

*December 19, 2021  
4th Sunday of Advent*



**Guardian Angels**  
**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
*Engaging in God's Service*

Guardian Angels Mission Statement  
***Engaging in God's Service***

**PARISH INITIATIVES**

- Strive to be an Inclusive Community and Engage Parishioners
- Deepen our Witness to Catholic Social Teaching
- Respond to the Church at a Crossroads
- Improve Communication Awareness

*4<sup>th</sup>*  
**4**  
*Sunday*  
**OF ADVENT**

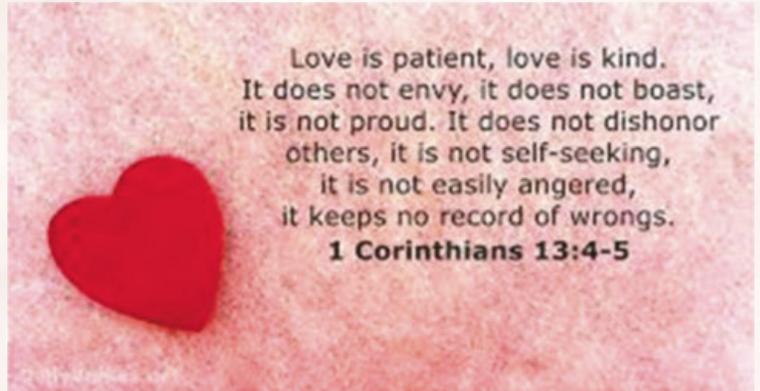




### Pastoral Pearls

Each of us is called by our Baptism to BE the Love of God to those around us – anyone we encounter. And since those around us will at times have a need for more tender care, I thought I would pass on some brief, concise “Pearls” or “Tools” to help us be that Love of God.

**TODAY'S PEARL:** Advent prepares us to bring **God's love alive!** Jesus was (and is) the way, the truth, and the light. In his life story he showed me how to be patient and kind, especially in how he waited for his disciples to understand him and his mission. Thank goodness – it often takes me a while to “get it!” Jesus never boasted, but always said, “*You say this is so (not me).*” Maybe this will help me to remember that anything I think I may be good at, isn't really me, but is God's *gift* to me. Jesus did not envy, even when the devil presented him with all those the potential riches when he was in the desert.



Advent sure is a good time for me to remind myself that I am content with what I have what God has blessed me with – the true *gifts* of this season. Jesus was anything but self-seeking, showing us clearly how to be “servant.” I, too, can focus more on what I can do for those around me, rather than what's in it for me. Advent offers so many wonderful ways to serve others. It has been fun to hear these stories daily during Advent on KTIS radio. Jesus was not easily angered, and for sure did not keep any record of wrongs. Otherwise, the list would've been SO long, of how unfairly and unlovingly he was treated by those around him who were supposed to be so “holy.” This Advent maybe I can try to treat those closest to me, whom I can often react so angrily towards, in a more loving way, overlooking the ways I may feel like they've wronged me. God is so wise. **Advent is a time to welcome love, remember I am loved and spread that love to everyone I meet.** This is how we can bring God's love **alive** in our world – little by little!

*Loving God, thank you for loving me enough to bring your love to life in Jesus, again and again, as a reminder to me of how to BE Love for the world around me. With your Holy Spirit, work through me in large and small ways to give birth, again, to your Love, for all to feel.*

*I welcome you, and await you with anticipation,  
Emmanuel – God with us – God's Love with us. Amen.*

### GA Health and Wellness reminds everyone to get your **Flu Shot!**

Your health care provider or area pharmacies can help you with this. Check with your health care provider if you've questions and take advantage of the opportunities. **Stay well!**



Please **let us know** what's going on in your life - Share your joys, struggles, **illnesses, hospitalizations, challenges** ... Our Pastoral Team can find the best way to walk with you on your journey so you know you are never alone.



Are you or someone you know **Homebound?** Would you like **Eucharist brought to you where you live?** Contact Mary Pat at [mpotts@guardian-angels.org](mailto:mpotts@guardian-angels.org) or **651-789-3178** so we may help to arrange this for you.

