

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 22, 2019

### LIVING GOD'S WORD

We ask God to continue to save us in our own day from all that would lead us away from God. We ask God to continue to help us to know Jesus as Emmanuel, God with us, so that our faith may be rooted in the wisdom and power of God.

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 23, 2019

Monday, Dec. 23  
8:15AM Intention of Catholic Extension Donor  
Tuesday, Dec. 24  
5PM Frank, Mary, & Robert Wojcik  
Wednesday, Dec. 25  
9AM Paul Schmerbauch by Marcella  
Thursday, Dec. 26  
NO MASS  
Friday, Dec. 27  
NO MASS  
Saturday, Dec. 28  
5PM Gerald Lake by Family  
Sunday, Dec. 29  
9AM For the Parish

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 22 THRU DEC. 29

Sunday	9AM Mass NO PSR CLASS
Monday	8:15AM Mass in Rectory Dining Room DAYCARE OPEN 6:30AM-4PM NO K OF C LUNCHEON Christmas Break – No School
Tuesday	Christmas Break – No School 5PM Christmas Eve Children's Mass
Wednesday	9AM Christmas Mass MERRY CHRISTMAS
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off Christmas Break – No School
Friday	NO MASS Christmas Break – No School
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:** We humans hunger to belong. As a result, tracing one's genealogy has become very popular. Studies of young people reveal that they are more passionate about where they belong than about what they believe. Belonging was important for Jesus as well. The angel said to Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." Joseph, the just man from Nazareth, took her in. He offered the young pregnant Mary a roof over her head and a family lineage. He provided her a place and a people. Thus Jesus, adopted as his son under the Law of Israel, became a descendant of Joseph's "house of David." Having a land and a people was important to the Hebrews. These things are important to us as well. Yet many people in this world are uprooted. Refugees and immigrants have no country, no place of belonging. Children who are passed from foster home to foster home do not know the security of belonging. They live on the edge of place. We belong in this world, but at the same time, we don't belong. As an Advent people, we acknowledge that we are pilgrims on this earth. We too live on the edge of place. St. Paul says that we are called to belong to Jesus Christ. We don't abandon our family and our heritage, but we acknowledge that all that is, is God's. God is our home. God is our Source and our Goal. The Lord does not throw us out, but has taken us in and fully adopted us. God has given us a place to belong.

#### TITHE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2019

Mary Help of Christians: \$7,134.00  
\$583.00 Cemetery; \$15.00 Votives; \$56.25 Child Env.  
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00  
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$5,937.05  
Fiscal Year Week: 24  
YTD Actual Giving: \$142,489.00  
YTD Budget Need: \$168,000.00  
YTD Budget Difference: (\$25,511.00)  
YTD Weekly: (\$1,062.96)

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Even the most secure lives have some insecurities, and life can change in an instant. Through every possible future, we know that our true place of safety and rest is in God alone.

**SERVERS SCHEDULE** for Dec. 28 & 29: 5PM, Ethan Colvis, Jack Heffernan; 9AM Gage Hopkins, Garret Hopkins

**CHESTER SENIOR CENTER** is having \$3 Thursdays! They are serving Beef Stroganoff, mixed vegetables, spinach salad, and peach crisp on Thursday, Dec. 26. Please call 826-5108 before 9AM if you are planning to dine with them.

**OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS:** Have a fun family evening! Visit the Way of Lights, Christmas Tree Display, and Lego Exhibit 5-9PM through Dec. 31.

**DINNER AUCTION:** Questions? Ideas? Contact Brandy Maes, Dinner Auction Chairperson (615-7020). Reserve your seats early! Contact Ron Korando (615-2509) for reserved seating. Don't forget to check out the After Christmas Specials for your donation ideas! Our Auction will be held on Saturday, March 7. We are looking forward to another successful evening of celebration with friends and family.

**CLASSIC AUSTRIA & GERMANY PILGRIMAGE:** Join Fr. David Uribe, OMI and experience the Passion Play. Visit Heidelberg, Rhine Valley, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna, Munich and Rothenberg on Sept. 15-25, 2020. Cost is \$4,279 from St. Louis. For information, call 1-618-394-6292 or visit [snows.org/pilgrimage](http://snows.org/pilgrimage).

**UNPLANNED PREGNANCY RESOURCES:** The Belleville Pregnancy Care Center offers free pregnancy tests, clothing, formula, diapers, referrals for WIC and Public Aid, and baby items. Their phone number is 618-233-2273. Life Network of Southern Illinois (MyLifeNet.org) offers free pregnancy tests, free supplies, and free ultrasounds in Waterloo (618-939-4224) or Red Bud (618-939-4224).

**TO DREAM AND TO ACT:** The promised Second Coming of Christ is assured in the reality of the first. This birth of Jesus, promised by an angel to Mary and dreamed by Joseph, results in God-with-us, Emmanuel. How will my life be a sign that God is indeed with us now? How will God's grace spill this week into these mercy works: \_\_\_\_? How will I trust God and exorcise from my life whatever keeps me fearful?