

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE HELPS US ENDURE IN DIFFICULT TIMES.



Advent is a time to sink our spiritual roots deep, to let them stretch out to God, the source of all life. Because we are thus connected with God, we too can be sources of life to others in the way we live our daily life. Christmas is not only the season of receiving gifts; it is even more so the season of taking delight in giving to others. We emulate what God has done for us, and in that we find our deepest joy. Let us prepare, then, to be generous in offering our family and neighbors spiritual gifts such as patience, encouragement, faith, hope and love.

There's a spiritual adage that says, "You can't give what you haven't got. The gift offered to you this last week of Advent is the gift of hope. Let us *drink deeply of this gift* that God offers us. Then we can bring to others *the blessings of the Christ Child every day of the year.*

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

Tradition seems to point to Joseph being an older man and a carpenter. But in Scripture we simply are told he is "betrothed" to Mary and a righteous man.

But before they lived together Mary's own body soon gave evidence of pregnancy. Joseph knew he was not the father. When he righteously decided to divorce her, Mary must have wept many tears. Their beautiful dream had become a horrible disaster.

We become Joseph when Christmas approaches. The angel of the Lord comes to each of us and tells us that a child has been conceived in Mary through the Holy Spirit. Can all of us really believe such a story?

Matthew's account concludes: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." We, too, must awake and take this infant Jesus into our hearts. (Deacon Dick Folger, *Celebration*)

PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesday, Dec. 21	7:45 AM	Morning Prayer
Thursday, Dec. 22	4:00 PM	Evening Prayer
Friday, Dec. 23	7:45 AM	NO Morning Prayer

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. December 17	4 PM	Carl Wolter
Sun. December 18	10 AM	Albert Schoettmer
Sat. December 24	4 PM	Dale Tunny
Sun. December 25	10 AM	Lorraine Foster

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – December 24 at 4:00 PM

Greeters: Carl and Joni Lunsford - *back*
Art and Roberta Bohman - *back*
Brian and Karen Horan - *side*

Servers: Rosie Newhart, Connor Toops

Cantor: Scott Simon

Lectors: Terry Harmeyer, Tara Ricke

Eucharist Ministers: Janet Deller, Bill Deller
Judy Steuri, Dana Newhart

Saturday – December 24 at 10:00 PM

Greeters: Bob and Shirley Schwartz - *back*
Greg and Amy Kinker - *back*
David and Jodi Meister - *side*

Servers: Neal Bohman, Blake Simon

Cantor: Gene and Patty Simon

Lectors: Ron Bauerle, Sharon Miller

Eucharist Ministers: Ben Harlemert, Bob Schwartz
Austin Wagner, Shirley Schwartz

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$3014.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 31.69
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 255.00</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$3300.69
Religious Retirement	\$1580.00
Immaculate Conception	\$368.35

God bless your generosity!

STEWARDSHIP – When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

SANCTUARY LIGHT – The sanctuary light will burn December 18 through December 25 for Joseph Spreckelson.

UCA LATEST REPORT – On the report received from the Archdiocese last week **\$10,720.00** was received from our parish. This is 102% of our goal, with 70 households participating. Thank you for your gift!

ADVENT GIVING TREE – Wow! Thanks for your wonderful response! Pregnancy Care Center and Safe Passages are grateful for all the gifts!

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Please consult your cohort page for the times of all the Christmas Masses.

EVENING PRAYER – The weekly Thursday Evening Prayer Service has changed from 5:45 PM to **4:00 PM**.

THE SICK – If anyone would like to send a card to Irene Barnhorst, her address is 4147 Fox Hollow Dr., Helena, Montana 59602. She was visiting her son when she had the stroke.

OUR YOUTH – Thank you for spreading joy to the homebound through your Christmas caroling.

K OF C CHRISTMAS DINNER

Greensburg Knights of Columbus will host a breakfast with Santa **TODAY, Sunday**, from 8:00 to 11:30 AM. Santa will arrive around 9:30 AM. Free Will Offering.



PLEASE – If you are no longer using your land phone or if your number has changed, would you be so kind as to call the office with your number or write it on an envelope and place it in the collection basket? Your staff would greatly appreciate this.

CYO BASKETBALL – St. Maurice plays St. Mary's team today at Greensburg at 2:15 PM.

RELIGIOUS ED – Classes for Preschool through Grade 5 on Wednesday, December 21, 6:45 PM. The children will have their Christmas Party this evening. NO meal will be served.

No classes for Grades 6 through 12 for the next two weeks. Classes will resume January 8.



DONATIONS NEEDED – Pies are needed for the Community Christmas Dinner at St. John, Osgood. Sign-up sheets are posted on the church bulletin board, or call Arlene Gehl for more information.

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER – It was the Sunday after Christmas at Saint Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, "Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?"

Harry replied honestly, "I took him from the church, Father John."

"And why did you take him?"

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it." (Guy Thomas)

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Admiring the Christmas trees displayed in his neighbour's windows, Nathan asks his father, "Daddy, can we have a Hanukkah Tree?"

"What? No, of course not," says his father.

"Why not?" asks Nathan again.

Bewildered, his father replies, "Well, Nathan, because the last time we had dealings with a lighted bush we spent 40 years in the wilderness." (Guy Thomas)