

# December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent



**“THIS IS HOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST CAME ABOUT.”**

*She conceived the holy child within her because “the Holy Ghost over the bent world broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.*

*Softly caring, watching,  
always at hand,  
warming the world with love.*

*God among us. God with us.  
Be born for us soon, soon.*

## He Is One of Us

The Incarnation means God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David “according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a “son of David” (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph’s legal son, he also was a “son of David.” Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a Child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us. (Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA)

*Though we believe Jesus is God, he is still one of us.*

## SANCTUARY LIGHT

December 18 – Lawrence and Lillian Lustig  
December 25 – Dale Tunny  
January 1 – Carl and Bertha Mistler

## MASS INTENTIONS

December 17 – Ray Geis  
December 18 – Francis Vawter  
December 24 – Al and Myrna Kohlman  
December 25 – Wayne Schutte

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

### Saturday – December 24 at 4:00 PM

*Lector:* Judy Steuri  
*Gifts:* Brian and Karen Horan  
*Eucharist Minister:* Roseann Wirth

### Sunday – December 25 at 10:00 AM

*Lectors:* Amanda Schutte, Amy Kinker  
*Gifts:* David and Jenny Hardesty  
*Eucharist Minister:* Cindy Weisenbch

### Saturday – December 31 at 4:00 PM

*Lector:* Terry Harmeyer  
*Gifts:* Mark and Rosie Lunsford  
*Eucharist Minister:* Judy Steuri

### Sunday – January 1 at 10:00 AM

*Lectors:* Julie Stephens, Jane Pictor  
*Gifts:* Paul and Arlene Gehl  
*Eucharist Minister:* Cindy Weisenbch

## PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$2088.00
Children’s Envelopes	\$ 15.36
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 383.00</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$2486.36
Religious Retirement	\$1478.00
Christmas Flowers	\$55.00
Capital Improvement	\$40.00
Christmas Offering	\$50.00
Immaculate Conception	\$457.00

<b>MONTHLY REPORT - NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>Electronic Giving for November</b>	<b>\$2,090.00</b>
<b>Total Sunday &amp; Holy Day Collections</b> (7/1/22 - 11/30/22)	<b>\$85,208.47</b>
<b>Amount Required to Meet Budget</b> (7/1/22 - 11/30/22)	<b>\$77,836.00</b>

**O COME, EMMANUEL! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING!**

**AT HOME IN OUR HEARTS** – “All hearts come home for Christmas,” according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday have meaning?

Yes, God’s word tells us. In fact, that’s why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make “his dwelling among us.” As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing, and hope. Through his resurrection, Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God’s Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises even into our hurting hearts.

**HOSPITALITY** – Next week, our churches will fill with those who don’t come regularly, sometimes referred to as Christmas and Easter (C&E) Catholics. In one parish, just before the collection, the pastor suggested that those who were sitting change places with those who were standing. **Make the strangers welcome. Maybe they’ll come back.**

**GIVING TREE** – If you forgot to bring your gifts, you may place them on the back rectory porch early this week.

**WHAT A PARTY!** – Thank you to our Mary and Martha Circle for the fun and wonderful Christmas party on December 6. It was so good to see women of all ages gathering to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the goodness of others! We were entertained with carols by Scott Simon, Grace Truesdell, and Lauren Wagner. Thank you for entertaining us! Christ indeed came early among us! And thank you to the ladies for my Christmas gift!

**SANTA’S VISIT** – Our Faith Formation members are to be commended again for their pre-Christmas party along with a visit from Santa. What a wonderful crowd of children and adults. The hot chocolate and cookies were delicious, and the hall was decorated beautifully. Thank you for your time and talent! And thank you, parents, for bringing the children. Of course, we certainly thank Santa for coming!

**4:00 PM MASS GREETERS**

December 24 – Dennis Wagner, Gary Wagner  
December 31 – Ken Hellmich, Joe Wagner

**10:00 AM MASS GREETERS**

December 25 – Kevin Tunny, Steve Wagner  
January 1 – Paul and Arlene Gehl

**RELIGIOUS ED** – Preschool through Grade 5 will NOT meet for class on December 21. The next class is scheduled for January 4. Enjoy your Christmas vacation!

**JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED**

– NO classes for the next two weeks for Grades 6 through 10 because of the holidays. Classes will resume Sunday, January 8, 8:30 AM.

**UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL** – Let’s all

respond to this year’s United Catholic Appeal. Send your donation directly to the Archdiocese. Thank you.

**SANCTUARY LIGHT** – We are accepting

intentions for the sanctuary light for 2023, beginning in January. The suggested offering is \$5.00.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** –

**Religious give thanks.** A sister writes, “We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion.” God bless you for donating to last week’s second collection. Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn how your gift supports them.





**THOUGHT TO PONDER** – The moment Jesus

lay his head down in that manger, God knew he’d one day lay his head down on the scratchy bark of a cross. God would one day weep just as families who suffer misfortune weep. That’s the whole meaning of the Incarnation. God identified with us in every way. In Jesus, God suffered and knew the salty taste of tears.

**THE LORD’S LAUGHTER** – A little boy in

church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly: "Don't pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five." (The Joyful Noiseletter)

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	<b>THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH</b> For volunteer not-for-profit organizations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.		RE Classes 6:45 PM  Penance Service Grades 3-5  <b>FEAST OF ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE</b>	<b>Finance Meeting</b> 6:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 AM - Noon  <b>HALL RENTED</b> in Evening  Penance Service at St. Martin, Yorkville	<b>Celebration of Mass</b> 4:00 PM  <b>Pick Pockets</b>  <b>Blood Pressure Checks</b>
	4	5	6	7	8	9
RE Classes (11th & 12th Grades also) 8:30 AM  <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>Mass 10:00 AM</b>  Blood Pressure Checks  Pick Pockets  Donuts and Coffee		<b>Ladies Christmas Party</b> - Doors Open 6:00 PM -  Penance Service, Holy Family, Oldenburg  Feast of St. Nicholas	<b>RE Classes</b> 6:45 PM	<b>HOLY-DAY-OF OBLIGATION</b>  <b>FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b>  <b>Celebration of Mass</b> 6:00 PM		<b>Celebration of Mass</b> 4:00 PM  <b>HALL RENTED</b>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RE Classes 8:30 AM  <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>Mass 10:00 AM</b>  <b>VISIT FROM SANTA</b> 11:00 AM	<b>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>  	<b>Penance Service,</b> <b>St. Catherine of Siena,</b> <b>Enochsburg</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Party for</b> <b>Preschool - Grade 5</b> <b>6:45 - 8:15 PM</b>  Penance Service, St. John, Osgood 6:00 - 8:00 PM			<b>Celebration of Mass</b> 4:00 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
RE Classes (Breakfast will be served 8:30 AM)  <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>Mass 10:00 AM</b>  Donuts and Coffee			<b>NO RE Classes</b>  <b>First Day of Winter</b>			 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  <b>4:00 PM Mass with Children</b>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>    <b>Celebration of Mass</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Christmas Day (observed)</b>					<b>New Year's Eve</b>  <b>Celebration of Mass</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>  <b>JAN 1: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>