

## December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today, the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the liturgy presents the figure of Saint Joseph to us. He is a just man who is about to get married. We can imagine what his dreams for the future are – a beautiful family, with an affectionate wife and many wonderful children, and a dignified job – simple and good dreams, the dreams of simple and good people. But all of a sudden, these dreams come up against a disconcerting discovery. Mary, his betrothed, is expecting a child, and the child is not his! What would Joseph have felt? Shock, pain, confusion, perhaps even irritation and disappointment. He experienced his world was falling apart all around him! And what was he supposed to do?

The Law gives him two options. The first is to *accuse* Mary and make her pay the price for her alleged infidelity. The second is to secretly annul their engagement without exposing Mary to scandal and to harsh consequences, taking upon himself, however, the burden of shame. So, Joseph chooses this second option, which is *the way of mercy*. And behold, at the height of his crisis, right when he is thinking and evaluating all this, God gives him a new light in his heart – he declares to him in a dream that Mary's motherhood did not come about because of a betrayal, but was the work of the Holy Spirit, and the baby to be born would be the Savior, and Mary would be the Mother of the Messiah, and he would be His guardian. On waking up, Joseph understands that the greatest dream of every devout Israelite – to be the father of the Messiah – was being fulfilled for him in a completely *unexpected* way.

To accomplish this, in fact, it was not enough to belong to David's lineage and to be a faithful observer of the law, but he would need to entrust himself above and beyond all else to God, welcome Mary and her Son in a completely different way than was expected, differently than had ever been done. In other words, Joseph would have to renounce all reassuring certainties, his perfect plans, his legitimate expectations, and open himself to a future that was completely to be discovered. And before God, who disrupts his plans and asks that he trust Him, Joseph says "yes". Joseph's courage is heroic and is exercised in silence – his courage is to trust, he welcomes, he is willing, he asks for no further guarantees.

What does Joseph say to us today? We too have our dreams, and perhaps we think of them more, we talk about them together at Christmas. Perhaps we lament over some dreams that have been shattered and we see that our best expectations often need to be put together with unexpected, disconcerting situations. And when this happens, Joseph shows us the way. We do not need to give in to negative feelings, like anger or isolation – this is the wrong way! Instead, we need to attentively welcome surprises, the surprises in life, even crises.

When we find ourselves in crisis, we should not make decisions quickly or instinctively, but let them pass through the sieve, like Joseph did who "considered everything", and base ourselves on the underlying certainty of God's mercy. When someone experiences a crisis without giving in to isolation, anger, and fear, but keeps the door open for God, He can intervene. He is an expert in transforming crises into dreams – yes, *God opens crises into new horizons* we never would have imagined before, perhaps not as we would expect, but in the way He knows how. And these are God's horizons – surprising – but infinitely more grand and beautiful than ours! May the Virgin Mary help us live open to God's surprises.

—Reflection from Pope Francis' Angelus on 4th Sunday of Advent, 2022.



**Prayer for Lighting the Fourth Candle—Love:**

*"Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen."*

**Catholic family catechesis is a vital approach to faith formation that emphasizes the role of families in teaching and living the Catholic faith together.**

**Family Catechesis Class Today**

**All families with children at home, please come to the parish hall today after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.**

**Poinsettias for the Altar at Christmas**

Envelopes are located in the foyer for those that would like to donate \$15 per plant to be placed on the altar during Christmas in honor of or in memoriam of a loved one.

**We will be decorating the Church today at 1 p.m.**

**All help to make the Church festive for the Christmaside Season is welcomed!**

### Feast Days Mass Schedule

#### **The Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)**

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5 pm – English @ Holy Cross  
7 pm – St. Vincent de Paul, Coweta  
Midnight – Holy Cross

Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

8:30 am – English @ Holy Cross  
11 am – TLM @ Holy Cross

#### **Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)**

Wednesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

6 pm – English @ Holy Cross  
7:30 pm – St. Vincent de Paul, Coweta

Thursday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

8:30 am – English @ Holy Cross  
11 am – TLM @ Holy Cross

**Diocesan Second Collection at Christmas Masses, Dec. 24/25**

**For Infirm & Priests' Retirement Fund**

As you can see from the Mass Ministers schedule below, there is a need for ushers at some of the Christmas Eve/Day Masses. If you would like to volunteer to fill this need and serve as an usher (there will be a second collection for the infirm/retired priests at these Masses), please let Mary Feichtinger know.

Mass Ministers			
	Ushers	Reader	Servers
12/21	Seth Yoder	Paul Stuart	Liam, Elizabeth,
	Mike Hickman		Amelia
12/24			
5 pm		Kay Rodriguez	Larry Chekofsky
12 am		Karol Watson	
12/25	Mike Cucchiara	Dorene McMahan	Larry, Liam, Kaygan
12/28	Mike Hickman	Kay Rodriguez	Liam, Kaygan, Elizabeth

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Dec. 16, 17, 18, 19 for Paula Lyman**  
Requested by Richard & Judy Helms

**Dec. 21 for Pat Sanco**  
Requested by Sam Sanco

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. –Romans 12:12*

We're grateful for our parish community and the power of our prayers for our parish, family, and friends.

Please share your prayer requests with us so we can pray for you. Use the QR code below to request prayer using the Flocknote Prayer Request page.



Prayer requests are sent out to our Flocknote Prayer Team that supports our prayer chain.

Also, you can sign up in Flocknotes to be a part of that Prayer Team group so that you can pray for others as well.

***With prayer, we seek God's power to heal the scourge of abortion in our city and world.***

#### **Fr. Donovan's Catholicism 101**

**A great opportunity for you or anyone to learn more about the Catholic faith**

**Each Tues. after 5:30 pm Mass**

#### **Adult Faith Formation Next Weekend!**

**Please Plan to Attend —Holy Cross' Adult Faith Formation with Fr. Donovan**

**next Sunday and the Fourth Sunday of each month after both 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses**

**Jubilee Year of Hope is Coming to a Close!**  
**Closing Jubilee Mass—For the People of God**

**Sunday, December 28, at 2:30 p.m.**  
**Holy Family Cathedral, Tulsa**

***"They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength . . ."—Isaiah 40:31***

**Additional Contact Information**

**Secretary** Earlyne Hutchens  
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**Men's Group** Seth Yoder  
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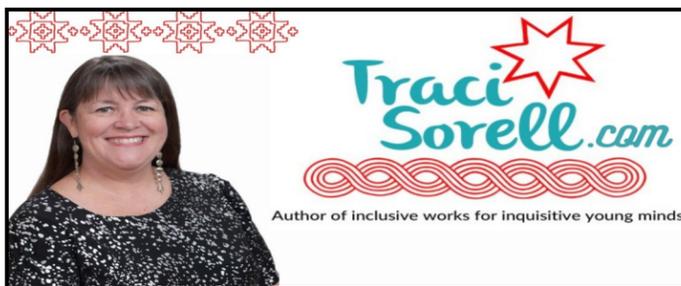
**Music Ministry** Robin Rodriguez-Higginbottom  
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918-520-1260

**Mass Ministry Scheduling** Mary Feichtinger (English Masses)  
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303-519-0605  
Josh Martin (TLM)  
joshandlauramartin@gmail.com  
918-718-4598

**Offerings from December 14, 2025**

General Weekend Collections	<b>\$2,065.92</b>
Capital Improvement Fund	<b>\$655.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,720.92</b>
Immaculate Conception Collection	<b>679.00</b>

*Your Generosity & Support is Always Appreciated!*



**Traci Sorell.com**  
Author of inclusive works for inquisitive young minds

**This Week's Readings—Dec 21-27**

Sunday	Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday	Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Christmas Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Thursday	Christmas Morning: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Saturday	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

\*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text) also available on Holy Cross Website:  
**www.holycross-wagoner.org**

<i>December M&amp;M Volunteers</i>	
<i>Altar Linens</i>	<b>Kay Rodriguez</b>
<i>Sunday Hostess</i>	<b>12/21-Kathy Gordon 12/28-Katzy Hale</b>

**FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING**

Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker  
Judy Wright, parishioner  
Becky Harding, parishioner  
Hope Watson, parishioner  
John Spieker, husband of Jackie Spieker  
Marie Herndon, parishioner  
Laura Rodriguez, parishioner  
Bill Scrimsher, parishioner  
Pat Jones, parishioner

**WE PRAY TO THE LORD**



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# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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539-209-9988**

**Email:** [holycrosswagoner@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosswagoner@gmail.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.holycross-wagoner.org>  
**Facebook:** Holy Cross Catholic Church—Wagoner, OK

*December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**WELCOME VISITORS & NEW PARISHIONERS!**

**MASS TIMES**

**Sunday**  
**8:30 a.m. (English)**  
**11:00 a.m. (Latin)**

**Weekdays**  
**Tuesday & Wednesday — 5:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday & Friday — 8:30 a.m.**  
**First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 a.m.**

**HOLY HOUR OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
**Wednesdays from 6:00—7:00 p.m.**  
**(following 5:30 p.m. Mass)**

**CONFESSIONS**  
**30 minutes before Masses**  
**or by appointment/request**

**Pastor** **Father Sean Donovan**  
fr.sean.donovan@gmail.com  
539-209-9988

**Deacons** **Dcn Steve Creed**  
slccoweta@hotmail.com  
918-289-5716  
& **Dcn James Ruyle** (Retired)  
jandsruyle@gmail.com  
918-638-7226



**Holy Cross Faith Formation Classes**

**High School Bible Study & Youth Group**  
Each Sunday at 5 p.m.

**Family Catechesis Classes**—Third Sunday of each month after 8:30 a.m. Mass.

**Adult Faith Formation**—Fourth Sunday of each month after both 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses.

**Bible Study**—Friday mornings at 9 a.m.

**Catholicism 101**—Each Tuesday after 5:30 p.m. Daily Mass

**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 to the world. As your disciples, help us love others, pray for all souls, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and bring all people into the fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

**TODAY'S READINGS**

*Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24*

**Breaking Bread Book—Pages 42-43**

**Vatican II Hymnal—Pages 388-389**



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*You Are Invited to Help Support Our Parish By Advertising Your Business Here!*

*Contact Karol Watson @ 918-640-5819 or karol\_watson@yahoo.com for advertising opportunities and/or to place information in the bulletin or on the church website.*

*Also, **Sign Up** in Flocknotes to receive a copy of the bulletin each weekend in your email!*