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Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2012

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

— Luke 1:42

**DUE TO BULLETIN DEADLINES OUR PARISH
SUPPORT WILL BE REPORTED IN A LATER
BULLETIN.**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 AM John Mattive
9:30 AM People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM Children's Mass
11:00 PM Intention of the Celebrant

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 AM Intention of the Celebrant

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 AM No Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 AM Irene Nimlo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 AM George Pirnick Sr.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

4:30 PM Daniel Yacina

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:30 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM Bennie Naunczek

SANCTUARY CANDLE THIS WEEK: In memory of Matthew & Florence Kopetskie requested by their family.

PEACE CANDLE: In memory of Frances Bushman.

RESURRECTION CANDLE: In memory of George Pirnick Sr. requested by his family.

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE: Special Intention for Hannah Mattive requested by Aunt Bernadette Redline.

THE ALTAR BREADS AND ALTAR WINE that will be consecrated at all our Masses this week are in memory of Daniel Yacina given by his wife Helen.



MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long

absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure traveling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

PARISH DATEBOOK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

NO BIBLE STUDY/SHARING.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

NO ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

BLUE ARMY HOLY HOUR: 8:00 AM.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

NO CCD CLASSES

SERVICE FOR THE LORD

Next Sunday, December 30

Saturday, 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Panzak, Marston, Koser
Lector: Kalie
Altar Servers: 1
Greeters: Panzak & Rinehimer

Sunday, 7:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Troiani, Kilcullen, Edwards
Lector: Troiani
Altar Servers: 2
Greeters: M & W Andrzejewski

Sunday, 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: B & D DeLuca, Samsel
Lector: Pierce
Altar Servers: 3
Greeters: S & L Lizardi



**THE PARISH OFFICE
AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH, 25TH & 26TH.**



The Women's Epiphany Dinner will be held on January 13th @ 2:00 PM at St. Cyril's church. Tickets are \$14.00 and a Ukrainian ethnic meal will be served. Please contact Diane Deluca @ 759-3643 by December 31st.

December 23, 2012 [4th Sunday of Advent]

The Father of mercies willed that the incarnation should be preceded by the acceptance of her who was predestined to be the mother of His Son, so that just as a woman contributed to death, so also a woman should contribute to life. That is true in outstanding fashion of the mother of Jesus, who gave to the world Him who is Life itself and who renews all things, and who was enriched by God with the gifts which befit such a role. It is now wonder therefore that the usage prevailed among the Fathers whereby they called the mother of God entirely holy and free from all stain of sin, as through fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature. Adorned from the first instant of her conception with the radiance of an entirely unique holiness, the Virgin of Nazareth is greeted, on God's command, by an angel messenger as "full of grace", and to the heavenly messenger she replies: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word". Thus Mary, a daughter of Adam, consenting to the divine Word, became the mother of Jesus, the one and only Mediator. Embracing God's salvific will with a full heart and impeded by no sin, she devoted herself totally as a handmaid of the Lord to the person and word of her Son, under Him and with Him, by the grace of almighty God, serving the mystery of redemption. Rightly therefore the holy Fathers see her as used by God not merely in a passive way, but as freely cooperation in the work of human salvation through faith and obedience. For, as St. Irenaeus says, she "being obedient, became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race." Hence not a few of the early Fathers gladly assert in their preaching, "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience; what the virgin Eve bound through her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith." Comparing Mary with Eve, they call her "the Mother of the living," and still more often they say; "death through Eve, life through Mary." Lumen Gentium, 56

VOCATION AWARENESS

"It is by God's will that we have been sanctified." How is God calling you to grow in holiness? If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, call Father Raymond LaVoie (717) 657-48804 ext. 282, or e-mail vocations@hbgdiocese.org.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24

Children's Mass.....5:00 PM

Festival of Carols and

Blessing of the Crèche.....10:30 PM

Vigil Mass11:00 PM

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25.....9:30 AM

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Monday, December 31..... 5:00 PM

Tuesday, January 1..... 9:00 AM



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**MAY THE PEACE, LOVE AND JOY
OF THE SEASON FILL YOUR HEARTS
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
FATHER TAMBURRO
AND THE PARISH STAFF**