

4th Sunday of Advent Sunday of Advent Dec 18, 2022

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

To believe is to accept and acknowledge the presence of God in one's life. How often we assume that faith is primarily doctrine and law, a list of dos and don'ts to which we must subscribe. We thus fail to see that faith involves a person.

Today's readings deal with the reality of faith. Isaiah gives us a negative example, Matthew a positive one. Paul develops the notion of personal commitment as the underpinnings of faith. All three see belief as acceptance of God's presence.

Ahaz, the Judean king, realizes that the Israelite and Aramean kings are seeking to overthrow him. Isaiah urges Ahaz to remain calm, to ask for a sign from Yahweh. The ruler rejects this notion and so reveals his impiety. Isaiah gives a sign anyway: The wife of Ahaz will bear a child to ensure the integrity of the Davidic dynasty. The child's symbolic name defines faith -- "Immanuel," that is, "God is with us."

Paul addresses the Christian community of Rome. He speaks about Christ who has conferred on him the office of apostle. Paul views his task this way: "To bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name" (Romans 1:5). For Paul, acceptance of salvation is marked by faith-filled obedience.

The gospel passage intends to explain the irregular genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17). If Jesus does not have a human father, how can he be called "son of David"? Matthew's solution is to have Joseph accept legal paternity for the Child, ensuring his Davidic ancestry. Joseph's openness to God's will makes possible the "God with us" that is at the heart of all belief.

Our celebration of this time must reflect a deep and total acceptance of Christ and his message of peace on earth and goodwill toward all people. As Advent closes and Christmas dawns, we look to the Person born again in our hearts, the Person who is "God with us."
-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

Vigil Of The Nativity Of The Lord --- Dec 25, 2022

Is 62:1-5, Psalm 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

The Nativity of the Lord-- Dec 25, 2022

Is 52:7-10 Psalm 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

VOCATION CORNER December 18 – Today we hear of Joseph's call to be the Head of the Holy Family. What a wonderful act of selflessness - turning his whole life over to the will of God, even under some really stressful circumstances. This is the call for each one of us – to be “a righteous man”. This should be our daily mantra. Encourage everyone to follow their unique vocation to follow the Lord.

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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: Becky Bowers

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm



Vol. 24 #4 December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent
Schedule of Masses

Sun Dec 18 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson
Wed Dec 21 5:30 pm Mass Agnes Schwartz
Fri Dec 23 No Mass
Sat Dec 24 6 pm Mass with caroling before
Sun Dec 25 8:00 am Mass

Birthdays
Dec 19 Elizabeth Zmuda
Dec 23 Gary Hacker
Dec 31 Carter Bergmann

Liturgical Ministers

<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec 18 E Garrett	D Irby	Z Garrett <u>Cantor</u> C Ross	M Palmer	*M Slife, R Weeks
<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec 24 S Widowski	X Gruszczyk	B Palmer <u>Cantor</u> (choir)	Volunteer	*J Nelson, J Bergmann
Dec 25 A Dueker	K Pobst	V Anderson <u>Cantor</u> S Pobst	Volunteer	*F Dueker, A Irby

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Dec. 11 2022

General (23)	\$850.00
Loose	\$89.00
Immaculate Conception(3)	\$115.00
Retirement Fund Religious(9)	\$390
Flower Memorials (1)	\$25.00
Donation	\$1000.00
Total	\$2469
Bld. & Maint (14)	\$320)
Total	\$320.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Dec 18 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson
Wed Dec 21 5:30 pm Mass Agnes Schwartz
6:00 pm Parish Council
Fri Dec 23 No Mass
Sat Dec 24 6:00pm Mass with caroling before
Sun Dec 25 8:00 am Mass

HELP US BE MINDFUL AS WE MEET AND GREET IN THE FOYER BEFORE MASS.

Our conversations carry into the church and disrupt what is meant to be a quiet and contemplative space before Mass. Thank you.

NO BULLETIN FOR DEC. 24-25. A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WILL BE AVAILABLE

PARISH COUNCIL MEETS WEDNESDAY DEC 21.

Please pick up your agenda after today’s Mass or look for it in the parish hall the day of the meeting.

THANK YOU TO THE PSR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FOR A WONDERSUL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT LAST WEEK.

THANK YOU TO THE CCW FOR MAKING AND SERVING THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST LAST SUNDAY.

FROM OUR DIOCESEAN NEWSPAPER STAFF.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR 2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES.

On Dec. 9, the company informed us that they are behind in production due to a broken printer, but they still hope to have them to our parish by January 1 Mass. Matt, Vickie and Arlene have developed a back -up plan, should there be delays in receiving these envelopes by Christmas. Further instructions will be in announcements following Sunday masses as needed.

MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

The 2022 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Go and do likewise... - Luke 10:37

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming New Year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,
*-Bishop Michael McGovern and Ministries and Programs Funded by
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal*