

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we focus our attention on our Blessed Mother Mary and her unique role in salvation history, which is the story of God's relationship with all of creation. God's intervention in history with Mary is part of a long line of attempts by God to demonstrate how much He loves humanity and how far He will go to meet us. Through Blessed Mother Mary, God offers the most intimate gift of Himself- His Only Son, Jesus.



We might think that Mary's role in the Annunciation was rather easy, as if all she had to do was simply say "yes" to God's invitation to become His Son's mother. We also might wonder why today's Gospel passage of the Annunciation Story was not proclaimed on the First Sunday of Advent to start this liturgical season. And since we already heard this Gospel proclaimed on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we might ask: "why bother to repeat it again?" The reason is rather simple and very important. God the Father wants us to enter the Mystery of the Incarnation of His Son Jesus being deeply united to Mary-His Mother and Our Mother. God also wants us to imitate and model Mary's complete and total trust in Him. God wants us to accept His will in our lives like Mary did.

The Annunciation Story is probably one of the most beloved scenes in the Gospel. It is **the** intimate moment between Mary and the angel Gabriel, when Mary says "Yes" to God's plan for her. The Annunciation is truly a story about Mary's obedience, courage, and the acceptance of God's will in her life. Mary, a young virgin (a teenager), was betrothed to Joseph. She planned to marry him, raise a family, and live an ordinary, uneventful life in Nazareth. But then, all of a sudden, her plans are changed as her whole world is turned upside down. Her life is reordered by a message given to her from God by the angel Gabriel. God's message for her: "Mary, you are full of grace and I have chosen you to become the mother of my Beloved Son." Gabriel then explains to Mary how all this will happen. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, she will conceive and bear a child and this child will be called holy, the Son of God. Gabriel shows an awareness of just how overwhelming all this information must be for Mary. Although it all sounds impossible, Gabriel reassures Mary that "nothing will be impossible for God." Then Mary, with great courage, unhesitatingly responds to God's invitation and accepts the responsibility of becoming the mother of His Son: "I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." Mary knew that being favored (graced) by God came with profound, challenging responsibilities. But she also knew that being favored by God came with His unconditional and everlasting love and the reassurance that there is nothing to fear. *Continued...*

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 19	4:00 p.m	For our Parish
Sun Dec 20	8:00 a.m.	Wanda Kiene
Sun Dec 20	10:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving
Sat Dec 26	4:00 p.m	George Donaldson
Sun Dec 27	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Dec 27	10:00 a.m	Special Intention

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,890.00	Loose \$96.00
Total	\$1,986.00	
39 envelopes returned = 19%		



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for December 26 & 27, 2020

**Money Counters: Barb Galvan, Janet Begg
4:00 p.m.**

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lector: Jenny Roby
E.M.: Edna Conkling
Servers: Adelyn Althaus

8:00 a.m.

Cantors: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Roger Brodman
Lectors: Lisa Welch
E.M.: Michelle Risner
Servers: Izzy and Ally Stechschulte

Readings for December 27, 2020

Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1 - 3
2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11 - 12, 17- 19
Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22 - 40

