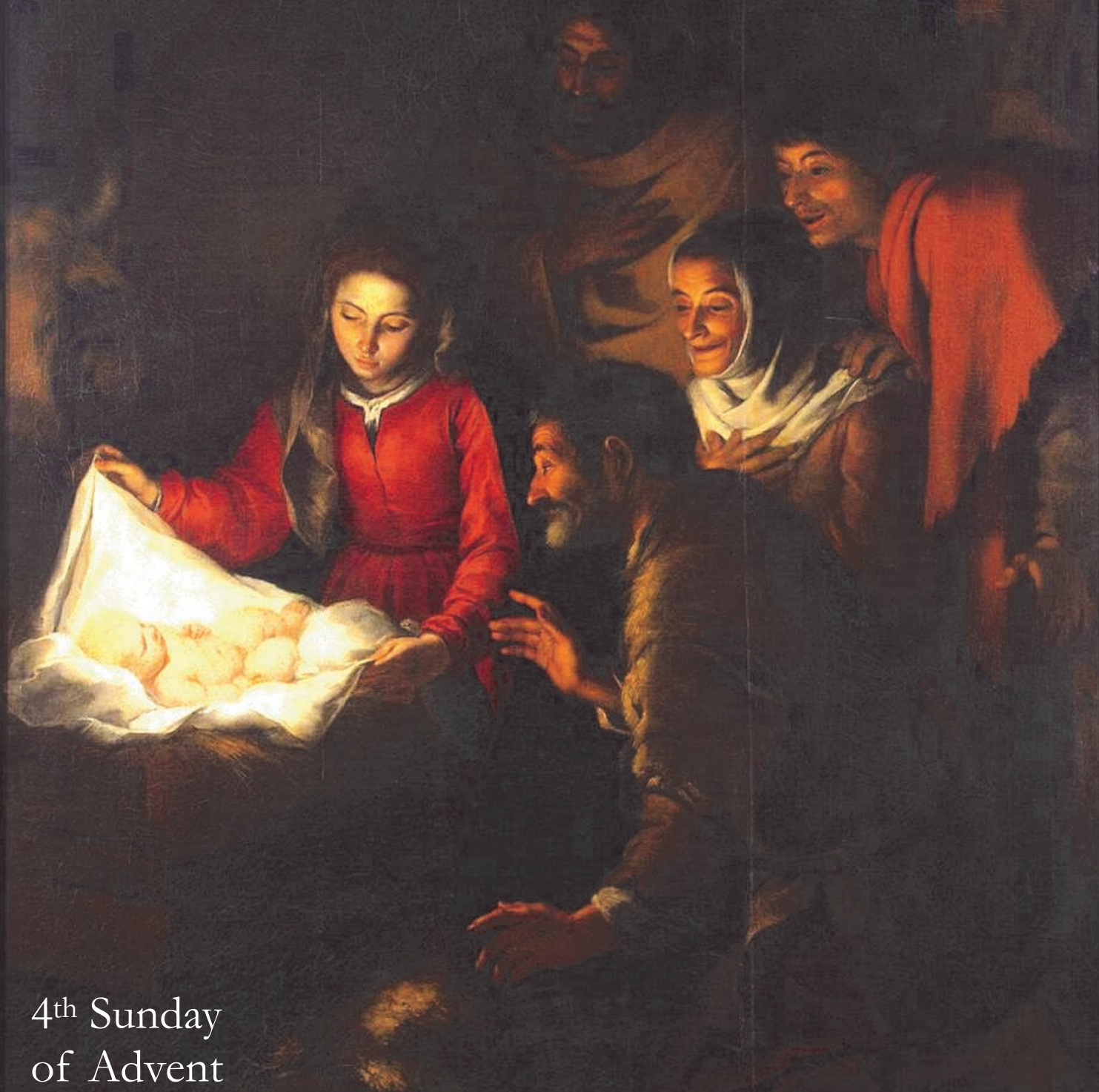


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



4th Sunday
of Advent
20 December 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(December 19th - December 27th)

Sat.	Dec 19	4th Sunday of Advent (Vigil) (Vi)
	4:00 pm	Anne Medeiros
Sun.	Dec 20	4th Sunday of Advent (Vi)
	7:00am	Jean, Helen & Donny Guenette
	9:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11:00am	George Bevilacqua
Mon.	Dec 21	St. Peter Canisius; Priest (Vi)
	9:00am	Robert Vigeant
Tues.	Dec 22	Late Advent Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Al & Maria Cordeiro
Wed.	Dec 23	St. John Cantius (Vi)
	9:00am	Armand Lagasse
Thurs.	Dec 24	Late Advent Weekday (Vi)
	9:00am	Joyce Barrett
Thurs.	Dec 24	Nativity of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
	2:00pm	Dorothy Fouts
	4:00pm	Rose & John Engel
	6:00pm	Deceased Parishioners
	12:00am	Hammarquist & Lemieux Families
Fri.	Dec 25	Nativity of the Lord (Wh)
	8:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10:30am	Intentions of Pope Francis
Sat.	Dec 26	St. Steven; 1st Martyr (Rd)
	9:00am	Intentions of Fr. Steven Booth
Sat.	Dec 26	The Holy Family (Vigil) (Wh)
	4:00 pm	Edmond Tetreault
Sun.	Dec 27	The Holy Family (Wh)
	7:00am	Harry B. Booth
	9:00am	Anne Medeiros; Boyd & Michele Hudson
	11:00am	Dorothy & Joseph Mello, Ida & Aldo DeRossi

