



SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECKING THE HALLS

St. Margaret's facilities engineers Carols Fritz (left) and Scott Wesemann (on ladder) drape Christmas garland at the rectory entrance. Parish pet Sophie served as project manager.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:30 p.m. & Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Holy Days and holidays as published in Sunday Bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 21

6:30 a.m. Richard Wagner +

Tuesday, December 22

6:30 a.m. The Casey Family +

Wednesday, December 23

6:30 a.m. Gordon & Kay Wille +

Thursday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Barbara & Ken Garrett +

10:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Friday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Lucille Shirley +

Saturday, December 26

4:30 p.m. Christine Kramer "Happy Birthday"

Sunday, December 27

8:00 a.m. Eugene Buckley +

10:00 a.m. People of the Parish

To mark a special occasion or to remember a beloved family member or friend, living or deceased, with a Mass intention please call the Parish Office at 314-776-0363. The bishops of Missouri ask the faithful to make a \$10 offering for each Mass if they are able.

Arrangements for Lucille Shirley

Out of respect for the health and safety of relatives and friends, a memorial Mass / celebration of life for Helen Lucille Shirley will be held at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church at a later date in 2021. *From her family.*

PTA NEWS



Dragon's Blend Coffee Sale— Perfect for holiday gifts! Support the PTA's Teacher Grants fund with your purchase of locally roasted coffee for everyone on your Nice list! \$12 per bag in your choice of Whole Bean or Ground. Fans of Keurig and pod brewers will love our reusable, BPA-free stainless mesh filters, \$5 each. Order on WeShare <https://stmargaretstl.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/PTACoffee> or contact Julie Mudd at 314-960-1864 or juliemudd2001@yahoo.com

MONTHLY GIVING REPORT

November 2020

Total General Fund Contributions:	\$59,888.09
General Fund Budget Goal:	\$55,460.00
Amount Over/(Under) Budget:	\$4,428.09
Number of Sundays:	5

FY21 YTD (July '20 - November '20)

Total General Fund Contributions:	\$267,456.85
General Fund Budget Goal:	\$244,030.00
Amount Over (Under) Budget:	\$23,426.85

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Are you planning your weekly menus? Chances are some of your pantry supplies like brownie mixes and fruit snacks have the Box Tops for education coupon on their packaging. Don't forget to check your Hefty, Ziplock and Kleenex brand items as well.



Each coupon you clip and submit to our school is worth 10 cents for our educational programs. Just gather them up and put them in the Sunday collection at Mass or drop them off at the Rectory. Learn more at: www.BoxTops4Education.com

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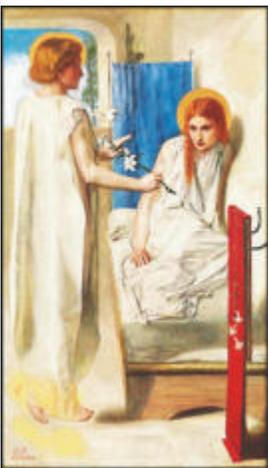
BY FR. MATT O'TOOLE

Angels are trouble for human beings. That's not how we typically see them in religious paintings and decorations: they appear so elegant and gentle, hovering around in heaven playing their musical instruments. But take a deep dive into the Bible. They always appear suddenly and announcing something utterly unexpected. Or something so long awaited that everyone has given up hope.

Angels, in fact, are mostly unwelcome visitors. Just think of Abraham and Sarah, wandering around in the wilderness having left everything for a God they could sense but not see. They'd been promised a child, and many heirs. Then one day, along came three angelic visitors. No fancy robes. No noticeable wings. But Abraham could tell they were special. And he knocked himself out entertaining them. And then the angels said they'd come for Sarah, to tell her she would conceive, right then, in her old age.

Lot had an angelic visitor, a fellow without wings whom the villagers in Sodom took to be a stranger with evil intentions. And they threatened him, the stranger. If he'd looked like a Christmas card angel, the villagers wouldn't have done that. They were mean cusses, but not stupid, after all. And the angel brought destruction down on the town because of their hostility and lack of hospitality.

What angels announce is something that has to be done by the persons they greet. Something that is never easy. It requires walking against the grain of the world and against your own common sense. Think of Jonah. He took a ship in the opposite direction, then jumped overboard, in order to get away from what the angel wanted him to do. And Gideon. He was in his winepress, treading out the grapes, when the angel came and told him he was going to be in charge of a war. He groaned about a thousand times, but he waged the war and won - without killing, without bloodshed! So Gideon ended up a hero, sort of, and also a damn fool, which had been his reputation before the angel came.



Ecce Ancilla Domini, painting by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1850.

