

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

*O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted.
— Psalm 80:15-16*

AUDACITY

There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted in trust in God. The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,426.00	\$1,724.00
Number of Families contributing	76	57
Total Pledge for 2021	\$161,051.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (44 Weeks)	\$154,250.00	\$157,050.00
Received to Date	\$152,523.00	\$122,167.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$1,727.00	\$34,883.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$136.00	\$9,444.00

Fourteen ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$13,800	\$197,035.00

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

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$69,865.00

POOR BOX totaled \$147.00.

11 **CHILDREN** contributed \$60.00.

BAA totaled \$100.00.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS totaled \$30.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"It was December 24, 1980, and the wait was grueling," recalls Tony Rossi, Director of Communications for The Christophers. "My 11-year-old self had asked for the popular 'large size Star Wars action figures' for Christmas, and I couldn't wait to find out whether they would be under the tree.

"But first came Christmas Eve vigil Mass with my mother, father, and maternal grandparents. Despite difficult challenges, like my grandfather's advancing Parkinson's Disease, we always went to church as a family. After Mass, we made the traditional rounds to my paternal grandparents, back to my maternal grandparents, and finally, home. Sure enough, Santa brought the action figures, and I thought it was the best gift ever.

"Adulthood brings a different perspective, though. While the toys provided me with hours of fun, it's the memories that I truly treasure because they were ground in love. I was blessed to never lack love growing up, and I know now that gave me a great advantage in life. It is really those moments and memories that remain the best Christmas gifts I ever received."

**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
Peace.**

—Luke 2:14

Thank You for the gift of family, Jesus.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Jude, Valerie, Tommy Touch and John Damon in thanks for Middleton on her 7th Birthday;
2. Scott, Mercedes, Harvard and Harper in thanks for Thomas Scotson on his 10th Birthday;
3. the Gallons in loving memory of Jett on his 10th Birthday;
4. Tommy Newman in loving memory of Popeye's Kate on the 18th Anniversary of her death;
5. Cathy Rita, Liz, Jayden and Palace in loving memory of Johnny Hugh on the 4th Anniversary of his death;
6. and a Parish Family member in thanks to St. Expedite.

GOD BLESS THE CHILDREN who are going to receive Holy Communion for the first time this Wednesday, December 22nd. Mass will be at 5:00 P.M. All are invited to participate in the Mass. The children who have been prepared are:

Hawkston Carroll

Patrick D. Carroll

Richa Carroll

Jim Pierce Gorman

Johnny Moses Gorman

Landon Gorman

Haven McNally

Lucky Mulholland

Adam Riley

McQueen Riley

Raven Riley

Stella Riley

Villa Riley

Minka Sherlock

Mega Sherlock

Seve Sherlock

Tom Braddox Sherlock

Vogue Sherlock

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed this Thursday, December 23rd and will reopen on Monday, December 27th.

Merry Christmas From Father Chorian

With hearts 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.

CHRISTMAS 2021 MASS SCHEDULE

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

Saturday December 24th — 10:00 A.M. — Christmas Day Mass
There will be no Saturday evening Mass on Christmas Day.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26th

Morning Mass — 10:00 A.M.
Evening Mass — 5:00 P.M.

THANK YOU to two parish members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite; a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Raphael, St. Mother Theresa and Padre Pio; and a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Jude.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "You Christians have special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. Jews celebrate their national holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur. But we atheists have no recognized national holidays. It's unfair discrimination."

His friend replied, "Why don't you celebrate April 1st?"

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: Wedding.
Tuesday: For the repose of the souls of Johnny Mumbo Carroll and Jim Carroll.
Wednesday: First Communion.
Thursday: 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 the repose of the soul of Margaret Sherlock on the 7th Anniversary of her death.
Friday: For Pete Suedle and Mary Louise.

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men
Love for plea and gift and sign.

READERS

Sat. Dec. 18th, 4:00 P.M.
Christina & Julie Ann
Sat. Dec. 18th, 7:00 P.M.
Ritz & Savannah
Sun. Dec. 19th, 10:00 A.M.
Christina Apple & Bridgette Anna
Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.
Cathy Lisa & Julie Ann
Christmas Eve, MIDNIGHT
Bridgette Anna & Dayna
Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.
Blue
Sun. Dec. 26th, 10:00 A.M.
B Ciara & V.T.'s Cheryl
Sunday, Dec. 26th, 5:00 P.M.
Christina & Dayna

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Marilyn
Tuesday - Lauren
Wednesday - Graclynn
Thursday - Fallon
Friday - Ciara

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday - Kim Gallon
Tuesday - Nora
Wednesday - Catherine Ann
Thursday - Mary Cat
Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. December 11th
Front Winnie Ann
Right Cathy Pole
Left Catherine Ann

Saturday 7:00 P.M. December 11th
Right Blue
Left Bridgette Anna

Sunday December 12th
Rose Marie
Mary Cat
Sunday December 19th
Rose Marie
Mary Cat

MAGIC OF CHRITMAS

The magic of Christmas is not in the presents,
but in His presence.

WISDOM OF ST. FULTON SHEEN

What is discovered may be abused, but that does
not mean the discovery was evil.

CHRISTMAS WITH HOLY ONES

What do they do?
They all come to earth and spend time with you.
So, save them a space, one empty chair,
You might not see them, but they will be there.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.