



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

— From this Sunday's Gospel Reading



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN MOTHER

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

BISHOP OF CHARLESTON

The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone

PASTOR

Rev. Daniel R. Papineau

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday

8:30AM – 2:00PM

ST. MARY'S SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Adoration

9:00AM - 3:00PM

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

3:00PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday

3:15PM

Tues., Wed., and Thurs.

After the 6:00PM Mass

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:30PM St. Mary's Church

Sunday

9:00AM St. Joseph's Church

Sunday

11:00AM St. Mary's Church

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Tues., Wed., Thurs.

6:00PM

Friday

12:10PM (except First Friday)

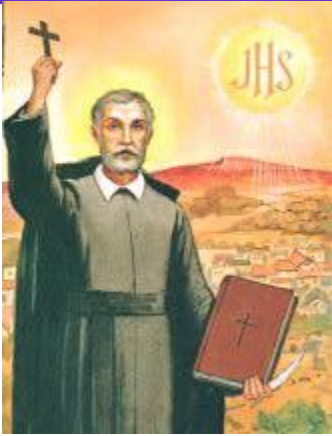
First Friday Mass

6:00PM

First Saturday

8:00AM

SAINTS CORNER



ST. PETER CANISIUS

Feast Day: December 21
Known as the “Second Apostle of Germany,” Dutch-born Peter Canisius is a doctor of the Church, recognized for the catechism he wrote in response to the attacks and distortions of Catholic belief by followers of the

Protestant Reformation. Peter offered to help his friend, Father Lejay, write the catechism, but he didn’t want to be the main author. However, when Lejay died, Peter had no choice but to take on the job. Published in 1555, the catechism was an immediate hit. During his lifetime, the catechism went through 200 editions and was translated into 12 languages. Because there was such a great need, Peter also wrote two special editions of the catechism for younger Catholics – one for students, which focused on a different virtue for each day of the week, and one for very young children, which included basic prayers for morning, evening, and mealtimes.

Little-known fact: In 1565, St. Peter was a “secret agent” for the Vatican, smuggling copies of the decrees from the Council of Trent into the hands of all the bishops in Europe. The 43-year-old Jesuit was well-known as the founder of several well-respected colleges, so he was able to travel from Rome to Germany, supposedly as a “visitor” of Jesuit foundations but really delivering the valuable Church documents into safe hands.

What made him a saint: Peter Canisius desired to bring an accurate perception of Catholic belief to people. He did it in a way that won them over by good example rather than threats or attacks. He followed the Jesuit tradition that harsh words or actions should not be used. For example, after reforming German universities from heresy, he was called to Vienna to do likewise. The people there didn’t like his German accent and wouldn’t listen to his preaching. So he endeared himself to them by working with the sick and dying during a plague that afflicted the city. After that, the people wanted the pope to make Peter their bishop. Peter declined, but he did stay and work in the diocese for a year. His writings on Church history and theology, his catechism, and his work establishing Catholic colleges throughout northern Europe helped to bring many people to a clearer understanding of their faith.

Quote: “If you have too much to do, with God’s help you will find time to do it all.”

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-5

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY NEWS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is offering prayer shawls or lap robes to anyone who would like one for a loved one or friend who resides in a nursing home or assisted living. They make lovely Christmas gifts. Call Linda Yarborough at 843-309-9664.

THE GIVING TREE

Please remember our 4 families on the Giving Tree. Gifts and donations need to be in by this Sunday, December 19th. Thank you to all that are participating this year!

ADORATION

We will not have Adoration Christmas, Saturday, December 25th or New Year’s Day Saturday, January 1st. Adoration will resume Saturday, January 8th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

We will not have class December 26th or January 2nd. Classes will resume Sunday January 9th. The Religious Education team would like to wish all our students and parents a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2022!

