

Fourth Sunday of Advent

20 December 2020

The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. (Luke 1:32)

It's almost Christmas! That thought can fill our hearts with anticipation. We might look forward to seeing friends or family. We can't wait to see the look on a loved one's face when they open the gift we carefully chose. Or we just want to enjoy celebrating Jesus' birth with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

But think about the anticipation that the Jews felt as they awaited the coming of the Messiah! Their hope was kindled almost one thousand years before Christ, when God promised David a kingly lineage. Imagine as well Mary's surprise when the angel described the son she would bear by using nearly the same words that God had spoken to David so much earlier. He would be called Son of the Most High, he would sit on the throne of his father, David, and he would reign over an eternal kingdom (Luke 1:26-38). Israel's long wait was over—the birth of Jesus would bring about everything they had hoped for.



As modern-day Christians, we don't experience the Jews' yearning for a Messiah, but we can still feel the ache of longing. For peace. For justice. For security. Jesus is the fulfillment of these yearnings too. When conflict—on a large or small scale—threatens to tear us apart, Jesus offers reconciliation and the chance to live once more in peace with God and our neighbor. When injustice breaks our hearts, Jesus tells us he has come to make all things right and to give us the strength to make things better in our own corner of the world. When insecurity makes us feel as if nothing ever remains the same, Jesus reminds us that his kingdom is everlasting; he gives us a sure foundation to build our lives on.

That's the kind of fulfillment that the kingship of Jesus can bring. That's what he promises. And that's a gift we can all receive this Christmas.

“Jesus, you are the fulfillment of all my longings! I love you, Lord!”

Called to Serve,

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator



CHRISTMAS EVE MASS THURSDAY DECEMBER 24 AT 8PM

Registration is required...

Please call the Rectory at 323.291.1136

or call 310.961.7994.

Safeguard the Children VIRTUS Sessions

The Office of Safeguard the Children is proud to sponsor a series of VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Zoom Sessions during December 2020/January 2021. These sessions are for Clergy, staff, and essential volunteers. Those whose current VIRTUS® certificate has expired and need to take Keeping the Promise Alive or are new to their position have never taken the Protecting God's Children training. If you want to register for a session, please contact Felecia Johns at 323.291.1136 (office) or 323.600.5159 (cell) for more details.

Did You Know?

Next Sunday, December 27, is the Feast Day of the Holy Family

We have been living in unprecedented times with COVID changing many aspects of our lives. These changes have caused many challenges to families, but they have also affirmed our commitment to safeguarding our children and young people. As the year comes to an end we are reminded of the resiliency exemplified by the Holy Family in their Advent journey – the love Mary and Joseph had for their son, Jesus Christ, and the many ways in which they nurtured His Spirit as a model for our families. Join the Holy Family's call by taking time next Sunday on the *Feast Day of the Holy Family* to nourish your own family's spirituality. To download the Take-Home Resource for Families, go to: [*The Holy Family – Nourishing your Spirituality and Well-Being.*](#)

Thank you

The beautiful **flowers** on the altar were donated by *Felecia Johns* in loving memory of her father **ROBERT JOHNS**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

Stewardship Thought

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Weekly Offering for December 13, 2020

\$5,367.00 Tithe and Offering

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Cynthia Fortier, Michael Frierson, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Vylfred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, and Alice Williams.