

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

December 20, 2020

www.stwilliam.com



This weekend we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent. It's a little bit unusual this year in that we have another five days of Advent before December 25th. I remember one year when Christmas was *the day after* the Fourth Sunday, and that seemed very rushed, so I appreciate what seems like a little more time this year to get ready. The important thing is to actually *use* that time to get ready! But I mean *spiritually* ready! Above all, retain a sense of JOY that comes from the awareness that we have been rescued by Jesus from our sins, from eternal death, and have been called into a relationship of life and love that begins now and goes on into eternity. While we aren't experiencing eternal life in its fullness yet, to the extent that we're open to it we anticipate the fullness of joy by living His way now.

As I mentioned in my homilies of last weekend, this anticipation actually changes our attitude now, and already gives us joy to help us through the struggles that we still have to face. For example, a little child who just happened to be rummaging through his mother's closet and comes across his wrapped Christmas present can get excited about what's to come—even though he better not open it yet. He's filled with anticipative joy! Or a bride, one week before her wedding, is NOT gloomy! In fact, the many last minute details, which definitely still have to be done, are done with a sense of joy rather than gloom.

Here are some suggestions for spiritual preparedness marked by a sense of joy:

First, honestly deal with any need to repent. (Every Advent season the Church always gives us the words of John the Baptizer which calls for repentance as necessary to prepare the way of the

Lord.) While going to Confession or making a point of reconciling with another person might not seem at first glance like a joyful experience, the result most certainly can be! As a priest I am often moved by a truly sincere confession in which a person finds themselves set free, unburdened!

Second, Take another look at the "one-hour challenge" that's printed in our bulletin each week, and make a point of challenging yourself to improve in each of the 4 areas of discipleship, no matter what

(Continued on page 3)

**4th SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

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." - Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 OCD.

Parish Mission: *"To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can't help but proclaim it!"*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm,
Sunday *10:00 am (*also Live-streamed)
and Sunday 12:30 pm
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call Deacon Bob Dreyer at 624-1421, ext. 345. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

RECTORY

Email: Rectory1@stwilliam.com
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

Pastor	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
Deacons	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
	Rev. Mr. John Liddle	
Baptisms	Dcn. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
Business Office		Ext. 341
Business Manager	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
Christian Service:	Mrs. Karen Sommers	
	248-624-8870	Ext. 344
Maintenance:	(248) 669-5522	
Supervisor	Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

Office of Faith Formation		(248) 624-1371
Dir. of Rel. Ed.	Dcn. Michael McCrandall	Ext. 307
Dir. Of Initiation	Mrs. Nancy Thomas	Ext. 306
Youth Ministry	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
Music Ministry Dir.	Mr. Bill Richart	Ext. 310
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
School Office		(248) 669-4440
Principal	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
Secretary		Ext. 302

CYO Sports
Athletic Director

ad@saintwilliam.net

Since Sunday Masses have been reduced to the public, contributions have greatly declined.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to Faithdirect.net, or follow the link from our website, www.stwilliam.com.



Offertory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Nov., 2020	*\$335,143	\$416,665	(\$81,522)

*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

(Continued from page 1)

progress you may have already made. Above all, let each of the four pillars of discipleship, grow out of a deep sense of *thankfulness*. In order to have thankfulness in mind, you might want to spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the many ways that God has blessed you, not just the BIG ones that come to mind easily, but most especially the little moment-to-moment ones that we so often overlook or take for granted. These are little gifts of love that tell us God is interested in all the details of our lives.

So, watch for the sense of joy that comes from each of the four areas: prayer, family, generosity, and service. The joy of our prayer (when it's filled with thankfulness) is seen in Mary's prayer, the *Magnificat*. You might try reading her prayer, her song (see Luke 1:46), especially the first four verses, and apply it to your own life. In any event, let your prayer during this last week of Advent be filled with joy! The other three challenge areas can also be a great source of joy if we allow it. Giving, not grudgingly, but from a generous heart, brings joy to the giver. Serving, when done with a desire to be like Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve, makes a person feel holy and happy. And taking time to truly *enjoy* a family member or a friend is a way of building that relationship and anticipates the much fuller relationship that we will know in eternity.

Third, witness about God's love to some other person. After all, we are called to be a "joyful band of missionary disciples", and so we want to share the gift that we have been given. You can do this **directly**, when the moment seems right, by giving a truthful statement of the *difference* that Jesus, the Gospel, the Spirit, and the Faith have made in your life. You can also give **indirect witness** by letting the joy in your heart express itself in action by letting someone ahead of you when shopping (or even *parking*), and you do it with a smile! A kind word to someone who seems stressed out might be another way. Doing something thoughtful for a member of your family or for a co-worker can be great witness. Another opportunity might be during your next argument! *Let the other person win!* After all, Jesus didn't say, "a new commandment I give you: be right!" He said, "A new commandment I give you: love one another." Isn't it better to have happiness than to prove that you're right and the other person is wrong? Frankly, 50 years from now, no one will care who won that particular argument, and it's surely even less significant when seen from the perspective of eternity.

People sometimes say, "wouldn't it be great to have the spirit of Christmas all the time?" Actually, we can. And you can practice over the next five days.

In Jesus,
Fr. Michael

Important Mass Information

Christmas Mass Reservations

To alleviate crowding the Archdiocese of Detroit recommends that parishioners **participate at Mass only once** during the four days, Dec. 24th thru the 27th.

Due to COVID restrictions we took reservations to assure the best use of space at Mass this Christmas.

Masses at or approaching capacity have assigned seating.

Face Masks and Social Distancing required.

Christmas Masses

Note that our 4 PM and 10 AM Masses will be available as a livestream (Go to www.stwilliam.com.)

Christmas Eve, Thursday Dec. 24th

4:00 pm, 6:30 pm

(The above two Masses have reached capacity for reservations, but we are trying to save some seats for visitors.)

Christmas Day, Friday Dec. 25th

Midnight Mass, 12:00 am
10:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 26th, 4:30 pm
Sunday, Dec. 27th, 10:00 am
(No 12:30 pm Mass)

Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's)

Thursday, Dec. 31st, 4:30 pm
Friday, Jan. 1st, 10:00 am

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, Jan. 2nd, 4:30 pm
Sunday, Jan. 3rd, 10:00 am will also be livestreamed
(No 12:30 pm Mass)

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Fourth Sunday of Advent

QUESTION: What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve year old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal?

ANSWER: HOLY! Two lessons in today's gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."



Right to Life — Lifespan

Merry Christmas

Diane, Lynn and Maria at the Oakland/Macomb office of Right to Life-LIFESPAN wish you a beautiful, peaceful and blessed Christmas. The Christ Child is born and blesses us all.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

USCCB *Word of Life*

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember it's not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, ©LPI



Gospel Meditation

4th Sunday of Advent

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we



misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to

us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time

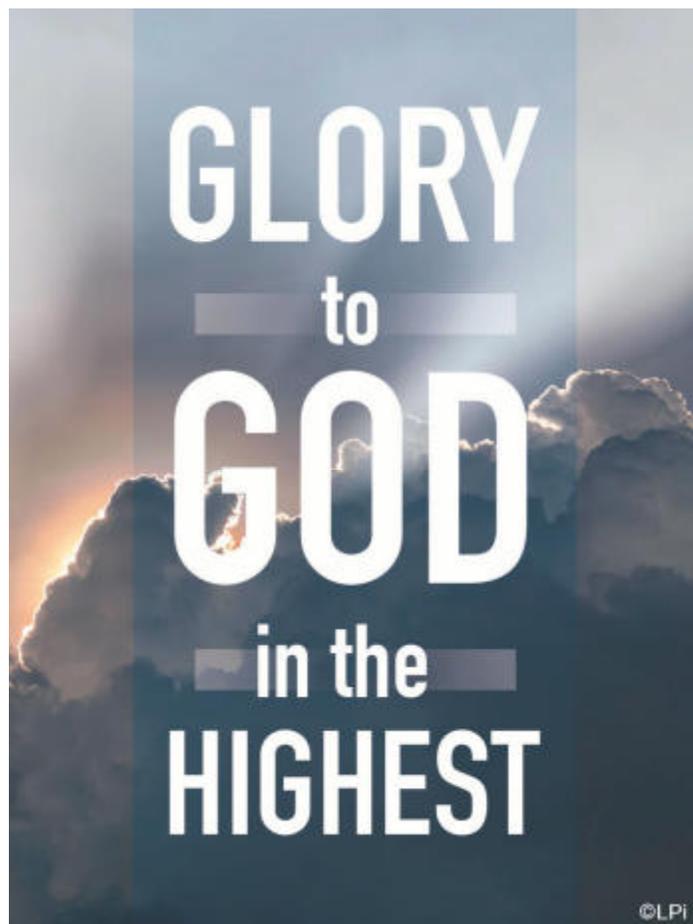
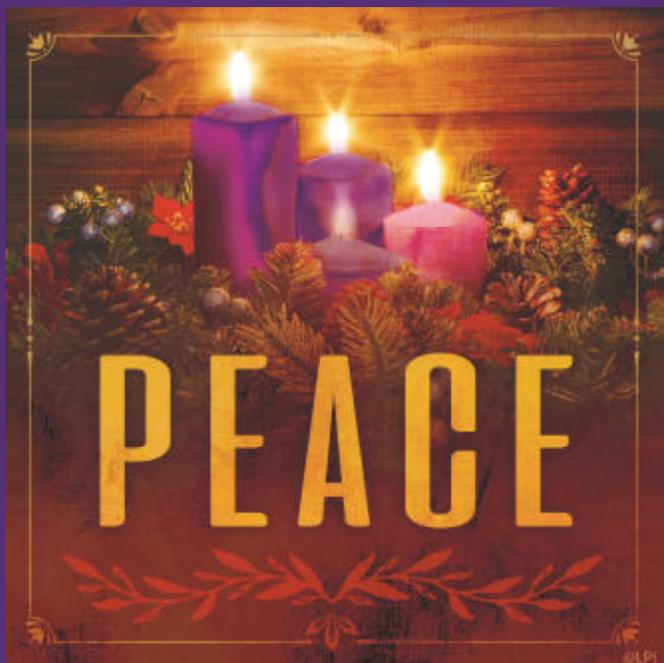
alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

