

December 23, 2018

## Advent

### Fourth Sunday of Advent



### *The Threshold of Fulfillment*

On this Sunday we stand on the threshold of fulfillment, filled with anticipation of the Lord's coming, while we celebrate his presence in our midst. The future God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it. Today, we are invited to pause at the treshold and gaze for a moment into this future as with joy and hope Mary and Elizabeth meet.

An invitation is extended to us today so that we can appreciate the gift being given to us.

Today's Bulletin is sponsored by the Barbara & Eugene Anderle Family in memory of the Anderle & Muehlstein Families.

### MASS INTENTIONS



**Monday, December 24**

**4:30 p.m.** The Welfare of the Youth of the Parish

**Tuesday, December 25**

**Midnight** The Welfare of All Parishioners

**6:30 a.m.** The Welfare of the Benefactors of the Parish

**10:00 a.m.** The Welfare of All Parishioners

**Saturday, December 29**

**6:30 p.m.** Betty Martinez

**Sunday, December 30**

**6:30 a.m.** Rosie, Joe, Allen & Leroy Fishbeck

**9:30 a.m.** Bessie & Frank Michalec

### PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Feast of the Holy Family*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 84

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3:1-12, 21-24

**Gospel:** Luke 2:41-52

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Agnes Moeller.

### 2018 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2018 Assessment .....	\$17,386.00
Contributions So Far .....	\$ 15,754.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed .....	\$ 1,632.00
No. of Families Who Have Contributed .....	51
No. of Families Yet to Contribute .....	263

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Marilyn Strmiska*

*Joyce Pavlicek*

*Yahaira & Jose Perez, Sr.*

*Murlene Simper*

We thank all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. We are counting on all to do their part so we can pay off our debt by year's end.

### ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CENTER

We are very grateful to the following for their recent donations to the St. Joseph's Social Center Fund:

*Margaret & Victor Molnoskey - \$1,000*

*Mary Alice & Randy Lewkoski - \$1,000*

*In Memory of Daniel Kozelsky - \$1,000*

*Helen Kozelsky & Family*

*In Memory of Willie Mae Darilek - \$20*

*Susan & Allen Jasek*

*In Memory of Delta Fojtik - \$20*

*In Memory of Alfred Haikenwaelder - \$20*

*In Memory of Deacon Milburn Kram - \$20*

*Helen Kozelsky*

Total amount donated towards the Social Center Fund so far - \$413,629.42. Thank you for your generosity and support. To make a tax deductible contribution contact the Parish Office.

### Feast of the Holy Innocents Mass at Raphael's Refuge

December 28. Rosary at 10 a.m., followed by Christmas carols, with Mass at 11 a.m. Refreshments will follow.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

MON. – Christmas Eve, See Mass Schedule. Office Closed.

– No Gold Star Club Meeting

TUES.- Christmas Day, See Mass Schedule. Office Closed.

WED. – Parish Office Closed.

– No Champions Club Meeting

THURS. – KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall

FRI. – Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any

Pastoral Needs call the Parish Office at any time.

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Filomena Blaschke and Ben Scott.

Pray for the repose of the souls of

*Patricia Mae Kuntschik*

*Leroy Paul Muehlstein*

and for the comfort of their loved ones.

*May they rest in peace.*



## REFLECTION

### Standing on the Threshold

Today's readings open a crack and we are amazed that everything inside seems so ordinary. The readings get us ready for the imminent future, giving us glimpses into the mysteries we are about to celebrate.

Through the crack, we see Bethlehem, an unsophisticated little village that is but a stone's throw from the thriving capital, Jerusalem. If we look further through the crack in the door, to the side we will see a young pregnant woman hastening to help an older relative who is also with child. There is nothing extraordinary about this either, especially in a society that is family oriented. Young women acted in this way. Catching these glimpses of ordinary life we might ask: Just what is God up to? Why does God choose what is ordinary to carry the radiance of the divine? Is it possible that we overlook the unpretentious through which God is revealed and mistake what is loud and flashy for what is truly marvelous?

God's choices recounted in today's readings insist that the mystery of the incarnation comes to ordinary people living ordinary lives. All that is required is an openness to do God's will, a willingness to respond to God's call.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 23 – Steve Machart  
Dec. 24 – Allen Barta, Edward Nieto, Kelsey Pilat, Kenneth Schoenfeld  
Dec. 25 – Allison Drabek, Isac Manzano, J. Isaias Manzano  
Dec. 26 – Tanee Colburn, Steve Fojtik, Steve Martinez, Atley Pilat  
Dec. 27 – Sidonia Mayer, Otto Moeller, Rose Selzer, Christine Wenske  
Dec. 28 – Joseph Bartos, Hailey Rothbauer  
Dec. 29 – Jillian Anderle, Abby Bohuslav, Shelby Bohuslav, Duane Fojtik, Hattie Olle, Earlene Pilat

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec. 27 – Caroline & James Freytag

### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



**Today – Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 4:00-6:00 p.m.** All participants, parent helpers and choir members must attend. *The Christmas Pageant will be part of the Vigil Mass.*

**Dec. 23 & 30** – No C.C.D. (Christmas Holidays)

**Dec. 24, 26 & 31** – No YMC (Christmas Holidays)

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

In the spirit of sharing blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters, a collection will be taken up at the Christmas Masses. *We encourage you to be generous.*

***In the Past Our \*Collection Has Helped Many Charities Including:***

Shady Oaks Christmas Gifts for Residents  
Lavaca Assistance Ministry Body (L.A.M.B.)  
Billy T. Cattan Recovery Outreach Center, Victoria  
Perpetual Help Home, Victoria  
Christ's Kitchen, Victoria  
Moulton 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapter & Fire Department  
& other local charities.

*\* Includes funds from the proceeds from the Fish Fry.*

## Maranatha!



Advent is the season when we stand on the threshold of fulfillment. However, it is the fulfillment of an event that has already taken place. We remember it, we ritually reenact it so we never take it for granted, so we never forget that it is in and through history that the marvelous deeds of God are accomplished. Each year we pause to celebrate these events, not because they have not yet occurred but because they *have* happened and are happening now before our eyes. The celebration of anticipation is also the celebration of fulfillment, fulfillment of the promises made, fulfillment of our redemption, fulfillment of our transformation. Blessed are we who believe that what was spoken to us by the Lord has been fulfilled!

***Christmas Day Songs of Praise:*** The Christmas Choir will begin singing at 9:30 a.m. Choir members may come at 9:15 a. m. in time to prepare.

***Communion to the Homebound on Christmas Day:*** Holy Communion will be taken to the homebound parishioners who called in their request.

***Christmas Altar Flower Fund Donations:*** See insert.

***Christmas Pageant:***

**Dress Rehearsal Today, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Pageant, December 24** during the 4:30 p.m.

Mass. All pageant participants and parent helpers must be at the Family Room by 4:00 p.m. The children should be dressed in their costumes.

## A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

My dear friends,

May you have a blessed Christmas. May Christ's coming among us bring happiness and peace to all families.

God bless,

