

# Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2014

The child to be born will be called holy,  
the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35



## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:30 AM Benjamin Becker Sr.

9:30 AM People of the Parish

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 AM Barbara A. Szada

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 AM Kelsey Rivera

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM Children of our Parish (Children's Mass)

11:00 PM Intention of the Celebrant (Vigil Mass)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 AM People of the Parish

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 AM **NO MASS**

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

4:30 PM Wendy Harvey

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:30 AM Margaret & Edwin Mickler

9:30 AM People of the Parish

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**SANCTUARY CANDLE THIS WEEK:** In memory of Joan Rocchini Troiani requested by her family.

**PEACE CANDLE:** In memory of Michael Post requested by his brother Mark.

**RESURRECTION CANDLE:** In memory of Merry Gotto requested by her sister Bernadine.

**BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE:** In memory of William "Bill" Decker requested by his wife & family.

**THE ALTAR BREAD & ALTAR WINE** that will be consecrated at all our Masses this week are in memory of Matthew & Florence Kopetskie given by their family.

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## THE PARISH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED

DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup>

## PARISH SUPPORT Offertory

December 14

Adults \$4341.50

Youth 21.50

Loose 417.00

Total \$4780.00

Additional Meatball & Sauce Sale profit: \$129.00  
Retired Religious Fund: \$1585.00

Thank you for your generosity.

## PARISH DATEBOOK

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL: 3:45 PM

(Christmas Party!)

**NO BIBLE STUDY MONTH OF DECEMBER.**

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS: 10:30 PM in the church.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25



### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

**NO CCD CLASSES**

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD

### Next Sunday, December 28

#### Saturday, 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: M & E Canouse, Panzak

Lector: Wark

Altar Servers: 5

Greeters: Panzak & Rinehimer

#### Sunday, 7:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Edwards, Wolfe, Curry

Lector: Troiani

Altar Servers: 6

Greeters: M & W Andrzejewski

#### Sunday, 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Samsel, Wharton, Czajkowski

Lector: Woodshick, H

Altar Servers: 4

Greeters: J & R Bremmer

May it be done to me  
according  
to your  
word



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## ECHOING MARY'S DECISION

The angel Gabriel today confronts Mary with a mystery. The mystery of salvation in Christ is not a mystery that is solved, but a reality beyond our comprehension that we must choose to enter into. In the liturgy of the Eastern

Church, everyone waits to see if Mary will enter into the mystery: God waits, Adam and Eve and all the souls of the dead who long for paradise wait, angels wait for new heavenly companions. And there is much rejoicing when her decision is "yes."

We have less dramatic choices offered to us, but the mystery of our salvation in Christ is by no means "solved." We may understand it a bit better due to Mary's "yes." We may be a bit closer to it through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But it still remains a mystery to which we all must give our own "yes." Soon we will be singing "O come, let us adore him." May our Advent prayer, our echo of Mary's "yes," continue then, so we may enter into the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ, God among us.

### SIGNS OF THE SEASON:

#### The Angel Gabriel;

The word "angel" means "messenger." Angels figure prominently in the Christmas story, but only one of them is named: Gabriel. In fact, Gabriel, whose name means "God is my strength," is one of only three angels named in the Bible (Michael and Raphael are the other two). Gabriel is present in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament he appears to the prophet Daniel, and in the New Testament he appears both to the Blessed Virgin and to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist.



**MAY THE PEACE, LOVE AND JOY  
OF THE SEASON FILL YOUR HEARTS!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM  
FATHER TAMBURRO  
&  
THE PARISH STAFF**

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent; Winter begins  
Tuesday: St. John of Kanty  
Wednesday: The Vigil of Christmas  
Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
Friday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa  
Saturday: St. John

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By the year 800, when anointing was defined as the proper office of priests, very complicated rituals began to take shape. Perhaps this was to reassure the laity, who had memories of an earlier practice, that the new way was not only better, but impossible for a layperson to conduct. Blessings and sprinkling of holy water, the singing of as many as seven psalms, penance, anointing of all the senses, viaticum, all capped off by the clothing of the sick person in penitential garments, were part of the rite. This proved unwieldy, and creative spirits got to work. By the 1500s people made distinctions between visiting the sick, anointing, and viaticum.

The attempt of the Church to be faithful to the image of a healing Christ has some complicated history, including centuries when the celebration was rare. Most sick people had no access to the rites at all; only monastics or the well-off had much hope of this care. Today, those unhappy days are long behind us, and the care of the sick is an essential task in every parish's life. As Christmas approaches almost everyone comes in contact with someone who is a candidate for pastoral care. You live out the best of our tradition when you arrange for a sick person to receive Holy Communion or the sacrament of the sick and the consolation of regular contact with the faith community.



### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

Children's Mass.....5:00 PM  
Festival of Carols and

Blessing of the Crèche.....10:30 PM  
Vigil Mass.....11:00 PM

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25..... 9:30 AM

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY

#### THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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

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