

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 19, 2021



Jesus, Infant of hope,
make our souls leap at the sound of your name.
Draw us into the hope of your coming among us.
Help us to see you in the midst of the burdens we carry,
that we might trust in the promise of your life.
Amen.

Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church

516 East 13th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503
814.452.6606

www.ststanserie.org
email: ststaner@outlook.com

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM
*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

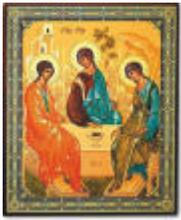
2220 Reed Street
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www.holytrinityrc.org
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Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor
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Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:
Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM
*** Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**



Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

Partners in Faith & Mission



December 19, 2021
4th 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.

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45 [4th Advent]

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45 [St. Peter Canisius]

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1-8/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-14/Lk 1:57-66 [St. John Kanty]

Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27-29/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29/Acts 13:16-25/Mt 1:1-25

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 [Christmas Day]

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2-5/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:41-52 [Holy Family]

Sacrament of Baptism: Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation programs are hosted at Saint Luke’s Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

Confirmation preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke’s Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

Sacrament of Holy Orders: God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

Sacrament of the Sick: Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

Leave A Legacy: Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

Bulletin Information Deadline: Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity
Partners in Faith & Mission*

"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606 or Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

PROLIFE COMMUNITY

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

"PRAYER CANDLE" MAKING MINISTRY

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church's left over bee's wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please Check: New Registration Change of Address Change of Telephone Number

Change of E-mail Moving out of Parish Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome

Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 20th - Private Intention
 Tues., Dec. 21st - Roman Radomski (Family)
 Wed., Dec. 22nd - John Zielinski (Judie & Peter Pentz)
 Thurs., Dec. 23rd - Charlotte Cleaver (Friends)
 Fri., Dec. 24th, 4:00PM - For World Peace
 Sat., Dec. 25, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)
 Sun., Dec. 26th, 9:00AM - Gerry "Stu" Stuczynski (St. Stan's '69)

"HOLIDAY CASH RAFFLE"

The Women's Society is, once again, selling raffle tickets for a chance to win either \$1,000 in cash, or \$1,000 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from any member of the Society, the Parish Office, or by calling Nancy (814-454-4046). All proceeds benefit Saint Stanislaus Parish.



Our sanctuary candle burns in for **JOSEPH MACIOCH**, as gifted by his family.

We extend a special welcome to Briana Kurtz, who formally registered as a member of Saint Stanislaus. Although she has been with us for some time, it's still encouraging to have her officially registered.

JANUARY LOTTERY RAFFLE

The Holy Name Society is, once again, selling raffle tickets based off the evening lottery drawing during the month of January. See any member of the Society for tickets for your chance to win. Tickets can also be purchased in the Sacristy or in the Parish Office. They make great Christmas gifts! Thanks for your support. Proceeds of the raffle have benefited our parish in many ways.

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

LESSONS & CAROLS

Lessons & Carols, a traditional Advent devotion which blends scripture readings, music, and prayers focused on the coming Christmas season, will be celebrated today, Sunday, December 19th, at 2:00PM. Please consider joining us for the simple, yet prayerful, experience as we prepare to welcome the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

KOLENDY

This year, we will resume our traditional celebration of Kolendy on Christmas Eve. The service will begin at 3:00PM on Friday, December 24th.

'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Following the Christmas Eve Mass, Father Jason will, once again, offer a recitation of the Christmas classic "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." Whether young of age or young at heart, stick around after Mass to enjoy the bit of nostalgia.

WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 12, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$x.00
Amount Received	\$x.00	\$x.00
Net over/under	(\$4,156.00)	(\$x.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM: xx; 9:00AM: xx
 Envelopes: xx/168

SORRY
 TEMPORARILY
 UNAVAILABLE



MARRIAGE MOMENT

Dec. 21 is the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. Dark nights can be cozy when warmed by love and candlelight, but for some it can be a time of personal depression. If this week finds you blessed with pleasant experiences of darkness, pray for those who aren't. If you are among those who are currently struggling in your marriage, or life in general, accept the power of prayer.

Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **KATHY BENES**, as gifted by Mary Ann.



12/20 - Hannah Vlahos
12/21 - Ron Majewski
12/23 - Susan Kaminski & William LaZar

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 20th - Special Intention
Tues., Dec. 21st - Lillian Maciulewicz (Family)
Wed., Dec. 22nd - Msgr. Richard Stack
Thurs., Dec. 23rd - Norb Madura & Son, Rick (Family)
Fri., Dec. 24th - 4:30PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sat., Dec. 25th, 10:00AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)
Sun., Dec. 26th, 10:30AM - Loretta Lipinski, Anniversary (Friends)

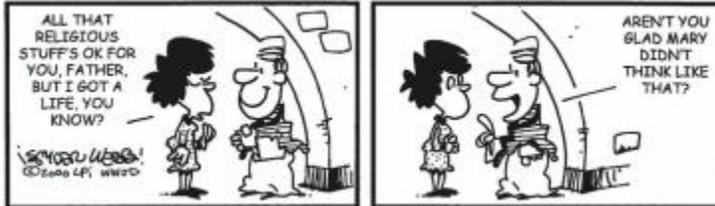
KOLENDY

A celebration of traditional Polish Christmas songs, known as Kolendy, will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 4:00PM. Please consider coming together to share in this heritage.

HOLY TRINITY USHERS MEETING: RESCHEDULED

The meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 21st has been **cancelled**. The Ushers will meet on January 25th at 7:00PM in the Gathering place. Men and Women are welcome to join this ministry in Church and support the activities they sponsor to benefit Holy Trinity Church.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 12, 2021

Regular Offering: \$x.00 (x/131)

	THIS WEEK		JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00		\$x.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00		\$x.00
Total Offertory:	\$x.00		\$x.00
Net (over/under):	(\$x.00)		\$x.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = xx; 10:30AM = xx

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. We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!" Luke 1:45 (NIV)

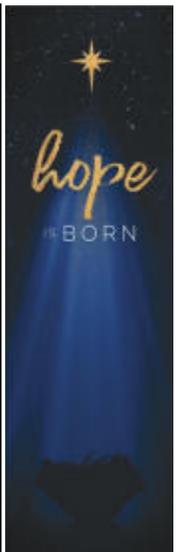


The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

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LKETHLQEGXMUDEF
JQKLEOLR BABYLT
XZWL S L I E M C K N I Z
NROHDSUZEAAOWEO
RGSODECATJTRHVB
GNFQVDUBIDOGYEH
MJUDEAFENZBYMAT
IALQULITGCFXIME
IFFVTELHOMERVST
HAIIVALUCEABIDZ
JRLXLPEAIHAMMKV
IGLBUEDACXOVUTB
RWZAVDGEDREHJOH
XQLKHMZLPZEIJAK
    
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ELIZABETH	FULFILL	FILLED	GREETING	BELIEVE
BLESSED	CHILD	PROMISE	LEAPED	JUDEA
ZECHARIAH	JOY	BABY	HOME	MARY



"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled"

- LUKE 1:45

News for Our Partnership



OFFICES CLOSED

St. Stan's & Holy Trinity Parish Offices
WILL BE CLOSED from
Noon on December 23 - December 27.
Emergency calls will still be responded to during this time.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24th:
4:00PM - St. Stanislaus
4:30PM - Holy Trinity

Saturday, December 25th:
9:00AM - St. Stanislaus
10:00AM - Holy Trinity

Sunday, December 26th:
9:00AM - St. Stanislaus
10:30AM - Holy Trinity

Friday, December 31st:
4:00PM - St. Stanislaus
5:15PM - Holy Trinity

Saturday, January 1st:
9:00AM - St. Stanislaus
10:30AM - Holy Trinity



JANUARY 1ST: FEAST OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.



New Year Extravaganza BINGO All CASH prizes!!!

*** Instants * 50/50 Game**

- Sunday, January 23, 2022
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3rd St.
- 1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon
- \$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.
- Kitchen Food Available
- Holiday Auction
- Door Prizes
- Call 814-456-5300 to reserve your seat!

Walk Ins Welcome

**All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program
FUTURE DATES: March 13th & May 1**

**SORRY
TEMPORARILY
UNAVAILABLE**

Our parishes' weekly financial report of our offertory will be temporarily unavailable, or delayed by a week.

Due to the upcoming holidays, the bulletin deadlines occur sooner than the financial reports can be compiled. We will do our best to bring you this information as the bulletin deadlines allow.



CALL AHEAD

Father John was nervous when he cast Jimmy, the middle school class clown, as Joseph in the annual Christmas pageant. His fears were realized when Jimmy decided to do a little improvisation by pulling out his cell phone in the pageant's opening scene. The astonished priest, who was narrating, asked, "What are you doing with your phone?" Jimmy smiled and replied, "This year I'm phoning that inn to make a reservation!"

THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

12/20) Ed Korytowski; 12/21) Darlene Vlahos & Dorothy Mielnik; 12/22) Kathy Wisniewski;
12/23) Heidi Jankowski & Gina Lintelman; 12/24) Len Sebastian, Tom Widomski, & Diane Valahovic;
12/25) Jack Kempisty & Helen Zimmerman; 12/26) Patricia Straub & John Kleine

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

12/20) Fr. Mark Nowak; 12/21) Fr. Peter Pierjok; 12/22) Fr. Bill Fischer; 12/23) Fr. Ross Miceli; 12/24) Fr. Dan Hoffman;
12/25) Fr. Joe Campbell; 12/26) Fr. John Detisch

Sunday, Dec 19, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

Your place on the tree

Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Family trees are an endless source of fascination. Whether you've explored yours through DNA tests or old photo albums and family stories, you know that a ragtag line of other people's chances and choices contribute to who you are. The Advent Jesse Tree teaches children about many risk-takers and seekers throughout biblical history who contributed to the arrival of Jesus. Folks like Jesse himself, the father of David who contributed to the lineage of the kings of Israel and, without suspecting it, the future King of the Universe. What might your legacy be, and how do you claim your place in the great story?

