



# Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2019



## Weekly Mass Intentions



### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday – December 21

8:00am-† Grace & Ciro Frulio  
5:00pm-† Jim & Gene Obermayer  
7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Frulio Family  
*Offered by:* Family

#### Sunday – December 22

8:30am-Birthday Blessing MaryAnn Ugbo  
10:00am-† Frederick J. Palumbo  
11:30am-† Parish Community Intentions  
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions  
6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Wife and Family

#### Monday – December 23

8:00am~ Intentions of Diane Smith,  
Matthew Lazarus & Jose Taveras  
12:05pm- Intentions of Chris Binns,  
Omar El Fashny & Dean Cammarata

*Offered by:* Narcisa Pons  
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#### Tuesday – December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:00am-† Carlos Amaya  
4:00pm-† Charles & Nancy Pommerenk

*by: daughter,* Rocio Babilonia  
*Offered by:* Family

#### Wednesday–December25-Christmas Day

10:00am-† Lena & Jerry Mezzacappa  
11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions  
1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

*Offered by:* Patricia Mezzacappa

#### Thursday – December 26

**NO MASSES THIS DAY**

#### Friday – December 27

8:00am~Intentions of Carlos Neira,  
Maribel Salazar & Mirna Lopez  
12:05pm-† Thomas Mormino

*Offered by:* Narcisa Pons  
*Offered by:* Family

#### Saturday – December 28

8:00am~Birthday Blessing for Narcisa Pons  
5:00pm-† Robert Hetzel

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish

#### Sunday – December 29

8:30am-†Elizabeth & Stephen Fedorick  
10:00am- † Victoria Crowdell  
~Birthday Anniv.~

*Offered by:* Mt. Carmel Parish  
*by: daughter,* Alexis Crowdell

## Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine  
Tabernacle Candle  
Memorial Candle



~ † *Libby Guardiani*  
~ *Emmanuel Rafael*  
~ †

announcement of the Angel Gabriel is a whole program of life for us today. Joseph's testimony is an example for our lives: "He did what the angel commanded him and from that day he received Mary in his house." Let us pray that when we leave this parish temple we will be able to proclaim in our lives that we believe in "Emmanuel", God is with us." And if God is with us, who will be against us .....  
May everyone have a happy and joyful preparation for Christmas.

**Fr. Hernán, S.J.**



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

#### **"Joseph, son of David, do not fear"** *(Matthew 1:20)*

When there are only three days left before celebrating Christmas, all our efforts, ideas or thoughts may have little to do with the birth of the Son of God. Many times we can be filled with fears about the gifts we will receive, the food we plan or the clothes we will wear will be appropriate for it. If we add to that the last minute purchases and the arrival of our guests and family, the result of the addition and subtraction is all stress. But since Christmas is about Jesus, let's make a final effort today to remember God's gift for all time.

Today we hear in the Holy Scripture an event that changed the course of history. The birth of Jesus is for believers already predicted since old times in the prophets. Thus, Isaiah, the Advent prophet tells us "that a virgin will conceive a son, who will be a descendant of David and who will be called Immanuel" which means "God with us." Today we hear as two simple humans like St. Joseph, descendant of David and the Virgin Mary freely and actively consent to God's plan. That is why we take Joseph and Mary as models to open our hearts to "God with us."

If we continue reading Matthew's Gospel we can see that God calls Joseph not to be afraid to receive Mary. Moreover, God's messenger assures Joseph that the Son who is about to be born will be the Son of God himself. How many times we feel paralyzed by the doubts and fears of our daily lives. How many times we prefer to walk in an uncertain direction before letting ourselves be led by God's ways. Joseph is the model of the patient man who puts his trust in the God of history. He is a God who alters our plans, but has a plan for our lives. That is why we are not afraid of that God who is always greater than our interests. Let us open our eyes to the gratitude of receiving with open arms the action of God that is manifested in blessings. It will not be easy when it seems that we walk in darkness, but just like the prophet Isaiah, let's jump for joy because our salvation is near.

