



December 22, 2019
4th Sunday of Advent

We are in our final days of our Advent journey in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of

Jesus at Christmas. These final days (from Dec. 17-23) are ones in which the Church invites us to focus our attention specifically on the historical events of the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem just over two-thousand years ago. The Gospels during these days are those events which immediately precede the account of His coming into the world. The Entrance Antiphon for this Sunday is as follows:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
 and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
 let the earth be opened and bring forth a
 Savior. (Cf. Is. 45:8)

These words express the longing of the people of Israel to finally welcome the Messiah. Generation after generation hoped that He would come during their lifetime. Then finally, "in the fullness of time" (Gal. 4:4), He came. Yet, as we know, few welcomed Him, for "there was no room for them in the inn." (Lk. 2:7) In the Prologue of John's Gospel, we read these sad words: "He came to what was His own, but His own people did not accept Him." (Jn. 1:11)

The way in which He was not welcomed at His coming in history should cause all of us to reflect in our hearts about how eager we are to welcome Him as He comes to us in mystery on so many occasions, especially at the Mass. We would do well to pray with the words of the Entrance Antiphon over the next few days, asking for the special grace of being eager to welcome the Savior into our hearts anew at Christmas. We can ask to have that same anticipation of the generations that waited in hope for His coming. We recall the words of Jesus Himself that can apply so well to us now: "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." (Mt. 13:16-17)

My special prayer for all of us in these final days is that we look with eagerness toward that moment He will come to us again at Mass on Christmas. More than anything else surrounding that day, may our welcoming Him as He takes flesh in the Eucharist be a source of great joy and peace for us. And just as John's Gospel highlighted the sadness

of those who did not welcome Him, we are reminded of what is in store for us who do: "But to those who did accept Him He gave power to become children of God." (Jn. 1:12) We can receive no greater gift this Christmas than being reminded of our true identity that has become possible because of His coming down from Heaven to dwell among us and to save us.

- Fr. Alford

Parish Sacrificial Giving		
Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020		
	Last Week	Year-To-Date
Collections (103)	\$ 6,835.75	\$ 135,533.69
Electronic Funds (20)	\$ 2,188.10	\$ 25,078.60
Bldg. Dev. Fund (5)	\$ 128.00	\$ 7,087.00
EFT-Dev. Fund (10)	\$ 448.00	\$ 3,798.00
Poor Fund	\$ 103.00	\$ 1,273.23
Children's Offering (0)	\$ 0.00	\$ 43.60
Christmas Offerings(1)	\$ 20.00	\$ 360.00
Christmas Flowers (1)	\$ 30.00	\$ 828.00
Immac. Conception (2)	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,208.00
Retired Religious (13)	\$ 222.45	\$ 2,091.45
Children's Home (8)	\$ 122.00	\$ 257.00
Justice & Hope (1)	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,384.00
Pentecost (1)	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS	
<u>Saturday, Dec. 28th – 4:30 p.m.</u>	
Euch. Min.:	Fr. Alford, Biesiada, White Deacon Roth
Lectors:	Day, DeGroot
Servers:	Delgado, Zack, Zucco
Hospitality:	Auxier, H & M Bruno, Rendok
<u>Sunday, Dec. 29th – 8:00 a.m.</u>	
Euch. Min.:	Fr. Alford, R & L Eifert, Nelson
Lectors:	H & J Hendrickson
Servers:	Deen, P & H Zeidler
Hospitality:	M & D Anderson, K & G Park
<u>Sunday, Dec. 29th – 10:30 a.m.</u>	
Euch. Min.:	Fr. Alford, Kohlrus, Kuntzman Warren
Lectors:	K Livengood, Warren
Servers:	P Henry, Kerley
Minister of Care:	Nelson
Hospitality:	S & D Decker
CLOW:	Kerley, Powell

Anointing of the Sick

If you are going to the hospital for surgery or have a serious illness, receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Please call the parish office to receive the Sacrament, administered privately or during daily Mass. Call Barb Scoggins at 217-498-9197 to have a family member placed on the prayer list.

