



Blessed
are you
among
women

December 23, 2018 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth follows a strong tradition of women in their culture, to come together to support each other during pregnancy. Mary likely carried a shadow of scandal in her pregnancy, since it began before her marriage. Elizabeth, having carried her own burden of social disapproval after many years without children, sees only cause for celebration. Elizabeth sees beyond the social shame of Mary's situation to observe how God is working, and how Mary has accepted joining in this work.

Unlike Elizabeth's husband Zechariah, who thought it unbelievable that God could bring them a son, Mary believed the angel's message. Elizabeth honors Mary, in part, for simply being able to imagine that God could do this extraordinary thing through her. Perhaps God had been preparing Mary's heart throughout her young life, so that she could be fully receptive to God's specific call when the time was right. Mary opened herself to an uncertain future, trusting that God would accompany her in the joys and sorrows of being the mother of Jesus.

PREGNANT WITH GOD

Advent, as a time of preparation for Christmas, echoes the pregnancy of Mary. Something is stirring within us, and we await the coming of Jesus. Although we the Church have observed Advent and Christmas many times, God is always offering something new to us. Like the angel asked Mary, God is always asking us to allow Christ to be born in and through us. Christ wishes to make himself at home within us, and increase his presence in our hearts.

Like pregnancy, at times God's activity within us can be disorienting and confusing. The story of Elizabeth and Mary reminds us that however uncertain we may be about what God is up to in our lives, we have cause to rejoice—because God is indeed good, and will truly bring blessing to us. And through letting Christ be born in us, God will bring blessing to the world.

Today's Readings: Mic 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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ST. ISIDORE CHURCH Laingsburg, Michigan

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Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm - Sunday Mass: 9:00 am
Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH Ovid, Michigan

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Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday—December 22	5:30 PM	✠ John Peter VanGeertruy by Sandra and Family
Sunday— December 23	9:00 AM	✠ Charles & Dorothy Kendall by the Family
Monday— Christmas Eve 	5:00 PM	✠ Bernard & Daniel Hurst and Don & Gerry Riyde by the Hurst Families
	Mid-Night	✠ Harold Hurst by Janice Hurst Family
Tuesday— Christmas Day	9:00 AM	Intentions of the Celebrant
Wednesday	6:30 PM	People of the Parish
Thursday	8:30 AM	✠ David Ferland by the Knights of Columbus
Friday	8:30 AM	✠ Sheila Doyle by the Family
Saturday—December 29	5:30 PM	✠ Chuck Delaney by the Delaney Family
Sunday— December 30	9:00 AM	✠ Don Smith by Robert & Mary Shaw Families

PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR MELVIN PAMMENT, - JIM CARBARY, (FATHER OF MAGGIE SAYLES), - KEVIN PLATTE, OLIVER WASHINGTON, - LINDSEY KING (GRANDDAUGHTER OF GEORGENE KING), - GERRY PACE, - PAT SIMPSON, - RAY DOYLE, - BEN SINIARSKI, - KYLE WALLER, - TYLER KING (GRANDSON OF GEORGENE KING) - JUDITH MARTELL (MOTHER OF TERESA PICKENS), - TERRY MILLER, - 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), - NICHOLAS SCOTT (SON OF VERONICA SCOTT), - ROSE MORRILL, - JULIE STONER (DAUGHTER OF GENE & BARB STONER), - JOHN MARTINEZ, - FRANK LUNDIE, - JANET ARTHUR, - KIM (KOONTER) BALCARCEL, - PAM DELONG, - SUSAN DELONG, - MARY CHADWICK, - LEAH ZAMARIPA, (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), THERESA HEEG (DAUGHTER OF JOHN & SANDY VANGERTRUJ), - BETH MUSELLA (COUSIN OF ANITA LEATHERS), - ALBERTO ZAMARRIPA (RELATIVE OF JESSE ANGUIANO).—PATRICK MCMONAGLE (SON OF BOB & TERRY)

OFFERTORY

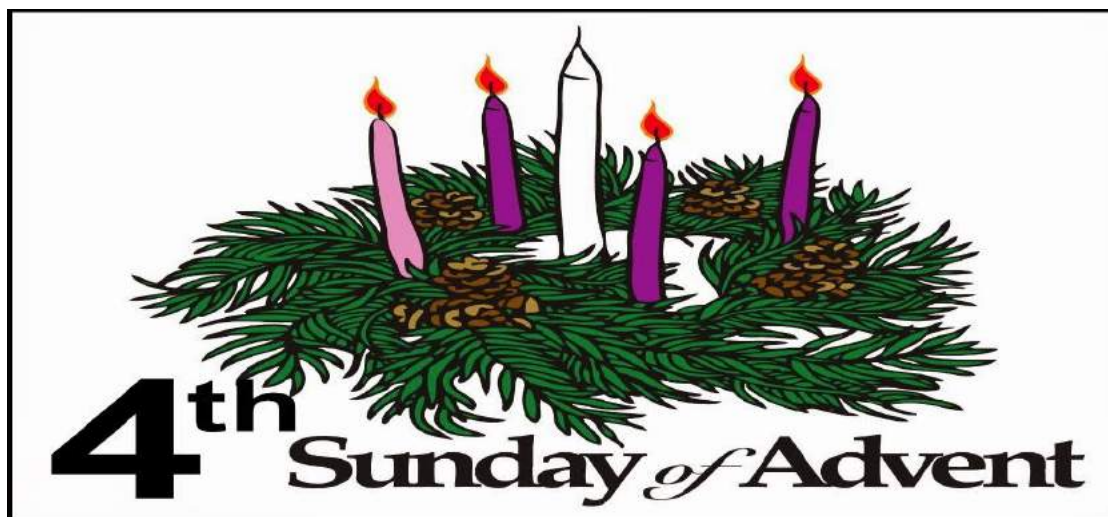
Dec. 15 & 16, 2018

69 Adult Envelopes	\$2,107
Loose Collection	\$282
7 Children's Envelopes	\$7
8 Building Fund Envelopes	\$170
 Total Weekly Offertory	 \$2,566

