

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022

Over all other virtues put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

— Colossians 3:14

GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.

Copyright © 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).

Psalms — The king of glory shall come in (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	\$4,141.00	\$3,551.00
Number of Families contributing	110	89
Total Pledge for 2022	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (48 Weeks)	\$152,600.00	\$155,400.00
Received to Date	\$145,848.00	\$112,954.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$6,752.00	\$42,446.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$151.00	\$10,375.00

Twenty-two ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$110.00	\$156,239.00

Three people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

POOR BOX totaled \$177.00.

12 **CHILDREN** contributed \$93.00.

BAA totaled \$70.00.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS totaled \$50,000.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

An elderly lady was quite put out because her neighbor failed to invite her to a garden tea. On the morning of the event, the hostess tried to make amends with a last-minute invitation. "It's too late," snapped the uninvited guest, "I've already prayed for rain."

Those who do the greatest harm to religion are often seemingly good people who persist in being small and mean. They take a certain delight in holding grudges, and go out of their way to seek revenge in a petty manner. Usually they are good people at heart, who magnify insignificant grievances until they become major injuries.

If you wish to carry God to others, make especially sure that you are understanding, and forgiving. Impatience and vengeance, even on a small scale, are murderers of charity.

Revenge is sweeter than life itself. So think fools.

—Juvenal

As we are prepare for the Christmas of 2022 let us try every effort to make ourselves pure and righteous before God.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Jude, Valerie, Tommy Touch and John Damon in thanks for Middleton on her 8th Birthday;
2. the Gallons in loving memory of Jett on his 11th Birthday;
3. the Family of Pat Rat Riley in loving memory of him on the Anniversary of his death;
4. The Family of Johnny Hugh Riley in loving memory of him on the Anniversary of his death and his Birthday;
5. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for the *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa*. Please be generous in this collection.

2022 CHRISTMAS LETTER WITH MASS SCHEDULE is included in this week's bulletin.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS SERVICE

Wednesday, December 21st — 6:30 P.M.

This is an immediate preparation for Christmas.

Please be in the Church by 6:15 P.M.

CHRISTMAS 2022 MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24th — 5:00 P.M.

December 24th — Midnight Mass

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

FRUITS & ROOTS

POWER and **MONEY** are **FRUITS** of life,
But **FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** are **ROOTS** of life.

We can manage without **FRUITS**,
But can never stand without **ROOTS**!

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS It is asked that everyone donate \$10 for poinsettias. Please give your donation to Mary Rita O'Hara, Bridget Rita, or the Church Office.

PATIENCE AND SILENCE

PATIENCE and SILENCE are two powerful energies.

PATIENCE makes you mentally strong,

SILENCE makes you emotionally strong.

CHURCH ENVELOPES The Offertory and Development Fund Envelopes for 2023 are in the Atrium of the Church. If you cannot find your envelopes, please contact the Church office immediately.

DO NOT JUDGE

*Do not judge by appearances;
a rich heart may be under a poor coat.*

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Anthony for something found and parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

JOKE OF THE WEEK *A lady dropped her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. An honest, little boy noticed her drop the handbag, so he picked it up and returned it to her. The lady looked into her handbag and commented, "Hmmm...That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills."*

The boy quickly replied, "That's right lady. The last time I found a purse, the owner didn't have any change for a reward."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent;

Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Friday: St. John of Kanty

Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas (*Christmas Eve*)

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For the repose of the souls of Black Bryan and Dee Dee Gorman.

Tuesday: For the repose of the soul of Margaret Sherlock on the 8th Anniversary of her death.

Wednesday: In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory; and for Petie and Mary Louise Carroll.

Thursday: For Magnum on his 16th Birthday.

Friday: Funeral.

THE ULTIMATE GIFT

*The spirit of Christmas fills the air,
It's a season like no other,
A time to celebrate with family and friends;
The festive mood brings hearts together.*

*Christmas trees glow with sparkling lights,
Inviting family and friends to gather 'round;
To spread cheer and joy to everyone...
A happy time when love abounds.*

*Pretty packages tied up with bows
Add drama to this joyful season.
But God gave His Son – the ultimate gift,
To pardon our sins – that is the reason.*

READERS

Sat. Dec. 17th, 4:00 P.M.
Savannah & Ritz

Sat. Dec. 17th, 7:00 P.M.
Natalie & Apple's Carolyn

Sun. Dec. 18th, 10:00 A.M.

Dominique & Lauren Ashley

Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.
Macy & Montela

Christmas Eve, MIDNIGHT
Dominique & Dayna

Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.

Jimmy Joseph

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Christina Apple
Tuesday - Macy
Wednesday - Josie
Thursday - Natalie
Friday - Dayna

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday - Theresa Hun
Tuesday - Jack's Mary Rita
Wednesday - Julie Ann
Thursday - Betty Jo
Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **December 17th**
Right Winnie Ann
Left Bridget Rita

Saturday 7:00 P.M.
December Mary Regina & Julie Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.
December 18th **December 25th**
Nora Ned's Rose Marie

INTERESTING CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS

What do sheep say to each other at Christmas?

Merry Christmas to ewe.

What happened to the thief who stole a Christmas calendar?

He got 12 months.

What color Christmas candle burns longer, red or green?

Neither – candles always burn shorter.

What Christmas carol do parents like most?

Silent Night.

Where does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?

In the dictionary.

What do you call a greedy elf?

Elfish.

~~~~~**PRAYER CORNER**~~~~~

**LORD JESUS**

*Lord Jesus, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking You more earnestly. Increase my faith in all Your promises, my hope in the joy of heaven, and my love for You as my All. Amen.*