

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009



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**O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand
has planted.**
— *Psalm 80:15–16*

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

There is an old saying that good gifts come in small packages. This is certainly borne out in today's scriptures. In the first reading the Lord announces that it is from Bethlehem, described as "too small to be among the clans of Judah" (Micah 5:1), that the Messiah would spring forth. In the Gospel story of the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, we can only imagine Mary, probably a young teenager, a small woman, bearing within herself the greatest gift the world would ever know. These scriptures have much to say to us as we look forward to opening Christmas gifts over the next few days. Nothing in any package beneath any tree can compare to the gift given to the world two thousand years ago. As we share the joy of Christmas, let us remember the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, who came into this world to save us and set us free.

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TODAY'S READING

First Reading — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. He shall shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — By Christ doing the will of God, namely, offering himself, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Elizabeth speaks to her cousin Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:39-45).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18[1-5, 9-14]
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-20 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Rosary Dedication: December 2009:

For the lives of children who are threatened by abortion.

This Week at Our Lady of Sorrows

Sunday, Dec 20th

K of C Rosary 7:35
Mass – 8 am (Youth Group)
PRE Christmas Party– 9 am
Mass – 10:30 am
Spanish Mass - 5:00 pm
Posados, 6pm Cafeteria
Bible Study Class 6:30 pm

Mon, Dec 21st

Mass, 8:15 am
Posados, 6pm Krug Hall

Tuesday, Dec 22nd

Mass – 8:15 am
Parish Finance Meeting 7 pm Krug Hall
Posados, 6pm Cafeteria

Wednesday, Dec 23rd

Posados, 6pm Krug Hall
Mass – 6:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 24th Christmas Eve

Mass– Vigil 4pm
Candlelight Musical Program, 10:30pm
Midnight Mass 11 pm Bilingual

Friday, Dec 25th Christmas Day

Mass – 10:00 am English

Saturday, Dec 26th

Confessions, 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Mass – 4:00 pm

Sunday, Dec 27th

K of C Breakfast
Mass – 8 am
Mass – 10:30 am
Spanish Mass - 5:00 pm



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Wednesday:	St. John of Kanty
Thursday:	The Vigil of Christmas
Friday:	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday:	St. Stephen; First day of Kwanzaa

Tragedy Strikes – Fire destroyed the home of Sonja Ayers, the mother of OLS Pre-K student Tyler Nicole Ayers last weekend. The fire is attributed to defective wiring in the wall of the home. Please call the parish office to find out how you can help the Ayers family get past this tragedy. All the diocesan schools will be joining us in our effort to assist them so please call first for suggestions based on what each school is doing to help.

The Rectory will be open next week on Monday, Dec 21st and Tuesday, Dec 22nd. We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

***Ministers & Altar Server
Schedule for Dec 19 & 20***

	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>5:00 PM</u>
Communion	Henry Littleton Gina Pannell	Don Bennis Theresa Acklen	Janet DeStefano Barbara Allard	Estaban Roque Nick Vinturella
Reader:	Rick Pannell	Bonnie Williams	Anne Humphrey	C. & R. Roque
Altar Servers:	Lacey Carter Warren Durbin	Bradley Hudson Kacee Hudson	Katie Hissong Antonio Lopez	Juan Rivera Beatriz Barrera

***Ministers & Altar Server
Schedule for Dec 26 & 27***

	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>5:00 PM</u>
Communion	Henry Littleton Eileen Monroe	Don Bennis Bill Hall	Mary Standridge Kay Pope	Estaban Roque Nick Vinturella
Reader:	Carol Specht	Jack Bish	Lyons Pope	C. & R. Roque
Altar Servers:	Alisha Younger	Kellie Owen Hayden Williams	Christian Sawicki Will Solomon	Sarahi Roque Abigail Roque

