



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

- Mt 1:24

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 17 Late Advent Weekday

4 pm +Kelly James by Catherine James & Family
+Nancy Fabrizio by Bartlett Family
+Janet Annichini by husband Vincent
Int. of Debbie Gantos bday by cousins

Sunday, Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 am +Kathleen Pietras by family
+Douglas Croft by family
+Stella Schultz by family
+Irene Blast by family
10 am +Ken M. Lepczynski by Lepczynski Family
People of the Parish
12 pm +Madge Czapiewski by Carl & Roseann Saam
and Dan Czapiewski

Monday, Dec. 19 Late Advent Weekday

8 am +Fr. William Pettit 15th ann.

Tuesday, Dec. 20 Late Advent Weekday

8 am For priests by Connie Skocen

Wednesday, Dec. 21 St. Peter Canisius

8 am +Karen Grath (bday) by cousin Dolores
Int. of Fr. Luke by Connie Skocen

Thursday Dec. 22 Advent Weekday

8 am +Carol Lee Volpe 1st ann. by Parish
+Ryan Pernicano (bday) by Family

Friday, Dec. 23 St. John of Kanty, priest

8 am +Robert Caruana (bday) by family

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

4 pm Living and Deceased Parishioners
9 pm Living and Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
10 am Living and Deceased Parishioners

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: 4 pm and 9 pm

Christmas Day: 8 am and 10 am

Additional Opportunities for Confession:

**Mon., Dec. 19 8:45 am, 12 Noon, and
6:30 pm (2 priests)**

**Tues., Dec. 20 8:45 am, 12 Noon, and
6:30 pm (2 priests)**

Wed., Dec. 21 8:45 am

*****There will be no confessions Dec. 24th**

4th Sunday Advent

A seminary professor of mine once said, "Don't confuse enthusiasm for a virtue with the virtue itself." How easy it's been in my life as a priest to talk about the greatest of virtues — love — and to totally fail to live up to its concrete demands!

Fortunately, our religion is not mainly about ideas or virtues but about persons. The angel of the Lord says to Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (Mt. 1:20). We don't know exactly why Joseph was scared to receive Mary and therefore Jesus. We do know the solution: take Mary home. It's so concrete. Look at her. Listen to her. Talk to her. Protect her. Help her. Laugh with her. Eat with her. Rest with her. Christianity begins here for Joseph, so it must with us, too.

New year challenge: This week I challenge you to choose a concrete way to "take Mary into your home." Praying a weekly or daily Rosary is a proven way. Perhaps for you it's making a little shrine with a statue or image. Maybe it's praying a weekly Litany of Our Lady on Saturday night. Whatever it is, make sure it is a concrete action and do it. She will be there. Soon her virtues will follow, especially love.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: Isaiah prophecies to King Ahaz of Judah the coming birth of Emmanuel, meaning "with us is God." When do you feel God's presence in your life?

Second Reading: Written about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Paul's opening words in his Letter to the Romans provides one of the earliest testimonies to the divinity of Jesus Christ. And now as believers, Paul tells us we are "called to be holy." How has this season of Advent help you develop holiness?

Gospel: In recounting the birth of Jesus, Matthew focuses on how Joseph came to terms with this miraculous event. Can you name a time when you had to discern how God is working in your life? ©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

4th Sunday of Advent

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable



and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death. ©LPi

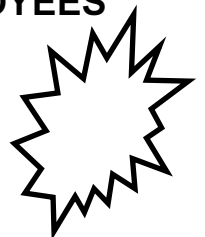
LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK



"God is with us." This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. All we need to do is make sure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things! ©LPi

PLEASE NOTE: ATTEMPTED SCAMMING OF PARISHIONERS/EMPLOYEES

Some parishioners have received a request on their phone and possible email for them to contact the pastor regarding some undisclosed matter. This is a fraudulent attempt to obtain personal information or financial support, sometimes asking for gift cards. **DO NOT RESPOND.**





IT'S NOT TOO LATE

We had the flu in our house last week. As tough as it was, it was really a blessing in disguise, since it gave me and Ann an opportunity to concentrate on our prayer life for Advent. God brings good out of all things!!! It also gave me a chance to reflect on my

Advent this year. While it has been pretty good, I know it could have been better. But it's not too late!

