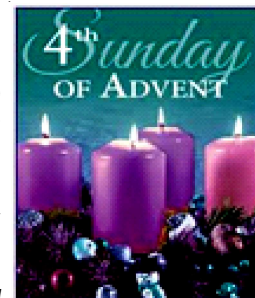


**FOCUS: God has promised us he will not forsake us, or leave us alone.
 Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.**



There is a somewhat humorous, if not also very insightful, observation about the often-used command in Scripture: Do not be afraid. This observation is that any time we hear “fear not,” or “do not be afraid,” something very-worth-being-afraid-of is about to happen. In other words, the words “fear not” ought to strike fear into our hearts, because we are about to be asked to do something far outside of our comfort zone: to trust, to have faith, to grow, to love, to follow where the Lord is leading us.

There is something amusing in this, because there is also some truth to it. How many of us have had children say, “don’t be mad, but...” (followed by something that likely makes us mad), or heard someone say, “don’t worry, but...” (followed by something no one would blame us for worrying about).

But there is something quite insightful in this observation, too. And that is, we can laugh at the idea of it because we know, in the end, that all will be well. How do we know this? Because of why we are told not to be afraid: *Do not fear, I am with you* (Isaiah 41:10); *Be strong, do not fear! He comes to save you* (Isaiah 35:4); *Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid* (Mark 6:50). From the beginning of human time, God has promised us he will not forsake us, or leave us alone. And so today: *Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

Mary, perfected in grace, has been chosen by God for something we’d agree that anyone of common sense would find frightening. But in her knowledge of God’s favor upon her (another way of saying God would always be with her), she steps boldly and fully into the unknown. She has been told that *the Holy Spirit will come upon [her]*; and that *the power of the Most High will overshadow [her]*. She will not be alone. She will have the help and grace of God, for whom nothing will be impossible.

And so her fiat – *May it be done to me according to your word* – makes perfect sense. How could she not say yes, when her faith and trust in a God who had nurtured his covenant and fulfilled his every promise, was affirmed by his envelopment of her in his love and protection? How could we not say yes, when the same God who found favor with Mary, finds favor with us and never forsakes us? He can strengthen us, Paul writes to the Romans. Where we cannot, God can. We do nothing alone, and all things through the grace of God.

The angels and prophets, and Jesus himself, are right to tell us “fear not.” For God is with us. *Emmanuel*. And so we can laugh at the observation regarding Scripture, and we can laugh in the face of our fear. And in these remaining days of Advent, we give thanks for our Triune God who desires to be in relationship with us, who dwelt among us and whose Holy Spirit empowers us in our faith. We do not have to be afraid.

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**CHRISTMAS – DAY
 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - SOLEMNITY**

FOCUS: Let the joyful mystery of the Incarnation change our hearts day after day.

The day a baby is born is an occasion of great joy and celebration. Family and friends visit the new parents, excited phone calls are made, and social media announcements invite all to share the family’s excitement. Everyone gets caught up in the jubilation, taking turns holding the baby and rejoicing over the new miracle.

And then, whether abruptly or gradually, the excitement wanes. The visitors leave. The hubbub gives way to silence interrupted by little baby coos. The parents sit, staring in bleary-eyed awe at the tiny bundle that has changed their lives forever.

Christmas is the meeting of heaven and earth, the moment when the eternal God enters our broken world as both fully God and fully human – the fulfillment of the hopes and prophecies of millennia. This truth is so monumental that it should define every single day of our lives. The excitement of the birth of this child should never wane. That is the challenge: to allow the wondrous, wonderful mystery of the Incarnation to truly permeate our hearts and minds every day.

The celebration of Christmas gives us the opportunity to visit the Christ-child in the manger, and to sit in awe with Mary and Joseph in the presence of Jesus. We rejoice with angels and shepherds; we celebrate with family and friends. It is also an opportunity to ask ourselves how *this* baby’s birth changes our lives. Each one of us can ask God to help us realize, and act upon, how our life is different because of Jesus’ presence in the world.

John’s Gospel tells us why Jesus’ birth is the pivotal moment in history: The Incarnation brings God to us. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory.* God humbled himself to become one of us, to teach us about himself and show us how to live, love, and serve him. In doing so, the eternal Son revealed the Father to us. He opened the gates of heaven through his death and resurrection, enabling us to live with God forever. Jesus lowered himself to bring us something we could never reach for ourselves.

But the question remains: How does this baby’s birth change me?

New parents might say that their first child taught them to be less selfish and more self-giving, that they experienced a deep joy even during difficult times, or that a child inspired them to improve themselves. Can we say the same about our encounter with Jesus?

