

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-14

“They shall name him Emmanuel ... God is with us”

MASS SCHEDULE					
Sun	Dec	22	9:00AM	Michael Lojinger + By Mike & Linda Ezzell	
Wed	Dec	25	10:00AM	Betty Lilly + By John & Jan Boelte	
Thur	Dec	26	9:00AM	Mass Canceled	
Fri	Dec	27	12:00PM (noon)	Mass Canceled	
Sun	Dec	29	9:00AM	Joseph Mascavage + By Parker & Rosemarie Willis	
Wed	Jan	1	10:00AM	Lawrence Bremer + By John & Jane Miller	

**To Schedule a Mass Intension
Please contact the Church Office
828-743-5717**

SAINT JUDE - OFFERTORY

(The Weekend of December 15, 2019)

Offertory: \$2369.00 Attendance: 102

The Ladies of St. Jude

The Ladies of St. Jude meet from March-November on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall at 10:00am. They support the Parish in their spiritual growth & outreach programs, assist with funerals, care for the sick and organize social and fellowship programs. For more information, please contact Mary Ann Massa at 919-605-4246.

Prayer Blanket Ministry

The Prayer Blanket Ministry's - Winter Schedule (November - May) meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month. They gather at 10:00am for a meeting in the upstairs classroom. You don't have to know how to sew, crochet or knit. If you need a prayer blanket, please contact the Church Office at 828-743-5717.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Patricia Arduengo, Jim Barton, Denis Benardello, Patricia Blasi, Lane Bolmer, Tom Borzell, Marian Michel Boyd, J. Randy Brooks, Karen Cameron, Dr. Jay & Jana Carpenter & The Carpenter Family, Tom Carrasquillo, Fr. Hugh Chikawe, Daniel Coffey, Dottie Collier, Sherry Cook, Terese Crawford, Margaret Daniel, Christopher Day, Katherine DeLage, Pat Delaney, Linda Denny, Judi Eisnagle, Mike Ezzell, Sandra Fischel, Gina Galetti, Gretchen Giesey, Jerry Goldberg, Jerry Gordon, Laura Gregory, Walt & Judy Green, Jackson Hall, Donald Haug, Matthew Hite, Amy Hoyle, Jo Hoyle, Katie Hoyle, Daniel Jacobs, Dakota Johnson, Treba Johnson, Bill Keadle, Suzanne Keenan, Cathy Keir, Joe Knauff, George Lee, Trentha Mackey, Marinka, Camerron Martin, Conor McCall, Janet McClory-Presley, Betsy McCloskey, Michael Monti, Ron Nelson, Lyla Ruby Newton & Coen Michael Newton & The Newton Family, Sheila Rinker, Sherman Runions, Russell Sands, Brendan Scallon, Jr., Elaine Schmid, Bonnie Jean Small, Lennis Smith, Ava Snyder, Leonardo Suarez, Rosemarie Thompson, Kim Wagland, Cassie Watts, Meredith Worth.

Military Prayer List

Lt. Col. Fred Dufault (Afghanistan)
Captain Evan Shawler (Air Force Flight Surgeon)

St. Jude Prayer Group

The St. Jude Prayer Group meets on Fridays at 12:30pm following the 12:00(noon) Mass. We pray the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, spend some silent time in Adoration, and pray for the needs of our Church and of our world. For more information, please contact Jane Miller at janem@tampabay.rr.com or 813-230-3500.

Emaus Prayer Group

Emaus Prayer is a spiritual movement of faith that is called to prayer, obedience and adoration of the Holy Sacrament. They meet each Wednesday at 6:00pm. For information contact Yuliana Vargas at 828-226-5083 or Efrain Morales at 828-226-1045.

Spanish Prayer & Rosary

The Spanish Prayer & Rosary meets on Friday evenings at 7:00pm. For more information, please contact Isela Vazquez at 828-331-7892.

Today's Readings

First Reading: In today's passage, the prophet Isaiah speaks to the Jewish King Ahaz. *Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel* (Isaiah 7: 10-14).

Second Reading: Paul highlights the fact that Jesus was descended from the Royal House of David and that God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel: The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).



Summoned By God

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

The Legend of the Candy Cane

A candy maker wanted to make a candy that would be a witness for his Savior, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. The white symbolizes the Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-35) and the sinless nature of Jesus (1 John 3:5). The hardness of the candy symbolizes the Solid Rock (1 Cor 10:4), the foundation of the Church (Mt 16:18), and the firmness of the promises of God (Ps 18:30-32). The candy maker made the candy into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior (John 3:16-17), and a symbol to represent the staff of the Good Shepherd (John 10:14). The candy maker decided to stain it with red stripes, representing the stripes Jesus received prior to his crucifixion (Mark 15:15-20) for our healing (Is 53:5). The large red stripe represents the shedding of His blood on the cross for our salvation (Rom 5:9; Eph 1:7).....*Scripture Candy, Inc.

Lord Jesus,
From your birth in a lowly stable,
You brought joy to the whole world.
Renew our resolve to spread your love
So that all will know of the love
That God sent to those on earth.
Through Christ our Lord... Amen.

Hispanic Ministry Calendar

Wed., Dec. 25, **Christmas Day Mass**, 10:00am

Wednesday, Dec. 25, **Emaus**, 6:00pm

Friday, Dec. 27, **Spanish Prayer Group**, 7:00pm

Wed., Jan. 1, **New Year's Day Mass**, 10:00am

General Church Calendar

Wed., Dec. 25, **Christmas Day Mass**, 10:00am

Friday, Dec. 27, **Prayer Group**, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Wed., Jan. 1, **New Year's Day Mass**, 10:00am

Tues., Jan. 7, **Prayer Blanket Ministry**, 10:00am

Tues., Jan. 7, **Knights of Columbus**, 7:00pm