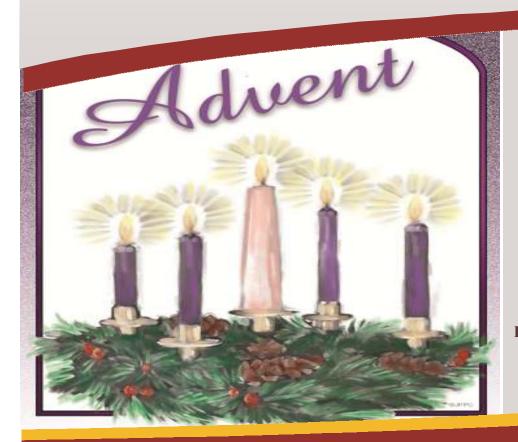


HOLY ANGELS PARISH

81 Cooper Street Woodbury, NJ 08096 856-845-0123



St. Patrick Church

86 Cooper Street Woodbury, NJ 08096

Parish Center

96 Green Avenue Woodbury, NJ 08096

St. Matthew Church

4th & Monument Avenue National Park, NJ 08063

Ministry Center

8 Green Avenue Woodbury, NJ 08096

Holy Angels Catholic School

211 Cooper Street Woodbury, NJ 08096

Family Faith Formation Office

81 Cooper Street Woodbury, NJ 08096

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT† December 19, 2021 †

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 9:00AM—St. Patrick Church

4:00PM—St. Patrick Church 5:30PM—St. Matthew Church

Sunday: 7:30AM, 10:00AM, 11:30AM—St. Patrick Church

8:30AM—St. Matthew Church 6:00PM—St. Patrick Church

10AM SUNDAY MASS LIVE-STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.HOLYANGELSNJ.ORG AND FACEBOOK PAGE. PRESS LIVE

Monday—Friday: *6:45AM & 9:00AM—St. Patrick Church

*(NO 6:45AM MASS ON CIVIC HOLIDAYS) **Holy Day Vigil and Holy Day:** 7:00PM—St. Patrick Church

Holy Day: 6:45AM, 9:00AM, 12:10PM—St. Patrick Church

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

Monday: 7:00PM—St. Patrick Church

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday: 5:00PM—St. Patrick Church

6:30PM—St. Matthew Church

CONFESSIONS

Monday—Friday: 9:30AM—St. Patrick Church Saturday: 3:00PM—St. Patrick Church

4:30PM—St. Matthew Church

COMMUNION CALLS

For sick or homebound, please call the parish office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9:00AM—4:00PM



Baptism Sponsors

We are big parish here at Holy Angels and we are blessed with many Baptisms. It is wonderful to see parents bring their young children to the Baptismal font where they will be reborn in Christ, infused with faith, hope and love, and have the Lord come to dwell within their souls. Seeing the beginning of the life of grace in a child is a beautiful moment. Sharing in this beautiful moment and taking on an important role are the Godparents. It is their task to assist the parents in conveying the beauty and power of the faith and the love of God to the children.

This is no mere ceremonial position. When taking on the role of Godparent, one is accepting a very serious responsibility. So serious is the role of a Godparent that the Church insists on a number of criteria that a person must fulfill in order to be eligible as a Godparent. There are a lot of people who may like to be a professional football player or a member of a symphony orchestra, but in order to be one of either of those, or like many other roles, there are a number of basic qualifications that need to be met before one is considered eligible for the task.

