

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

“The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”

—Luke 1:35

THE ETERNAL GOD

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David’s descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary’s prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. “How can this come about?” Mary wondered. “The Holy Spirit will come upon you,” she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary’s acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God’s reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the “obedience of faith” “according to the command of the eternal God” (Romans 16:26).

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people.
(2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord
(Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week’s Collection	\$2,934.00	\$2,173.00
Number of Families contributing	87	63
Total Pledge for 2020	\$167,031.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (49 Weeks)	\$155,407.00	\$157,208.00
Received to Date	\$179,228.00	\$138,571.00
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$23,821.00)	\$18,537.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2020
\$138.00	\$18,216.00

Sixteen ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2020
\$375.00	\$18,292.00

No one made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$63,780.00

POOR BOX totaled \$59.00.

21 **CHILDREN** contributed \$169.00.

BAA totaled \$40.00.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS totaled \$191.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Christmas celebrates the fruit of Mary and Joseph’s trust in God. The long awaited- Messiah, sent to save us from our sins and win back the eternal blessedness lost by Adam’s sin, is born.

The son of God is like us in all things but sin. We learn from the Incarnation that our success is in God’s hands. Without the father’s love we would be lost of all eternity. Mary and Joseph sacrificed greatly to make the arduous journey to Bethlehem, to obey God’s directive to flee into Egypt, and to go to Nazareth to raise Jesus.

Ambiguity, uncertainty, and brokenness touched the Holy Family. Their lives teach us that we cannot understand God’s designs. This wonderful lesson urges parents to put their families in God’s hands and trust that their efforts will bear fruit. Faithful parents are examples for us, single or married. We, too, are to put ourselves in God’s hands. In so doing, God’s grace helps us realize better the depths of who we are and what we are called to become.

How can we imitate the Holy Family during difficult times, such as job loss, sickness, times of doubt and death?

In what ways does Jesus’ coming at Christmas help us appreciate our need to put our lives in God’s hands? Let us pray asking the Holy Spirit to give us courage in difficult times to imitate the Holy family.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

Merry Christmas From Father Chistian

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.

CHRISTMAS 2020 MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24th — 5:00 P.M. — Children’s Mass

Thursday, December 24th — Midnight Mass

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed this Thursday, December 24th in observance of the Christmas Holiday. It will reopen Monday, December 28th.

THANK YOU to a member for a donation in thanks to St. Mother Teresa and St. Raphael; and to three members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

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.

WAYS OF BEING UNITED

There are two ways of being united:
Being frozen together or melting together.
It’s always better to be melted in feelings
than to be frozen in difference.

CHRISTMAS HUMOR

- Where do Santa's reindeer stop for coffee?
Starbucks.
- What is the best Christmas present?
A broken drum – you can't beat it.
- How do you know when Santa's around?
You can always sense his presents.
- What do you call cutting down a Christmas tree?
Christmas chopping.
- What happened to a thief who stole all Christmas calendars?
He got 12 months.

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

What do they do?

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

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs: "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting and repeating your prayers? God isn't deaf."

To which the little brother replied, "No, but grandma is!"

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:* Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Wednesday:* St. John of Kanty
- Thursday:* The Vigil of Christmas
- Friday:* The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- Saturday:* St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:* Funeral.
- Tuesday:* In thanks for Magnum on his 14th Birthday.
- Wednesday:* For the repose of the soul of Margaret Sherlock on the 6th Anniversary of her death.
- Thursday:* In honor of the Infant Jesus for the sick and the Holy Souls.
- Friday:* In honor of the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart and Precious Blood for a special intention.

IT'S CHRISTMAS, SWEET CHRISTMAS

The Church bells are ringing and choirs are singing
The songs of our dear Savior's birth.
It's Christmas, sweet Christmas
And people are praying that there will be peace on the Earth.

Our friends send out greetings and families have meetings
With joy and great holiday cheer.
It's Christmas, sweet Christmas
And people are hoping this feeling will last through the year.

For Christ is the Reason for this Holy Season
And blessings from Heaven above.
It's Christmas, sweet Christmas
And people are thanking the Lord for the gift of such love.

READERS

- Sat. Dec. 19th, 4:00 P.M.** Cathy Lisa & Christina
- Sat. Dec. 19th, 7:00 P.M.** Dayna & Leah
- Sun. Dec. 20th, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie
- Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.** Dynasty & Ritz
- MIDNIGHT Mass** Dayna & Ciara
- Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph
- Sat. Dec. 26th, 4:00 P.M.** Julie Ann & Natalie
- Sat. Dec. 26th, 7:00 P.M.** Carolyn & Bridget Anna
- Sun. Dec. 27th, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie

READERS – WEEKDAYS

- Monday** - Paige
- Tuesday** - Skylar
- Wednesday** - Julie Ann
- Thursday** - Kathleen
- Friday** - Kara

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

- Monday** - Cathy Pole
- Tuesday** - Kim Gallon
- Wednesday** - Rosie Cat
- Thursday** - Mary Cat
- Friday** - Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- Saturday 4:00 P.M.** December 19th
- Front Mary Margaret
- Right Cathy Pole
- Left Kim Gallon

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

- December 19th** Rosie Cat
- December 26th** Bridget Rat

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

- December 20th** Rose Marie
- December 27th** Rose Marie
- Mary Cat
- Mary Cat

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

- To your enemy: **FORGIVENESS.**
- To an opponent: **TOLERANCE.**
- To a friend: **YOUR HEART.**
- To a customer: **SERVICE.**
- To all: **CHARITY.**
- To every child: **A GOOD EXAMPLE.**
- To yourself: **RESPECT.**

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

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts. And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of the universal peace. Amen.