



Catholic Parishes OF ARLINGTON

December 31, 2023

St. Camillus and St. Agnes

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ADORATION

Monday – Saturday

6:00 AM | St. Agnes

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – Saturday

7:00 AM | St. Agnes

9:00 AM | St. Camillus

CONFESSION – SATURDAYS

9:30 AM | St. Camillus

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM | St. Agnes

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil Masses

4:00 PM | St. Agnes

4:30 PM | St. Camillus

5:30 PM | St. Agnes

Sunday Masses

7:00 AM | St. Agnes

8:00 AM | St. Camillus

9:00 AM | St. Agnes

10:00 AM | St. Camillus

12:00 PM | St. Agnes



cparlingtonma

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SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



St Peter's Basilica

Sunday, 24 December 2023

"A census of the whole earth" (cf. Lk 2:1). This was the context in which Jesus was born, and the Gospel makes a point of it. The census might have been mentioned in passing, but instead is carefully noted. And in this way a great contrast emerges. While the emperor numbers the world's inhabitants, God enters it almost surreptitiously. While those who exercise power seek to take their place with the great ones of history, the King of history chooses the way of littleness. None of the powerful take notice of him: only a few shepherds, relegated to the margins of social life.

The census speaks of something else. In the Scriptures, the taking of a census has negative associations. King David, tempted by large numbers and an unhealthy sense of self-sufficiency, sinned gravely by ordering a census of the people. He wanted to know how powerful he was. After some nine months, he knew how many men could wield a sword (cf. 2 Sam 24:1-9). The Lord was angered and the people suffered. On this night, however, Jesus, the "Son of David", after nine months in Mary's womb, is born in Bethlehem, the city of David. He does not impose punishment for the census, but humbly allows himself to be registered as one among many. Here we see, not a god of wrath and chastisement, but the God of mercy, who takes flesh and enters the world in weakness, heralded by the announcement: "on earth peace among those whom he favours" (Lk 2:14). Tonight, our hearts are in Bethlehem, where the Prince of Peace is once more rejected by the futile logic of war, by the clash of arms that even today prevents him from finding room in the world (cf. Lk 2:7).

The census of the whole earth, in a word, manifests the all-too-human thread that runs through history: the quest for worldly power and might, fame and glory, which measures everything in terms of success, results, numbers and figures, a world

obsessed with achievement. Yet the census also manifests the way of Jesus, who comes to seek us through enfleshment. He is not the god of accomplishment, but the God of Incarnation. He does not eliminate injustice from above by a show of power, but from below, by a show of love. He does not burst on the scene with limitless power, but descends to the narrow confines of our lives. He does not shun our frailties, but makes them his own.

Brothers and sisters, tonight we might ask ourselves: Which God do we believe in? In the God of incarnation or the god of achievement? Because there is always a risk that we can celebrate Christmas while thinking of God in pagan terms, as a powerful potentate in the sky; a god linked to power, worldly success and the idolatry of consumerism. With the false image of a distant and petulant deity who treats the good well and the bad poorly; a deity made in our own image and likeness, handy for resolving our problems and removing our ills. God, on the other hand, waves no magic wand; he is no god of commerce who promises "everything all at once". He does not save us by pushing a button, but draws near us, in order to change our world from within. Yet how deeply ingrained is the worldly notion of a distant, domineering, unbending and powerful deity who helps his own to prevail against others! This image is so frequently ingrained in us. But that is not the case: our God was born for all, during a census of the whole earth.

Let us look, then, to the "living and true God" (1 Thess 1:9). The God who is beyond all human reckoning and yet allows himself to be numbered by our accounting. The God, who revolutionizes history by becoming a part of history. The God who so respects us as to allow us to reject him; who takes away sin by taking it upon himself; who does not eliminate pain but transforms it; who does not remove problems from our lives but grants us a hope that is greater than all our problems. God so greatly desires to embrace our lives that, infinite though he is, he becomes finite for our sake. In his greatness, he chooses to become small; in his righteousness, he submits to our injustice.

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS



Brothers and sisters, this is the wonder of Christmas: not a mixture of sappy emotions and worldly contentment, but the unprecedented tenderness of a God who saves the world by becoming incarnate. Let us contemplate the Child, let us contemplate the manger, his crib, which the angels call “a sign” for us (cf. Lk 2:12). For it truly is the sign that reveals God’s face, a face of compassion and mercy, whose might is shown always and only in love. He makes himself close, tender and compassionate, for this is God’s style: closeness, compassion, tenderness.

Sisters and brothers, let us marvel at the fact that he “became flesh” (Jn 1:14). Flesh: the very word evokes our human frailty. The Gospel uses this word to show us that God completely assumed our human condition. Let us ask: Why did he go to such lengths? Because he cares for us, because he loves us to the point that he considers us more precious than all else. Dear brother, dear sister, to God, who changed history in the course of a census, you are not a number; instead you are a face. Your name is written on his heart. But if you look to your own heart, and think of your own inadequacies and this world that is so judgmental and unforgiving, you may feel it difficult to celebrate this Christmas. You may think things are going badly, or feel dissatisfied with your limitations, failings, problems and sins. Today, though, please, let Jesus take the initiative. He says to you, “For your sake, I became flesh; for your sake, I became just like you”.

So why remain caught up in your troubles? Like the shepherds, who left their flocks, leave behind the prison of your sorrows and embrace the tender love of the God who became a child. Put aside your masks and your armour; cast your cares on him and he will care for you (cf. Ps 55:22). He became flesh; he is looking not for your achievements but for your open and trusting heart. In him, you will rediscover who you truly are: a beloved son or daughter of God. Now you can believe it, for tonight the Lord was born to light up your life; his eyes are alight with love for you. We have difficulty believing this, that God’s eyes are alight with love for us.

Christ does not look at numbers, but at faces. However, who looks at him amid the many distractions and mad rush of a bustling and indifferent world? Who looks at him? In Bethlehem, as crowds of people were caught up in the excitement of the census, coming and going, filling the inns and engaged in petty conversation, a few were close to Jesus: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and then the Magi. Let us learn from them. They stood gazing upon Jesus, with their hearts set on him. They did not speak, they worshiped. Tonight, brothers and sisters, is the time to worship.

Worship is the way to embrace the Incarnation. For it is in silence that Jesus, the Word of the Father, becomes flesh in our lives. Let us do as they did, in Bethlehem, a town whose name means “House of Bread”. Let us stand before him who is the Bread of Life. Let us rediscover worship, for to worship is not to waste time, but to make our time a dwelling-place for God. It is to let the seed of the Incarnation bloom within us; it is to cooperate in the work of the Lord,

“On Christmas Eve, let us ask ourselves: ‘Do I desire to allow myself to be enveloped by the shadow of the Holy Spirit, by the gentleness and meekness of God, by the kindness of the God, making room for him in my heart, drawing near to his forgiveness, to the Eucharist?’”

who, like leaven, changes the world. To worship is to intercede, to make reparation, to allow God to realign history. As a great teller of epic tales once wrote to his son, “I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament... There you will find ro-

mance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves on earth” (J.R.R. TOLKIEN, Letter 43, March 1941).

Brothers and sisters, tonight love changes history. Make us believe, Lord, in the power of your love, so different from the power of the world. Lord, make us, like Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi, gather around you and worship you. As you conform us ever more to yourself, we shall bear witness before the world to the beauty of your countenance.

PRAYER



ST. AGNES MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:00 PM Ralph Laundry
5:30 PM Mark G. Tanner

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:00 AM Ann Desrosiers
9:00 AM Richard M. Tanner
12:00 PM For the People of our Collaborative

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

7:00 AM Mary Porter

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

7:00 AM Phyllis Gallo

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:00 AM Kelly Martin

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

7:00 AM Mass for All Souls

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

7:00 AM Gerry Solomini

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

7:00 AM William "Billy" Radocia
4:00 PM James J. Moran Jr.
5:30 PM William King

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

7:00 AM Denise Lombardi Ausborn
9:00 AM For the People of our Collaborative
12:00 PM Salvatore Stanizzi, Joseph & Phyllis Buccieri

ST. CAMILLUS MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

4:30 PM For the Testa & Sceppa families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 AM For the People of our Collaborative
10:00 AM John & Helen Synczyk & James R. Fitzgerald Jr.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00 AM Richard M. Tanner

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 AM Kelly Martin

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00 AM Mel & Catherine Adler

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

9:00 AM Grace Benoit

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00 AM Edward & Hazel Bigham & Mary Martha Bigham

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00 AM Dale Bloedow
4:30 PM For the People of our Collaborative

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:00 AM George Arena
10:00 AM Helena Hall

PLEASE PRAY

For Sioban Sweeney, Edward Callahan, Joseph Puccio, Eleanore Saliba, Kevin Burgess, Steve Gianakas and William McGurl who died recently and for the sick of our Collaborative.

For all those who are serving in our Armed Forces that they will return home safely.

For vocations to the priesthood: God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.

THE ST. CAMILLUS SANCTUARY LIGHT

The light will burn the week of December 31st for Fr. James L. Publicover.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH

FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND CONFESSION

St. Agnes Mercy Chapel in the lower Church (please use the ramp entrance on Chestnut Street).

Confessions: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM | Mass: 5:30 PM

SAINT AGNES PRESIDER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 6th

4:00 PM Fr. Bourke
5:30 PM Fr. Chris

Sunday, January 7th

7:00 AM Fr. Chris
9:00 AM Fr. Marc
12:00 PM Fr. Marc

SAINT CAMILLUS PRESIDER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 6th

4:30 PM Fr. Marc

Sunday, January 7th

8:00 AM Fr. Bourke
10:00 AM Fr. Chris

SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

When is a Holy Day of Obligation not Obligation? Other than Christmas or the Immaculate Conception, if a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a Saturday or a Monday, one is not obliged to attend Mass.

Therefore, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God celebrated on Monday, January 1st, is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Our Mass schedule will follow its normal schedule. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's fiat: *"Be it done unto me according to Thy word."*

CHEERFUL GIVING

Imagine spending Christmas in a nursing facility during Covid. No Christmas Mass, no luncheon, no caroling or special activities. Thanks to the generosity of the CPARL community, Every resident of Sancta Maria received a stocking and a gift from the Advent Giving Tree. Staff received treats shared at the nursing stations and gift bags were distributed to everyone from nurses to aides to dietitians and housekeeping staff.

Now imagine Sr. Theresa with antlers and holiday music joyfully distributing all of it!

"For God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7).



MARIAN MONDAY

Monday, January 22nd

6:30 PM Rosary | St Camillus/upper church

7:00 PM Fellowship | St. Camillus/lower church

You are invited to join a Marian Monday rosary service and potluck dinner for the Feast of Our Lady of Hope

A great opportunity for families and friends to celebrate hope at the start of the New Year together. We will have activities for youth and the young at heart! Festive food and drink will also follow the rosary service.



We hope you can join us!

CURSILLO WEEKEND

Cursillo, pronounced "cur-see-yo" is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church so that His love and grace can be brought to every aspect of life.

The word "Cursillo" means, "little course." The cursillo is a little course in Christianity. In a fuller sense, Cursillo is an experience of people gathered into a small community by Christ to promote their growth in grace and to intensify their ability to be His witnesses in the world.

The next women's weekend begins Thursday, February 8th and concludes on Sunday, February 11th at the Spirituality Center, Ipswich.

Many women within the Collaborative have attended and found the weekend to be rewarding and their faith revitalized.

Applications are now being accepted. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Mary Wessel at info@cparl.org.



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

SAINT AGNES

N/A at time of publication

THANK YOU FROM SANCTA MARIA

To our dear friends at the Catholic Parishes of Arlington – St. Agnes and St. Camillus:

A Blessed Christmas and A Happy and Healthy New Year to all!

On behalf of all the residents, patients, staff, leadership team and the Daughters of Mary at Sancta Maria Nursing Facility, I would like to say “THANK YOU” for the very generous gifts you have sent our way to celebrate Christmas especially when the Covid virus made it difficult for us to celebrate together. You made both the staff and the residents happy.

I cannot enumerate the names of all who have donated but you know who you are. May God bless you abundantly for your big hearts. We are truly and deeply grateful. The number of gifts we received overwhelmed and humbled me. You are all too kind and caring.

The friendship and special bond that CPARL and Sancta Maria have developed these last few years are really a blessing to us. The visits and your presence mean a lot to our residents. I hope that in some way, we also have shared with you the love of God that is in all of us. I pray our residents have touched and enriched your lives as you experience being with them, even in small ways.

May the Virgin Mary with her loving Son bless you!

Sincerely and gratefully,
Sister Mary Theresa, DM
Mission Integration Coordinator
Sancta Maria Nursing Facility

SAINT CAMILLUS

N/A at time of publication

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

While the Christmas season is a time of joy, we recognize that for some of our brothers and sisters it can be a lonely time of year, whether suffering from a loss or distant from family. All are invited to join our faith family for a special Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 31st at 1:00 PM in St. Agnes/Hope Hall.

If you know of someone in need of fellowship, please extend an invitation. All are welcome!

BOSTON SOCK EXCHANGE

The next gathering is: Monday, January 15th

6:30 PM St. Camillus kitchen/lower church

The Boston Sock Exchange volunteers make 125 bagged lunches to be delivered to a soup kitchen in Waltham, every month. Drop in and see us at work.

Each lunch includes a sandwich, water, fruit, granola bar/snack, and socks. The only thing we are in need of is PEANUT BUTTER! Also, small size toiletries, and gently used hats, gloves and scarves are always appreciated.

Please drop in the hampers marked SOCK EXCHANGE DONATIONS at each church.

If you would like to be added to the email list for reminders and announcements, please email Sheila at : obriensmo@hotmail.com

ARLINGTON EATS

Food instability remains a concern for our neighbors, and Arlington Eats depends on the generosity of communities like ours. Drop off bins are available at both churches.

Ask a welcome minister for assistance if needed.
Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

OUR COMMUNITY



THANK YOU FROM SVdP

On December 18th, Saint Vincent de Paul (SVdP) CPARL Conference members met in the Fidelity House gym to assemble and deliver Christmas meals to 70 Arlington families. Your gifts to SVdP, very generous donations from Arlington EATS and several individuals, support from Fidelity House, and holiday cards handmade by the students of the Arlington Recreation Kid Care After School Program and Faith Formation families made this project successful. Many families were able to celebrate with a festive meal on the birth of the Christ Child.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL



Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them."

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor, by assisting families, providing help with food, gifts, and utility and rent bills. Thanks!

CONTACT US AT 781-648-0220, EXT 450



Thank you to all who celebrated Christmas with CPARL. We are blessed and humbled. (above overflow at St. Agnes/Mercy Chapel).

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the volunteers who decorated our churches so beautifully for our Christmas liturgies and to the welcome ministers and Extraordinary Eucharistic ministers who served at our Masses, we offer a heartfelt thank you.



COLLABORATIVE CALENDAR



COMMUNITY HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, December 31st

1:00 PM | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Mondays 7:30 PM | Zoom

Please email info@cparl.org for the link.

ROSARY GROUP

Tuesday, January 2nd

7:00 PM–8:30 PM | St. Agnes/upper church

All are welcome to join.

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, January 5th

4:00 PM Confession | St. Agnes/Mercy Chapel

5:30 PM Mass | St. Agnes/Mercy Chapel

MEN'S HOUR

Saturday, January 6th

8:00 AM–9:00 AM | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, January 7th

9:00 AM St. Camillus/lower church

10:00 AM St. Agnes/Hope Hall

11:00 AM St. Camillus/lower church

THE VILLAGES—FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, January 7th

9:00 AM Root | St. Camillus/Sullivan Center

10:45 AM Root | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

RCIA

Sunday, January 7th

1:00 PM | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

CRIBBAGE

Monday, January 8th

6:30 PM–9:00 PM | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

BEREAVEMENT GROUP BEGINS

Sunday, January 7th | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

In the Gospel story of Lazarus being raised from dead we read, *"And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother"* (John 11:19). From the earliest days, the faith community has gathered to support those who grieve. If you are in need of consolation following the death of a loved one or any significant loss, this Christ-centered faith sharing group is for you.

We will meet as a group on six Sundays: January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, and February 4th and 11th, following the Season of Hope, a Catholic bereavement group curriculum focusing on prayer, Scripture, discussion and fellowship.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mary Wessel at info@cparl.org.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, January 9th

It will be a video presentation on "Your Heart – You Are Captivating."

12:00 PM | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

7:00 PM | St. Agnes/Hope Hall

Newcomers are welcome!

ROSARY GROUP

Tuesday, January 9th

7:00 PM–8:30 PM | St. Agnes/upper church

All are welcome to join.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday, January 14th

10:00 AM | St. Camillus Church

WOMEN'S BLESSED BRUNCH

Saturday, January 20th

10:00 AM | St. Agnes/Hope Hall



WITNESS TO LIFE

JOIN CARDINAL SEÁN AND BOSTON PILGRIMS FOR THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE!

THURS., JAN. 18: 10:00 PM - LEAVE ARCHDIOCESE FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

FRI., JAN. 19: 7:00 AM - ARRIVE AT THE LIFE FEST RALLY AND CELEBRATE MASS WITH CARDINAL O'MALLEY, NATL. SPEAKERS, & THE SISTERS FOR LIFE

- 10:30 AM - LEAVE RALLY AND TRAVEL BY BUS TO THE MARCH FOR LIFE AND CONNECT WITH THE CARDINAL AND OTHER BOSTON PILGRIMS
- 4:00 PM - LEAVE D.C. FOR BOSTON ARCHDIOCESE
- 11:45 PM - ARRIVE IN BOSTON ARCHDIOCESE

THE COST IS \$75 AND INCLUDES BUS TRANSPORTATION, DRIVER GRATUITY, A TICKET TO THE LIFE FEST RALLY, AND A BOXED LUNCH. PAYMENT IN FULL BY CREDIT CARD DUE AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION. NO REFUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

NOTE: FOOD/DRINK AT REST STOPS IS THE PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSIBILITY.

THIS TRIP IS FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN AGES 12-17, ADULTS, OR SMALL HIGH-SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS. (RATIO OF 1 ADULT (21+) TO 6 YOUTH; MINIMUM OF 2 ADULTS) LIMITED SPACES ARE AVAILABLE, SO ACT SOON. PERMISSION SLIPS WILL BE FORWARDED AFTER REGISTRATION.

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS, EACH PERSON 18+ MUST HAVE A CLEAR CORI AS OF JANUARY 15, 2024. CORI CHECKS CAN BE DONE THROUGH THE PASTORAL CENTER IF NOT ALREADY ON FILE WITH A PARISH. CHAPERONES MUST HAVE COMPLETED *PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN* (VIRTUS) BEFORE ATTENDING. CONTACT LIZ COTRUPİ AT 617-746-5801 FOR MORE INFO.



REGISTER: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/MARCHFORLIFE2024](https://bit.ly/marchforlife2024)



New Year's Preview

Fidelity House's Winter brochure is being finalized. Programs starting in January include; Tot Sports, Instructional Floor Hockey on Tuesdays, Gymnastics, Basketball for grades K-5 on Friday, 3 on 3 Friday Night Basketball for Grades 5 and up, NBL Basketball on Saturdays and Sundays, Nancy Drew Mystery Club, Chess Club, and Arts and Crafts. New program ideas are welcome. Join the fun at Fidelity House!

Preschool Teaching Position

Fidelity House Preschool has a full time or after-noon hours position available. Candidate must be EEC Teacher or Lead Teacher qualified. School bus driver (part time/flexible hours), and Group Leader positions in our School Age Program are also available.

Preschool, Pre K Sports

Program is offered 12:30-1:15. Basketball with lower hoops meets on Mondays and Floor hockey meets on Tuesdays. Indoor Soccer meets Fridays.

Basketball Clinics /League

Co-ed basketball program will play on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Separate groups include Grades K-2, Grades 3 - 6. Reversible jersey included.

End of Year Giving

Fidelity House is a non-profit community center that relies on the generous donations of time, tal-

ent and resources of the greater community. Please consider donating to our Capital Campaign, General Fund, or Financial Aid Fund. Donations and/or pledges can be mailed or completed by visiting www.fidelityhouse.org. WE GREATLY appreciate your support!

Tot Time

Parents & kids time Looking for a place to bring your child to burn off some of their energy, make new friends and just have fun as the weather gets colder? Come on Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. The next session starts Jan. 4! Drop-in options are available. The activity time is geared for Toddler - 4 years old age and the parent, grandparent or caregiver remains with child. The fun times are designed to develop the fine/gross motor & social skills of the child but is also a great chance for the caregivers to expand their network of friends and exchange mutual experiences.

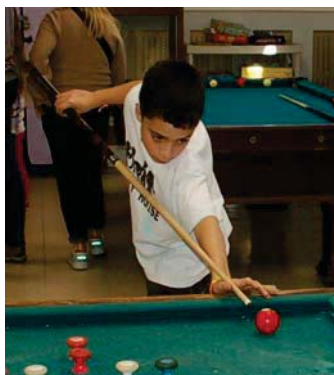
Full Day Program

Upcoming full days in Fidelity House's School Age Program include Monday, January 15. Program is open to children in Kindergarten and up. Preschool will also be offering a full day program with an option for half day.

From all of us at Fidelity House best wishes for a happy, healthy 2024.

Please visit www.fidelityhouse.org to view programs and register on-line or call 781-648-2005 to get more information about our great programs.

Please visit www.fidelityhouse.org to register online or call 781-648-2005 to get more information about our great programs





ENTRANCE CHANT

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

OPENING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem, and see Him whose birth the

1. o'er the plains; And the moun - tains in re - ply,
 2. strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be
 3. an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee

1. Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 2. Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 3. Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Gló - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cél - sis De - o! Gló - - - - -

- - - ri - a in ex - cél - sis De - o!

FIRST READING

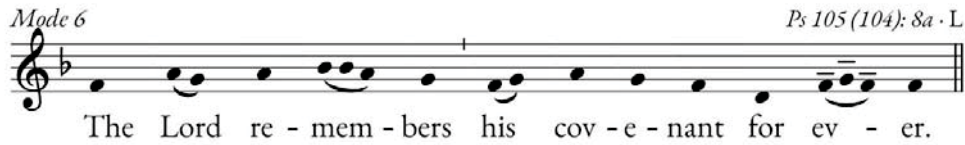
Gn 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: / "Fear not, Abram! / I am your shield; / I will make your reward very great." / But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?" Abram continued, "See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM



Ps 105 (104): 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

- ℣. Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the nations his deeds.
Sing to him, sing his praise,
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
- ℣. Glory in his holy name;
rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!
Look to the LORD in his strength;
constantly seek his face.
- ℣. You descendants of Abraham, his servants,
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!
He, the LORD, is our God;
throughout the earth his judgments prevail.
- ℣. He remembers forever his covenant
which he made binding for a thousand generations
which he entered into with Abraham
and by his oath to Isaac.

SECOND READING

Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age — and Sarah herself was sterile — for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.” He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.



ALLELUIA



Heb 1: 1-2

✠. In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

GOSPEL

Lk 2: 22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted — and you yourself a sword will pierce — so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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OFFERTORY HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for his
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il

1. bed a cat - tle stall; Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle
2. till the morn - ing new; Saw the glo - ry, heard the

1. know - ing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are
2. sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re -

1. wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings
2. joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the

1. bring - ing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Christ the
2. mor - row: Christ the Babe was born for you. Christ the

1. Babe is Lord of all.
2. Babe was born for you.

COMMUNION CHANT

Bar 3: 38 • RM

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



COMMUNION HYMN

Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close

1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The
 2. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes; I
 3. by me for ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless

1. stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The
 2. love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, And
 3. all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care, And

1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 2. stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 3. fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! The Sav - ior reigns; Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the

1. ceive her King; Let eve - ry heart pre - pare him
 2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 3. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous -

1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 2. plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 3. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 3. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

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Please introduce yourself to an usher or staff member. Or fill out the connect card in the pew or scan the QR code to complete an online “Connect Card,” and we will reach out to you soon.



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"SHE SAVED MY LIFE"

Burlington, MA resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy, "my feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life." Then she met Burlington's very own Acupuncturist Min Jeon Lic.Ac. D.Ac.

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort, and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful. "How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling, and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe. "The way that I would describe it, it's equivalent to walking on glass." Dawn hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would 'touch' her feet.

Unfortunately Dawn's story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

If you're unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis- you're not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You're struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to 'just live with the pain' and you're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, four months ago Dawn read an article about Acupuncturist Min Jeon Lic.Ac. and the work she was doing to treat those

suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications

Acupuncturist Min Jeon Lic.Ac. founder of AWC | Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic in Burlington, MA, is using the time-tested science of Acupuncture and technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

"Now when I go to bed at night I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs," Dawn enthusiastically describes life after receiving Min Jeon's treatments. "I can wear socks and shoes!"

Dawn and her sister now operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

"It's life-altering. As far as I'm concerned Acupuncturist Min saved my life!"

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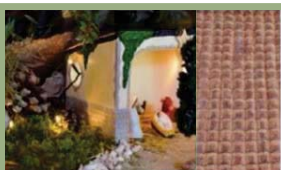
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Burlington, MA resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy, "my feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life." Then she met Burlington's very own Acupuncturist Min Jeon Lic.Ac. D.Ac.

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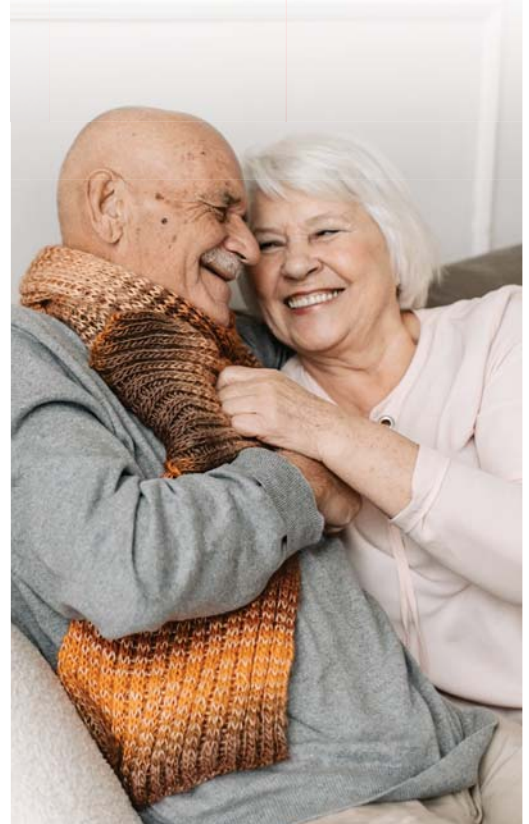
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