Christmas is next Sunday and God has blessed us this year with another gift. Advent is a full four weeks this year, the longest Advent possible! There's still a whole week for us to "make straight the way of the Lord". What a blessing!!

It reminds me of my favorite Twilight Zone episode, "Time Enough at Last". Burgess Meredith plays the sole survivor of a nuclear holocaust who now seems to have time for his passion, reading. Unfortunately, he accidentally breaks his glasses and can no longer read.

Like him, we have time. There's still time to pray! There's still time to repent! There's still time for Confession! There's still time for conversion. And we have the tools: the Rosary; the Mass; the Sacraments; the Divine Mercy Chaplet; Scripture; Liturgy of the Hours; Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy; and on and on!

So, let's not accidentally break our glasses. Let's stay focused on The Lord! Let's make this last week of Advent a truly colossal offering to Our Lord in remembrance of His birth and in preparation for His coming!!! God bless!

**God Is Good All the Time!
All the Time God Is Good!**



A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME

Deacon Regis



Don't forget, join us this Friday and every Friday at 3PM to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM. See the ad in our bulletin or on the parish website for details on how to join in. Hope to see you there!



Question: What is the Hispanic Advent custom of "Las Posadas"?

Answer: "Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell. ©LPi

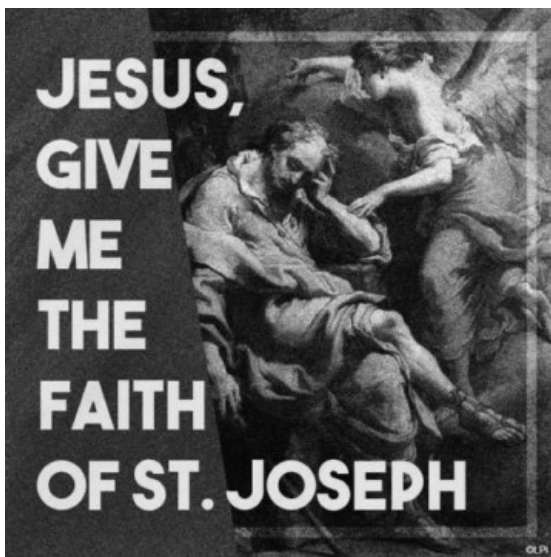
Come Lord Jesus and do not delay!

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN
YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**
St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in



a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

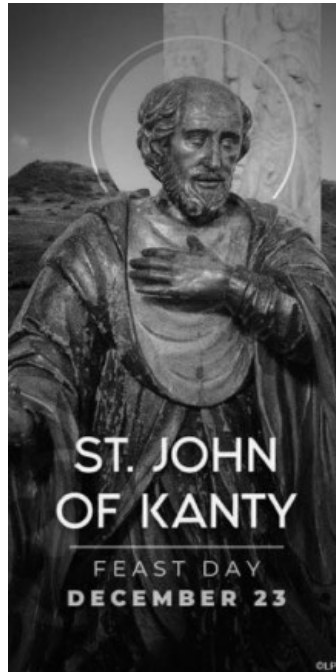
Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

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

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Saint John of Kanty | December 23



Saint John, sometimes called John Cantius, was born in the Polish town of Kanty in 1390. Not much is recorded about his early life, however, he was a bright young man who did well in his studies at the university in Krakow. He earned his doctorate in philosophy and went on to be ordained and earn a doctorate in theology as well.

He began teaching at the university immediately following the conferring of his doctorate in philosophy. Unfortunately, his popularity worked against him, and he was dismissed from his post on false charges. Saint John was reassigned to a post as a parish priest in the town of Olkusz, Bohemia. His parishioners did not receive him with open arms, and he was unsettled in his new position. But John did not give up, his honest care for the people of his parish eventually endeared him to them.

After a time, he was invited back to the university and he returned to teaching, filling leadership roles in the philosophy and theological areas until the end of his long life. Saint John deeply cared for the poor, giving everything but only what he needed to survive away. He lived an aesthetic life but was such an engaging man that he often dined with nobility.

