



Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 20th, 2020  
 SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES  
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 VICTOR DVORAK -DEACON



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**“Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’”** Our Lady’s response to God’s will, as revealed to her by the Archangel Gabriel, boils down to this: *Thy will be done*. It is the response our Blessed Mother taught her son Jesus to make. It is the response Jesus taught us to make in the *Our Father*. It is the response Jesus Himself made during His agony in the Garden, “Not my will, but thy will be done.” The response of Jesus and Mary to God’s will invites me to evaluate my own response to the divine will. How readily and promptly do I embrace God’s will? When I pray, do I seek to know the will of God or do I demand that He approve of my will?

**Familiaris Consortio (cont.)** 34. It will be easier for married couples to make progress if, with respect for the Church’s teaching and with trust in the grace of Christ, and with the help and support of the pastors of souls and the entire ecclesial community, they are able to discover and experience the liberating and inspiring value of the authentic love that is offered by the Gospel and set before us by the Lord’s commandment.

**Christmas joy . . . why stop on Christmas day?** As Catholics, we don’t put our Christmas tree on the curb the day after Christmas. No, we are just beginning to celebrate the birth of our Savior, which continues for almost three weeks with the Christmas season. For our families with children in our CCD program, we offer a Christmas celebration just for you. With the cancellation of our familiar Fall Festival at Saint Mary’s, the kids of our parishes didn’t get to have the games and the fabulous prizes that the midway offered. The BINGO nights were fun, but they were more geared towards adults. So, we need to do something for the kids and their families; it’s only fair. So, on **Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**, at the Saint Mary’s Faith & Family Room, our parishes are hosting an Epiphany celebration for the young families in the southwest region of our diocese. The day will begin at 2:00 p.m. with a social and Christmas BINGO for the kids. Then we will go into the church and pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, followed by the singing of some familiar Christmas hymns. We will then go back to the cafeteria for an early supper, followed by a giant pinata and dessert. [Note: The main dish, drinks, and dessert will be provided. Please bring a side dish]. I look forward to seeing our young families at our Epiphany party, but we ask that you **RSVP by December 30th**, by calling the **parish office at 701-579-4312**. On a more serious note, the first person that suggests that we can recreate the Star of Bethlehem by shining a light on Fr. Gary’s bald head will be ejected from the party! That said, lets enjoy the Christmas season nonetheless. *Saints Melchior, Balthazar, and Casper . . . pray for us.*



**Thank you for your years of faithful service:** After many years of service to Saint Mary’s Parish as our custodian, Brenda Steier has decided to retire to attend to the needs of her aging father. We thank her for her care for our parish property all of these years and we wish her the best in her ministry of caring for her beloved father. For anyone interested in the position of custodian at Saint Mary’s, please contact Fr. Gary with any questions about the job description of custodian or to have your name considered for this position. Please call me at my cell phone: 701-509-9504.

**A point to ponder:** *The saints did not all begin well, but they ended well.*

**On the lighter side, Advent humor:**

Q: Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars? A: Because their days are numbered.

**MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**Monday, December 21st**

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

**Tuesday, December 22nd**

7:30 AM SM—+Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—Saint Elizabeth Christian Mothers

**Wednesday, December 23rd**

7:00 PM SM — Rosary, Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

+Joseph & +Joan Madler & family by Mike Madler

**Thursday, December 24th**

4:00 PM SM— +Joan Binstock by Saint Mary's Altar Guild

**Friday, December 25th**

12:00 AM SE—+Agnes Heidecker by Lenny & Delinda Kaufman

10:30 AM SM—Pro Populo

**Saturday, December 26th**

8:30 AM SM—+Benedict Benz by Jim & Pauly Krebs

5:00 PM SM—+Dan Frank by Richard Stagl

**Sunday, December 27th**

8:30 AM SE—+Steve & +Bertha Anton by Duane & Kathy Schwab

10:30 AM SM—Pro Populo

*\*Confessions offered 15 minutes before each daily Mass and 30 minutes before Saturday vigil Mass at St. Mary's.*

*\*KC coloring contest posters due before Christmas!*

*\*St. Mary's Choir practice on 12/24 at 3:30 pm*

*\*There will be no children's choir or youth nativity on Christmas Eve at St. Mary's.*

**Please Keep in Your Prayers:** Fred Urlacher, Deran Lefor, Cooper Craig, Juanita Koppinger, Kathy Murphy, Lea Madler, Derek Benz, Kevin Schaefer, Gene Wert, Theresa Tarpo, Todd Leach, JoAnn Urlacher, Zane Sabo, Brad Novak, Josie Steier, Katie Stolz, Bonnie Benz, Anise Masterson, Nate Hernandez, Andy Prokop, Duane Grundhauser, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Cindy Martin, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Yvonne Fettig, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Florence Frank, Marilyn Wert, Gilbert Buzalsky, Mary Hanson, Joe & Aggie Wandler, Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Donnella Koppinger, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick

**Our Deceased Loved Ones:** +Marilyn Jeske, +Marvin Wert, +Archie Jalbert, +Frank Kilwein, +Emma Magelky, +Loretta Jung, + Kathy Kaufman, +Leona Roll, +Ruth Buzalsky, +Jim Schneider, +Eugene Heidt, +Richard Jambor, +Chuck Brusich, +Joan Binstock, +Kevin Jacobs, +Betty Biel, +Wenzel Roller, +Shawn Flaherty, +Duane Dobitz, +Dan Frank, +Cecelia Jung, +Benedict Benz, +Kenneth Stagl, +Florentine Bohlman, +Josie Heidt, +Dale Schoeder, +Ed Pechtl, +Magdalen Schorsch, +Dale Reindel, +Adam Schulz, +George Koffler, +Edwin Lefor, +Louise Krebs, +Regina Gentz, +Tina Rixen, +Rose Krebs (SE), +Herbert Emmil, +Joan Madler, +Eugenia Stagl, +Mike Urlacher, +Keith Herold

**\*Christ in Cinema movie:** Sunday, December 20th at 7:00PM at St. Mary's. Showing will be "Bells of St. Mary's".

**\*St. Elizabeth's:** Thanks to everyone for helping with crib setup, also, all the ladies who helped with church cleanup.

**\*Rabbit Hole and Madd Hatter Christmas Sale:** 10-4 December 21-23 at the Rabbit Hole, December 22-23 at the Madd Hatter. Christmas items 1/2 price. \$1 bag sale other items.

*Marriage:* Contact Pastor at least nine months prior to your anticipated wedding date.

*Baptism:* Pre-Baptism preparation session required.

*Anointing of the Sick:* By request.

**St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers December 26th & 27th**

MINISTRY	Saturday 5:00 PM	Sunday 10:30 AM
Lector	Connie J.	John E.
Mass Servers	Zack J.	Mark F.
Rosary Leader	Maureen G.	Chris Fitterer
Thursday, December 24th 4:00PM Friday, December 25th 10:30 AM		
Lector	Kris E.	
Mass Servers	Brock E./Mark S.	
Rosary Leader	Maureen G.	

**Collection Report St. Mary's December 12th & 13th, 2020**

Adult	Youth
\$ 1853.00 Envelopes	\$10.00
\$ 6.00 Loose Plate	Poinsettias—\$555.00 RFR—\$395.00
\$ 1869.00 Total	Building Fund—\$50.00
\$ 3362.00 Monthly Total	Fall Festival Appeal—\$325.00

**Saint Elizabeth's Liturgical Ministers December 25th & 27th**

Christmas Mass 12:00 AM	Sunday 8:30 AM	
Lector	Elvie	Fran
Mass Server	Vidmar's	
Eucharistic Ministers		
Gifts		
Greeters		
Ushers	Lenny & Elvie	Lenny & Elvie

