



## Eucharistic Food For Thought for the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent 2023

Angels come in one form or another and invite us to enter God's dream, to "Dream along with him", and so we enter this vision as we use our Advent imagination to once again move in and out of our salvation history.

The English mystic Caryl Houselander wrote a book about Mary called *The Reed of God*.

She noted that we know very little about Mary.

But we do know the one essential thing we need to know, because it is the very thing we all are called to do: To bear Christ in our bodies and give him to the world. And so it is that that we contemplate what we are asked now in the Eucharistic presence of Christ.

Will you bear the child in your body and bring him into the world?

Will you bring the holiness of God into the world?

As in the first reading when King David wants to build God a house, a magnificent Temple, and surprisingly, God says the equivalent of, "No-I like the tent."

God preferred the tent because it was in the midst of the people; it traveled with them.

God did not want to be stuck, confined, and controlled by the Temple keepers.

God wanted to be free, as he created us to be free and to be where the action was and is, with his creation, with his people, with us.

Will you accept and bring the Love and mercy of God into the world that he shares with you?

In the action is where God has always chosen to be, in places you would least expect: making a temporary residence in a burning bush on a deserted mountain, or in the sound of silence rather than in a mighty wind or a rumbling earthquake. sometimes at work in the barren womb of an aged woman. or in the virginal womb of an engaged young girl in a backwater town far from the center of power, and, indeed, far from the Temple where God was supposed to be.

Will you bring my Justice and peace into the world?

Will you be obedient?

God is untamed, uncontrollable, unsubjected, and unanswerable to whatever rules we might like to think God should play by. And so it is that And God waits for our answer.

Sometimes God waits for minutes, hours, weeks, even years, as he reminds of our salvation history each Advent Season and he faithful comes to us each Christmas and waits for us to answer his call. The call that says, I knock, will you open your heart to me fully that I may live in you and you in me and together walk this world to make it a like it was meant to be now, that you might be ready for the Kingdom yet to come. To bear Christ in your body and give him to the world as we walk out of mass.

This Christmas, will there be yet another year of silence or partial silence? Or will you answer the call within this shared dream, even if it is only the sigh of yielding a little?

The infant **Jesus** can do a lot with just a little space in the heart, because now you bear the Holy one in your heart too, and can bring **him** more and more into the world as you let more and more of **him** into your heart, "**0 Come, 0 Come Emmanuel**"!

May the **LORD** be with you, and ...

Deacon Hicks

**HOSPITALIZED, HOMEBOUND or SERIOUSLY ILL?**

Contact Father or the parish office to continue receiving pastoral care.

# HOLY GHOST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 24

Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]



December 25



120 W. Sequoyah Avenue  
Vinita, Oklahoma

Mass: Sunday 10:00 am  
Wednesday 6:00 pm

## PARISH STAFF

- REV. MICHAEL E. CASHEN, Pastor  
918.256.2281
- DEACON ANTHONY HICKS  
918.559.9076
- STEPHEN MILLER  
Coordinator of Religious Education  
918.791.5733  
E-mail: holyghostcre@gmail.com
- CINDY ALLEN  
Administrative Assistant  
918.256.2281

## CONTACT US

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Phone: 918.256.2281

E-mail: holyghostvinita@gmail.com

Website: holyghostvinita.org



## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fr. Valentine Ndebilie	St. Mark, Pryor	918.825.4186
Fr. Samuel Perez	Sacred Heart, Miami	918.542.5281
Fr. Valerian Gonsalves	St. Elizabeth, Grove	918.786.9312
Fr. Leonard Higgins	St. Catherine, Nowata	918.534.3420

# THE HOLY POST

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

### TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING: The kingdom of David shall endure for ever before the Lord.  
(2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16)

PSALM: "For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."  
(Psalm 89)

SECOND READING: The mystery kept secret for long ages has now been manifested.  
(Romans 16:25-27)

GOSPEL: Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.  
(Luke 1:26-38)

Every so often the fourth week of Advent consists only of the fourth Sunday of Advent. This is one of those years. For three weeks we have been encouraged to use this season to prepare for Jesus' coming. The fact that this Sunday falls on Christmas Eve is a wonderful opportunity for us all. On this day, may the word of God we hear and the Eucharist we share inspire us to prepare a home in our hearts for our Lord. - Pastoral Patterns

## NATIVITY OF THE LORD: CHRISTMAS December 25, 2023

### TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING: As God returns to Zion with the rescued exiles, messengers run to bring the good news.  
(Isaiah 52:7-10)

PSALM: "O sing to the Lord a new song, as he has done marvelous things."  
(Psalm 98)

SECOND READING: The Son is the radiance of God's glory, and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by the power of his word.  
(Hebrews 1:1-6)

GOSPEL: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
(John 1:1-18)

All the ends of the earth, both prophet and psalmist proclaim, will see God's saving power. Indeed, John writes that God's saving power has come to dwell among us in the person of God's Son, the light that overcomes the darkness, the Word made flesh. On this day when we celebrate the birth of our Lord, may we be reminded that each and every one of us is a dwelling place for him, called to reflect his glory to the world. Merry Christmas!  
- Pastoral Patterns

## PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS Dec 24  
4th Sunday of Advent 10 am  
- No RE Classes

CHRISTMAS MASS Dec 25  
The Nativity of the Lord 10 am

WEDNESDAY Dec 27  
No Mass

SUNDAY MASS Dec 31  
Feast of the Holy Family 10 am  
- No RE Classes

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY Jan 1  
- No Mass

WEDNESDAY Jan 3  
Weekday Mass 6 pm

SUNDAY MASS Jan 7  
The Epiphany of the Lord 10 am

sign up

Sheets will be posted soon for Spring semester CCD snacks and for 2023 donation letters for tax records.



Thank you for joining us!

A special thanks to Chris & Jody Carter of Shout & Sack, to all who brought delicious food, helped with preparation and cleanup, and to Santa and Mrs. Claus!

## SACRAMENTS

Confession: By appointment only. To schedule, call 918.256.2281.

Baptism: Contact Father several weeks in advance.

Marriage: Contact Father 6 months prior to wedding. Do not schedule a date before talking with Father.

## PRAYER LIST

Jeanette Crowell, Roben Carter, Gail Curley, Desiree & Caleb Curry, Mae Davis, Ann Geyer, Jeanne Heidlage, Karen Janssen, Nancy Keene, Tate Riney, Norah Sisemore, Roseline Brown Sparks, Alice Nolen-Walston, Debbie Page, Jimmie & Lynnda Sooter, Jimmy Sweeney



Marines: Gage Gardner  
Air Force: Zerek Albarez, Adam Crane, Cale Schumacher, Michael Ecterhoff, and Tiffany Calabasa



Pick up these items in the west entrance:



2024 Calendars

2024 Donation Envelopes

Poinsettia List of Memorials & Honorariums

