

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



Cover design ©Liturgical Publications Inc. Photographer, Sheryl Kasper, bigstockphoto.com

Our Lady of Peace Church

Sunday, December 19, 2021



My dear friends,

The forerunners: prepare the way of the Lord!

As we come to this final week of the Advent Season, we have been introduced to the great biblical figures who stand as heralds, calling us to pay close attention to the most important birth in human history, that of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The first figures we encountered was the Old Testament prophets, who pointed the way, a long time before, to the coming of the Messiah. On the First Sunday of Advent we heard from **Jeremiah**, who lived some six to seven centuries before the time of Christ. Jeremiah, speaking on behalf of God, looks forward to the day when the promises God has made to the houses of Israel and Judah will be fulfilled, when God would raise up a descendant of the great King David: “In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah will be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: ‘The Lord our Justice.’”

Notice that the future promise is rooted in the historical past. The prophets recall the glorious days of Israel’s election, beginning at the time when their ancestors were slaves in the land of Egypt. The Hebrew children called out to God, crying for justice, longing for freedom, and God heard their plea. They were chosen, and especially dear to God, not because they were strong or significant; it was quite the opposite. God chose them because they were small, with no one else to defend them or to protect their rights. Jeremiah and the other prophets longed for the day when that initial dream, that primal longing for freedom, dignity and justice would be brought to completion.

On the Sunday of Advent, our Lectionary presented us with a passage from a disciple of Jeremiah, the prophet **Baruch**. Baruch’s words of comfort and promise, of longing for fulfillment are similar to Jeremiah’s: “Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the miter that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship.”

The promise to Israel is seen as a blessing for the entire world. While many passages of Scripture are tribal in nature, in which God is seen as marching solely with the armies of Israel, there are other sections of the Bible that see Israel as a model for the nations, and as a source of blessing for the entire world. Indeed, our world has benefitted from the wisdom that we find in Scripture. The basic concepts of justice, human dignity, the preferential option for the poor and the helpless, the need to defend widows, orphans and immigrants—all these can be found in the pages of the Bible, and in a special way in the words of the prophets like Jeremiah and Baruch.

On the Third Sunday of Advent our first reading is taken from the prophet **Zephaniah**, who lived in Judah during the seventh century before Christ. Zephaniah makes note of the fact that the “judgment” against Israel has been removed. At various times in Israel’s history, when the people were defeated and forced into exile, the prophets helped the people to see that God had not abandoned them. Zephaniah rejoices that a period of misfortune is coming to an end. “Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!...The Lord has removed the judgment against you; he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.”

Finally, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear from the prophet **Micah**, who lived during the seventh-eighth centuries before Christ. Here we find a passage that points to a beloved part of the Christmas story, the small and rather insignificant town of Bethlehem. Once again, God seems to revel in smallness, and chooses to do great things on the peripheries. Micah announces, “Thus says the Lord: 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; whose origin is from old, from ancient times.”

On the Second and Third Sundays of Advent the Gospel focuses on the great pre-cursor of Jesus Christ, **John the Baptist**. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, John sees his task as preparing the way for the Lord: “A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Finally, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we encounter the figure of **Mary, the Mother of the Lord**. This year we have the story of the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, who is at that point pregnant with the future John the Baptist. We hear the inspired words of Elizabeth, preparing us for the wondrous birth we will celebrate at Christmas. “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” And now, in this time of longing and fulfillment, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the long-awaited Savior of the world.



Saturday, December 18-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Robert Jablonski*
by his wife & family

Sunday, December 19

8:00A *Sr. Irene Socquet, SSA*
by her family

10:00A *Hap & Rose Dunican*
by their daughters

Friday, December 24

4:00P *Jimmy Brodie*
by Sandra Rose

9:00P *The Broughan family*
by Sharon

Saturday, December 25-Rosary at 3:15P

10:00A *Claire Singley*
by a friend

Sunday, December 26

8:00A *Luella Bergeron*
by Bob & Yvette Bissell

10:00A *Kostanski & Geraghty families*
by Virginia & family

DAILY MASS

Monday, December 20

8:00A Francis Geraghty USN ret.
by Virginia & family

Tuesday, December 21

8:00A Pat Caloon
by John

Wednesday, December 22

8:00A Souls in Purgatory
by John Caloon

Thursday, December 23

8:00A Dennis Choleva
by Charlotte

Our Lady's Window

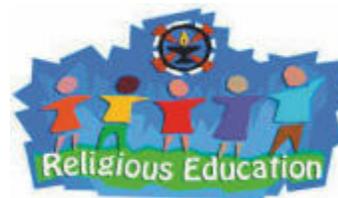
- December 20 *Rose Bourbeau*
by her family
- December 23 *Jean, Babe, Stosh, Phyllis & Dennis*
by Charlotte & family
- December 24 *Joseph & Guyla Rodovich*
by their family
- December 25 *Paul Socquet, Sr.*
by Virginia Kostanski & family



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM at Montague Catholic Social Ministries is in need of snacks for the kids. The school day is long and snacks are appreciated.

RCIA will not meet Sunday, **December 26 & January 2**. We will resume on Sunday, **January 9** at 9:00A in the rectory. Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Lucky Number Club winners: for **July** : Louis Socquet (1st), Marcel Viens (2nd), Cathy Marcum (3rd); for **August** : Amy Calkins (1st), Marcel Viens (2nd), Robin & Ed Sargent (3rd); for **September** : Paul & Margaret Doran (1st), Dennis & Cyndee Grader (2nd), Lynda Strahan (3rd); for **October** : Arlene & James Brissette (1st), Marguerite Sevrens (2nd), Lillian Morin (3rd); for **November** : Sam Bobala (1st), Carol Holubecki (2nd), Ruth Viens (3rd). The Lucky Number Club proceeds benefit our neighbors in need. For information about joining, call the rectory 413.863.2585.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Classes will not meet Sunday, **December 19, 26 and January 2** due to the Christmas & New Year weekends.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

Friday, **December 24**
Children's Mass **4:00P**
Mass at "Midnight" **9:00P**

Christmas Day

Saturday, **December 25**
Mass **10:00A**

Sunday, **December 26**

Mass **8:00A**
Mass **10:00A**

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve

Friday, **December 31**
Mass **4:00P**

New Year's Day

Saturday, **January 1, 2022**
Mass **10:00A**

EPIPHANY

Saturday, **January 1**
Mass **4:00P**

Sunday, **January 2**
Mass **8:00A**
Mass **10:00A**

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend of **December 12**
Amounts not available at press time.



CARS • SUV'S
& TRUCKS

You get a good deal every
day at Dillon Chevrolet.

DILLON

54 Main Street, Greenfield
773-3678
www.dillonchevrolet.com

Our Lady of Peace



"With Love and Prayers
for our Parish"

Gilmore & Farrell

Insurance Agency, Inc.

525 Bernardston Road
Greenfield, MA 01301

413.773.3686

www.gilmoreandfarrell.com



Timothy Farrell
President

Cell: 413.433.7170

tfarrell@gilmoreandfarrell.com



McCarty
FUNERAL HOME

John C. Davis, Owner/Director
Greenfield • Turners Falls

(413) 774-4808

www.mccartyfuneralhomes.com

**Farren
Care Center**

340 Montague City Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-774-3111



Trinity Health
Senior Communities

trinityhealthseniorcommunities.org/farren-care-center



Snow and Sons
Landscaping

A complete line of quality
services for your home
or business

(413) 774-2604

info@snowandsons.com

www.snowandsons.com



FUEL OIL
KEROSENE
PROPANE
WOOD PELLETS
GAS & DIESEL
PLUMBING
HEATING & COOLING
SALES & SERVICE

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL

1.800.628.1900 | sandri.com

400 CHAPMAN ST, GREENFIELD, MA

**Kostanski
FUNERAL HOME**

TURNERS FALLS • 863-2447
GREENFIELD • 773-9515

A FAMILY BUSINESS SERVING THE
AREA FOR OVER 70 YEARS

www.kostanskifuneralhome.com



Home Care
Cleaning Services
Yard Care

*A Variety of Services for
Those Who Need Them Most*

4 Bowles St. Greenfield, MA 01301

Tel: 844-211-4790 ~ FAX: 802-662-2174

Email: info@gacslc.com

BETE

PERFORMANCE THROUGH ENGINEERING

**Fire Protection &
Suppression Nozzles**

SINCE 1950

413-772-0846

www.bete.com | Greenfield

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Bill Ames** to place an ad today!
bames@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6424

**ADT-Monitored
Home Security**

Get 24-Hour Protection
From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



Authorized
Provider

SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

Our Lady of Peace, Turners Falls, MA 04-0036