Prayer List:

Barb Sinkus, parishioner
Steven Long, parishioner
Gary Dumonceaux, parishioner
Jillian Kohlrus, parishioner
Shirley Crawford, parishioner
Rene Runions, parishioner
Ray Roland, parishioner
Lynn F. Leach, parishioner
JoAnn Camille, parishioner
Betty Rowden, parishioner
JoAnn Barber, parishioner
Glen Butcher, parishioner
Yvonne Butcher, mother of Barrie Blough
Katherine Torricelli, mother of Jeff Torricelli
Aloysious Staff, brother of Sylvia Thull
Ken Cardoni, cousin of Frances Tomashavich
John Rentschler, son of Ginger Rentschler
Glen Limper, son of Al & Betty Limper
Hope Power, daughter of Yvonne Brandis
Donna Meyers, mother of Kellie Brewer
Jim Felts, husband of Dianne Felts
Jerry McCormick, brother of Tom Walker
Margie Lammert, mother of Sarah Clare
Steven Butts, brother of Michelle Bullock
Reba Cloyd, mother of Anita Schwab
Jennifer Harbeck, cousin of Brad Zack
Joanna Laabs, wife of Deacon Al Laabs
John Vercautern, cousin of Laurie White
Bob Etherton, friend of Mary Bruno
Cherie Peterson, niece of Peggy Parnell
David Brogdon, friend of Don & Roberta Vanover
Judy Conway, friend of Maggie Patterson
Carolyn Carmichael, mother of Leanne Collings
Stephanie Zimmerman, friend of Sarah Clare
Button Pemberton, friend of Guerrettaz family
Teresa Cieciera, friend of Guerrettaz family
Ziggie Cieciera, friend of Guerrettaz family
Aliana Marecki, friend of Guerrettaz family



In Memory:

Ruthie Liken, mother of Stephanie Palazzolo

Volunteers for this week: Dec. 23-Dec. 29:

Church Duster: Michelle Bertrand
Dec. Recycling Volunteer: Jeannette Waters
Dec. Food Volunteer: David Waters Family
Coffee & Donuts – Sunday, Dec. 29th:
Roger & Mary Beth McClintock

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!!

The † symbolizes the Mass is for someone who is deceased.

Saturday, December 21st

3:30 p Confessions
4:30 p Mass (Int: Jean Seward†)

Sunday, December 22nd

Confessions
7:30 a Mass (Int: For the Parish)
8:00 a Wyndcrest: Rendok
9:30 a Confessions
9:45 a Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a Rosary
10:30 a Mass (Int: Evelyn Cannon†)
12-1:30 p Choir Rehearsal
4-6:00 p Confessions

Monday, December 23rd

Counting Team #4
9:00 a Confessions
5:00 p Mass (Int: John Blasko†)
5:30 p Confessions
6:00-7:30 p Confessions

Tuesday, December 24th

9:00-10:30 a Confessions
4:30 p Mass (Int: For the Parish)
10:00 p Mass (Int: All Souls†)

Wed., December 25th

9:00 a Mass (Int: For the Parish)

Thurs., December 26th

Morning Prayer
7:00 a Mass (Int: Limper/Engeling Families)
7:30 a Scriptural Rosary
8:00 a

Friday, December 27th

Morning Prayer
7:00 a Mass (Int: Joyce Hogan†)
7:30 a Scriptural Rosary
8:00 a

Saturday, December 28th

3:30 p Confessions
4:30 p Mass (Int: Carol J. Gadert†)

Sunday, December 29th

Confessions
7:30 a Mass (Int: Susan E. Denton†)
8:00 a Wyndcrest: Nelson
9:30 a Confessions
9:45 a Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a Rosary
10:30 a Mass (Int: For the Parish)
Williams Baptism



**The Parish Office will be closed
December 24th – 27th.**



The staff joins me in extending prayerful blessings of Christmas joy, peace and love to each of you. You are being remembered in prayers especially at Mass throughout the Christmas Season.

Liturgical Ministers for Christmas Masses

Tuesday, December 24th – 4:30 p.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, Deacon Walker, Deacon Roth, Dowding, White, Clare, G & C Leach
Lectors: H & J Hendrickson
Servers: Delgado, Zack, Torres
Hospitality: Dahlkamp

Tuesday, December 24th – 10:00 p.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, Deacon Roth
Lectors: Deimel
Servers: P. Henry
Hospitality: Rendok, Decker Family

Wednesday, December 25th 9:00 a.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, Egizio
Lectors: Schudel, Helling
Servers: Zucco, Schudel
Hospitality: Dahlkamp

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Dec. 22nd – Dec. 29th :

Sunday:	IS 7:10-14	ROM 1:1-7
		MT 1:18-24
Monday:	MAL 3:1-4, 23-24	LK 1:57-66
Tuesday Vigil :	IS 62:1-5	ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25
		MT 1:1-25
Tues. Night:	IS 9:1-6	LK 2:1-14
Wednesday:	IS 52:7-10	HEB 1:1-6
		JN 1:1-18
Thursday:	ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59	MT 10:17-22
Friday:	1JN 1:1-4	JN 20:1A, 2-8
Saturday:	1JN 1:5-2:2	MT 2:13-18
Sunday:	SIR 3:2-6, 12-14	COL 3:12-21
		MT 2:13-15, 19-23