Financial Report

Income:

Due to the early bulletin transmission deadline, we have no income to report. We will catch you up next weekend.

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory.

Sanctuary Lamp

During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: Paulino & Ana Vieira & Daughter

ADVENT CONFESSION

Please see the full confession schedule for the Advent Season provided on page 3 of this bulletin

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A HOLY YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

On 8 December Pope Francis gave an early Christmas gift to the Church by declaring the beginning of a Year of St. Joseph. With his characteristic spontaneity, the year began on the day it was proclaimed and will continue until 8 December 2021.

While that is the date of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, this year it was also the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Church. That is, St. Joseph protects the Church with his prayers in a special way.

Pope Francis announced this new year with a letter entitled *Patris Corde*, meaning "With a Father's Heart." He shares that his inspiration came from current events:

My desire (to proclaim this year) increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others... Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.

Pope Francis continues by sharing how St. Joseph serves both as a guide and an intercessor for us: as a father who is beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, working, and at peace while operating in the shadows.

We will have time to unpack these in the coming year; for now, I will close by sharing with you Pope Francis' prayer to St. Joseph with which he concludes his letter:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:30am – 4:00pm

Please make an appointment to meet with

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-998-7445

School: 508-995-4313

School Fax: 508-995-0456

ACCESSIBILITY

- Open for Prayer Every Day
- Wheelchair Lift
- Cry-room

St. Francis Xavier Parish

125 Main Street

Acushnet, MA 02743

tel: (508)-995-7600 fax: (508)-995-1794

email: info@sfxparish.com

Fr. Riley J. Williams, Pastor

[rjw@sfxparish.com]

Deacon David Pepin

[dbp@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jilh@sfxparish.com]

[ministry@sfxacushnet.com]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Director of Pastoral Services

[sng@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Michelle Russo, Parish School Principal

[mrusso@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Anabela Shaughnessy, Asst. Principal

[ashaughnessy@sfxacushnet.com]

HOLY MASS

Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am & 11:00am

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

First Friday 9:00am & 6:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday 5:30-6:30pm

(9:30-10:00am Monday Holidays)

Saturday 9:30-10:00am

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

First Fridays 6:45-7:15pm

Any Time by Appointment

ADORATION

Monday 9:30am-8:30pm

Tuesday 6:30am-8:45am

Wednesday 6:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday 6:30am-8:30pm

Friday 6:30am-8:30pm

Saturday 6:30 am-2:45 pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Monday & Wednesday: 6:30 pm

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Please see below the schedule of hours for Confession prior to the Christmas Holyday.

20 Dec. - Sunday: Beginning ½ hour before every Mass & after every Mass

21 Dec. - Monday: 5:30-6:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. until all are heard (This will be the Last Chance for Confessions at the parish before Christmas)

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS ADORATION & EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE: *For Christmas* we will suspend Eucharistic Adoration beginning on Tuesday, 22 Dec just before the 9 am Mass resuming Adoration on Monday, 28 December after the 9 am Mass . Please note that there will be no Vespers & Benediction on Wednesday 23 December.

For New Year's, Eucharistic Adoration will be suspended beginning on Tuesday 29 December (just before the 9 am Mass) with resumption on Monday, 4 January after the 9 am Mass. Please note also that there will be no Vespers & Benediction on Wednesday 30 December.

Please also note that the **Christmas season runs to January 10th**, so please come as often as you are able to daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and Christmas Vespers & Benediction.

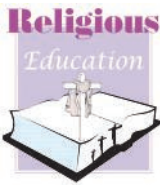
A Fond Farewell (from Steven Guillotte)

After ten years of faithful service to you - the parishioners of SFX Parish - I have decided to accept another position in another parish. At this very particular moment, mention of where I am going is not as important as mention of where I am leaving: a wonderful Catholic community of God's people united in Holy Eucharistic charity.

If I was asked to recount all the cherished memories I have of this parish, my recollection would take up the pages of several years worth of parish bulletins. You are living, Holy Spirit-breathing proof that parish life and the parish model is not dead and that it will always thrive when it is centered on solid Mass attendance, regular Confession, and humble Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Word.

