

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2017

LIVING GOD'S WORD

O come, O come, Emmanuel. Make your dwelling place in us this day. Let the world recognize that we are a people chosen to be a sign of your loving, merciful, justice-seeking, reconciling presence in the world. Thank you for the many ways you continue to do the impossible in us, through us. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 25, 2017

Monday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord
9AM Pat O'Toole by Family
Tuesday, December 26, St. Stephen
NO MASS-PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Wednesday, December 27, St. John
NO MASS-PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday, December 28, The Holy Innocents
NO MASS-PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Friday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket
NO MASS-PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday, December 30
5PM Paul Schmerbauch by Marcella
Sunday, December 31, The Holy Family
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 24 THRU DEC. 31

Sunday	9AM Mass –Fulfills Sunday Obligation 5PM Christmas Eve Mass – Fulfills Christmas Obligation
Monday	9AM Christmas Mass NO K of C LUNCHEON
Tuesday	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL/NO PRESCHOOL
Wednesday	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Daycare Open (6:30AM-5PM)
Thursday	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Daycare Open (6:30AM-5PM)
Friday	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Daycare Open (6:30AM-5PM)
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: In today's first reading King David is settled in his cedar palace, no upcoming battles on the horizon, feeling quite content, glass of wine in hand, chatting with Nathan the prophet about how good life is, when he gets this inspiration: "God should have a house! Certainly more than that old tent we have been dragging around. And I will build it!" Nathan approves. But that night, God weighs in: "Tell David, 'Thanks, but no thanks. I like the tent.'" We don't know why God said no to David. But it seems that God wanted to make clear not only who was building God's dwelling place but also who really was in charge of everything. God was the kingdom builder and God chose to work with very simple material, like a tent. But this was nothing compared to God's decision a millennium later, on the day when the angel Gabriel was sent to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. God's plan from the beginning was to take up residence among us closer than any building could be, whether it was as magnificent as Solomon's temple or as humble as the simplest parish church. What God intended was to dwell with us as one of us, taking on human flesh and blood. And in the fullness of time God came asking if one of us would be willing. We don't know how long it took for Mary to answer. We only remember the important thing: she said yes.

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Dec. 30 & 31: 5PM, Claire Deterding, Carson Dunn; 9AM, Shane Bicket, Madison Kribs, Isaac Jany

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Creator God, help us to join with others as disciples who seek to live the Gospel and transform our communities.

TITHE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2017

Mary Help of Christians: \$7,493.00
\$314.00 Cemetery; \$40.00 Religious Retirement; \$30.00 Improvement Fund; \$31.00 Child Env.; \$2.00 Votives;
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,924.32
Fiscal Year Week: 25
YTD Actual Giving: \$173,108.00
YTD Budget Need: \$175,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$1,892.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$75.68)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS! May the Presence and Power of God from above be with you, your family, and friends this Christmas! Very Rev. Eugene H. Wojcik, V. F.

MANY, MANY THANKS for your generous check of \$805.00 for our Bolivian Mission of St. James Parish in Camata, Bolivia. Your donation is greatly appreciated by me and by Sister Ann Fearday who coordinates the Pastoral Team in Camata. Sr. Ann writes that new catechists are in formation so that people in more remote communities can have a Liturgical Celebration each week. A mission is being planned for January and the Eucharist will be celebrated for the people in these remote areas. This is a wonderful gift since the people of these parts see a priest only several times a year. As we hear the Good News of Advent that God is so very near to us, may our lives radiate the immense joy of being bearers of this Good News. This is my prayer for all of us. Merry Christmas and a New Year blessed with joy and peace! Very gratefully, Sister Anne Irose, ASC

CHESTER AREA CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY will host the mobile market at 10AM in Cohen Complex on Wednesday, Dec. 27. Volunteers are needed to speed the distribution. Please call Bob Koenegstein at 826-5264. The Pantry is in need of canned meats, canned fruit & peanut butter.

BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON to March For Life will be January 18-20 (Thursday-Saturday). Join us and thousands of others from across the nation for this huge 45th Annual pro-life gathering in the nation's capital. Go to <http://dps.diobelle.org/respectlife> for the Registration Forms and Fact Sheet.

HELP US BUILD COMMUNITIES in keeping with God's vision of Justice. The Spirit of the Lord has anointed us to bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and let the oppressed go free. In our families and faith communities, how can we cultivate a sense of responsibility for building a society in which the dignity of each person is recognized and protected? "Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. . . Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply but the sum of individual good deeds." Pope Francis, (Laudato Si')

SECRET NO MORE: What may have seemed a big secret, is made known over time by spending time with God (prayer and quiet) and faithful activity (mercy works). As with Blessed Mary long ago, the Holy Spirit is doing something in me, calling me to something important. Can I name it? Will I say "yes" to it after prayer as Mary did? What does God want me to say or do? How will the Holy Spirit help? Will I do it?