

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 2nd Samuel 7: 1-16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you.

And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth.

I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance.

Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel.

I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you.

And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors,

I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

The Word of the Lord. . . Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89

Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. R.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations." R.

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm." R.

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. . . Thanks be to God!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. **The Gospel of the Lord. . . Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**



The Seek the City Team is hosting a number of events we need to take part in. The new vision for our City Church will continue to require your voice & vision at the table. Below is a timeline of what to expect.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Upcoming Citywide Visioning Workshop, Sunday, Jan 7, 2024 at St. Matthew parish (Signup link available on Website.)

Leadership Gathering (TBD) – opportunity to share feedback from the Visioning Workshops and next steps.

February and March will be a time of prayer and discernment, where all Pastors & Parish Leaders will be called to reflect on the visioning feedback and to weigh in to help develop the first iteration of the new model for our City Church.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Citywide Mass at the Basilica (Thursday, Feb 8th)

SAVE-THE-DATE: Lenten/Easter Pilgrimage Journey (Begins Wed Mar 21st and continue each Wednesday during Lent [7:00pm – 8:30pm] Locations: The Basilica, St. Bernadine's, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen) April/May 2024; The first iteration of the Draft models to be shared with leadership and parishioners for feedback and comment, and then shared openly through regional town halls for public comment.

June 2024—In June, we will open ourselves to the call to be disciples in mission and embrace a renewed landscape for the City Church that we seek.

Draft recommendations provided for the Archbishop.

Final models will be presented at the end of June 2024.

Christmas Season at Saint Ambrose

**This Evening Sunday, Dec. 24th,
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 6PM**
(NO Mass on Christmas Day)

Sunday, Dec. 31st, 10 AM, Feast of the Holy Family
Blessing for all Families present, 10AM
Sunday Evening, Dec. 31st,
Mass for New Year's Eve, 6pm

Monday, New Year's Day (NO Mass)

Sunday, Jan. 7th, 2024, Mass at 10am
Feast of the Epiphany

Please join us!

All celebration live streamed and on our website:

www.saintambrose.com

Available Parking in our School Yard

CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF THE LIVING NATIVITY IN GRECCIO

Beginning December 8th we began the 800th anniversary of St Francis celebrations of the creating of the Living Nativity Scene in the small Italian village of Greccio, to bring Bethlehem close to those who would never have the chance to be in the birthplace of Jesus Christ.



To celebrate this great anniversary, the Capuchin Friars of St. Ambrose Friary will host a novena beginning Dec. 24th and continue through until January 7th, 2024. **Special indulgence has been offered by Pope Francis to anyone praying the novena prayer at the Crib in any Franciscan Church throughout the World and St. Ambrose is a Franciscan Church.**

Blessing of Families

Next Sunday, Dec. 31st is the Feast of the Holy Family. Please invite your family members to join you for mass to receive a special Blessing.

Watch Night Celebration

We will recognize the Watch night on New Year's Eve Mass, Sunday, Dec. 31st, 6pm.

Season of Advent

We continue our Advent Reflection series each week with a guest homilist/speaker on the theme of the day in preparation for Christ's coming again.

Advent Reflections:

Sunday, Dec 24: LOVE -

Dr. Camille Brown-Privette



Weekly Mass Intentions

Dec. 24th, Mrs. Angelina Daniel, on the 17th anniversary of her passing, requested by her daughter, Ms. Denise Daniel.

Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Mass, 6pm, Mass offered for all our parishioners, living and deceased.

Dec. 31st, Sunday, 10AM, Ms. Tony Thomas, who passed Oct. 9th, daughter of Mrs. Jean Thomas.

Dec. 31st, 6PM, New Year's Eve, Mass offered for all our parishioners, living and deceased.

Jan. 7th, Mr. Peter Kumba Geh, on the 30th anniversary of his passing, requested by Mrs. Veronica Zeh and Family.

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let your perpetual light shine upon them, may their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen

Christmas Raffle

Once again this year we will host the Christmas Raffle.

Tickets w on Sale now, last chance! The prizes include

1. Afghan, Angel, Gift Basket, Coffee Maker, Nativity Set from Kenya, Holy Family figurine and a TV. Tickets are \$2.00 each or a BIG 7 for \$5.00. Drawing is TODAY.



New Mass Book

The new mass book for the year 2024 is open for your mass intentions. First come, first serve and try to limit yourself to a few intentions to make room for others.

Contact the Office

If you have something you would like to donate, a mass intention, a simple question that can be answered by our receptionist, Ms. Faye Augins, please call Faye first. Fr. Paul is getting many messages for things he refers to Faye. Thank you.

Confessions Available after Mass Today

If you wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas Fathers Cornelius and Joseph from St. Mary's Seminary will be available in the back of church after mass.



Healing Prayer: Mary Adderly, Helen Augins, Jean Bennett, Parrish Boyd, Karen Brown-Berkley, Annie Bruce, Renee Bruce, Al Butler, Debbie Chase, Eric Cullings, Dale Dyson, William Ford III, Eric Frazier, Sarah Gamble, JoAnn Glenn, Angela Johnson, Cornell (Nelson) Johnson, Josie Johnson, Joseph Jones, Sheila Leary-Smith, Charles Manns, III, Kimberly Merrill, Allan Noble, Charles Richardson Williams, Corey Richardson, Rhonda Rumbra, Carl & Bernice Shrieves, Daniel Smith Sr., Veronica Spears, Augustine & Archie Stith, Rosalita Stone, Gloria Tate, Ernest Thames, Jean Thomas, Rosalie Watkins, William Young, Sr. Eugene Zaborowski and Alice Zaborowski.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—LOVE SAINT AMBROSE PARISH

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
O come, Thou Wisdom, from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. R.

PRAYER FOR LOVE WHILE LIGHTING THE 4TH CANDLE

O God of Elizabeth and Mary,
you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior.
As we light this fourth candle, make our hearts leap with love, and fill our mouths with songs of joyful praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace and love, and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Homily:

Deacon Rubio

SEE THE BULLETIN FOR THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts: “So Glad I’m here in Jesus Name”

1 So glad I'm here, So glad I'm here, Lord, So glad I'm here in Jesus' name. Lawd So glad I'm here, Lord, So glad I'm here, Lord, So glad I'm here, Lord, So glad I'm here in Jesus' name.

2 Pray while I'm here, Pray while I'm here, Lord, Pray while I'm here in Jesus' name. Lawd Pray while I'm here, Lord, Pray while I'm here, Lord, Pray while I'm here in Jesus' name.

3 Sing while I'm here, Lord, Sing while I'm here in Jesus' name.

4 Shout while I'm here, Lord,

Communion: “I love the Lord, He heard my Cry.”

1 I love the Lord; he heard my cry and pitied every groan. Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to his throne.

2 I love the Lord; he heard my cry and chased my grief away. O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

Reflection on Love by Mrs. Camille Privette

Recessional Hymn: As you Go

As you go, may you know the love of Christ How deep and long, how high and wide As you leave, may you seek to win the prize And find His death to be your life

CHORUS May you go in the love of your Father God May you go in the grace of Christ May you go in the power of the Spirit now To bring Him glory with your life

As you go, may you know the pow'r of grace His very strength for what's to come As you leave, may you feel His mighty hand Guiding your steps in the race you run

See you later this evening, Christmas Eve @ 6pm for Mass

St. Ambrose Parish, Baltimore City, MD