



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED  
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED.”

—LUKE 1:45



Monday—Thursday  
9:00am—3:00pm



520.469.7835



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Pastor, Rev. John Arnold  
Assistant Pastor, Rev. Rudy Ofori

## MASS SCHEDULE

### DAILY MASS

Monday—Saturday | 8:00am

### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil | 4:00pm  
Sunday | 7:00am, 8:30am\*, 10:00am,  
11:30am *\*Masks are required*

### CONFESSION

Saturday after 4pm Mass  
Sunday after 8:30am Mass

### ADORATION

Tuesday 6:30pm,  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion  
Thursday after 8:00am Daily Mass

## OUR MISSION

We are a Roman Catholic Parish nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist. As a community, we advance spiritual growth through lifelong learning.

Connecting people with God, through authentic relationships to serve the community.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday 12/18**

Joseph Giannetti †

**Sunday 12/19**

Jen Allen, Rita Levesque †, Rita Eldo & Isolde Giolli †, Jason McCutcheon †

**Monday 12/20**

Jason Southard †

**Tuesday 12/21**

Sandy Caputo & Family †, Ted Fancher †, Susan Lynn McPherson †

**Wednesday 12/22**

Connie Galan-Vasquez †

**Thursday 12/23**

Evelyn Rouse †, Roger Belleville †, Wedding Anniversary for Jeanne and George Jameson

**Friday 12/24**

Carol Zamoida, Edward Kraft, Dan Conforti, Giampaolo Fuggiti †, The Mazza Family

**Saturday 12/25**

Gonzalo Fernandez †, Joe Rodriguez †, Melecio Ferreira †, Allen Family, Martinson Family, Phillip and Michael Montano †, Jennie Mao †, The Scheuermann Family; Henry Charles, Henry Conrad, and Charles Constantin, Henry Linus Scheuermann †, Crystal McCutcheon †, Mary Ann Nightengale †, Cesar Zapata †, Irma Torres †

**Sunday 12/26**

Bonaguro & DeSimone Families †, The Hernandez Family, George and Mary Weihler †



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."  
- Lk 1:41-42

### PROMISES, PROMISES!

*By Rev. Rudolf Ofori*

In today's first reading the prophet Micah announces the great promise of God: that the small tribe which settled in the insignificant town of Bethlehem will one day produce the ruler of Israel. But between that promise and its fulfillment there is a long interim period of destruction, suffering and exile. When your country is overrun and you are dumped in a strange land, when your songs are unsung and your musical instruments are in storage, it's difficult to hold on to a promise, even when that is the promise of God. But it's precisely that promise that gives substance to the hope of the people and gives a direction to their lives. At the end of the exile the remnant who still believe return to rebuild their lives in the hope that God will indeed keep his promises.

At the beginning of Luke's Gospel, we are introduced to an aged, married couple who stay alive on that hope, Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist. They represent the hope that did not die, and they see it fulfilled in their son, John, who is to prepare for the one from Bethlehem. It is the fulfilled hope of that old couple which is given to Mary as a sign: "know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son.... For nothing is impossible to God" (Luke 1:36-37). Mary hurries to see this sign of a hope fulfilled. In the meeting of the old Elizabeth and the young Mary the Old Testament meets the New Testament, the ancient promise meets its fulfillment in two mothers; Elizabeth, the mother of the last great prophet who will go before the Lord, and Mary, the mother

of the Lord himself. It is a time of good news, of great blessing; it is a time for womb-shaking rejoicing. The old promises are new events, and now is the time of their long - awaited fulfillment. It's a great time!

It is through Mary that God is seen to keep the promise announced through the prophet Micah so long ago. The promise of God will take flesh in her and be formed in the person of Jesus. In today's Gospel Mary is blessed for believing "that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled". In Mary we can see that God doesn't just make promises but keeps them. In Mary we can see someone who allows the promise of God to shape her whole life - not in a passive way, but because she says "yes" to the promise happening in her.

The promise has a name: Jesus. He will fulfil all that has gone before and give new meaning to all that will happen after him. He stands at the very center of time - BC and AD - and he is the one who stands at the very center of our lives.

