



This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of

the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Matthew 11:2-11

Mass Intentions

This Weekend

Saturday 3:30 PM Recitation of the Rosary
December 21 4:00 PM RIP Jean Ashcroft
 By: Betsy Mercier

Sunday 9:30 AM Recitation of the Rosary
December 22 10:00 AM RIP Paul Brodeur (death rem)
 By Karen Brodeur

Daily Masses

Monday 7:00 AM RIP John F. O'Connor
 December 23 By: Bill & Carol Griffin

Tuesday 4:00 PM RIP Francis Denno
 December 24 By: Colin James

7:00 PM RIP Michael Nauceder
 By: Paul & Betsy Mercier

Midnight RIP Joanne Joy
 By: Barb Joy

Wednesday 10:00 AM RIP Bobrowski & Podgurski Families
 December 25 By: Ellen Podgurski

Thursday No Mass
 December 26

Friday No Mass
 December 27

Next Weekend

Saturday 3:30 PM Recitation of the Rosary
December 28 4:00 PM RIP Joseph Nowotny
 By: Sharon & Jim Williams

Sunday 9:30 AM Recitation of the Rosary
December 29 10:00 AM RIP Vincenzo Ruggiero
 By Juanita & Wayne Sweet

Readings for the Week of December 23, 2019

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Wednesday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17/Mt 10:17-22
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8/Mt 2:13-18
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Parish Support

WEEKLY GOAL \$2000.00

Weekend of December 14, 2019 & December 15, 2019

Weekly Offertory:	\$ 1733.00
Envelopes	\$ 1135.00
Loose Donations	\$ 598.00
Votive Candles	\$ 39.00
	\$ 1772.00

Retirement Fund for Religious \$ 659.24

Last Year's Offertory Collection
December 9, 2018 \$ 2536.00

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Lector: Ed August
 EMHC: Bernie Hindes
 Greeters: Marlene O'Connor, Mary Griswold & Karen Brodeur

Sunday December 29, 2019

Lector: Jackie Ronning
 EMHC: Tom Ronning
 Greeters: David & Julie Sines & Ann Hadley



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle with the first three, to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men."



Tuesday, December 24th 4:00 PM Christmas Pageant / Mass
 7:00 PM Mass
 Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25th 10:00 AM Mass

Wednesday, January 1st 9:00 AM - Holy Day of Obligation.
 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

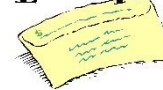
Pray for Healing and Comfort

Especially for: Carole Zinter, Deacon John Blicharz, Georgette Savoy, Doreen Aldrich, Mary Frances Branch, Daniel Bryant, Monica Luedtke, Lois Woodard, Joseph Marion, Jr. Fr. Al Dagnoli, Paul Desruisseaux, Betsy Bashaw, Betsy Anderson, Frances Gallagher, Mary Damon, Grace Shelc, Tom Shelc, Ed Hindes, Maria Coyne, Mary Grippo, Madison Bills, Robert Brown, Mary Folsom, Peggy Lafave, Lorraine Reynolds, Bob Hanold, Marilyn Lemoine, Patrick Barry, Robert Fogg, Bernie Hindes, Nick Deistler, Ted Waryas, Peter Bodner, Ellah Williams, Maybelle Long, Joseph Mitchell, Heather Rodger, Patricia Jones, Frances Hackett, Colleen Paquet, David Robarge, Frank Anderson, Kathy Mcarthy, Tom Burns, Mary Lou Fogg, Jim Nyberg, Cheryl Elyse Garrett, Ed Atkins, Conner Glover. **Please contact the rectory (463-3128) if you wish Father Maria Lazar to make a sick call or bring Holy Communion to someone who is unable to attend Mass.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes. The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "... The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]." Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God. (Copyright © 2019 Loyola Press. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. www.loyolapress.com)

Knight of Columbus #753 Joy is an attribute of God's divine love. During the Christmas season, we ask that you and your family take time to reflect on Christ. This will help us to: "Keep Christ in Christmas". Please join us next Sunday at 9:30 for a Fifth Sunday Rosary. The Rosary will be said by the Knights of Columbus to unify and strengthen families, help build the domestic church, bring parishioners together, and devotion to Mary. We hope you can be present. please call Grand Knight, Tom Ronning (603) 313 - 8839.

**Offering Envelopes**

Offering Envelopes: Due to a production issue at the Company, your weekly envelopes will not be here until the middle of January. The company is sending us generic envelopes with no names to be used until yours get here. Please write your name on the envelope or place an address sticker on them. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

A Christmas Message from Fr. Maria

Dear Parishioners,

"Peace on earth will come to stay,
when we live Christmas every day."

- *Helen Steiner Rice*



The whole world becomes different at Christmas but truly, deeply, profoundly only if we allow Christmas to touch and move our hearts. Today is Christmas Day. But what about tomorrow, and the day after that and the day after that? Christmas must continue to make those days different too, must continue to make us different too or it makes no difference at all. Faith must be stronger. Hope must be stronger. Love must be easier because of Christmas. Faith, hope and love are the great light in the darkness of this world.

Pope Francis referred to the poetic writings of a 17th century German mystic *Angelus Silesius* as a Christmas meditation. He quoted this monk as follows: "It depends solely on you. Ah, if only your heart could become a manger, then God would once again become a Child on this earth".

This Christmas let's make our hearts a manger for the Child again and open ourselves to what He alone can do for our world.

Merry Christmas to you all my parishioners!

Fr. Maria

**Merry Christmas**

From all of us here at St. Charles!

Fr. Maria, Betsy & Dan