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Barbara Allard, Grace Aspinall, Theresa Baker, Rachel Beaty, June Bennis, Rebecca Bethune, Deanna Bolgeo, Johnny Boletta, Crissy Brigance, Thomas Brown, Carole Brunner, Fred Brunner, Keith Carpenter, Trudi Collier, Abraham Delgado, DePriest Family, James Essary, Elena Everroad, Karen Everroad, Tony Drewitz, Margaret Dries, Rena Frazier, John Paul Fields, Rosa Fox, Carolyn Fracchia, Alice Fricks, Lance Garrett, Sue Guinn, Linda Gonzales, Theresa Greco, Eileen Haklitch, Amanda Hall, Shelby Henricks, Peggy Hooten, Lynn Hupp, Michael & Donna Jackson, Margaret Jones, Justin Kitts, Robert Kuehner, Butsy Lanigan, Bill Lindsley, Anthony Lobianco, Ericka Lopez, Robert Lutts, Jerry Lynn, Sadie Claire Lynn, Louise Macdonald, Joseph Mangold, Betty Marshak, Thomas Miller, Alex Mosby, Tama Numera, Bill Nutt, Eudora Mays, Rita McKenzie, Tony Oliviera, Frances O'Toole, Brinda Paravicini, Jackie Perfetti, Waldyr Poilis, Fr. Robert Ponticello, Nancy Pope, Dr. Cheryl Pearson, Kenneth Rainey, Ester Ralph, Louisa Reilly, Bea Remmert, James & Maureen Spain, Mona Stringfellow, Steve Stromberg, Brooklyn Swann, Stephen Thompson, Fr. Bryan Timby, Mary Timby, Keith Trenham, Henry NanNess, Helene Weiss, Lewis Wilkinson, Louise Winter and Angie Wright.

Stewardship of the Altar – Flowers can be put on the Altar in memory of a loved one; a deceased couple of the departed of an entire family or in honor of someone's special anniversary, birthdays or other happy occasions or just to honor someone you think is special. Please contact Frances Bursi at 357-5874 or 634-1168.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec 19th 4:00 pm

Bursi & Ciacciola Family+

Sunday, Dec 20th 8:00 am

Anna Stavrum+

Sunday, Dec 20th 10:30 am

People of Parish

Sunday, Dec 20th 5:00 pm

Charlena Lobianco+

Monday Dec 21st 8:15 am

Rose Favazza+

Tuesday, Dec 22nd 8:15 am

Ordich Family+

Wednesday, Dec 23rd 6:30 pm

J.O. Harley & W.J. Owen Family+

Thursday, Dec 24th 4:00 pm

Int. of Pastor

Thursday, Dec 24th 11:00 pm

Int. of Pastor

Friday Dec 25th 10:00 am

Int. of Pastor

Saturday, Dec 26th 4:00 pm

Ofelia Harbach+

Sunday, Dec 27th 8:00 am

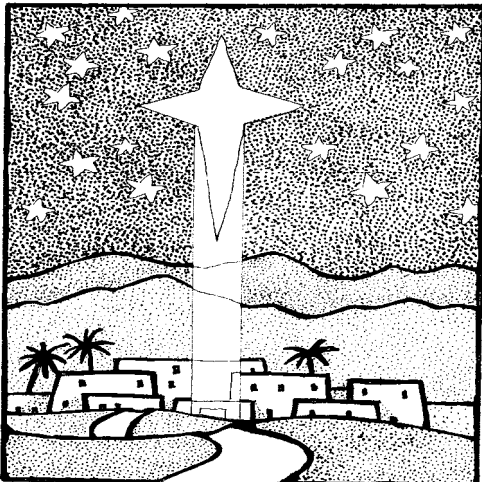
Charlena Lobianco+

Sunday, Dec 27th 10:30 am

Int. of Jonovan Trinh

Sunday, Dec 27th 5:00 pm

People of Parish



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PARISHONERS IN NURSING HOME:

**Carolyn Fracchia
St. Peter Villa, 331-A
141 North McLean
Memphis, TN 38104**

**Jackie Perfetti
St. Francis Nursing Home
5959 Park Ave, room 328
Memphis, TN 38119`**

**Helene Weiss
St. Francis Nursing Home
5959 Park Ave, room 328
Memphis, TN 38119**

**Ginger Shemwell
Luther Tower
274 S. Highland apt. 106
Memphis, TN 38111**

**Rachel Beaty
Grace Healthcare Center
955 Germantown Pkwy, room 212A
Cordova, TN 38018**

**Dolores Bair
Ava Maria Home
St. Lukes
2805 Charles Bryan Road, 38134**

**Henry Van Ness
Trezevant Manor Assisted Living
177 North Highland, room 124
Memphis, TN 38111**

**Amanda Hall
Signature Healthcare
1150 Dovecrest Rd, room 108
Bartlett, TN 38134**

PARISHONER IN HOSPITAL:

**Marvin Sanford, Healthsouth, 1036
Rachel Beaty St. Francis, Park ICU 355**

Financial Report
Weekend of 12/20/09

Envelopes	\$2,989.00
Loose Checks	680.00
Loose Currency/Coin	128.40
Retirement	649.73
Immaculate Conception	90.00
Improvement	120.00
Debt	80.00
Total Collection	\$4,737.13
Church Budget for the week	<u>4,387.00</u>
Collection Diff for the week	350.13
Collections Revenues Y-T-D	\$94,519.98
Church Budget Y-T-D	<u>100,901.00</u>
Collections Deficit Y-T-D	\$(6,381.02)



Padre's Kitchen – Jams and Jellies will be available for three weekends. There is a new supply of Pear Jam and Spiced Pear Jam (thanks to Art Stavrum), Memphis Blueberry Jam (thanks to Roberta Albertson, Three Way Baptist Church, Madison County, TN), Scotch bonnet Pepper Jelly, Three Berry Jam and Blackberry Jam (thanks to Debra Bunch). We have also added Muscadine Jelly to our shelves (thanks to Agnes Matocha, St. Mary's in Jackson, TN). Homemade jams and jellies make wonderful Christmas and birthday gifts for family, friends and co-workers. Buy several and put them in a decorative basket or give individual jars decorated for the occasion. Our homemade jams and jellies are a bargain beginning at \$5.00. Paula Deen charges \$7.95 for an 8-ounce jar of her jellies. You might get a fancier label, but you won't get near as much the love that went into the making of Padre's jellies and jams!



ATTENTION ALL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS – The Diocese of offering a retreat for Parish Pastoral Council members under the direction of Deacon Jack Conrad at the Queen of Peace Retreat Center in Dancyville on Saturday, January 9, 2010. The theme is “Revisiting the Parish Pastoral Council” and will begin within arrival at 8:30 a.m. and close with prayer at 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$30.00/person. Lunch is included. OLS will reimburse any of its Pastoral Council members that fully participate in this wonderful opportunity. Please make checks payable to *Queen of Peace Retreat Center* and bring it by the parish office so your reservation can be made as part of the OLS group.

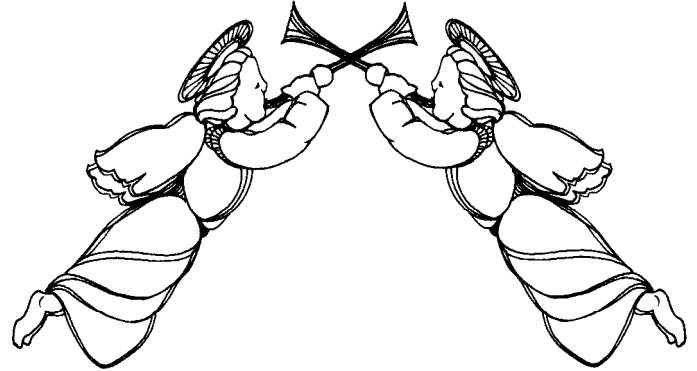
December Bulletin Deadlines –The Bulletin deadline every week in December will be on Monday at 12:00 noon due to the many short work weeks. Please be considerate of the office staff and get your bulletin items to Carolyn Roberts **before** the deadline.

Christmas Flower Collection – the annual collection for Christmas flowers will be on the weekend of Dec. 19-20. Please use the envelopes that come in your sets or the ones included in Fr. Timby's Advent letter, which you should receive in coming days. Please print the names of those you will to remember with your donation so that we can print the names in the weekly bulletin the weekend after Christmas.

Lightening of Advent Candle this weekend:



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



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Saturday 4:00 pm Paula Lutts

Sunday 8:00 am Tim & Lisa Hudson & Family

Sunday 10:30 am Lyons & Kay Pope & Family

Sunday 5:00 pm Perla Villanueva

SAINT STEPHEN (first century)

December 26

“A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church’s first martyr, Stephen’s life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, “the faithful witness” (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works “great signs and wonders among the people” (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen’s face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus’, is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father’s hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen’s killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

—Peter Scagnelli, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



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Our Lady of Expectation

Devotion to Mary under this title is observed in Spain, Portugal, Poland, Italy, and elsewhere one week before Christmas. The Blessed Virgin, about to give birth, awaits with joy the arrival of her divine Son, the Prince of Peace.

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New Parishioners – We welcome a new family to the parish:

Jose & Maria Marquez

1414 Detrouiter

Memphis, TN 38127

Christmas Mass Schedule – the following is the schedule for Christmas liturgies at OLS this year:

Thursday, December 24

Vigil Mass (English) – 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Musical Program – 10:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass (Bilingual) – 11:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25

Mass in the Morning (English) – 10:00 a.m.