At Christmas we celebrate the great event that Jesus is the kept promise of God. He comes to us again as gift of the Father and invites us to have the confidence to make a few promises ourselves. As Christmas we are a people of promises, and God holds fast to the words of promise we have made him. As Advent close, we thank God for keeping his word to us, and ask him to help us keep our word to him and each other. As W.H. Auden wrote: "Words are for those with promises to keep"

### LISTEN TO FR. JOHN'S PODCAST



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**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS  
BABY JESUS' WISH LIST**

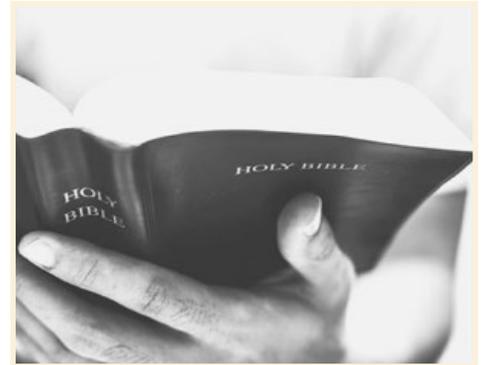
Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**REFLECTION & RESPOND**

**First Reading**

Micah prophesied a Messiah ("ruler") would come through the line of David ("Bethlehem-Ephrathah") and bring peace and harmony. In what ways does the upcoming birth of Christ bring you comfort?

**Second Reading**

As the season of Advent draws to a close, the author of Hebrews reminds us that as disciples of Christ, we must strive to do God's will above all else. How do you stay focused on such an important task?

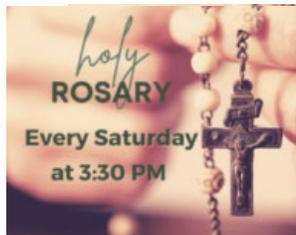
**Gospel**

Luke is the only Evangelist to record the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth and only a portion of their conversation was preserved. What else do you imagine they talked about?

©LPI

**HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR**

Mary Ann Sena, Karen Gonzales, David Schultz, Jack Daily, Ivette Camino †, Wayne Elias, Ruth Kieffer, Maggie Wirth, Maria Ruiz, Don Green



**THIS WEEK'S**

**OBSERVANCES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**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  
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or  
 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Next Sunday:

**Observances for the week of December 19, 2021**

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent  
 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  
 Next Sunday: The Holy Family

**STEWARDSHIP**

**DUE TO EARLY DEADLINES,  
WE WILL BE REPORTING  
FINANCIAL REPORTS ON THE  
FOLLOWING BULLETIN.**



# 04 PARISH EVENTS



*The Parish Office will be closed on  
December 23rd-24th and  
December 30th-31st.*

*We wish you a most Blessed Christmas!*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MONDAY 20	TUESDAY 21	WEDNESDAY 22	THURSDAY 23	FRIDAY 24	SATURDAY 25	SUNDAY 26
<b>Daily Mass</b> 8:00AM, Church	<b>Daily Mass</b> 8:00AM, Church	<b>Daily Mass</b> 8:00AM, Church	<b>Daily Mass</b> 8:00AM, Church	<b>Daily Mass</b> 8:00AM, Church	<b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b>	<b>MASS 7:00AM, CHURCH</b>
<b>Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> 8:30AM, Church	<b>Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> 8:30AM, Church	<b>Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> 8:30AM, Church	<b>Adoration</b> 8:30AM, Church	<b>Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> 8:30AM, Church	<b>MASS 7:00AM, CHURCH</b>	<b>MASS 8:30AM, CHURCH</b>
<b>Level 1 Certification Class</b> , 9am, Parish Hall	<b>Charismatic Prayer Group</b> , 9am, Chapel				<b>MASS 8:30AM, CHURCH</b>	<b>CONFESSION, 9:15 AM, MUSIC/ WORSHIP</b>
<b>RCIA</b> , 6pm, Parish Hall					<b>MASS 10AM, CHURCH</b>	<b>MASS 10AM, CHURCH</b>
<b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> , 7pm, Church	<b>Adoration &amp; OMPH Devotion</b> , 6:30PM, Church				<b>MASS 11:30AM, CHURCH</b>	<b>MASS 11:30AM, CHURCH</b>
		<b>LIVE STREAM CHRISTMAS CONCERT @</b>  <b>8pm, on all media channels</b>		<b>MASS 4:00PM, CHURCH</b>		
				<b>MASS 6:00PM, CHURCH</b>	<b>MASS 4:00PM, CHURCH</b>	



ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST  
MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS OUR...