Monday, Dec 20, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

He's on his way

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

"The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father."

Today's Great Antiphon - the fourth of seven ancient prayers said during Advent vespers leading up to Christmas Eve - is "O Key of David, come and free us!" Each Antiphon is a call to Christ using a messianic title from prophecy, and today's reminds us that we are captives liberated by God's grace. The answer to our cries is embedded in the titles themselves. The seven titles in Latin - Sapientia, Adonai, Radix Jesse, Clavis David, Oriens, Rex Gentium, and Emmanuel - in reverse order form the acrostic ERO CRAS, which means "I am coming soon."

Tuesday, Dec 21, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST (O RADIANT DAWN)

Let the light shine

Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Protestant Reformation was an age of strife and contestation, especially in Germany, ground zero of the upheaval in 1517. Into the morass stepped a learned Jesuit scholar, amazing preacher, and gifted writer - Peter Canisius, whose rational arguments in support of Catholicism proved quite persuasive. Peter's three written catechisms were so effective, German-born Pope Benedict XVI told a papal audience in 2011, that later generations of Germans simply referred to them as "the Canisius." On what's the longest night of the year for many, tap the faith of Peter Canisius to reflect upon the ways that Jesus is our Radiant Dawn.

Wednesday, Dec 22, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

God of surprises

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

"From this day all generations will call me blessed."

The long-awaited Messiah was expected to be a military leader who would lead his people, Israel, to victory and out of oppression. Instead, he was born in a stable to a young woman of the village and a carpenter who would be his foster father. Today that young woman makes a bold proclamation, "He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly." As we come closer to Christmas, ask God to help you look for him in the unexpected so that he might refashion you. After all, history is full of unexpected saints—why not you?

Thursday, Dec 23, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

Hear our plea

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66

"When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son."

What is more poignant than an expression of heartfelt longing? Today anyone taking part in the longstanding tradition of Evening Prayer, or vespers, sings, "O Emmanuel, come to redeem us!" It's a plea of yearning. For centuries on this day near Christmas, Catholics have opened their hearts and prayed for a savior. Let this vulnerable prayer of hope and desire for all that Christmas Represents - light, life, salvation - be a kind of mantra as you go about your day.

Friday, Dec 24, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Thanksgiving on Christmas Eve

Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79

"In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness."

For many Catholics, Christmas Eve is brimming with meal preparation, cleaning, wrapping last-minute stocking stuffers, and Midnight Mass. It can also be a difficult day for those missing loved ones. In whatever situation you find yourself, take a moment and join the church in praying the Canticle of Zechariah, also known as the Benedictus. As he awaited the birth of his son John (later known as the Baptist), Zechariah sang a canticle of gratitude to God for setting us free from all that binds. May this prayer bring freedom and joy to us all!

Saturday, Dec 25, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

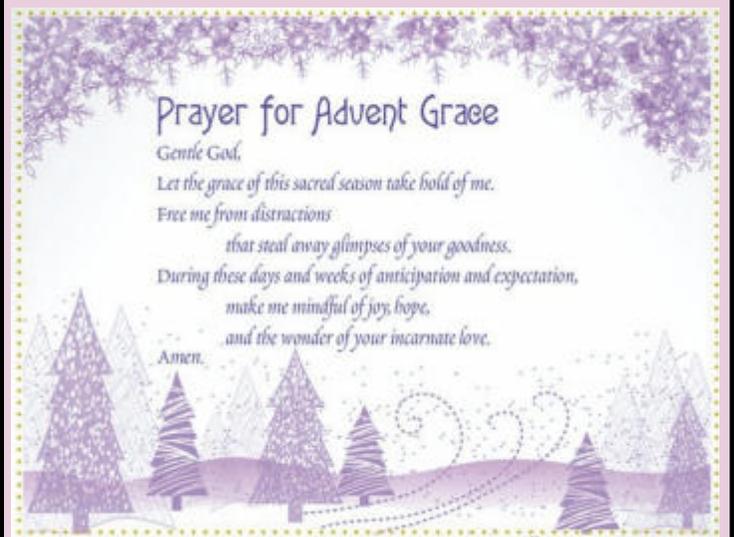
The weary world rejoices

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

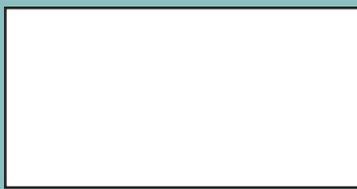
"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

The efforts of people of goodwill everywhere in the quest for peace and justice continue, and our leader is born anew today! Spiritual author and priest Henri Nouwen put it well: "The world is not whole... But it is into this broken world that a child is born, who is called Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, Savior. I look at him and pray, 'Thank you, Lord, that you came... Your heart is greater than mine.'" Our hope and our hearts increase today.



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