Imagine the God of the universe, who created the stars and angels, and you and me, swaddled tightly and napping in his mother’s arms. With a loving smile, she hands her son to you. Imagine his heavy eyes opening as he looks at you before drifting back to sleep. You’re holding the Messiah, who will one day die for you. Rise for you. The same Jesus whom you will receive in the Eucharist.

How does this encounter with Jesus change you? Not just today, but forever?

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CHRISTMAS 2020 CHARITIES COLLECTION – As is our custom, the annual Christmas Collection will be dedicated to the ministry of Catholic Charities. In addition to the good works that our parishes do individually, Catholic Charities is able to reach out to and address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people living in our local see. Through Catholic Charities we as a diocese are better able to fulfill the Gospel mandate of Christ; namely, that we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and welcome the stranger in our midst. It is the poorest among us who are most exposed to and unprotected from financial and unforeseen distress. This was vividly manifested recently in the manner they responded to those who were affected by the pandemic through food distributions and to the vulnerable this past hurricane season. In and through our funding the ministry of Catholic Charities through the Christmas Collection, we breathe new life into the words Jesus spoke at the synagogue in Nazareth, bringing good news to the poor and announcing a year of favor from the Lord. Our quota this year is \$6,465.00. Please be generous and help us reach our quota!

MASS ATTENDANCE – It is vital that we stay within the guidelines of the state regarding places of worship. **You must wear a mask. **Remain 6 feet apart (social distancing). **No physical contact outside your household. ** The 10:30am Mass will be live-streamed on our website and FB page.

WEEKLY GOAL TO MEET ANNUAL NEEDS: \$6,500.00	
STEWARDSHIP REPORT – DECEMBER 13, 2020	
Collection – \$4,908.00	Diocesan Retirement for Priest - \$985.00
Immaculate Conception - \$525.00	Maintenance - \$78.00

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Sat, 12/19 – 4:00pm** – Paul Fournier, Wayne Riche’, June Fischer (DA)
- Sun, 12/20 – 8:00am** – June Fischer, Fernando, Sr., Lilia & Grandparents
- Sun, 12/20 – 10:30am** – Chad Rozands (B), Harold Cade, Lori Vedros Phipps, Richard J. Vedros, Herbert & Bernie Louviere, William & Leontine Louviere
- Mon, 12/21 – 6:30am** – Liturgy of the Word
- Tue, 12/22 – 6:30am** – Lori Vedros Phipps, Richard J. Vedros (B-12/21), Herbert & Bernie Louviere, William & Leontine Louviere
- Wed, 12/23 – 6:30am** – Mary & Marcella Bourgeois, Helen & Dallas Boudreaux
- Thu, 12/24 – 4:00pm** – **CHRISTMAS VIGIL (This mass will be livestreamed)** – Paul & Anne Fournier
- Thu, 12/24 – 6:00pm** – **CHRISTMAS VIGIL** – Fernando, Sr., Lilia & Grandparents, Eleanora Lirette
- Fri, 12/25 – 7:30am** – **CHRISTMAS MASS** – Ray & Betty Waguespack
- Fri, 12/25 – 9:00am** – **CHRISTMAS MASS** – Noel Miller (B), Claire “Preci” Cresson (DA), Lori Vedros Phipps, Richard J. Vedros, Herbert & Bernie Louviere, William & Leontine Louviere
- Sat, 12/26 – 4:00pm** – Myra Blanchard, Harvey Perque
- Sun, 12/27 – 8:00am** – Dale Lirette
- Sun, 12/27 – 10:30am** – Michael Arceneaux (DA), Lori Vedros Phipps, Richard J. Vedros, Herbert & Bernie Louviere, William & Leontine Louviere

RCIA CLASSES will meet at 9:00am in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st.

WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sat, 12/19 – Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
- Sun, 12/20 – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
- Mon, 12/21 – Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
- Tue, 12/22 – 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
- Wed, 12/23 – Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
- Thr, 12/24 – **VIGIL MASS** – Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25
- Fri, 12/25 – Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-5, 9-14
- Sat, 12/26 – Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
- Sun, 12/27 – Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

FORMS FOR 2021 MASS INTENTIONS AND SANCTUARY CANDLES FOR 2021 – are available on the table in the back of Church. Please **PRINT YOUR INFORMATION** and be sure to **INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER** in case we need to contact you. Please get them turned in as soon as possible.



