



St. Mary's Catholic Church



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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." - Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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December 20, 2020

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor

Mass Schedule and Intentions

12/21: Malta - To Be Announced

12/22: Malta - 5:30 PM: Michael Ulrich ^{r/}_b Julie and Gary Howell

12/23: Malta - 8:30 AM: Repose Bud Mavencamp ^{r/}_b Wilma Mavencamp & Family

12/24: Malta - 4:00 PM: Breann Woods ^{r/}_b Julie & Gary Howell
Saco—6:00 PM: Repose Daniel Depute ^{r/}_b Jerry Depute

12/25: Malta - 10:00 AM: Repose of Elmer & Loretta Bohn ^{r/}_b Maynard & Mary LaFond

Dodson—8:30 AM: Poor Souls ^{r/}_b Lana Fortin

12/26: Malta - 4:00 PM: Repose of Less Solberg ^{r/}_b Darlene & Bruce Cummings

12/27: Dodson - 8:30 AM: Special Intentions ^{r/}_b Lana Fortin

Malta - 10:00 AM: For all Parishioners;

Saco— 12:00 PM: Repose of Jack Lind ^{r/}_b Julie & Gary Howell

Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00,**
Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon; and by appointment.

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM after Daily Mass.



Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.



Knights of Columbus
Council 2124

Parish Council of Catholic
Women

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

Daily Scripture Readings

12/20: 4th Sunday of Advent: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

12/21: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church: Songs 2:8-14; Psalms 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45

12/22: Tuesday in the 4th week of Advent: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1- 8; Luke 1:46-56

12/23: St. John of Kanty, Priest: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalms 25:4-5, 8- 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

12/24: Christmas Eve: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalms 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-2

12/25: The Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation): Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalms 98:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or John 1:1-5, 9-14

12/26: St. Stephen, the First Martyr: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalms 31:3-4, 6 and 8, 16, 17; Matthew 10:17-22

12/27: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Psalms 128:1-5; or Psalms 105:1-9; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

NOTICE: MASS TIME CHANGES—STARTING JANUARY 3RD 2021

Saturday Evening 4:00 p.m. No Change

Sunday—Saco—8:30 a.m.

Malta - 10:30 a.m.

Dodson—12:30 p.m.

New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

Sacraments

Confessions: See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

Baptism: Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

Marriages: Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

Please Pray For

Ann Clouse, Chayten Pippin, Jim Nieber, Hi-Line Retirement Center, Deb Taylor, Terry Idler, Marshal Kline, Paul LaBrie, Jacob LaBrie, and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Jack Lind, Dale McNamara, Donald Ereaux, the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and for comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Jean Niebur at 654-2822. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one month unless specified.

There will not be a Penance service this advent. Times for Confession are in the bulletin. 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Fridays and 11:00 – noon on Saturdays. Fr. Felix encourages people to call for additional private confessions.

Everyday Stewardship

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus

Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Thank you for all your prayers and financial support! Although we're not “passing the basket”, we still need your generous donations. You can drop off your donations at the baskets in the front of the church, mail them to Box 70, Malta, MT 59538.

There is no longer online giving. Direct deposits from your account into your parishes account is available. Please contact Mariah for routing numbers

Pope Francis' Intention

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

ADVENT III Sunday [B]: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11, I Th 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, today's first reading surprises us by the telling of God's promise to David that he would have a long line of royal descendants culminating with a final king, Jesus Christ. Though Nathan, the prophet, initially accepted the plan, he eventually returned to inform the king that Yahweh was more concerned with turning David's family into "His house" than with residing in a house Himself. In other words, God's presence in families is more important than His presence in a building. That is why the Lord spoke to David through his prophet Nathan and promised him a line of kingly succession. God said that David was not to build a house for God; rather God would build a house for David by establishing the family of David on the throne of Israel forever. Thus, the Israelites began to look for the Messiah, a descendant of David, who would come at the end of time to eradicate evil from the world. The text reminds us that we are to reflect and build on what God is doing for us.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul's epistle, which we read today, is a prayer praising God for revealing to all nations, through the Gospels, "the mystery kept secret for long ages." In other words, God worked through His chosen people in the past, and He can and will work in and through the Gentiles by the risen Jesus. The Church has selected this prayer in the final week of our preparation for Christmas to remind us of the sublime facts commemorated at Christmas. Namely, how, in becoming man, Christ elevated our nature by uniting it with his own Divine nature and made us adopted children of God with a claim to eternal life and the possibility of sharing in God's kingdom forever.

