



A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah:

Thus says the LORD:
You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans
of Judah, from you shall come
forth for me one who is to be ruler
in Israel; whose origin is from of
old, from ancient times. Therefore
the Lord will give them up, until the
time when she who is to give birth
has borne, and the rest of his
kindred shall return to the children
of Israel. He shall stand firm and
shepherd his flock by the strength
of the LORD, in the majestic name
of the LORD, his God; and they
shall remain, for now his greatness
shall reach to the ends of the
earth; he shall be peace.

This Weekend's Hymns

*All hymns can be found in
the Seasonal Missalette.*

Opening Hymn: #205
Communion: NA
Closing Hymn: #321

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 **BW** Special Intentions of Parishioners and Friends of St. Rose

10:30 **BW** Robert Steinkamp from The Tully's

12:00 **BW** Margaret McCafferty from Joan Mackey & Family

Monday, December 20

12:10 Bill Earls from The Family

Tuesday, December 21

12:10 Jim Schulteis

Wednesday, December 22

12:10 Michael Sweeney from Marge Vontz

Thursday, December 23

12:10 Joan Cappel from the Tully's

Friday, December 24

3:00 **JW** Janie Klare from Trish & Tim McDonald

5:00 **BW** Intentions of the Celebrant

7:00 **JW** Janet Aug from Claire & David Hubbard

10:00 **SA** David Ober from Elaine Mushaben

Saturday, December 25, Nativity of the Lord

8:30 **BW** Greg Wolf from Eva Booher

10:30 **BW** Diane Zuk from The Zuk Family

12:00 **BW** Marie Bernadette Rahilly from Don & Mary Lee Olinger

Sunday, December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 **BW** Special Intentions of Parishioners and Friends of St. Rose

10:30 **BW** Janet Aug from Janet Sieve

12:00 **BW** Janie Klare

From the Pastor's Desk

Live Streaming STROSECINNATI.ORG and click on [WATCH LIVE](#).

Here at St. Rose

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES
IN THE BACK OF CHURCH**

TORNADO RELIEF

We are taking up a special collection in the back of church **THIS WEEKEND** to help those in need and for those that have been severely affected by the recent tornados that have devastated many, especially in our neighboring Dioceses in Kentucky.

POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! - The Holy Father is asking for as many of the baptized as possible to participate in archdiocese-wide meetings taking place in January and February, 2022, to discuss how we can collectively better advance the message of salvation. Please consider participating in one these meetings. To learn more and to sign up, please visit www.catholicaoc.org/synod.

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Last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious was \$9,564
Thank you for your generosity.

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS - A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Visit <http://www.retiredreligious.org/> to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

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SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE - Bring hope to those in need by volunteering with our Caregiver Assistance Network. Enrich your life as well as the lives of others by offering much needed support to family caregivers through support group and self-care class facilitation. Short and long term group facilitation opportunities are available and volunteers receive free training and support. Join us in our mission to serve, enlighten and empower. For more information, please contact Angie Homoelle at 513.672.3834 or ahomoelle@ccswoh.org. The Caregiver Assistance Network is a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio funded through the Council on Aging.

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Flexible, part-time administrative help needed! St. Stephen Church is looking for an individual to perform all normal secretarial functions, including publishing the bulletin, weekly newsletter and updating social media and website; answering and directing the phone calls; new parishioner welcoming; record keeping and other duties as necessary. This person must have good written and verbal communication skills and be able to maintain confidentiality. Please contact Beth Worland for additional information, 513-871-3373.

Sunday Sunshine

- How do you wash your hands over the holiday? With Santatizer.
- Why don't you ever see Santa in a hospital? Because he has private elf care.
- Why is Santa afraid of getting stuck in a chimney? He has Claus-trophobia.
- Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can ho ho ho.
- What does Santa do when his elves misbehave? He gives them the sack.
- How can you tell that Santa is real? You can always sense his presents.



Opening Prayer

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

The large mysteries of Advent converge this Sunday into the truth that the Christ who will rule the cosmos was once carried in the small world of Mary's womb. John the Baptist, whose strong voice we heard on the Jordan riverbank last week, today has no voice and can only announce the good news of Jesus's equally silent advent by an exultant leap of joy in Elizabeth's womb. There are no crowds pressing forward. There are only two pregnant women as the intimate audience for the first meeting of the Messiah with his precursor, and the one question Elizabeth asks of Mary is: "How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

The Advent mystery tells us clearly that God has a special love for apparently unimportant people and places: for backwater Nazareth and its young woman; for the unnamed village of an old country priest and his aging wife; for the town of Bethlehem-Ephrathah which, by the time of the prophet Micah, whom we heard in the first reading, had been eclipsed by Jerusalem in importance, even though the former was David's birthplace. The word of the Lord that came to Micah in the eighth century BCE announces that a new future awaits this town for, like a woman in labor, its pain (of neglect) will be changed when it brings forth a future king who will fulfill the dreams as yet unrealized by the Davidic lineage. The one to come will be shepherd of his flock, caring for them in the strength of the Lord and bringing peace and security. In such unimportant places and in unexpected ways, the Son of David will be born as this fulfillment of the dreams of his people. In us, too, such dreams will be fulfilled if we offer Jesus hospitality.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to grow in relationship with you. Mary believed that what you spoke would be fulfilled. Open our own ears and our hearts to your unfurled promises so that we, like Mary, might remain faithful to your Gospel and the way of life to which we are called. Amen.

For Reflection:

- When was the last time you were so filled with joy and delight that you cried out loudly, like Elizabeth?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayer."

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Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out
and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of
Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should
come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your
greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the
Lord
would be fulfilled."



Readings for the week:

4th Sunday of Advent	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Christmas	Sunday Holy Family
Mic 5:1-4a	Isa 7:10-14	Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18a	1 Sam 1:24-28	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Isa 52:7-10	1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19	Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6	Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21	1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abed	Ps 23:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14	Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29	Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6	Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
Hab 10:5-10	Luke 1:35-38	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 1:45-55	Luke 1:57-66	Luke 1:67-79	Hab 1:1-4	1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 1:39-45						John 12:1-8 or 1:1-5, 9-14	Luke 2:41-52 (or other readings)