



4th Sunday of Advent | Matthew 1:20-24

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."*

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

WELCOME

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OUR MISSION

Driven by the missionary zeal of St. Thérèse, the Lord anoints us to proclaim to the poor and broken the good news that Jesus calls us to abundant life in Him.

WHAT WE'RE UP TO



SAVE THE DATE!

COOKIES WITH SANTA

DECEMBER 18TH
12:30-2:00 PM
PARISH CENTER



Advent Penance Service

December 19th
5:30-8:30 pm

Multiple priests will be hearing confession



LETTER FROM THE PAROCHIAL VICAR

During the Advent season, we are called to become an Advent Church and not simply a Church at Advent. What is the difference? What does it mean to be an Advent Church?

First, let's talk about what the Church looks, feels, and smells like at Advent. The official liturgical color of Advent is purple. While the purple of Lent symbolizes repentance, the purple of Advent is about preparing for what Saint Cyril of Alexandria calls the twofold coming of Christ. "We do not preach only one coming of Christ but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom." Thus, whereas Christmas commemorates the first of these, at Advent, we also anticipate and prepare spiritually for the Second, final, and glorious coming of Christ at the end of the age.

The liturgical songs and readings during the Advent season put us in this preparation mood. On the one hand, they remind us that our savior and messiah is sure to come, with clear allusions to the twofold coming. On the other hand, they urge us to be vigilant and ready to receive him when he comes. Liturgically preparing for the yearly coming of Christ at Christmas becomes more of a dress rehearsal for the second and final coming of Christ on the last day.

We must also talk about the Advent wreath, adorned with the four candles of Advent, symbolizing hope, love, joy, and peace. Advent is the season to hope for the salvation of God. It is the season to celebrate the love of God made manifest in the incarnation of Christ. It is the season to joyfully prepare for the coming of our messiah and joyfully celebrate his manifestation. It is also the season to dwell in the peace of Christ, the prince of peace. Like the songs and readings, the candles and wreath of Advent help put us in the proper disposition for a fruitful celebration of Christmas.

However, while Advent celebrates both the first and final coming of Christ, in-between the first coming in history enshrouded in hiddenness and mystery and his final glorious

coming at the end of time, Christ never stops coming into our lives, our space, our history. According to Carlo Carretto, during the season of Advent, God is adored chiefly as the God who comes. He, however, insists that "The God Who Comes" is not an exclusive Advent portrait. It is relevant and valid all year round. This portrait is at the heart of what we can describe as the spirituality of the Advent season, which must extend beyond the four-week season. It is living this spirituality that makes us an Advent Church.

If our God is a God who Comes, we must become a Church waiting in joyful hope, perpetually prepared to receive God. We must become a people of gratitude—grateful to the Lord, who never ceases to come to us. We must also become people constantly journeying toward God. God came to us so that we might be able to approach God. Our ultimate destiny is to ascend to where God is. It is to live forever in the holy presence of God.

In addition to being prepared, we also need to be vigilant. God often comes in the most surprising of ways. While the final coming of God at the end of history will be glorious, the first coming wasn't. Sometimes, God comes in the form of poor and worn-out strangers. At other times, God comes to us armed with a begging bowl. Without due vigilance, we would continue to miss these manifestations of God. Prophet Malachi warns that if we are not watchful, the God whom we expect will suddenly enter his temple (3:1).

An Advent Church welcomes all people, reaches out, and recognizes the presence and image of God in everyone.



Fr William Orbih

Parochial Vicar
fatherwillaim@littleflowerchurch.org



Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24

Monday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,
16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6;
Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21;
Lk 1:39-45

Thursday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7,
8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Friday Memorial of Saint John of Kanty, Priest
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9,10 & 14;
Lk 1:57-66

Saturday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14 a, 16;
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk1:67-79

Sunday The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27,
29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt
1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-
3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;
Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3,
3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or
Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

