



Archdiocese of Galveston — Houston

625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079

Tel.: 281-497-1500
Fax: 281-584-2024
www.stjohnvianney.org

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. R. Troy Gately
Pastor

Rev. Richard Hinkley
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Charles J. Talar
In Residence

Deacons

Fred Koszegi
Dale Steffes
Greg Stokes
Al Vacek
Jeff Willard

PASTORAL STAFF

Adult Formation
Yvonne Gill

**Pastoral Care and
Spiritual Life**
Jeff Willard

Music Ministry
Michael Madrid

**Parish Life/
Activity Center**
Richard Fairly

**Social Service
Ministries**
Deborah Alvarenga

Youth Formation
Carolina Sayago

Business Office
C.J. Pete Prados

✠ **St. John Paul II
Catholic School**
1400 Parkway Plaza Dr.
Houston, TX 77077
281.496.1500
Pre K-8th Grade

Living Faith

Changing Lives

Making a Difference

Dear Friends in Christ,

In just a few days it will be Christmas. As in past years, I fully expect that we will see many visitors joining us for Mass. That is wonderful. Now some may lament that many of these visitors don't regularly come every week. That is true, but we can and should be glad that they are here. The challenge is to welcome them and encourage them to indeed come back soon. Periodically, but not too often, I will receive a report that a visitor will come to Mass and have an unpleasant experience; that someone made a less than charitable remark or chastised them for sitting in "their regular seat". Needless to say, I cringe. As I said, thank goodness, this does not occur too often. I can only imagine how this might impact someone who does not come to Mass very often. I do not think it inspires them to return anytime soon. I also know that this is not representative of our parish. But to that visitor, who unfortunately encounters that one person, that remark is easily translated to "everybody in St. John Vianney parish". One of the things that all of us have to realize is that time is always changing. The way we act and the words we speak can easily be misunderstood. St. Thomas Aquinas had a famous dictum "*Quidquid recipitur ad modum recipientis recipitur*" (that which is received is received according to the mode of the recipient) or, as my professors told me, 'we all have tin ears' meaning that we hear what we want to hear. While we can't totally control how others may receive what we say or how we act, we do have control over our words and actions. Are we intentionally being welcoming, inspiring, positive or encouraging? Or are we being negative, unwelcoming, hostile or discouraging?

There are studies, reports and articles galore that tell the depressing story of how young people are walking away from Christianity. This is not a Catholic issue. This is across the board with all churches and all faiths. Some churches try to compromise or dilute the teachings of Christianity – that has not worked and cannot work. Others have tried to translate the message of Jesus into a contemporary idiom using pop culture, music, etc. My favorite examples are where the traditional sanctuary is replaced with a coffee bar or TV talk show stage with a rock band off to the side like Jimmy Kimmel, James Corden, or Jimmy Fallon. Sorry, those don't work and won't last either. Quite frankly, Christians are just not as good as the secular world at being the secular world! The more we try to be relevant, the less effective we are at being faithful to the message of Christ. Why are so many walking away? Maybe it is because we are so poor at living the message ourselves. In a wonderfully funny twist of irony, one of the reasons that many people say they don't like Christians and Christianity is because we are intolerant. Therefore, Christians should not have a voice or a place in society (check out the objections by several senators to certain Catholic nominees for various government positions over the last few years! They were deemed unacceptable because they were faithful Catholics – very tolerant, no?).

In this time of confusion, fear, anxiety and so much else, maybe the best thing for all of us as followers of Jesus is to simply **ACT** like followers of Jesus. Instead of trying to repackage or change the message of the gospel to make it more popular, maybe we can just simply and authentically live it. When we live our daily lives following Jesus as best we can, then we will all be better. *Holiness is the key to happiness!* When we trust the Lord without fear, giving our cares to him, doing our best, letting go of our sinful habits, forgiving others their faults and seeking forgiveness for ours, bearing wrongs patiently, seeing the good in everyone and every situation, giving thanks and praise to God for the blessings we have, we will become closer to Jesus, and that will help bring others closer to him too. Be not afraid or ashamed to love him with all your heart!

