

# 150TH ANNIVERSARY



HONORING OUR PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE

## Get Involved!

We are always looking for volunteers!

If you are interested in getting involved with the parish, email us! We will help you find the right fit!

[Volunteer@stjhc.church](mailto:Volunteer@stjhc.church)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mardi Gras Party**  
 February 7 @ 6:30  
 Catholic Daughters are hosting a Mardi Gras Party. Tickets are required and cost \$30.
- Hand print tracing**  
 February 14/15  
 After all Masses  
 Trace your handprint so that it may be included in the altar decorations for St. Joseph's Feast Day
- Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry**  
 February 20 & 27  
 Food Starts @ 5pm  
 ,Stations @ 7pm  
 Join us for Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, every Friday during Lent. Followed by the Stations of the Cross in both English and Spanish.

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye! A County-wide Celebration

On January 8, Fr. Chris and Fr. Abraham, along with members of the Pastoral Council and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, attended Comal County Commissioners Court to hear the reading of St. Joseph's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation.

Spearheaded by Michelle Engel, the Proclamation honors the rich history of St. Joseph Honey Creek and invites the whole county to celebrate with us.

As Fr. Chris said, "For a century-and-a-half, this parish has prayed, served and grown alongside this community and the community of Bulverde-Spring Branch. Generation of families have baptized here, married here, mourned the loss of loved ones and buried them here, and found hope at St. Joseph. St Joseph has never existed in isolation. We've always been a part of the life and



history and future of Bulverde, Spring Branch, and Comal County."

The Proclamation reads:

RECOGNIZING THE  
ST. JOSEPH AT HONEY CREEK  
150th ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, St. Joseph at Honey Creek is celebrating its 150th anniversary with year-long events to mark this important milestone in the history of the Catholic church that began in 1876 when a small cedar log church located at Honey Creek was dedicated with a Mass marking the foundation of the parish; and

(Cont')

# Proclamation (con't)

WHEREAS, after arriving in New Braunfels in 1850, widow Christina Bechtold and her son, Michael Bechtold, with friends from New Braunfels, and George Friedrich Kunz traveled to western Comal County in search of land to settle, finding their new home near a stream that emptied into the Guadalupe River where Kunz and Bechtold later married and built a cedar log house. The settlement was named Honey Creek after children discovered large bee hives while collecting drinking water from the creek; and

WHEREAS, several other families of the Catholic faith settled in Honey Creek including Kneupper, Acker, Lux, Moos and Scheel. Mass was held in the Kunz house until 1876 when a cedar log chapel was constructed and dedicated as St. Joseph at Honey Creek. Rev. John Kospiel, a Catholic missionary priest stationed in Boerne, made Honey Creek a permanent stop on his missioning tours; and

WHEREAS, in approximately 1877 the log chapel burned down and the families quickly built another log chapel, later followed in 1878 with a small rock chapel constructed on land donated by Johann Adam Kneupper. The rock chapel still stands today in the Honey Creek National Register Historic District, Park Road 31, next to the original St. Joseph Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, after the rock chapel became too small for the growing community, a large wood frame church was built in the early 1890s on land located two miles away from the rock chapel, off what is today, State Hwy 46 West. Circuit priests traveled the church to reach Catholic families for 22 years until they garnered their first resident priest in 1898, Father Virgilius Draessel, who built a small limestone chapel on the land in 1906 and started a parochial school that operated for 36 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1909 construction began on a large church with rock quarried from nearby land and was completed in 1912. Built by its parishioners, the beautiful church has a clean, simple interior design, hand-painted canopies, and extensive woodwork surrounding the altar; and

WHEREAS, today Mass is held in the church built in 2006 on the same land where the 1890s wood frame church, 1906 limestone chapel, and 1909 church still stand at 25781 State Hwy. 46 West, Spring Branch, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Comal County Commissioners Court, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, does hereby honor and congratulate St. Joseph at Honey Creek on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary and does invite all residents of Comal County to recognize this extraordinary event in their rich history.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 8th day of January 2026.

## Window to the Past:

### St. Rita

Located on the left side of the Day Chapel, closest to the door, St. Rita welcomes all who enter.

St. Rita was born at Spoleto, Italy in 1381. At an early age, she begged her parents to allow her to enter a convent. Instead they arranged a marriage for her. Rita a good wife and mother, but her husband was a man of violent temper. Rita tried to perform her duties faithfully and to pray and receive the sacraments frequently.

After nearly twenty years of marriage, her husband was stabbed by an enemy but before he died, he repented because Rita prayed for him. Shortly afterwards, her two sons died, and Rita was alone in the world.

Prayer, fasting, penances of many kinds, and good works filled her days. She was admitted to the convent of the Augustinian nuns at Cascia in Umbria, and began a life of perfect obedience and great charity.

Sister Rita had a great devotion to the Passion of Christ. "Please let me suffer like you, Divine Savior," she said one day, and suddenly one of the thorns from the crucifix struck her on the forehead. It left a deep wound which did not heal and caused much suffering for the rest of her life. She died on May 22, 1457.

She is the patroness of impossible causes. Her feast day is May 22.

Tradition tells us when St. Rita was at the end of her life, she was bedridden and asked a cousin to bring her a rose from her old home. When the cousin arrived a single rose was in bloom, an impossible feat since it was January and cold. Many images of St. Rita portrays her with roses. To honor St. Rita this month, buy roses or craft your own to display in your home. May you be reminded of St. Rita and her trust in the Lord.

St. Rita, pray for us.