This may seem an odd farewell, but I am a bit of an oddity! You are faithful Catholics, hence so are you. The best parting gift that you could give me is to keep the faith in this very trying world. Encourage your pastor, hearten the parish staff, support the Church's mission, and serve the Lord in reverent worship and in each other - **In Christ, Steven N. Guillotte**

4th Sunday of Advent- December 20, 2020



Thank you to those who joined us for “**Wreaths Across America**”. We laid wreaths with great appreciation for those that have protected our right to freedom. Let us continue to pray for all service men and women that will be away from their families during this Christmas Season.

Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Day Sunday December 20th. Candidates and Sponsors will be meeting in the church for Eucharistic Adoration @ 2pm.

On-Line learning: Families, that chose to have their child stay at home, need to check their emails each week for the lesson / power point / videos and return the work and / or at-home-activity that is requested of them to be up-to-date for that week.

No classes for all levels on Sunday December 27, 2020.
Have a Blessed Christmas and Joyful New Year.
Classes resume on Jan. 10, 2021 Baptism of the Lord.

Let us not forget that we can take an hour out of our weekend to view Holy Mass on television or on the internet. Even though the Pope has instituted a dispensation from actually attending Mass during this time due to the pandemic we can still view it and take part in kneeling and standing and responding to the prayers at home. *God commanded us to keep holy the Sabbath, and Mass is the way a Catholic fulfills that requirement. And if God tells us to do something, we should do it.*

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Stay Safe, Healthy and Holy
God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

Our school doors closed up tightly this past Friday for a well-deserved break for our faculty and students. A full two-week reprieve was given to our faculty and students to rest after quite a long stint! We have been tremendously blessed as our school community has remained healthy since our reopening! Our faculty and families have put our students first, adhering to the pandemic guidelines and making smart decisions. Obviously, prayer has been a huge part of our daily lives at the school as we continue to praise and glorify God for our wellbeing. The week leading into vacation was highlighted by "the spirit of giving" reinforced by a St. Nicholas' video visit and demonstrated by our students. Gift cards flooded in for our St. Vincent de Paul families and students were able to shop (using a catalogue of course) for their siblings and loved ones. We are blessed beyond measure and grateful for the coming of Our Lord and Savior this Christmas!

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal



Virgin Annunciate
Antonello da Messina (1475)

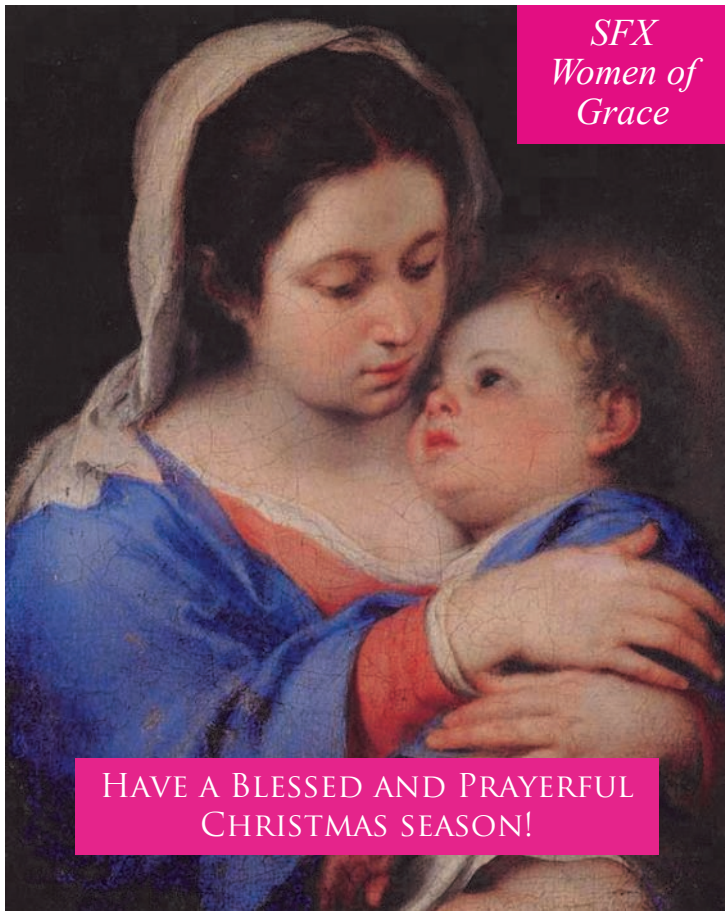
And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." (Lk 1:35)



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS: from your Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We thank you for your support of our Christmas Box fundraiser through which you gave us many gift cards needed to make a happy Christmas day for many of our local

