

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection for Christmas by Fr. Leo Ahanotu

Putting what might be called a thorough explanation of the mystery of Christmas into words could be one of the hardest things to do, because the gift of Jesus to us by God is beyond all telling. It is the greatest of all gifts!

Remember that the baby Jesus, whose birth we celebrate, is God the Son. Yet He comes to us in human flesh with stretched arms to embrace us and show us love, despite our tattered lives, spiritual poverty, and sins.

What a great love! The gift of Jesus – God's love to us is why this season is called a gift-giving season. It encourages us to give our hearts, services, charities, tolerance, patience, and all our love to everyone. We usually give thanks when we receive gifts. Thus, we thank God for this most incredible gift and pray that the baby Jesus enters and always remains in our hearts and lives.

Merry Christmas to everyone, and have a blessed 2024.

Very Rev. Leo Ahanotu

**Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Day)
Solemnity Mass Schedule**

December 24, Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass @ 5:00 pm

Midnight Mass @ 12:00 am

(Christmas Carols begin 30 minutes before the Masses)

December 25, Christmas Morning

Morning Mass @ 8:30 am

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph**

(normal weekend Mass schedule)

December 30, Vigil Mass @ 5 pm & December 31,
Mass @ 8:30 am

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

January 1, New Year's Day

Mass @ 8:30 am



Poinsettias for the Altar at Christmas

Envelopes are located in the vestibule for those that would like to donate \$17 per plant to be placed on the altar during Christmas in honor or in memoriam of a loved one.

**The Holy Cross Catholic Charities
Mobile Food Pantry**

Thursday, Dec 28th, 10 a.m.—Noon

Food Boxes Available & Distributed While
Supplies Last

using a drive-through format with a
new route where cars enter from the
north on Pierce.

Outreach to the Sick and Homebound

There are request cards in the vestibule to request communion and/or a home visit for the sick or homebound. Please complete a request card and place in the offering basket.

**Second Collection At All Christmas
Masses for the Retired Priest Fund**

To benefit the diocesan Retired Priest Fund. This is the primary support given by the Diocese to our infirm and retired priests.

Weekly Reflection on the Eucharist

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. Celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment") ... Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into his flesh, his Body and Blood, and, in a sense, he is born anew on the altar.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence.

Saint Francis de Sales

The **Next Eucharistic Study** based on

"Beautiful Eucharist"

(please pick up a copy of the book in the vestibule)

Beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, for 4 weeks

"Beautiful Eucharist" is a book of collections of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives.

Day of Reflection

**"Discerning the Body: Holy Eucharistic and
Sacred Assembly"**

Presenter: Fr. Simeon Spitz, O.S.B.

Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m.

St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee

Cost is \$30 (lunch included). To register, call
(405) 878-5656 or e-mail retreats@monksok.org
or online www.monksok.org

Please continue to pray for an end to
abortion and the protection and sanctity of
all human life.

Resources for Crisis Pregnancy

There are many organizations in eastern Oklahoma doing incredible work to accompany women in crisis pregnancies. From counseling services, to ultrasounds, to providing important resources like diapers and clothing, to offering parenting classes, they are available to support women and families.

Also, you are encouraged to contact the Office of ProLife Ministries for volunteer and donation opportunities. For more info, contact:
Hannah.truetken@dioceseoftulsa.org or call
918-307-4923.

Mass Ministers

	Ushers	Eucharistic Min	Reader	Servers
Sat 12/23—5 pm (Vigil)	Kay Rodriguez	Charlie/Sherri M.	Dorene McMahan	Larry Chekofsky
	Sherry Ruyle			Matthew H.
Sun 12/24—8:30 am	Emily Ledgerwood	Chris H./Bille C.	Rosemary Kotas	Carlos, Liam,
	Brian Ledgerwood			Aceah & Kaygan
Sun 12/24—5 pm (Christmas Vigil)	Sherry Ruyle	Kay R./Mary F.	Kay Rodriguez	Larry Chekofsky
	Mary Feichtinger			Matthew H.
Sun 12/24—Midnight Mass	Volunteers	Charlie/Sherri M.	Karol Watson	
Mon 12/25-Christmas 8:30	Bill Scrimsher	Bille C./Chris H.	Chris Holland	Carlos, Liam
	Mike Cucchiara			& Makenna
Sat 12/30—5 pm (Vigil)	Linda Steinheil	Paul R./Laura R.	Carolyn Greer	Larry Chekofsky
	Mary Feichtinger			Matthew H.
Sun 12/31—8:30 am	Mike Cucchiara	Bille C./Elaine H.	Chris Holland	Carlos, Kaygan,
	Bill Scrimsher			Liam & Makenna
Mon 1/1—8:30 am	JudyRichard Helms	Kay R./Mary F.	Kay Rodriguez	Larry Chekofsky

Happy Birthday!

Jan Martin 12/1	Andrew Higginbottom 12/12
Judy Wright 12/2	Claire Dufour 12/20
Sandy Grace 12/3	Kenneth Herndon 12/20
Joseph Kolb 12/3	Rosalina Empuerto 12/30
Hope Watson 12/4	Jane Duffy 12/7
Matthew Wright 12/5	Anne Linz 12/7
Charles Moe 12/31	Amanda Mendick 12/10
Aceah Stuart 12/31	

Offerings from Dec 16-17

General Weekend Collections	\$2,333.00
Capital Improvement	155.00
TOTAL	\$2,488.00

Daily Mass Readings—Dec 24-30*

4th Sunday of Advent	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Christmas Vigil	Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight	Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Christmas Day	Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18
Friday	1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday	1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text) also available on Holy Cross Website:

www.holycross-wagoner.org

To place information in the bulletin or on the church website, contact Karol Watson, karol_watson@yahoo.com or 918-640-5819

For issues/help with Flocknotes, contact Kay Rodriguez, msrod@sbcglobal.net or 405-659-0507

FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker
Judy Wright, parishioner
Becky Harding, parishioner
Hope Watson, parishioner
Lucille Dickinson, parishioner
John Spieker, husband of Jackie Spieker



WE PRAY TO THE LORD

Holy Cross Mission Statement/Prayer

Almighty God, the mission of Holy Cross Parish is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our community and the world. As your disciples, help us to touch the hearts of everyone in a way that enhances human spirituality and will bring all people into the fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

	<i>Altar Linens</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>
<i>Dec</i>	Carolyn Greer	Advent (no flowers)
<i>Jan</i>	Dorene McMahan	Poinsettias Bille Cummings

**Stay Connected — Stay Informed
with your Catholic Faith & your Holy Cross Family**

*Daily Readings, Daily Prayer of the Day, Bulletins,
Catholic & Holy Cross News/Events*

www.holycross-wagoner.org,
Holy Cross Catholic Church - Wagoner OK (FB) &
[https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/
dashboard](https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/dashboard)

Finding solutions for your financial need.



Seth A Yoder
Financial Advisor
114 East Cherokee
Wagoner, OK 74467
918-485-0992

Edward Jones
BROKER/DEALER IN SECURITIES
edwardjones.com

Holy Cross Catholic Church



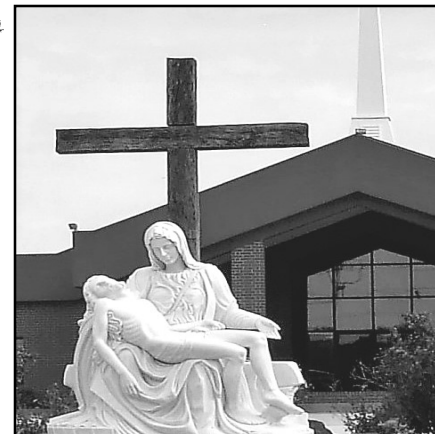
*Holiness - Disciples - Community
Wagoner, Oklahoma*

P.O. Box 710 / 708 SW 15TH ST.
539-209-9988

Email: holycrosswagoner@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.holycross-wagoner.org>

Facebook: Holy Cross Catholic Church—Wagoner, OK



December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor	Very Rev. Leo Ahanotu holycrosswagoner@gmail.com 539-209-9988
Visiting Priests	Fr. Gabriel Garcia fr.gabriel.garcia@dioceseoftulsa.org ; 918-836-2597 & Fr. Alessandro Calderoni fr.alessandro.calderoni@dioceseoftulsa.org ; 918-455-4551
Deacon	Dcn James Ruyle (Retired) jandsruyle@gmail.com 918-485-8228
Secretary	Earlyne Hutchens earlynehutchens@gmail.com 918-894-0474
Religious Education	Mary Feichtinger maryfeichtinger@yahoo.com 303-519-0605 Emily Ledgerwood (Youth Group); mudytime@gmail.com 405-887-7832
Parish Council	Karol Watson karol_watson@yahoo.com 918-640-5819
M&M Society	Sherri Moe smworks@hotmail.com 918-521-9127
Men's Group	Seth Yoder seth.yoder@edwardjones.com 918-869-9129

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 8:30 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays (Latin) — 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday & Friday — 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday — 8:30 a.m.

First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 a.m.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Fridays following 5:00 p.m. Mass

1st Wed. of the Month — 6:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before weekend Masses

Or by appointment/request

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

Breaking Bread Book
Pages 41-43

Vatican II Hymnal
Pages 389-390