In Pace Christi,
J. Troy

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 23, 2019

9:00 a.m. † Mary Williams Watt
 12:10 p.m. † Joseph Fernandez
 7:00 p.m. † Caroline Fishbeck

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

4:00 p.m. † Mary Williams Watt
 5:30 p.m. † Bernice Cooper
 7:00 p.m. Jesus Ramos and
 Gabrielle Hagad
 9:00 p.m. † Nicolaza Iraizos Rivera
 12:00 a.m. † Robert Ehler

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

8:00 a.m. Noel Rando and Family
 11:00 a.m. † Agripina Bernabe
 12:30 p.m. † William Gray
 2:00 p.m. † Robert Wisler

Thursday, December 26, 2019

9:00 a.m. Richard Chavez
 7:00 p.m. † Elvira Cazares

Friday, December 27, 2019

9:00 a.m. † Gene Scheirman

Saturday, December 28, 2019

5:30 p.m. † James Fairly

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:00 a.m. Eleanor Doonan and Family
 9:30 a.m. Missa Pro Populo
 11:00 a.m. † Marvin Tran
 12:30 p.m. † Ursuline Smith
 2:00 p.m. Owen Galey
 5:30 p.m. The Mario Guajardo Family
 7:00 p.m. Corbin Galey

Other Remembrances
 S. Bockholt

Mass Readings

Monday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
 Lk 1:67-79; **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5;
 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
 or Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;
 Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14;
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6,
 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-6;
 Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or
 Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Thursday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
 Mt 10:17-22
Friday 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a and 2-8
Saturday 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Sunday Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1--5;
 Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17;
 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil
 5:30 p.m.
Sunday
 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
 11:00 a.m.,
 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
 Spanish: 2:00 p.m.,
 7:00 p.m.

Weekdays

Monday - Friday
 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
 7:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday - Friday
 6:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

NOVENA & ROSARY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
 Novena of the Sacred Heart
1st Fridays following
 9:00 a.m. Mass
Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary after 9:00 a.m. daily Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday
 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

BAPTISMS

Classes offered monthly.
 Please contact the Parish Office
MARRIAGE
 Please contact the Parish Office at least eight months prior to desired date

ANOINTING OF THE SICK/COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Please contact the Parish Office

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
 8:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.



Let us Pray

For the soul of the recently deceased, Lee Sullivan. May Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Mass Schedule - Wed. January 1, 2020

8:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.
 12:30 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. Spanish



In observance of Christmas our offices will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 Wednesday, Dec. 25



AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE
 Let us Rejoice and Pray for these soon-to-be married couples:

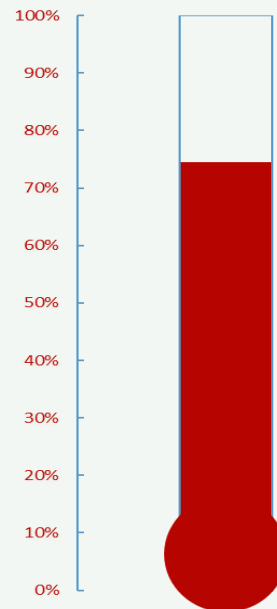
Maria Rodriguez and Brian Salas
 Helen Kirkham and Robert Neary
 Mylinh Ana Nguyen and Anthony Vo
 Kristin Conrad and Ryan Warth
 Diandra Perez and Ruben Cerda
 Amanda Nobles and Shane Lockridge



Thank you for your generous support

We are at 74.5% of our goal.

Parish Goal	\$4,370,000
Pledge Total	\$3,256,428
Total Gifts	664
Achieved %	74.5%



Our parish will receive **33%** of all pledges made and completed.

We plan to refurbish the activity center and youth lounge, re-model the library/den and music lecture hall, and resurface the south and west parking lots.

It is not too late, your help is needed for us to reach our goal.

To make a pledge or for more information please contact Belinda LeBouef at 281-752-2400 or email at blebouef@stjohnvianney.org

Thank you again for your ongoing support!

Year End Giving

This is the time of year when we need to look back upon our stewardship for the year. Some families find it opportune to give *End of Year Gifts* to the parish. St. John Vianney parish relies on these end of year gifts to help fund our many ministries. Gifts of cash and stock and other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, and IRA/retirement accounts can be made to the parish. All financial contributions are tax deductible.

Gifts may also be made to the St. John Vianney Endowment. The SJV Endowment helps provide income to the parish in the years to come. Another important way to assist our parish is through your will.

Have you remembered our parish in your will? This is a beautiful way to help our parish continue the work of ministry and service for years to come.

As always, thank you for your faithful and generous support of our parish and the work of ministry.