→PSR NEWS←

The PSR classes will continue their Annual Monthly Food Drive to benefit the Food Pantry. The December food item is Chili. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Additional Confession Opportunities during Advent:

Sunday, December 22 – 4:00 – 6:00 pm
 Monday, December 23 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm
 Tuesday, December 24 – 9:00 – 10:30 am

Upcoming Parish Meetings/Events

Dec. 24-27 Parish Office Closed
 Dec. 31 noon-Jan. 3, 2020 Parish Office Closed
 Jan. 9,16,23,30 – 7:00 p.m. Men's Prayer Group
 Jan. 6 – 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting
 Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 – 7:00 p.m. RCIA
 Jan. 8 - 1:00 p.m. Ladies Tea/Bunco
 Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 – 6:30 p.m. PSR
 Jan. 11 – 1:00 p.m. Sew-n-sews
 Jan. 14 – 6:30 p.m. – PGC Session
 Jan. 21 – 7:00 p.m. – Knights of Columbus meeting

St. Jude Parish Weekly Confession Times

Monday – 5:00-5:20 p.m.
Saturday – 3:30-4:15 p.m.
Sunday – 7:30-7:50 a.m. & 9:45-10:15 a.m.



The St. Jude Adult Choir will be singing at the **4:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass** on **Tuesday, December 24th**. The choral prelude will begin at **4:00 p.m.**

Catholic Children's Home Collection

For the past 139 years, the Catholic Children's Home in Alton has served as a 'beacon of hope' for thousands of children who have needed the love and compassion of God's mercy in their lives. Today, the Catholic Children's Home continues this mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic needs of all the children sent for care and professional services, including a new program designed to serve the needs of children faced with the struggles of Autism. **Please help to continue the good work with your contribution to this special collection held at Christmas. Thank you.**

PLEASE NOTE: For 2019 Financial Contributions to the parish, envelopes must be turned in by **12:00 noon on Monday, December 30, 2019.**

Feeling the call to become more active within the Parish?

A **Protecting God's Children** session has been scheduled at St. Jude Parish Center, **Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.** Please contact the Parish Office (498-9197) to register for this session. Please assist the parish in providing various services for our youth and children by fulfilling the requirement for all parish volunteers. **The Protecting God's Children Adult Training Session is a requirement for anyone age 18 or older who is volunteering within the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.**



**Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Great Marriages Don't Just Happen,
Couples Make Them!**

Give your spouse a particularly LIFE GIVING gift this Christmas by signing up for to attend the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in the St. Louis area. The next weekends are Feb. 7-9 or Apr. 24-26, 2020 at the Courtyard Marriot in St. Peters, MO. <https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php> or call or text 314.649.7317.

SHG PLACEMENT TEST- The SHG Placement Test will be offered on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Becky Jones, Tuition Manager, and Sr. Katherine O'Connor, President, will be available to answer parents' questions at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room. Please contact our Registrar at 217-787-1595 ext. 126 if you are unable to take the test. Students will need to bring #2 Pencils and \$10 testing fee, and a calculator. Pre-registration online is required by Friday, January 10, 2020. www.shg.org

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. and Trivia Workshop invites you to attend Trivia Night on January 11, 2020 at the Prairie Heart Dove Conference Center from 7:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person, or \$160 for a table of 8. Bring your own snacks. There will be soda, water, beer and wine available for purchase. Registration for the event can be done by calling the Center at 525-5630.

Alpha Course at Cathedral – A chance to explore a relationship with Jesus

Are you someone who might enjoy learning a little more about Christianity? Have you or a friend drifted away from the faith? Why not try Alpha? Alpha is a no pressure opportunity to explore the Christian faith in an atmosphere of warm hospitality. Each Alpha session includes a meal, a talk, and conversation. No cost, no obligation. If you or someone you know is interested, the next course begins on Monday, January 13 at 6:30pm in the Cathedral school basement. Please make sure to RSVP at 522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or online at <https://spicathedral.org/alpha/> You are welcome!

Bereavement Ministry

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception hosts a weekly bereavement group, Grief Share, on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 (except 12/26) in the Cathedral School Library. Grief Share offers a faith filled opportunity to grieve and heal in company with others. You are most welcome to join us at any time. No RSVP necessary. For more information contact Berni Ely at 899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com

Carols at Noon

As the Church begins her celebration of the Christmas season following Christmas Day, join Mark Gifford to enjoy the beauty of the sights and sounds of Christmas in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, December 26th at Noon.

Epiphany Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral

In the continued joy of the Church's celebration of Christmas, you are invited to again join Mark Gifford and the Cathedral Choir for an evening of Scripture, music, and prayer as we reflect on the events surrounding the birth of our Savior at Christmas. Sunday, January 5th at 7:00PM.

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