

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2019

*Dear Parishioners,*



Ask for a sign from the Lord. (Isaiah 7:11)

Things were looking bad for King Ahaz of Jerusalem. He was barely holding back an attack from the armies of Aram and Samaria. The situation became so desperate that Ahaz decided to appeal to the king of Assyria for help. “I am your servant and your son,” he wrote. “Come up and rescue me” (2 Kings 16:7).

Hearing the news, the prophet Isaiah urged Ahaz to reconsider. He knew that bowing to Assyria would mean adopting the nation’s false idols and sinful traditions. “Ask for a sign from the Lord,” he begged the king (Isaiah 7:11). Let God help you.

But Ahaz refused. He didn’t want to risk God’s wrath by seeming to dare God to prove himself. Besides, he thought, God could not possibly be so good as to rescue him—especially not after all the ways Ahaz had disobeyed him in the past.

Like Ahaz, we too can fear that we have to deal with the challenges of life all on our own. But God is always giving us signs of his presence and his help. Some are subtle, like a beautiful sunrise, and others are more obvious, like the faithfulness of a friend. And then there’s the dramatic sign that Isaiah gave Ahaz: “The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

Emmanuel. God-with-us. A living, breathing sign of God’s love and protection. A personal, undeniable sign of God’s commitment to his people. A promise that he has seen our need and is ready to help if we turn to him.

At Mass today, you’ll be surrounded by signs: statues, a crucifix, an altar, and maybe a crèche. And of course, the greatest and most intimate of all signs: Jesus, present in the form of bread and wine. He is a sign you not only see but one you can taste and touch. He is the sign that redeems, heals, and restores. So don’t be like Ahaz. Welcome this sign. Take it into your heart and soul.

“Jesus, thank you for every sign that you will give me today.”

*Deacon Mark Race, Administrator*

## **Men, Mark Your Calendars**

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 24, 25, and 26 2020. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, and Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM Friday. Our retreat opens at 5:45 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 12:30 PM. A **\$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.** This year’s Retreat theme: **“God is doing something New In Us... Exploring paths of deepening Faith”**. For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214.

**You may register online at: [materdolorosa.org/event/mens-weekend-retreat-jan-24-26-2020](https://materdolorosa.org/event/mens-weekend-retreat-jan-24-26-2020)**

## Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Sunday</b>	Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-6, Mt 1:18-24
<b>Monday</b>	Mal 3:1-24, Lk 1:57-66
<b>Tuesday</b>	2 Sm 7:1-16, Lk 1:67-79
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Jn 1:1-18
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Mt 10:17-22
<b>Friday</b>	1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:1-8
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Mt 2:13-18
<b>Sunday</b>	Sir 3:2-14, Ps 128:1-5, Mt 2:13-23

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 21</b>
5:15 PM	Intention of all Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 22</b>
8:00 AM	Soul of Karen Lee
10:00 AM	Soul of Dorothy Stanley
12:15 PM	Soul of Wilma Angelain Davidson
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 24</b>
5:15 PM	Transfiguration School Students, Faculty and Staff
Midnight	Intention of all Parishioners
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 25</b>
10:00 AM	Soul of Yula Wilkes
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 26</b>
8:00 AM	Soul of Dorothy Stanley

## Weekly Offering for December 15, 2019

\$3633.10 Tithe and Offering  
383.00 Building Fund  
66.00 "We Care"

## Transfiguration School Vacation Break

December 18, 2019 and return January 6, 2020

## Did You Know?

### My body, my rules

In all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, it can be easy for children to get overwhelmed — with parties and holiday get together, they may be seeing lots of new or unfamiliar family members and friends. It's important to remind children that they can say no to hugs, kisses, and other physical signs of affection if they are uncomfortable. Review "my body, my rules," and give children polite ways to decline any signs of affection that they don't want to give or receive. A simple "no thank you" to a request for a hug, or deflecting to a high-five, gives a child important control over who touches him or her, and how he or she feels in any situation.

For more information, visit

<https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/reluctant-hugs-why-you-shouldnt-force-kids-to-show-physical/>

## Christmas Schedule

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Children's Mass  
Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM  
Midnight Mass - Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
(*Christmas Carols at 11:30 PM*)

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 AM

### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

*The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 8:00 AM

## Stewardship Thought

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

## Memorial Service for Howlett Smith

The memorial service for Howlett Smith also known as "Smitty", former 8AM Cantor for Transfiguration, will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

**2020 Calendars** are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.



**Happy Birthday to:**

*Robert Johns*

who celebrated **99** on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

*From your family, with love and joy.*

## Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Cyd Michelle Anderson, Brian Argusta, Percenia Beasley, Fr. Emile Belletty, Glenda Brown, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Alton Duhon, Cynthia Fortier, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Michael Frierson, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Janie Jackson, Robert Johns, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Mercedes LeBlanc, Baby Amani Leffall, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vylfred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Aliyah Patterson, Sally Price, Wiley R. Pugh, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Sandra Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, Johnnye Washington, and Alice Williams.