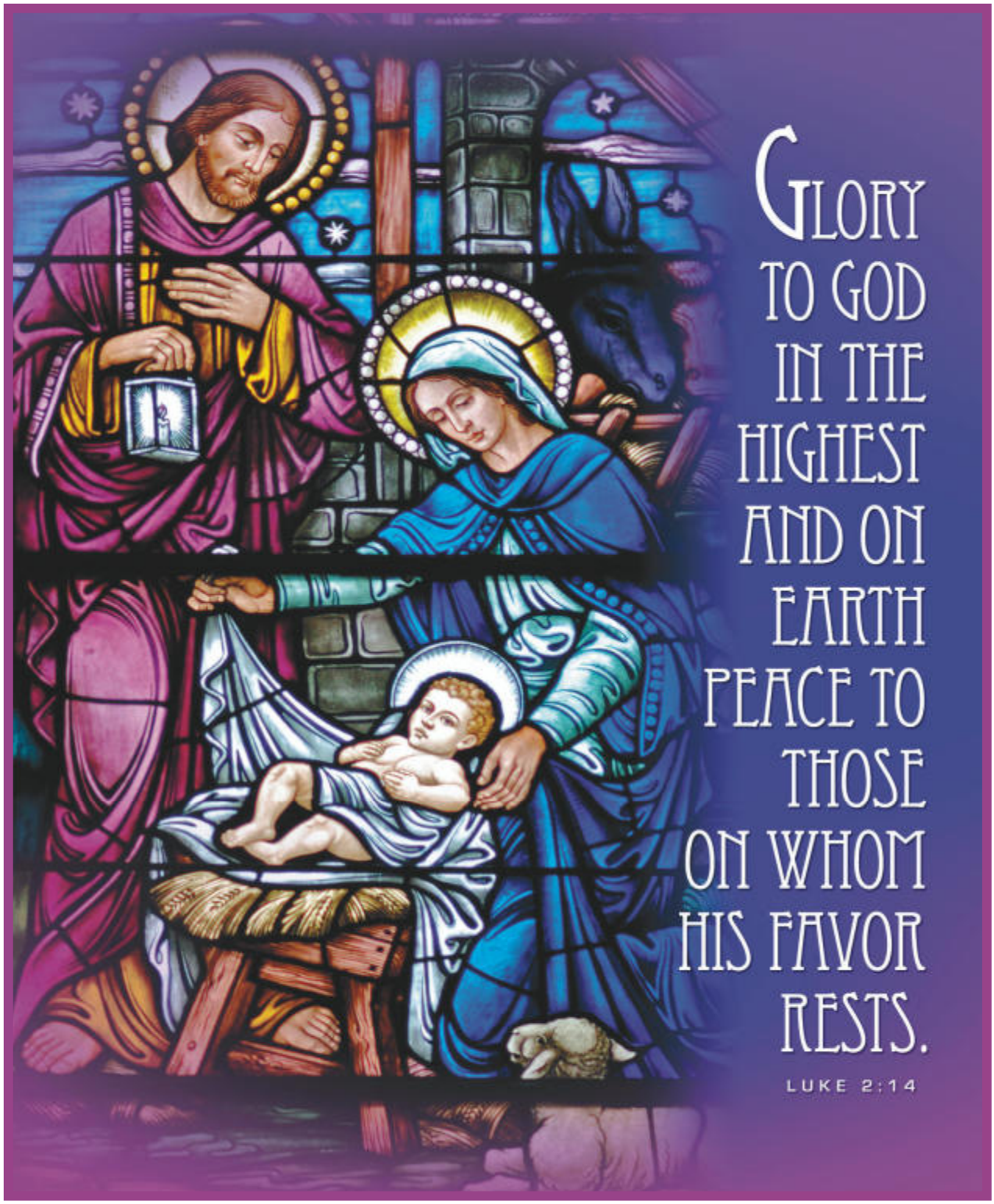
Established 1876 December 20, 2020

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

PA Charitable Trust
337 Center Street – St. Marys, PA 15857
Sacred Heart Parish Office: 814-834-7861 Fax: 814-834-1376 ● Sacred Heart Parish Center: 834-4017 (Evening Hours)
e-mail: sacredheartparish@windstream.net ● Website: www.sacredheartparish.us
Parish Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mission Statement

Through our gifts of time, talents, and treasures, we serve our parish as we journey together to the Kingdom of God.



