

# The Forth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

Date	Intentions	Requested by
12/20 11:00	Ivan Allen	Carmen Allen
12/23 12:00	Scott Peek, Sr +	Mr. & Mrs. McGowan
12/24 3:00	Fr. Ubald	Ellen Nolan
	Rugirangoga	
12/25 11:00	Fr. Ubald	Ellen Nolan
	Rugirangoga	
12/27 11:00	Horvath & La Poma	Joanne La Poma
	Anniversaries	

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Our Lady of the Mountains: Christmas Eve Vigil 3:00 pm  
Christmas Day 11:00 am  
St. Jude's of Sapphire Valley: Christmas Eve Vigil 1:00 pm

## Our Lady of the Mountains

### Guidelines and Precautions during the Covid-19 Pandemic

We are taking the following precautions to keep everyone safe at Mass.

1. The obligation to attend Mass is still lifted.
2. Social distance of 6ft is observed at all times.
3. Seating is limited to every other pew to facilitate social distancing.
4. Sanitizing hands is encouraged upon entering and leaving. Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances.
5. The wearing of masks is highly encouraged. Masks are available at the entrances.
6. Reusable items in the pews have been removed, such as hymnals and missals.
7. Congregational singing is suspended.
8. All physical contact between congregants is suspended such as hand-holding at the Our Father and the Sign of Peace.
9. The priest sanitizes his hand between households during the distribution of Holy Communion.
10. Distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended.
11. All high-contact surfaces are disinfected after Mass.



## Prayer for the Forth Sunday of Advent

Christ, Candle of Hope

God, our loving Father, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to counter all the forces of evil: sin, suffering and death, and to overcome evil with the force of good; hatred with the power of love, your great love for us in Jesus.

Help us never to curse the darkness, but to join with you in bringing Your light into this world, the light that is your Son, born of the Virgin Mary, in Bethlehem.

Help us to be instruments of your light and love by doing one special act of kindness or by being your special instrument of reconciliation this New Year. May the Christ Candle we light symbolize our desire to bring light into a world of darkness and hope into a world of despair. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Saint of the Week

"Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases." *St. Rose of Lima*

## Father's Column

From a Spiritual Canticle of St. John of the Cross

### **Recognizing the mystery hidden within Christ Jesus**

Though holy doctors have uncovered many mysteries and wonders, and devout souls have understood them in this earthly condition of ours, yet the greater part still remains to be unfolded by them, and even to be understood by them.

We must then dig deeply in Christ. He is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures: however deep we dig we will never find their end or their limit. Indeed, in every pocket new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides.

For this reason the apostle Paul said of Christ: *In him are hidden all the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge of God.* The soul cannot enter into these treasures, nor attain them, unless it first crosses into and enters the thicket of suffering, enduring interior and exterior labours, and unless it first receives from God very many blessings in the intellect and in the senses, and has undergone long spiritual training.

All these are lesser things, disposing the soul for the lofty sanctuary of the knowledge of the mysteries of Christ: this is the highest wisdom attainable in this life.

Would that men might come at last to see that it is quite impossible to reach the thicket of the riches and wisdom of God except by first entering the thicket of much suffering, in such a way that the soul finds there its consolation and desire. The soul that longs for divine wisdom chooses first, and in truth, to enter the thicket of the cross.

Saint Paul therefore urges the Ephesians *not to grow weary in the midst of tribulations, but to be steadfast and rooted and grounded in love, so that they may know with all the saints the breadth, the length, the height and the depth—to know what is beyond knowledge, the love of Christ, so as to be filled with all the fullness of God.*

The gate that gives entry into these riches of his wisdom is the cross; because it is a narrow gate, while many seek the joys that can be gained through it, it is given to few to desire to pass through it.

## **15th Annual MARCH FOR LIFE Charlotte! Jan. 8, 2020**

The day will begin with a *Mass for the Unborn* at 9:00 am at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church at [6828 Old Reid Road, Charlotte, NC 28210](https://www.google.com/maps/place/6828+Old+Reid+Road,+Charlotte,+NC+28210). At 11:00 am we will start to gather at the parking lot across the street from the Catholic Diocese at [1123 S. Church St. Charlotte, NC](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1123+S+Church+St,+Charlotte,+NC). There may be some parking available at the lot but please expect to find parking on your own uptown if necessary.

At 12:00 pm we will march to Trade and Tryon where Fr. Noah Carter, Pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church will preach. After the prolife testimonies we will pray the Most Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. **Please join others to march and pray for an end to abortion and save babies lives!** See schedule details at [www.marchforlifecharlotte.org](http://www.marchforlifecharlotte.org)

Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:

Pat Pittari, Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, Laura Sanders, Mary Catherine Cann, James Urbanski, Sandy Powers, Griffin Harper, The Klingler Family, Shawn Webster

**Also for those in our book of prayer intentions, and those for whom there is no one to pray.**  
Please pray for all the men and women serving the United States in the military.

Please pray for the souls of our beloved deceased.  
Scott Peek, Sr., Stewart Austin, Nick Klingler, John Powers, Earl Goodrow and Ron Simmons, Lee Smith, Harry Vaughn