Clergy: Rev. Ronald B. Foshage, M.S., Episcopal Vicar, Administrator Deacon David Luther, Assistant Administrator Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm

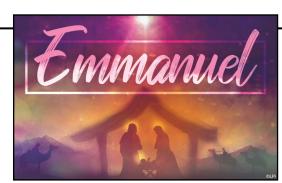
STAFF: Lynn Stacy, Secretary Diane Sanderson, Parish Catechetical Leader Annette Faircloth, Director Youth Ministry www.ourladvofthepinescatholicchurch.com

Gospel Meditation

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. "When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit." For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet "do not be afraid," the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of "Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to "expose [Mary] to shame." Yet he was prepared to "divorce her quietly" all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?



Prayer Support for Our Pastor and Parish

Let's join together during this time by praying the Rosary and the Memorare daily at 4:00 pm. God's grace always remains with us.

Dec 22- Dec 29, 2019 **Readings and Mass Intentions**

Sunday, December 22 9:00am-Mass

Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/ Mt 1:18-2

Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, December 23 4:30pm-Communion Service Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24 No Daily Mass

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/ Lk 1:67-79

Christmas Vigil, December 24 4:30pm-Mass Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Christmas Mass During the Night 10:00pm-Mass Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14

Wednesday, December 25 9:00am-Mass Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday, December 26 4:30pm-Communion Service Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

9:30am-Communion Service Friday, December 27 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Saturday, December 28 4:30pm-Mass

6:30pm—Spanish Mass 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Sunday, December 29 9:00am-Mass

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

Religious Articles

Come see our new items and Christmas gifts. Get your stocking stuffers here.

Browse on Saturday after Mass or while having coffee after Mass on Sunday mornings.



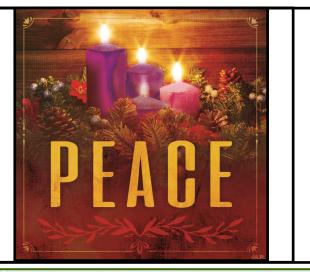
PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Claxton Fowler, Koby Barnfield, Audrey Douzant, Nelda Leathem, Shirley Cotton, Roy Mitchen, Terry Walston, Louise Dickie, Lucy Martin, Doris Rossi, Jennifer Bowlin; Joe Reynolds, Susie Gaudet, Elda Burns, Jeanette Bourque, Michael Gregory, Mike Ventrello, Cameron Watson, Lucy Martin, Debbie Graham, Alma Manuel; Cezila Zinnante, Steve Tompkins, Don Watt, Bennie Mahaffev, Henry Rossi, Linda Dipuccio, Shirley Anderson, Ted Koch, Fr. Frank Rossi, Cheyenne Courtney

Repose of the soul: John Dumesnil; Musie Williams

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. Names written in the Prayer Book in the vestibule of the church will be offered as daily Mass intentions.

Sun. Dec 22 Fourth Sunday of	Mon. Dec 23	Tues. Dec 24	Wed. Dec 25	Thurs. Dec 26	Fri. Dec 27	Sat. Dec 28
Advent		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day		9:30am—Communion Service	
9:00am—Mass Faith Formation following Mass	4:30pm-Communion Service	4:30pm—Mass 10:00pm—Mass	9:00am—Mass	4:30pm—Communion Service 5:00pm—Divine Mercy Chaplet		3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. Dec 29 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph		Tues. Dec 3 Holy Day of Obligation Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God		Thurs. Jan 2	Fri. Jan 3 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. Jan 4
9:00am—Mass Faith Formation following Mass	4:30pm-Communion Service	4:30pm—Mass		4:30pm—Communion Service 5:00pm—Divine Mercy		3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass





Weekly Stewardship

Dec 14 & Dec 15 Weekly Offering **Average Weekly Cost Excess/Deficit**

Thank you for your generosity.

\$ 2,892.00

\$ 3,152.00 \$ -260.00

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com and click on Donation.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

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CHRISTMAS EVE

Chaplet

Tuesday, December 24, 4:30 pm

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Tuesday, December 24, 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

Tuesday, December 31, 4:30pm

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Exploring the Catholic Faith

Join us on our quest as we explore the Catholic Faith

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Sponsored by the RCIA Team

Upcoming Events

December 25: Christmas Day January 1: New Year's Day

January 5: Epiphany Gathering, Pot Luck after Mass,

Family Center

January 18: Fr. Jamail, Family Center

January 19: Blood Drive