



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 17 / 18, 2022

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Fr. Prashanth Lobo

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MASS SCHEDULE

St. Boniface:

Saturday

5:00 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sunday:

8:00 am-8:45 am Rosary

8:30 am Confession

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday & Thursday:

5:30 pm

Bible Study

Thursday 8:00 pm

Mission Statement: We are a welcoming parish of Roman Catholic Christians with diverse roots deep in Appalachia and beyond. We are committed to growing in our faith and community through our worship and celebrations, with particular attention to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and The Holy Eucharist. We are a community gathered together by the Holy Spirit, filled with hope, to love and serve God and neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ; and through our sharing of Good News in word and deed, we seek to live and reveal to all the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.



Holy Voices

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Instincts come in various shapes and sizes. They may simply be gut feelings, or dreams that seem to speak more than a nighttime fantasy trip. Sometimes they appear in the form of daydreaming that takes us to another place, or they can be the silent voice of God. Whatever they may be, there are those times when they demand our attention.

In *Saint Joan*, a play by George Bernard Shaw, Joan of Arc has a conversation with Robert about her conviction regarding what God is calling her to do. Joan says to him, "I hear voices. They come from God." Robert disagrees, "They come from your imagination." "Of course," says Joan, "that is how messages of God come to us."

Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary, placed a heavy credence on his dream, believing that the dream to keep pregnant Mary as his wife was the voice of God, and so Joseph does just that. Much later he again listens

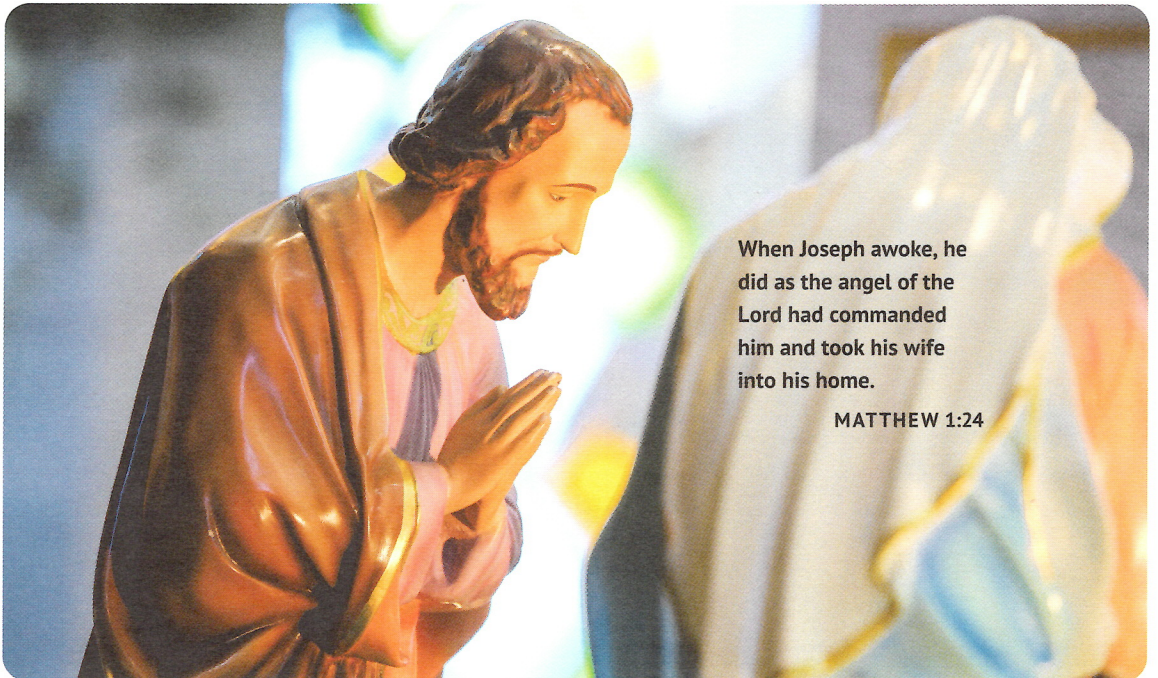
to a dream and takes his young family to the safety of Egypt and then back home to Nazareth. Those nighttime dreams could have easily become daytime nightmares. Yet for Joseph there was something that kept him from simply dismissing them.

Sometimes our inclinations and inner voices may not seem practical, and yet, even as we find ourselves second-guessing them, we think they need to be listened to. When the inclination is one toward goodness, that may very well be the voice of God. ●

Reflect

Have you ever followed an inner voice with which others disagreed? What came of it?

Is there someone you trust to tell you if your instinct about something is good?



