


 I pray this third and final installment for the 4th Sunday of Advent is enriching for you and your family as we once again anticipate the liturgical coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

From the Pastor **4th Sunday of Advent (Dec 21)**

It Is God Himself Who Gives the Sign

Each year the Liturgy for the Fourth Sunday of Advent contains a prophecy that announces the birth of the Savior. We hear the prophecy from Isaiah: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call him Emmanuel.

Why was the prophet sent to deliver this message to King Ahaz? What were the circumstances? The king was actively preparing for the siege of Jerusalem by the kings of Damascus and Samaria. Isaiah also told him: Take care you remain tranquil and do not fear; let not your courage fail before these two stumps of smoldering brands (Isa 7:1-10). Ahaz would not believe the Prophets assurances that all would be well if he trusted in the Lord. Rather, he was disposed to appeal the king of Assyria, paying him tribute and acknowledging his lordship. Isaiah said, Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!

A sign is not necessarily a miracle but an act that verifies the truth of a promise. Ahaz did not wish to accept the sign, because doing so would mean that he was declaring himself ready to accept faith. So he tried to justify his refusal by professing a horror of putting God to the test, especially demanding a miracle from him. Isaiah was not fooled O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God? While God left Ahaz to the responsibility of his attitude, God does not renounce Israel: he himself will give a sign. The sign that God gives is the birth of a child. It is a sign, because this birth is a promise of salvation. Moreover, he will bear the significant name Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Some may hold that the prophecy meant the son of Ahaz, Hezekiah. Hezekiah was not worthy of the name God-with-us. Hezekiah did not know for a long time how to reject the bad and choose the good. His politics lead to great calamities. He was definitely not the sign come from the Lord! It was necessary to reinterpret the prophecy. The salvation announced goes beyond the person of Hezekiah. The child, the sign of the salvation of God, will be no ordinary person, and he will come David's lineage: the Messiah himself. When Jesus appeared, born of a woman – a virgin whose name was Mary – to whom the Angel of God said: You shall conceive and bear a son... The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father...and his reign will be without end (Luke 1:31-33). This is not one sign among many but THE sign of God, in a way that none can imagine: God-with-us.

St. Paul in his opening of his Epistle to the Romans provides a doctrinal and spiritual text that transcends time. The text provided is most appropriate, a profession of faith in the form of a hymn to Christ. Jesus Christ our Lord is the Good News. Everything concerning Jesus from his birth to his passion is set forth in Holy Scripture, in the historical accounts and in the words of the Prophets. This is the point that the New Testament insists upon, one that Paul will condense into the famous formula: Whatever promises God has made have been fulfilled in him (2Cor 1:20). Jesus' double sonship is clearly affirmed descending from David according to the flesh but was made Son of God in power, according to the spirit of holiness...(Rom 1:3-4). Of special interest is the Trinitarian character of this confession of faith that names Father (God), the Son, and the Spirit.

We once again return, a final time, to already but not yet. Grace upon grace has already and continuously poured forth upon us. We are already the beneficiaries of the gift. Nevertheless, the fulfillment has "not yet" reached its full potential: grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Epistle).

Advent is a time for us to be conscious of the Good News, beatitudes and grace for all times – Memory (anamnesis) of benefits of yesterday. Thanksgiving (Eucharist) for the gifts today. Promise and pledge for tomorrow.

In Christ Jesus and St. Augustine,
Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A.

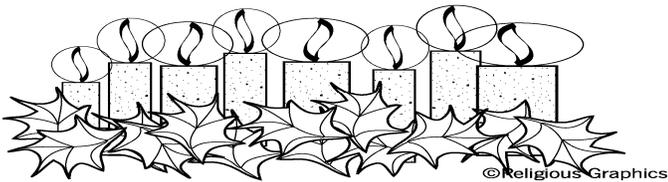
HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24th
 Masses at 5:00pm, 10:00pm

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25th
 Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00am

New Year's Eve: Wednesday, December 31st
 Mass at 5:00pm

New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1st
Mary, the Mother of God
 Mass at 9:00am



PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Offices will close at 12:00Noon on Wednesday, **December 24th** and will not re-open until Monday, **December 29th**. Additionally the offices will close at 12:00Noon on Wednesday, **December 31st** and will re-open on Friday, **January 2nd**. The entire parish staff wishes all a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year !

UPDATE: St. Vincent de Paul
Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy

The Our Lady of Grace St. Vincent de Paul Conference would like to thank all who have so generously contributed gifts of food and money this year. Your ongoing support enables us to be "neighbors helping neighbors". Since January 2014 your generosity has enabled us to assist 136 people with rent, motel stays, utilities and mortgage payments. Over 400 people have received food from our pantry or in the form of gift cards. Our Members have been able to make over 200 home visits and we have helped a total of 515 people. We could not do this without your help. May God continue to bless you and please keep those that we serve in your prayers.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Again, this year, we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special flower envelopes --or by submitting the name to the Parish Office. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Christmas. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.

SPEAKING OF DECORATIONS
Environment Thanks and Needs



The committee is in need of help to get the church ready for Christmas, so please mark your calendars for Monday, **December 22nd** beginning at 12:30pm. The more hands, the quicker the work will be completed. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

OUR LADY OF GRACE FOLK GROUP
OUR LORD'S GRACE CD

Looking for the perfect gift for the Christmas season? The Folk Group's latest CD is available for purchase. Our Lord's Grace, the 16 song CD includes, "Day of Peace", "Here In This Place", "O Sacred Head", and more. The CD is available for sale in the parish office. Don't delay! These make wonderful gifts for your family and friends and don't forget one for yourself. The CDs are \$15.00. Proceeds from the sales go towards upgrading the church sound system.

Thanks for all your support. Happy Holidays,
Our Lady of Grace Folk Group



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**RECLAIMING CHRIST'S MISSION TOGETHER
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

As part of the *Reclaiming Christ's Mission Together* campaign, Our Lady of Grace has been given a goal of \$513,246. Our Lady of Grace will receive 25% of all monies collected up to our goal. Once we meet and surpass our goal we will receive 50% of all monies collected over our goal.

By achieving our goal we can raise approximately \$128,000 for our Parish. Our Parish share of the funds raised through *Reclaiming Christ's Mission Together* campaign will be used in the following areas: *Renovation of Stack Center, Repairs to the Church and the parking lot.*

Our projects are an important part of this campaign. To complete all the projects, we need strong participation to reach, and hopefully exceed, our overall goal and raise maximum funds for our parish.

Please remember that we are not asking for the same size gift from every family, but we are looking for the same size sacrifice. We thank everyone for their prayerful consideration and support of this historic effort in our Diocese.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION

The last Sunday of every month our St. Vincent de Paul Society members are outside to receive your financial donations. Your generosity enables this ministry to help the less fortunate in our parish community. With your support our community families will be more able to handle the economic challenges that are impacting their lives. Thank you for your past support and current generosity.

SCRIP NEWS

Beat the "Mall Madness" this holiday season while supporting Our Lady of Grace School at the same time. Buy gift certificates (at face value) for various retailers through the Parish office, helping the school earn from 2%-17% per certificate. A wide variety of merchants are available—Stop by the parish office and look over the list. *Thank you for all your support and we wish you Happy Holidays!*

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of December 7th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,491.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,608.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,815.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$385,031.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$396,256.00

December Budgeted Expenses \$ 46,700.00

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Jose Cisneros | Richard Martin |
| Kathleen Denning | Marvin Picha |
| Estela Enriquez | Preston Parker |
| Mary Franks | Vernon Rodrigues |
| Byron Griffith | Florence Sharp |
| Liz Griffith | Josephine Sisler |
| Raymond Lowe | James Van Wert |
| | Yvonne Wheeler |

As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:

- DAVID SANCHEZ MICHAEL SANCHEZ**



Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

LORRAINE JUHLER

Gospel for THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (December 28th)

Luke 2:22, 39-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**CHRISTMAS POSADA
DECEMBER 21st**

The Hispanic Group is hosting a Christmas Posada and Pot Luck on **December 21st** after the 2:00pm Mass. Join them in Stack Center and bring your favorite dish to share. Hope to see you there.

EL GRUPO HISPANO LLEVARA A CABO UNA POSADA NAVIDENA Y UNA COMIDA DE CONVIVENCIA, EL DIA 21 DE DICIEMBRE DESPUES DE LA MISA DE LAS 2:00PM EN EL STACK CENTER. ACOMPANENOS Y TRAIGA SU PLATILLO FAVORITO PARA COMPARTIR CON LA COMUNIDAD ESPERAMOS NOS ACOMPANE.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

We have a few bags of *Just Coffee* ground organic Fair Trade coffee available for purchase in the Parish Office. If you missed your chance to buy it last weekend during the Fair Trade Christmas Boutique stop in the Parish Office and pick up a 12oz bag for \$12.00.

CATHOLIC VOICE ANNUAL APPEAL

There is still time to make your donation for The Catholic Voice 2014 Appeal if you have not yet done so. Your donation helps our parish offset its payment for this important communication ministry. The Voice is the only regular source of Catholic news and information delivered to all parishioners in the diocese. ***The parish pays \$631.00 each month for our parishioners subscription.*** Please be generous in your support. **Check should be made payable to Our Lady of Grace.** Envelopes are in the pews for your use.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 21st:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00am--Mass

Spanish Mass

2:00pm--Church

Christmas Posada

3:00pm--Stack Center

Monday, December 22nd:

Christmas Decorating

12:30pm--Church

Wednesday, December 24th:

Parish Office

Close at Noon

Thursday, December 25th:

Serenity Group

8:15pm— Stack Center

Friday, December 26th:

Parish Offices Closed

Sunday, December 28th:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00am--Mass

**ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd**



Our next Holy Hour with the

Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday, **January 3rd**

From 3:30--4:30pm

Followed by Benediction,

Closing at 4:45pm

All are welcome.

REMEMBER OUR LADY OF GRACE

Please consider remembering Our Lady of Grace in your Will or Trust.

Should you have any questions, call Fr. Greg at the Parish Office, 537-0806.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday Mass will be celebrated in the Church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22nd (CHURCH)

8:30am Jose Daniel Tellez (D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

St. John of Kanty, Priest

7:00am Antonio S. Barroso (D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

7:00am Vincenzo & Sebastiano Latora (D)

5:00pm *The Vigil of Christmas*

10:00pm *The Vigil of Christmas*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th

7:30am *Solemnity of Christmas*

9:00am *Solemnity of Christmas*

11:00am *Solemnity of Christmas*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26th

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

7:00am Tom Hayes (D)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th

St. John, Apostle, Evangelist

8:30am Maria Pangelinan (D)

Misa en Español

A las 2:00pm

SPANISH MASS

Fr. Greg will be offering a mass in Spanish one Sunday of every month at 2:00pm in the Church. The next Spanish Mass will be Sunday, **December 21st** at 2:00pm.

RENEW YOUR SAFEWAY ESCRIP CARD TODAY

Have you renewed your Safeway cards for our Escrip program? Your valuable contributions will stop unless you renew your cards this month. Note: if you have not yet signed with Religious Education eScrip stop by the Parish Office and we will sign you up.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 22nd through December 28th

Monday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16;

Luke 1:67-79

Thursday:

Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1-8

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40



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OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Fox Sox is offering 30% off their great socks for the holidays. These socks make great gifts for adults and children. Just go to www.FoxSox.com and click on "Shop Online" to get started. Order soon as popular styles may sell out! Use promo code: PR14OLG and get a discount as well as earning money for our school! Hurry offer expires **December 31st**.

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

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