©LPi



Live the Liturgy

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?



Remember St. William Parish In Your Will

Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to St. William Parish are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes.

Making a bequest is not difficult. All you need to do is add the following statement to your will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to St. William Parish, Walled Lake, Michigan, (*here state what you would like to leave*). It might be a percentage of your estate, a specific amount in dollars, or a specified piece of property.

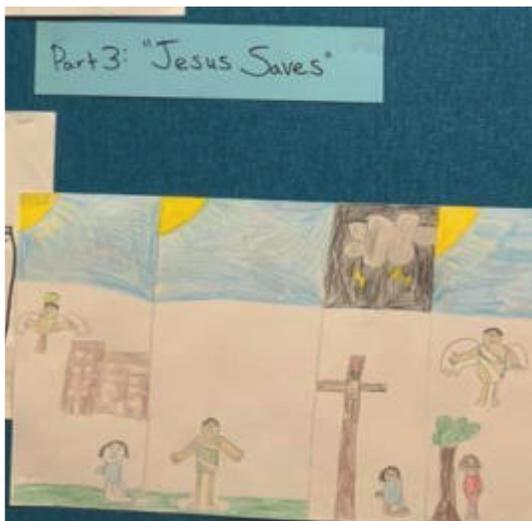
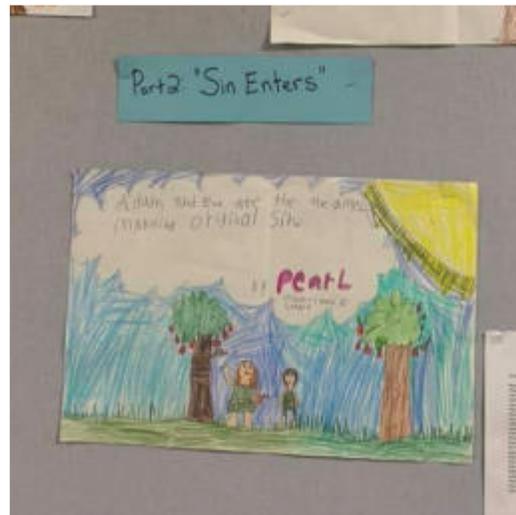
To secure the maximum benefits in your estate planning, we recommend that you consult with legal and financial advisors.

OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”

Kerygma Projects

Over the past several weeks, there’s been a school-wide focus on The Kerygma. Below are some of the 4th grade representations of the four parts of The Kerygma.



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Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, Dec. 22

8:00 am

Koss & Sommers families (L&D); Sadler & Geoffrey families (L&D)

Wednesday, Dec. 23

8:00 am

Manuella Guinan (D) family; Audrey Falzon (D, B. Day)

Thursday, Dec. 24

4:00 pm

McGoff & Byrne families (D); Tabaczka, Settle & Muel families (D); Kupovits, Nemeth & Mitchell families (L&D); Campeau & Freytag families (L&D); Stachowiak & Medonis families (L&D)

6:30 pm

Katie Goebel (D) family; Dave Kozora (D) family & friends; Gloria & Chuck Nusser (D) family; Howard Phillips (D) family; Emma Larsh (D) Diane & Rich Sefcovic; Michael Uyttendaele, Jr. (D) family

Friday, Dec. 25

12:00 am

Anthony Troskey (D) family; Leo & Helen Haldas (D) Marian Belaire; Marie Hibbeln (D) Ray; Sommers & Koss family (L&D); Zennaida Roallos (SI) family

10:00 am

Angelo & Mildred Barbera (D) and Jack Barbera (D) family; Tom Masterson (D) family; Joe & Geraldine Dietz (D) family; William & Carmen Ball (D) family; Hoevel & Kulwik family (L&D); Koch & Anderson families (L&D)

Saturday, Dec. 26

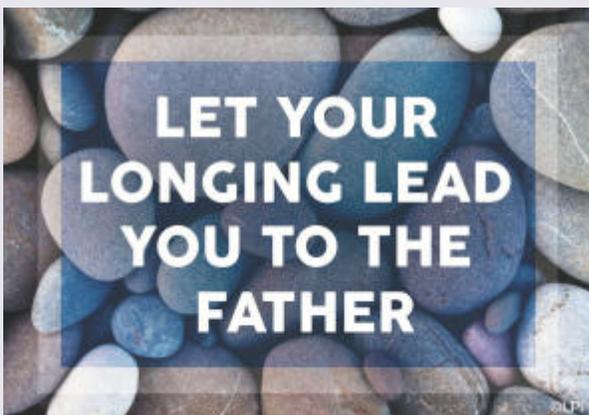
4:30 pm

Phyllis Guadagni (D) family; Dave Kozora (D) wife; Souls in Purgatory (D); Leo Camardese (D) wife; Frances Veronesi (D) D. Vaglia; Arlene Pyle (D) Troskey family; Marena & Chmielnicki Families (L&D)

Sunday, Dec. 27

10:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)



Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ♦ Agnes Bushaw | ♦ Pam Flanigan |
| ♦ Andrew Hailo | ♦ Shawnee Spedden |
| ♦ Baby Henrik | ♦ Steven Kiryakoza, III |
| ♦ Colleen Wolf | |
| ♦ Dennis Ryan | |
| ♦ Dustin Bachman | Residents of: |
| ♦ Fr. Christopher Rozdilski | ♦ Bloomfield Villa |
| ♦ Jack Moores | ♦ Brookdale |
| ♦ Joann Babcock | ♦ First & Main |
| ♦ Joe Schuld | ♦ Henry Ford |
| ♦ Julie Toddy | ♦ Maple Manor |
| ♦ Marty Lada | ♦ Novi Lakes |
| ♦ Mary Beth Walsh | ♦ Serenity |
| ♦ Mary Kay Dreyer | ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr. |
| ♦ Neil Anderson | ♦ Waltonwood |



*Happy are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good
deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13*

Patricia Cullen
Edward McElmell
Nellie & Isaias Rascon

Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory prayer boxes have been placed in the tower entrances. Our Intercessory Prayer Teams will lift your intentions up in prayer for two weeks. You may also email your prayer requests by clicking the link on our website, www.stwilliam.com. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question: What is the difference between apostles and disciples

Answer:

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: *apostles* and *disciples*. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many *disciples*, the group of *apostles* was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word *apostle* essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word *disciple*, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.

Readings for the week

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: *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.

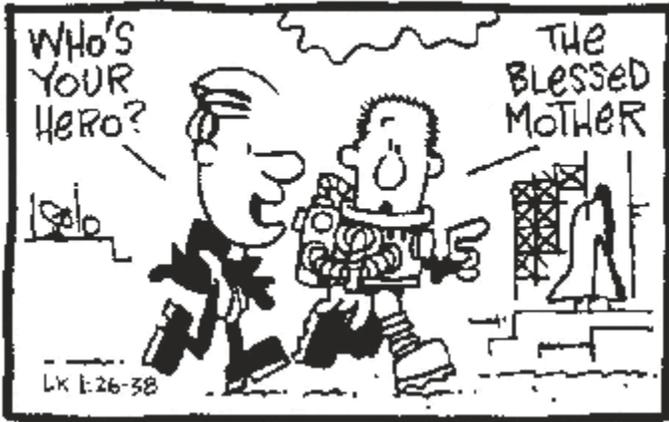
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



home

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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