

**December – Month of the Divine Infancy**

Christmas is almost here. Most of us, children and adults alike, are engaged in last minute preparations on the externals of the Christmas celebrations. We live in an era when the preoccupation with material preparations can overshadow the call for spiritual preparation. Mary's example in today's Gospel helps us reflect on the importance of preparing for the feast through actions and attitudes of service and sharing.

**FIRST READING** (Micah 5:1-4a) Bethlehem was a small village overshadowed by the larger and more significant Jerusalem. Yet it is from her that God will bring Israel's greatest blessing, the ideal king who will be Israel's eternal ruler. As the birthplace of King David, Bethlehem always had a claim to fame, but politically and economically it was insignificant. God promises through the prophet that insignificance will turn to glory because the one who will spring from her womb will bring peace to the ends of the earth.

The prophet looks to a future king from Bethlehem, the city of David. His birth, his kingship, will be in fulfillment of God's promise to David that his kingdom would last forever (2Samuel 7:16). This text from Micah is quoted in the Gospel according to Matthew (2:5-6) with reference to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Note the description of his kingship in the last lines of today's Gospel. Note also Micah's assertion that this future king would be peace. This is the same message that the heavenly choir of angels proclaimed to the shepherds when Jesus was born (Luke 2:14).

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19) All good comes from God, even the good in our own hearts. Hence the psalmist calls on God to awaken good within us and cause us to turn from our ways to God's ways. From praying for our own conversion, the psalm moves to prayer for the nation and especially for the one whom God has raised up to lead the people. The leadership of God's chosen one will assure that the people will no longer stray from God's righteous path.

**SECOND READING** (Hebrews 10:5-10) Borrowing from Psalm 40, the author of Hebrews reminds us that God values obedience far more than sacrifices. In the Gospel, Jesus often equates love with keeping the commandments. Rituals are important, but only if they reflect the true sacrifice of our lives in obedience to God's will. Christ's exemplary obedience was manifest when he willingly offered his body "once for all."

The reference to Christ's coming into the world has no doubt prompted the choice of this text, our second reading. Psalm 40 – and the fulfillment of these words in and by Jesus – is at the heart of the reading. The Old Testament makes the point again and again: God desires obedience, not empty (heartless) rituals. Through Jesus' obedience, through the sacrifice of his life, we have been made holy.

**GOSPEL** (Luke 1:39-45) While today's Gospel is most commonly interpreted in terms of the exchange between Mary and Elizabeth, let us focus today on John the Baptist, still within the womb of his mother. John has, after all, been the subject of the Gospels for the last two Sundays. As an adult, John prophesied the need for readiness and preparation for the coming of the Lord. In the womb of Elizabeth, he simply delights in being in the presence of the Lord, who is still in the womb of Mary. Preparing the way for the Lord and delighting in his presence—we must do and be both in Advent and Christmas Time.

Mary rushes to the side of Elizabeth who, like her, is the recipient of divine favor. But Elizabeth immediately recognizes in Mary one more blessed than she and she also understands that what makes Mary special is her ability to trust that God's words to her would be fulfilled. Both women will suffer greatly for the privilege they've been granted—as will their sons—but for now the linked destinies of John and Jesus can't detract from the sheer joy of reaching out to touch a cousin who is also a recipient of God's surprising grace.

**Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent (C)**

Su	12/23	Micah 5:1-4 • Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 • Heb 10:5-10 • Luke 1:39-45
M	12/24	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 • Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 • Luke 1:67-79
Tu	12/25	<b>Christmas: Mass During the Day</b> Is 52:7-10 • Ps 98:1-6 • Heb 1:1-6 • John 1:1-18
W	12/26	Acts 6:8-10 • Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17 • Matt 10:17-22
Th	12/27	1 John 1:1-4 • Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 • John 20:1-8
F	12/28	1 John 1:5—2:2 • Ps 124:2-5, 7-8 • Matt 2:13-18
Sa	12/29	1 John 2:3-11 • Ps 96:1-3, 5-6 • Luke 2:22-35

**Anniversaries Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> – Dec 29<sup>th</sup>**

No anniversaries this week

**Birthdays Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> – Dec 29<sup>th</sup>**

- 12/23 Alexa Manzano
- 12/25 Javier Bocanegra, Jr., Carol Smith
- 12/28 Clint Capps, Lily Cravens, Dalsin Denzer, Santiago Rodriguez, Jr., Brooke Walker

**FOOD DRIVE  
for Matthew 25:40**

Let's help fill Matthew's Food Pantry!!!  
Place donations in the grocery buggy  
in the foyer.

**SHARE WHAT YOU CAN**

**Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intention**

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. Only one intention is offered per month, whether universal or related to evangelization.

**DECEMBER: Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith**

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**Funerals**

When planning a funeral for a loved one, please call the pastor before making any arrangements with the funeral home regarding the date and time of visitation, the funeral Mass or service at the funeral home.

**Hospitality Committee**

Holy Angels will provide a funeral luncheon if the family of the deceased requests one. The Hospitality Committee consists of several women from the parish who volunteer to host the luncheons. Someone from the committee will be calling on you for food and help when the need arises.

**SAVE THE DATE – WMOS 2019**

(Women's Morning of Spirituality 2019)

**Saturday, February 23, 2019** at Catholic Church of the Incarnation. Johnette Benkovic Williams, EWTN television host, will be the keynote speaker; and Sr. Rita Marie Kampa, O.P. will be our local witness speaker.

**HOLY ANGELS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Rev. Patrick Hirtz*

**DECEMBER  
Month of the Divine Infancy**

*“Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”  
–Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*



**December 23<sup>rd</sup> — 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (C)**

**Holy Angels Catholic Church  
535 Tucker Street  
Dyersburg, TN 38024-3873**

**Office Phone: (731) 287-8000  
Parish Email: hachurch@cableone.net**

**www.holyangelscc.com**

**Office Hours >>>**

- M/W/Th 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm
- Office Closed on Tuesdays

**Parish Staff >>>**

**Pastor**  
Rev. Patrick Hirtz  
Email: [revhirtz@cableone.net](mailto:revhirtz@cableone.net)

**Deacon**  
Rev. Mr. William Winston (Deacon Bill)  
Coordinator of Social Ministries

**Office Manager**  
Pete Hinkel

**Administrative Assistant**  
Cathi Cychol Shea

**Music Director**  
Sarah Jean

**Nursery**  
Therese Cohen

**Maintenance**  
Richard Spence

**Director of Religious Education (PRE)**  
Carrie Beld (cell: 731-882-9151)  
Email: [nanacbeld@yahoo.com](mailto:nanacbeld@yahoo.com)  
Office Hours: Sunday 8:45a.m.--10:45 a.m.

**Youth Group Minister**  
Sarah Alley

**Mission Statement**

Holy Angels is a Catholic community of faith joining past, present, and future members on a journey with Christ to the Father. Through worship, stewardship, evangelization, and works of charity, we strive to more perfectly image God, who is love.

**Mass Schedule**

**Sat Vigil: 5:00pm**  
**Sun: 8:00am & 10:45am**  
**Daily Mass: M, W, F at 12 noon; Th at 9:00am**  
**First Saturday ONLY is at 8:00am**  
**(Holydays: See special announcement in bulletin)**  
**Penance - Sat: 4:30-4:45pm; Sun: 7:30-7:45am & 10:15-10:30am**  
**(and by appointment)**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent** On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah. Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy. It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

We welcome any visitors, including those who may not be of our Catholic faith. We pray that our celebration of the sacred liturgy today was a meaningful one for you. If you are a new member in the parish, complete a census form and return it to the church office. Census forms can be found in the foyer. To date we have 226 families and 664 members.



# WEEK OF DEC 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent (C)

Sanctuary Candle - †In memory of Eileen Jackson by the Pinkowski Family  
 Bread & Wine - †In memory of Eileen Jackson by the Pinkowski Family  
 Flowers - (Sat 12/22) Rudy & Jeanette Meyer

