

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

December 19, 2021

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 last weekend, to be full of anticipation (like the crowds that came to John the Baptizer) tends to fill us with joy. 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

(Continued on page 3)

Important Information

Confession Schedule

Monday, December 20,
7:00 pm, private confessions

Wednesday, December 22,

12:00 pm, private confessions
7:00 pm Communal Penance followed by
private confessions

Christmas Masses

Friday, Dec. 24th,
4:00 pm (NOT a special children's liturgy)
6:00 pm
12:00 am Midnight (caroling at 11:45 pm)

Saturday, Dec. 25th, 10:00 am
(No 12:30 pm or 4:30 pm Masses)

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sunday, Dec. 26th, 10:00 am & 12:30 pm

Parish Goal: *"To become an Amazing Parish that fosters discipleship and equips disciples to share the good news."*

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



Follow us on Facebook,
@stwilliamparishwalledlake

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 624-1421. 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 Rev. Mr. John Liddle	Ext. 345
Pastoral Assoc.	Mrs. Kim Kaye	Ext. 306
Business Office		Ext. 341
Business Manager	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870	Ext. 344
Maintenance: Supervisor	(248) 669-5522 Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

Office of Faith Formation		(248) 624-1371
Pastoral Assoc.	Mrs. Kim Kaye	(248) 956-8236
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	Samantha Wren or Tammy Hobbs	Ext. 302

CYO Sports

Athletic Director

ad@saintwilliam.net



Legion of Mary

If you would like to enrich your spiritual life & would like to help others, we need you in Legion of Mary.

Meetings are in the St. Paul room every Tuesday evening after 6:30 PM rosary. Come join us and say the Rosary and see what we're all about.

Contact Sherri Szepletowski, 248-957-8244, if you have any questions.

Contribution levels are still below average due to lower Mass attendance due to COVID concerns.

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., 2021	*\$367,018	\$427,081	(\$20,063)

*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)

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 results 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! They are filled with joy as they experience forgiveness.

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 progress you may have already made. Also, as I emphasized in last Sunday’s homily, be *very specific* about what actions you plan on taking. But 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—and 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! How? *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

Rosary Altar Society

There will be no membership meeting in January. Our next meeting will be on February 2nd. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Eucharistic Adoration

Next Saturday, December 18th
12 to 3 PM

More are needed to commit just a little time.

Please come and spend some time with Jesus during our Saturday Adoration. The church is open 12 pm to 3pm with Jesus present to listen to your prayers or concerns. If you can spare a few minutes even if it is 15 minutes he will not let you down.

Grow Your Faith + Friendships with Small Faith Groups

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."

- Acts 2:42

Interested in:

- Supporting Discipleship of others?
- Learning and Growing in your Faith?
- Accompanying others in the journey?
- Creating a small community?
- Charitably challenging each other to be the best version of ourselves?

Join a small faith group (SFG) at St. William! SFGs are forming around common interests and experiences to help members bridge their spiritual and everyday lives. The SFG Leadership team will support groups by providing content suggestions and assistance with facilitation and technology needs. Meeting schedules and locations (even virtual!) are flexible based on your group's needs. If you're interested in participating in growing as a Disciple, online sign is available through SignUpGenius. Scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to go right to the link.



Knights of Columbus Breakfast – January 2, 2022 Breakfast Date!

The Knights of Columbus appreciate everyone who has supported our Breakfasts since we brought them back in September. Your donations have really helped St. Vincent de Paul in their work. To date, we have been able to donate **\$1,253.00** to them, money they will put to good use!

Our next breakfast will be on January 2nd, once again after the 10:00 Mass. We've decided to hold it that Sunday since a number of key personnel will be attending the Men's Retreat the following weekend. Our usual fare will be offered, hopefully with Nino's doughnuts this time! We're going to keep the 'Free Will' donation again for this Breakfast with net proceeds once again going to St. Vincent de Paul! We hope you'll join us!

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Donor Match Program

**ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO
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Announcing the Faith Direct Donor Match Program for #GivingTuesday

#GivingTuesday is fast approaching, and we have a gift for your parish!

For every **new recurring offertory** gift processed in November **or** December 2021, **we will match that first gift, up to \$50**, with a maximum match of \$1,000 per church. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the **first recurring gift must be processed through Faith Direct by Dec. 31, 2021.**

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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"



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.