And as we hear in today's gospel, the archangel Gabriel suddenly and quite unexpectedly, appears to Mary. "Hail, Mary, full of grace! You have found favor with God!" Stunned, she questions the nature of the greeting and the nature of the offer made to her. She does not ask for time to think about this. She does not consult anyone. Not her father, not her mother, not her fiancé. But with courage, she answers, "Yes." Meanwhile, Gabriel is wrestling with Joseph in his dreams, persuading him to accept this boggling reality – and to marry Mary. And the angel will be back, according to Matthew, after the birth, to get them out of Bethlehem before the massacre Herod is planning begins.

Ah, those angels who come to people to challenge, not to comfort. Thank God for Mary, who was up to the challenge. Who did not submit, as much as she took command. Mary, who did not diminish herself, but, astonishingly, magnified God. Mary, who welcomed kings and some rather scruffy shepherds, and then ran away to Egypt to save her Child, using, we presume, the gifts given to her to buy food and lodging for her little family.

And Luke tells us, the Child grew strong and flourished. And the grace of Mary, the mercy of Joseph, and the love of God were with him. Let us run to Bethlehem!

Rev. Matthew O'Toole

Content adapted from Patheos (online), "The Words of Angels" by Nancy Rockwell, December 16, 2017.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Marty Haugen

Awake! awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us for ever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story.
May God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Kyrie

An Advent Mass, PFH

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe, Christe, Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

First Reading

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said:

"Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in? It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.'"

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89

Marty Haugen

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 16: 25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

An Advent Mass, PFH

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Sing, Alleluia, Sing, alleluia!

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

Gospel

Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Preparation of the Gifts

Lo How a Rose E'er-blooming

Traditional

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death he saves us, and lightens ev'ry load.

Mass Setting

An Advent Mass, PFH

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection,
Until you come again, until you come again.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy, have mercy on us; *(repeat)*
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. O grant us peace, O grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Marty Haugen

REFRAIN For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you,
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits, our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us, and in your advent, draw us all to you,
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage, we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain,
Open to us the pathway of your peace.

Come, let us bow before the God who made us, let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord,
For we are all the people of his hand.

Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens, Creator of the mountains and the seas,
Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

Recessional Hymn

O Come Divine Messiah!

Venez Divin Messie

O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

REFRAIN Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.

O come in peace and meekness, for lowly will your cradle be:
Though clothed in human weakness we shall your God-head see.

REFRAIN

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION



BY PETER FISHER HESED

What kind of a Christmas is this going to be, anyway?

Not able to gather with extended family for big meals of traditional delicacies?

Can't decide for yourself whether to stay or go, but obligated to follow external guidelines?

Fearing for the life of your loved-ones?

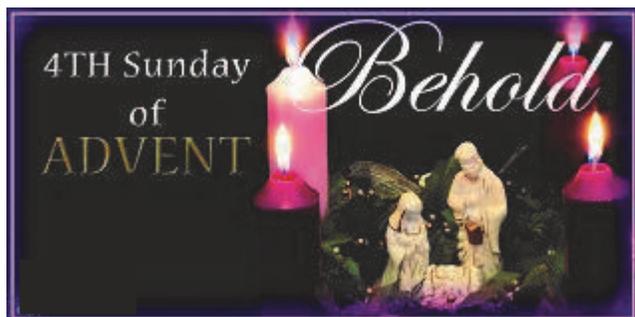
Surely there's never been a Christmas like the disappointing conclusion of 2020.

Wait! Maybe the "comfort and joy" that we have come to love, to want, to expect, has *not* been the universal human experience. The poor and the displaced of every age – including the present – do not suffer the same pangs of disappointed entitlement known to the most privileged. Yet Christmas belongs to them too. Maybe uniquely to them.

The Nativity of Jesus Christ that we celebrate was *this* kind of a Christmas. For Mary and Joseph, this birth was totally unplanned, inconvenient, uncomfortable. How vivid to them must the clear and present risks have appeared! And yet this hope-filled couple discerned and adhered to their indistinct and baffling understandings of God's benevolent will.

Maybe we can embrace the gift of life as the essential miracle all people share. Maybe we can practice placing our trust in God. Maybe we can find that this is the right time to surrender personal desires and practice empathy.

Maybe *that* is what kind of a Christmas this will be.



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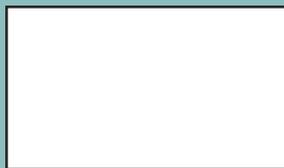
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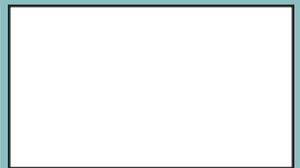
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