

# PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday  
of Advent

December 22, 2019

Let the King of Glory enter!



|                   |                              |   |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Saturday, Dec 21  | ..... 5:00 p.m.              | Mass  |
| Sunday, Dec 22    | ..... 7:00 a.m.              | Mass  |
|                   | ..... 9:00 a.m.              | Mass  |
|                   | ..... 5:00 p.m.              | Mass  |
| Monday, Dec 23    | .... . <b>5:30 a.m.</b>      | <b>Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast</b>         |
|                   |                              | Potluck   |
|                   | ..... 7:45 a.m.              | Morning Prayer                                  |
|                   | ..... 8:00 a. m.             | Mass  |
|                   | .... .9:00-11:00 a.m.        | Food Pantry Closed                              |
| Tuesday, Dec 24   | .... . <b>5:30 a.m.</b>      | <b>Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast Potluck</b> |
|                   | ..... 7:45 a.m.              | Morning Prayer                                  |
|                   | ..... 8:00 a. m.             | Mass  |
|                   | ..... <b>6:00 p. m.</b>      | <b>Christmas Ohana Mass</b>                     |
|                   | ..... <b>11:00 p. m.</b>     | <b>Christmas Evening Mass</b>                   |
|                   |                              | <b>(Midnight)</b>                               |
| Wednesday, Dec 25 | ..... <b>8:00 a.m.</b>       | <b>Christmas Mass</b>                           |
|                   | ..... <b>10:00 a. m.</b>     | <b>Christmas Mass</b>                           |
|                   |                              | <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b> |
|                   | .... .9:00-11:00 a.m.        | Food Pantry Closed                              |
| Thursday, Dec 26  | ..... 7:45 a.m.              | Morning Prayer                                  |
|                   | ..... 8:00 a. m.             | Mass  |
|                   |                              | <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b> |
|                   |                              | <b>NO PRAYER MEETING</b>                        |
|                   | ..... 7:30 p. m.             |   |
| Friday, Dec 27    | ..... 7:45 a.m.              | Morning Prayer                                  |
|                   | ..... 8:00 a.m.              | Mass  |
|                   | .... .9:00-11:00 a.m.        | Food Pantry Closed                              |
|                   | .... <b>6:30- 9:30 p. m.</b> | <b>Youth Night</b>                              |
| Saturday, Dec 28  | .... .4:00-4:45 p.m.         | Confession                                      |
|                   | ..... 5:00 p.m.              | Mass  |

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Sirach:3:2-7, 12-14: Honor and care for your parents.**

**Colossians:3:12-21: How to live as a family of believers.**

**Matthew:2:13-15, 19-23: Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus become refugees.**

THE HEAVENS ANNOUNCE  
THE LORD'S COMING



## Reflection

Christmas is fast approaching. Images of the infant Jesus abound in art, literature, and music. Most often those images include the infant and his mother, Mary. And that is only fitting. Still, one wonders: What about Joseph?

It's odd, but not one word of Joseph's has ever been recorded. Likewise, the Gospels contain very few words about him. Even so, Joseph's actions speak louder than words. That's why people have always found comfort in his example.

Like Mary, Joseph clearly understood God's will for him. Like Mary, he responded to God's vision for him and said, in effect, "yes." Today, on the brink of Christmas, Joseph's quiet acceptance is almost palpable. Joseph knew what mattered and what didn't. Joseph's awareness "speaks" volumes to us who seek to sort out what does or doesn't matter.

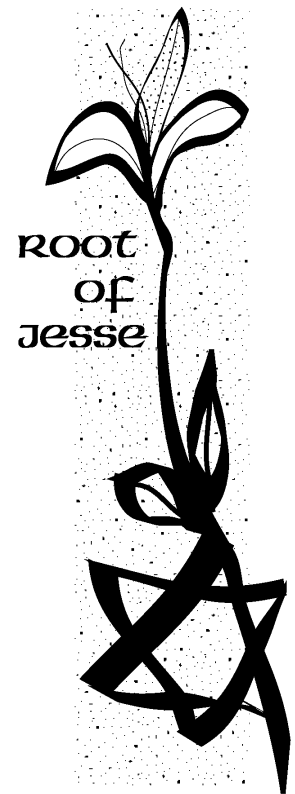
Because of Joseph—the faithful, quiet, and just protector—salvation comes to settle on us all.

## Christmas:

### Glory

The parish church I grew up in is now paired with the parish church in a neighboring village on the prairie. The first Mass of Christmas is no longer held at midnight. The scheduling is complex; the parishioners are older now. But one Christmas we were together at the third Mass for Christmas—the Mass during the day. The sky was clear; the air cold; the sun bright. Young parents were the strong ones then. They were strong from hard farm work. They were strong for their aging parents and strong for their squirming children. The church was flooded with morning sunlight strong enough to recall the dawn of creation. On that Christmas day in full sunlight, it felt like all the ends of the earth had seen the glory of the only Son, coming from the Father, filled with enduring love.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**POINSETTIAS DONATIONS:** We are seeking donations for Poinsettias. Envelopes are at the back church for your Donation. Mahalo for your generosity.

**YOUTH NIGHT:** “Attention Youth 6th-12th grade! This year’s Christmas Youth Night will be on **Friday, December 27th from 6:30pm-9:30pm**. This is an event you won’t want to miss. All participants are asked to bring a wrapped gender neutral gift. For more info, please see Youth Leaders, Lani and Owali or Director Kumu Karen.”

**PRO-LIFE MESSAGE:** Human life must be respected because it is sacred. From its beginning, human life involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. It is not lawful for anyone directly to destroy an innocent human being. This is gravely contrary to the dignity of the person and the holiness of the Creator. *"Do not slay the innocent and the righteous" (Exodus 23:7).*

**WORD OF LIFE:** “God’s love is generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and forever. As humans made in God’s image, we are called to imitate the eternal giving and receiving of love that is the Holy Trinity.” *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Another Look at Contraception”*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Dec 22 Sun: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent**

Isa:7:10-14; Ps:24; Rom:1:1-7; Mt:1:18-24

**Dec 23 Mon: Advent Weekday**

Mal: 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps: 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Lk:1:57-66

**Dec 24 Tue: Advent Weekday**

2 Sam:7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps:89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Lk:1:67-79

**Dec 25 Wed: Christmas Day**

Isa:52:7-10 Ps:98; Heb:1:1-6; Jn:1:1-18

**Dec 26 Thur: Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

Acts:6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps: 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Mt:10:17-22

**Dec 27 Fri: Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

1 Jn :1:1-4; Ps: 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn:20:1a & 2-8

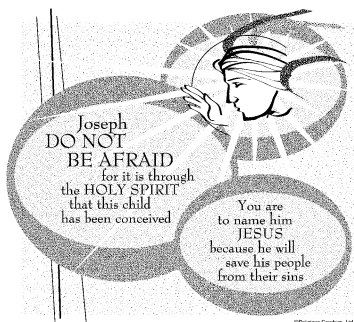
**Dec 28 Sat: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

1 Jn:2:12-17; Ps:124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt:2:13-18

## Final Preparations

Soon we will celebrate the end of our Advent waiting and watchfulness. We will find the fulfillment of our anticipation. For now, perhaps we need to quiet ourselves a bit. Let’s set about doing those small things necessary to be someone who is welcoming, but even more importantly, to be someone who is not frazzled. Saint Joseph can be our model for these final days of Advent. His openness to God’s will and his gentle acknowledgment of the great import of Jesus’ coming can guide us to the Christmas celebration.

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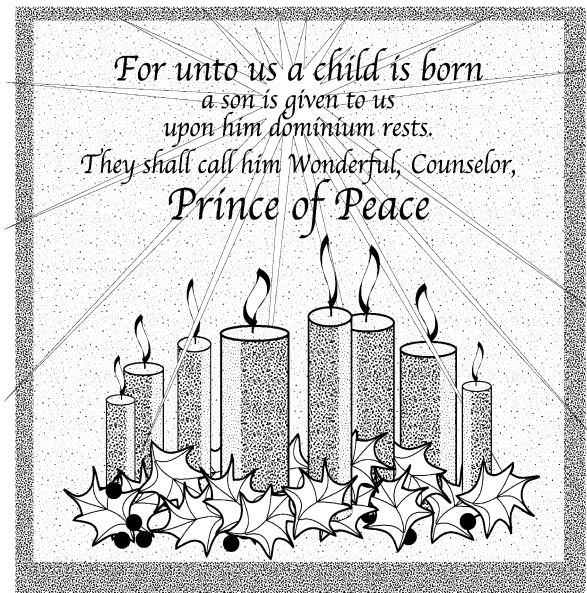


## NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today’s Gospel we hear of the coming of Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.” We celebrate three Advents: the birth of Christ, his Second Coming, and his presence in the world today. Our daily lives are attended by God’s presence. Indeed, “God is with us.” The Good News of Christ’s Incarnation is that we are the sign, the “sacrament,” of Christ’s presence in the world. People are supposed to see us, see how we love one another, see how we treat the stranger among us, see how we give comfort to the poor and afflicted, and share the Good News with joy. They see how good stewards are the light of Christ. And there can be no possible response except to say: “God is here!” *(International Catholic Stewardship Council)*

## Christmas

Isaiah announces Israel’s great return from exile and darkness to Jerusalem on Mount Zion. We have three perspectives all in one reading—the messenger who announces; the sentinels and city dwellers who hear and rejoice; the whole world that beholds this marvelous God of Israel. The news is so good that even the messenger’s very footprints are blessed. We can imagine him skipping over the hills with glad tidings. The sentinels at the walls of the city can make out the messenger coming, with voice ringing out. Finally, the Lord comes to comfort the broken people, to rebuild the ruined city of Jerusalem. The rest of the world stands by and marvels at God’s holiness and strength. Israel self-consciously boasts: “All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God!” Indeed! We can see it in the Gospel according to John. This Gospel begins in the heavens; it soars from beginning to end. It speaks of glory and light and eternity and triumph. This Gospel seems to be born of the sun and familiar with the heights. It thunders forth for us magnificently: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.” This opening reminds us of the first words of the Bible: “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth ...” The Word of God was before time and will be for all time. This dazzling Gospel pours out its message: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”



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