

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2016

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

— Matthew 1:23

SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,525.00	\$2,054.00
Number of Families contributing	117	82
Total Pledge for 2016	\$171,467.00	\$185,504.00
Pledged to Date (49 Weeks)	\$163,870.00	\$175,900.00
Received to Date	\$193,328.73	\$140,707.23
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$29,458.73)	\$35,192.77

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$393.00	\$11,629.00

Forty-nine ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2016 Parish Goal	\$23,330.00
Amount Received to Date	\$12,501.52
Amount Outstanding	\$10,828.48

Six people made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$65.00	\$11,473.00

Three people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$10.00.

40 **CHILDREN** contributed \$184.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$23.00.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS totaled \$246.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 300, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 150 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 250.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

On Christmas Eve, during the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 French soldiers and German soldiers were facing each other in trenches a short distance apart. Suddenly a French soldier stood on top of the mound of dirt. He faced the Germans and began singing "O Holy Night." Not a shot was fired.

When the French soldier finished, a German soldier did the same, signing "From Heaven to Earth Come." Not a soldier present that Christmas Eve ever forgot the event.

What lesson might that event hold for me? For our world?

The world is large and complex, and sometimes there seems to be no sacred ground. But in tent and palace.... And under lighted trees across the lands, the language of Christmas is universal.

"Our God is merciful and tender. He will ... guide our steps into the path of peace." Luke 1:78-79

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Jimmy Benedict and Paige in thanks for Embassy on her 6th Birthday;
2. Jude, Valerie, Tommy Touch and John Damon in thanks for Middleton on her 2nd Birthday;
3. The Wife and Family of Pete Buddy Sherlock on the 4th Anniversary of his death;
4. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to Fr. Cherian on the 40th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. Best wishes from St. Edward Parish Family.

CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 21st – 6:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS 2016 MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24th — 5:00 P.M. — Children's Mass

Saturday, December 24th — Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25th — 10:00 A.M. — Christmas Day Mass

Merry Christmas From Father Cherian

With heart brimming over with love and joy, let me wish all members of St. Edward's Parish family the Blessings and Joys of Christmas. May Christ come to you with the gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope, and the Promise of Peace. I will remember you all and your loved ones in the Christmas Mass.

CHURCH ENVELOPES The Offertory and Development Fund Envelopes for 2017 are in the Atrium of the Church. If you cannot find your envelopes please contact the Church office immediately.

THE BANNS OF MARRIAGE are announced for the first time for Nicholas Riley and Farrah Carroll.

THANK YOU to two members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

JOKE OF THE WEEK "Congratulations my boy!" said the groom's uncle. "I'm sure you'll look back and remember today as the happiest day of your life."

"But I'm not getting married until tomorrow," protested his nephew.

"I know," replied the uncle. "That's exactly what I mean."

STRATEGIES

Weak people believe in *REVENGE*.
Strong people believe in *FORGIVING*.
Intelligent people *IGNORE*.

MAN - IT IS TRUTH

1. When without money, eats vegetable at home.
When he has money, eats same vegetables in restaurant.
2. When without money, rides a bicycle.
When has money, rides an exercise machine.
3. When without money, walks to earn food.
When has money, walks to lose fat.

IMPORTANT ONE WORD LIFE LESSONS

The most selfish one letter word: I - Avoid it.
The most satisfying two letter word: We - Use it.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: In loving memory of Margaret Sherlock on the 1st Anniversary of her death.
Tuesday: In thanks to St. Expedite for a special intention granted.
Wednesday: In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
Thursday: In thanks for Magnus Sherlock on his 10th Birthday.
Friday: For the repose of the souls of Pete Deputy Riley, Bridget Deputy Riley and Big Joe Riley.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice
Thursday: St. John of Kanty
Friday: The Vigil of Christmas
Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

THE GREATEST GIFT

Christmas is a time for sharing with gifts of love from the heart, God sent His Son - His gift to us to share His Love and His Grace impart.

The sounds of children laughing filled with merriment and glee, With joy and innocence they hang ornaments on the Christmas tree.

Gifts piled high 'neath the glowing tree wrapped with love and care God's gift of love needs no wrapping it is free for the asking -and always there.

Christmas carols proclaim the message with tidings of Jesus' birth, "Goodwill to men - and peace on earth".

Charles Clevenger

READERS

Sat., Dec. 17th, 4:00 P.M. Christina Apple & Scott's Mercedes
Sat., Dec. 17th, 7:00 P.M. Mary Melissa & Jay

Sun., Dec. 18th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie

Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M. Macy & Grace
MIDNIGHT Mass Jay & Blue

Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack

READERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday Kathy Ann/ Theresa Maria
Tuesday Ann T.
Wednesday Grace
Thursday Mary Ashley
Friday Christina

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. Dec. 17th
Front Bridget Ann
Left Cup Winnie Ann

Saturday 7:00 P.M. Dec. 17th
Front Jay
Cup Ann Johnny Jay's

Christmas Eve 5:00 P.M. MIDNIGHT
Front Bridget Ann Blue
Left Bridget Rat & Mary Regina Jay
Left Cup Bibbie's Catherine Ann
Right Ann T. & Kim Gallon
Right Cup Rose Melissa

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

Dec. 18th Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie
Dec. 25th Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday Mary Cat
Tuesday Pete Man's Nora
Wednesday Ann T.
Thursday Rose Marie
Friday Bridget Ann

DREAM

A Dream is not something you see in sleep; but it is that thing that doesn't let you sleep.

PRAYER CORNER

LORD JESUS

Lord Jesus, inflame my heart with love for You and for Your ways and help me to exchange the yoke of rebellion for the sweet yoke of submission to Your holy and loving word. Set me free from the folly of my own sinful ignorance and rebellious pride that I may wholly desire what is good and in accord with Your will. Amen.