

December 20, 2020

ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent



***Holy Spaces
Waiting for the Lord***

Given God's power to be anywhere and everywhere, the Incarnation is all the more wondrous. What a mystery that God would choose to take up residence within the confines of our human condition. Today's Gospel gives words to this

mystery as Mary is honored as the living temple of God made flesh. We who await the Coming One often prepare symbols of welcome; the manger, the crèche, the inn. In truth, all these symbols are to be realized in each of us. We are the empty manger awaiting the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today's Bulletin is sponsored
in memory of Carrie & Frank Zamykal.

MASS INTENTIONS



- Thursday, December 24**
4:30 p.m. The Welfare of the Youth of the Parish
- Friday, December 25**
6:30 a.m. The Welfare of the Benefactors of the Parish
10:00 a.m. The Welfare of All Parishioners
- Saturday, December 26**
6:30 p.m. Dorothy & Laddie Maresh
- Sunday, December 27**
6:30 a.m. Leo J. Etlinger
9:30 a.m. Victor Jungbauer

Individual Confessions in Moulton and Praha

- Available anytime by appointment. Call the office.
- On Fridays in the Family Room after Mass in Moulton.
- On Thursdays after the 4:30 p.m. Mass in Praha.
- During Advent/Christmas season and in Lent.

PREPARING FOR THE 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: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 105
Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

2020 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2020 Assessment \$17,685.00
Contributions So Far \$14,635.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 3,050.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

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|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Yahaira & Jose Perez, Sr.</i> | <i>Nancy Sivyer</i> |
| <i>Niki & Chad Chaloupka</i> | <i>Joyce Pavlicek</i> |
| <i>Lisa & David Rothbauer</i> | <i>Richard Kalisek</i> |
| <i>Lorrie & Michael Janeczek</i> | <i>Marilyn Strmiska</i> |
| <i>Margaret & Larry Berckenhoff</i> | |

Do please consider making a donation

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH REPAIR FUND



We thank the following for their donations:

Lisa & David Rothbauer - \$1,500

In Memory of Dr. Hugo Streider - \$50
The Forbrich Family

In Memory of Celestine & Rudy Darilek - \$300
Rose Darilek Rohlfling

To make a tax-deductible donation you may go to our website www.stjosephsmoulton.org and donate online or make a donation directly to St. Joseph's Church.

CHURCH CLEANUP DAY MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
9 a.m. – 12 Noon / 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

To be able to celebrate Christmas in the church, the church has to be cleaned. We are asking parishioners to come and help get the church ready for the coming feasts. Bring rags and dust cloths. Cleaning supplies will be provided.

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

THURS.– Christmas Eve, see Mass Schedule. Office Closed.; KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall
FRI. – Christmas Day, see Mass Schedule. Office closed.

REFLECTION

Rorate Caeli – Open Up Heavens!

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Psalm 89
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

There is something very future-oriented about this Fourth Sunday of Advent, perhaps expectedly so. David is promised a house as a dynasty that will endure. Paul contemplates for the Romans *the Revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages, but now manifested*. The Angel Gabriel announces that Mary's son *will rule over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end*. Today's liturgy directs us to look to the heavens. We await the Just One. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is not a countdown to Christmas but a journey into the expectation of the Savior.

Christmas only makes sense when we recognize that this nativity is one and the same with the birth of Jesus who will rule forever and free his people from their sins. It is this longing for our redemption that compels us to look forward and ask God to rend the heavens to come and save us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 20 – Brenda Manzano
Dec. 22 – Gregory Holub
Dec. 24 – Allen Barta, Edward Nieto, Kenneth Schoenfeld
Dec. 25 – Allison Drabek, Isac Manzano,
J. Isaias Manzano
Dec. 26 – Tanee Colburn, Steve Martinez, Steve Fojtk

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Dec. 20-27 – No C.C.D. (Christmas Holidays)
Jan. 11 – Youth Ministry Center Re-opens



Dec. 23 – Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Participants, be in the Family Room by 4:30 p.m. to get your costume. All participants, parent helpers and choir members must attend. *The Christmas Pageant will be part of the Vigil Mass on December 24th.*

Thank You Catholic Life Insurance Branch #16 for once again sponsoring the Breakfast with Santa.



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.

Christmas Altar Flower Fund Donations: See insert.

Christmas Pageant: See Youth Ministry News for Dress Rehearsal details.

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.

Veselé Vánoce
Feliz Navidad

F. Gabriel

