

Scheduled Mass

Sunday, 12-18-22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Joseph & Marie Albano by Dennis Spina
 11:00 am Italian Mass
 1:00 pm Portuguese Mass
 5:00 pm Pasquale Abruzzi by Karen Campione

Monday, 12-19-22

12:05 pm Healing Intentions for Angela Castellano

Tuesday, 12-20-22

12:05 pm Norma Cammarata by Ernesto & Lucia Bosi & Family

Wednesday, 12-21-22 – St. Peter Canisius

12:05 pm Ottavia & Joseph Berte by Daughter, Tina
 6:00 pm Novena
 6:30 pm English Mass

Thursday, 12-22-22

12:05 pm Phyllis Isola by Roseann

Friday, 12-23-22 – St. John of Kanty

12:05 pm Iannaccone, Solitorio & Cecere Families

Saturday, 12-24-22 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Albert Moran 48th Anniversary of Death by Jim
 Ester Lamanna by Niece, Tina Berte

Sunday, 12-25-22 – The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

9:00 am Jane & Joseph Vickers, Martha & James Henry &
 Kathryn Betts by Jim
 Ottavia & Joseph Berte by Daughter, Tina
 11:00 am Italian Mass
 1:00 pm Portuguese Mass
 5:00 pm Rose Dorizio by Victor Dorizio

Office Hours

Monday to Friday

9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday & Sunday

Closed

*Just a Reminder – No
 Physical Contact during the
 Sign of Peace.*

*Let Us Continue To Pray For
 Each Other*

**Reconciliation Monday,
 December 19th
 2-4 pm and 6-8pm**

**The Rectory Office will
 close at Noon, On Friday,
 December 23, 2022**



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SUNDAY CONNECTION

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm

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

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-24

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.