Saint John of Kanty died on December 24, 1473. He was canonized in 1767, by Pope Clement XIII. In 1998, a new religious community chose the saint for their patron and the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius, was formed in Chicago, Illinois. ©LP

I AM HERE Advent Holy Hours—Please Help Us Spread the Word

Every day during Advent, a parish of the Archdiocese of Detroit will host a special Holy Hour at 7 p.m. Join us and experience the transformative presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The daily list was included in the parish bulletin a few weeks ago but can also be found at iamhere.org/advent

Please
Pray
for...



Norm Abramczyk
Louise Ames
Anna Axe
Harry Bacalia
Sue Bacalia
Norma Bak
Violet Barrette
Bob Behmer
Bob Bellottie
Jim Bellottie
Vincent Bellottie
Judy Bennett
Patricia Best
Sharon Bieniek
Cynthia Blaha
Marilyn Block
Aaron Boyless
Thomas J. Brennan, Jr.
Ken Butler
Joan Buzo
Stella Camilleri
Jacob Cassar
Richard Cline

Connie
Carolyn Doran
Zoe Cossin
Betty Ann Crawford
Todd Dawson
Shannon Dawson
Tina Doney
Sandy Dudek
Ernie Dull
Marsha Farmer
Cecil Fernandez
Tina Fernandez
Lisa Foster
Rose Fraley
Duane Glossa
Roseann Gomez
Bob & Lori Gonzales
Gary Graham Jr
Abigail Graves
Jennifer Hanna Green
Charlotte Gutierrez
Eileen Halpin
Henry Hansen
Tina Hovis
Phyllis Ivy
Sue Jagodka
Joanne Kacher
Norman Kaleto
Brenda Kaleto
Fr. Terry Kerner
Evelyn Kisell
Chris Kovac

John Kovac
Jenene Kozinski
George Kramar
Matt Kulczyk
Rachel La Pointe
Patrica Lacopelli
Joseph Lasky
Margaret Lasky
Jennifer Mackaluso &
Family
Guadalupe Madrigal
Phyllis Mareck
Donald Martin
Erin Martin
Larry & Carol McGrew
Linda Molek
Steven Monroe
Dorothy Morse
Pat Mozdzen
Suzanne Nicholas
Gigi Novak
Daniel O'Connor
Diane Owens
John Palmer
Mary Pellegrini
Jenna Peters
Maryanne Peters
Jimmy Piche
Kathleen Pietras
Mary Pike
Jeff Pingilley
Jess Pingilley

Linda Pingilley
Robert Pingilley
Sam Pingilley
Wayne Pingilley
Carol Regnier
Whitney Regnier
Noemia Reid
Richard Roberts
Richard
Felice Roderigo
Laura Salazar
Richard Sanchez
Fred, Matt, & Joann
Sanscrainte
Dennis Scanland
Dr Alan Scher
Pat Schoenherr
Carol Schwartz
Darlene Shannon
Phil Shannon
Rose Shannon
Jaxon Shubik
Jimmy Stecki
Gerald Stevens
Jim Tokarczyk
Laurie Trupp
Beth Vaghy
Michael Wheelock
Eileen Winnie
The Wirick Family
Frank Wojcik
Stephen Zelle



Air Force

*Matthew Thornton, Nicole Thornton,
Michelle Thornton, Brittany Mack,
Tiffany Kay Smith (Ladd), husband, Don Smith*

Army

*Josh Harpster, Zachary Robbins,
Robert Truchan, Anthony Lemieux,
Bryce Bieniek, Tony Pernicano, Jacob Grze-
bienik,
Matthew Hapunowicz*

Marines

*Joseph Krawzyk, 1st Lieutenant, Joseph
McGinnis, Corporal, Andrew Clark, 1st Lieu-
tenant,
Cody S. Pratt, Luke Cohen, Lance Corporal*

Navy

Ryan Detlor, Patrick Hanosh

Army National Guard

Vincent Nowak, Michael Dunne

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Fourth Sunday of Advent Isaiah 7:10–14 God's Signs

