

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE

4423 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44109 Phone 216-749-2323 Fax 216-741-7183 www.maryqop.org



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

Christmas Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass of Christmas
Thursday, December 24th:
4:30pm and 9:00pm

Christmas Day Masses
Friday, December 25th:
12 Midnight (Latin) (Choral Prelude at 11:15pm)
6:30am, 8:30am, and 11:00am (Latin)

Confession Schedule

Daily - 8:30am
Saturdays - 8:45am & 3:00pm
Sunday, December 20 - 9:30am & 12:00pm
Monday, December 21 - 8:30am & 3:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Douglas Brown frbrown@maryqop.org
Fr. Joseph Rodak C.P.P.S. (In Residence)
Director of Religious Education Jonathan Kenzig jkenzig@maryqop.org
Director of Music William Schoeffler wschoeffler@maryqop.org
Director of Maintenance Roger Matthes rmatthes@maryqop.org
Director of Development Tina Ranta tranta.mqop@gmail.com
Business Manager Jim Goebel jgoebel@maryqop.org
Bulletin Editor Dawn Wholaver info@maryqop.org
Parish Secretary Mary Vallo mvallo@maryqop.org
Evening Parish Secretary Laura Christopher
Saturday Parish Secretary Bonnie Bilko

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, & 11:00 AM
First Sunday: 11:00 AM (Latin)
Monday - Friday: 6:15 AM (Latin) & 8:00 AM
First Friday: 7:00 PM (Latin)
Saturday: 8:00 AM (Latin) & 4:30 PM (Vigil)

Holy Days & Holidays as announced

Church open daily from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday, Tue & Thurs. Evenings: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday: 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Office is closed on Civil Holidays

School

4419 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44109
216-741-3685 - Fax 216-741-5534
<http://maryqueenofpeaceschool.com/>

Office Hours: M - F; 7:00am - 3:00pm

Principal: Jessica Robertson
sch_mqp@dioceseofcleveland.org

School Secretaries: Patricia Schwartz
Robin Geschke

**Due to COVID-19 we ask that you take the bulletin home with you.
DO NOT place the bulletins back in parish piles or racks.**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**MONDAY, December 21**

6:15 AM (Latin) *St. Thomas, Apostle*
~ President Trump
8:00 AM **Late Advent Weekday**
~ Special Intention

TUESDAY, December 22

6:15 AM (Latin) **Greater Feria of Advent**
~ Paula Cepelnik, Birthday
8:00 AM **Late Advent Weekday**
d. Anne Ward

WEDNESDAY, December 23

6:15 AM (Latin) **Greater Feria of Advent**
d. Michelle Peitras
8:00 AM **Late Advent Weekday**
d. Remembering the life of
Bill Himes, Jr.

THURSDAY, December 24

6:15 AM (Latin) **Vigil of Christmas**
~ Mother's & Father's Day Intentions
8:00 AM **Late Advent Weekday**
d. Jennie & Albert Roginski
4:30 PM **Vigil of Christmas**
~ Intentions of Mason Smerdel
9:00 PM **Vigil of Christmas**
~ All Souls

FRIDAY, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

12 Midnight (Latin) ~ Celebrant's Intention
6:45 AM ~ Celebrant's Intention
8:30 AM ~ Pro Populo
11:00 AM (Latin) ~ Celebrant's Intention

SATURDAY, December 26

8:00 AM (Latin) **St. Stephen, Deacon & Protomartyr**
~ Phyllis Crespo,
in honor of her Baptism

4:30 PM Vigil Mass **Vigil Mass for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
d. John & Ann Holub & Sons

SUNDAY, December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

6:30 AM ~ All Souls
8:30 AM ~ Mary Queen of Peace Parishioners
11:00 AM ~ Jonathan & Mystina Kenzig,
4th Wedding Anniversary

MQP Christmas Shoppe

As we enter the last week of our Christmas Shoppe we have been pleasantly surprised by your generosity and support for our parish. **In light of your charity, we have decided to offer a sale on many of the Christmas themed items in the Shoppe over the final week we are open (Dec. 20-23); slashing the price down to just over what we acquired them for.** If you are in need of Catholic Christmas gifts for anyone, or just a cheap way of Catholicizing your own home, please stop in by for one final glance through our items.