Christmas Donations were made In Honor of ♥ Noe' Breaux & Audrey Breaux ♥ David S. Spence by Kim Spence ♥ Lori Phipps by Deborah Cintron ♥ A.P. Hebert by Jane Hebert & Family ♥ Francis Trahan & Marjorie Giroir by Lorraine Trahan ♥ Voclairn, Gros & Lirette Families by Mr. & Mrs. Riley Gros ♥ Sister Rosario O'Connell by Mr. & Mrs. Michael St. Martin ♥ Darwin Lafont & Geraldine Lafont by Chancey & Dina Bonvillain ♥ Louis & Lois Authement, Ed & Dolly Richard by Ed & Elaine Richard ♥ Albert & Bernice Comeaux & Gary & Cheryl Hebert by Celeste Comeaux ♥ Frank, Tot & Charlie Barrett; Hargon & Barrett Families by Barrett Family ♥ Leroy Scott, Sr., Walterine Scott, Marie Brunet, Leroy Scott, Jr. by Timmy & Jan Brunet ♥ Dr. John Damper, Dr. & Mrs. John Lally, Ralph Lally, Pam Lally Senac by Milly Damper ♥ Clay & Cecile Guidry & Son, Irvin & Dielle Hebert; Dudley & Betty Hebert by Jane Hebert ♥ Vauncille Armand, Gerald Armand and Felix & Sylvia Bernard by Matthew & Jennifer Armand & Family ♥ Joseph & Alice Theriot, Ellis & Edna Ortego, & Percy & Edith Armand by Matthew & Jennifer Armand Famil ♥ Della & Louis Cunningham, Terry Cunningham, Ernie Alario, Nicholas Braud, Kristin Portier by Susan & Bennett Porche ♥ Ted & Violet DeYeide Borowski, John Ford, Sr., Betty Lockwood, Carin Lapeyrouse Schreiber, Borowski, DeYeide, Dison & Ford Family by James & Stefanie Ford ♥ Voncile Breaux, Yvette Davis, Kate Halzenthal, Ruby & Rivers Breaux, Huey Breaux, Ira & Rivers Breaux, Pat, Toney & Craig Breaux by Yvonne & Floyd Breaux & Gabby ♥ Loved Ones by Mr. & Mrs. Riley Gros ♥ Edgar J. Breaux, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Blanchard, Mr. & Mrs. Alcide Hebert, Adams, Hebert, Blanchard & Breaux families by Mr. & Mrs. Evance Adams ♥ Chad Rozands by June & Peter Rozands, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lirette and Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Ashley ♥ Hebert Family and Begue Family by Gary and Ann Hebert ♥ Norris & Julie Schexnayder and Lloyd & Yvonne Dagenhardt by Glynn & Jeannie Dagenhardt ♥ Roy & Lee LeBlanc, Faye Dungan by Mike & Debbie Coston ♥ Lawrence Bueche, Hilton & Vera Boudloche by Kerry & Jan Bueche ♥ Chris Lajaunie, Charley Redmond, Sr. & Jr., Thelma & Robert Lajaunie ♥ Newel Porche, Jr., Newel Porche, Sr., Esther Porche, Jeanette Porche, Abel Leblanc, Anabelle Leblanc, Jay Leblanc by Bennett & Susan Porche ♥ Houston Ezell, Sr. and Curtis Ezell ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Gable Duplantis, M/M Joe Daspit, Casey Duplantis, Joseph Daspit, Jr., Raymond Metternich, Jr., Clarence A. Hebert, Jr., Lee Ida Hebert Rodrigue by Betty Hebert ♥ The Schouest Family ♥ The Davis Family ♥ Bonnie Guidry by Raymond & Phyllis G. Babin ♥ Allen & Rosalie Dumond, Keith Dumond, Devin Dumond, Jeanette Belanger, Barry Belanger, Oscar Bergeron by Brad & Karen Belanger ♥

RIGHT TO LIFE CALENDARS – A short presentation will be given at all Masses the weekend on December 19th and 20th. Right to Life calendars will be available after Mass. Please be generous. Bring your checkbook and write a large check to Right to Life. **Thank you, David Smith**



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- **Sunday, 12/20** **1:00pm** – Decorating of the Church for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please come out and help with this.
- **Thursday, 12/24** **4:00pm** – Vigil Mass – Mass will be livestreamed!
- **6:00pm** – Vigil Mass
- **Friday, Dec 25th** **7:30am** - Mass
- **9:00am** Mass



Due to Covid Restrictions, we will offer a 4th Christmas Mass.

The Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, December 24th & 25th**

LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY DUES – Ms. Virdie will be in the back of church to collect 2021 dues for the Ladies Altar Society beginning this week. You may also turn in Mass Request and Sanctuary Candle request to her. **Thank you!**

SANCTUARY CANDLE burn this week

IN LOVING MEMORY of Craig, Clay, Cecil Guidry & Son, Milton, Olivia, Bobby & Brandy Deville & Pat Railey by Juanita, Allen, and Isaiah Guidry ♥ **Charla, Raymond & Margery Dusenbery, Earl, Zona, Craig Louviere & Family, Donaldson, Breaux & Clement Families** by Charles & Belva Dusenbery ♥ **O. J., Emily & Otis Voclairn, Ronald & Barbara Lirette, Leona, Rodney, Chester, Leoda & Klobert Gros** by Riley & Marie Gros ♥ **Edgar Breaux, Jr., M/M Anthony Blanchard, M/M Alcide Hebert, Adams, Hebert, Blanchard Family** by Mr. & Mrs. Evance Adams, III ♥ **BeBe Breaux, Stanley, Sr., Eva, S.P., Jr., Betty Hebert & Sons, Breaux, Trahan, Giroir, Blanchard & Hebert Families** by Virdie and Bubba Breaux ♥ **Begue & Hebert Families, Ellen Monterio, Cody Antill & Dale Bergeron** by Ann & Gary Hebert ♥ **Bonnie, Rene & Marguerite Guidry, Ernest, Ertell & Emil Joller** by Ulysse & Miriam Guidry ♥ **Davis, Jr. & Michael Arceneaux, Iris Gaston Talbot, Vicki & Christopher Steib & Rena Hebert** by Shelia Arceneaux ♥ **Ed & Dolly Richard, Lucy Porche, Louis & Lois Authement, June Fischer, Sylvia & Reed Folse, Dot & Junel Marcel** by Ed & Elaine Richard ♥ **Gerald Marcel, Clay & Cecile Guidry & Son, Louis Marcel & Family, Ida Touns & Patsy Webre** by Gail Marcel ♥ **John, Della, Warren, Eula, Will, Ronald and Emmett Rodrigue, Arthur and Marie Hebert** by Rodrigue Family ♥ **Logan Naquin, Trey Marmande, Gerald & Judith Duplantis** by the Chafin Family ♥ **M/M Joseph Dufour, M/M George Darsey, M/M Harold Favret, Sr., Harold Favret, Jr., Charles Favret & Marie Hyland** by Linda D. Favret ♥ **Neal, Linda, Theresa & Reynold Hebert; Giroir, Faucheaux & Hebert Family** by Janis Hebert & Hebert Family ♥ **Pierre LeBlanc, Ann Gill, Terri Lambert, Nell Kay & Curtis Marcello, Sr., Tenny Moore, Bubba McNeal, Aull & LeBlanc Families** by Kaye LeBlanc ♥ **Ryan & Marc Pitre, Viella & Nolan Rogers** by Carol Antill ♥ **Ted & Violet DeYeide Borowski, John Ford Sr., Betty Lockwood, Carin Lapeyrouse Schreiber** ♥ **Borowski, DeYeide, Dison and Ford family** by James & Stefanie Ford ♥ **Victor & Beau Tedesco & Tedesco and Boudreaux Families** by Madelyn Tedesco ♥

JESSE GIVING TREE – Checks can be made out to St. Vincent; cash and coins are also appreciated. You can even make a "refill" during the month of December! Filled bottles can be returned to Ms. Verdie in the vestibule of church. **Please return all bottles at the Christmas Masses.**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sat, 12/19 4:00pm – Vigil Mass
- Sun, 12/20 8:00am – Mass
- 9:00am – RCIA in the Parish Hall
- 10:30am – Mass
- 1:00pm – Decorating the Church – **Volunteers needed**
- 6:30am – Liturgy of the Word
- Mon, 12/21 6:30am – Mass
- Tue, 12/22 6:30am – Mass
- Wed, 12/23 6:30am – Mass
- Thr, 12/24 4:00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass
- 6:00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass
- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Fri, 12/25 7:30am – Christmas Mass
- 9:00am – Christmas Mass
- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Sat, 12/26 4:00pm – Vigil Mass
- Sun, 12/27 8:00am – Mass
- 10:30am – Mass



DECORATING THE CHURCH – We will need volunteers to help decorate the church on Sunday, December 20th at 1:00pm. Please consider coming out to help for a few hours. We want the church beautiful to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

2021 STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES have not been received yet, we will advise you as soon as they arrive.

All Catholic/Private School students in **SECOND GRADE** need to register during the month of December. This will give us the information needed so that we can set them up for classes beginning in January, so that the can make their First Communion.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Youth Faith Formation Classes will NOT be held from December 20, 2020 – January 10, 2021