

**Saint Christina Parish of Turner County  
PO Box 610 Parker, South Dakota 57053**

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**The Son of God lived for nine months in the womb of a woman. Mary was really pregnant with Jesus. This is so obvious we might overlook it. But let's take a moment to appreciate the wonder of Mary's pregnancy. Jesus went through all the normal development stages that any child does while being formed in the womb. The time of Jesus' life before he began his public ministry is known as his hidden life. Yet. Perhaps the most hidden of the hidden life is the time he spent as an unborn child prior to his birth.**

**Mary's pregnancy was a miracle. She conceived Jesus by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. This is a mystery of our faith known as the Incarnation, meaning the moment when God takes on flesh as a human. Since there was no earthly father involved in Jesus' conception, all his DNA would have come from Mary. We do not know what Mary looked like, but we know they would have resembled one another more than any other mother and son. There would have been an incredible bond between Mary and Jesus from even before Jesus was born. Jesus had nine months to simply be with Mary in the intimacy and tenderness of her womb. Just imagine, these would have been many times when Mary spoke to Jesus while he was in her womb. Just imagine, these would have been the first prayers uttered to Jesus Christ, spoken in the hiddenness between**

**Mary and her unborn son, who was also her Creator. If you can allow me to take some creative liberty, let's imagine what one of Mary's prayers spoken to Jesus, hidden in her womb, might have been like:**

***"Jesus, you are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are being knit together in my womb. My love for God allowed me to say yes to being your mother. I was afraid when I was first asked to be your mother. I did not know how it could be possible since I was a virgin. Yet, I believed that God could perform miracles and that nothing is impossible to him. So, I said yes and here you are, growing inside me! Jesus. I love you so much already and I have not even seen your face yet. I do not know what the future will hold, but I do know that the world will be forever changed because you have come into it. I hope people will love you like I love you. To be with you, Jesus, is the greatest gift I have ever received."***

**We are in the last week till Christmas. I know things might be crazy right now. But what if we took some time to pray to Jesus, hidden in our hearts, just like Mary prayed to him, hidden in her womb? Let's take some time this week to appreciate that Jesus lives in us by grace. We can look within and speak to him and hear him speak to us whenever we wish. God bless,**

**Fr. Tyler**

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**WEEKLY MASSES—— St. Christina**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: Mass 11:00AM**

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**++Tuesday, December 21st :**

**Confessions 5:00PM**

**Holy Mass 6:00PM**

**Int: +Ron Leber**

**++Thursday, December 23rd:**

**NO DAILY MASS**

**+++Friday, Christmas Eve: Carols at 6:00pm**

**+++ Christmas Eve-Holy Mass: 6:30pm**

**+++Saturday, Christmas Day Mass: 11:00am**

**Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>: Mass 11:00am**

**“Feast of the Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph”**

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Bud Ozar**

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!”

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**Christmas**

**Bud Ozar**

Today’s gospel reminds us God chose to enter human history in a family. By Divine design the salvation of the world began in a family. Family was the best God the Creator could do for his Beloved Son. Jesus was our first Christmas gift.

**St. Christina Church Support: Deposited**

**Monday, December 13th, 2021:**

37 Env. Reg. Giving \$; Loose Giving \$25.00;  
Candles \$25.00; 8 Env. Christmas Flowers \$410.00.  
7 Env. Immaculate Conception \$80.00.  
Thank You for your Generous Treasure.

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**Holiday Mass Schedules:**

**St. Christina, Parker:**

**\*\*\*Christmas Day Mass: 11:00AM**

**\*\*New Year’s Day Mass: 10:00AM**

**St. Nicholas, Tea:**

**\*\*\*Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00PM**

**\*\*\*Christmas Day Mass: 8:30AM**

**\*\*New Year’s Eve Mass: 6:00PM**

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**Bread Give-away—Tuesday, December 21st.**