Of particular note, we still have Oplatki on sale for \$2 (marked down from \$3). This is a great (and cheap) Christmas Eve tradition to help bring your family together in a spirit of gratitude. We also have household stickers for children, ornaments, candles, holy water fonts, Marian statues and more. All marked down even lower than the already fair prizes they were being offered at.

We also still have \$.50 tickets for our Nativity Raffle for sale. We will be drawing on Dec. 22nd so that all three prizes can be picked up on Dec. 23rd before the Rectory closes for Christmas. There are 3 prizes with 1st Prize being valued at over \$125.

**Mary Queen of Peace Christmas Basket Raffle!**

We will be having a virtual Basket Raffle during the holidays. Baskets may be viewed online on the MQP Facebook page. Tickets are \$5 for 6, \$10 for 12, \$20 for 24, and \$50 for 75 tickets. You can purchase tickets via VENMO @MQP-Raffle please indicate in the memo how many tickets and in which basket number they will be put for you, or in person by contacting Laura Eichenmiller at 216-551-2200 or lauraeichenmiller@yahoo.com. Tickets, pictures, and descriptions of the baskets will also be available after Masses on December 12-13.

DRAWING IS TODAY DECEMBER 20th!!!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 6, 2020

Weekly Offertory.....\$ 8,056.01
Maintenance Fund..(Total to date \$42,186.27).\$ 1,104.12
Children's Offertory.....\$ 2.00
Immaculate Conception\$ 1,227.00

All figures include Faith Direct

Thank You and God Bless you for your continued support!

Ushers will be at the doors with baskets to collect your offertory envelopes or they can be dropped off in the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Luz & Efrian Guilfu

Loving Mother & Son

Rose Kordan

Beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother
May Luz, Efrian & Rose rest in eternal peace.

Community Meal

Today, Sunday, December 20, from 1:00-2:15 PM is our **FREE** Community Meal. It is for take-out only. Drive up to the back Parish Center doors to pick up your meal.

Everyone is welcome to come and take a meal home!

Thank You...Once again this year to **Tomon Funeral Home** for providing our beautiful Mary Queen of Peace 2020 Calendars. They are now available in the vestibule of the church or can be picked up in the Parish Office.

The Parish Office will be **CLOSED**
Dec. 24-26, 28, 31 & Jan. 1.

MQP School is CLOSED from
December 18-January 4, 2021

Have a Merry Christmas!

FATHER BROWN'S SUNDAY NOTES

We have a book in the MQP Christmas Shoppe of which I was not familiar. It's called ***The Hidden Treasure: Holy Mass by Saint Leonard***. It contains very helpful information about living a holy life – plus, it is only 123 pages in length. I share with you an excerpt from this book from a section at the end called:

RULES FOR LIVING WELL (abbreviated)

He who desires to be saved, lives, according to rule, and establishes an arrangement of his time with a view to devotional exercises. Dearest reader, if you wish to maintain yourself in the grace of God, never abandon these brief exercises which I now propose to you.

Choose for yourself a good confessor, to whom you may confide the treasure of your soul. Go often to him, to give an account of your conscience, and do not change him by mere caprice or fickleness.

Every morning offer to the Lord all the good works of that day, all its labors and sufferings, and all your actions, in union with the merits of Jesus Christ.

Offer all your actions to the Most Holy Trinity, to Mary, every Virgin, and to all the blessed of Heaven, in suffrage for the Souls in Purgatory.

Form the intention to gain the indulgences obtainable by prayer or acts during the whole day.

Avoid sloth, bad company, dangerous conversations, and games; remembering that time passes and never returns, that you have a soul, and that if you lose your soul, you lose all.

EVERY MORNING

When as yet scarcely awake, give your very first thought to God; while dressing keep reciting vocal prayers, and recommend yourself to God – then say upon your knees: “Most Holy Trinity, I believe that Thou art present with me; and I adore Thee, I thank Thee for having preserved me during the past night; I offer to Thee all my actions. My God, my love, Goodness Infinite, and worthy of all love, assist me this day; keep me free from sins and dangers; hold Thy hands above me, and preserve me from betraying Thee.

Then say three Glory Be's to the Most Holy Trinity, one Pater to Jesus, three Ave's to Mary, and beseech her to guard you under her mantle; offer all your senses and faculties to Jesus and Mary.