## Social Justice & Outreach



### Pope Francis and A Global Economy Week 3

In a global virtual address in October, Pope Francis outlined nine compelling calls to reform of a variety of economic sectors. His words are a direct appeal to apply our Catholic social teaching to our global economic structures. (You can read the entire address by scrolling down on the front page of the parish website.) In coming weeks, this space will offer for your reflection each of his nine calls. They are challenging, based on a view from the margins of society and rooted in care for each other and for the earth. This week, we highlight Pope Francis' third call:

*In the name of God, I ask the great extractive industries -- mining, oil, forestry, real estate, agribusiness -- to stop destroying forests, wetlands and mountains, to stop polluting rivers and seas, to stop poisoning food and people.*



Everyone at HJH is deeply grateful for the support received from so many of you. Our challenge grant is active until the end of the year and you can still make a donation on the parish website. We can also use donations of shelf-stable, 100% apple and orange juice and new or like-new double sheet sets. **Our top need right now, however is for volunteers.** Winter means that some of our regular volunteers will take warm-weather vacations and we will have spots to fill. If you can serve dinner and clean up afterward or if you can stay in our comfy overnight room we would love to welcome you. Go to [www.guardian-angels.org/hope](http://www.guardian-angels.org/hope) to see the signup links.

### Thank You! from Retirement Fund for Religious

Your donations will make the retirement years easier to navigate for local members of religious communities that have served the Church so well. If you didn't get a chance to donate last weekend, you can still do so at the Giving tab on the parish website. Thank you for your generosity.

### Afghanistan C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S

Have you or anyone you know served in the military in Afghanistan? Did you connect with any of the residents of the country while there? Or learn about the local culture? If so, might you be interested in connecting with our refugee resettlement team? We will be welcoming a family from Afghanistan in the coming weeks. Please call Suzanne at the Parish Office if you want to talk about this further.

### Sunday Evening Meal

Our parish Loaves & Fishes teams are back in the swing of things and we have a few openings for our team that will serve the **Sunday, January 9 meal**. If you would like to join with others to serve, please call Suzanne at the Parish Office.



### Holiday Hope

**Drum roll, please ...** the generosity of our Angel Tree donors was truly outstanding this year. In addition to the many gifts you put under the tree, we also collected **over \$7,000 worth of gift cards** to local businesses. Those of you who stepped up to sponsor a family for Christmas are also making many hearts happy. Didn't get a chance to participate in this year's effort and would still like to? We can always use donations for our emergency assistance fund. You can send checks to the parish or donate online.

### Circle of Welcome

Thank you to all who have made a financial contribution so far to support our refugee resettlement ministry. Our partners at Lutheran Social Service are estimating a pre-Christmas match with our new family and our parish team is excited to welcome them. In the coming weeks, we will have need of items to set up the household for the family. **Please wait for a list of needed items before dropping donations off at the parish.** We will use a Sign Up Genius online system that will allow you to sign up for a particular item. Thanks for your patience!



### Food Shelf Donations

Thank you to all who continue to support the Christian Cupboard by dropping off groceries in the Parish Giving Center. Please do check the expiration dates on your donations as we are not able to give the food shelf any items that are past their freshness dates. Thank you!



### Love Builds Bridges, Not Walls

We invite you to pray for a person caught in our broken immigration system. Each week, we offer a name of someone detained, deported or waiting for justice.

**Those who have fled Afghanistan and those who remain**

For more information about anything you read here, or about any of the Justice and Outreach ministries at Guardian Angels, contact Suzanne Bernet at **651-789-3181** or [sbernet@guardian-angels.org](mailto:sbernet@guardian-angels.org).

## Administrator's Corner

**Stewardship Message:** Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life. Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary's actions immediately after her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth." Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service. What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth. Our Blessed Mother's example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today.

### The Catholic Steward

**2022 Stewardship Campaign:** Thank you to those who responded to the campaign. We are concerned with the low number of those who have responded and the reduction in financial support. We will be sending out another letter to those who have not responded the first week in January.

**Thank You!** We would like to thank **Greg Forsblad** from the Men's Club for organizing once again the placing of Christmas Wreaths on the cemetery graves. Greg has been leading this effort for many years and his helpers this year were **Tom Hermanson, Tom Kub, Paul Kinsella, and Tom Thell**. Parishioners purchase wreaths for

their loved ones and the Men's Club places a wreath on graves of deceased members. This year a total of 78 wreaths were placed.

**Year-end Contributions: Sorry, but this bears repeating.** Please call Heidi at 651-789-3168 if you have any questions on the fulfillment status of your **2021** stewardship commitment. We thank all those who have contributed in 2021 and we especially thank all those who have equaled or exceeded their 2021 commitment. A special thank you to the over 300 parishioners who did not pledge but contributed this past year. We currently have several families who have not completed their 2021 commitment and we would like to remind you if you are going to contribute, it must be received by **December 31 to be included on your year end donation statement.** You may turn in your donation to the office before the end of the day on December 31 or mail and make sure it is postmarked December 31 or earlier. Thank you!