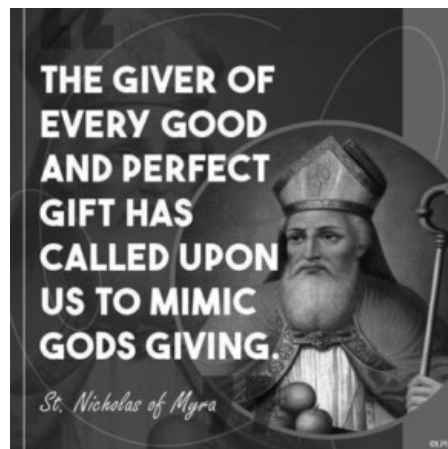
For Christians, the most famous prophecy of Isaiah is this: "The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Isaiah spoke these words to a king worried about the future of his dominion. God invited Ahaz to ask for a sign of favor, but Ahaz refused. In so many words, Ahaz did not want to put God to any trouble. Isaiah, exasperated, tells the king that God will give him a sign anyway. Whether or not Ahaz wants one, God will give a sign.

The sign Isaiah promises is a child born to a young woman. The child will be given a name that would carry a message to the king and his people: Emmanuel. God is with us.

When Matthew wrote about the birth of Jesus in the first chapter of his Gospel, he said it fulfilled this prophecy from Isaiah. Jesus is the sign that God is with us. The young woman, his mother Mary, conceived the child while remaining a virgin.

Where in the world do people not want to trouble God? How can you bring them a sign of comfort? No matter how impossible the situation might be, God is with us.



Fourth Sunday of Advent Romans 1:1–7 Exchanging Gifts

Christmas presents are gathering under trees. The opening of gifts opens hearts as well. Gifts are given in love, and they promote love in return. We love all year round, not just on Christmas Day. We may not give wrapped gifts every day of the year, but we love every day. We say it, show it, and feel it.

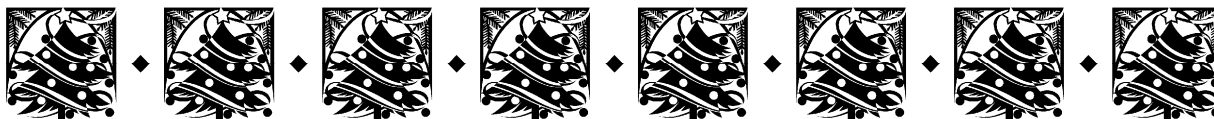
At Christmas we will celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the human race. It is not Christmas every day, but God is good to us every day, showing love in many and marvelous ways.

A Christmas gift of love prompts a response—a hug, a kiss, a note of thanks, or a favor in return. The greatest Christmas gift also prompts a response—a desire to live in ways that please Christ.

St. Paul calls himself an apostle "set apart for the gospel of God," the Gospel promised through the prophets in the Scriptures, the Gospel about God's Son, "descended from David according to the flesh." Throughout Advent, we have heard prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus. They help us experience the full wonder of Christmas Day: that God took on flesh and was born into a human family descended from David. That is the Gospel, the good news. So great was that Gospel that Paul became its apostle.

And so did we. In all we say and do, we tell others how much the Christian faith means to us. It is the natural response to the greatest gift of all.

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year A © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.



SANCTUARY LAMP burns brightly this week

In Memory of
+Michaeline Chwastek
by Family



Please remember in your prayers the souls of **Susan McCoy, Lynne Anne Bender and David Andrew Mather** who were buried from our parish this week. May they share in the victory of the Risen Lord. May their families be consoled in the hope of the resurrection.

St. Vincent de Paul



Food Pantry

St. Maria Goretti Parish

Please drop off your donations on
Mondays and Wednesdays between 12:00 and 2:00pm or
call Matt at 313.595.1317

Here is the current list of needs for our pantry:

Adult and Kid's Cereal
Manwich
Hamburger Helper
Flour
Mayonnaise
Bush's Baked Beans

Shampoo
Instant Oatmeal
Cooking Oil
Sugar
Mixed Vegetables

Hard to believe but here we are into Advent. The Christmas season is upon us. Please try to remember those who are struggling with their food needs during the month of December.