Say “Act of Faith”, “Act of Hope”, “Act of Charity”, and “Act of Contrition”. Then make a half-hour mental prayer, or at least during quarter of an hour, upon the Passion of Jesus, and upon the last things, death and judgment.

Never omit to hear holy Mass every morning [acknowledging that it may not always be possible]. It is an infinite treasure, and will be infinitely profitable to you. Afterward you will go to your affairs, often recalling your thoughts to God, Who is ever present beside you. At table give a thought to God and act upon the resolution of eating in order to live and serve your God. Practice some little mortification at each meal. Then thank the Lord.

Saint Leonard also includes charitable works to practice throughout the day and in the evening. There are also recommendations to make habitual for every week, every month and every year. This is a brief description, but I have found great substance for my meditation and for the way I live my life.

As we draw closer to Christmas in these final days of Advent, I encourage you to examine your own life and how you pass each day.

- **Confession times are added...**during this week to help you prepare for the birth of Christ. Confessions will be available on **Sunday, December 20th at 9:30 am and 12 Noon; Monday, December 21st at 8:30 am and 3 pm; Tuesday, December 22nd at 8:30 am and 6 pm; Wednesday, December 23rd at 8:30 am and 5 pm; and Thursday, December 24th at 8:30 am.** Do not wait to receive the Sacrament of Penance.
- **Please note our Christmas Mass schedule...**with Masses on **Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve at 4:30 pm and 9 pm.** We added the 9 pm Mass this year to help provide another opportunity to attend Christmas Eve Mass and to hopefully draw some people away from the 4:30 pm Mass. **Midnight Mass will be at midnight (of course!) and will be a Latin High Mass. Masses on Christmas Day will be at 6:30 am; 8:30 am and 11 am, which will be a Latin Low Mass with Christmas Carols.** There are many parishes that are requiring reservations for Christmas Eve Masses. I do not want to do that here because I think that we can make responsible and safe decisions for ourselves.
- **Please note that the Rectory is closed...**on **Thursday, December 24th; Friday, December 25th; Saturday, December 26th; Monday, December 28th; Thursday, December 31st; Friday, January 1st and Saturday, January 2nd.** Of course, I will always be available for emergencies.
- **Spend New Year's Eve with Jesus...**and gain two indulgences for yourself or a departed soul. **There will be Eucharistic Adoration from 10 to 12 midnight on Thursday, December 31st.** Confessions will be heard from 10 to 11:45 pm. At approximately 11:45 pm, we will pray the *Te Deum*, an indulgenced act. A Latin Low Mass for the Octave Day of Christmas will be at 12 Midnight. After Mass has concluded, we will pray the *Veni Sancte Spiritu*, an indulgenced act. What a beautiful way to ring in the New Year!
- **January 1st is First Friday...**and unless I hear from a large number of people in protest, there will be no Eucharistic Adoration that day until the evening. **There will be the Blessing of Religious Objects at 6:45 pm and the First Friday Latin Mass at 7 pm followed by Confessions and a brief period of Eucharistic Adoration.**
- **First Saturday is January 2nd...**and we will have our morning Mass followed by Confession and the praying of the Holy Rosary.
- **The Blessing of Epiphany Holy Water...**is a powerful blessing that we offered for the first time last year. You will want to ensure you have enough Epiphany Holy

Water for the year as it is a potent Sacramental. Because of the length of the blessing and the requirement that it may only be blessed on the day before the Epiphany, this will be the only time I will bless Epiphany Water this year. **The Blessing of Epiphany Water will be on Monday, January 5th at approximately 6:45 am – after the first morning Mass.** Please bring your own water.

- **A belated thank you...** to the **Companions of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood** who were awarded a grant in the amount of \$5000 to be used to supplement the Third Sunday Community Meal. Thank you!

As we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, I am reminded of the miraculous nature of this event. Who would have thought that the Son of God would be born in a lowly stable, surrounded by farm animals? Yet He was born for our salvation and redemption. **When I get discouraged by some of our aging facilities or when finances are tight here, I think of Jesus being born into poverty.** Who am I to complain?

Many blessings on your final week of Advent!