**GRACE TO YOU
AND PEACE FROM
GOD OUR FATHER**
Romans 1:7

This week's Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17

5:30 pm †Fr. David Link

Sunday, December 18

9:00 am †Jane Tafelski

11:30 am †Ed & Audrey Hengen

8:00 pm The Parish Family of St. Thérèse, Little Flower

Monday, December 19

8:30 am No intention at this time

Tuesday, December 20

8:30 am No intention at this time

Wednesday, December 21

8:30 am Esteban S. Cruz Sr. for spiritual healing

Thursday, December 22

8:30 am No intention at this time

Friday, December 23

8:30 am No intention at this time

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30 pm †Norma Miller

7:00 pm The Parish Family of St. Thérèse, Little Flower

10:00 pm For the Poor souls in Purgatory

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 am †Clem & Jane Tafelski, Barbara & Richard Tjarsen

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedules

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

Note: there is no 8:00 am Mass

4:30 pm - Nativity pageant beginning at 3:45 pm

7:00 pm - Musical Prelude beginning at 6:30 pm by professional string quartet

10:00 pm - Musical Prelude beginning at 9:30 pm by professional string quartet

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th

9:00 am - Musical Prelude beginning at 8:30 am by professional string quartet

December 31/January 1 - Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31st - 5:30 pm

Sunday, January 1 - 9:00 am, 11:30 am (NO 8:00 pm)



Snowflakes are falling outside my window as I write this, and I realize snow is a perfect example of a “both - and” for me. Part of me still thrills with a childlike wonder, while another part gets grumpy at the hassle of it all. Snow is a trivial example, but when the tougher places of “both - and” come up, I usually find myself either getting lost in the negative, or trying to pretend the negative away.

When I imagine what the first Christmas might have been like for Mary and Joseph, I can’t help being struck by the perplexity of the “both - and” they found themselves in. Their journey to Bethlehem seems to have been filled with one stressful experience after another. They finally end up in a smelly, uncomfortable stable, most likely with little to no food left. But despite the hardship, they were experiencing the greatest night of all. Their hearts must have swelled to overflowing at the mystery of their holy Yaweh, whose name could not even be uttered out loud, coming in the flesh as their very own squeezable, kissable, precious baby.

I imagine they could hold the balance of “both - and” because they knew they were held by Love. Their deep trust allowed them to acknowledge the painful reality of their situation without getting lost in it. With free and open hearts, they could fully enter into the joy and wonder of Emmanuel.

That is the heart posture I desire. If I know in my very bones I am loved, then I can truthfully allow my pain to be what it is without denying or hiding it, without worrying or wallowing in it. Then my heart can freely recognize, receive and celebrate the abundant goodness around me. Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



TheaMarie Burns
Parishioner

Ablaze Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm, St. Therese Little Flower, for Young Adults (18-39)

Would you like a mid-week dose of inspiration to keep your life oriented toward God? Are you looking for a community of fellow young adults that gathers regularly? Then come check out this Bible Study as we delve into the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday Mass. No weekly commitment required. Bring a Bible if you have one.

Registration not needed, simply come!
Contact: Sean Allen, sallen@ablazemission.org, 858-354-9006

THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE

Journey through Scripture with us on Friday mornings following Mass and Adoration in the Upper Room.

REGISTER SOON!



10:00 am ~ 11:30 am
January 13, 2023 ~ February 17, 2023

Visit littleflowerchurch.org/info or scan the code to register!



2023 Rekindle the Fire Men's Conference

JOIN HUNDREDS OF MEN ON FEBRUARY 18TH, AT THE CENTURY CENTER IN SOUTH BEND, IN. A FULL DAY OF GREAT SPEAKERS & FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CATHOLIC MEN.

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Weekly Rosary

A group meets in the chapel/quiet room of the church every Wednesday at 1:30 PM to pray the Rosary and a chaplet of Divine Mercy. This group started 20+ years ago to pray for our children and grandchildren, many of whom are away from the church. Everyone and all intentions are invited.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT SERVES THE POOR

Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend still needs help with the Christmas Program

We want to thank everyone who has already donated to the Catholic Charities Christmas Program or sponsored a family to ensure area children in need have presents this Christmas. Though the official deadline has passed, there are still nearly 15 families who need to be sponsored. If you can help, please call the Catholic Charities office at 260-422-5625.