In November we have fed 86 families, 252 people. We have not slowed down. Along with feeding our neighbors in need, we have paid out \$1600 in rent, \$167 in DTE and \$500 in water bills.

Thank you to all who have donated cash to us allowing us to help people stay in their homes during these cold months.

The pantry's last day open will be December 21 and will not reopen until January 4, 2023.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at the pantry.

LECTORS

Dec. 17-18

4 pm Marge Taylor
8 am Tom Koselka
10 am Pat Schoenherr
12 pm Mary Jane Favot

Dec. 31-Jan. 1

4 pm Gretchen Searynk
8 am Pat Wallace
10 am Pat Woodby
12 pm Francis Tofil

Dec. 24-25

4 pm Dave Griswack
9 pm Marge Taylor
8 am Chris Klimchalk
10 am Richard Fron

Jan. 7-8

4 pm Dave Griswack
8 am Tom Koselka
10 am Chris Bergeron
12 pm Mary Jane Favot



Fourth Sunday of Advent

A common thread linking today's Scripture readings is the prophecy of Emmanuel, a name that translates to *God is with us*. Both the passage from Isaiah and St. Matthew's Gospel express this prophecy about Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, an angel visits Joseph in a dream, revealing that Mary has conceived a child by the Holy Spirit and telling him not to fear taking her as his wife.

Joseph completely trusts God's will and brings Mary into his home. As faithful stewards, we, too, strive to follow Joseph's example by putting our full trust in the Lord and serving Him as his disciples.

Even though the Advent season is busy, set aside a few minutes daily for quiet time with the Lord.

BULLETIN EDITOR

** bulletin@smgoretti.com **

**All submissions are due 10 days
before publication date.**

The deadline for bulletin submissions is
**2:00pm on Thursday,
10 days before the bulletin date.**

Exceptions occur when the bulletin is required to be sent early due to holidays.

Please plan ahead as submissions received past the deadline will be published in the following week's bulletin.

Submissions should be sent as a Word document (single spaced), PDF or photo format (JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PNG), attached to or in the body of an email

give online

Online giving makes it easy to give! You never have to bring envelopes, cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan its budget.

There are no fees for on-line giving.

- ★ Visit the St. Maria Goretti website at **www.stmariagorettiparish.com**
- ★ Click on the Online Giving link on the right side of the home page.
- ★ Complete the registration form

Please feel free to call the Parish Office if you should have any questions or want to know more about Online Giving.

Your donations are vital to the success of our Parish community.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

with Deacon Regis

Join us on

*Fridays at 3:00pm to pray the
Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM.*

*To connect by computer use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85478055945>*

*To connect by smart phone call
1 (312) 626 6799*

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Co-Chairperson: Chris Bergeron

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Pat Wallace David Griswack Valerie Koselka
John O'Callaghan Marge Taylor Sandy VanAssche
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Matt Kulczyk Direct Number: 313.563.3970

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 12 Noon

DAILY MASSES:

Monday through Friday: 8 a.m.

First Friday: 8 a.m. & 12 Noon

First Saturday: 8 a.m.

CONFESSIONS Saturday: 3 - 3:30 p.m. or by request

HOLYDAYS TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Fridays following the morning Mass until 9:30 a.m.

BAPTISMS Contact Parish Office for arrangements.
Pre-Baptism Class required.

MARRIAGES Please contact Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Closed to visitors until further notice due to surge in covid cases. Please telephone or email. Calls after hours should be limited to emergencies only.

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm

Friday: CLOSED for the time being

If you need to contact the parish office, please call during regular business hours. You can also reach the parish office by email: parishoffice@smgoretti.com



Sunday, Dec 18, 2022 Welcome! Most folks live in the land of their birth. Only one in 30 migrate, and for many reasons. They may marry a non-national and relocate to make a life together. Jobs may move overseas. But most often, people migrate under forces they can't control: military conflicts, natural disasters, extreme poverty, or other dangers. Migration may not be chosen, but it doesn't have to spell doom to those who depart or those who receive them. Migrants

have knowledge, networks, and skills to share. U.S. history proves it as does the history of our faith. As Yahweh told the Israelites: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:33-34). On this International Migrants Day, O Sacred Lord, give us the spirit of welcome and openness so we may each find our way to you.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O SACRED LORD) TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). "The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it."