God gives us signs that Ahaz, Paul and Joseph rejected at first as God's plans. However, seeing God's signs they believed and jumped for joy. Today is the time of joy since it is up to us to look forward to God's action in the history of our lives. King Ahaz feared losing his power at the hands of his enemies and Joseph feared entering into a marriage with an unfaithful woman. The two like Paul had to look at God's signs to trust in God's promises

Therefore, when you find it hard to trust, trust in the Lord. The response of the Virgin Mary "let it be done to me according to your Word" to the

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## SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page ([www.olmesj.org](http://www.olmesj.org)). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

### **December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
Romans 1:1-7

### **December 29: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5  
Colossians 3:12-21



**BIBLY STUDY** - Join us for our parish Bible Study meeting on **Sundays: December 22**. All meetings will take place in one of the meeting rooms at the parish office. All dates will start at 1:00pm and run until 3:00pm. If you do not have a bible, one can be provided for you. **Come join us!**

**CHRISTMAS 2019** - We will be celebrating the birth of our Saviour and spending time in worship and fellowship. All are welcomed to attend. In the midst of the Advent season, let us come together to acknowledge the true reason for excitement and anticipation. Join us at our family masses of vibrant praise and worship music. *Oh come let us adore h*

### **ADORATION SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR 2019/2020**

Tuesday, December 24 (**Christmas Eve**) at 4:00PM (English); 7:30PM (Spanish)

*Families are invited to bring the Infant Jesus from their home Nativity Scenes with them to Mass to be blessed.*

Wednesday, December 25 (**Christmas Day**) at 10:00am (English); 11:30AM & 1:30PM (Spanish)

Children's Christmas Concert 3:30pm

Tuesday, December 31 (**New Year's Eve**) at 8:00AM & 12:05PM (English); 7:30PM (Spanish)

Wednesday, January 1 (**New Year's Day**) at 10:00AM (English); 11:30AM & 1:30PM (Spanish)

**Please note:** The parish office will be closed on the following dates; December 25, December 26 & January 1. There will be no Masses on Thursday, December 26, 2019.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT** - We are excited to invite you to join us for a beautiful Christmas Eve Concert performed by our very own children's choir on, **Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** at 3:30pm before our family mass at 4pm. It is our special hope to have each audience member enjoy our concert and be filled with an abundance of joy and good spirit. JOIN US!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** - You are invited to take a Christmas Flower envelope and make a donation for poinsettias decorations for our Church this Christmas. The donation will act as a reminder to all of us of those who have gone home to the Eternal Lord as well as those who are unable to be with us this Christmas. The envelopes, with your intentions, will be placed on the altar for the remainder of the Advent season. You can find these envelopes in the church entrance or in the offering envelope package.

**FEAST of the THREE KINGS (The Solemnity of the Epiphany)** - On **Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**, join your parish family and come celebrate the Epiphany of Jesus on the greatest feast of the church year. There will be a distribution of toys for children 13 years of age and younger in the school gym from 1pm to 3pm that same day. "The gifts we have received will be our offering to the Redeemer." ~ 1Corinthians

**THE SANCTUARY/MEMORIAL CANDLES** - are a sign of the Real Presence of Jesus, the Light of the World, in our Parish Church. In accordance with tradition, these candles may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a particular person or persons, or for a special intention. The customary offering for this weekly dedication is \$10. Anyone who would like to request for dedicating the Sanctuary Lamp should contact the Parish Office.

**The Sanctuary Light** for this week burns in loving memory of Emmanuel Rafael; requested by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.

**BREAD AND WINE** - We are accepting offerings for the Bread and Wine for the week in memory of your loved ones. The customary offering for this weekly dedication is \$20. To make your request or any questions, please call the Parish office.

**The Bread and Wine** for this week are donated in loving memory of Libby Guardiani requested by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

**COLLECTIONS:** December 15: \$4,440; Second Collection: \$1,336. Thank you for your continued generosity to OUR Parish.



### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

The Feast of Christmas offers convincing proof of God's infinite love for us. For Jesus is God's greatest gift to all mankind in a long line of precious blessings bestowed on each of us. Indeed, we have much to be thankful for, even in these trying times. We who serve you, thank you for your talents freely given, your cooperation, your financial sacrifices and most of all your prayers. It is our hope that Christ will be born anew in your minds and hearts on Christmas Day.

May the Infant bring you His peace, joy and love.  
Loving from the Priests & Staff. Welcome home! Merry Christmas!