

December 19th
4th Sunday of Advent



Pastoral Office:

Phone: (414) 762-0552

Hours: M, T, W, Th: 9:00A- 3:30P
Closed on Friday

Pastor: Rev. Robert Kacalo x222
rkacalo@saintstephenmil.org

Deacon: Stan Lowe (On Assignment)
414-322-6891

Deacon: Bob Starr
847-890-8671
robertstarr1441@gmail.com

Director of Liturgy and Music:
Lynda Trani x263
ltrani@saintstephenmil.org

Director of Religious Education:
Position Currently Open

Director of Family Life Center:
Gail Schlicht x225
glicht@saintstephenmil.org

Administrative Assistant: Nick Ward
adminasst@saintstephenmil.org

Maintenance Supervisor:
Joe Kosobucki

Mass Schedule:

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am
Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 3:30 pm
or by appointment

Baptism

Parish membership is required.
Baptismal preparation for parents
and sponsors is held monthly. Pre
-registration is required. Contact
the Parish Office for more
information.

Marriage

Parish membership is required.
Arrangements need to be made a
minimum of six months prior to
the wedding date. Please contact
Fr. Robert.

Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Parish
Office



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Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



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Come Join Us!

We would love to officially welcome you into our family.
Registration packets are available at the information center.

BELL TOWER FUND

Current Balance: \$76,036

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to our Bell Tower Fund. When our mortgage is finally paid off, we can begin to focus our attention on the bell tower project more fully. Some planning has occurred, with the knowledge that much more will need to be accomplished before construction can begin. According to some preliminary estimates we have raised approximately 1/2 of the needed funds.

GOOD NEWS AGAIN!

Thanks to your participation in our Burn the Mortgage fundraising events and your continued contributions in your stewardship, we were able to make another \$10,000 contribution to the PRINCIPAL ONLY of our current mortgage. We are on the homestretch! Many thanks to all!

PLEASE NOTE:

For your year-end stewardship gifts to your parish, to be attributed as a 2021 donation, please ensure that your contribution is received by December 31, 2021. Anything received after that date will be reported to your 2022 statement. Thank you for your gifts back to God!

**Thank you to all volunteers who prepackaged food for the pantry, and all who contributed to the Giving Tree!
Much appreciated!**



*"HIS GREATNESS SHALL REACH TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH; HE SHALL BE PEACE."
(MT 3:3-4)*

December 19, 2021 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mi 5:1-4 | Heb 10:5-10 | Lk 1:39-45

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah

too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;"

We do not have to go see the most recent superhero movie or binge-watch a streaming TV series that celebrates the underdog to feel the elation that comes with overcoming evil. We need only to look at our own lives, and God's plan of salvation for us, to understand what it truly means to be triumphant. From tiny little Bethlehem - a town of no consequence - would arise the Savior of the world. He would be the One who came to do God's will, and thus consecrated us to God through the offering of his own body as sacrifice, once for all. This is the One Mary carried in her womb and whom Elizabeth's unborn child - we know to be John the Baptist - recognized. He is the child-most-vulnerable who would become King of the Universe, "stand[ing] firm and shepherd[ing] his flock by the strength of the Lord." This is the God we serve: the One who became like us so that we may one day be like him. We shall soon celebrate the anniversary of his birth, while also waiting in joyful hope for his coming again. In this time of preparation, then, we pray for the grace to know the Lord more fully and to appreciate with gratitude the Savior he truly is.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, now is the time many of us will begin to gather - as families, friends, and faith communities. What an ideal opportunity to renew our relationships with one another and with Jesus, asking the Holy Spirit to help us recognize the presence of God in our lives and in others. Micah's prophesy from today's first reading endures: "His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace." Let's do our part to share the peace and joy of Christ with those we encounter, witnessing to his saving grace in our lives, and offering others an opportunity to be a part of the greatest story, ever - of God's saving action.

INVITE/PRAY Invite visiting family members to your parish or faith community for a concert, worship or other Advent activity. If that's not possible, pray the O Antiphons together at home.



Holy Day Mass Times

Christmas Eve FRI, DEC. 24th

- 4pm Pageant /4:30 Family Mass
- 6:30pm Concert /7pm Mass
- 9:30 Choir Concert /10pm Mass

Christmas Day SAT, DEC. 25th

- 9am ONLY
- No Saturday 4:30pm Vigil Mass

Feast of the Holy Family SUN, DEC. 26th

- 9am ONLY

Sol. Mary, Mother of God

- FRI, DEC. 31st 4:30pm
- SAT, JAN. 1st 9am ONLY
- No SAT 4:30pm Vigil Mass

Epiphany

- SUN, JAN. 2nd 9am ONLY



KOC Free First Year Membership – Final Offer

We are offering **FREE Online Memberships** in commemoration of the beatification of our beloved founder Fr. Michael J. McGivney. This gift of free first-year membership is available until December 31, 2021. Interested prospects should simply visit kofc.org/joinus, complete the membership application and enter promo code **MCGIVNEY2020**. Our council number is 16821. If you are a practicing Catholic man age 18 or older come join us and put your faith into action! Try it for a year and see what we are about. Make this your New Year's Resolution.



We Are Looking for Memorials and Tributes For our 175th Anniversary Keepsake Booklet

Consider a personal or family "Congratulatory" or "In Memory" of a beloved family member

There are different size ads which vary in price:
\$ 25 - \$50.00 - \$75.00 - \$100.00

It would be great to see your family's name in our booklet!

Contact: Julie (414) 764-2791

MANY BAKERS MAKE GREAT COOKIES!!!

Many thanks to all of the volunteers (Mare Villwock, Lynn Siering, Shirley Kurowski, Kathy Maciolek, and Laura Burmeister who labored numerous hours over the past month to prepare such a delicious array of Christmas cookies. Over 42 varieties of cookies were baked. Special thanks to Shirley Kurowski and Kathy Maciolek for the additional homemade candy and treats. Well over \$3,500 was collected and will be put towards our Burn the Mortgage Principal Only campaign! Thanks Ladies, great job!!!



Readings for the week of December 19th, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Observances for the week of December 19, 2021

Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Friday: Christmas Eve

Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord



Tuesday, December 21st

9:00am Food Pantry

9:00am Meal Program Prep

4:00pm Meal Program Serve

6:00pm Prayer and Worship

Wednesday, December 22nd

Nothing scheduled at this time

Thursday, December 23rd

Office Closed

9:00am Food Pantry

4:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 24th

4:00pm Christmas Pageant

4:30pm Family Vigil Mass

6:30pm Piano Concert

7:00pm Christmas Mass

9:30pm Choir Concert

10:00pm Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 25th

9:00am Christmas Day Mass

Sunday, December 26th

9:00am Holy Family Mass

December 19th
Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 21st

8:00am † Johann Friedrich Wittmerhaus

Wednesday, December 22nd

8:00am † Mary Wittmerhaus

Thursday, December 23rd

8:00am † Sister Mary Alice Walters

Friday, December 24th

10:00am † Bill Wagner

4:30pm † For the people

7:00pm † Bill Wagner

Saturday, December 25th

9:00am † Bob Fabry

Sunday, December 26th

9:00 am † William Jackson

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