IRA Rollover

Are you required to take a distribution from your IRA this year? If you are 70 1/2 or older, the IRA rollover is an excellent way to make a gift to support St. John Vianney Parish. IRA rollover gifts can make a huge difference to our parish. These tax exempt gifts will help sustain us in our important work to strengthen our community and serve others!

The IRA rollover is now permanent. Key provisions are:

- *Allows donors 70 1/2 or older to transfer funds directly from their IRA.*
- *Is a tax-exempt distribution.*
- *Qualifying individuals can make charitable gifts using pre-tax IRA assets rather than taking a distribution, paying income taxes and using after-tax assets to make a charitable gift.*
- *Can be used to meet all or part of an IRA's annual required minimum distribution.*

These gifts must be completed by December 31st. Please contact the parish Finance Office or your financial advisor for information.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM

9:00 PM (Spanish)

11:00 PM (Carols)

12:00 Midnight Mass



CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM

2:00 PM (Spanish)

No Evening Masses

PARISH LIFE



Family FUN Night

A Night of Food, Fellowship & Bingo

Friday, January 10
6:30 - 9:00 pm
Activity Center

\$5.00 per person, includes admission & food

Kids 7 under are Free!

Cash bar available

*Bingo begins at 7:30 pm
(cash only; no checks or credit cards for bingo)*

Space is limited. RSVP by January 6th

*For your convenience, reserve and pay online at stjohnvianney.org or
reserve and pay at the door by emailing us at
sjvrsvp@stjohnvianney.org*

1st Friday Breakfast

Friday, January 3
St. Jude Hall

Following the 9:00 am Mass
Join us for a FREE
delicious breakfast & mimosas



Making a Difference!



THANK YOU!
to all our donors
from last week's
Blood Drive

We Saved 318 Lives!!
Our next Blood Drive is
Sunday, May 3

COFFEE & DONUTS

Hot Oatmeal for our
Healthy Eaters

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 5**

Activity Center

**AFTER ALL
MORNING MASSES**



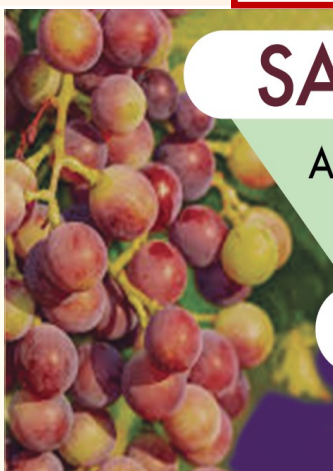
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Wine Tasting & Auction

Award winning wines from around the world

Saturday January 25th 2020

Presented by Knights of Columbus



PARISH LIFE

SJV Night at the Rockets Game!!

Friday, January 31, 7:00 pm
Toyota Center

*Houston Rockets vs.
Dallas Mavericks*

Group Pricing \$50 per ticket (includes fees)
Sections 405 & 406 Only 40 tickets available



To reserve your tickets

sjvsvp@stjohnvianney.org or 281-497-1555

PASTORAL CARE AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

Ministry to the Sick



Do you know someone that is ill, homebound, in the hospital, or in an assisted living center in need of pastoral care?

For those in need of prayer, Holy Communion, and a pastoral visit, please contact the **Parish Office** at **281.497.1500**

Interested in visiting those in need of prayer in care

centers, hospitals and homebound?

Call to volunteer: **281.752.2470**



Walking Through Grief

A New Session Begins

Tuesday, January 14

6:30 - 8:30 PM

C26

No sign-up is necessary

LITURGY OF THE HOURS



Morning Prayer (Lauds): 6:30am

Evening Prayer (Vespers): 6:30pm

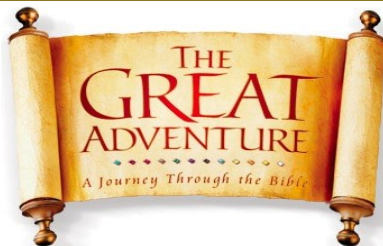
in the Adoration Chapel



What matters is not your outward appearance. . . but your inner disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle gracious kind that God delights in.

Saint Peter

ADULT FORMATION



The newest study in The Great Adventure Series!

Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans

Often called Paul's masterpiece!

Paul's letter to the Romans has been at the center of reflection, conversion, and controversy from the very beginning. *Romans: The Gospel of Salvation* provides a comprehensive, and simple way to understand the overarching theme of Romans—salvation.

8 week Study

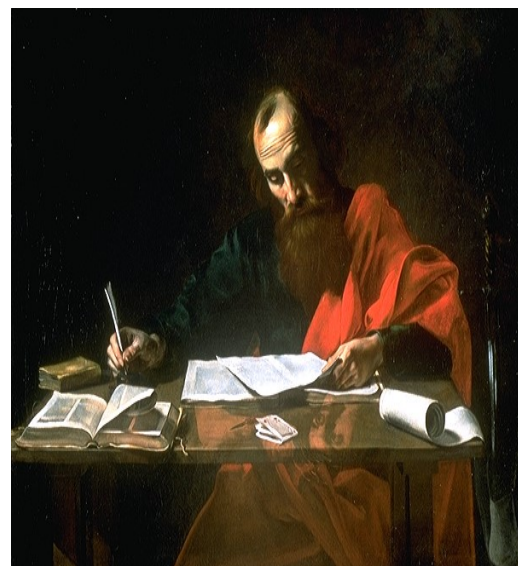
Wednesday evening, 7pm - 9 pm

beginning January 8, 2020

\$26.00 for study materials.

Register on the parish website or in the

Adult Formation Office.



Walking with Jesus

...through the Holy Land

.....through Sacred Scripture

A new study beginning on January 20,
7-8:30pm, in the Audio/Visual Room

No fee for the six session course; all materials will be provided.
Register on the parish website or in the Adult Formation Office.

View the sites in the landscape of Scripture

The Word makes the land Holy!

ADULT FORMATION



Calling All Service Branches ...

...to extend their service to their faith community!

A Saint John Vianney Parish Christmas Tradition

Retired and active duty servicemen and women are invited to serve as ushers and ministers of hospitality on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Contact Captain Richard L Halferty USNR (ret)
to “enlist” for the Mass at which you will be attending; 832.660.8286 or rlhalferty@gmail.com



The Legacy Series

A Continuing Christian Education Program for Baptized Catholic Adults

The Sacraments:

The History, Development, and Celebration

Sunday mornings 9:30am—10:30am

A/V Room

January 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15

No fee for the course; all materials provided

Register on-line or in the Adult Formation Office

Whole Life

Confession: An Ignatian Path to Christ... ..is an



introspective journey which will lead you to experience God’s love and mercy through guided reflections and spiritual exercises. Join this transforming opportunity!

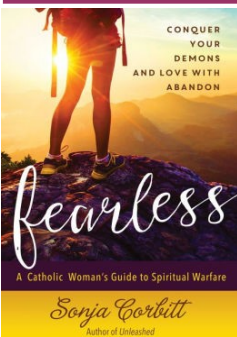
Monday evenings, 7-8:30pm

Room E 5/6 Begins January 13

\$20 —includes books, journal, and all other materials

Register on the parish website on the Adult Formation

page or in the Adult Formation Office



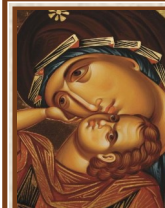
Fearless...Conquer Your Demons and Love with Abandon

Author and popular speaker Sonja Corbitt leads you deep into scripture and the spiritual practices of the Church to show how we can resist the avalanche of temptations that can challenge and lead to paralyzing anxiety and fear.

A Women’s Bible Study Group beginning January 6,

9:45am—11:45am; babysitting is available

Register for the 14 week series on the parish website or in the Adult Formation Office



THEOLOGY IN COLOR

An iconography workshop for beginner and intermediate level
Wed. Morning & Thurs. Evening
Begins January 8/9

Learn the theology and technique of iconography. Students will write an icon in oil paints on wood.

No prior experience or drawing ability required.

Cost: \$135 For more information and to register contact Caroline Allbee: 281-610-0911 or pintusgang@yahoo.com.

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY YOUNG ADULTS

In your 20s or 30s?
Check out SJV'S Young Adult Ministry!

Email: TCooper@stjohnvianney.org
Website: www.stjohnvianney.org/youngadults
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SJVYoungAdults>
Instagram: SJVYA

Don't be shy...

Get your questions answered...

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH with Reason

Discussions lead by Fr. Richard Hinkley

Monday's 7-8:30pm ◇ St. Jude Hall
8 Week Series ◇ Starting January 6th

Visit Our Website to Register Online
Registration Fee \$20 Before Jan 1 (\$30 after)



Pizza, Poker, & Prayer
A Young Catholic Men's Group

Thursday, January 9
6:30 - 8:30pm
Room C- 11

Come enjoy some guys
time after the holiday
rush!