SPECIAL THANK YOU

To friends & loved ones at St. Isidore & Holy Family for the kind words, comfort, cards, etc. during the loss of our husband, father, grandfather & cherished friend. Words cannot express the appreciation. God bless Fr. Bob, & Fr. Ray and each one of you for your condolences. Thank you to Mgrs Michalek for praying the rosary. Thank you to the Ladies of Holy Family for the luncheon.

-- Sincerely: The Family of John VanGeertruy



PARISH WIDE

Dec. 23—Cooking Club—(During REF) 10:15-11:15

High School Youth Group

Sunday, January 6th, 10:15 – 11:30 AM

- FORMED – Session 5: Engaging Moral Relativism

MITTENS FOR THE HOMELESS

Monday, January 7

Large Hall—9 am to 2 pm

All ladies are welcome to join us. No sewing skills needed. **Donations needed:**

Sweaters and Polar Fleece

Please leave donations near office door.

At this time we really need sweater donations to continue.

Donated 602 pairs of mittens so far this winter

**Annual Men's Retreat -
February 8-10, 2019**

**St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI
"From Chaos to Order: A Scriptural Guide"**

Join us to gain new scriptural insights on ways to bring order into your own life and community. The suggested donation for the weekend is \$175 - retreat begins with check in at 6:00 pm on Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday. Men of all ages are welcome! Register with St. Francis at 517-669-8321; registration is also available online at www.stfrancis.ws. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to set aside time for this encounter opportunity!



GIVING TREE

Thank you to all that bought items for the giving tree. We helped 16 families from the area have a Merry Christmas.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

Sundays—10:15 AM—11:15 AM

Dec. 23—NO REF

Dec. 30—NO REF

Jan. 6—REF Sessions Resume

More REF details contact:

Mary Stevens—marystevens@stisidorechurch.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dec. 26—Planning Meeting— **CANCELLED**

Knight of the Month: Keith Kienitz

Family of the Month: The Ladies who make up the Mitten Markers. So far this year they have made and distributed more than 500 pairs of mittens.

Winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Winners were announce at the pancake breakfast last week:

Under Age 7:

Josie Siddock and Kaylyn Lefevre.

Ages 8-10:

Grant Sprague and Leah Schneider

Ages 11 - 14:

Kaitlyn Kingsbury, Taylor Arthur,
Mallory Woodbury.

Photos of the event can be found on the parish website.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Dec. 24

5:00 pm—St. Isidore

5:00 pm—Holy Family

Christmas Day

12:00 am Midnight Mass—St. Isidore

9:00 am—St. Isidore

10:00 am Holy Family



NOTES FROM FR. BOB BACIK

Another special thank you to all of you who participated in any way in our numerous charitable drives over these weeks. Your generosity is inspiring and together as a parish we have brightened the seasons for many families and households.

Remember that CHRISTMAS is a SEASON that is just beginning! The Christmas season continues until the Baptism of the Lord on January 13th. The profound gift received demands several days of celebration. Keep saying Merry Christmas and keep plugging in those lights!

Year of Prayer - Diocese Wide

Many are aware that the entire Diocese of Lansing is in the midst of a Year of Prayer. One of the intents is forming communities of missionary disciples— people who live active prayer lives and invite others to do the same. All of us are being asked to find more time to pray and to spend more time in prayer.

- Pray the rosary once a week as a family or household.
- Married with children at home: Additional 10 minutes of daily prayer.
- Married empty nesters: 30 minutes of daily prayer.
- Married and retired: One hour of daily prayer.
- Single: One hour of daily prayer.
- Make a weekly sacrifice (fasting, almsgiving, Christian service).

At some point during the Year of Prayer, make a pilgrimage to a holy place to pray.

Year of Hospitality - St. Isidore and Holy Family

In conjunction with the Year of Prayer I am calling our parish to enter into a Year of Hospitality. One of my immediate impressions of this parish community is that we are a friendly and welcoming people. At the same time, over these past 6 months one of the questions I hear over and over is, "How do we reach out to more families and those who have fallen away?" Hospitality is an essential aspect of answering that question and together we will take a look at how our two churches can grow in this virtue.

HOSPITALITY: The virtue of kindness and generosity toward guests. It is characterized by the spirit of welcome to visitors and strangers, and is one of the conditions for salvation, foretold by Christ: "I was a stranger and you made me welcome" (Matthew 25:36). (Modern Catholic Dictionary)

On behalf of our Parish Staff and Associates may you have the best Christmas filled with lots of peace, harmony, joy and gratitude!

- Fr. Bob

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