December 19(S): Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m.††† Arthur (An.), Mercedes & David Krieg
December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:00 a.m. † John Minnick (An.)
9:00 a.m. For Sacred Heart Parishioners
11:00 a.m. L/D of Edna Brock Family
December 21(M): Fourth Week of Advent
6:15 a.m. † Deceased Members of the Benedictine Association of Saint Marys
December 22(T): Fourth Week of Advent
6:15 a.m. † Michael E. Lecker
December 23(W): Fourth Week of Advent
6:15 a.m. L/D of Don Asti Family
December 24(Th): Fourth Week of Advent
6:15 a.m. † Anna Mae Prusak
4:00 p.m. Patients & Staff of Pinecrest, Elk Haven & Silver Creek Terrace
6:00 p.m. Intention of Celebrant
7:30 p.m. For Sacred Heart Parishioners
December 25(F): The Nativity of the Lord
7:00 a.m. Intention of all Volunteers of Sacred Heart
December 26(S): Vigil of the Holy Family
4:00 p.m. †† Frank & Rose Kneidel
December 27: The Holy Family
7:00 a.m. L/D of Joseph & Elizabeth Mayer Family
9:00 a.m. L/D of Herman & Catherine Lenze Family
11:00 a.m. For Sacred Heart Parishioners

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held in Sacred Heart Church on Friday from 7:00 a.m. until closing with Benediction at 4:00 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed especially Anthony M. "Tony" Celin Jr. and Margaret Kaul. May God grant them eternal rest and comfort all those who mourn them.

PRAYER LIST - Let us remember all the sick especially Ken Bish, Sharon Boylan, Alice Feldbauer, Kathleen Glatfelter, Beth Gornati, Beula Kestler, Tom Nellis Jr., Tammy Pearsall, John Peterson III, Marilyn Pusl, Kathleen (Daisy) Rowley and Matthew Sharrow. We pray in hope that God's healing power may touch all those who are sick.

THANK YOU
For the donation to Buildings & Grounds
$15 in memory of **Jerome J. Troha**
For the donation to the Trust Fund
$25 in memory of **Doris Florio**
For the donations to the Church
$10, $15, $20, $20, $25, $25, $30, $50 in memory of **Mary Jane Johnson**
$10, $15, $20 in memory of **Doris Florio**
$20, $500 in memory of **Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB**

The week of December 20, 2020 the Angel Lamps in the Sanctuary burn for the following intentions:
† **Robert G. Hasselman**
† **Robert Garner (An.)**

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
Two important lessons in today's gospel speak to anyone who has ever felt afraid or uncertain; stressed or confused. No matter what is happening in your family, remember, "The Lord is with you." The angel reminds us, "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God".

PRE-CANA SESSIONS

Date:	Time:	Place:
January 23, 2021	8:00 a.m.-	Sacred Heart
Includes Mass	5:15 p.m.	814-781-7861 #1

Please wear a mask

SACRED HEART PRAYER CHAIN - If you want to be placed on the prayer chain for any need, just call Rose at 781-6430, or Ann at 834-6534. The names of those listed on this prayer chain will not be published in the bulletin. If you want a name to be listed in the bulletin, please call the Parish Office.

FATIMA PRAYER GROUP
Monday Night Apostolate of Fatima Prayer Group will pray the Rosary at Sacred Heart Church starting at 6:00 PM. Followed by Mass. **All are welcome.**
****Fr. Michael will also offer Confession on December 21, 2020 prior to the Rosary and Mass.****

Amazing Graces...
I close my eyes in wonderment,
Of how you softly mold my soul,
Especially during this time of year,
There is much I long to know.
I calm my mind and think of You…
How You humbly walked the earth,
This Holy Season stirs my heart,
Through Your sacred, healing birth.
Sue Kneidel Werner 12/2/2020

"31 DAY" VOCATION CALENDAR - Please consider joining the Parish "31 Club" for Vocations to the Religious Life. Try to attend a Mass, Holy Hour, Pray a Rosary **OR** pray on your chosen date and offer it for:
- Priests/religious who have served our parish in the **past.**
- For those priests, religious and deacons serving **now.**
- To ask the Lord of the harvest for **future** vocations.

21st Carl Loeffler, Barb Linder
22nd Sally Smith, Kathy Reuscher
23rd Mary Bowser Gee
24th Sylvia & B. G. Kronenwetter
25th Dutch Wegemer, Cathy Schneider, Karen Dick
26th A.J. Feidler
27th Pamela Hunt, Marge Gerg

ST. MARYS AREA CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER ~ Friday, December 25th, 2020
Deliveries ONLY 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Christmas Day Dinner is an annual event sponsored and supported by the community. It is free to anyone unable to prepare or have a Christmas dinner. **Due to Covid 19** restrictions, the Dinner will be delivery only this year. ***Reservations for Deliveries*** Please call Carol at 781-7401 by **December 22.**
Volunteers & Food Donations, anyone wishing to volunteer or donate turkeys, hams, or cakes, call Ed 594-8063.
****Monetary Donations~ Made to CNB Bank, 133 Washington St. St. Marys PA.** Thank you !!**

A CHRISTMAS SEASON OF JOY!

Have you noticed the Bright and Joyful transformation of the former Convent property on Maurus St.?
The Advent Prayer Pathways are ready for you to explore. Find the four separate prayer stations on the grounds, stop at each one, read, reflect, and pray! (hint: look for the reindeers to find the prayer station). The purpose of the prayer pathways is to invite you to enjoy a peaceful outdoor walk around the beautiful and rustic grounds and move your thoughts to the **Birth of Our Lord Jesus**. Feel the **Peace & Joy** and share it with everyone you meet.
Open 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily. Enter through the Church St. Gate, and the Maurus St. Parking Lot Entrance or New Parish Parking Lot.

MERRY CHRISTMAS~ Did you know that the chopping down of the **Christmas tree** represents the death of Christ and putting it back up represents the resurrection of Christ? Did you know that the **wreaths** we hang are never ending circles that represent eternity? **Candy canes** were made to look like a shepherd hooks and the colors, red Jesus' blood, white purity. The **gifts,** represent the three gifts the wise men brought for baby Jesus. So when you are running around trying to find the "perfect gift", stop yourself, take a deep breath and remember, we have been given the perfect gift, Jesus Christ was given to us to remove all our sins. Amen!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

SPECIAL ENVELOPES for the month of December

20th	School Support
25th	Christmas Offering
Jan. 01, 2021	Solemnity of Mary Offering

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mondays	Praying the Rosary in Church	**6:00 p.m.**
	Mass following the Rosary	
Wednesdays	Rosary for Seminarians	**6:00 p.m.**
Fridays	Rosary in Church	**1:00 p.m.**

AREA NEWS

BENEDICTINE GIFT SHOP (Phone 834-1353)
Tuesday thru Friday 9:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
Closed: Sundays, Holy Days & Holidays.
The Gift Shop will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve, reopen on Tuesday the 29th. Closing at noon on New Years Eve, then reopen on Tuesday the 5th.

THE MATERNITY CLOSET~ OPEN
the 1st three weeks on Wednesdays & Thursdays of each month. Babies and children up to 3rd birthdays in need are welcome.
Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and
Thursdays 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
We are looking forward to seeing you there.
Any questions, please call Theresa at 781-1137.

CRUSADER FLAGS~ Cost $25
Benefits the 2021 Senior Class
Contact: ECCHS @ 814-834-7800
Email: Dana Gebauer @ gebauerd@eccss.org

ST. LEO SCHOOL~ Lucky Lion Lotto Calendar!
Want 365 chances to win CASH!?
St. Leo's School will be selling Lucky Lion Lotto Calendars after every St. Leo Mass in December (until sold out – limited quantity available). Calendars are $25 each. These make great gifts – just make sure you have the address and phone number of the calendar recipient. **You can also pick up a calendar at the Ridgway Record, Monday through Friday 8am until 4pm or the St. Leo Parish Rectory, Monday through Friday 9am until 12pm or 1pm until 4pm.**

ECC MUSIC BOOSTERS CASH BASH!
January 16, 2021
$100 drawing every 5 minutes
$200 drawing every 15 minutes
$2000 Grand Prize!
Tickets $50 each - call ECC (834-7800) for tickets!

A PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN~

Heavenly Father, in your love for us, protect against the wickedness of the devil, those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image, as well as theirs, made for eternal life. Dispel their fear of selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the need care that a mother can give. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

St. Marys Inter- Parish ~ Faith Formation

LIFE TEEN

- **Dec. 20 Grade 1 (CGS Sunday at Sacred Heart)** 10:45 a.m. - noon
- **Middle School**, Grades 6, In Person, 6:00 p.m-7:45 p.m.
- **Middle School,** Grade 7 & 8, Assignment on Google Classroom
- **Life Teen**, grades 9 & 10, Assignment on Google Classroom
- **Confirmation**, grade 11, online, please log on at 1:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 23 NO** Elementary Faith Formation Christmas Break
- **Dec. 27** Grade 1 **(CGS Sunday at Sacred Heart) NO** session Christmas Break
- Middle School – **NO** session Christmas Break
- Life Teen – **NO** session Christmas Break
- Confirmation – **NO** session Christmas Break
- **Dec. 30 NO** Elementary Faith Formation Christmas Break

ABOVE SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of our Faith Formation Students and to all students and young adults. God Bless you, stay healthy and know that all of you are a blessing to us and we pray that you know you are a blessing to each other.

New Years Eve Event (Dec. 31, 2020):
Please, come join us in welcoming the New Year in with Rosary/Adoration at **11:00 p.m.** at Queen of the World. **Mass will be celebrated at Midnight with Fr. Kevin at Queen of the World. All are welcome to attend.**

THANKS FOR GIVING! We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year," says a Catholic Sister. "Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters."
Thank you for donating to last week's collection.
God Bless you and stay healthy.

Support Our Sponsors!

Fr. Michael and the parish staff would like to express their deepest gratitude to all that advertise in the parish bulletin. It has been a difficult year but the bulletin could not be published without all of your help. God Bless!!

Dear parishioners when possible, please support our advertisers that are listed on the back page of each weekly bulletin. Thank you and God Bless!!

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From the Pastor's Desk

Today the Church is reminding us, through the angel's words to Mary "Nothing will be impossible with God." God can do all things, and no matter what we have to give up in order to live in friendship with him, he will give us much, much more. This doesn't mean that God will always do everything we want - he knows better than we do what is truly good for us. But even so, he sends us plenty of reminders that he is in charge, so that we don't get discouraged.

One eloquent reminder is from the life of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesians, who died in 1888. He began a ministry for poor boys and orphans that taught them a trade during the day, and gave them school and faith instructions in the evening. Every day he would spend time with the many boys in his school, and every morning he would hear confessions before breakfast. It was a common occurrence for the saint to point out, in the confessional, sins that the boys had forgotten or were afraid to confess.

One day in 1848 St. John was celebrating Mass in honor of the Feast of the Annunciation. The small church was filled with 360 boys and young men. When the time came for Holy Communion, he went to the tabernacle to remove the Hosts. To his great surprise he discovered that only 8 Hosts were reserved there - not nearly enough for the large congregation.

Many people present, including Giuseppe Buzzetti, who would later become one of the first Salesian priests and who was the altar server during that Mass, saw John Bosco's predicament and wondered what would happen.

The saint removed the 8 Hosts from the tabernacle and began distributing Holy Communion.

As the young Giuseppe followed the priest with the paten, he was amazed to watch as the ciborium continued to fill up with Hosts, miraculously allowing for everyone present to receive Holy Communion.

God sends miracles like these every once in a while to boost our confidence, to remind us that nothing is impossible for him.

Father Michael

Merry Christmas Message ~ May we always remember that Jesus will show us miracles in our lives and all he asks in return is our love and faith in Him.

May each and everyone of you have a Very Merry **CHRIST**mas and a Blessed New Year filled with peace and good health.

Fr. Michael and the Sacred Heart Parish Staff.

Parish Office will be closed from Thurs., Dec., 24, 2020 until Mon., Jan., 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