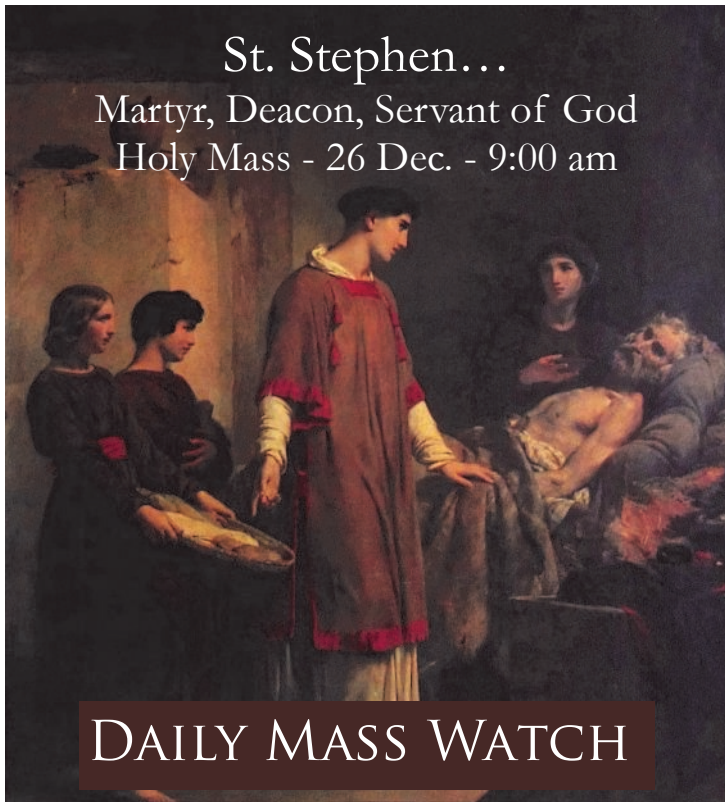
SVDP clients. We also are grateful for your generous support of the collection for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. These Holy Days are the fuel of our charitable work, not only because they provide financial resources but because they come in the context of the Holy Mass and in the Christian spirit to serve God's "little ones". We wish you and all our patrons a very Happy Christmas!

SECRETARIAL/BOOKKEEPING WANTED: A position is available in the parish office for a person with office management, telephone, customer service, computer, and bookkeeping (QuickBooks) skills. Excellent knowledge of Word, Excel, and Publisher also needed. This is a full time position of 30 - 35 hours per week or five, 6 1/2 to 7 hour work days per week. If you have these skills and are interested in working in the SFX Parish office, please see or email Father Riley Williams at rjw@sfxparish.com.



SFX
Women of
Grace

HAVE A BLESSED AND PRAYERFUL
CHRISTMAS SEASON!



St. Stephen...
Martyr, Deacon, Servant of God
Holy Mass - 26 Dec. - 9:00 am

DAILY MASS WATCH

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
December 20 th	- Diocesan Assessment
December 25 th	- Christmas

SFX PRAYER LINE

Please call 508-850-6649 between 8am & 8pm
Or email your prayer request to:
sfxprayerline@gmail.com

READINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: *Morning*: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: *Vigil*: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. *Night*: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. *Dawn*: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. *Day*: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

ON THE COVER

On **Christmas Day** we read in the first Mass reading at the Midnight Mass from the Prophet Isaiah, *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing”*.

We place on our parish bulletin cover for the 4th Sunday in Advent (and for Christmas Day) a lovely work by the Spanish master **Bartolome Esteban Murillo** entitled *Adoration of the Shepherds* (1650). Murillo was a painter of the Baroque period yet his works did not “ascend heaven” as so many beautiful paintings and statues did in that era. His was a simple Spanish realism that still touched upon the classical reserve of the Renaissance, yet he experimented with the newer Tenebrist style famous for contrasting darkness with light.

Here, in this work, Christ is the sole source of light. True to our Catholic faith, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who opens up and reveals for us the un-blanketed light of the beloved Son of God. This illumination radiating from the Christ-child is both symbolic of His divinity and of the light of God’s grace which surpasses even the wonder of natural light; for it has the power to save souls. We see the shepherds, symbolic of the many souls living out in the wilderness, yet drawn to the light as is every soul which is open to an encounter with God. Still, many souls prefer to remain in the darkness.

It is our baptismal duty to call them out into the light of Christ. It is our Christmas joy which must draw them out of doubt and fear into God’s glorious light!

4th Sunday of Advent- December 20, 2020

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 20 DECEMBER

Processional Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

1st Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'" "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Responsorial Psalm: *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord*

2nd Reading: Rom 16: 25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations ...

2nd Reading: Rom 16: 25-27 (continued)

... to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Lk 1:26-28

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Offertory Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Communion Hymn: Soul of My Savior

Recessional Hymn: O Come, Divine Messiah

O Come Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day, When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away - Dear savior haste, Come, come to earth, Dispel the night and show thy face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace... O Come Divine Messiah...