

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

10773 River Road, Ama, LA 70031

***Fr. Peter Akpoghiran, Pastor**
(for emergency use only: 703-895-5709)

***Fr. Peter's St. Mark Office Hours:**
Mondays – 9 am - 12 noon
Wednesdays – 1 pm - 4 pm
or by appointment

Rosary Crain, Secretary

504-431-3505 (parish office) 504-431-3506 (FAX)

*Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

St. Mark Office e mail.....tmarkama@arch-no.org

Mary Loup, PCL.....504-289-2900

PCL e mail.....mloup@arch-no.org

St. Mark web site.....www.stmarkama.com

*Facebook.....St. Mark Catholic Church Ama, LA

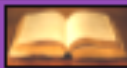


**Fourth Sunday
of ADVENT**

**Dec. 20,
2020**



**RELECTION ON
THE READINGS**



In the first reading, **2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16**, King David—after conquering his enemies, establishing Jerusalem as his capital city and experiencing peace and prosperity throughout the Kingdom of Israel—decides that it is time for him to build a permanent dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant which was being kept in a tent.

[Note: the Ark, a golden box containing the original stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, is a physical reminder of the Covenant that God made with Moses on Mt. Sinai. Thus, the Ark is Israelites' most sacred object. It is a symbol of the Covenant which officially made the Israelites God's Chosen People. Moreover, it is a sign of God's presence among them because the wings of the cherubim (angels) form the "mercy seat"—that is, the place God appears when His presence is in the Temple.]



At first, speaking only for himself—not for God—the prophet Nathan agrees with David's plan, but God quickly informs his prophet that He (God) is **NOT** in favor of David's idea. Speaking through Nathan, God tells David that the decision to build, or not to build, a permanent dwelling for the Ark is to be made by Him (God) alone; it is not David's place to make that determination. Nathan reminds David, the great King of Israel, that God is the source of his power and authority, as well as his military and political skills. Then, God reveals his own plan to establish a "house"—that is, a royal line or dynasty—from David. God promises that this dynasty will be established through a future descendant of David and that it will last forever. God explains that this promise will be fulfilled when David's heir—who is understood as being very close to God—inherits David's throne, and because of this future descendant, David's kingdom will stand firm, enduring forever.

In the Gospel, **Luke 1: 26-38**, God's promise to David is fulfilled when Mary accepts God's will and agrees to become the mother of the Messiah. In announcing to Mary the good news of God's favor, the Angel Gabriel describes Jesus (the name means "God saves") as the heir promised to David through the prophet Nathan. Gabriel says that Jesus will be great, the Son of the Most High (God); he will be given the throne of David his father (ancestor), and his kingdom will last forever. There is no doubt that Jesus is the promised heir to David's throne, but the most amazing part of this prophecy is the factual relationship between God and Jesus, between Father and Son.



When God speaks through Nathan describing David's heir, He says, "I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me." Throughout the Old Testament, this statement is taken figuratively—meaning that the heir will have a close relationship with God, a person the Jews would call "righteous" and Christians would describe as "holy" or "saintly." Yet, according to the Angel Gabriel, Nathan's statement—made 1000 years before the birth of Jesus—is literally true. Gabriel explains to Mary

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GENERAL MASS SCHEDULE

The rosary is prayed 30 minutes before each Mass.

8:00 am DAILY MASS: MON. – SAT.

Tuesday: Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Novena after Mass

Friday: Sacred Heart Novena after Mass

First Friday: Benediction and Sacred Heart
Novena after Mass

5:30 pm SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

9:30 am SUNDAY MASS

HOLY DAYS: 8:00 am & 8:00 pm (no vig il)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

*All Grades are online using: **"My Catholic Faith
Delivered: Faith and Life online"**

CONFESSION:

* Saturday 6:00 pm— 6:15 pm;
Sunday 9:00 am—9:15 am;
or by appointment.

WEDDINGS:

Please contact Father at least 8 months before
proposed wedding date to begin the required
preparation process.

FUNERALS:

Notify Father before contacting the funeral home.

BAPTISMS:

Parents must attend a seminar before the baptism
of their first child. Godparents who have never
attended a seminar must also attend. Please
contact the parish office for further details.

***(ALL CHANGES ARE NOTED IN RED)**

BAPTISM SEMINARS

**The Baptism seminars will be held "as
needed." Please contact Parish Office to
schedule a Baptism Seminar. Once the
parents and godparents have attended a
seminar, the Baptism date can be set.**