

# Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint Stanislaus Church

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## December 18, 2022

*"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home"* (Matthew 1:20). The angel of the Lord's words to Saint Joseph like the Angel Gabriel's reassurance to the Blessed Virgin, *"do not be afraid Mary,"* settled both Joseph's course of action and Mary's response to God's call to them to be the mother and foster father of God's Son and the world's Savior.

Both Mary and Joseph were asked to play unique and extraordinary roles full of uncertainty. If we stop and think of the unprecedented task being asked of them, we can see why Mary was initially troubled by Gabriel's greeting and Joseph perplexed by the circumstances. They were both good, holy and pious people---- Mary who *"found favor with God"* and Joseph, *"a righteous man."* What was it that settled them as they took on the enormous tasks asked of them? Why was it that they were told not to be afraid? It was because God was with them. To Mary, Gabriel said, *"the Lord is with you."* To Joseph, the angel said, you *"shall name Him Emmanuel..., 'God is with us.'"*

There we have it. This is the essence of Christmas--- *God is with us.* In Jesus, God was with Mary in a unique way from Jesus' conception in her womb by the Holy Spirit to His Death on the Cross. Jesus was with His foster father, Joseph, in a special way, watched over and raised by Joseph and Mary in the home of the Holy Family.

But God's presence to us doesn't end there. Before His Ascension Jesus promised us, *"I am with you always."* Through the Incarnation, Baptism and the Eucharist, He truly is. Jesus says to us, *"Do not be afraid..."* and, *"I am with you always."* We may not face the unique roles or challenges that Mary and Joseph faced, but we all have our challenges. We all can become distracted by fears. The beautiful season of Christmas reminds us that God is with us. He cares. He doesn't forget us even when we forget Him. May the approaching days of Christmas bring us the joy of commemorating the Son of God's coming to earth and may the New Year find us confident, faithful and joyous in the realization that He is still with us and that we need not fear for nothing is impossible for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Reidy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** The Drama Class of St. Thomas Aquinas School is pleased to present a Christmas Pageant and Caroling on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM in the Hall at St. Stanislaus Church. Please bring goodies to share!

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** With Christmas falling on a Sunday, we will be following our regular weekend schedule for Christmas Masses —

Saturday, December 24, 4:00 PM at St. Stanislaus Church (English)

Sunday, December 25, 8:30 AM at St. Paul the Apostle Church (English)

Sunday, December 25, 12:00 PM at St. Paul the Apostle Church (Latin)

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS:** John the Baptist urges us to "prepare the way of the Lord" and "to make straight His paths." There is no better way to do that than to make a good confession during Advent. Jesus was born to reconcile God and sinners. By making a good confession we acknowledge our need of a Savior and the mercy and forgiveness He was born to bring. We will have additional confession hours this coming week:

Tuesday, December 20, 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Saint Stanislaus Church

Wednesday, December 21, 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Saint Stanislaus Church

Thursday, December 22, 2:00 to 3:00 PM at Saint Stanislaus Church

Saturday, December 24, 2:30 to 3:15 PM at Saint Stanislaus Church

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC:** Appropriate to the Season, we will have music at all our Christmas Masses. We are very grateful to Joe Dziok who, with Steve Rust, got the organ working again at Saint Stanislaus. Joe will be playing organ and singing at the Christmas Eve Mass at Saint Stanislaus. Stephanie Kopacko, who sang for us during Holy Week, will be lending her lovely voice to our 8:30 am Christmas Day Mass at Saint Paul's and Joe Dziok with our Latin Choir will be adding their usual solemnity at the noon Christmas Mass. Thank you all so much.

**DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS:** the Decorating Committee of St. Stanislaus/St. Paul's parishes is still taking monetary donations in order to purchase flowers and décor to festoon the churches for the upcoming Christmas season. Thank you for your generous donations so far. You may place your donations in an envelope, mark it "Christmas Flowers" and place it in the collection box at the back of the churches.

**PIEROGI THANKS:** We are very grateful to all who volunteered to make the pierogis for the sale at Saint Stanislaus this month. Many worked long hours, others made generous donations, and everyone who purchased the pierogis got a delicious meal. One long time parishioner said they were "the best he's had." Thanks to all. The parish netted \$1,200 on this fine effort.

### **READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:**

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24; *"Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Psalm 24:7)"*

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 3:1-6.

### **MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS:**

Confessions on Saturdays from 2:30 – 3:15 PM; Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at St. Stanislaus Church; Sundays after the 12:00 PM Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at St. Stanislaus Church.

Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM at St. Stanislaus Church.

<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Intention</b>
Sat, 12/17/2022	Fourth Sunday of Advent	4:00 PM	(S, E)	Injury Recovery for the Majors Family by Mike & Charlie Sullivan
Sun, 12/18/2022	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8:30 AM	(P, E)	For the people of the parishes
Sun, 12/18/2022	Fourth Sunday of Advent	12:00 PM	(P, L)	†Robert R. Robar by Lou & Amelia Della Croce
Mon, 12/19/2022	Late Advent Weekday	8:00 AM	(S, E)	Living & Deceased Members of the Gamwell & Steiner families by Eileen Steiner
Tue, 12/20/2022	Late Advent Weekday	8:00 AM	(S, E)	Special Intention by Mike Sullivan
Wed, 12/21/2022	St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church	8:00 AM	(S, E)	Elizabeth Schnur by Elisa Schnur
Thu, 12/22/2022	Late Advent Weekday	8:00 AM	(S, E)	Philip Schnur by Elisa Schnur
<b>Sat, 12/24/2022</b>	<b>The Nativity of Our Lord</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>(S, E)</b>	†Evelyn Cenni by Elisa Schnur
<b>Sun, 12/25/2022</b>	<b>The Nativity of Our Lord</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>(P, E)</b>	For the people of the parishes
<b>Sun, 12/25/2022</b>	<b>The Nativity of Our Lord</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>(P, L)</b>	†Frank J. Skrzyniarz by Lou & Amelia Della Croce

Key: (S) St. Stanislaus Church; (P) St. Paul the Apostle Church; (E) English Mass; (L) Latin Mass

### **GIVING:**

St. Stanislaus, 12/3/2022 — \$1086, 12/10/2022 — \$475

St. Paul the Apostle, 12/4/2022 — \$1109, 12/11/2022 — \$1527