

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019

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

— Colossians 3:14

### SALVATION IN DAILY LIFE

This Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family, which comes on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. Today's feast celebrates how the humanity of Jesus (including his entire family life) has brought saving significance into the daily rhythms of our human family life.

The scriptures offer instruction and encouragement on how to share—within our families, parish families, and the wider human family—the love that God shares with us in Jesus. Selections from Sirach, Psalm 128, and Colossians encourage us to reflect divine love and thus find holiness in all our human relationships. The reading from Matthew's Gospel offers a living example of love in the actions Joseph took to protect his young family from danger and to nurture them within the larger family of faith of their time.

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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Those who honor and comfort their parents shall never be forgotten (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14).

**Psalm** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128).

**Second Reading** — You are called into one body. Bear with one another; forgive one another; let Christ's peace control you (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]).

**Gospel** — Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and fled to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).

### OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
<b>Last Week's Collection</b>	\$2,744.00	\$1,601.00
Number of Families contributing	84	60
Total Pledge for 2019	\$167,031.00	\$163,188.00
Pledged to Date (50 Weeks)	\$160,657.00	\$155,708.00
Received to Date	\$136,537.00	\$108,900.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$24,120.00	\$46,808.00

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2019
\$134.00	\$8,218.00

Fifteen ladies made a contribution last week.

### PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2019
\$1,110.00	\$68,674.00

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

### BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$208,330.00
Total Received	\$14,247.00

**PARKING LOT** totaled \$2.00.

25 **CHILDREN** contributed \$77.00.

**POOR BOX** totaled \$26.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass was 310; Saturday 7:00 P.M. was 105 and Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass was 110.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In his book *Gracias*, writer and theologian St. Henri Nouwen shared the following insights on the meaning of Christmas: "God came to us because He wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey.

"The God of love who gave us life sent His only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that He walks with us. The challenge is to let God be who He wants to be. A part of us clings to our aloneness and does not allow God to touch us where we are most in pain.

"Often, we hide from Him precisely those places in ourselves where we feel guilty, ashamed, confused, and lost. Thus, we do not give Him a chance to be with us where we feel most alone. Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let Him—whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend—be our companion.

**I am with you always. — Matthew 28:20**

*I accept Your invitation to be my companion, Jesus.*

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Scott, Mercedes, Harvard and Harper in thanks for Thomas Scotson on his 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday,
2. the Gallons in loving memory of Jett on his 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday;
3. Tommy Newman in loving memory of Popeye's Kate on the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death;
4. the Wife and Family of Pete Buddy Sherlock in loving memory of him on the 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death;
5. Ralph and Rose in loving memory of Popeyes's Kate on the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death;
6. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

### *Merry Christmas From Father Chertan*

*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 2019 MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — 5:00 P.M. — Children's Mass

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — Midnight Mass

Tuesday, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> — 10:00 A.M. — Christmas Day Mass

### KINDLY THINK

**"Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display — so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow. It isn't the tree not the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again."**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** The Church Office will be closed this Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Christmas Holiday. It will reopen Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE** The Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for Jim Boy Riley and Karys O'Hara.

**INTERESTING CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS**

**What do sheep say to each other at Christmas?**

*Merry Christmas to ewe.*

**What color Christmas candle burns longer, red or green?**

*Neither — candles always burn shorter.*

**MASTER'S TABLE** The Youth Group is scheduled to prepare and serve a hot meal to the clients of the Master's Table in Augusta on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity, please contact Jack's Mary Rita.

**THANK YOU** to a member for a donation in thanks to the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart, Precious Blood and St. Expedite; and a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite for the needy; and also to two members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

**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!"

**ADDICTION PROBLEMS** Do you have addiction problems? Please call Richard Harmon 803-270-8376.

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
**Monday:** Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord  
**Tuesday:** Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve  
**Wednesday:** The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace; New Year's Day  
**Thursday:** Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen  
**Friday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus; First Friday  
**Saturday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; First Saturday

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday:** In thanks for Magnum Sherlock on his 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday.  
**Tuesday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague for all the sick and St. Joseph for all the holy souls in purgatory.  
**Wednesday:** In honor of the Baby Jesus on his Birthday.  
**Thursday:** For Katie Nelson.  
**Friday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and Precious Blood.

**READERS**

<b>Sat. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 P.M.</b> Ritz & Ivana	<b>Sat. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 P.M.</b> Bridgette Anna & Carolyn
<b>Sun. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 A.M.</b>	Jimmy Joseph & Mary Cat
<b>Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.</b> Cathy Lisa & Josie	<b>MIDNIGHT Mass</b> Jay & Blue
<b>Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.</b>	Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack
<b>Sat. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Sat. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.</b> Christina & Natalie
<b>Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.</b>	Jimmy Joseph & Mary Cat
<b>New Year's Eve, 5:00 P.M.</b> Christina & Natalie	<b>New Year's Day, 10:00 A.M.</b> Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack

**READERS – WEEKDAYS**

<b>Monday</b>	- Taneil
<b>Tuesday</b>	- Fallon
<b>Wednesday</b>	- Cathy Lisa
<b>Thursday</b>	- Pamela
<b>Friday</b>	- Christina

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND**

<b>Saturday 4:00 P.M.</b> Front Left Cup	<b>Dec. 21<sup>st</sup></b> Bridget Ann Winnie Ann
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**Sunday 10:00 A.M.**

<b>Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie	<b>Dec. 29<sup>th</sup></b> Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie
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**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY**

<b>Monday</b>	Cathy Pole
<b>Tuesday</b>	Pete Man's Nora
<b>Wednesday</b>	Margaret Butts
<b>Thursday</b>	Betty Jo
<b>Friday</b>	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.*