

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## December 24, 2018

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Marie Harrell

10 P.M. – Sweet Home – Father Charles Sonnier

#### Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9 A.M. – Koerth – Margaret Hermes

#### Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Frank Steffek

#### Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Gene & Lydia Hermes

#### Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. - James, Frances & Eddie Kupka

#### Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Hubert Smolik

#### Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Helen Mizera

9 A.M. – Koerth – Agnes Dornak

### Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of the souls of all the faithful departed.

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

### Your Gift to God: December 16<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$1,112
Online Giving	\$520
DSA	\$300
Koerth	\$662

*May God reward your generosity!*

### Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

# Merry Christmas!

### Deepest Appreciation

I would like to thank all the parishioners for the wonderful installation and reception last Saturday. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity!

Fr. Dominic

### Feast of Christmas Mass Schedule

Sweet Home - December 24<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 P.M.  
10:00 P.M.

Koerth - December 25<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 A.M.

### Feast of Mary, Mother of God

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1<sup>st</sup>, is a holy day of obligation. There will be Masses for the feast day as follows:

Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 P.M.

Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 A.M.

### Stayed Tuned for Continuous Christmas Music – 91.5 FM

Listen to continuous Christmas music beginning December 21<sup>st</sup> thru December 25 by tuning in to KHCB 91.5 FM radio.



# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

## December 30, 2018

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

6:30 P.M. – Sweet Home – Victor & Cecilia Bujnoch

#### Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

7 A.M. Sweet Home – Frankie Raska

#### Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

7 A. M. – Louis E. Pustka

#### Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

7 A.M. – Dorothy Dworsky

#### Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Josephine Anders

#### Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Marie Hariell

#### Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Norman Chumchal

9 A.M. – Koerth – Edward Hermes

### Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for peace throughout the world.

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

### Faith Formation

CCD/Faith Formation classes will resume  
Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.



### Christmas Message

*One of the characteristics of Christmas is light. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." (Is 9:1) Light stands for knowledge and truth as opposed to ignorance and falsehood. Light as a source of heat also stand for love. Since the light of Christ appeared on our world, our world has never been the same for the he has dispelled the darkness of sin and given us the light of truth. The Christ child by becoming one like us has given us a share in his divinity. "For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulders dominion rests. "They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. (Is 9:5) May the peace, joy, love and light of Christ Jesus fill you all and your families this Christmas Season.*

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

-Fr. Dominic



# A feast no longer celebrated invites us deeper into the Bethlehem journey

Larry Peterson

## *80 miles, 4 days ... how many times did she have to stop for the bathroom?*

In the year 431, the Council of Ephesus declared that the Blessed Virgin Mary is truly “Theotokos,” the Mother of God. Within the season of Advent is the Feast of the Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast is celebrated on December 18.

This feast is a profound commemoration of what Our Lady and St. Joseph went through during the week preceding the first Christmas. (Today it is only celebrated in Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Poland, and among some religious groups.)

Have we ever thought about Joseph and Mary during this time? Have we ever tried to imagine how it was for them?

They were about to embark on an 80-mile journey to Bethlehem. There were no paved roads, cars, trains, planes, nor were their rest-stops along the way. They traveled along rocky, dirty, dusty paths.

I am sure most dads remember the birth of their first child. I know I do. I was 25 years old, and Loretta’s water broke on a Sunday afternoon. The journey by car over paved roads, across the George Washington Bridge and into Manhattan, took 20 minutes.

When we arrived, she was immediately taken to maternity and I was relegated to the waiting room. I was filled with massive relief knowing that my wife and soon to be born baby were in capable hands. I was not thinking about St. Joseph.

I will let you moms ponder how it must have been for the Savior’s mom. Although filled with grace and protected by God Himself, she was human with all the emotions and fears any normal woman would have. Those feelings were real.

As a man, I cannot imagine having to face the responsibility of taking my pregnant wife who was about to give birth on an 80-mile trek to get to a place without having any idea where we were to stay. The entire concept is, as we would say today, crazy! But for the

chosen parents of the Messiah, that was their reality. They had no choice.

The journey would have taken Joseph and Mary at least four days. Imagine all the stops along the way, especially with our Blessed Mother having a full-term baby leaning on her bladder. Yes, she was human.

They would have had to rest; but where? On the side of the road? They had to eat; did they start a fire and try to cook something? They had no Igloo coolers, so what did they use to preserve their food (whatever it was) and how much water were they able to carry? How many changes of clothing did they bring along? Where did they wash up? Where did they change their clothes?

When they reached Bethlehem, Joseph had to leave his worn out and pregnant wife, alone, in a strange place, and try to find shelter. We folks today just look for the first motel we see, pull in, sign in, and have a nice clean room with a warm bed waiting for us. It was not the same for the Holy Family; not even close. They wound up in a place that sheltered animals. This was Mary’s maternity center and her birthing room was a pile of hay. It is SO hard to imagine.

We owe our Blessed Mother so much. She accepted God’s incredible gift of the Divine Maternity and all that followed; from seeing Joseph react to the initial horror at learning of her pregnancy, from the Bethlehem journey, to the First Christmas in a cave, and onward through His Passion and death ... everything Mary did was a selfless act that came straight from the all-consuming Love that is in her Immaculate Heart.

As for St. Joseph—he is the exemplar role model for all of us, especially us men. He loves his God and his family and will do all in his power to care for and protect them, no matter what. That is what a real man does.

We followers of Christ are truly blessed. Why is it so many do not see that?