**Collection Report St. Elizabeth's December 13th, 2020**

Adult	Youth
\$ 4900.00 Envelopes	\$ 5.00
\$ 33.00 Loose Plate	\$
\$ 4938.00 Total	
\$ 5684.00 Monthly Total	Poinsettias—\$150.00

**The ABC's of our Catholic Faith:** 1) Relics: An object, related to the life of a saint, that is to be revered and used



as a means to draw us closer to God, through the intercession of the saint associated with the relic. Relics are of three classes: a) First class relics consist of a part of the saint, such as bone, hair, etc. Unique relics in this class are those associated with our Lord's Passion, such as a relic of the wood of the Holy Cross. b) Second class relics consist of something owned by the saint, such as a piece of their religious habit, or instruments of torture that were used against a martyr. c) Third class relics consist of something that has been touched to a first class or second class relic. Anyone can make their own third class relic by touching an object to a first class relic or second class relic, including the tomb of a saint.

Where can one find relics? One of the most common places where relics are kept is in the altar of every parish church. This is why the celebrant reverences and then kisses the altar at the start of the Holy Mass and at its conclusion. We prayerfully remember those who have gone before us in faith and believe that they are in heaven, primarily because their souls were spiritually nourished by the Body and Blood of our Lord. With our devotion and love for the Holy Eucharist, we hope to follow this same path to glory in heaven. Relics may also be found in reliquaries, a receptacle which holds the different classes of relics. Lastly, relics, especially in the Catholic regions of Europe, may be found in glass cases beneath the main altar or side altars of the church. For example, in Rome, you may pray before the body of Saint Catherine of Siena at the Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. Here her body (except for her head, which is in Siena) is in a glass reliquary beneath the high altar of the church.

You can ask the Church for a relic for your personal devotion, including bringing one into your home, but this request has to go through your local bishop, who petitions the Vatican on your behalf. You don't "buy" relics, but you should make a donation, because there is a lot of work that goes into preparing a relic and its documentation. When you receive the relic, you must never lose the documentation that accompanies it, because this official document, signed and sealed by the Vatican, proves its authenticity. I have been asked by parishioners to offer a public blessing with a relic on the feast day of a saint, but without reviewing the accompanying documentation, I am unable to do so because I cannot ascertain that the relic is authentic. As for all of those relics "for sale" on e-bay, do not waste your money on them. For one, they may be fake, and you think you are getting the relic of a bone from Saint Theresa of Calcutta and it's actually a piece of chicken bone that someone put in a reliquary and trumpeted as a "true" relic of this beloved saint of the poor. Save yourself from losing money and your dignity when you find out it is a bogus relic. That said, you may find a true relic on e-bay that has the proper documentation that accompanies it. But sadly, when many churches are closed, little is done to ensure that the sacred relics (along with statues, vestments, etc.) find a proper home in a different parish church. These relics then fall into the hands of charlatans who sell relics not for spiritual purposes, but for material gain. This is the grave sin of *simony*, and their selling them and your buying them is a great offense against the Lord and His saints. Don't try to buy these relics to "rescue" them, because it will just encourage the "money changers at the temple" to jack up the prices for further material gain.

This whole concept of relics may seem a bit strange to modern sensibilities, but as embodied souls, we are moved by our senses, including seeing and touching, which we do when we reverence relics. We do it with loved ones, so why not with the saints? How many people treasure a Rosary their deceased mother or father prayed with? It puts us into spiritual communion with them when we pray. Once at a funeral, a family removed a lock of hair from their deceased daughter. It was a way for them to feel closeness to her when they prayed for the repose of her soul. Relics make sense, because our God became man, and drew close to us in His Incarnation. Relics are incarnational, and speak powerfully to the soul in ways mere words cannot. May the devotion to relics be renewed in our day, and through them, devotion to our Lord, who became flesh and dwelt among us.

**Welcome:** Little Flowers Girls Club will present Our Lady of Guadalupe play in honor of Our Blessed Mother on Sunday, December 20th following the 8:30 AM Mass at St. Elizabeth's.

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