

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2017

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

—Luke 1:35

GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalms — Forever 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).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Among the many decorations enjoyed at Christmas, is the poinsettia. Known for its bright red color, the plant was named for Joel Robert Poinsett, an amateur botanist and the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico.

But the Mexican name for the plant is Flores de Noche Buena for Flowers of the Holy night. According to legend, a little girl longed to bring a gift to the Infant Jesus at Christmas, but she was so poor she had nothing. Her cousin told her that even a humble gift offered with love would be welcomed, so she gathered a bunch of roadside weeds. When she entered the church and laid the bouquet in front of the Nativity scene it burst into the beautiful flower we've come to love.

Legend or not, it's true that God appreciates the simplest gift from the heart, if it's presented with love.

Wise me from the East....(followed) the star... until it stopped over the place where the Child was...They... paid Him homage. Thenthey offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:1,9,11)

Child of Bethlehem, let every gift of mine be one of love for You. And may I share that love with all Your children.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,719.00	\$1,753.00
Number of Families contributing	111	72
Total Pledge for 2017	\$175,815.00	\$188,514.00
Pledged to Date (50 Weeks)	\$170,140.00	\$180,163.00
Received to Date	\$169,389.56	\$143,505.20
Envelopes Outstanding	\$750.44	\$36,657.80

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$163.00	\$14,965.00

Twenty-six ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2017 Parish Goal	\$25,705.00
Amount Received to Date	\$14,796.61
Amount Outstanding	\$10,908.39

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

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$75.00	\$11,536.00

Four people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$8.00.

24 **CHILDREN** contributed \$91.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$17.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 150, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 105 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 190.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Scott, Mercedes, Harper and Harvard in thanks for Thomas Scotson on his 6th Birthday;
2. Petie Rabbit and Carrington in thanks for Ransom Riley;
3. Tommy Newman in loving of Popeye's Kate on the 14th Anniversary of her death;
4. the Gallons in loving memory of Jett on his Birthday;
5. the Wife, Daughters, and Granddaughters of Johnny Mack in loving memory of him on the 1st Anniversary of his death;
6. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

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.

CHRISTMAS 2017 MASS SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, December 24th — Midnight Mass

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed this Monday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. How do you know Santa has to be a man?

A. No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

Q. What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

A. Jungle Bells, Jungle Bells.

Q. What did the big candle say to the little candle?

A. I'm going out tonight.

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 4th. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity please contact Jack's Mary Rita.

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

BE YOU ALWAYS

Most people are other people.
Their thoughts are someone else's opinion
Their lives a mimicry.
Their passions a quotation.

JOKE OF THE WEEK A man buys his mother-in-law a Christmas gift of a plot in an expensive cemetery. The next year on Christmas Day he buys her nothing. So she phones him, "Why didn't you get me a gift for Christmas this year?" "What are you complaining about," he fires back, "you still haven't used the present I gave you last year!"

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- Tuesday:** St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
- Wednesday:** St. John
- Thursday:** The Holy Innocents
- Friday:** Fifth Day of the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
- Saturday:** Sixth Day of the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** In honor of the Baby Jesus on his Birthday.
- Tuesday:** For the repose of the soul of Popeye's Kate on the 14th Anniversary of her death.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
- Thursday:** In honor of Blessed Ceferino for intentions granted.
- Friday:** In honor of the Sacred Heart for intentions granted.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I heard the Lord on Christmas Day;
These words to me He did say,
"Look for Me in the candle's glow,
In the softly falling snow.

See My joy in a child's happy face,
Feel My love in a friend's embrace.
See My hope in aging eyes,
As Christmas light within them rise.

Hear My voice in the carols sung;
My gentle peace as bells are rung.
In giving, loving I'll be there,
All My goodness with you to share."

READERS

- Sat. Dec. 23rd, 4:00 P.M.** Christina & Natalie
- Sat. Dec. 23rd, 7:00 P.M.** Jay & Bridgette Anna
- Sun. Dec. 24th, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph & Theresa Maria Cat
- Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.** Kara & Josie
- MIDNIGHT Mass** Jay & Blue
- Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack
- Sat. Dec. 30th, 4:00 P.M.** Sable & Mary Martha
- Sat. Dec. 30th, 7:00 P.M.** Jay & Mary Melissa
- Sun. Dec. 31st, 10:00 A.M.** Theresa Maria Cat & Jimmy Joseph

READERS – WEEKDAYS

- Monday** Kara
- Tuesday** Karen
- Wednesday** Christina Apple
- Thursday** Cathy Lisa Butts
- Friday** Annette

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

- Saturday 4:00 P.M.** Front Left Cup
- December 23rd** Bridget Ann Winnie Ann
- Saturday 7:00 P.M.** Front Cup
- December 23rd** Jay Johnny Jay's Ann
- Sunday 10:00 A.M.**
- December 24th** Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie
- December 31st** Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

- Monday** Mary Cat
- Tuesday** Pete Man's Nora
- Wednesday** Ann T.
- Thursday** Bibbie's Catherine Ann
- Friday** Ann Rita

ATTITUDE MATTERS

An old man said, "Erasers are made for those who make mistakes." A youth replied, "Erasers are made for those who are willing to correct their mistakes!"

ATTITUDE MATTERS!

PRAYER CORNER

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord our God, with the birth of your Son the Lord Jesus Christ, Your glory breaks on the world. As we celebrate His first coming, give us a foretaste of the joy that You will grant us when the fullness of His glory has filled the Earth. Amen.