

READINGS

December 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Collection.....\$1,239
Retired Clergy and Religious.....\$421

Our Lady of Wisdom relies on Bobcat Catholics like you for more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to their Catholic faith. Contact our Development Director, Zane Stehling, to join this mission at 512-392-5925.

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT functions as a Grand Pause and returns us to the early days of Mary's pregnancy. The altered time sequence moves us back, in the closing days of this season, to a more contemplative way of being, to roots, to silence, to mystery—all of which have a way of getting sidetracked in the frenzy of preparations for the celebration. The fourth Sunday says—again and more emphatically—Be still. Let what is about to happen sink in. Be still enough to listen to the story as if for the first time. Mary and Elizabeth recognize that Yahweh's promise for each of them has borne fruit. In the excitement, the unborn John leaps in Elizabeth's womb. Curiously, the word used in scripture to designate the leaping means "an exultant delight in the liberating God." Maybe it had something to do with an infusion of the Spirit of God who filled them and allowed them to experience a moment pregnant with hope and possibilities for liberation.

Mary's "yes" changed the course of human history. Like hers, our "yes" is asked for. Christ will not be born again without our consent. The Christian assembly is given yet another opportunity in this last quiet catch-up week to join in stillness and wonder as the mystery of God's coming draws to climax. "Blessed is the one who trusts that God's words will be fulfilled". For all of us, the moment of redemption is at hand. We are called to be still, to contemplate the Christmas story with a new heart...and to say "yes," so that God's word can be fulfilled in us. Sit silently; say the word "yes." How did you feel?

*The Birthing of Justice: Advent 1988.
Doris Donnelly
Pax Christi USA National Council*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel Mary accepts God's invitation. Being an invited guest makes everyone feel special. Is there someone you know who needs to be invited to come back to Mass? Now is the perfect time to ask them.

PLEASE CONSIDER POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will ...

AND

That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith ...

ALSO

BISHOP VÁSQUEZ' PRAYER INTENTION FOR TODAY:

For peace in the Holy Land ...

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The Vatican has announced the theme and title for the annual World Day of Peace message that Pope Francis will release on Jan. 1: Slaves No More, But Brothers and Sisters.

CRY ROOM The Pastoral Council has designated the Lounge as the "Cry Room" during the 10am Sun. Mass. Please keep it available for families with small children.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

*Will resume
January 20, 2015*

ROSARY every Sunday 9:30am in the Lounge

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesdays 5:45-9pm and
Mornings Mon-Fri 8:30-9:30am in the Chapel

FREE LUNCH every Tuesday 11am-1pm in the Lobby

BOBCATS FOR LIFE
2nd & 4th Thursdays 6pm in the Library

PRAYER MEETING 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm upstairs

BIBLE STUDIES every day!

*CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.txstatecatholic.org*



PRAY THE ROSARY before the 10am Sunday Mass in the Lounge / Cry Room. We begin at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome. Please join us even if you're a little late!

GAME NIGHT Fri., Jan. 9th at 6pm. Hosted by our Pastoral Council will be held here in the lobby. All are welcomed! Please bring any snacks and a favorite game!



CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S CHOIR children in our community

are invited to participate in our Christmas Eve children's choir. Please arrive at 4:30pm on Wednesday December 24th for a final rehearsal.

TEXAS CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE DAY Catholics from across the state will join to promote a Culture of Life on Texas Catholic Pro-Life Day Saturday, January 24th. Events through the day include a prayer vigil at Planned Parenthood at 201 E. Ben White Blvd. starting at 7am. Buses will be available from downtown at 8am at 1600 N. Congress (Where the March for Life begins at 1pm), which will take you to St. Vincent de Paul and back downtown for the March and Rally for life. At St. Vincent De Paul there will be a Rosary for Life at 9:15 a.m. and a Mass at 10 a.m. Lunch for \$5 will be available at the Parish Activity Center. The March for Life, will start at 1pm at 1600 N. Congress The March will process to the Capitol for the Rally for Life, which begins at 2 p.m. Pre-purchase bus tickets and T-shirts at www.centraltexasprolife.org Information, contact Yvonne Saldaña at (512) 949-2486.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL today is our Monthly Collection Thank you for your continued generosity!



WINTER BREAK SCHEDULE

Except for Sunday Masses, the office and the building will be closed from Fri., Dec. 19th until Mon., Jan. 5th.

Masses scheduled during that time:

Sun. Dec. 21 10:00am

Tues. Dec. 24 6pm (Christmas Eve)

Sun. Dec. 28 10:00am

Thurs. Jan. 1 10:00am

(Holy Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation)

Sun. Jan. 4 10:00am

All Daily Masses, resume Thursday, January 8th

Sun. Jan. 11 10:00am **ONLY**

Sun. Jan. 18 10:00am, 5:00pm and 7:30pm

ALL WEEKLY MEETINGS WILL RESUME THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19TH, 2015