

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 22, 2019

### FROM OUR PRIESTS' DESKS:

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Sacred Heart:

How is it so that we have already arrived to the Fourth Sunday of Advent? Time flies!? Indeed! BUT it is still Advent which means we are STILL awaiting His Birth...Of course our Christmas lights and decorations are already shimmering and sparkling but STILL we WAIT...We wait to be reminded of His Presence in our lives and He is PRESENT! Saint Paul prompts us in his Letter to the Romans: Through Jesus Christ The Lord we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of His name!! Absolutely for the sake of His Name only!! Friends...Continue to WAIT for Him to keep bursting into you hearts, brothers and sisters of Sacred Heart and God bless you for your love and grace that He has given to you to burst into the hearts of others!!

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent!!

### **Gospel**

*Luke*

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

### **Reading**

*1:39-45*

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise

because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy. It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.



### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE ADVENT WREATH**

O Lord stir up your might and come.  
Aid us with your powerful assistance  
so that, through your grace and merciful forgiveness,  
we may attain salvation which now is hindered by our  
sins; you who live and reign with God the Father in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit; one God forever and ever.  
(Someone lights all the candles.)

## **CHRISTMAS MASSES 2019**

### ***Christmas Eve***

***Tuesday, December 24 for Christmas***

**4:00pm in the Church and School**

**5:30pm in the Church Only**

**12:00pm Midnight Mass**

**(Choir sings at 11:30pm)**

### ***Christmas Day***

***Wednesday, December 25***

**7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am,**

**11:30am, 1:00pm**

**THERE WILL BE NO 5:30PM MASS ON**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**(December 26, 9am Morning Mass Only)**

***Solemnity of Mary Mother of God***

***Tuesday, December 31, 2019***

***Vigil Mass – 5:30pm***

***Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020***

**8:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM**

**1:00PM**

**NO 5:30PM MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY**

# Merry

## A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

We at Sacred Heart Church want to extend our sincere wishes to you and your entire family for a very blessed Christmas.

“For unto us a Child is born.” God’s love for each and every one of us has broken into our world in the most marvelous way, in the beauty and innocence of a newborn baby. Like the Wise Men, who sought truth and found the Christ Child, we are pilgrims on a journey to Christ. We seek the wisdom, the mercy, the peace and the joy that only Christ can give.

It has been an honor since the first week of July to be appointed the pastoral staff of Sacred Heart. We Augustinian Recollects have been blessed for decade after decade by all of you at Sacred Heart. Since 1952, when we arrived at Tagaste Monastery, we have always felt as the same family at Sacred Heart and that is because YOU have made us feel as your family and we are graced by your generosity and friendship

Please know that your presence here, especially at Sunday Mass, is precious to us. How much we need you and appreciate you. Your priests and our staff are always here for you. May our newborn Savior bless you and your family abundantly with His Peace this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

**GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY,**

Rev. J. Michael Rafferty, Pastor  
Rev. Fidel Hernandez, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. John Gruben, Assistant

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 22**

**Monday, December 23**

**Tuesday, December 24 – Office closes at 2pm**

**Wednesday, December 25 – *MERRY CHRISTMAS***

**Thursday, December 26 – Office Closed**

**Friday, December 27- Rectorly Office open**

**Saturday, December 28**

St. Joseph Group – 7:30am in the Rectorly

**Sunday, December 29**

SHARING WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS’  
NAME

Due to early printing of bulletin collection totals  
will be announced in future bulletins.

# Christmas!

## SACRED HEART RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

May the Christ Child  
Bless and fill our Parish Family  
with Peace and Joy on Christmas  
and throughout the New Year.

With Love & Prayers,  
Sacred Heart Religious Education Program

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We wish to thank the many parishioners who contributed food, money or effort during the year to help us in our mission. Our efforts reflect **your generosity** to the many less fortunate as we strive to help them in Christ’s name.

## OUR LADY’S GUILD

Our Lady’s Guild wishes to thank all our friends and parishioners who donated gifts for Birthright. We would like to wish them and all of our parish family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

The Faculty, staff and administration of the school wish to extend their best wishes during this Christmas season. May all members of the Sacred Heart School and Parish community have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

## SALESIAN COMMUNITY OF DON BOSCO PREP

On behalf of all of us here at Don Bosco Prep, we wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas with health and happiness in the New Year.

Fr. Jim Heuser  
Director/President

## ANUNCIOS

El Grupo de Oración en Español tiene lugar habitualmente los miércoles, a las 8 de la noche en la cafetería. Los próximos bautizos en español tendrán lugar el 18 de enero 2020 a la 1pm. Contactar en el 357-0035.



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Keith Alanis, Jenna Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Pat Brady, Annette Burbridge, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Roy Harris, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Susan Jarkiewicz, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Rosemarie Manthey, Matthew Luludis, Marie Marasuilo, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Rich McDowell, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Joseph Mikulka, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Shace Paljusevic, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly Frank Salveggi, Janet Schwartz, Ruth Schwetz, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Robert O. Colbath

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 4th Advent

7:00am – All Parishioners
8:30am – Dianne Messina
10:00am – David Hazell
11:30am – Richard Doran
1:00pm – Eileen & Arthur Fields
5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00am – Vincent Cangelose
9:00am – Special Intention Eric Hendrickson
7:15pm – Novena

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:00am – Special Intention Frantz Celestin
9:00am – Daniel & Catherine Greeley & Andrew Statham
4:00pm– C– ALL PARISHIONERS
4:00pm– S– ALL PARISHIONERS
5:30pm – ALL PARISHIONERS
12:00am – Midnight Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:00am – ALL PARISHIONERS
8:30am – ALL PARISHIONERS
10:00am – ALL PARISHIONERS
11:30am – ALL PARISHIONERS
1:00pm – ALL PARISHIONERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:00am – No Mass
9:00am – Aline Hendrickson

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00am – Nancy Collins
9:00am – Jean Savoye

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00am – Joseph & Filomena Russo

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Nancy, John & Christopher Cashman

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:00am – All Parishioners
8:30am – Charles J. Lynch
10:00am – Special Intention Kenneth & Althea Frank
11:30am – Palma M & Henry J. Heck
1:00pm – Harold Gravius
5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society



FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

We pray for all the men and women serving our country in the armed forces especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

ALTAR MEMORIALS
DECEMBER 22, 2019

Altar Wines, Altar Breads and Altar Candles
In Memory of
JOAN DOYLE
Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of
ROBERT O. COLBATH



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones.

CRISIS PREGNANCY HOTLINE
GOOD COUNSEL HOMES

For Pregnancy emergencies call Any time of day:
1-800-723-8331 www.goodcounselhomes.org