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Catholic Church

December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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**SCAN ME**



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**"Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins."**

**Matthew 1:18-24**

**Fr. Curt Vogel, Pastor**  
2103 Lexington Road  
Pleasant Hill, MO 64080

816.540.4563  
[StBridgeParish@StBridgePH.org](mailto:StBridgeParish@StBridgePH.org)  
[StBridgePH.weconnect.com](http://StBridgePH.weconnect.com)

**Regular Mass Times for**

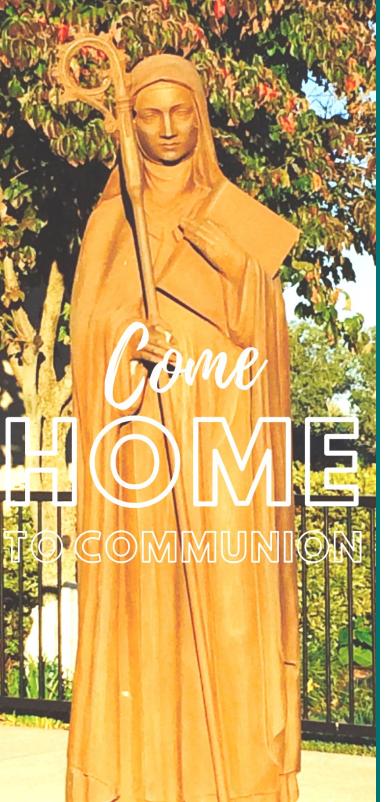
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	6:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am
<b>First Fridays</b>	6:00 pm
Holy Days	See Bulletin

**Regular Confession Times**

Tuesday	8:25 - 8:50 am
Wednesday	5:25 - 5:50 pm
Thursday	8:25 - 8:50 am
Thursday	6:15 - 6:45 pm
<b>First Friday</b>	5:25 - 5:50 pm
Sunday	7:20 - 7:50 am
<b>2nd Saturday</b>	After Mass

**Office Hours**

Mon. - Thur.	9:00 - 4:00 pm
Friday	9:00 - 3:00 pm



**Come HOME TO COMMUNION**



Date	Servers	Ushers	Lectors	Sacristans	Rosary Leaders	Cantors Musicians	Homebound Ministers	Church Cleaners	Money Counters
Wednesday December 24 5:30 pm	Weston W Everett W	Mark Bock	April Riley	Pat & Maurice Devolder	N/A	David Orson Christmas Choir Judy / Melissa			
Thursday December 25 Midnight	Weston W Everett W	TBA	DJ Breitbach	Rita Pilcher Ed Medlock	N/A	Penni Warner Lillian Saddler Evan Bensen			
Thursday December 25 9:00 am	Patrick O Richard B	Ryan O'Hanlon	Janice Motta	Joe Bouchard	N/A				
Saturday December 27	Bodon R Maxx S	Don Ring	Guy Emhoff	Mary Adams Lilly L.	Marilyn Anderson	Kaitlin Long / TBA		CJ Team December 26	
Sunday December 28	Joseph H Alex H	Tim Davis	Scott Bennett	Cathy Vogel	Olivia Carrasco	David Orson / Judy Wolf	Mario O'Malley		Stephanie's Team December 29



#### Mass Intentions † Indicates deceased person

Tuesday, December 23 9:00 a.m. † Stephen Offutt by Gordon & Donna Johnson  
 Wednesday, December 24 5:30 p.m. † Paul Brownsberger by Joan Munsterman  
 Thursday, December 25 Midnight For the People of St. Bridget  
 Thursday, December 25 9:00 a.m. † Jim Kerske by Bob & Shirley Morgan  
 Saturday, December 27 5:00 p.m. † Ethel Long by Tim & Laura Long  
 Sunday, December 28 8:00 a.m. For the People of St. Bridget

#### Special Collections

2025

December 25 Christmas

January 2026 Initial Envelope Offering

January 1 Solemnity of Mary

#### Charity Opportunity

Do you desire to help our Lord Jesus Christ by seeing Him in the poor and needy in our area? Consider donating towards The Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy Council, our local food pantry and charity organization. This is a 501C3 organization, thus your donation is tax deductible. There is no electronic giving yet, but you can write checks to "Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy," mail your donation to 100 Veterans Parkway, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. If you desire to assist (i.e. Meals on Wheels - making and delivering low cost meals, then call 816-987-3952, working at the food pantry, working at the thrift store, etc.) OR have other questions, please contact the Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy at: (816) 987-3600.

GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH			
OFFER RIGHT SACRIFICES & PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE LORD. PS 4:5			
Week ending 12/14/2025	Collection	EFT	Total
St. Bridget Parish	\$34,054.00	\$2316.88	\$36,370.88
Dream Fund	\$160.00	\$205.00	\$365.00
Dream Fund MTD	\$682.75	\$205.00	\$887.75
Youth Group	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Votive Candle	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
SC - Retired Religious	\$980.00	\$0.00	\$980.00
SC - Christmas Offering	\$0.00	\$375.00	\$375.00
SC - Immaculate Conception	\$427.00	\$25.25	\$452.25

Please remember the Dream Fund. Month to date: \$887.75

#### Parish Staff

Rev. Curt Vogel, Pastor

[FrVogel2015@gmail.com](mailto:FrVogel2015@gmail.com)

Rev. Mr. Corey Morgan, Deacon

[cdean.morgan@gmail.com](mailto:cdean.morgan@gmail.com)

Tim Long, Business and Operations Manager

[StBridgetParish@StBridgetPH.org](mailto:StBridgetParish@StBridgetPH.org)

Sara Kitchell, Parish Secretary

[secretary@StBridgetPH.org](mailto:secretary@StBridgetPH.org)

Natalie Sadler, Director of Religious Education

[DRE@StBridgetPH.org](mailto:DRE@StBridgetPH.org)

Kaitlin Long, Director of Music Liturgy

Position OPEN, High School Youth Director

Henry Saubers, Parish Custodian

#### Bulletin Announcements

Bulletin announcements must be e-mailed one week prior to the weekend of distribution to [secretary@stbridgetph.org](mailto:secretary@stbridgetph.org).

#### Sacraments

**Baptism** Parent preparation session is required. Please call the parish office prior to the birth.

**First Communion** A sacramental preparation program is required through SOR or an approved other curriculum.

**Confirmation** Program for high school students, according to Diocesan guidelines.

**Marriage** Please call the parish office when engaged. A nine month preparation period is required (diocesan policy). One party should be a registered, attending parishioner.

**Anointing of the Sick** As requested after Mass and by appointment.

#### Devotions and Info

##### \*\*\*New Parishioners\*\*\*

Welcome! Please register by downloading a registration form from our web site, [stbridgetph.weconnect.com](http://stbridgetph.weconnect.com) or contact the parish office. We are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you! \*\*\*

##### Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday After Mass—7:00 p.m.  
 Fifth Fridays 24 hrs. 5:00pm—Sat. 4:45pm

##### First Friday Mass and Devotions

6:00 p.m.; devotions, adoration, and benediction follow  
 Rosary

Before Mass Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday; First Thursday at 6:30pm w/ Altar Society; Second Thursday at 6:30pm w/ KofC

**Prayer Chain Requests** If you wish to be added to the prayer chain, please contact Roberta Klein at (816) 540-5980.

**Blessing** Have you experienced a miscarriage?  
 Contact Father Vogel or Deacon Morgan to receive a blessing.

#### Office of Child & Youth Protection

Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Phone: 816-714-2357

Email: [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org)

Independent Ombudsman:

Phone: 816-213-6024

Email: [ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org)

#### Reporting Abuse

**PROMISE TO PROTECT PLEDGE TO HEAL**  
 The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church.

If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:  
 1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18).  
 2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911.

3. If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman, at [ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org) or 816-213-6024

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.  
 Please contact the Victim Advocate, at 816-714-2357 or [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

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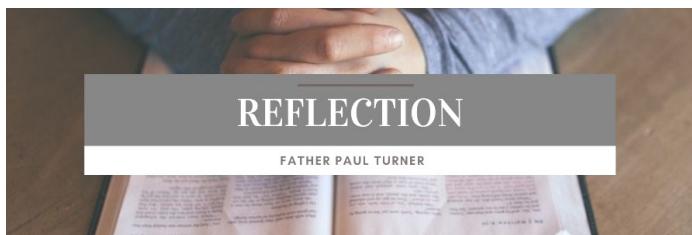


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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

### God's Signs

For Christians, the most famous prophecy of Isaiah is this: "The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Isaiah spoke these words to a king worried about the future of his dominion. God invited Ahaz to ask for a sign of favor, but Ahaz refused. In so many words, Ahaz did not want to put God to any trouble. Isaiah, exasperated, tells the king that God will give him a sign anyway. Whether or not Ahaz wants one, God will give a sign.

The sign Isaiah promises is a child born to a young woman. The child will be given a name that carried a message to the king and his people: Emmanuel. God is with us.

When Matthew wrote about the birth of Jesus in the first chapter of his gospel, he said it fulfilled this prophecy from Isaiah. Jesus is the sign that God is with us. The young woman, his mother Mary, conceived the child while remaining a virgin.

Where in the world do people not want to trouble God? How can you bring them a sign of comfort? No matter how impossible the situation might be, God is with us.

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## Holy Communion

There is no greater gift in this world than Holy Communion. And yet we so often approach that Sacrament with a distracted and inattentive heart. To overcome such a distraction you must first be convinced, with your entire mind, of the deep truths of the reality of Holy Communion. You must submit, with deep faith, to the reality that God is there, fully, in veiled form, coming to unite Himself with you in the most profound way. Second, as you believe, you must make an act of the will, choosing to receive Him not only into your body, but into every part of your being. Believe and then choose and the Lord of Mercy will transform your life through your worthy reception of Holy Communion (See Diary #1676).



Reflect upon the past several times you have gone forward to receive our Lord in Holy Communion. What was going through your mind at the time? Where was your heart in these moments? Renew your total trust in God as He comes to you through this most Precious Gift and resolve to receive Him more worthily the next time you receive this privilege.

*Lord, please do renew my love for You as You come to me in Holy Communion. May I understand You as You come to me in this Precious Gift and may I choose You with my entire will. Jesus, I trust in You.*

*(This free reflection can be found at <https://divinemercy.life/2025/12/12/reflection-347-holy-communion/>)*



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I was sitting in the Confessional this past weekend, waiting for the next penitent to walk in, I was reflecting on the Advent season, how we are now close to the end with Christmas around the corner, and how the original Advent and Christmas occurred, with the build up to the birth of Baby Jesus.



Painting the picture of the Holy Family (of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph). At this time, the Virgin Mary was 8+ months pregnant. She had a "super baby bump" by this time. Because of the census, St. Joseph had to take his wife, the Virgin Mary, and her Child in the womb (Baby Jesus) on a long journey to Bethlehem. For all the moms out there, how many of you would want to travel miles on foot and/or on the back of a donkey while you are 8+ months pregnant? The Virgin Mary did. For all you dads, how many of you would have been stressed out that your wife could give birth at any time, and you knew it may happen while you were traveling or at the ending location of your journey?

In other words, not your first option. Yet Mary and St. Joseph made this journey, despite all the inconveniences and sufferings along the way. Then they are turned down at the various inns and homes they inquired for a place to stay. Remember, it's very clear that the Virgin Mary is incredibly pregnant at this time, and yet this pregnant mom was always turned away. How many 8+ pregnant moms can accept that? Or the dads, how many of you can accept that you cannot accommodate your very pregnant wife, and you are running out of options? Then, miraculously, a last resort is presented to you: a cave for the night. Not a luxurious cave but a cave used as a stable, with all the sights, sounds, and smells (including manure) for the night. And then behold, the Virgin Mary gives birth to Baby Jesus.

Think of this original Advent into Christmas just described. Now, think of how you prepare for Mass. Every Mass has an "Advent" and "Christmas" parts. For the first part of the Mass (our "Advent" portion), we are preparing for the coming of the Lord. We seek forgiveness of our sins at the beginning of Mass, we hear him speak to us through the prophets, the saints, and from God directly too in the Mass Readings. We implore His help with our petitions (the Prayers of the Faithful). We prepare for His more immediate arrival in the preparation at the Altar, and then "Christmas" arrives as God takes on Flesh before our very eyes in the Eucharist (after the priest has said the words of Consecration over the bread and wine).

Think of all the struggles the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph went through to welcome the birth of Baby Jesus. Now think of all the struggles you go through simply to make it to Mass at church, to prepare for Mass before coming to church (i.e. reading and reflecting on the Sunday Mass Readings before Mass), to be engaged and focused at Mass while you are at church, and depending how much you have been preparing (even through all the hurdles thrown at you), you now welcome Baby Jesus in the Eucharist.

Every time you come to Mass you are akin to the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph at the original Advent and Christmas. You are not alone. They remained steadfast, fervent, and faithful through all their hurdles during the original Advent, and how huge was their joy at the first Christmas in the birth of Baby Jesus. Let us look at our preparation for Mass through the lens of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, let us look to their example for us to model, and let us persevere in our preparation for Mass and engagement during Mass so that when "Christmas" arrives at the Mass we are attending, our joy may be overwhelmingly full, just like it was for the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph at the original Christmas, at the birth of Baby Jesus.

*In Christo et Maria,  
Father Vogel*



