

DECEMBER 22, 2024 † 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21 ~ Vigil/4th Sunday in Advent
5:30 PM Ralph & Marion Cinque,
Dave Barbuti

Sunday, December 22 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
9:30 AM Corlin Carpenter, Charles Aranda

Monday, December 23
9:00 AM The People of God at OLA

Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
5:30 PM Deceased Members of the
Grzybek & Kruk Families
Agnes Ferrone, Tracy Family

Wednesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
9:30 AM Virginia Steinback

Friday, December 27 ~ NO MASS

Saturday, December 28 ~ Vigil/Feast of the Holy Family
5:30 PM Stiano Family, Krystyna Grzybek,
William Pitt, Sr.

Sunday, December 29 ~ Feast of the Holy Family
9:30 AM Arno Tittel, Sharen Maurer

Ministers of the word

Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
5:30 PM Children

Wednesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
9:30 AM Al Ceriale

Saturday, December 28 ~ Vigil/Feast of the Holy Family
5:30 PM Eileen Ernst

Sunday, December 29 ~ Feast of the Holy Family
9:30 AM AnnMarie Minerly

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
5:30 PM Brendan Kennedy (a), Lisa Dyer (c)

Wednesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
9:30 AM Seema Cristallo (a), Marie Barnett (c)

Saturday, December 28 ~ Vigil/Feast of the Holy Family
5:30 PM Barbara Cinque (a) Kim Grzybek (c)

Sunday, December 29 ~ Feast of the Holy Family
9:30 AM Liz Klimczak (a), Marie Barnett (c)

Pray for those who serve

Alexandria Baker-Bonitz (Navy) Dylan Bonitz (Navy)
Juan Gonzales (Navy)

Kaila McGowan (Marines) Joseph Ruize (Navy)
Robert Pape-Laucella (Marines)

Pasko Shkreli (Army) Carissa Tironi (Army)
Nicholas Turner (Army) Elliott Weidel (Marines)

PRAY FOR THOSE IN CARE FACILITIES

Barbara Ceriale, Brad Ceriale, Gina Lempka, Rosemary
Osborn, Regina Parthesius, Sue Schmaus, Elissa Zahn

PRAY FOR THE INFIRM

Marion Andersen, Bridget Auer, Joanna Bach, Rob
Brosnan, Sr. Margaret Ellen Burke, S.C., Brian Cross,
Nicole Dawson, Fr. Paul Denault, O.Carm.,
John & Lorraine DiCicco, Anna Gallo, Joseph Gallo,
Margaret Hale, Nicole Langer, Fr. Joe Komonchak,
Marianna Oparski, Carol Orlando, Frank Orlando,
Sal Rappo Helen Ryan, Frances Salewski, Beth Texter,
Deacon & Frances Trapani, Kevin Uffelmann,
Terry Waterson

Looking ahead

Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
Family Mass with Children's Pageant at 5:30 PM

No Religious Education Classes on December 24

Wednesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
Mass at 9:30 AM

Friday, December 27 ~ NO 9 AM Mass

Sunday, December 29 ~ Mass at 9:30 AM
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Tuesday, December 31 ~ New Year's Eve

No Religious Education Classes on December 31

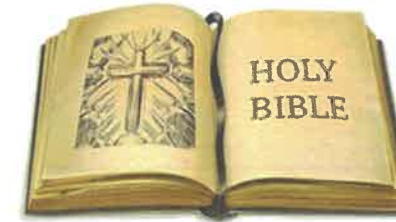
Wednesday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day
Mass at 9:30 AM

Friday, January 3 ~ First Friday
Holy Hour immediately following 9:00 AM Mass
Men's COR Gathering at OLA ~ 5:30-6:45 PM

Tuesday, January 7 ~ 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Religious Education Classes Resume

Sunday, January 12 ~ The Baptism of the Lord
Mass at 9:30 AM

Today's Scripture Readings



Micah 5:1-4a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:30-45

LIVING THE LITURGY: Advent Love

The love that God has for us, the love that we celebrate during Advent, is described for us in these famous words from The Gospel according to Saint John, *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.* (John 3:16). This great act of love sets in motion the events that we recall today in the exchange between Mary and Elizabeth.

God has done great things for both women, but God's timing is difficult for them. How much easier would it have been for Elizabeth to have her first child when her body was more supple. How much easier would it have been for Mary to have her child after her marriage to Joseph. Instead, we have this powerful moment where Mary comes to assist Elizabeth with her youthful strength, and Elizabeth is there as a wise, elder mentor offering wisdom at this difficult time. Both are caught up in an embrace so strong that reaches even to their children in the womb!

Throughout her life, Elizabeth would have known suspicious remarks that God has punished her with barrenness. Mary will also face suspicious remarks about the timing of her pregnancy. They open their lives to God's mysterious ways so that the fullness of love may come upon us at Christmas.

Elizabeth recognizes something holy in what could have experienced as ordinary fetal movement. Where have you found God in the everyday experiences of your life?



Take time to see how God is present in the midst of your ordinary reality.

A Christmas Prayer

Source of divine Light, Emmanuel, God with us, your radiant love illuminated our waiting world with the surprise of your Bethlehem birth.

Each year since then we celebrate this astonishing event, rejoicing in your coming anew, not as a newborn Babe, but as the hidden presence of divinity contained within each of us.

To our great astonishment, we have become your dwelling place. We are now your Bethlehem.

Now you are Treasure birthed in the secret place of our soul.

Now you are Light gleaming through our gestures of generosity.

Now you are Hope radiating inside the core of our courage.

Now you are Joy shining into the dark caves of our gloom.

Now you are Peace glowing quietly in the crevice of our anxiety.

Now you are Love brilliantly reflected within our kindness.

O Christ, Light of all lights, Star of all stars, dweller within these human homes of ours, open our wandering minds and hesitant hearts so your endless goodness radiates more complete in in us.

We welcome you again and again, with gratitude and trust, not only in this Christmas season of remembrance and celebration but all through the new year that awaits us.

— Joyce Rupp

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