Giving Tree 2009- Once again, we will help support the Monastery of St. Clare (Poor Clare Sisters) on Dellwood, the Christian Homeless Mission on Thomas Street, and the St. Vincent De Paul Society with gifts from the Giving Tree. Please take an ornament from the tree for each gift you wish to provide. Do not send private checks or deliver individual gifts to the organizations for which you take ornaments. This is a parish project and we want to deliver the gifts as a parish. If writing a check, please make the check out to OLS and indicate what organization you wish to assist. When you deliver your gifts in fulfillment of your ornaments selection, please take a red or green leaf ornament and place it on the tree so that the parish can see the generosity of our community bloom before our eyes.

Social Action Committee – Fr. Timby seeks parishioners with a social conscience to form a committee that will offer assistance that is beyond the scope of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to the Frayser area. There are many needs beyond emergency food and assistance with rent and utilities that need to be addressed. The committee will work with Mrs. Mona Hector of the Parish Health Ministry in establishing services other than equipment exchange, i.e., dental care, health screenings, etc. It will work with Catholic Charities in making OLS a satellite location for counseling services. It will work with the school administration in the establishment of outreach programs to neighborhood children through summer camps, parents' days out, etc., and offering adult education opportunities, e.g., ESL, computer training, GED classes, etc. If you would be interested in volunteering or learning more, please call the Parish Office and leave your name and number with Carolyn Roberts.



Lent Is Just Around The Corner – The Advent-Christmas Season is upon us, but Lent Easter will be here before we know it. Plans are being made to have a lectionary-based Bible Study in homes throughout the parish Lent. It will be based on the Sunday readings of the season hosted by parishioners and conducted by parishioners. It will be available in both English and Spanish. Please pray during this holy season about your level of participation in this Bible study as a gift from you to the People of God. Will you participate? Will you open your home to a group of

10-12 each week for 7 weeks? Do you have the heart necessary to lead the sessions with the help of a guide? Can you provide refreshments one week? The group leader does not host the meetings, and the host does not provide the refreshments. Sign-up sheets will be in the vestibule of the church in a few weeks. Pray. Pray always. Pray hard!

JOY TO THE WORLD

When the vast prairies of this country were opened up to settlers in the nineteenth century, many of the families who went out West and staked a claim on the land lived very hard and isolated lives, often long miles away from their nearest neighbors. The husbands did backbreaking work to start their farms and raise crops to support their families. The families lived in sod huts or log cabins and the wives struggled with a daily round of child-rearing, cleaning, and cooking in primitive conditions that we can hardly imagine today. They, perhaps far more than their husbands, felt the extreme loneliness of this kind of life. When two families met, the women would as often as not fall about each other's necks, embracing in tears simply at the joy of being together. This is just an echo of what we hear about in today's Gospel. Luke tells of two women, Mary and Elizabeth, united after some time apart. Each is pregnant, each will bear a child who will one day change the world. What is expressed between them is an amazing, overflowing, unconcealed joy. Elizabeth is a woman who has awaited pregnancy for many years, and Mary has learned that she is the chosen one to bear the Messiah. The waiting, the risks, the soul searching, the opinions of neighbors count for nothing as they sense the future unfolding before them, brought about by the hand of God. On this last Sunday of Advent, the story of Mary and Elizabeth reminds us that Christmas is not simply about the birth of a child in a small village in an obscure corner of the world. It is about recognizing light—the light of Christ, the Anointed One, breaking into the world's darkness and coming to rest in our hearts.

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Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministries and Lectors Schedule for Jan & Feb, please check mailbox for your new schedule.

Job Opportunity – The United States Census Bureau is seeking qualified individuals to help take the 2010 U.S. Census. It offers good pay, temporary and part-time positions, flexible hours up to 40 hours per week, and mileage reimbursement for field workers. Call the toll-free jobs line at 1-866-861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Diocesan Quinceañera Preparation will take place on Saturdays, January 9 and 16, 2010 from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm at St. Joseph's church, 3825 Neely Road. Candidates must have received the sacrament of confirmation. If the candidates celebrate their Quinceañera on February, March, April or May, they must take these sessions. Please register at St. Joseph's church office, 3825 Neely Road; office hours are from 8:00am to 4:00pm. For more information, please call Lupe Balderas (901) 722-4759.

Marriage Preparation in Spanish will be held on Fridays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 6, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Catholic Charities, 1325 Jefferson Ave., across the street from (Sacred Heart church). The sessions are especially for couples, children are not allowed. For more information, please call Lupe Balderas at (901) 722-4759.