

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Eichler & Parenta Families

10:00AM Mary Corrado

Devin Williams

12:00PM Rosemary & John Della Rosa

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

ST. PETER CANISIUS

11:00AM Nedelko Radovic

Tamis Scocik

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

11:00AM Mary Corrado

Anne Marie Mazza

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

ST. JOHN OF KANTY

11:00AM Nedelko Radovic

John Mattessich

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00AM Rocco Suriano

2:30PM Rosemary Kovacs

5:00PM Maria & Ottavio Martire

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:00AM Cecilia Gasparetich

10:00AM Maria Lechich

12:00PM Maria Busanic

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

ST. STEPHEN

11:00AM Police Officer Stephen John

Petruzzello

5:00PM Vera Dragas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

10:00AM Police Officer Stephen John

Petruzzello

Ivan Picinic "Jivonic"

12:00PM Nicolangelo, Antoinette &

Maria Pallotta

ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of

D'Andrea & Milone Families

ALTAR WINE

In Memory of

Ernie Sdrigotti

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of

Lawrence Gangemi

MASS CANDLES

In Memory of

David Mihalinec

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for this Sunday are:

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-121, 14a, 16

Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me.

Ps. 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Rom 16:25-27

The gospel reveals the mystery that has been hidden for many ages.

Luke 1:26-38

Mary said: "Let it be done to me as you say."

RESPONDING TO DIVINE SELECTION

From my earliest times in high school seminary, I noticed that most people are selected for specific functions because of what the authorities perceive about them which could be physical or attitudinal. For instance, those who are selected to be in-charge of manual labor are those who are strong and duty conscious. Those who are selected to be in-charge of sanitary are those who appear clean and tidy. Those that take charge of sports are those who are good at sporting activities. Student leaders are mostly orators and people with conceivable leadership qualities

What has been established above could be seen when God chooses someone for a specific function. But the difference is that God sees beyond our level of seeing as human beings and the same applies to whom He chooses. God can select what is humanly small to undertake a very big project; He can choose the weak to shame the strong (1 Cor.1:27). This is where God's grace comes in. For every divine vision, there is always a divine provision. For every divine function, there is a corresponding divine unction.

This last Sunday of Advent presents us with what could rightly be considered as the divine selection which eventually brought the emergence of the messiah. In the First Reading (2 Sam. 7, 1-5. 8-11.16) we read the plan of King David to build a temple for God and how God, through the prophet Nathan, rejected the offer. One would like to know why God turned down David's offer. In the reply given by the oracle of Isaiah, we do not see a specific reason but a recast or throwback of God's selection of David from being a shepherd to being a King.

The story of David's selection from among his brothers remains remarkably interesting and instructive. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem (house of bread) to the household of Jesse to anoint a new King since the incumbent (Saul) had been rejected by God. God can select and deselect anybody the way and manner He chooses! Jesse had eight sons but seven were at home when Samuel visited.

The first among them, Eliab, had all the physical prerequisites of a King. If it were in a high school setting, he could pass for the head boy. Samuel wanted to anoint him when God told him not to do so as He (God) does not see as men do. In fact, none of the seven of them could make the list; only David the last, and the one they considered small and weak made it. The Kingship of David was therefore by divine selection. We then ask: "Why was it necessary to make a recast of David's selection in the event of building a house for God as we saw in the First Reading today?"

The answer to the above could be found in the last verse (16) where God promised to secure the house of David, his Kingdom, and his throne forever. This is a pointer to the eternal Kingdom which the Messiah would bring. We understand this clearly from God's messianic message to Mary through the angel which stated among other things that: "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David" (Luke 1:32). God was telling David that He (God) selects individuals for various functions and not individuals selecting themselves for divine functions as many would do in our society today.

The Gospel Reading (Luke 1:26-38) gives us another significant instance of divine selection. This time it was directed to a virgin whose name is Mary and who had been betrothed to a man named Joseph. Simply put, Mary was selected by God to be the mother of the Messiah. We could ask why she was selected among all the young ladies of her time. Was it on account for her beauty, social status, prayer life, or any other personal attribute? The answer is no! It is all about the grace of God at work. It is the grace of God that locates; selects and confirms us for specific tasks.

