-596-1966)*

**Finances — BVM**

12/25/2014 Christmas Collection	\$ 92.86
12/28/2014 Sunday Collection	\$ 220.14

**Birthday Celebration For Fr. Uche Obikwelu**

There will be a birthday dinner for Fr. Uche on January 10, 2015, at 7:30 pm at the Sealand Restaurant in Brenham. All parishioners and friends of the parish are invited to attend. Everyone (except Father) will pay for their own meal. It is imperative that everyone who plans to participate in the celebration contact either Mary Ralya (832-212-2829) or Peachie Burlin (979-272-0102) no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 8, 2015. We must secure reservations for the evening and need a head count. We hope to see many of you there.

**Important! Help Needed!**

The Church cleaning Ministry is looking for one or two families to join together to join this Ministry. The teams will rotate weekly so that each team will clean once every six weeks. Please consider helping out. Contact Buddy and Kathy Walters at 979-535-4530 and they will add your name to this Ministry. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**\*Note:** You can now listen to Fr. Uche's audio homilies on our parish website: [www.saintann-somerville.org](http://www.saintann-somerville.org). Just click on Homilies/Sacrament icon.

Baptisms will be done the second Saturday of the Month at 10am. Contact the Office to make arrangements 979-596-1966.

<p><b><i>Prayer</i></b> <i>Is getting us ready to do God's will.</i></p>	<p>Sample</p>	<p>“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!” (Ps. 150:6)</p>
<p><i>Praise + Forgiveness =</i> <b><i>HEALING</i></b></p>	<p>Sample</p>	<p><b>B</b>asic <b>I</b>nstruction <b>B</b>efore <b>L</b>eaving <b>E</b>arth</p>
<p>Sample</p>	<p><i>In memory of</i> †Milady Kristof For her generosity to St. Ann <i>“May perpetual light shine upon her”</i></p>	<p>Sample</p>
<p>Sample</p>	<p>Sample</p>	<p>Sample</p>
<p>St. Ann Catholic Church PO Box 99 Somerville, Texas 77879  www.saintann-somerville.org  Contact us at:  Office: 979-596-1966  Email: secretary.stanns@gmail.com</p>		<p>These spaces are for sale. A space: \$180 for 12 months A space: \$45 for 3 months A space: \$7.50 for one week for a personal ad: birthday, anniversary, etc.</p>