In today's Gospel, St. Luke explains to the Gentile Christians how the Messiah had a human origin while retaining his Divine nature. He says that Mary is perplexed by Angel Gabriel's words, "Hail, full of grace." She is described as "full of grace," filled with God's favor and graciousness, something given as a free gift by God. She is the new Ark, a tent, and a temple. God is literally and physically in her, and thus she is the greater house of God promised to David. Mary questions, "How can this be since I am a virgin?" Her question, springs from an understandable

confusion. She is fully aware of the significance and consequences of the angel's message. In a flash, she recognizes the new challenges that will emerge in her betrothal and the crisis into which this pregnancy could throw both families. That is why the angel reminds Mary, "Nothing is impossible with God." St. Luke says, the child would be God's own Son. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David." This is a fulfillment of the promise that God made to David, who wanted to build a Temple for God. But the fulfillment of the promise was found in Jesus who built "an eternal house in heaven" (2 Cor 5:1). "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary does not require confirmation but responds in faith. She agrees to carry out the words Angel Gabriel has addressed to her. Raymond Brown says "Mary's response qualifies her as Jesus' first disciple. Her humble consent to the will of God commends itself to every believer: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me." Mary is thus presented as the perfect disciple. Those who find out what God wants of them and accept His message as Mary did are Jesus' true followers. Christian Faith is a matter of continually making Jesus a part of our lives. The significance of Mary's "yes": Jesus' earthly existence begins with Mary's "Yes". The Church teaches that the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit took place at the moment that Mary agreed to be the mother of Jesus. Mary's obedience to God's call changed the lives of all of us. As a teenage girl, betrothed but not yet married to Joseph, she was being asked to become pregnant by a Heavenly Source. Betrothal was regarded as a full commitment to one's future spouse. For such a girl to become pregnant was equal to adultery, a sin punishable by being stoned to death, but she took the challenge and became a perfect model for all the believers in God.

Let us pray for the grace that we have a genuine faith, obedience, and courageous response to the call of God, Amen.

PCCW Happenings

The Sisters in Hays would be grateful for help with food. They eat rice, beans (black and black-eyed) lentils, canned tomatoes, fruits, and vegetables (potatoes, onions, carrots) they do not use sugar. They need toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products {napkins}. They are tea drinkers. They use eggs of course and milk. They have used powder milk before. Cuddle Duds are something they could use. I would think size medium to large and one size is 3X. Sweaters would also be good.

RCIA Classes. If anyone is interested in RCIA classes please contact Tom DePuydt. (Contact information can be found on page 10 in the Bulletin)

Faith Formation Study on Salvation. The study sessions are every Monday 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Religious Education Center.

All Christmas Masses

Masks must be worn. Once all the open pews have been filled, people will no longer be allowed into Mass. There is no exception. This is on the orders of Bishop Michael

Decoration the Church after December 20th Sunday Mass. Everyone is asked to help.

Christmas Eve—Malta—4:00 Vigil Mass
Saco 6:00 p.m.

The Holy Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation

Christmas Day—Regular Sunday Schedule
January 1st—5:30 p.m. Solemnity of Mary,

January 3rd—Start of the new Mass Schedule

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Gospel Meditation

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a

straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

LPi

Posture Change for Mass Directed

By Bishop Michael Warfel

"After consultation with the Diocesan Worship Commission and with members of the Priests' Council on this question, the normal posture following the Lamb of God at Mass will be kneeling until the beginning of the Communion procession. The effective date in which all parishes are to return to the kneeling posture following the Lamb of God is the First Sunday of Advent."

Bishop Michael has asked that all the faithful of Eastern Montana pray the "Prayer to the Holy Family for the First Synod of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings". Priests have been asked to pray this prayer at every Mass beginning on Sunday, November 29th, the First Sunday of Advent, and continue until the conclusion of the Synod in September 2021.

Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

Please consider having Masses celebrated for family and friends on special occasions

and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.



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Please send bulletin announcements to office@SaintMarysMalta.org by Thursday evening. Thanks!

Word of Life from the USCCB

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child: May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life.

For all Christians: That the wondrous birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ may awaken our hearts to the priceless gift of every child.

Weekly Reflection from Priests for Life

The Incarnation

"By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being" (Vatican II, GS 22). This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16), but also the incomparable value of every human person. The Church, faithfully contemplating the mystery of the Redemption, acknowledges this value

with ever new wonder. She feels called to proclaim to the people of all times this "Gospel", the source of invincible hope and true joy for every period of history. The Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel" (Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n.2).

Parish Council

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BECOME A KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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Faith, Family, Community, Life

Join the Knights online for free until December 31, 2020.

Join now and receive a 2020 Knights of Columbus Christmas ornament*

**Ornament supplies are limited, so join now!*



Join us in praying the Rosary before Mass.

Tuesdays at 5:10 p.m.

Wednesday—Friday at 8:10 a.m.

Saturday—3:40 p.m.

Sunday— 9:40 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT