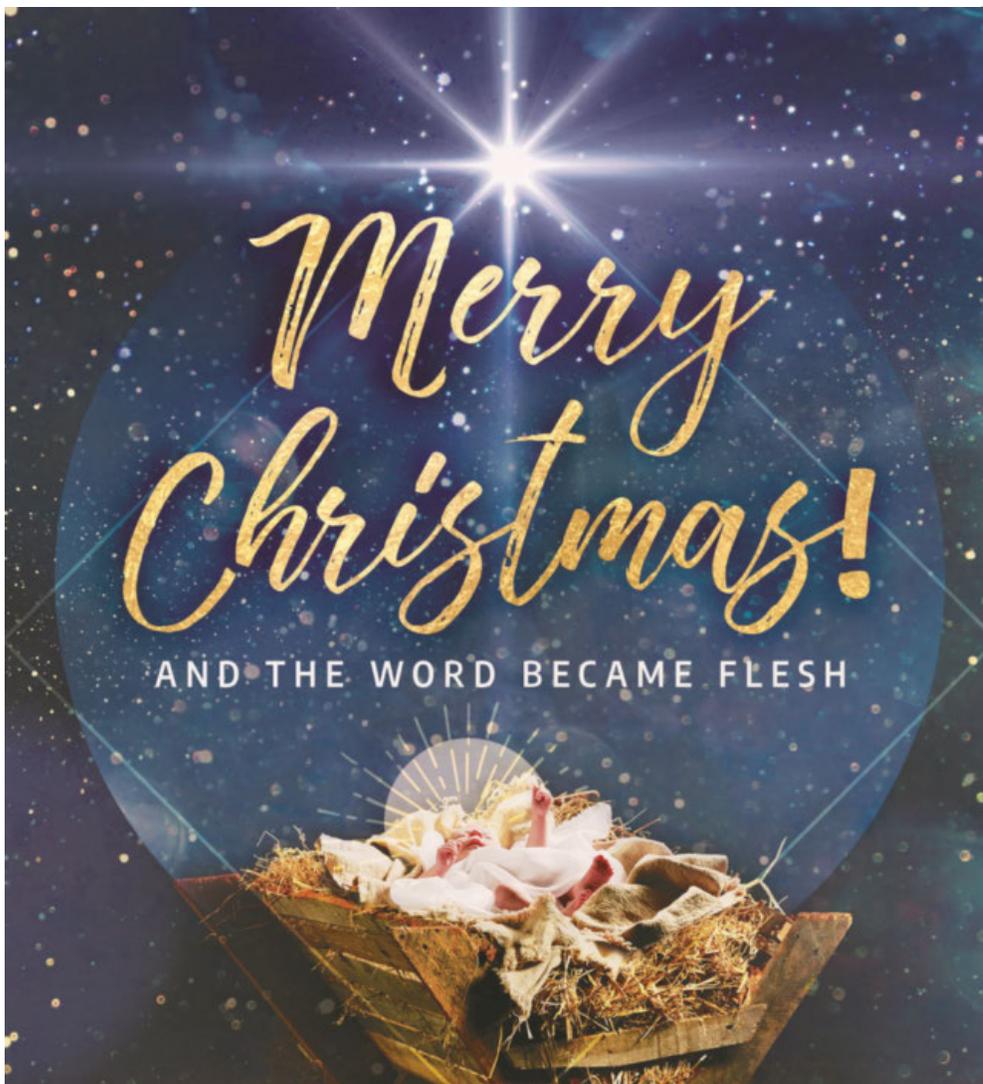
# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

LIVE-STREAMED ON  
December 22, 2021 | 8 PM

A Christmas Eve concert featuring our Adult Choir, Schola Cantorum and Orchestra  
conducted by Dr. Jeff Vanderlee, Music Director



*Due to increasing concerns with COVID-19 Omicron variant as we enter the holiday season, we have decided to livestream our Annual Christmas Concert prior to Christmas Eve. The performance will be professionally recorded and live-streamed and available on our various media platforms.*



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### FRIDAY-CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM VIGIL MASS

6:00 PM VIGIL MASS

### SATURDAY-CHRISTMAS

MIDNIGHT MASS

7:00 AM MASS

8:30 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS

11:30 AM MASS

YOU CAN LISTEN FROM YOUR CAR DURING  
ALL MASSES ON STATION 106.1 FM



## ADVENT DAILY CALENDAR

**December 19**—*O Root of Jesse's Stem*  
Jesse and King David were Jesus' ancestors. Send Christmas cards to family and friends. Light the fourth Advent candle. Consider ways you can bring peace and love to others.

**December 20**—*O Key of David!* Jesus opens doors that seem difficult to open. Pray about ways to overcome things that may be difficult for you.

**December 21**—*O Radiant Dawn!* Jesus is our light! Shut off the house lights and all electronics after dinner and enjoy the light of the Christmas tree together as a family.

**December 22**—*O King of All Nations!* Jesus is the king who unites us all. Read about how other countries and cultures celebrate the traditions of Christmas. Consider adopting one of these new traditions in your family.

**December 23**—*O Emmanuel!* We believe that Jesus is with us always. Call or visit someone who could use your company today.

**December 24**—Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Read the nativity story in the Bible together as a family.

**December 25**—*Christ is Born!* Let us rejoice! Thank God for the greatest gift, the gift of His only Son! Put the figurine of the baby Jesus in the manger.

## ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

### 4<sup>TH</sup> 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.



## LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world’s political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God’s fix be made known.

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY**

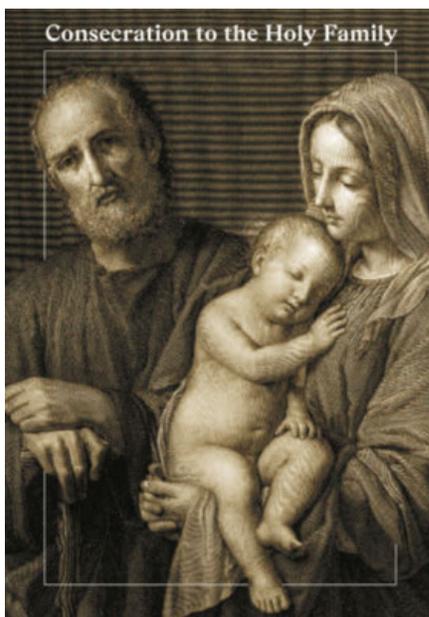
In preparation for a Consecration to the Holy Family, your family should not only decide to dedicate itself to the Holy Family's intercession but also acknowledge that the family is sacred.

The decision to consecrate your family needs to be intentional and a process through which you completely surrender to God through the Holy Family. You are accepting the truth that salvation history was changed forever by a family, and that through your domestic church, you are called to live their example.

**STEPS BEFORE PRAYING THE CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY:**

1. Discuss the importance of this consecration as a family and why you are doing it.
2. Each member of your family is strongly encouraged to go to the sacrament of reconciliation.
3. As a family, intentionally choose something to fast from. The fast can be for at least a week. As our physical bodies are drawn to things of the world, it is strongly encouraged that you fast from something that you would normally do or consume. Fasting helps to discipline our minds and hearts to refrain from secular activities and be more focused on God.
4. Prepare for the commitment you are making. Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. You have chosen a way of life for your family. You and your family are consciously choosing to be a beacon of light of God's love through his Church.

**CONSECRATION PRAYER WILL BE RECITED ON 12/26 AT THE 10AM MASS**



**BREAKING NEWS**

**OUR ONLINE GIVING PORTAL HAS CHANGED!**

You may have noticed a *new* look to our Online Giving Portal. All users will need to login with the email associated with your online giving account. In most cases, a password reset will be needed.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\*** If you did not have a reoccurring giving scheduled, your account did not transfer to the new platform. You will need to create a new account.

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2. If the abuse happened in any other state, call the Police or Sheriffs Office in the specific area of that state.
3. Call the Victim Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson 1.800.234.0344 and/or the Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection at 520.838.2513

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**



MEMBER MEETING EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6PM IN THE PARISH HALL.



COUNCIL MEETING EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM IN THE PARISH HALL.

## ETERNAL REST

*In your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust  
our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them  
with your tender love;  
deliver them now  
from every evil  
and bid them eternal rest.  
The old order  
has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow,  
no weeping or pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son  
and the Holy Spirit  
forever and ever. Amen.*



To view our recent obituaries, scan the QR Code with your phone app to be directed to our webpage.



## POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION

December 2021

### Catechists

*Let us pray for the catechist, summoned to announce the Word of God; may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

### A MESSAGE FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS:

Our T-Coil system has had issues with our audio system. We have found a less expensive option for our parishioners who need audio-assistance. A T-Coil hearing aid runs around \$100 on the low end, however, if you purchase a personal FM Tuner, you can tune into the radio frequency 106.1FM and have clear audio for the Mass.



*We just want to remind everyone that you can listen to Mass from your car in our parking lot!*

# LISTEN FROM YOUR CAR 106.1 FM

### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT





# GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE C

## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

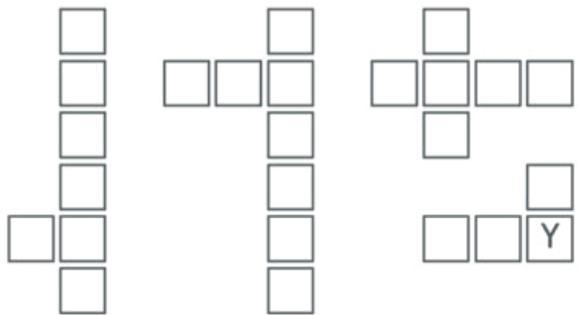


4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent • Luke 1:39-45

## PUZZLE

Fit the following words from today's Gospel into the empty squares below.

