



4th Sunday of Advent

Our season of fervent anticipation is nearly over. The promise of these four weeks, the coming of our Lord and Savior, will soon be reaching its fulfillment. Have we prepared a place in our hearts for him even as we have made preparations for the holiday? Once more we hear Mary accept the invitation to bear the Son of God. Let her response be a model for us to accept God's invitation to bear Christ to one another.



Cycle B -- Reflections on the Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Theme: Let God's Will be done

There was a former drunkard who got converted to Christianity. He believed in Jesus and reformed his life. One day another man met him and asked him, "I heard that you got converted to Christianity. Do you know anything about Jesus?"

The drunkard said, "Not much." "Do you know where he was born?" The drunkard replied, "No sir, I don't know." "Do you know how many miracles he worked?" The drunkard again expressed his ignorance.

Then the man said, "for being a new convert, you know nothing about Jesus. It is useless." Then the drunkard said, "Sir, I am really sorry that I am ignorant of many things about Jesus. I am ashamed of it, but one thing I am sure. Six months back I was a great sinner. I was a drunkard. My family was in shambles. My wife and children used to dread me coming home in the evening. But after I believed in Jesus and accepted Him as my Savior, I reformed my life and now, my family is incredibly happy, prosperous and peaceful."

All we need is Jesus

Beloved, we may not know many things about Jesus. People spend their entire lives to study about Jesus. We need not know everything about Jesus. But if we know one thing it is enough for us. That we are sinners and Jesus is our Savior.

No one's words or deeds are sufficiently redemptive, except Jesus Christ. We are saved by the blood and cross of Jesus.

Redemption would seem to be a divine enterprise. Generally, we imagine ourselves as cast in a minor role on the stage of salvation history. To imagine the all-powerful God calling to say "I need you" doesn't quite fit. What could we possibly contribute to such an awe-inspiring production?

Today's readings take a different approach. We are free, grace-filled participants in the drama of salvation. The Davidic king, Mary, and Paul have leading roles. God says to them "I need you."

Mary's Yes and our response

Luke's account of the Annunciation to Mary follows a pattern found in the Hebrew Scriptures: an angelic appearance, fear in the recipient, the message and its problem, a resolution, and a sign to confirm God's intent. Mary says "yes" in total openness, the ideal disciple who hears the word and acts upon it.

Annunciation - God's wondrous action in human history.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus, Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

My dear beloved, God has urgent need for us, just as for the Davidic king, for Paul, and for Mary. We are God's instruments of consolation, of peace, of mercy. We announce God's saving presence. What better season than Christmas to be needed by the Messiah? Let us all resolve with faith to respond yes to God like Mary did.

Shalom!

Motivation———A man was asked to paint a boat.

He brought with him paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him.

While painting, he noticed that there was a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it.

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When finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice cheque, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said "You've already paid me for painting the boat Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It is for having repaired the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it is not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened.

When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention about the hole.

When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip.

They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time.

When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole.

Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing.

Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed."

Moral Lesson

So, no matter who, when or how. Just continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find, because you never know when one is in need of us or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

You may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' along the way... of several people without realizing how many lives you've saved.

I want to thank everyone who repaired my boat this year in every way like good wishes, thoughts, love, care & prayers...

May The Good Lord Richly Bless You Abundantly.

Christmas Message

There is no doubt this year's Christmas will be unusual considering the pandemic. However, we can still sing, *"Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing..."*

Beloved, as we make our final preparations for Christmas, let us find a place in our hearts to thank God for His Blessings despite the challenges and difficulties we had in 2020.

Some of us are experiencing the loss of dear ones or separation of family due to covid-19. For some, Christmas is a difficult season as we keep social distancing and relatives who will not be present, or who are alone, or who get upset with all the media hullabaloo going on.

Let us keep faith alive and hope high by accepting the will of God for us. If we can develop that all-encompassing trust of God, knowing that out of all the chaos, misery, suffering, depression, unhappiness that sometimes make up our lives, God has a plan for us, and the ending will be good, despite what it may look like to us now. Trust in his infinite mercy and love. God sent his Son in human form, lowered himself to experience what we experience. He knows our humanity, he partakes of our frailty, and he will empathize with us, and carry us through. That really is the gift we celebrate each Christmas, as we focus on the child, the helpless God in the manger, about to be born again in our memories and our liturgies. Let this thought give you peace and a little bit of joy in these hectic last few days and let us experience the mother's joy after birth as we welcome the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we celebrate Christmas, it is my prayer and desire, you have the best health, find love, pleasurable year, bright future, energetic hours, and everything that comes with good tidings.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Feliz navidad, prospero año y felicidad!

Merry Christmas to you and your family!"

Fr. Raphael

St. Mary's Schedule.....

December 24..... Christmas Eve Mass -Shenandoah-5 P.M. Hamburg-7 P.M.

Please know that seating will be first come, first serve, as we are not full capacity in the church yet. We will do our best to accommodate everyone, however you may be directed to the hall downstairs if the church is full. The service will be shown on the TV there, and you will receive the Eucharist by either going upstairs or it will be delivered in the hall. The mass will also be available on Zoom. We ask that those who participate in Christmas or New Year Vigil not attend the Christmas or New Year Mass. This is to manage crowd etc.

December 25....Christmas Day mass Hamburg— 8:30 A.M.

Shenandoah-10:30 A.M.

We will follow the same procedure as Christmas Eve mass.

Dec. 31 — New Years Eve Vigil—Shenandoah 6 P.M.—Hamburg 7:30 P.M.

Jan 1 — New Year -Hamburg-8:30 A.M. Shenandoah—-10:30 A.M.

Readings for the week December 20, 2020

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

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES
JOSH SIMMONS
JACOB ANDERSON
DERRICK HUBARD



12-14—Judy Becker

12-15—Bill Long

12-22—Joseph Roberts

12-23—Emily Welch

12-31—Garett Phillips



12-4-Jim & Cheryl Owen

12-7-Henry & Helen Martin

12-13-Dean & Shelly Mount

12-26-Dan & Lori Goodman

12-27-Marty & Ruth Paper

12-29-Jeff & Lisa Phillips



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht
Reese Kemp
LeRoy Herscheid
Noah Howe
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof
Isacc Durr
Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins
Kenneth Russell
Bill Long
Henry Johnsen
Lawrence DuBois
Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk
Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins
Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Bill & Gloria Green
Larry Dalton
Glen Whitehead
Zayne Osborn
Cathy Mason
Anna Weber
Alan Briggs
Chuck Mitchell
Dee Ann Crews
Deb Haughton
Robert Haughton
Maurie Maher

Your Contributions Dec. 13, 2020

Tithes—\$835.00

Plate—\$21.00

Flowers—\$131.00

Thank You!!



| 2020 | December 20 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30 | December 24 Christmas Eve. 7 P.M. | December 25 Christmas 8:30 | December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 8:30 | December 31 New Years Vigil 7:30 P.M. |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Lector | Teresa Jamison | Linda Dewhirst | Carolyn Maher | Dave Dowling | Rick Jamison |
| Mass Setup | Rosie | Rosie | Rosie | Rosie | Rosie |
| Cantor | Kate & Cora | Cara Goodman | | Kim & Evan | |
| Accompanist | Donna Whelan | Kate Roberts | Kate Roberts | Donna Whelan | |
| Wash Linens | Annie Wakefield | Annie Wakefield | Annie Wakefield | Annie Wakefield | Annie Wakefield |
| PASTOR | | PASTORAL ASSISTANT | | BOOKKEEPER | |
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Today's mass is for Nancy Dalton
by Annie Wakefield