Available Immediately:

One Invacare Semi-Electric Hospital-style Bed - used but in very good condition with a relatively new mattress. This bed is NOT fully automatic and utilizes a crank for certain adjustments. Originally sold and serviced by Alick's Home Medical. Alick's has agreed to pick up the bed and deliver/install locally. Please call the office, 574-272-7070 and ask for Jenny if you are interested.

Walking with Moms in Need

Pregnant and parenting moms who face difficult or unexpected circumstances in our communities do not have to look far to find help. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is participating in the national campaign, Walking with Moms in Need. The purpose of this campaign is to better equip each of us to identify and communicate available resources to women who might be struggling with a difficult pregnancy or parenting circumstance. The websites list, describe, and provide links to many of the resources available in our area to support and assist pregnant and parenting moms in need:

English: walkingwithmomsfwsb.com
Spanish: caminaconmadresfwsb.com

LET'S STOCK OUR FOOD PANTRY!

Add these most needed items to your shopping list and drop them off in the baskets in the back of the church.

- DICED TOMATOES
- TUNA
- SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- DRY CHILI MIX
- DRY RICE
- DRY BEANS

THANK YOU!



WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT EXTENDS THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The logo for Cupertino Classic, featuring the text "Cupertino Classic" in a stylized font with a basketball graphic.

PRIESTS VS SEMINARIANS BASKETBALL GAME

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

SOUTH BEND

6:30 P.M.

MASS AT 3:45 IN THE CHAPEL IN THE SCHOOL FOLLOWED BY ADORATION LEADING UP TO TIPOFF

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE ADMISSION

ENCOUNTER VOCATIONS. ENJOY THE GAME.

A small logo of a Catholic church, featuring a shield with a cross and other symbols.

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Jan. 14 | Fort Wayne
 Feb. 11 | Granger
diocesefwsb.org/formation-day

Photography talent needed!

Do you have an eye for taking beautiful photos? Whether you are skilled with a professional grade camera or your iPhone camera we would be grateful if you would share your gifts with our parish! We are building up our parish photo library for use in communications and simply to record the life of the parish. If you are interested in helping, simply take photos at parish events and share them with Megan via email megan@littleflowerchurch.org. You can also email with any questions. Thank you!

Thank you to our bulletin Sponsor of the Week:

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SUNDAY MASS
 9:00 am, 11:30 am, & 8:00 pm
 Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm

DAILY MASS
 Monday - Friday 8:30 am
 Saturday 8:00 am



Reconciliation Times

Monday, Wednesday & Friday..... 9:00-9:30 am
 Saturday..... 8:30 to 9:30 am, and 4:30 to 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday..... 9:00-9:30 am
 Saturday..... 8:30-9:30 am

Additional Sacraments

Baptism & Anointing of the Sick—Contact the office for more information.

Marriage—Please contact the office at least 6 months in advance.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday..... 9:00 am-4:00 pm
 Closed Wednesdays..... 1:00-2:00 pm

OUR STAFF

Pastor Rev. Julius Okojie
 217-8848 fatherjulius@littleflowerchurch.org

Parochial Vicar Rev. William Ikhianosimhe Orbih
 272-7070 fatherwilliam@littleflowerchurch.org

Parish Business Manager Gail Waltman
 243-3443 gail@littleflowerchurch.org

Director of Evangelization Abby Kyle
 243-3441 abby@littleflowerchurch.org

Director of Catechesis Alexis Duffy
 243-3439 alexis@littleflowerchurch.org

Pastoral Associate For Discipleship Brenda McDonald
 272-7070 brenda@littleflowerchurch.org

Food Pantry Director Janet Lentz
 243-3438 janet@littleflowerchurch.org

Director of Music & Liturgy Joseph Higginbotham
 272-7070 joe@littleflowerchurch.org

Communications Coordinator Megan Gettinger
 272-7070 megan@littleflowerchurch.org

Office Assistant Jenny Peterson
 272-7070 jenny@littleflowerchurch.org

Maintenance Darlene Pruett-Taylor and Roy Lawson
darlene@littleflowerchurch.org

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