

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 23, 2018

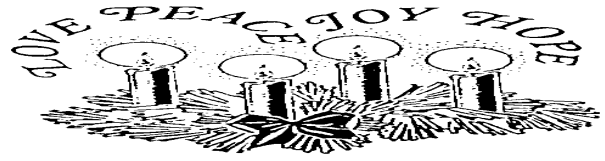
The presence of the Lord causes John the Baptist to leap with joy and Elizabeth to proclaim her unworthiness. This recalls David's reaction in the Old Testament when the Ark of the Covenant is brought to Jerusalem. "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" he asks (2 Samuel 6:9). But later, he came before the ark dancing and shouting for joy. Why did David react this way? David was moved because he was in the presence of the Lord. The Ark of the Covenant symbolized God's presence among the Chosen People. Elizabeth and her son recognized that when Mary arrived, they were literally in the presence of the Lord. So too are we whenever we gather in his name, as we do today.

Earlier in Luke's Gospel, an angel appeared to Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, and told him that his son would "be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15). Mary's arrival may be the very moment at which John the Baptist (and Elizabeth) received the Holy Spirit. Since Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit could then be received by others in the presence of Jesus, even while he was still in the womb.

Mary's selfless act in the Gospel, visiting her pregnant cousin, puts us in mind of Jesus' ultimate selfless act, which the writer of Hebrews interprets in the second reading. Jesus' body offered for our salvation, is that body that developed in Mary's womb. God's will required that Jesus first be born bodily into this world.

Question of the Week

Do I, Elizabeth and her baby, realize that I am in the presence of the Lord here today? Do I react with joy?



Saturday, December 22, 2018

Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00p.m. Darrell and Elodie Gabriel – Bruce Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Tu Tran – Audrey Jefferson – Danny Jon Singletary – George Marcell – Vernon Mercadel – Frank Donze – Ellsworth McKendall – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Jesse Hall – Daisy Hicks and Nautilus Aubry

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30a.m. Darrell & Elodie Gabriel – Bruce Gabriel – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – France Hai Cao – Earthy B. Lazard – Walter Banks, III – Calvin Tate – Corrine Singletary – Tu Tran – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Eloise C. Parker – Melvina Kepp – Lawrence Miller, Jr. – Francis Mouton

10:30a.m. Lamar & Shirley Smith – Lordeas Glapion Nix – Melvin Thomas – Chad Rancatore – Augustine Clarke Bozant – Veronica Vigne Richards – Intentions of the McKinney Family

12:00p.m. Intentions of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Monday, December 24, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Mr. Charles Winchell, Jr. – Tu Tran – Melba Fletcher – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Lori Crowden – Vernon Mercadel – John and Melba Fletcher – Intentions of Simba Bouligny

Vigil Christmas Eve

4:00p.m. Deceased member of Baham family

Christmas Midnight Mass

12:00a.m. Miriam and Richard Page – Calvin Tate – The Pierre Family – Deceased members of the Reddick, Garrison, Barthelemy, LaFrance and O'Malley Families

Tuesday, December 25, 2018 (Christmas Day)

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Deacon Poncho – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Tu Tran – Hurby Oubre – James St. Charles – Lawrence Miller, Jr. – Ellsworth McKendall

10:30a.m. Rita Whitehead – Rita & Dennis Washington – Paul Beaulieu – Dale Haydel – Joyce Jones – Intentions of Blair McDonald

12:00p.m. Intentions of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Joseph Cong Cao – Peter & Mary Kham Nguyen – Tu Tran – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Melba Fletcher – Austin Burroughs

Thursday, December 27, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Tu Tran – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – John and Melba Fletcher – Ellis Cantrell – Intentions of James and Tamerle Young

Friday, December 28, 2018

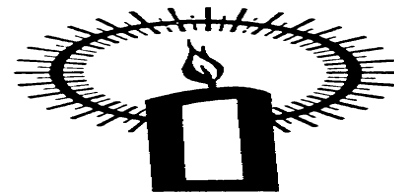
8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Tu Tran – Deacon Poncho – Joseph Nguyen – Melba Fletcher – Selina Moss – Intentions of Martin Family – Tamerle Young

Saturday, December 29, 2018

8:30a.m. All Poor Souls in Purgatory – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – The Living and Deceased Benefactors of the Catholic Negro American Mission.

Announcement

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call on you.” Eucharistic Adoration Monday thru Friday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00 noon and Saturdays, 12:00noon – 3:00p.m. No Eucharistic Adoration December 22 thought January 1, 2019. Resuming on January 2, 2019.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for this week will burn in memory of Spencer Knox
The Sanctuary Lamps in the chapel this week will burn in memory of Albertine B. Knox and Glen F. Mogilles, Sr.

*Mass Intentions
for the Week*



Monday, December 24, 2018 - Christmas Eve

Closed

Tuesday, December 25, 2018 - Christmas Day

Closed

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Closed

Thursday, December 27, 2018

6:00p.m. Bingo - Center

Friday, December 28, 2018

Closed

Saturday, December 29, 2018

10:30a.m. Just Faith Feeding – St. Jude

Bible Study
The Bible Study theme for Fourth **Sunday of Advent: Lord we wait for ...**” The purpose of this theme is to inaugurate a term of active waiting through service, as we prepare to receive Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. The theme for the First Sunday in Advent is: **Lord we wait for You.** The Bible Study is based on the readings for the, **Third Sunday in Advent: Reading I: Micah 5:1-4a; Responsorial Psalm: 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Reading II: Hebrew 10:5-10; Luke: 1:39-45.** Welcome home returning Citizens from prison – invite them and their families to join us and serve their needs. Visit nursing homes, orphanages and Juvenile detention homes. **Bible study normally held on Monday at 7pm in the center will resume January 7, 2019.**

Christmas Mass Schedule
Monday, Christmas Eve – December 24, 2018
Confession: 3:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
Vigil: 4:p.m. – 12:00 Midnight
Tuesday, December 25, 2018 – Christmas Day
8:30a.m, 10:30a.m., 12:00 noon



Thursdays, 8:00p.m. in the Center where you might win and have some fun with friends and family.

RCIA
Welcome someone back home this Christmas. Are your children still Catholic? Do they practice their faith? Do you know enough about your faith to help them? Every Catholic has a role in welcoming those seeking to join the Catholic Church. God has touched them in a special way that leads them to us. Let us get out of the pews and into the community.
The St. Maria Goretti RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is in its **Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate phase.** Do you know someone who wants to be Catholic? **Come and join us.** Registration forms can be found in the rear of the church or by contacting RCIA team members. The RCIA is in its Period of Inquire. This week we will discuss: **The Word Incarnate. Christ in human form, what does this mean to me?** For more information contact the RCIA Team: Deacon Terrel J. Broussard or any member of the RCIA Team or by email at tbroussard@sngnola.com, or visit the website at sngnola.com



*May the Peace
of the
Holy Family
be with you
always.*



We welcome everyone into our parish. If you have not filled out a census card, the cards can be found on the table at the entrance of the church.

Merry Christmas