

## Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 23, 2018

The wait is almost over. The Days of Christ are near! Maybe your Advent has flown by, and you can't believe that Christmas is already just around the corner. You're asking yourself, where did Advent go? Or maybe Advent has been very fruitful for you this year.

Either way, today is a moment to recommit. The Church gives us this 4th Sunday of Advent as a last reminder that Christ is coming. The first reading, from the book of Micah, reminds us. "Bethlehem, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." The Psalm says: "Rouse your power and come to save us." And then the gospel gives us the meeting of Elizabeth and Mary. The wait is almost over, and Elizabeth realizes it. She says: "How is it that the Mother of my Lord comes to me?"

There's a sense of anticipation, someone is coming. And he is The Prince of Peace. There doesn't seem to be a lot of peace in the world. Terrorist attacks abound. We have shootings in our own country. Evil and injustice can appear overwhelming. Is peace possible? On our own, no it's not. The English philosopher Thomas Hobbes said that human life is nasty, brutish, and short. And if we look at life without Christ, Hobbes is right.

But in the first reading today, Micah tells us something more. The first reading ends with these powerful words: "He shall be peace." Who's he talking about? Jesus! It doesn't say that the Savior will bring peace, but that He is peace. Why is He peace? Because peace means wholeness. If we are not OK with God, then we can't be at peace with ourselves or with others. Mother Teresa used to say: "I'm not ok, and you're not ok, and that's why Jesus came." But in Jesus, in the sacraments that make him present here today, we come to be at peace with God. In the sacrament of Reconciliation, our sins are forgiven and we're at peace with God. In the Eucharist, we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and we're united to God.

And that experience brings an awareness of the great story into which all our individual stories fit. We start to see others with the eyes of Christ.

So, Christ himself is Peace. How wonderful! Let us be grateful!

Father Blake Evans, Pastor

**Mass in Latin** - Dec. 30th during the Octave of Christmas the 10am Mass will be sung Solemn Mass in Latin, the *Novus Ordo* mass of Pope St. Paul VI. Hymns and readings in English. All are welcome. Thanks to Denise Lindekugel who will help us by singing the Mass chants. Come rejoice in the Lord in the ancient official language of our Church.

**The Novena of Christmas begins Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** ending on Christmas Eve the 24th. Like the Apostles praying 9 days for the Holy Spirit to come after the Ascension, Christians everywhere can enter deeply into expectation and confident faith and joy that the Christ Child is coming, and we can ask him to be born anew in us and certainly for special intentions. Many South American countries devotedly celebrate this Novena with visit to parishes, Shrines, and partially installed Manger Scenes without the Baby Jesus present. Oh, Come Emmanuel! Novena prayers will be offered this year at Daily Masses here. Info at: [www.ewtn.com/devotionals/novena/christmas.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/novena/christmas.htm)



### **Christmas Terms and Facts to Know:**

**The Virginal Conception** - the Mystery of how God the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary for her to be both Virgin and Mother. No man nor man's seed is involved. Mary remains a Virgin even after the birth of her Son to this day. **The Incarnation** - long before Christmas, at **The Annunciation** St. Gabriel announced, and Mary's cooperation begins, this mystery the Word Becomes Flesh in Her and grows for 9 months in her womb. **The Nativity** - the birth, in particular of Christ our Savior born Dec. 25; the Church also celebrates the Nativity (birth days) of St. John the Baptizer and the BVM annually. **The Immaculate Conception** - Mary is totally human, not divine, but unknown to her until the Annunciation ("you are full of grace") she was given a singular unique grace by God preserving her from Adam's sin. Mary is the new Eve. Mary's conception in the natural sense was in a normal, unitive marital act of husband and wife by her parents St. Joachim and St. Anne. **The 12 Days of Christmas** begin Dec 26 through the traditional Feast of Three Kings Day or Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>. (which in most countries is moved to a Sunday).

# Mass Intentions for the Week

## December 22 – 29, 2018

Sat. 12/22	8:00 am	Christmas Novena's intentions
	4:30pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 12/23	8:00am	Amelie Ongbehalal
	10:00am	Jess & Mark Nolan (living) and Deceased children (+)
	1:00 pm	Newly baptized children
Mon. 12/24	12:00	No Mass
	5:30 pm	Nativity Children & Youth
	11:30 pm	People of the Parish
Tue 12/25	10:00am	All Parishioners
Wed. 12/26	12:00	<b>No Mass</b>
Thu. 12/27	12:00	Deacon Ebuka Mbnude
Fri. 12/28	12:00	Jamie Morrison (seminarian)
Sat. 12/29	8:00 am	<b>No Mass</b>
	4:30pm	People of the Parish

**Please pray for the sick of our Parish:**

\*Alice R. Allen, \*Amina Anderson-Pringle, \*Ann Butler, \*William Cammack, \*Lukas Pastier, \*Carmen Dolores Campos, \*Carla Andrea Catacora, \*Shawn Coleman, \*William Corbel, \*Maria Cruz, \*Maurice & Flora Detiege \*Kevin Fagan, \*Isel Fitzgerald, \*Dion A. Fortune, \*Linda Foster, \*Charlie Gick, \*John Green, Sr., \*Janet Henery, \*Blanca Hernandez, \*Lawrence C. Hill, \*Lee Hobbs, \* Sydney Horge, \*Francis Howard, \*Elaine Hunt, \*Helen Hurd, \*Larry Ivy, \*Irene Jimenez, \*Geraldine Jones, \*Charles Johnson, \*Odile Kalla, \*Michael Kelly, \*Busara Keneddy, \*Claude Kolthoff, \*Betty Lawton, \*Yavonna Lewis, \*Sandra Lucas, \*Eric Malcolm, \*Edwin & Regina Mbanude, \* Theresa McNair, \*Edith Mebane, \*Maria Magdalena Medrano, \*Agnes Moore, \*Clarence Morris, \*Gina Myers, \*Iris Newman, \*Sheryl Newman, \*Amelie Ongbehalal, \*D. Cynhia Peters, \*James Pope, \*Dorothy Richburg, \*Auristela Roman, \*Rosa Maria Santos, \*Andre Sims, \*Bonafacio Selayo \*Delores Sloan, \*Adrian Smith, \*Bernadette Smith, \*Theresa Smith, \*Louise Sweatt, \*Suzie Thompson, \*Emily Towles, \*Dominic Valentine, \*Dorothy Waring, \*Paul Williams, \*Florentina Zoretta

**Saint John Paul II. National Shrine**

**3900 Harewood Rd NE, Washington, DC 20017**

**Every Thursday – Behold! Adoration and Confession**

**7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** — Adoration with prayerful music, silence, and Confession. This event is hosted in collaboration with parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington.

**Christmas week.** The Rectory will be closed December 24 – 26.

**ATTENDANCE REPORT**

**12/16/18**

**Attendance: 472 souls**  
Offerings & Tithes: \$7,211  
Spanish Mass: \$394  
Utility fund: \$553

**Christmas Donations.** All donations and offerings received on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or marked as such are "donations" not collections and are exempt from all Archdiocesan taxes and assessments. Thank you for your generosity to your beloved parish home of Nativity.

**Nativity Christmas cards** are back! You can buy them before or after all masses this weekend. \$15.00 a box, cash or checks payable to Nativity.



*December 24*

5:30 pm Children's mass  
11:00 pm Christmas Carols  
11:30 pm Christmas Mass

*December 25*

10:00 am Christmas Mass

*December 30*

Regular Schedule

*December 31*

4:30 pm Vigil

*January 1*

10:00 am Solemnity of Mary Mass



*Joy to the world the Lord  
is come!*