When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

MATTHEW 1:24

<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<i>FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8:30 am – Rosary 9:00 am ~ Mass <i>Penance Service – immediately after Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<i>Tuesday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Thursday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	9:00 pm ~ Mass	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>	8:00 – 8:45 am Adoration & Rosary 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass	

	<i>OLPH Mass 9:00 am</i>		<i>ST. BONIFACE Mass 5:00 pm</i>	
Date	December 18	December 25	December 17	December 24
Lector	Monica Soliz	Joe McNaughton	Mary Jo Leygraaf	Jerry Nowak

Mass Intentions	OLPH	St. Boniface
December 17 / 18	† Donald Frances Bayens	Intentions of Parishioners
December 24 / 25	Intentions of Parishioners	Intentions of Parishioners

Our Gifts	OLPH	St. Boniface
December 10 / 11	\$115.00	\$60.00

*May God bless you for your generous contributions
to our Church.*

Our deepest sympathies to Linda Vore and the Vore family. Eric Vore passed away on December 16, 2022.
All services will be private.

Reading 1

Is 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!
But Ahaz answered,
"I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!"
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary people,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Reading 2

Rom 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God,
which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,
the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh,
but established as Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him we have received the grace of apostleship,
to bring about the obedience of faith,
for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles,
among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;
to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*
which means "God is with us."
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.

REFLECTION

Loving, responsive obedience to God, as modeled for us in the Gospel by St. Joseph, is the central theme of today's readings, with special emphasis on the Virgin Birth of Jesus. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah gives a sign from God to King Ahaz of Judah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (Is 7:14). Matthew considers this prophecy as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future Messianic King, the Christ, who is to be born as a descendant of David. Today's Gospel, from Matthew, focuses on the person and role of Joseph. For Jesus to fulfill the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to, and

freely did, accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Hence, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus was not the biological child of Joseph. But because Joseph was the husband of Mary at the time Jesus was born, Jesus was legally the son of Joseph and thus a descendant of David.

Like Joseph, we need to trust in God, listen to Him and be faithful. Although we may face financial problems, job insecurity, tensions in the family, and health concerns, let us try to be like St. Joseph, trusting and faithful. Instead of relying on our own schemes to get us through life, let us trust in God and be strengthened by talking to Him in fervent prayer and by listening to Him speaking through the Bible. We need to experience Emmanuel in our lives and change the world: The Good News and the consoling message of Christmas is that the Child Jesus still waits today to step into our hearts—your heart and mine—and to change us and the world around us by the beauty of God's love, kindness, mercy, and compassion. Let us take some time to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and lives this week, so that God may change our world of miseries with the beauty of that love.

UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

December 22

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

December 23

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas) ~ Solemnity

December 25

Thank you and may God bless you for your generous donations to the Annual Appeal.

If you wish to receive **text messages** from the Parish Office, please provide your name and phone number.
Sign up sheet in the Parish Hall

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, Geneva Couch, Judy Delisle, Dal Macon, Linda Mills, Judy Patrick, Bob and Marie Alvaro, JoAnn Brown, Cathy Sims, Eric Vore, Robert Moses, Kristina Neitsch, Danny Ezell, Sharon Nowak, Jean Sharp and Iva Lee Hamblin.

If you know of someone that needs added or removed from the Prayer Requests, please notify the office by email or by calling the office.



Dear Padre,

My children, who go to Catholic school, refer to our Sunday celebration as the “Eucharist.” I grew up calling it the “Mass.” Why the difference?

Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eucharistein*. This word simply means “to give thanks.” In the Eucharist we Catholics celebrate, we give thanks to God for giving us Jesus. We also give thanks to Jesus, who shares his Body and Blood with us. “Eucharist” was used to describe the early Church’s gathering, where the people repeated the stories of the Lord and shared the bread and wine, as the Lord commanded them to do.

The word *mass* comes from the Latin word *missa*, which means “the sending.” This refers to the words of dismissal at the end of Mass. The priest or deacon invites us to “go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” In the Latin Mass, this phrase is “*ite missa est*.” No one quite knows why the Eucharist came to be known as the “missa” or “mass.” Some think it is because of the way monastic prayers were conducted in the early Middle Ages. When the monks gathered for prayers, they often concluded with a short eucharistic celebration. These celebrations sometimes lasted only ten minutes or so, and as they marked the end of the whole set of prayers, they signaled the end of the service. This, it is suggested, is why the Eucharist came to be known as the “dismissal,” or the “Mass.” ●

— **The Redemptorists**
DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

MONDAY

December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2–7,
24–25a
Lk 1:5–25

TUESDAY

December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10–14
Lk 1:26–38

WEDNESDAY

December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14
Lk 1:39–45

THURSDAY

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

FRIDAY

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4,
23–24
Lk 1:57–66

SATURDAY

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

SUNDAY

December 25
Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18



CNS PHOTO/GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE, REUTERS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love.

**HOMILY, MASS FOR BEGINNING OF
PETRINE MINISTRY, MARCH 19, 2013**