Monday, Dec 19, 2022 Cherish your roots Today's O Antiphon—"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!"—invites us to meditate on the theme of Jesus' genealogy and our spiritual ancestry. Jesse was the father of King David, and God told the prophet Nathan that David's royal family would last forever. Jesus is the enduring branch that grows out of the root of Jesse, the fulfillment of a hope past and present. When we belong to Christ, we belong to the rest of the tree, too—a family that includes God and humanity. Christmas brings people together, biologically related or not—let the longing of this season bond you closer to all in love. **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM) TODAY'S READINGS:** Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). "He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."

Tuesday, Dec 20, 2022 Let's make some room at the inn We're in the middle of two great spiritual traditions that overlap in Advent: The O Antiphons (December 17-23)—recited at vespers for the church's Liturgy of the Hours—and the celebration of "Las Posadas" (December 16-24), reenacting Joseph and Mary's search for shelter ahead of Jesus' birth. Since Las Posadas come from our Latin American brothers and sisters, each year the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages us to work and pray, in intentional ways, for migrants to our country who—like Mary and Joseph—seek safety and basic biblical hospitality. The Key of David is also the key to our hearts. See Justice for Immigrants for more background and suggested actions. **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID) TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). "Listen, O house of David!"

Wednesday, Dec 21, 2022 A light of faith from the North Star On this day in 1892, Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church was founded in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the first black parish in the state of Minnesota. Founded decades before the Great Migration of southern blacks to northern states, the church was the brainchild of hopeful black Catholics (inspired by Josephite founder John Slattery, S.S.J.) and Archbishop John Ireland, a tireless advocate for black liberation in an era of widespread racism. The new church was named for the famed Jesuit missionary, just a few years after his canonization by Pope Leo XIII, and among its first members was Fredrick McGhee, the first black lawyer in state history. May he and his companions inspire our faith and encourage us to witness for justice in our daily lives! **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN) TODAY'S READINGS:** Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death!"

Thursday, Dec 22, 2022 Picture this For Americans, the O Antiphon for today, "O King of All Nations," might be less than compelling since our incipient nation rebelled against the only king it ever had back in its colonial days. The image of God or Jesus as "king" comes from the prevailing social structures 2,000 years ago. Centuries of church-monarchy unity in Europe and elsewhere kept the tradition going. Contemporary Catholics can understand the power and authority of kingship, but God's tenderness and mercy can be sidelined by this term, which leads to a good question for any disciple: What is your image of God? What helps you connect with the Divine? **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS) TODAY'S READINGS:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). "The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name."

Friday, Dec 23, 2022 Rejoice, rejoice! The “O Emmanuel” antiphon heralds the conclusion of Advent. It also conveys a powerful truth about how we experience the divine. Yes, God is awesome and transcendent—and God is the one who draws close to us, takes on our humanity, and is truly Emmanuel, “God with us.” As we prepare to enter into the mystery of the Incarnation, let us take a moment to pray “O Emmanuel” and reflect



on how we experience God with us in our day-to-day life. And as a church let us sing together, “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel.” ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EM-

MANUEL) TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). “Yes, he is coming.”

Saturday, Dec 24, 2022 Forgiveness under the tree If you haven't finished your Christmas shopping by now, you're toast (at least according to consumer culture). The best you can hope for now is forgiveness. Which is exactly what this day and this night are all about. Zechariah's Benedictus in today's gospel (which takes its name from the first words in Latin—Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel”) reflects God's eternal plan of deliverance: “To give his people knowledge of Salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.” The best present you can give anybody, tonight or ever, is the forgiveness of their sins. Today is the perfect day to give this perfect gift! ADVENT WEEKDAY TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). “To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.”

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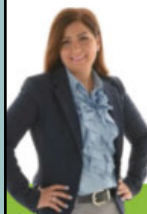
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