12/23	Su	8:00am 10:45am	<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> Repose of the soul of Carolyn West by the Darrell West Family People of Holy Angels
12/24	M	7:00pm	<b>Vigil – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> Repose of the soul of Eileen Jackson by the Pinkowski Family
12/25	Tu	Midnight 10:00am	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> Repose of the soul of Judy Spitzenberger by Jim Kennedy Repose of the soul of Mary Harrell by Dot Alley (1 yr anniv 12/25/2017)
12/26	W	12 Noon	Repose of the soul of Don Fisher by Joan Fisher (7 yr anniv 12/26/2011)
12/27	Th	9:00am	Special Intentions of Johnny Warren by Ed & CeLina Sumara
12/28	F	12 Noon	Repose of the soul of Mary Harrell by Joan Fisher
12/29	Sa	5:00pm	In honor of Barbara Johnson by Dot Alley

## St. Joseph -- Inspiration for the Season

If anyone had to rely on a feeling that things will turn out for the best, it was St. Joseph. He took in Mary, risking his reputation and accepting a responsibility that he at first didn't understand. But he had hope and faith, and he forged on to serve as the father and protector of the Savior. Saint Joseph's trust was called upon again when Jesus was a baby. An angel appeared to St. Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod, who was seeking to kill the newborn king (Matt 2:13-18). Joseph didn't call up his friends in Jerusalem to confirm or Google places to stay in Egypt. He fled with faith, believing that what he desired—safety for his family—would be fulfilled. Like St. Joseph, we can proceed with the quiet confidence that St. Joseph exhibited so well in such a tremendous role.

## During Cold and Flu Season

We ask that you please be mindful of others when receiving the cup at Holy Communion. If you are ill or recovering from a cold or the flu, it might be best to refrain until you are better. Also, please do not be offended if parishioners do not wish to exchange a handshake during the Sign of Peace until after the flu season has passed.

## 2019 Parish Calendars

The 2019 parish calendars are now available at the main entrance of the church and on the shelves under the bulletin board in the foyer. Please take one per family.

## Collection Report for 12/16/18

Reg Coll		\$2,333.00
Online donations		\$545.00
Total Reg Collection		\$2,878.00
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$3,516.00</b>	<b>-\$638.00</b>
Reg Disbursements		\$4,0982.48
Votive Candles		\$43.50
Mary, Mother of God		\$30.00
Immac Conception		\$8.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe		\$193.00
Christmas		\$62.00
Retired Religious		\$70.00
Villa Vianney		\$40.00
Christmas Flowers		\$1,031.00
B/M Collection:		\$20.00
B/M Disbursements:		\$0

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections for December

12/25 Villa Vianney



## PRE attendance – 12/16/18

Present: 93 of 112 (85.04.2%)  
 Absent: 19 (9 excused; 10 non-excused)  
**REMEMBER -- you must call or email your excuse into CARRIE BELD, DRE**  
 cell: 731-882-9151  
 Email: [nanacbeld@yahoo.com](mailto:nanacbeld@yahoo.com)

## Attendance

(226 families / 664 parishioners)  
 12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe 4-140. . . 144  
 12/16 49-63-100 . . . . . 212

## Alb Care Volunteers

Dec – Kathy Yarbro  
 Jan – Judy Boehmler

## Altar Linen Care Volunteers

Dec – Carri Stegeman  
 Jan – Debbie McAndrew

## ALTAR FLOWERS

On the foyer table is a notebook labeled “ALTAR FLOWERS”. Inside this notebook is a calendar. If you would like to dedicate the altar flowers for a specific weekend Mass the suggested donation is \$25 per Mass or \$75 for all 3.

**Write your name & dedication on the date** and put your money in an envelope marked “altar flowers” and drop in the collection basket. Thank You!



## 2018 Catholic Charities Annual Campaign

*Serving Dignity and Hope. Building Self-Sufficiency.*

### Week IV – Dec 22/23 - Catholic Charities Housing Ministry

Through their **Housing Ministry**, Catholic Charities helps families and individuals who are literally homeless or at risk of homelessness – aiding 373 households last year. Please support the work of CCWT during this season of Advent in their annual campaign, Please donate at [ccwtn.org/new-donate/](http://ccwtn.org/new-donate/) or by returning the envelope found in the brochure mailed to your home.

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent

As Advent draws to a close, we focus more on the Nativity. The gospel readings for this Sunday may be the Annunciation, the Visitation, or Mary's *Magnificat*, depending on the liturgical year.

The purpose of preparation is to help us experience an event more meaningfully. As Advent draws to a close, we discover how true this is. We have journeyed with the People of Israel in their hope for a Messiah. We have searched our own hearts, laying out our own yearning before the Lord, and, like Mary, looked with hope to God's promise to save us and make us whole. And now, the time is near. A Child is born!

## Symbols of Hope

Often, unfortunately, the Advent journey to hope can be overshadowed by repeated journeys to the mall! So, well before Advent begins, it might do us good to sit down and answer the question of who—or what—really controls our celebration of this season.

Pressure to “celebrate” Christmas according to the norms of the secular culture can be enormous. Deciding how much to spend and when to decorate, going to school and church programs, cooking, cleaning and gift-buying all seem to push more important things into the background.

But however we deal with this pressure, it's important to do whatever we can to live out Advent as fully as we can; Christmas is all but empty if we have not really let our hearts be formed by the profound realities of waiting, expectation, repentance, and hope.

This is easily done by taking a little time each day to pray with the Church, include whatever concrete remembrance is meaningful to us and our families, and imbues even our busy-ness with a sense of gratitude and love—the love of the Child waiting for us in the crib of Bethlehem.

*Lord, I wait for You in trust and hope.*

**Did You Know?** The birthplace of Jesus – Bethlehem – means “house of bread.”

Many ancient commentators interpreted this as prefiguring the Eucharist. Jesus came to earth in the “house of bread” and comes to us in the form of Living Bread every time we receive him in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Jan 5<sup>th</sup> — Youth Group Salvation Army Soup Kitchen** Help us be the hands of Christ on the first Saturday of every month starting January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 9am–1pm at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. Join our Youth in this ministry.

Contact Sarah Alley [salleyalley1969@gmail.com](mailto:salleyalley1969@gmail.com) or cell 731- 445-2922

### SAVE THE DATE – WMOS 2019 (Women's Morning of Spirituality)

**Saturday, February 23, 2019** at Catholic Church of the Incarnation. Johnette Benkovic Williams, EWTV television host, will be the keynote speaker; and Sr. Rita Marie Kampa, O.P. will be our local witness speaker.

### SAVE THE DATE – MMOS 2019 (Men's Morning of Spirituality)

**Saturday, March 23, 2019** at the Catholic Church of the Incarnation. 8am to 1pm with a continental breakfast beginning at 7am. Mass at 12 Noon. You can register online at [MensMorning.com](http://MensMorning.com)

## SACRAMENTS

**Baptism** - A preparation class is required of the parents requesting Baptism for their first child. Parents and godparents are encouraged to attend the class before the baby's birth. (Scheduled as needed.)

**Confirmation** - Confirmation is celebrated in the spring with students who are at least in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and have completed the requirements for the preparation process in our PRE program.

**Matrimony** - Couples planning to marry should contact the Pastor at least 5 months prior to the proposed date so all parish and diocesan requirements may be completed.

**Holy Orders** - If you feel called to a vocation in the priesthood or religious life, please contact the pastor.

**Anointing of the Sick** - If you wish to receive this sacrament, contact the pastor. If there is an emergency situation, an immediate family member should contact the pastor.

## Nursery

The nursery is located in the classroom next to the kitchen in the parish hall. The nursery is open to children birth to 4 years.

## Notify the Parish of a Seriously Ill Family Member

If a family member has been admitted to the hospital or is ill at home and wants it to be announced at the Masses so our parish community can pray for their intentions, please contact the parish office and let us know. We will only do this with the permission of the sick person or a member of his/her family.

## Bulletin Announcement Deadline

Announcements for the bulletin must be received in writing by 12 noon on Monday to be printed in the following Sunday's bulletin.

## To report abuse in Tennessee

If you suspect a child is in imminent danger from abuse, call **911** immediately. To report *known* or *suspected* child abuse, contact:

**Tennessee Dept of Child Protection**  
 1-877-237-0004

**For more information**  
**Director of Child Protection**  
 901-359-2027

**Diocesan Victim Assistant**  
**Coordinator**  
 901-652-4066

(9/5/2018)

**FORMED** – To sign up FREE of charge as a parishioner of Holy Angels Church, go to [www.holyangelscc.formed.org](http://www.holyangelscc.formed.org), click on the “REGISTER NOW” button and establish an account. After doing so, you'll have access to a wealth of material to grow in your faith. Please take advantage of this opportunity to benefit yourselves and others.