Kim Kaye –
 Pastoral Associate / DRE
 (248)956-8236
 kkaye@stwilliam.com

Pray in Thanksgiving for our Priest

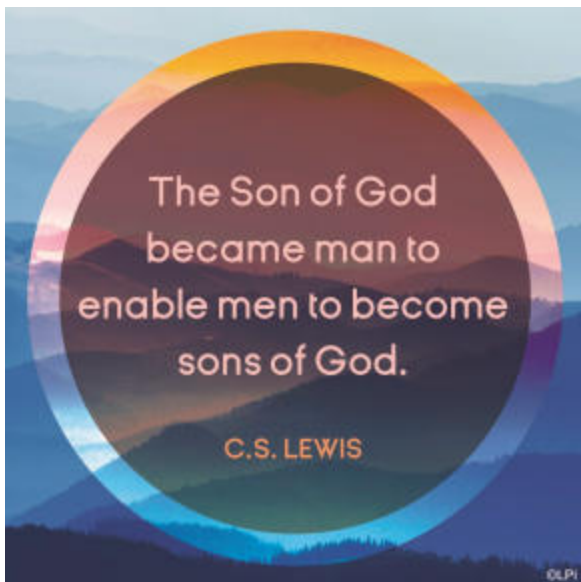
We are blessed to have Fr Michael as our shepherd and parish leader for so many years. He recently celebrated the anniversary of his priestly ordination on December 6th with the milestone of 44 active years in the priesthood.

Christmas is an excellent time to share your thanks for our dedicated priest. Here are some of my suggestions to express our gratitude:

1. Pray a rosary for his intentions
2. Light a candle to strengthen his ministry
3. Come to Mass early and offer up your prayers for him
4. Send a note of thanks to him
5. Support the causes that he requests.....first and foremost our weekly tithe, our ministries, our debt reduction.
6. Come early to Mass and stay late. In that way, we fully prepare for the Mass and honor Fr Michael by our readiness.

This year, the children in religious formation continue to learn about priestly vocations. This milestone of 44 years of active ministry is something we should also share with our children and grandchildren to let them see this vocation lived out at St. William. God has blessed us abundantly with Fr. Michael's leadership and dedication.

Kim Kaye Pastoral Associate/DRE




Marriage Appreciation Evening

Save the Date!

February 12, 2022

**3rd and 4th Annual St. William
Marriage Appreciation Evening**

Sponsored by the St William of Vercelli
Knights of Columbus Council 4064

Couples celebrating their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th,
15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or more
Wedding Anniversary in **2021 or 2022** are invited!

Details to come

College Scholarship

The Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce the "The Knights of Columbus/ Ushers Memorial Scholarship raffle tickets are on sale now. They can be purchased from any knight or usher. Tickets cost \$20. Drawings will be held once a month during the year. January–November the prizes will be \$100, \$75 and \$50. The grand price drawing will be held in December and the prizes will be \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Tickets that are drawn are placed back in the bucket for next month's drawing so one ticket gives you a chance to win three times each month—that's 36 chances!!! Proceeds from the ticket sales will fund college scholarships for St. William high school seniors. Your past and future support of this program is truly appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.

Youth Ministry Christmas Games Night

St. William Youth Ministry invites all Middle and High Schoolers to a Christmas Games Night on Wednesday, December 22, from 7 – 8:30pm in Upper Zepf Hall. Wear your ugly sweater . . . if you have one, bring a snack to share, and plan to join in the fun! Bring some friends, because as the saying goes, "The more, the merrier!"

Thank You!

Over the last number of years, I have found St. William Parish to be one of the most generous parishes when it comes to supporting youth, and ministry for them! As the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, I want to send my sincere thanks to all of you who have supported Children's Village collections, bottle drives, college scholarships raffles, collections for the homeless, donations to allow youth to attend retreats, conferences, and activities they would otherwise have to pass on because the cost became prohibitive to attend. Most of all, I would like to thank you for your prayers of support, and the example you set for what it means to live our faith and be disciples of Christ. Be assured that they are watching you, and you are making a difference in their lives. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Coming up in Youth Ministry

Dec. 22, 2021 – Christmas Games Night, 7pm to 8:30pm, MS and HS youth

Jan. 8, 2022 – Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Workshop

Jan. 14, 2022 – Friday Night at the Z, 7pm, MS and HS youth and families

Jan. 22, 2022 - PBJ Ministry to the Homeless, 5:30-10am, MS and HS youth and families

Jan. 23, 2022 – Confirmation Candidate Workshop 1, 6:30-8:30pm

Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory prayer boxes are located 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.