It is no different for Godparents. In fact, on a certain level it is much more important, since we are talking about assisting another person on his or her path to eternal salvation. Taken from the various Church documents and Church law, below is the list of criteria that one needs to meet in order to function as a Godparent here at Holy Angels:

At least one of the godparents/sponsors must be Catholic *and* must fulfill <u>all</u> of the following parameters:

- Be a baptized, practicing Catholic (a practicing Catholic is one who attends Mass regularly and is sincerely devoted to his or her faith in Christ and his Church)
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Has received the Sacrament of Confirmation
- If married, the marriage must have been witnessed by a Catholic Priest or Deacon, according to the laws and teaching of the Catholic Church and/or the Bishop having granted any required dispensation.
- Cannot be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized or confirmed
- Cannot be under any canonical penalty whether imposed or declared

The above parameters must be certified by a signed letter and containing the parish seal from the pastor of the prospective godparent/sponsor. A person baptized in a non-Catholic Christian church, may serve as a Christian witness to a Baptism together with the Catholic Godparent. He or she is not a godparent, but a Christian Witness. This person must submit a certificate of baptism from the church in which he/she was baptized. In this case, an eligible Catholic Godparent is still needed along with the Christian Witness. A non-baptized person may not act as a Christian Witness. A baptized Catholic, who has left the Catholic Church and/or joined another ecclesial community, or who has fallen away from the practice of the faith, or who is not married validly in the Church can be neither a godparent/sponsor nor a Christian witness. Only two godparents (one male and one female) for the Sacrament of Baptism or one sponsor for Confirmation can be recorded in the sacramental register.

As important and valuable as family and friends are, choosing a Godparent because of friendship or family ties one may not necessarily end up with an ideal candidate. Ultimately, the question parents need to ask themselves is "who do I know that would be the best in helping me raise my child close to the Lord?" We all need to take our faith and our relationship with God seriously, and ensure the role of Godparent has the dignity and authority it is designed to have. On of the best ways we can love children is to do what we can to help them get to know the Lord and ultimately to get to heaven. Having a Godparent that can really be a guide and mentor in the Catholic Faith is one of the most beautiful and valuable gifts loving parents can give their children.

God Bless you, Father Joseph Byerley

HISTORY OF THE CANDY CANE

There are a number of legends about the development of the Candy cane. We do know that sometime around 1650 candy canes began to appear in Europe as candy makers developed hard sugar sticks originally straight white in color.

The story goes that about 1670, a choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany created the sugar cane to appear like the shepherd's staff that the bishop as Shepherd of the flock symbolizes. These became popular giving them out at Midnight Mass all over Europe to children. Candy canes we often used to decorate Christmas Trees, another reason for the curved shape that enabled them to be hung on the tree.

It wasn't until about 1847 that the candy cane tradition made it to America thanks to the German immigrant, August Imgard, who first decorated his Christmas tree in Wooster Ohio.

From there, candy canes have become an American tradition. About 1900, candy canes began to appear bearing the familiar red-and-white stripes adding the classic peppermint and wintergreen flavors.

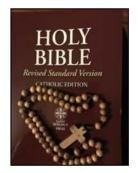
From the Christian tradition, the "J" shape is a constant reminder to Jesus as the colors red and white stripes represent both the purity of the Lord and the blood he shed for our redemption.

The three red stripes originally stood for the Trinity as it symbolized three stripes on one candy cane. The hardness of the candy cane came to represent the Catholic Church's foundation being based on solid rock.

The peppermint flavor represented the hyssop branch that played an important roll at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) and also Christ's crucifixion scene (John 19:29).



SCRIPTURAL WALK THROUGH ADVENT



Join us at **6:00PM, on Monday, December 20**th
The Presentation and Finding the Child Jesus in the Temple



BOOK OF PRAYER INTENTIONS

Prayer Intention books are in the vestibule of all of our worship sites.

When attending Mass, parishioners are encouraged to write the names of their loved ones who are in need of prayer.

The book of names are remembered in our Prayer of the Faithful at all weekday and weekend Masses.



FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Weekly 10:00AM to 7:00PM St. Patrick Church

"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." —St. Padre Pio, patron saint of adorers.

We are invite the faithful to sign up and commit to one hour each week. Our goal is to fill every hour with at least three adorers between 10:00AM and 7:00PM.

For anyone interested, please contact Diana Roche, cell: 856-383-0132 or email: rochefamilynj@live.com.

