



December 24, 2017 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

"What could happen?" That question affects each of us differently. Some of us are thrill-seekers, diving into unfamiliar territory with no regard for obstacles or dangers; others have learned from painful experience that the future may hold suffering or disaster. This last, brief Sunday of Advent emboldens us. Our readings remind us that our God is the God of possibilities. And while God's care does not guarantee that we will not encounter suffering, we can absolutely count on God's power to raise us to glory.

GLORY BE!

Truly, God creates us for glory. The burdens of daily life can shrink our hopes, but we must remember that we are made for nothing less than infinite glory. Who could have believed that the beleaguered Israelite nation could defeat all of its enemies? And yet our first reading today proclaims that God gave David "rest from his enemies on every side." Who could hope to unify the entire world in obedience to one Messiah? And yet Saint

Paul insists that the "only wise God" has revealed salvation through Jesus to all people. Who could expect one young woman to decide the course of human history? And yet the angel tells Mary that her yes will establish a kingdom to endure forever.

We know, of course, that Israel did not maintain its peace. Even today, that area of the world is far from stable. We also recognize the wide variety of world religions that do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as the true savior. Though God has set us on the path to fullness and glory, we are still broken. Our danger lies not in hoping for too much, but in trusting too little in God. God can resurrect any darkness—replacing terror with peace, healing ancient wounds, uniting families, bringing stability to chaos. This is the message of Christmas. God can, and will, do everything to cover the world in love.

Today's Readings: 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25–27; Lk 1:26–38

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ST. ISIDORE CHURCH Laingsburg, Michigan

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Rectory: 651-6617 – E-Mail: frduaine@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Sharon Gillespie
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Office Hours: Wed. & Fri. 8:00 – 3:00
R.C.I.A. Dir.: Nancy Kienitz – nk1001927@gmail.com
Religious Ed. Formation (REF) – Mary Stevens – marystevens@stisidorechurch.org
Outreach Ministry: Jesse Anguiano – 517-881-2227
Web Address: <http://stisidorechurch.org>
Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm – **Sunday Mass:** 9:00 am
Confession: 1st Saturday after Mass or by appointment

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH Ovid, Michigan

Sr. Priest in Residence: Raymond J. Urbanek
Phone: 989-834-5855
Parish Secretary: Sharon Gillespie
Office: 989-834-5855
E-Mail: holyfamilyovid@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tues. 8:00 – 3:00
Religious Ed. Formation (REF) Ginger Kusnier
R.C.I.A. Dir.: Vivian Durling
Web Address: <http://stisidorechurch.org/hf/>
Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm – **Sunday Mass:** 10:00 am
Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Dec. 24—4th Sun. of Advent	9:00 AM	Gene Stewart by Keith & Nancy Kienitz
Christmas Eve	5:00 PM	Bernard Hurst and Don & Gerry Ryde by Jack & Elaine Hurst
Christmas Eve	10:00 PM	Harold Hurst by Janice Hurst
Monday— Christmas Morning	9:00 AM	Charles & Dorothy Kendall by the Family
Tuesday	NO MASS	
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Pat Stout by Margaret Hamilton
Thursday	8:30 AM	Intentions of the Monday Rosary Group by Larry & Jane Bouck
Friday	8:30 AM	S. S. Basgall by Chris & Kay Basgall
Saturday— December 30	5:00 PM	John Bartkowiak by the Family
Sunday—December 31	9:00 AM	Jack Doyle by Dick & Mary Lou Doyle

PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR PAUL PLATTE, - MELVIN PAMMENT, - JIM CARBARY, (FATHER OF MAGGIE SAYLES), - DON SMITH, - KEVIN PLATTE, - OLIVER WASHINGTON, - PRISCILLA MAHONEY, - ARMANDO ANGUIANO (BROTHER OF JESSE), - MARY ELLEN SCHRAUBEN (SISTER OF BARB FOOTE & GEORGE LEHMAN)—ALBERTO ZAMARRIPA (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), - RICK SPICKARD, - LINDSEY KING (GRANDDAUGHTER OF GEORGENE KING), - GERRY PACE, - PAT SIMPSON, - RAY DOYLE, - BEN SINIARSKI, - KYLE WALLER, - TYLER KING (GRANDSON OF GEORGENE KING), VIRGINIA BERNAL (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), - JULIE SHAFFER, — JUDITH MARTELL (MOTHER OF TERESA PICKENS), - CARRIE SCHULTZ, - DAVID RHODABECK, - TERRY MILLER, - FRANCES BOERNER (MOTHER OF GERALD BOERNER), - - JASON CHUBB, - JIM HURST (BROTHER-IN-LAW OF JANICE HURST & KEN BRINK) - JIM (MAYO) HURST, - CHARLES OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - PAT ROWLEY (SISTER OF JIM ROWLEY), - BRUCE CHANDLER (BROTHER OF MARTI ROWLEY), - JIM OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - NATHAN BECERRA (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), - NICHOLAS SCOTT (SON OF VERONICA SCOTT), - MERCEDES RIOS (NIECE OF JESSE ANGUIANO), - ROSE MORRILL, - JULIE STONER (DAUGHTER OF GENE & BARB STONER), - JOHN MARTINEZ, - MARK THOMAS ROSTAR, - FRANK LUNDIE, - RICK FEZATTE (SON OF RON & JANICE), - JANET ARTHUR, - KIM BALCARCEL, - PAM DELONG, - SUSAN DELONG



NOTE:

Confessions

**Saturday
between
3:00 & 4:00 PM**

**Or by
appointment**

OFFERTORY

Dec. 16 & 17, 2017

79 Adult Envelopes	\$2,647
Loose Collection	\$545
4 Children's Envelopes	\$4
13 Building Fund Envelopes	\$290
Total Weekly Offertory	\$3,486

**SPECIAL PRAYER FOR
Greg Hutchings who died this past week.
(Grandson of Ken Brink)**

**Visitation 2—4 pm
Celebration of Life 4 pm
Pederson Funeral Home
127 N. Monroe St, NE
Rockford, MI 49341**

WOMEN'S ANNUAL RETREAT WEEKEND
At St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt
January 5—7

Theme: *Entering the Heart of God: Praying the
Lord's Prayer*

Suggested Donation for Weekend—\$175
For Information or to Register call:
517-669-8321
www.stfrancis.ws

PARISH WIDE

Rosary ~ Mondays
6:30 PM in the Chapel

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

10:20 AM—11:30 AM

Dec. 24 & 31—**NO REF**
Jan. 7—REF Sessions Resume

RCIA—Rite of Acceptance

Last Sunday, Dec. 17 was a blessed day. Rite of Acceptance found Kim Sprague and Angela Soderberg being introduced to the parish. When asked later how they felt during the rite, they said nervous at first but then a sense of peace. Then they were asked how felt when they look at the congregation, they said welcomed. They saw caring looks. They and their families came to the parish Christmas party. Keep praying for them.

We really need more help with RCIA.
If you can help share with us, please call Nancy at
517-651-5957.

There are several ways you can help.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dec. 27—Planning Meeting—***CANCELLED***

December Knight of the Month: Chris Wilson

December Family of the Month: Keith & Nancy Kienitz

The winners of the “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest are:

Kaylyn Lefevre - Ages 7 and under
Paige Erickson - Ages 8 to 10
Kaitlyn Kingsbury - Ages 11 to 14



Help Decorate The Church for Christmas!

Today, Sunday 22nd, after the 9:00 AM Mass we need people to help put up the Christmas decorations for the Christmas Eve Masses later that day. Let's continue with this family / parish tradition. The more help the quicker it will go. We would also like someone to water the poinsettias during the Christmas Season.

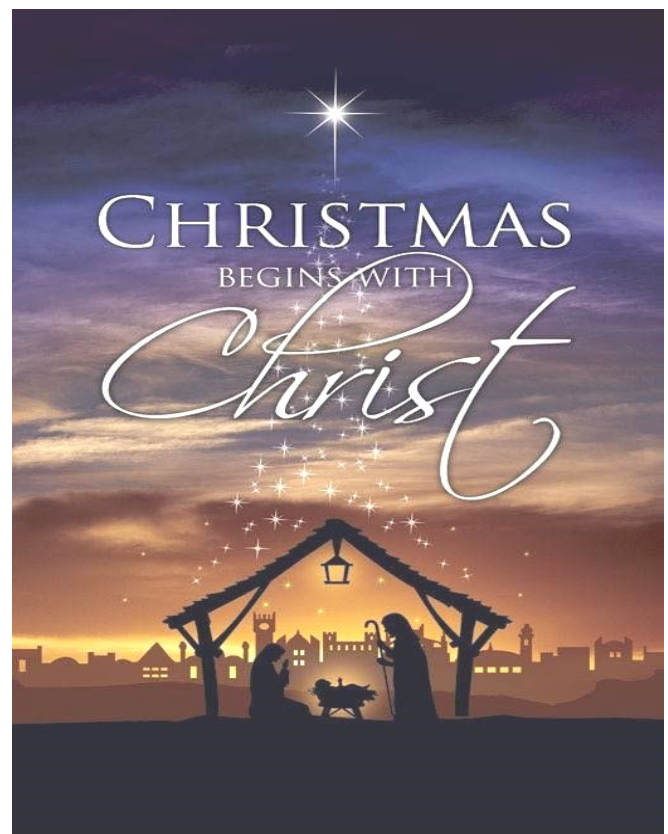
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Dec. 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM
Dec. 24—Christmas Eve—5:00 PM
Dec. 24—Christmas Eve—10:00 PM
Dec. 25—Christmas Morning—9:00 AM

Holy Family Church

Dec. 24 –Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve—5:00 PM
Dec. 25 –Christmas Morning—10:00 AM

Our Christmas Potluck and REF Pageant was a huge success. Good Food & fellowship. and great performance by the REF kids. Photos and Videos of the event can be viewed on our parish website,
stsidorechurch.org.



Witness to HOPE

The Catholic Diocese of Lansing

Our Witness to Hope Campaign:

122% - \$229,690 from 122 pledges

The parish will now receive 100% of the money pledged.

Well done Good & Faithful Servants!

Extra Pledge Cards are available near the bulletins.

2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new offertory envelopes are in the back of church. If you would like envelopes and did not receive them this past year please contact the office with your request and leave your name and phone number. Your new envelopes will be available for pick up the following weekend. If you are taking children's envelopes please be sure to record their names and envelope numbers on the sheet provided.

2018 calendars are also available near the new envelopes.
Also Free Books: Perfectly Yourself— Please take one!



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THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

The Parish Code:
NH8RB3