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Last Week's Collection

Regular & Holy Day Collection
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Parish Project Collection
12/13/2020 \$75.00

Retired Religious Collection
12/13/2020 \$255.00



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Catholic Parish

REV. PRABHU AROCKIASAMY, PASTOR

ED CONNICK, DEACON

December 20
2020

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

Cycle B
Year 1

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS
TUESDAY-FRIDAY
8 AM

ROSARY
3:30 PM SATURDAY

SATURDAY
VIGIL MASS
4:00 PM

SUNDAY
MASS
8:30AM
11:00AM

SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION
SATURDAY
3:15PM-3:45PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT

FR. PRABHU
CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE
719-242-4622

EMAIL
prabhuaroc1985@icloud.com

Lector Schedule

December
26th & 27th

December 26th
4pm
Lloyd Thompson

December 27th
8:30am
Mary Ann Fletcher

December 27th
11am
Mary Kay Portella

Christmas and New Year's Lector Schedule

December 24th
4pm
Mary Ann Fletcher
7pm
Sallie Washington

December 25th
9am
Judy Moore

December 31st
4pm
Sally Washington

January 1st
9am
Judy Moore

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 19
4:00 PM
+ EUGENE BOUTRIES

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 20
8:30 AM
FOR PARISHIONERS OF
OUR LADY OF
LOURDES

11:00 AM
+ RENEE BOLTZ

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 22
8AM
+ RENEE BOLTZ

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 23
+ RENEE BOLTZ

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 24
4PM
+ RENNIE PITT
7PM
SPECIAL INTENTIONS

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 25
9AM
FOR PARISHIONERS OF
OUR LADY OF
LOURDES

The Fourth Week of Advent

Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love – shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by loving others as Christ loves us. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

Amen



To my parish family,

I would like to say thank you to my parish family for all the ways that you offered your support during the time of Billy's sickness and passing. You will never know how much you all mean to me.

With Love,
Ann Kenny

In the beginning
was the word...

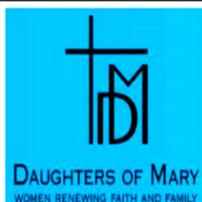


Our Lady of Lourdes Liturgy Committee

KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS



-AND-
LADIES
AUXILIARY
#8740



Our Lady
of Lourdes
Parish Hall
Tuesday
at 6PM

Chiropractic Massage Esthetician



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960 Schillinger Road South Suite D
251-522-9512
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Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
December 20, 2020

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

By Fr. Mark Haydu

King David wants to build God a home! He had first built his own palace and afterward realized that he hadn't built space for God—a place of worship and family communion.

It is admirable that David wants to give back, but do we have to take care of God or, rather, is it God who cares for us? Obviously, God doesn't need David to build him a house. The whole world is his. Didn't God build up David all along, bringing him to a place where he might consider offering God something in return? It is like children who want to

give their parents a gift. First, they ask a parent for money or a gift idea. On their own, they cannot give.

God turns the tables on David, saying God will build David a house—an everlasting lineage to rule over the people. God will build something much bigger than anything David had ever dreamt of. He will build David a kingdom that will become a nation and give birth to a worldwide universal Church.

In the painting, *The Annunciation with City by the Sea* by Marco Palmezzano, Mary stands in front of an ornate house. She stands like us, at the entrance, welcoming God's coming. It was her yes that allowed the master builder to enter into our world to begin building this house, which became a Church.

Like Mary, we await Jesus. With her, let us say yes to him, celebrating the one who has established that house where we celebrate today!

God turns the tables, saying God will build David a house—an everlasting lineage to rule over the people.

Sunday Readings

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.

Romans 16:25–27

Now to him who can strengthen you... through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever.

Luke 1:26–38

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

A Word from Pope Francis

The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin... We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will... The Lord is always speaking to us!

—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Is giving myself to God in prayer a way to let him accomplish his dreams for me?
- How can I offer hospitality to others so they can encounter God's love?

An Exhibit of Wonder and Love

By Johan van Parys

Growing up I attended midnight Mass on Christmas with my family. I insisted on arriving early because I didn't want to miss the moment before the beginning of the Mass when the sacristan carried the Baby Jesus into the church and placed him in the manger. He was an elderly man who had worked for the church his entire life. He walked with great difficulty and could barely make it down the steps of the sanctuary. Yet, he held the plaster image of Jesus in his arms with such tenderness and reverence he might as well have been carrying a real baby. He knew this image represented the Savior of the world.

As a teenager, I quickly lost interest in the Baby Jesus. I was too cool to fuss about any baby, let alone a plaster one. As a student at Notre Dame, I thought it theologically unsophisticated to pay much attention to Christmas beyond the reality of the Incarnation celebrated on that day. I had little patience for the obsession of people for Christmas trees and Nativity scenes. I wondered if they really understood the meaning of Christmas.

But my outlook on Christmas completely changed when I was given a small Nativity set from Burkina Faso, a country in West Africa. It was carved in local wood by a Christian villager. Although the figures were rather primitive, one could clearly see that the artist had carved the Holy Family in the



image of the people of his village. I loved it so much that this first Nativity set became the start of a large collection of Nativities from all around the world, all of which are in the image of the people who created them.