Yours in Christ,



Father Brown

fbrown@maryqop.org



And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night watches over their flock.

And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them; and they feared with a great fear.

And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people:

For, this day, is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David.

And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying:

Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will. Luke 2:8-14

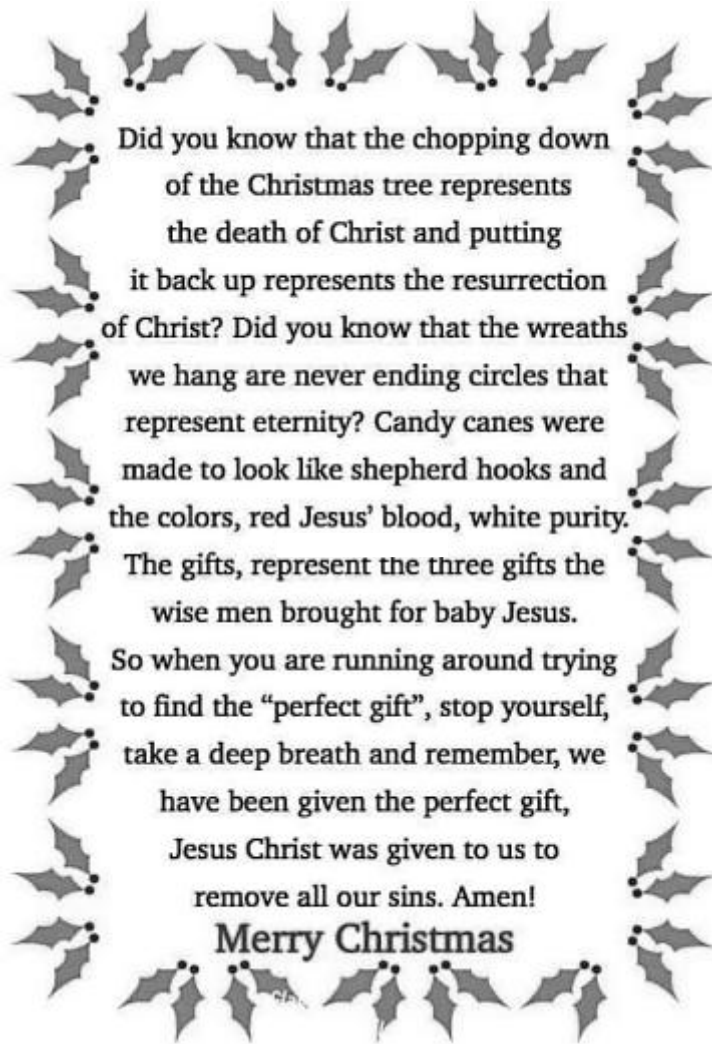
MARY QUEEN OF PEACE SCHOOL NEWS

In years past, we were able to celebrate Las Posadas with our school community. This is the reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for an Inn where Jesus could be born. Las Posadas includes decorations, a nativity set, songs, a parade, and a party with snacks and a piñata. This year, we thank Miss Gardner, our music teacher, for virtually performing the songs and the story so our students could still be able to enjoy the celebration.

We hope everyone continues to enjoy the much needed rest and relaxation this break. On behalf of myself and the teachers and staff of Mary Queen of Peace School, we wish you and your family a safe, happy, healthy and joyous Christmas!

Have a wonderful week!
God Bless,

Mrs. Jessica Robertson
Principal - Mary Queen of Peace School
216-741-3685 School Office
maryqueenofpeaceschool.com



Here's how the CARES Act Changes Deducting Charitable Contributions made in 2020

Previously, charitable contributions could only be deducted if taxpayers itemized their deductions.

However, taxpayers who don't itemize deductions may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations, one of which is MARY QUEEN OF PEACE. For the purpose of this deduction, qualifying organizations are those that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific or literary in purpose. The law changed in this area due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

The CARES Act also temporarily suspends limits on charitable contributions and temporarily increases limits on contributions of food inventory. More information about these changes is available on IRS.gov.

