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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?

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☆☆ 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. ☆☆

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| Dec 22- Dec 29, 2019   |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Readings and Mass Intentions   |                                 |
| <b>Sunday, December 22</b>   | <b>9:00am-Mass</b>              |
| Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/<br>Mt 1:18-2                        |                                 |
| <i>Mass intention for the People of the Parish</i>                                       |                                 |
| <b>Monday, December 23</b>   | <b>4:30pm-Communion Service</b> |
| Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66                                  |                                 |
| <b>Tuesday, December 24</b>  | <b>No Daily Mass</b>            |
| 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/<br>Lk 1:67-79                  |                                 |
| <b>Christmas Vigil, December 24</b>  | <b>4:30pm-Mass</b>              |
| Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/<br>Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25    |                                 |
| <b>Christmas Mass During the Night</b>   | <b>10:00pm-Mass</b>             |
| Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/<br>Lk 2:1-14                    |                                 |
| <b>Wednesday, December 25</b>  | <b>9:00am-Mass</b>              |
| Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or<br>Jn 1:1-5, 9-14          |                                 |
| <b>Thursday, December 26</b>   | <b>4:30pm-Communion Service</b> |
| Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17<br>[6]/Mt 10:17-22              |                                 |
| <b>Friday, December 27</b>   | <b>9:30am-Communion Service</b> |
| 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8                                      |                                 |
| <b>Saturday, December 28</b>   | <b>4:30pm-Mass</b>              |
| 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  |                                 |
| <b>Sunday, December 29</b>   | <b>9:00am-Mass</b>              |
| Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or<br>3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23 |                                 |
| <i>Mass intention for the People of the Parish</i>                                       |                                 |

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 Mahaffey, 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                                   | Mon. Dec 23              | Tues. Dec 24   | Wed. Dec 25   | Thurs. Dec 26   | Fri. Dec 27              | Sat. Dec 28   |
|---|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| Fourth Sunday of Advent                       |                          | Christmas Eve  | Christmas Day   |   |                          |   |
| 9:00am—Mass<br>Faith Formation following Mass | 4:30pm-Communion Service | 4:30pm—Mass<br><br>10:00pm—Mass                            |  9:00am—Mass | 4:30pm—Communion Service<br>5:00pm—Divine Mercy Chaplet | 9:30am—Communion Service | 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions<br>4:30pm—Mass<br>6:30pm—Spanish Mass |
| Sun. Dec 29                                   | Mon. Dec 30              | Tues. Dec 31   | Wed. Jan 1  | Thurs. Jan 2  | Fri. Jan 3               | Sat. Jan 4  |
| The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph     |                          | Holy Day of Obligation<br>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God<br>New Year's Day  |   |                          |   |
| 9:00am—Mass<br>Faith Formation following Mass | 4:30pm-Communion Service | 4:30pm—Mass  |   | 4:30pm—Communion Service<br>5:00pm—Divine Mercy Chaplet | 9:30am—Communion Service | 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions<br>4:30pm—Mass<br>6:30pm—Spanish Mass |



End the Christmas season  
And begin the New Year  
as a Parish Family

Epiphany Gathering  
Sunday, January 5, 2020  
Pot Luck Dinner  
following 9:00 am Mass  
Parish Family Center

Weekly Stewardship

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Dec 14 & Dec 15 Weekly Offering | \$ 2,892.00 |
| Average Weekly Cost             | \$ 3,152.00 |
| Excess/Deficit                  | \$ -260.00  |

Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, [www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com](http://www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com) and click on **Donation**.

CHRISTMAS SEASON  
MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE  
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

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