Each year, I carefully unwrap close to 400 Nativity sets. I do this deliberately, thinking of the people who carved each set in his or her own image. As I gently place the Baby Jesus in the manger, set after set, I also think of the old man in my home church from so many years ago and the woman in our church today who carries the Baby Jesus to the Nativity scene with such love and reverence.

In a simple yet poignant way, these many Nativity sets with their varied

features and skin tones and the way we treat them underline the essence of the Incarnation. The artist and beholder alike know that, though very different from us, Jesus became like all of us. Through Jesus, no matter who we are, we are all able to encounter God in a real and tangible way. The Nativity scenes and the rituals around them symbolize and affirm this wondrous reality.

Nativity scenes help symbolize the reality that, through Jesus, we're able to encounter God in a tangible way.

Indeed, this encounter with God in Jesus Christ is not a mere theological exercise or pietistic drivel. Rather, it's a great reality. We celebrate that he took on our image and became like us so we might take on his image and become like him. +

PRAYER

Lord, you have called us to be your instruments of peace and reconciliation in the world. Give me the courage to make peace with those who have hurt me and caused me pain.

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 21–26

Monday, Advent Weekday: Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Tuesday, Advent Weekday: 1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

Wednesday, Advent Weekday: Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Lk 1:57–66

Thursday, Advent Weekday: 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67–79

Friday, Christmas: Is 52:7–10 / Heb 1:1–6 / Jn 1:1–18 or Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

Saturday, St. Stephen: Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59 / Mt 10:17–22

Bringing Home the Word 
December 20, 2020

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The first reading is taken from 2 Samuel 7:1-5; 8-11;16 and refers to when David was anointed king in Hebron by all the tribes of Israel and Judah and his first step was to capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites and make it the political capital of his kingdom.

The second reading is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 26:25-27 where he introduces himself to the Christians in Rome and he gives an incomplete synthesis of his theology. His words remind us to give glory to God this Christmas and always, for the marvelous things he has done for us.

The Gospel is from Luke 1:26-38. At the moment our Lady said: "be it done to me according to thy word" the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth, took place on this planet of ours. The Son of God took on human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We are familiar with this story from childhood. We often say the Angelus in which this tremendous act of God's love is described. Although familiarity, in this case, does not breed contempt, it does help to blunt the real impact on our minds of such an extraordinary occurrence. If God had created a very special child, and made him into an outstanding saint, so that he could intercede with God for us, this would be a great act of love for us on God's part. Or, if he had sent an angel from heaven in human form, to teach us all about God and to help us to lead holy lives, this would deserve our deepest gratitude. But neither a saintly man nor a holy angel could do for us all that God wanted. No man or angel could make us adopted sons of God and heirs of heaven. It was necessary, in God's plan for us, that his divine Son should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share his divinity.

Could infinite love have gone any further? Our creation, the fact that we exist as human beings on earth, is a great gift to us on the part of God. Of what value could eighty, a hundred, even seven hundred years of a continuously happy life on this earth be for us if we learned that we had to depart life forever one day? In a world tormented by sin and its evil effects our normal span of life would be less satisfying. However, when God created us, he so planned that our stay here would be but a stage, a stepping stone in fact, toward our everlasting home. We are well aware indeed of the lengths to which God's love has gone in order to make us his children and heirs to his kingdom. Are we, however, grateful to him for the love he has shown us? Are we honestly and sincerely trying to make ourselves worthy of the great future he has in store for us?

Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with God. During the week we shall be keeping the feast of Christmas. The Baby in the manger will remind us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of Christ? If most of us must answer: "no," this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. God is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: "behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word"?

Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.



Entrance: 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.

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,
O Israel.**

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

Kyrie

Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, eleison. Christe, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

First Reading: II Samuel 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: Ps. 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the Lord I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";

in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"He shall say of me, "You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior." Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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

Amen

Alleluia: Luke 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

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.



I believe in one God,
The Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
Of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
The Only Begotten Son of God,
Born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
True God from True God,
Begotten, not made,
Consubstantial with the Father,
Through Him all things were made,
For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
And by the Holy Spirit
Was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
And became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered death and was buried,
And rose again on the third day
In accordance with the scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
At the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
The giver life, who proceeds from
The Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son
Is adored and glorified,
Who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic
And apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism
For the forgiveness of sins
And I look forward to the resurrection
Of the dead
And the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Presentation Hymn: Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming

Lo! How a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem
hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of
old have sung. It came, a Flower bright, amid the
cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with
Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show
God's love aright she bore to men a Savior when
half-spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness
fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the dark-
ness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin
and death He saves us and lightens every load.

Communion Hymn: Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Come, O God, within our hearts, within our souls.
Come, O God, with healing pow'r renew us.

Refrain

**Come, O come, Emmanuel. Open our hearts renew us.
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come in love and make
us whole once more.**

Come, O Love, renew our lives and guide our minds.
Come, O Love, in pow'r revive your people.

Refrain

Come, O Light, and lead us on the road with you.
Come, O Light, dispel our deepest darkness.

Refrain



Sending Forth: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy
people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our
rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the
earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing
heart.



Anita Barclay, Campbell Berger, Katherine Berger,
Bethany Ann Boltz, Eddie Booth Sr., Logan Bowers,
Clement Boney, Jerry Boyes, Patrick Webb
Brownlie-Carey, Noli Causay, Teresa Coleman, Lee
Cooley, Peter Cooley, Bob Cooper, Anita Cowart,
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Cheryl Stewart,