

December 24, 2017

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 printed in memory of Agnes Moeller, sponsored by their family.

MASS INTENTIONS



- Sunday, December 24**
4:30 p.m. The Welfare of the Youth of the Parish
- Monday, December 25**
Midnight The Welfare of All Parishioners
6:30 a.m. The Welfare of the Benefactors of the Parish
10:00 a.m. The Welfare of All Parishioners
- Saturday, December 30**
6:30 p.m. Betty Martinez
- Sunday, December 31**
6:30 a.m. The Deceased of the Schoenfeld & Darilek Family
9:30 a.m. Christine & Adolph C. Darilek
- Monday, January 1**
6:30 a.m. The Welfare of the Benefactors of the Parish
10:00 a.m. The Welfare of All Parishioners

PREPARING FOR 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

2017 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2017 Assessment	\$17,303.00
Contributions So Far	\$16,860.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$ 443.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Jeanie Targac

Arlene Holmes

Patsy Zamykal

Lisa & Kenneth Zidek

We thank all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. With your generous donations we should be able to pay off the remaining debt to the bishop before year's end. We are counting on all who have not yet contributed so far to also help.

ST. JOSEPH'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Annette Fojtik

In Memory of Joyce Kresta

Deana & Kenneth Bohuslav

RESURRECTION CHAPEL FUND

In Memory of Helen Machart: Nancy Sivyer

THE WEEK AHEAD

- MONDAY** – Christmas Day, See Mass Schedule
Parish Office Closed; No Gold Star Club Meeting
- TUESDAY** – Parish Office Closed
- WEDNESDAY** – No Champions Club Meeting (Christmas Holidays)
- THURSDAY** – KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall
- FRIDAY** – Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral emergency call the Parish Office at any time.

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.

Remember the sick in your prayers, especially Vera Berckenhoff.

Pray for the repose of the soul of **Joseph (Joe) Basil Lombardo** and for the comfort of his loved ones.
May he rest in peace.



The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Victor Schoenfeld.

REFLECTION

God Works the Impossible

The waiting of Advent is over. In the face of the impossible God works the possible. Mary is asked to believe this. She is open and accepting. She is to believe something else equally impossible: the old and barren Elizabeth is pregnant, for nothing is impossible for God.

What we have been waiting for all Advent is now revealed. We have been waiting for the realization of the promise made to David. We have been waiting for Mary's yes. According to ancient Christian writers, God waits for Mary's yes: creation waits; Adam and Eve wait; the dead in the underworld wait; the angels wait; and so do we. With Mary's yes, hope is enlivened and history is changed. There is an unimaginable future for all people, and gratitude. Salvation is created among us, and the fate of history is altered by a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts of those who believe in the gift and who stay awake eagerly to know its coming. With David we wait, with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Dec. 24 – Allen Barta, Edward Nieto, Kelsey Pilat, Kenneth Schoenfeld
Dec. 25 – Allison Drabek, Isac Manzano, J. Isaias Manzano
Dec. 26 – Tanee Colburn, Steve Fojtk, Steve Martinez, Atley Pilat
Dec. 27 – Sidonia Mayer, Otto Moeller, Rose Selzer, Christine Wenske
Dec. 28 – Joseph Bartos, Alfred Haikenwaelder, Hailey Rothbauer
Dec. 29 – Jillian Anderle, Abby Bohuslav, Shelby Bohuslav, Duane Fojtik, Hattie Olle, Earlene Pilat
Dec. 30 – Kalla Gaertner, Jayme Raab

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec. 27 – Caroline & James Freytag

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Christmas Holidays

Dec. 24-31 - No C.C.D./YMC After School Programs
Jan. 7 – C.C.D. Resumes

Mass at Raphael's Refuge, Dec. 28, 11:00 a.m. Feast Day of the Holy Innocents

Bishop Cahill will celebrate Mass. Rosary will begin at 10:15 a.m. The Monument is located at 2715 W. Hwy 90 (two miles west of Flaton). For more information contact Midge Elam at 361-258-1514.



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 Christmas Gifts for 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
& many others in need

** 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. Choir members may come at 9:15 a. m. in time to prepare.

Communion to the Homebound on Christmas Day: Holy Communion will be taken to the homebound parishioners who called in their request.

2018 Religious Calendars have been placed at the church entrances. One calendar per family please.

Christmas Altar Flower Fund Donations: See insert.

Christmas Pageant Today: 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,

