

December 22, 2019

ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Dilemma of a Righteous Man

Joseph faced with the mystery of Mary's virginal conception of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, far from retreating quietly and in secret, leaving God alone to pursue his plan, abandons himself to providence. "He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."

Today's Bulletin is sponsored in memory of Charles Rohan by Sheri & David Beyer & Family.

MASS INTENTIONS



Tuesday, December 24

4:30 p.m. The Welfare of the Youth of the Parish

Wednesday, December 25

Midnight The Welfare of All Parishioners

6:30 a.m. The Welfare of the Benefactors of the Parish

10:00 a.m. The Welfare of All Parishioners

Saturday, December 28

6:30 p.m. Bessie & Frank Michalec

Sunday, December 29

6:30 a.m. Leroy & Allen Fishbeck

9:30 a.m. Trent Roznovsky

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Feast of the Holy Family*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm: 128

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Susan Jasek.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of the deceased of the Frank Mica & Steven Hermes Families.

2019 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2019 Assessment \$17,333.00
Contributions So Far \$14,598.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 2,735.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Richard Kalisek
Mary Lou Dierschke
Shannon & L. A. Simper
Rosalyn & Alvin Kocian
Alma & Santiago Ibarra
Niki & Chad Chaloupka
Lisa & David Rothbauer*

We thank all those who have contributed towards our 2019 D.S.A. assessment so far. We are close to paying off our debt. We are counting on you to make our quota for the year.

ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CENTER FUND

We are very grateful to the following for their recent donations to the St. Joseph's Social Center Fund:

*Coleman & Williams, Ltd., Milwaukee, WI - \$250
Shannon & L. A. Simper - \$3,000
(previously donated - \$3,000)*

ORIENTATION - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Today we light the fourth candle (violet) on the Advent wreath. The fullness of the lit wreath reminds us of the coming celebration of Christmas and our commemoration of the incarnation. The rhythm of Advent differs from that of Lent. It rises in a steady crescendo towards the full light of Christmas. The crescendo of Advent is reflected in the liturgical readings, which, beginning with the prophecies of the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, find their culmination on this Fourth Sunday of Advent in a series of readings that focus on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the annunciation of Jesus' birth.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MON. – No Gold Star Club Meeting

– Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Meet in the Family Room.

TUES. – Christmas Eve. See Mass Schedule. Office Closed

WED. – Christmas Day. See Mass Schedule. Office Closed

– No Champions Club Meeting

THURS. – KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall

FRIDAY – Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any

Pastoral emergency call the Parish Office at any time.



Christmas: The Meaning. See Insert

REFLECTION

The Call To Faith

With the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are on the threshold of the Time of Fulfillment. Today's readings tell us that faith is required for us to step over that threshold. Before us are set two figures: two examples of human response to the call to faith: Ahaz, who failed the test because he was unable to take the blind step of faith into trust of God, and Joseph, who despite his dilemma is a model of faith. St. Paul, in the Letter to the Romans offers us three ways of living out this faith; as a slave of Christ, devoted completely to the service of Christ, as an apostle, one sent to proclaim the gospel by the way we live, and as one set apart for service recommitting ourselves to others in service.

With the completion of the Advent Season, we have arrived at the mountain of the Lord, the place where God dwells, the place where we began, but we now see it in a new light. As we ascend the mountain and enter into the presence of God, at the time that God comes into our lives, how do we celebrate this moment?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 22 – Gregory Holub
Dec. 23 – Steve Machart
Dec. 24 – Allen Barta, Edward Nieto, Kelsey Pilat, Kenneth Schoenfeld
Dec. 25 – Allison Drabek, Isac Manzano, J. Isaias Manzano
Dec. 26 – Tanee Colburn, Steve Fojtik, Steve Martinez, Atley Pilat
Dec. 27 – Sidonia Mayer, Otto Moeller, Rose Selzer, Christine Wenske
Dec 28 – Joseph Bartos, Hailey Rothbauer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec. 27 – Caroline & James Freytag

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Dec. 22 - Jan. 4 – No C.C.D./YMC (Christmas Holidays)



Dec. 23 – Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 6:00-7:30 p.m. All participants, parent helpers and choir members must attend. *The Christmas Pageant will be part of the Vigil Mass on December 24th.*

Raphael's Refuge - Mass for the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents: Rosary/Christmas carols at 9:15 a.m., Mass at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments after Mass. All are welcome.



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

In the spirit of sharing blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters, a collection will be taken up at the Christmas Masses. *We encourage you to be generous.*

In the Past Our *Collection Has Helped Many Charities Including:

Shady Oaks Residents
Lavaca Assistance Ministry Body (L.A.M.B.)
Billy T. Cattan Recovery Outreach Center, Victoria
Perpetual Help Home, Victoria
Christ's Kitchen, Victoria
Moulton 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapter & Fire Department
& other local charities.

** Includes funds from the proceeds from the Fish Fry.*

Maranatha!



Advent is the season when we stand on the threshold of fulfillment. However, it is the fulfillment of an event that has already taken place. We remember it, we ritually reenact it so we never take it for granted, so we never forget that it is in and through history that the marvelous deeds of God are accomplished. Each year we pause to celebrate these events, not because they have not yet occurred but because they *have* happened and are happening now before our eyes. The celebration of anticipation is also the celebration of fulfillment, fulfillment of the promises made, fulfillment of our redemption, fulfillment of our transformation. Blessed are we who believe that what was spoken to us by the Lord has been fulfilled!

Christmas Day Songs of Praise: The Christmas Choir will begin singing at 9:30 a.m. All those who wish to sing in the choir are asked to be in church by 9:20 a.m. For more information contact Sharon Etlinger.

Communion to the Homebound on Christmas Day: Holy Communion will be taken to the homebound parishioners who called in their request.

Christmas Altar Flower Fund Donations: See insert.

Christmas Pageant: Dress Rehearsal, December 23

Christmas Pageant, December 24 during the 4:30 p.m.

Mass. All pageant participants and parent helpers must be at the Family Room by 4:00 p.m. The children should be dressed in their costumes.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

My dear friends,

May you have a blessed Christmas. May Christ's coming among us bring happiness and peace to all families.

God bless,