Divine selection is something that we often cannot understand as human beings. That is why St. Paul in the Second Reading (Romans 16:25-27) would refer to it as a mystery that has been kept for ages but has been revealed. God does not select the perfect, but He perfects His grace on anyone He selects. In God's selection process class, size, and geography do not matter.

In all these we understand that the coming of the messiah was not a historical accident. It was an event totally based on a divine plan or purpose which included divine selection and confirmation. As we await the coming of the Messiah a few days from today let us bear in mind that we are also divinely selected for certain purposes in life. Like David and Mary, we are expected to cooperate with God to have the accomplishment of the divine plan in our lives.

As we wait for the coming of our Savior into our hearts in a few days, it will be very appropriate for us to put into focus all that we have been told in the preceding Sundays of Advent bothering on preparation, active and joyful waiting, and creating room for him in our hearts. The message of advent among other things is challenging us to respond to God's selection of your heart and mine as the birthplaces of our savior. David responded with a yes by kneeling before Samuel to be anointed. Mary responded with a very resounding FIAT (let it be done to me as you have said). What would be your own response?

Have an invigorating last Sunday of Advent.

Fr. Bonnie



PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here.

December 13, 2020

Sunday Collection \$5,292.00
Religious Retirement Fund Collection \$ 822.00

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

MISSALETTES FOR ADVENT-LENT

New Missalettes for Advent through Lent are on sale at the rectory for \$3.00 each. We will not be able to put the books into the pews during this pandemic. If you wish to have a book to follow along with the mass, please purchase your own. All books contain weekday and Sunday readings.

SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday Masses will be at 5:00PM on Saturday and on Sunday at 10:00AM and 12 Noon. We can now accommodate up to 150 persons at each mass. When you attend mass, you must wear a mask before you enter the Church and leave it on for the whole mass. Also, please sanitize your hands when entering the Church with the hand sanitizers found at the elevator entrance. Please do not take off or lower your mask when you approach the priest for Holy Communion. Take the Communion in your hand and step aside and lift your mask as you return to your seat.

Once again, please consider whether you are "at risk" and make a good choice about whether or not to attend mass. I remind you that the Archbishop has indefinitely dispensed all Catholics from their "Sunday obligation" so do NOT feel compelled to attend mass out of fear. If any of you is feeling "under the weather" or running a fever, we ask you please DO NOT come to the church. You may be jeopardizing the life and health of others.

CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

Keep us good Lord,

Under the shadow of your mercy,

In this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,

And lift up all who are brought low;

That we may rejoice in your comfort

Knowing that nothing can separate us from

Your love.

In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

**"UNTIL YOU GIVE, YOU
DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE.
ONLY WHAT YOU HAVE CAN
YOU GIVE!"**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Thursday, December 24th2:30PM & 5:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Friday, December 25th8:00AM, 10:00AM & 12 Noon

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Thursday, December 31st5:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

Friday, January 1st10:00AM & 12 Noon

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 2nd5:00PM

Sunday, January 3rd10:00AM & 12 Noon

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Baby Michael, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate, Tatiana Flores, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Sean O'Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Louanne Mitchell, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O'Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Conrado Trinidad, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Laura Cipullo, Richard Allen, Anthony Martello, Jr., Miguel Madera, Joe Villani, Lisa Mutchler, Elizabeth Chan, Benjamin Yap, Henry Yap, Anthony McCluskey, Jane Kim Estantino, Mike Hromin, Nancy Manto, Roy Regaspi, Gloria Marquez, David Barmore, Drew Johnson, Kunaim Emelyanesko, Kathy Santiago, Vinny Franco, Baby Grayson DiNatale, Kathie Gumb, Michael O'Connor, Patrick Shanley, Perry Bonaguaro, Rev. John Renard, Louise O'Connor, Cathleen McLaughlin, Fran Barbato, Jared Lanzaloto, Joel Rivera, Angelina Cozzitorto, Joseph Kirincich, Guy DiNapoli, Lucy D'Ambrosio, Marc DePasquale, Steven Skific.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Edward Rooney.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace and Beloved Savior; come into our hearts this Christmas and fill us with Your gifts of love and joy.

With Mary and Joseph, we rejoice and thank God for You. With the angels and saints in heaven, we sing, "Glory to God in the highest."

With the Magi and the shepherds, we bow before You with hearts full of wonder. Help us to follow You faithfully and to share the good news of Your coming with everyone we meet, this Christmas season and always. Amen.