**Christmas Collection:** With Christmas less than a week away, we ask that you make a special effort to drop off or mail in your Christmas donation. As most of you know, Christmas Mass attendance during normal times is two to three times normal attendance. Currently Mass attendance is a little more than half of our pre-pandemic normal. In the past, we received a lot of plate collections at the Christmas Masses from those who do not regularly attend. We are not expecting large crowds this year because of the pandemic, so please, if you are not an electronic donor, please remember Guardian Angels this Christmas. Thank you!

**Reminder - Stock Donations:** For those parishioners who intend to fulfill their **2021** stewardship pledge by donating stock, we ask that you start the process now, to allow time to process the transaction. We also ask that you call Heidi at 651-789-3168 or me at 651-789-3169 and provide the name of the company, number of shares and whether you

will be using either **Lake Elmo Bank or Wells Fargo. We have easy to use forms for both transfer agents in the office.** If using Wells Fargo, please call so we can direct you to the correct Wells Fargo office in Woodbury. We also have some parishioners who like to "prepay" their **2022** stewardship pledge before **December 31, 2021** for tax purposes by "Bunching" their contributions in one year because of the changes in the Standard Deduction. The same procedures apply. Thank you.

**2022 Calendars:** Reminder, our 2022 calendars are available on tables just inside the front entrance this weekend. So, you can pick them up when you attend Mass or stop by during the week to pick one up.

Keep smiling, 😊

Denny

**PS:** As we draw close to the great Feast of the Nativity, we hear the bold stewardship proclamation twice in today's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Behold, I come to do your will, O God!" Who is this Jesus? Who are we that we should follow him? Many want him as a friend, a guide, a king, an advocate. We long to see the face of God. Jesus reveals the nature of God, the servant sent to give us new life in Him. Take time to ponder: Do we have the courage to follow Jesus? To show others the face of God? To say to the Lord: "Behold, I come to do your will?"

**Thought of the Week:** Let us look to her, our Mother, and allow her to look upon us, for she is our Mother, and she loves us so much; let us allow ourselves to be watched over by her so that we may learn how to be more humble, and also more courageous in following the Word of God; to welcome the tender embrace of her Son Jesus, an embrace that gives us life, hope and peace.

**Pope Francis**



## Financial Corner

December 5, 2021 ( 23 Weeks ) Stewardship Giving

Please note, that due to bulletin print deadline, Financial Scoreboard is through December 5

Stewardship Giving	
Envelopes	Year to Date
Budget	\$ 663,550
Actual	\$ 680,289
Difference	\$ 16,739

Regular Plate Collection (Excludes Outreach Sunday Collections)	
Plate	Year to Date
Budget	\$ 6,350
Actual	\$ 10,901
Difference	\$ 4,551

## Advent & Christmas Schedule

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2021

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.  and Sundays at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

#### DAILY MASSES

Tuesdays - Fridays at 8:30 a.m., Wednesdays at noon

#### INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

#### CHURCH DECORATING

Sunday, December 19, after Mass.

All are invited to help.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24

Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. Carols at 3:30 p.m.   
(livestreamed)

Night Mass at 10:00 p.m., Carols at 9:30 p.m.

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 25, Masses at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

#### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, December 26, Masses at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Pre-recorded liturgy with ASL will be available.*

#### FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

Friday, December 31, 4:30 p.m. (livestreamed) 

#### EPIPHANY (NEW YEAR'S DAY)

Saturday, January 1, Mass at 4:30 p.m. (livestreamed) 

Sunday, January 2, Mass at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



## Women's Club News

Thanks for your support of the **Holiday Pie Sales**. Christmas festivities for pickup is this weekend, **December, 11-12 after Masses**.

**Our Card Making Ministry** continues with our next sessions on December 13, January 10, January 24, from 10:00 am -12:00 pm in the Teen Room. All are welcome!

**Our next meeting is December 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in Peter O'Neill Hall and on Zoom. We'd love to see you!

**Save the date for our potluck on January 10 at 6:00 p.m.** Any questions, email us at [womensclub@guardian-angels.org](mailto:womensclub@guardian-angels.org).

## Youth Ministry and GIFT Faith Formation

### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- \* **Special thanks** to our 65 youth, family, and adult volunteers who packed meals at Feed My Starving Children on December 11. Great job living our faith!
- \* **High School Mission Trip to Watertown, South Dakota, June 19-24.** Grow in faith by serving others and meeting new friends. Email Paul for more information [pdeziel@guardian-angels.org](mailto:pdeziel@guardian-angels.org)
- \* **CONNECT, Sunday, December 19, 12:30-1:30 pm** in Peter O'Neill Hall for high school youth grades 9-12. Join us for community building, fun, and small group conversations on "Balancing Busy Schedules". Masks required.
- \* **Growing In Faith Together- Faith Formation** for Elementary and Junior High JOLT do not meet December 22, 29 or January 4. Sessions resume on Wednesday, January 12.