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE FIRST READING: MICAH 5:1-4

King Hezekiah was a good man, but he had no leadership qualities or governing ability: he could not control things. David's descendants had been holding power over Israel for three hundred years, but their leadership had only brought disasters, oppression and hunger on the people. What was the cause of their mistakes? In the first place 'pride', and then their conviction that they could do without the Lord. They had forgotten that they had not become kings out of any merit or power of their own, but God had transformed their lineage from a humble shepherd origin into a great king. Now, says the prophet, from the human point of view there is no solution and no hope; but the Lord is about to intervene and "she who is in labor gives birth" (2) and from the descendants of David a new kingdom will begin. Micah might certainly have thought that the new king was to be one of this world, but God fulfilled the prophecy in altogether another manner. God waited for seven hundred more years and he brought forth from a woman named Mary, the expected child of David. We know that he was not arrogant like his forefathers, but fulfilled what is described in the second part of this reading (3-4a): he was a shepherd to Israel and led them "with the power of God"; he began a new world where all people will live safely in their own houses and there will be peace to the farthest boundaries of the earth. The words of Micah are an invitation to hope. A future of justice and peace is in store for humankind, but if we want this salvation to manifest itself we must reject human logic and stop putting our trust in the power of arms, or in the alliance with the powerful or in the power of money or in the use of violence. Our Christian communities must be the sign that there is already a new and alternative 'way' at work in the world. It is made up of people who refuse oppression and dominion over others, who believe in the power of love and forgiveness. These people reject all forms of violence and have given up accumulating wealth for themselves. When all human beings will accept this logic of Christ, then the prophecy of Micah will be completely fulfilled.

THE SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

In the passage of the letter to the Hebrews of today, we read the words of a man who thanks God for having been delivered from a serious illness. He says: I know, my Lord, that you take no pleasure in incense or in the flesh of kids offered up on the altar; I thus promise another thing: I will always do your will; I know that you like this (5-7). "I am coming!" says Christ. He comes during this period of Advent and asks us to reflect on what sort of sacrifices we are offering up to God. Are we glorifying him with songs, processions, prayers, incense and solemn liturgies? And if all these rites were to be but mere exterior manifestations without an authentic conversion of the heart to always do God's will, can we regard ourselves as being consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once and for all?

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-44

Today's Gospel shows us how to respond to the interventions of God in our lives. Mary sets out on a long trip that is more than just a physical journey to Judah across the hills of Galilee. It is also a spiritual journey. The expression 'to set out/arise/get up' is one of Luke's favorite expressions. 'Getting up' entails a determination to stop lying or sitting comfortably and to get moving. For Luke 'setting out' means to get on the move for and with God. To do God's will. In a Christian Community we can easily become content with the way things have always been. We forget to 'set out' to discover other people around us who have been visited by God and to learn from them. Our prejudices are barriers preventing us to share with people of another social class or ethnic group. We seem unready to make the first move and to set out like Mary to learn from them and to share what God does in our lives. The journey from ourselves to our 'neighbor' may be much nearer than Nazareth to Ein Karem. Yet we often never experience the joy of meeting and sharing with others because we never really make the effort to love others. Mary goes on to share in the joy of her cousin Elizabeth, but in fact it is Elizabeth and the unborn John the Baptist who share in the joy of Mary and the unborn Jesus through the Holy Spirit. It is through Mary that God is seen to keep the promise announced through the prophet Micah so long ago. The promise of God will take flesh in her and will be formed in the person of Jesus. Elizabeth proclaimed the 'triple blessedness' of Mary. Of all women you are the most blessed. Mary was someone specially chosen by God and prepared with extraordinary grace. 'Blessed is the fruit of your womb'. The graces conferred to Mary bear divine fruits for all of us. Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. The promise has a name: 'Jesus'. He will fulfil all that has gone before and give new meaning to all that will happen after him. He stands at the very center of time – B.C./A.D. and he is the one who stands at the very center of our lives. The graces conferred by God have to be received with our free co-operation. In Luke's Gospel Mary is portrayed as the model disciple who hears the word of God and puts it into practice.



CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

5:30pm St. Mary the Virgin Mother

CHRISTMAS MASS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

9:00am St. Joseph the Worker

11:00am St. Mary the Virgin Mother

There will not be a 5:30pm Saturday evening Mass,

Sunday, December 26th

9:00am St. Joseph the Worker

11:00am St. Mary the Virgin Mother

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1ST

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD,

*IS **NOT** A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS YEAR.*

WE WILL HAVE OUR FIRST SATURDAY MASS @ 8:00AM.

FOLLOWED BY OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE