

Fourth SUNDAY of Advent



December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel said to Mary,
"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus."
Luke 1:30-31

Luke 1:30-31

GOD IS PRESENT

"Where does God dwell?" is a question on the minds of many as we continue to adjust to the pandemic. David wanted to build an ornate dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant, but God said, "No, that's not what I had in mind!" The reading from Romans teaches us that God is present in the Word, and in Luke's Gospel passage today, Jesus is residing in the womb of Mary. We know that Jesus is present in the assembly gathered, the Koinonia, as well as within the Eucharistic species. But no matter how one experiences the presence of Jesus, these days are challenging. In many places, only limited numbers continue to be allowed in church, while others are only able to worship via live stream. None of the pat answers to where God dwells really fit. We need to try and answer this with new eyes and ears and heart.

A CLASSIC IMAGE

When we think of today's Gospel, the image of this meeting between the Angel Gabriel and Mary by Fra Angelico (1440-1445) likely comes to mind. In this fresco, Gabriel and Mary are outside sitting among the columns, and Gabriel, with his big wings and hands crossed, gazes upon Mary and gestures towards her. She is well dressed in a traditional blue garment, and though her face shows shock, her folded hands model submission and humility. This work of art is so beautifully executed that we can miss some of its finer details. Similarly, because the Gospel scene is so familiar, we can forget to take in its small details. A few years ago, this author found a children's book called "The Nativity" illustrated by Julie Vivas. Because her drawings were so fresh and charming and simple, she invited new perspective on the story.

LOOKING AGAIN

Luke says that Mary "was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be." She asks, "How can this be?" These questions don't fit with how Fra Angelico positioned Gabriel and Mary. In the Vivas illustrations, the Angel Gabriel sits down with battered wings and a balding head and has a cup of coffee with Mary as the two of them try to figure it out together. The text is the same, but the message conveyed is different. There is a different degree of comfort and familiarity to these illustrations.

This "having a cup of coffee" is something we need to learn to do with the scriptures and with our lives. After this event, pregnant Mary traveled into the hill country to be with Elizabeth; an older, wiser, mentor—a mother figure. She spent three months there reflecting and preparing for the birth of her child. In this final week of Advent, take a few moments to find a Gabriel/Mary or an Elizabeth/Mary moment and read the Christmas readings again to see what you might have overlooked, and to find a new way for Christ to dwell in you.

TODAY'S READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

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ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

RICK FAGAN, DEACON

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ETERNAL GOD: King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome. Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35). Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: I will fix a place for my people. (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading: To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Christmas Vigil & Christmas Day: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

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

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (12/21-12/27)

Monday 8:30 AM: CH Haydon

Tuesday 5:30 PM: Woody & Sharon Dean, Marsha Daugherty

Wednesday 11:00 AM: Melvin Graves

Thursday Christmas Eve @ 4:30 PM: PS Barber & CH Haydon Families (L&D)

Christmas Eve at @ 11 PM: Multiple Intentions (See Display)

Friday Christmas Day @ 9 AM: For the Parish

Spanish Mass @ 11 AM: Presider's Intention

Saturday 8:30 AM: Special Intentions (R.F. & J.F)

4:30 PM: Powell & Joyce Boone

Sunday 8:30 AM: John Essex

10:30 AM: Scout & Helen Smith

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): For the Parish

LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Betty Carol Barber, (Tues.) Wassie Parrott, (Wed.) Katie Simms, (Thurs.) Sent Via Email, (Fri.) Sent Via Email, (Sat.) Perry Carrico

Weekday Sacristans: (Mon.) Mary Ann Hale, (Tues.) Belle Sutton, (Wed.) Julee Jones, (Thurs.) Sent Via Email, (Fri.) Sent Via Email, (Sat.) Hamilton Simms

Liturgical Roles for Christmas have/will be sent via email.

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, U.S. Military, Perry Carrico, Tommy Bartley, Johnathan Bradshaw, Kenny Peterson, Doris Purdom, Megan O'Bryan, Stephanie Bueschel Warner, Kim Pinkston Spalding, Lester Shouse, Ted McNeal, Edwin Thompson, Jim Smith, Steve Smith, Beth Hellman, Dennis Rust, Margaret Faye Martin, Corbin Noel, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the*

Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.

Tithing Contributions for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$10,155.00

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

Christmas Masses: On Tuesday, December 1, we began taking reservations for Christmas Masses (4:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. Christmas Eve & 9 a.m. Christmas Day). All church seating for the 4:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. Masses have already been reserved and the church is at full capacity for this time of Covid19. **However, the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will be live-streamed to the gym. There will be no reservation needed if you choose to sit in the GYM during the 4:30 p.m. Mass.** Though very limited, the 9 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day has some narthex seating remaining (baptismal font area). Please contact the parish office to register. Christmas Mass reservations can be made through noon on Dec. 23rd, if space allows.

Masses: Call ahead (**Monday through WEDNESDAY of this week**) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts for this coming weekend will be finalized on Wednesday afternoon due to the Christmas holiday.

Special Thanks: I would like to thank the people of St. Dominic for the many thoughtful cards that I have received. I have enjoyed each and every one.

~Merry Christmas, Jane Essex

2020 Catholic Services Appeal - Bringing Christ to Others: St. D Parish Goal: \$46,900 - St. D Parish Gifts to Date: \$52,390.00 - Parish Participation Goal: 159 Households - Parish Participation to Date: 125 Households.

Parish Office will be closed for Christmas on Dec. 24, 25 & Dec. 28. & for New Year's Day on Jan. 1.

Wednesday Masses as of January: Archbishop Kurtz has appointed Fr. Pepper as administrator pro-tempore of St. John the Apostle, in Brandenburg, KY. His assignment is expected to last about six months. Starting in January, there will be no weekday Mass offered up on Wednesdays, until further notice. Please continue to keep Fr. Pepper in your prayers as he continues to do the Lord's work in his retirement years.

Possibly interested in joining the Catholic Church? Contact Fr. David at 336-3569.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart. —Washington Irving