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.



## MISSION

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"



### My Mass Checklist

Check here if you blessed yourself with holy water as you entered church.

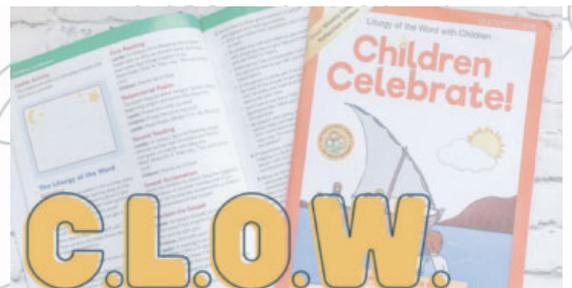
Check here if you joined in the Our Father Prayer today.

How many people were in the choir today at Mass?   
What was your favorite songs in Mass today?

How many candles were lit in the Advent Wreath before Mass?

## CLOW WILL RESUME IN 2022

CLOW and Childcare are on holiday break and will resume on January 9th.



## BESIDES THE WISE MEN, WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE EPIPHANY?

Epiphany means “manifestation,” or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew’s infancy narrative differs from Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph’s long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?



**WE HAVE GREAT NEWS!** The Individual Tax Credit limits have increased

The amount you can now contribute to Arizona’s Catholic Tuition Support Organization (CTSO) has increased. If filing as a single taxpayer you can give up to \$1,219, and a married couple filing jointly can contribute up to \$2,435, and you, the donor can receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit off your Arizona tax liability. Brochures are in the vestibule or visit [www.ctso-tucson.org](http://www.ctso-tucson.org) to make an online contribution.

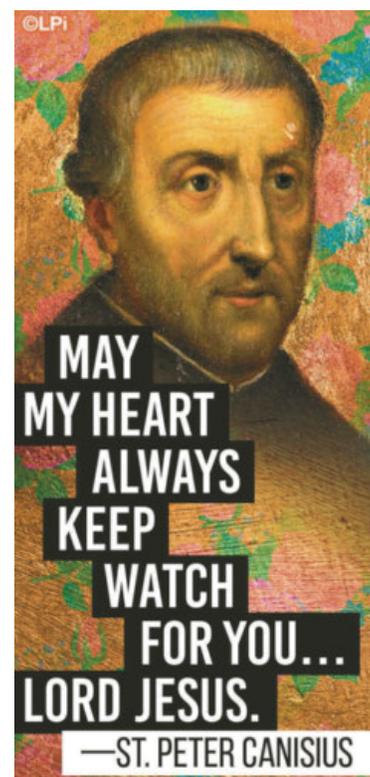


### AVAILABLE AT VIGIL MASS ON JANUARY 1ST, AND ALL MASSES ON JANUARY 2ND

On Epiphany, it is traditional for families to bless their homes, remembering the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men and asking for protection and blessing on the home and all who enter. We will be blessing and providing our parishioners with a piece of chalk to take home.

The home blessing is done by writing on the door or door frame with chalk the symbols 20+C+M+B+22. The 20 and 22 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died. The C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, as well as an abbreviation for the Latin phrase “*Christus mansionem benedicat*” which means “Christ bless this house.” Writing on the door also brings to mind the Passover of the Jews during the final plague in Exodus, when the blood of the lamb protected the inhabitants within.

To join in this tradition visit our website by scanning the QR Code to right to access the **Epiphany Home Blessing Kit** which includes suggested scripture passages, songs, prayer, and how to bless your door.



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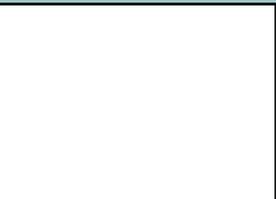
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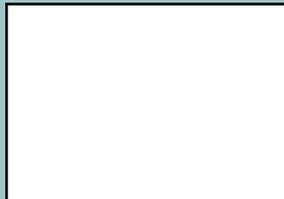
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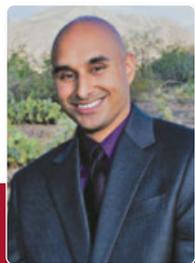
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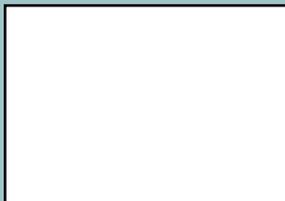
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