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

4th Sunday of Advent

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"



Right to Life — Lifespan Motor City Caravan

Please mark your calendars now for January 22nd, when the second annual Motor City Caravan for Life will take place. We will travel down Woodward from the National Shrine of the Little Flower to Downtown Detroit and then to a gathering place to be determined for light refreshments. This is a great opportunity for those who cannot travel to Washington DC for the annual march to support respect for all human life. For more information, please call the Wayne County office of LIFESPAN, 734-422-6230.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Scripture readings from the Book of the Prophet Micah and the Letter to the Hebrews, the sacred writers proclaim the coming of the Lord into the world. In the Gospel — the Good News — St. Luke describes Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, who lives in the Judean hill country. Both women are with child. John, who as a man preaches a baptism of repentance, "leaps" in Elizabeth's womb at Mary's greeting. Even before his birth, John has a special relationship with his cousin, Jesus. In turn, Elizabeth recognizes Mary as the Mother of our Lord. During Advent, in a spirit of evangelization, Christian stewards strive for a closer bond with Christ. Use this time wisely, deepening your relationship with the Lord. Pray, read, and reflect on Scripture, and attend Mass regularly in order to partake in Holy Communion.

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.”

Look What’s New!

St. William Catholic School recently received an Outreach Grant sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The grant money was used to purchase smart interactive display boards for all classrooms and our computer room. These boards are an excellent resource for teachers to create imaginative lessons with content from a variety of sources. This will allow the students to interact with the content, making learning more versatile and interactive.



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Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, December 21st

8:00 am

Anthony Matrise (D) K of C; **William Grawbarger (D)** St. William Parish; **Cyprian, Flory & Sr. Grace D'Silva (D)** D'Silva family; **Souls in Purgatory**

Wednesday, December 22nd

8:00 am

Genevieve Sawicki (D, B. Day); Marion Menyhart (D) St. William Parish

Thursday, December 23rd

8:00 am

Fidelis D'Silva (D) D'Silva family; **Andrew Hailo (SI); Bruce Everett (SI)**

Friday, December 24th

4:00 pm

Chester & Antoinette Tabaczka (D) family; Bill & Nancy Settle(D) family; Debbie Muehl (D) family; Langan, Ryan, Shrader, St. Clair, Cornish, Jacobs & Bissonnette families (D); Vita Harter (D) family; Campeau & Freytag families (L&D)

6:00 pm

Katie Goebel (D) family; Donald Herzog (D) family; Michael Uyttendaele, Jr. (D) family; Emma Larsh (D); Sharon Godfrey (D) Sefcovic family; **Sadler & Geoffrey families (L&D)**

Midnight

Anthony Troskey (D) family; Donna Lou Ritter (D) the Vogelheims; **Ryan Mele (D)** and **Sommers & Koss families (L&D)** Sommers family

Saturday, December 25th

10:00 am

Dave Kozora (D) wife; Derek Raether (D) godmother & family; David Raether (D) family; Joseph & Geraldine Dietz (D) family; William & Carmen Ball (D) family; Mary Studzinski (D, B. Day); Stachowiak & Medonis family (L&D)

Sunday, December 26th

10:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

12:30 pm

Ray & Marie Hibbeln (D); Emil Vos (D) K of C; **Frances Veronesi (D)** D. Vaglia; **Anna Atkins (D)** St. William Parish; **Rosary Altar Society Confraternity**

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.

- ♦Andrew Hailo
 - ♦Anthony Cadili
 - ♦Bonetta Barhite
 - ♦Bonnie LaClair
 - ♦Bruce Everett
 - ♦Carol Bielman
 - ♦Diane Davio
 - ♦Diane Smith
 - ♦Elaine Madigan
 - ♦Faith Richart
 - ♦Fr. Pat Brennan
 - ♦Glen Flanigan
 - ♦Jaxon Putz
 - ♦John Shubsda
 - ♦Lilian Ishaq
 - ♦Marie Frisch
 - ♦Margaret Shubsda
 - ♦Marlene Elwell
 - ♦Mary Thompson
 - ♦Mike Miklosi
 - ♦Riley Bowen
 - ♦Suzanne Bobier
 - ♦Sylvia Miller
 - ♦Terry Sivick
 - ♦Theresa Sivick
 - ♦Walter Bieda
- Residents of:**
- ♦Bloomfield Villa
 - ♦Brookdale
 - ♦First & Main
 - ♦Henry Ford
 - ♦Maple Manor
 - ♦Novi Lakes
 - ♦Serenity
 - ♦Sunrise Senior Ctr.
 - ♦Waltonwood



*Happy are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good*

Vera Pellerito
Steve Saelzer
James Schmitt
Donna Lou Ritter



Gospel Meditation

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.

©LPi

Readings for the week

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

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

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

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

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

Saturday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

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

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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



Sharing the Gospel

Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin, Elizabeth, up in the hills of Judea. Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

Something to Draw

Ask your mother who she visited while she was waiting for you to be born. Draw a picture of her visiting with a relative or friend.

Mission for the Week

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

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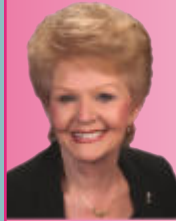


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