

Fourth Sunday of Advent–19 December 2021

Micah 5:1-4a. Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. Hebrews 10:5-10. Luke 1:39-45.

We live in an age of technological marvels. Events in the most remote corners of the world are flashed to our television sets in an instant. Diseases thought to be untreatable are now cured by miracle drugs. Computers process vast stores of knowledge in seconds. Today's readings would not have us ignore these valuable innovations; they would only have us pause in order to remember that our God is the infinite source of all help.

In the first reading Micah announces a future Davidic king who will conquer his people's enemies. Seemingly lowly Bethlehem will be God's birthplace of salvation. To everyone's surprise this ideal king will put more stock in Yahweh than in military power: "He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord" (verse 4). For Micah, the point is to trust in God for deliverance.

In Psalm 80, Israel appeals to Yahweh to intervene against the enemy. The psalmist outlines the role of the divine shepherd. Human resources are inadequate, the earthly shepherd needs the protection of the divine.

Mary is the model Christian since she is the very embodiment of trust in God. In the Annunciation scene (Luke 1:26-38), Luke contrasted her faith response with Zechariah's incredulity. In this visitation scene Elizabeth says, "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Luke conveys Mary's enormous capacity to trust.

What is God's plan for our lives? Human resources may reveal part of the answer. True faith, however, will trust in divine resources for the final resolution.

.- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

4th Sunday of Advent- December 19, 2021

Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Leaping for Joy. Let us take our cue from the six-month gestating baby in the womb of Elizabeth leaping for joy on encountering the Lord and the one who brings him. Let us sing again and again all week the antiphon of the psalm: "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."

-How can I keep looking for the face of Christ in those around me?

-Whom will I visit, even virtually if needed, to help in some way?

-How can I get to Christmas Day in peace?

The Nativity of the Lord-December 25, 2021

Is 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Heb1:1-6; Jn1:1-18

Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph- December 26, 2021

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52



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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,

Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays –Fri 6:00 pm

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord, let us see your face. We have come so close to the coming of Christ; it is as though we can stand the waiting no longer. We want to see God's face.

And what is that face like when it comes? It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God taking flesh in the womb of a virgin, that most disparaged of creatures in Jewish culture.

It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God being born in an obscure village, Bethlehem, "too small to be among the clans of Judah."

It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God present in the meeting of two insignificant women, far from the worldly centers of power.

Christmas happens. Christ comes, but in strange ways and surprising circumstances. Many of us miss the coming of Christ because we expect him where and when he is not.

God has to "make us turn in a different direction" so that we can find Christ in poverty (Bethlehem) and in the poor and outcast (Mary and Elizabeth).

Christ, our Savior, not only loved the poor, but rather 'being rich he became poor,' he lived in poverty. His mission centered on advising the poor of their liberation and he founded his Church as the sign of that poverty among men.

Latin American Bishops, [Poverty of the Church](#),
Medellin Documents, 1968: 7

-- Gerald Darring from SLU Sunday Site

Vol. 22 # 51 -4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 19 December 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun Dec 19 8:00 am Mass Agnes Schwartz
Sat Dec 25 8:00 am Mass Ralph & Marie Koester
Sun Dec 26 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson

Liturgical Ministers

<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec 19 8 am	J Nelson	J Hacker	P Widowski	C& M Bergmann * S Widowski, J Bergmann

Cantor S Pobst

<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec 25 8 am	M Slife	B Bowers	M Nelson	Vol.
				*M Slife, J Slife

Cantor Z Garrett

<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec 26	J Galey	X Gruszczyk	L Miller	M Palmer, M Bergmann
				D Zmuda, Sr , J Nelson

Cantor J Starratt

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Dec 12, 2021

Envelope (27) \$1430.00(20), Loose \$133.00
Immaculate Concep. (7) \$145.00 Flower Mem. (3) \$65.00
Retirement Fund (10) \$410,00 **Total: \$2183.00**
Bld. & Main. (18) **Total: \$340.00**

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Dec 19 Mass.....8:00 am
Choir practice following Mass
Sat Dec 25 Diocesan Christmas Collection
Sat Dec 25 Mass.....8:00 am
Sun Dec 26 Mass.....8:00 am

Birthdays
Dec 19
Elizabeth Zmuda
Dec 23
Gary Hacker



SPECIAL THANKS TO: Marsha Nelson, Beth Palmer, Amanda Zmuda and our PSR Students for a wonderful Christmas Pageant last week. Special thanks to Steve Pobst for leading the singing. Also, thanks to our CCW ladies for a wonderful breakfast.

REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO FRIDAY MASS (CHRISTMAS VIGIL) AT ST. PAUL THIS WEEK. CHRISTMAS DAY MASS IS AT 8:00 AM. Choir volunteers will be practicing after Mass today to lead our parish in singing Christmas Carols on Christmas.

THANK YOU TO ALL PARISHIONERS WHO BROUGHT GIFTS FOR OUR ANGEL TREE. And thanks to Madonna Slife who arranged the tree logistics, and delivered our 50+ gifts to all our schools in Johnson County.

THANK YOU ALSO TO: Vickie Anderson, for sending the \$25 gift certificates and Christmas cards to our seminarians; to Cathy Kruep for mailing Christmas Cards to Autumn Ridge and Hillview residents; and to Wellness committee for mailing Christmas cards to homebound.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS
Please consider volunteering for this important service to our parish family.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS DEADLINE ARE DUE TODAY

2022 CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER. Special thanks to Brian Bailey who covers most of the printing costs for this calendar.

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING, AS YOU ARE ABLE, TO THE DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS COLLECTION. 100% of the proceeds are used to help people with emergency utility assistance, shelter, food, transportation, burial expenses, and other crisis aid. An envelope is available in your packet. You can make your check payable to the Diocese of Belleville with “annual Christmas Collection in the memo line, or to St. Paul Church.

VOCATION CORNER December 19 – The vocation of Jesus Christ was to be born and incarnate to our world, humbling Himself from eternity into the temporal of our world. In the same way, our vocation calls us to humble ourselves and enter into the unknown to be stretched beyond what we can normally do in our human capacity. We celebrate this Christmas as a model for our own call to service and gift, knowing that the way won’t be easy. Mary and Joseph sacrificed much in their “yes” to vocation to allow Jesus to redeem the world. We are called to that same “yes” for Jesus!