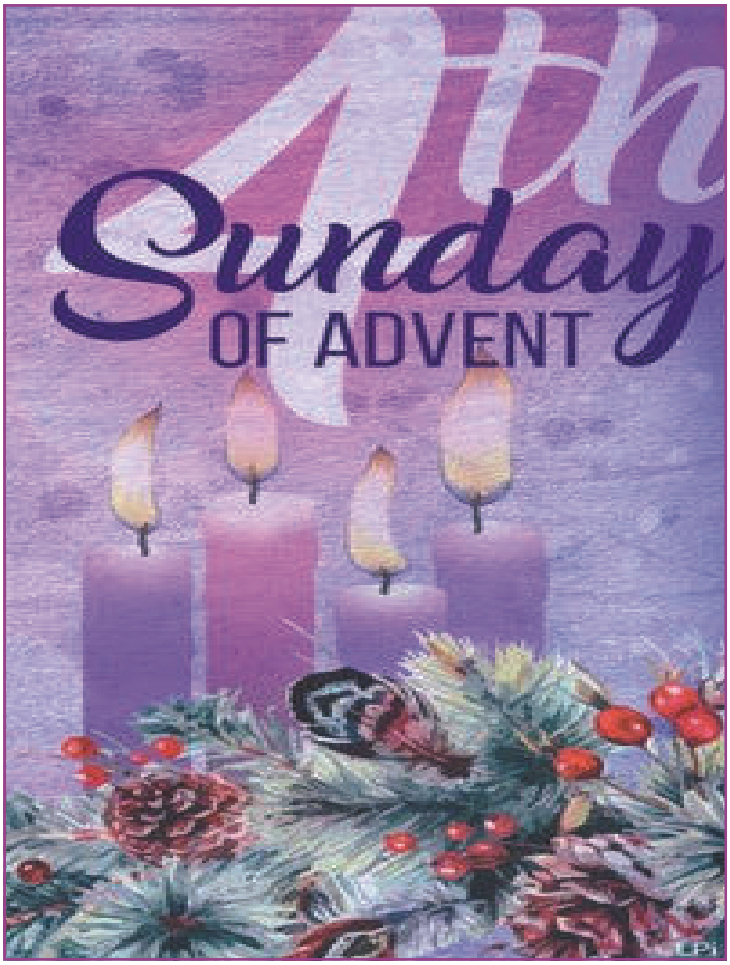
4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Luke 1:39-45

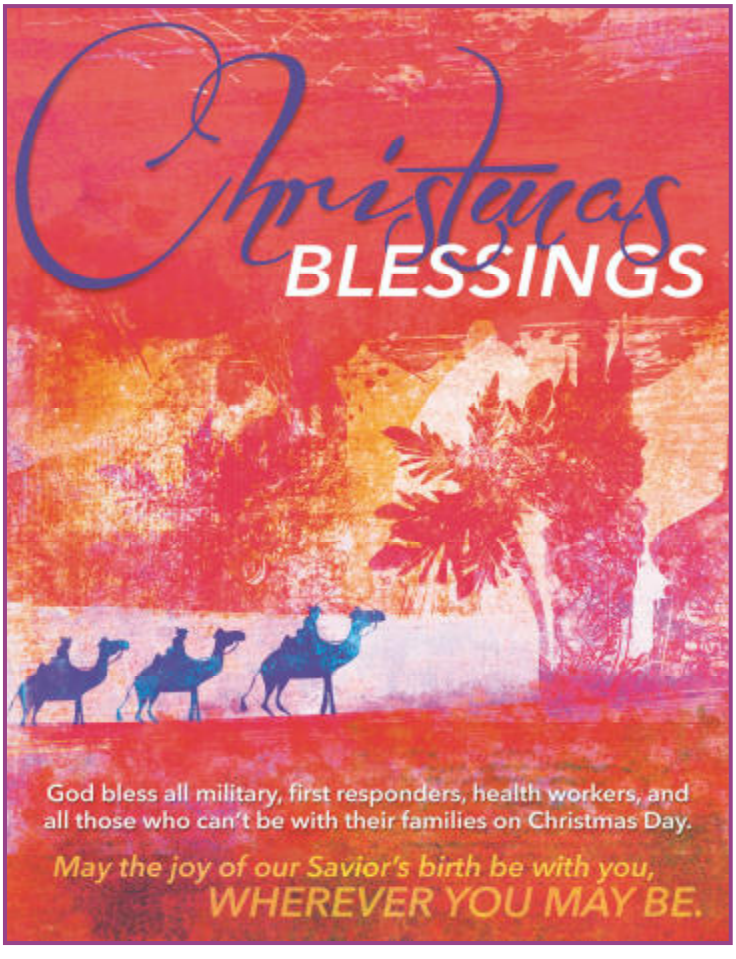
BLESSED ADVENT!

Today we have two mothers meeting; they are related, and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus.

The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary's greeting.

John's message in the desert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way!





CHRISTMAS

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray…

God,
you became human through the obedience
of a simple young woman named Mary.
Mary is our model of faith.
May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.
Give us the courage to face each day
with the yes that Mary gave to you.
We ask this through the incarnate God,
who comes to us again during this Christmas season.
Amen.

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