RSVP Appreciate to
tcooper@stjohnvianney.org



**Post Holiday Treat
Your
Self
Time!**



*DIY Bath Bombs
and Facemasks*

Women & Wisdom
A Young Catholic Women's Group



January 9
7-8:30pm
SJV Library

RSVP
Appreciate to
tcooper@stjohnvianney.org

SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRY

Gift Giving Weekend

Gifts were collected at all masses on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15.

On the evening of December 15, more than 150 youth and adult volunteers from SJV distributed several layers of the gifts into 70 pews.

Representatives from 20 recipient parishes picked up the gifts to distribute to families in need.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, the process took less than an hour, and we estimate that more than 7,000 gifts were distributed to benefit less-fortunate children in parishes throughout our Archdiocese.



Thank you to all the parishioners and volunteers who shared their blessings and contributed to this amazing event.

Thanks to you, Christmas will be a little bit brighter for many children!



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Changing Lives through ESL: Fall 2019 Graduation

The Fall Semester of English as a Second Language (ESL) concluded on December 12.

SJV would like to congratulate our 96 graduates.

We would also like to acknowledge our very talented and dedicated ESL Teachers, Substitute Teachers and ESL Advisory Team members who volunteered their time and talents this semester. Pictured at right are: Jim Hughes, Megan Hetch, Marina Gonzalez, Pamela Mancilla, Vivian Kearney, Vianney Zacarias, Paul Dolan, Suzie Williams, Jasmin Olea, Natalie Shigg, Frank Pattee, John Collingwood, and John Sehn. Not pictured are Advisory Team members Lelia Buerger, Pat Guzman and Mary Rouse. Thank you to all our teachers! What a difference you've made in your students' lives!

The next semester of ESL will begin on **January 21, 2020**. Give someone the opportunity to thrive through the gift of communication. To volunteer as a teacher or substitute teacher, contact Glorivel at 281.497.4434 or grivas@stjohnvianney.org. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided.



MASS

God Himself showed us the importance of taking a break from work when He created the heavens and the earth and rested on the seventh day. If you are lucky enough to be able to get away to take a vacation, please enjoy yourselves and have a great time. As a friendly reminder, there is no vacation from attendance at Mass. God never ceases to provide for us and we can never cease praising Him for His goodness to us. If you are traveling, plan ahead. Remember to keep the Lord's Day holy by attending Mass every Sunday. In fact, attending a weekday Mass during your vacation is a wonderful way to renew and refresh tired minds and bodies.

When you are traveling for pleasure or business, remember to check out www.masstimes.org for the name, location and Mass times of churches around the country and even overseas.

YOUNG CHILDREN PROGRAM



YCP Registration will begin soon!
Registration opens up to JV parishioners (of a least 6 months) on
February 4, 2020 at 9:30am.
We will open registration to the public on
February 18, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

YOUTH FORMATION



The Youth Formation Office
will be closed
December 23, 2019
Thru
January 1, 2020
CCE office will open January 2
A blessed Advent and
Merry Christmas

The I ♥ Revolution

FEBRUARY 14TH-16TH

A RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
COST: \$200 / NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT:
\$100

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
JANUARY 20TH / ONLINE

LOCATION: FOREST GLEN CAMPGROUND
JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL
RETREAT AS THIS YEAR WE DIVE INTO WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF IN THIS FALLEN AND BROKEN
WORLD. OUR PURPOSE IS TO CHALLENGE
THE YOUNG CHURCH TO GO OUT AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN THEIR WORLD.

EMAIL SEAN STRASMA FOR ANY QUESTIONS:
SSTRASMA@STJOHNVIANNEY.ORG



NATIVITY OF THE LORD



The Story of The Nativity of the Lord

Nativity | Martin Torner

On this day, the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God become human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although his mother Mary and Joseph, caring for his foster-son, help round out the scene.

But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd, summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A shepherd willing to seek out something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's let an unnamed, "non-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts—somewhere between skepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And like Mary and the shepherds, let's treasure that discovery in our hearts.

Reflection

The precise dating in the Scripture readings for today sounds like a textbook on creationism. If we focus on the time frame, however, we miss the point. It lays out the story of a love affair: creation, the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, the rise of Israel under David. It climaxes with the birth of Jesus. Some scholars insist that from the beginning God intended to enter the world as one of us, the beloved people. Praise God!