## Prayer & Reflection

### Readings for the week of December 19, 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

### STAFF CONTACTS

Email: 1st name initial + last name@guardian-angels.org  
All Phone Numbers Area Code 651

#### Parish Team

##### Administration

Fr. Joe Connelly, Parochial Administrator 789-3188  
Denny Farrell, Parish Administrator 789-3169

##### Faith Formation

Paul Deziel 789-3173  
Sarah Gibson 789-3162  
Deborah McMahan 789-3174

##### Liturgy/Music

Zack Stachowski 789-3187  
Deacon Mick Humbert 366-0758

##### Maintenance

Jason Kustritz 789-3186  
Tom Specht 789-3186

##### Office

Cindy Sutton 789-3165  
Heidi Tousignant 789-3168  
Carla McGough 789-3167  
Sharon Schwarz 789-3182  
Michelle Fox 789-3190

##### Pastoral Care

MaryPat Potts 789-3178

##### Justice/Outreach

Suzanne Belongia Bernet 789-3181

##### Hope for the Journey Home

Trish Brokman 503-3380

##### Parish Finance Council

Marc Cove, Chair 770-6475  
Greg Larson, Vice-Chair 735-0966

##### Parish Pastoral Council

Craig Svendsen, Chair 739-5759  
Teri Asiala, Vice-Chair 612-396-3770

##### Trustees

Craig Johnson, Treasurer 485-1701  
Mike Hansel, Secretary 770-2544

## Prayers of the Faithful

*We pray for all in our community who need our loving support.*

Joseph Andrezscuk	Henry Klotz	Amara Strande
Titus Ciolkosz	Jodi Landry	Robert Tatreau
Dolores Crane	Amy Lippert Hoffman	Irene Watson
Judy Dahl	Ruth Olson	Walt Welna
Kathy Fleck	Catherine Scoles	Joan Nedeau
Richard Garmer	Pat Sherrill	Mary Cinquegrana
Frank Steel	Sue Smith	Suzanne Schmidt
Teresa Johnson	Carol Stewart	Colleen Pierre

Please submit names for prayer requests to MaryPat Potts at 651-789-3178 or mpotts@guardian-angels.org

### Find us on

www.facebook.com/GuardianAngelsOakdale  
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### Office Information

8260 Fourth Street North  
Oakdale, MN 55128

Phone..... 651-738-2223  
Fax ..... 651-738-2453  
www.guardian-angels.org

### Parish Business Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

### Parish Center Hours

**Building is open 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon - Friday**

If you have a Pastoral emergency after hours, please call the Parish Office at 651-738-2223.

### Liturgies

**Mass Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. (also livestream) with ASL**  
The livestream will be available online after 5:30 p.m.

**Mass Sundays 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

### Adoration Chapel

**Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Reconciliation Saturdays, 3:30 p.m.**

**Please call the Parish Office regarding these Sacraments:**

\* RCIA, Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation \* Marriage  
\* Anointing of the Sick \* Communion for the Homebound

## Mass Intentions

**Tuesday December 21**  
**8:30 a.m. †Bill Netwal**

**Wednesday December 22**  
**8:30 a.m. †Mary McNally**  
**12:00 p.m. †Ed Pierre**

**Thursday December 23**  
**8:30 a.m. †Carl Buraglio**

**Friday December 24**  
**4:00 p.m. All Parishioners**  
**10:00 p.m. All Parishioners**

## Other Updates



Thank you to the consistent and dedicated livestream volunteers who have provided this service for our community! As we are in the second year, we would like to invite new volunteers to the ministry of Sound operator and Livestream operator. We can train anyone who is interested, as mentioned earlier, this is a volunteer run ministry. If you could help out, please email us at [helpatmass@guardian-angels.org](mailto:helpatmass@guardian-angels.org) or call the Parish Office at

651-738-2223. Thank you!

- We ask for your continued prayers for the RCIA candidates who are preparing to come to full communion with the Catholic Church through reception of the sacrament at the Easter Vigil.
- The holidays are approaching! We are in need of many volunteers for the Christmas holidays and Holy Days. If you have been inactive, please come back to join us! **Contact Music & Liturgy Director Zack Stachowski** at [zstachowski@guardian-angels.org](mailto:zstachowski@guardian-angels.org) or in the Parish Office to be re-activated. We hope those who have never served in liturgical ministries to consider being a part of the center of our faith, the celebration of the Eucharist.



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