EGiving with Faith Direct

So much is different this Christmas season, yet the focus and dedication of our ministries remains constant - as people in need turn to Mary Queen of Peace for warm meals, comfort, and shelter during the holidays, we must be there for them. To share Christ's love, we depend on online donations from caring individuals like you.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving and setting up your recurring donation. You can use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet for recurring and one-time gifts.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/OH311.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath symbolizes the children of Israel waiting for the Messiah through the centuries as well as our own spiritual preparation to welcome the Christ Child, the Holy Messiah on Christmas morning. The Advent Wreath is a set of four candles set in a wreath of evergreen. The evergreen, sometimes richly decorated, symbolizes the beauty of Christian hope in the loving promises of God. The perfect circle of the wreath represents the eternity of God. The four candles mark the four Sundays of Advent which immediately precede Christmas. One of the candles is lit on each Sunday of Advent until by Christmas all the candles are lit! Three of the candles are violet colored reflecting the penitential spirit of the Advent season. One candle is rose colored reflecting the joy of the Gospel on the Third Sunday of Advent. The four candles represent, not only the four weeks of Advent when we wait for the coming of the anniversary of the birth of Christ on Christmas Day, but of the four thousand years that Jews waited for the coming of Jesus as the Messiah. It also reminds us that we are now waiting for Jesus to come again...at the end of the world!

The candles of the Advent Wreath are given the following names:

1. The **PROPHECY CANDLE**, is a reminder of the foretelling of Jesus' birth by the Old Testament prophets.
2. The **BETHLEHEM CANDLE**, recalling the words of the Prophet Micah that the Christ Child would be born in Bethlehem.
3. The **SHEPHERDS' CANDLE**, a reminder of the first people to worship the baby Jesus. This is the rose colored candle and reflects the anticipated joy of the Gospel for this Sunday.
4. The **ANGELS' CANDLE**, lit on the Sunday before Christmas in remembrance of the Angel who spoke to the Virgin Mary at the conception of Jesus and of the Angels who appeared to the shepherds in the fields outside Bethlehem that first Christmas Eve.



Christmas Wafer Story

For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, the Czech and Slav Republics have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek—Christmas Wafer. Oplatek taken from the Latin word oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life.

On the Holiest Night of the year a festive 12 course meatless dinner is prepared for the gathered family and friends. An extra setting is placed for a beggar (our Lord) who may come to the door, or a poor family (the Holy Family) looking for a place to stay. The host or hostess leads the group in a special prayer and distributes an oplatek to the participants. Each person breaks off a piece of the other's oplatek and continues until they have exchanged good wishes and blessings with everyone.

Traditionally at midnight the head of the household takes the pink oplatek and shares it with the animals on his farm or at his home. This custom brings us back to that Holy Night when even animals were able to speak, and to remind us that we are all God's creatures.

Oplatki is on sale for \$2 (previously \$3) in the Parish Office. If this is not one of your family traditions, why not start it this year?

This Week At Mary Queen of Peace**Sunday, December 20****MQP Christmas Shoppe OPEN; Gift Cards on sale;****St. Vincent de Paul Third Sunday Collection**

6:00am-6:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
6:00am Holy Rosary - Church
6:30am Mass - Church
8:00am Holy Rosary - Church
8:30am Mass - Church
9:30am Vitalant Blood Drive - Marian Lounge
9:30am Confession - Church
9:30am Sunday Morning Bible Study - Marian Lounge
10:30am Holy Rosary - Church
11:00am Mass - Church
12:00pm Confession - Church
1:00pm Board Gaming Group - Parish Center RM. 202
1:00pm Community Take-Out Meal - Cafeteria
2:00pm Blue Army Holy Hour - Church
3:00pm Set-Up Christmas Decorations - Church

Monday, December 21**MQP Christmas Shoppe OPEN**

6:00am-6:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
6:15am Mass (Latin) - Church
8:00am Mass - Church
8:30am Confessions - Church
3:00pm Confessions - Church
7:30pm Daily Reflections Meeting (AA) - Parish Center

Tuesday, December 22**MQP Christmas Shoppe OPEN**

6:00am-6:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
6:15am Mass (Latin) - Church
8:00am Mass - Church
8:30am Confession - Church
8:30am Holy Hour of Reparation to the Holy Face
6:00pm Confessions - Church

Wednesday, December 23**MQP Christmas Shoppe OPEN**

6:00am-6:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
6:15am Mass (Latin) - Church
8:00am Mass - Church
8:30am Confession - Church
5:00pm Confessions - Church
6:00pm Wednesday Holy Hour - Church
7:30pm Men's Big Book Meeting (AA) - Parish Center

Thursday, December 24**Rectory Closed**

6:00am-6:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
6:15am Mass (Latin) - Church
8:00am Mass - Church
8:30am Confession - Church
4:30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas - Church
8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Thursday Men's)
9:00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas - Church
11:15pm Christmas Eve Choral Prelude - Church

Friday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord**Rectory Closed**

12:00am Christmas Midnight Mass (Latin) - Church
6:00am-1:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
6:30am Christmas Mass at Dawn - Church
8:30am Christmas Mass - Church
11:00am Christmas Mass (Latin Low Mass with Christmas Carols) - Church

Saturday, December 26**Rectory Closed**

6:00am-6:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
8:00am Mass (Latin) - Church
8:45am Confessions - Church

3:00pm Confessions - Church
4:00pm Holy Rosary - Church
4:30pm Vigil Mass - Church
Sunday, December 27: Feast of the Holy Family
Drawing for "Year-Round Utility Raffle";
Mobile Office in the Vestibule
6:00am-6:00pm Church Open for Private Prayer
6:00am Holy Rosary - Church
6:30am Mass - Church
7:00am Blessing of Wine - Church
8:00am Holy Rosary - Church
8:30am Mass - Church
9:30am Blessing of Wine - Church
9:30am Sunday Morning Bible Study - Marian Lounge
10:30am Holy Rosary - Church
11:00am Mass - Church
12:00pm Blessing of Wine - Church

Calendar subject to change, for most current information see <http://www.maryqop.org>**MQP Religious Education Update for December**

Due to diocesan COVID recommendations all group RCIA, CCD & Sacrament classes are cancelled for the month of December. Everyone involved in these programs will be receiving an email shortly from Mr. Kenzig about potential make up work or other ways of meeting over the next month. If you have any questions contact Jonathan at JKenzig@maryqop.org.

Please pray for our fellow parishioners who are ill:

Sylvia Nieves Alwine; Delores Bailey; John Boyd; Elaine Bukach; Anne Duncan; Nancy Esteb; Theresa Fridrich; Bill Gonzalez; Pat Gumina; Ariel Jarrett; Ava Jarrett; Olga Jazak; Eddie Jones; Mike Jusek; Rose Kordan; Maria Koston; Julianna Kuzilla; Bob Natolli; Ashley Payne; Pat Rodak; Joyce Shay; Celine Weisheit; Carol Wervey; Chris Woznicki; Jeff Woznicki; Taylor Zenda & Family; that they may know the healing power of Jesus. *If you would like your name or someone else's name added to our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 216-749-2323. Names will remain on the list for four weeks.*

Heavenly Father, be with our men and women as they serve our country. We pray for those in the service, especially: CDR David C. Asseff, MC USN; CDR Steven Asseff, USN; Sgt. Emily Clymer Army; Capt. Karl J. Eisenmann, USMC; Lance CPL Anthony Gajewski, SSgt. Melanie Grotenrath Air Force; PVT Logan Haney, US Army; Pfc. Joshua Harris, US Army; SPC Dominic Hess, Army; MSgt. Jamie Kolakowski; Chief MSgt. Dennis Kuzel, Air Force; TSgt. Steve Kuzel Air Force; PVT Manus Edward McCaffery, US Army; Captain Joseph McCormack Air Force; Sgt. John O'Connor; Sage Rocut USMC; Katlyn Seamone, US Army; SSgt. Brian Skalecki US Army; SSgt. Thomas Skalecki, US Army; A1C Montana Stiegelmeier, Air Force; Sgt. Aaron Virkler.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

Due to COVID the diocese has requested parishes to limit singing so as to reduce the spread of the disease during the pandemic. While we are comfortable if you sing quietly to yourself we ask that individuals refrain from singing loudly as it is hazardous to those around them. Thank you for your understanding.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

12/20/20

Lectionary: 11

Reading 1

2 SM 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

PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithful-
ness.

For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:

Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.'

Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2

ROM 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.

Alleluia

LK 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

LK 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.

Prayer To Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and
snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts,
by the Power of God, thrust into Hell,
Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl
about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

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