LIFE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY AT HOLY ANGELS

The Life and Justice Ministry will resume its meetings on the last Monday of the **odd** number months at 7PM in the Worship Center upstairs classroom.

Our next meeting is **January 31**st. New members are welcome.

For more information, contact Anne Connor or Jerry Washko. (Masks recommended if not vaccinated.)

For questions call: Life and Justice Ministry
Anne Connor 856-845-4182 Jerry Washko 856-845-6944

It's our DAY!

GATHERING OF WOMEN

Enjoy fellowship and sharing with women of the parish!

Every other Wednesday at 12:30PM JOIN US: DECEMBER 29th

MINISTRY CENTER BYOL & B!

(BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH & BEVERAGE)

For more information, contact Phyllis Misilewich at 856-251-9086

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **MASS INTENTIONS**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00AM-STP	Mary Tracey r/b Anne Hink
4:00PM-STP	Jason Lodge r/b his Godmother
E.20par com	C1

5:30PM-STM Chester Jawor r/b Bill and Kathy Clark

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Bernadette Rafter 7:30AM-STP

r/b Roseanne Wierzbicki

8:30AM-STM Daniel Tinney r/b wife, Krista Rita Bagnato r/b Family 10:00AM-STP

Anne Dorsey r/b Kathleen Reitzler 11:30AM-STP 6:00PM-STP Florence and John Andaloro r/b Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 Saverio Greco r/b Family

6:45AM-STP Robert Jovellanos r/b Jackie Jovellanos 9:00AM-STP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Michael V. Silenzio **6:45**AM-STP

r/b Anthony and Catherine Silenzio

Natalie Lauletta r/b Irene Moreland 9:00AM-STP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Santina Massimino **6:45**AM-STP

r/b Lucy and Joanna Micklasavage

Intentions of Fr. Tim Byerley 9:00AM-STP r/b Agnes Marchione

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

Rosalina Jovellanos r/b Jackie Jovellanos **6:45**AM-STP Beatrice Eisenhardt r/b Jean Eisenhardt 9:00AM-STP

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

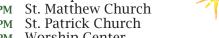
No 6:45AM MASS

9:00AM-STP People of the Parish

Christmas Eve Masses



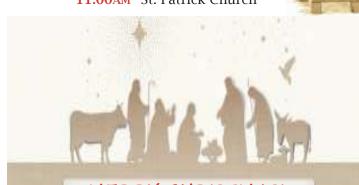
4:00pm St. Patrick Church 4:00_{PM} Worship Center 4:00PM St. Matthew Church 6:00pm St. Patrick Church **6:00**PM Worship Center 6:00PM St. Matthew Church



12:00MID St. Patrick Church

Christmas Day Masses

9:00AM St. Patrick Church 9:00AM St. Matthew Church 11:00AM St. Patrick Church



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:30AM-STP Christie Lee Yula r/b Wanda & Ken McIlvaine 8:30AM-STM Deacon Paul Parchinski r/b wife, Pat

Dennis Hughes r/b The Furlong Family 10:00AM-STP

Carl Rupp r/b Family 11:30AM-STP 6:00PM-STP Chris Brenner r/b Family

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

10:00AM Rel. Ed. Classes—Holy Angels School

12:30PM Performing Arts Practice—Holy Angels School

12:45PM Baptisms—St. Patrick Church

5:00PM BINGO—American Legion Hall, Brooklawn

DOORS OPEN AT 3PM

MONDAY. DECEMBER 20

9:30AM Confessions—St. Patrick Church

10:00AM ART CLUB—Ministry Ctr.

6:30PM ART CLUB—Ministry Ctr.

7:00PM Adoration—St. Patrick Church 7:00PM Spiritual Walk through Advent — Church basement

7:00PM K of C #1994 Mtg—Worship Ctr.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00AM Pray the Rosary—St. Matthew Church

9:30AM Confessions—St. Patrick Church

7:00PM Men's Bible Study—St. Patrick Church basement

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:30AM Confessions—St. Patrick Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:30AM Confessions—St. Patrick Church

9:30AM Coffee Klatch—St. Patrick Church basement

6:30PM Cub Scouts Mtg—St. Patrick Church basement





CONNOR M. SUMMERS



† KATHLEEN EGAN † † ANTHONY J. PARISI, SR † † ROSANNA G. VOLPE †

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



SANCTUARY CANDLES St. Patrick Church

in loving memory of

Mary Theresa Andaloro

requested by Diane Brenner and Family



"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need." We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

MASKS



At Mass and in all parish offices, if you have been completely vaccinated, masks are not required.

You are encouraged to wear a mask \ if you have not been vaccinated.



WELCOME TO HOLY ANGELS PARISH!



We are blessed to have you share in this Eucharist Celebration. You are invited to become part of our parish family and become fully involved in our life of prayer, education, service and community.

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM for new and expectant parents held on the 1st Sunday of the month, at 11:30AM in the Worship Center. It is mandatory for both parents. Parents, please call the Parish Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays to register for class and to schedule a Baptism.—856-845-0123 ext. 103

BAPTISMS are held each Sunday in St. Patrick Church following the 11:30AM Mass. When choosing your Godparents, please keep in mind that according to Canon Law, both Godparents must be Christian, and at least one must be a practicing Catholic.

***If you have been asked to be a Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor, please call the office to set up a short meeting with one of our priests to obtain your Letter of Eligibility/Sponsorship Letter.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS Deadline for receiving information is Monday by noon. mail@holyangelsnj.org

FLOWERS and SANCTUARY CANDLE If you are interested in having the Sanctuary Candle burn in memory of your loved one, or if you would like to purchase flowers for the Altar in his/her memory, please contact the Parish Office at 856-845-0123 ext. 5106. Arrangements should be made in advance to make sure that the week is available.

MARRIAGES Must be arranged at least 1 year in advance. Engaged couples should reserve the Church prior to scheduling the reception. Please call the Parish Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays to register: 856-845-0123 ext. 5106.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS



Eucharist

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program that prepares adults to be received into the Catholic Church. Persons who complete the program receive the sacraments of Baptism (if not yet baptized), First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

RCIA begins after each Easter season with a rolling open enrollment and continues to the following Easter season. The program is also available for Catholics who have never received the sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

For more information, please contact Deacon Vince at dvlatini@outlook.com or 609-932-6170.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY



Thank you for your generous support throughout the year! If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call our help line: 856-848-7744.

We are seeking new members to help us continue in assisting those less fortunate in this area. We particularly need anyone who is available during daytime hours to serve as Client Advocates. This does not require a lot of time.

We meet just once a month on the second Tuesday at 7PM for about an hour. Our Client Advocates may put in an extra 5 hours during one week in a 4 to 6 week period. No experience is necessary. We'll provide the training.

We invite you to our next meeting: Tuesday, January 11[™] · 7:00pm · Ministry Center **NEWCOMERS WELCOME!**

Come and explore how we help our brothers and sisters in the community and how you can be a part of this mission!

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2021 FACES OF HOPE CAMPAGN UPDATE

Gifts to-date: \$130,958 Our Goal: \$155,500 % of Goal: 83.8%

Thank You! YOUR GIFT MATTERS



EGIVING...Sharing your weekly offerings Holy Angels has never been easier! Electronic Giving has been available for a number of years and is successfully being used by many parishioners. To find the link to Parish Giving, go to our Parish website: www.holyangelsnj.org, and sign up on the secure website, then manage your account anytime at www.parishgiving.org.

Once signed-up, you can use your checking account or credit card to set up customized recurring donations based on the amount and timing of giving that best suits your needs.

Checkout our website, www.holvangelsnj.org, for benefits and details.

Thank You for your active participation in Holy Angels Parish!





CASSEROLES

Joseph's Hobse

Joseph's HOUSE is a homeless shelter for men and women located in the city of Camden.

We are looking for people who would be willing to participate in either making casseroles or donating supplies to this cause.

Casseroles are delivered on the first Monday of each month, along with donated paper supplies, coffee, laundry products to the Joseph House.

For more information, and next delivery date, please contact Jerry Campbell at 856-435-0509 or jerbotemple@comcast.net



YOUNG ADULT PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT GROUP

Any young man between the ages 16-39 who has thought about the vocation to the priesthood is welcome to come and join in to learn more about this great calling from God. Please visit www.camdenpriest.org for more details.

Join us: 2:00—3:30PM

December 19th · January 9th · February 20th

March 20th · May 22nd

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Office

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Office 135 N White Horse Pike • Lindenwold

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS

A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible. Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests.





Make a difference today by supporting our Annual **Happy Feet** Sock Drive for the Homeless. Socks are the least-donated clothing items and yet the most in-demand. Most people walk an average of four miles a day, but our homeless neighbors average *ten miles* -- a painful difference!

In the cold winter months, the sock donations will go a long way to helping improve the condition of our homeless neighbors. All donations will be distributed to homeless shelters in southern New Jersey.

All donated items need to be NEW & UNUSED and submitted by Monday, December 20th!

Our Office is located at the following address:

860 W. Browning Road

Bellmawr, NJ 08031

Thank you for your support!

If you are unable to come to our office to make the donation yourself, we might be able to arrange our driver to come pick up your donation. If interested, feel free to give us a call at 856-933-1285 or email us to see if it is possible: contact@pirolliprinting.com

GWCM FOOD PANTRY

Choose your location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:30AM Seventh Day Adventist Church 330 E. Barber Ave. Woodbury, NJ 08096 - OR -

Saturdays 9:30-11:30AM Colonial Manor Methodist Church Tatum St. & Elberne Ave. Woodbury, NJ 08096





The GWCM Food Pantry is pleased to offer FREE FOOD

to those in our service area with Proof of Residency, and Proof of Income

- · Select from a variety of products.
- · Choose meet, bread, & pantry items.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables year-round.
- · Members can visit every 30 days.

www.gwcm.org

Jeanette's Closet

- Summer Lunch Box Program - Handy Helpers—Volunteer Opportunities



HOLY ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL 211 Cooper Street Woodbury, NJ 08096



Dear Holy Angels Family and Friends,

At Holy Angels we are A Catholic School – *rooted in Sacred Scripture and Catholic Tradition with faith to grow spiritually...* We are a family with teachers who care and students who make our world a better place. Our faculty and parents work together to provide a nurturing environment for our students. Our teachers are committed to helping students to develop the knowledge, talent and lifelong skills required to succeed. And our students continue to participate in daily prayers, liturgies, and community outreach projects in their school and parish.

Last year, your generous support of the Annual Fund helped us to raise over \$10,000 in donations. Once again, your support is necessary to continue our excellent educational programs. Our goal of \$15,000 can be reached with your generous support. Your tax-deductible gift, of any amount, will be a blessing that makes a difference.

In order to continue the high level of learning and safe environment, we need your help. The yearly tuition covers a portion of our essentials, but not all expenses. The annual fund is one way that you can help us with the necessary funds for this school year.

Our goal is \$15,000 and can be met with your donation. Please help us with a donation. Every gift is a blessing to our school and every blessing counts!

Please send your donations to school or you may DONATE online at:

https://www.parishgiving.org/inkpayment;

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Keep us in your prayers as we do you, our school community.

May God Bless You Always, Patti Paulsen Principal

Angel Rodriguez
Advancement Director

We offer small class sizes and a strong academic and spiritual education.

Visit our website at: www.holyangelswoodbury.org

or contact the school: 856-848-6826

The small school, with a big heart!

Thank You to all of our families and parishioners who support us throughout the year! We could not do it alone!







Christmas/New Year Confession Schedules

December 13 - 17

NORMAL SCHEDULE 9:30AM St. Patrick Church

Thursday, December 16 4:00PM AND 7:00PM St. Patrick Church

Saturday, December 18

NORMAL SCHEDULE 3:00PM St. Patrick Church 4:30PM St. Matthew Church

December 20 - 23

NORMAL SCHEDULE 9:30AM St. Patrick Church

NO CONFESSIONS ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY

December 27 - 31

NORMAL SCHEDULE
9:30AM St. Patrick Church
NO CONFESSIONS ON
NEW YEAR'S EVE OR NEW YEAR'S DAY

*Daily Mass-Friday, December 24

(NO 6:45AM MASS)
9:00AM St. Patrick Church
*DOES NOT FULFILL CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATION

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00PM, 6:00PM AND 12MID—St. Patrick Church 4:00PM AND 6:00PM—Worship Center 4:00PM AND 6:00PM—St. Matthew Church

Christmas Day

9:00AM AND 11:00AM—St. Patrick Church 9:00AM—St. Matthew Church

Sunday, December 26

7:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM AND 6PM—St. Patrick Church 8:30AM—St. Matthew Church



*Daily Mass-Friday, December 31

6:45AM and 9:00AM—St. Patrick Church *DOES NOT FULFILL NEW YEAR'S MASS OBLIGATION

New Year's Mass Schedule Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Eve

4:00PM—St. Patrick Church

New Year's Day

9:00AM, 11:00AM—St. Patrick Church VIGIL 4:00PM—St. Patrick Church

Sunday, January 2

7:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM AND 6PM—St. Patrick Church 8:30AM—St. Matthew Church



81 COOPER ST. · WOODBURY · 856-845-6826 OFFICE HOURS: Monday: 7:00AM-1:00PM Tuesday: 8:00AM-12NOON

RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES SUNDAYS GRADES 1-8 · 10:00-11:15AM AT HOLY ANGELS SCHOOL

In-person Religious Education classes have started. If your child is not registered for Religious Education, it is not too late. Please contact the office at 856-845-6826 to request registration forms.

Parents/Guardians, if you have children who attend Catholic School and are preparing for the Sacraments of Penance and First Communion or Confirmation, please contact the Religious Education Office to make sure you are included for Sacramental Preparation.

Sacraments are received in the parish where the family is registered NOT the Catholic School where the children attend.



MEETING ADDRESS

86 Cooper
Street •Woodbury, NJ 08096

[ST. PATRICK'S

QUESTIONS? please email

Alli Sanders:
asanders@holyangelsnj.org

CALLING ALL 5TH- 8TH GRADERS!
We meet twice a month for a night of games, activities and fellowship.
Sundays, 4:30-5:45PM followed by the 6 o'clock Mass!
Youth Group dates thru December

December 19TH
—Christmas Cookies—

www.urethankfulfor.your.consisieni.sienoardship.

STEWARDSHIP CALLING

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." -- Luke 1:44

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we, as Stewards, are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

DECEMBER 19 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading I: Micah 5: 1-4a

Thus says the LORD:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Reading II: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, :Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Gospel: John 18: 33b-37

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Reading I: Micah 5: 1-4a

The announcement of a new David coming out of Bethlehem to restore his kingship is indeed a great joy. The "Little Town" will suddenly become big in the history of Israel and of the world in general.

Reading II: Hebrews 10: 5-10

The author quotes Psalm 40, which enunciates the fact that God prefers our obedience to ritual sacrifices. Christ's obedience is the perennial model.

The Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45

The physician-evangelist continues his narration of the dawning of the great fulfillment of God's promise. This visit of Mary is not to be taken literally, since it strains credulity that a 14 year old pregnant girl would undertake a 4 day journey alone over mountainous territory. Instead it brings Luke the opportunity to bring the two mothers-to-be together to praise God and to show how Elizabeth's son is the precursor of Mary's Son.

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

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

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56 **Thursday**: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 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, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17, or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

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