

Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

KEY VERSE: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (v 45).

READING: In the beautiful Canticle of Solomon (the Song of Songs), the bridegroom addressed his bride: "Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!" (Songs 2:13). Mary was God's obedient servant who responded to the Divine call in her life. Mary was accorded the greatest honor and privilege given to a Jewish woman, that of being the mother of the long-awaited Messiah. When the angel Gabriel announced that her aged cousin Elizabeth was also pregnant, Mary hastened to travel the four day journey to the hill country of Judah. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped for joy, just as King David danced with exultation before the Ark of the Covenant (2 Sam 6:9, 14). Elizabeth's wonderment echoed David's joy when the Ark was brought to Jerusalem: "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" Mary was the Ark of the New Covenant as she bore her divine son in her womb. Elizabeth proclaimed that Mary was blessed because of her trust that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled.

REFLECTING: In what ways can I bear Christ to the world?

PRAYING: Mary, my mother, help me to serve the Lord with joyful obedience.

O Clavis David: "O Key of David, O Royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom." See Isaiah 9:6; 22:22

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BLESSED · ARE · YOU
AMONG · WOMEN
AND · BLESSED · IS
THE · FRUIT · OF · YOUR · WOMB

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2009

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by calling 412. 276.5562 or 412.678.0566. **Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Father by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at BSleczkowski@aol.com

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Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Liturgy
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
PROMISE

Reader 1: Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah. In a dream, God promised Joseph that Mary "will have a son, and you will name him Jesus -- because he will save his people." God's promises have been kept.

Reader 2: The birth of a child is a sign that life will carry on. It was through the birth of a weak and vulnerable human baby that God has most closely identified with each of us. The mighty God has become Emmanuel, "God with us." This was astounding news, then, at that first Christmas. It is astounding news now. Christmas is about God, with us.

Reader 1: In the birth of Jesus, God's promise of hope and healing is made in a new and wonderful way. We remember, though, that strength and determination are necessary in fulfilling any promise. Joseph and Mary showed great courage as they responded to God's call.

Reader 2: We relight the Advent candles of waiting, dreaming, and healing. Their flames remind us that God is active in our lives and in the world around us.

Reader 1: God promised to love and care for all that God created. The rainbow is one sign of this promise; the birth of Jesus is another wonderful sign that God has not left us on our own. The flame of this fourth candle gives us courage for our daily living by reminding us of the promise of Emmanuel -- God is with us. (The fourth candle is lit)

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you that you have fulfilled your promise. Emmanuel has come. We rejoice in your faithfulness. Give us courage to respond with love and compassion.
Amen.



Parish Wigilia Dinner Today

The SAMBS is hosting this annual event beginning at 5:00 P.M. after the concert. Unfortunately, the dinner is sold out with a record reservation this year. The Dinner will include traditional Wigilia Food, wonderful choral Koledy by our Choir, some special guests including Santa Claus. We thank the SAMBS for putting this special event and all who helped them bringing us closer as a family parish.

Please Note: Winter is a beautiful time of the year and also can be hazardous driving like last Sunday. Safety is a main concern and if such conditions arise again, plan to attend the later Mass at 11:00 A.M. when the road crews have completed their work. Usually, the roads are cleared by that time. Please call Fr. Bruce @ 412.276.5562 (before 7:30 A.M. when Father normally leaves to drive to McKeesport) or Ted Gibala @ 412.678.7347 if in doubt.

Christmas Acrostic

C is for the Child born that night to be our light. (John 8:12)

H is for holy is His name. (Rev.4:8)

R is for rejoice with gladness & joy. (Luke 1:14)

I is for Immanuel, God with us. (Is.7:14,) John 1:14)

S is for the star that led the Wise men to Him. (Matt.2:2)

T is for the truth & grace that was sent our way. (John 1:14)

M is for Mother Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger. (Luke 2:7)

A is for angels singing songs of joy. (Luke 2:14)

S is for salvation.

- Johnnie DesRochers.



Place your Christmas Ornaments on the Church Family Christmas Tree in the Narthex; if you Forgot your ornament today, bring it Christmas Eve as we celebrate the Birth of our Savior here in Holy Family.

Come All Ye Faithful

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Christmas Nativity Procession

All children and young adults of the parish are asked to participate in bringing the Nativity Statutes in procession on Christmas Eve. Participants are asked to be present in the Hall at 10:45 P.M. to line up for the Pasterka-Shepherd's Mass. Parents, please encourage your children to be in the procession and the importance of being a part of the Christmas Story presentation.

Homebound and Nursing Home Parishioners

We have several members of our parish who cannot worship because of age and illness. You can cheer them up by sending a Christmas Card this year letting them know they are remembered. A list of addresses can be found in the Church Narthex.



Sacramental Altar Wine for your Wigilia Celebration is available in the parish kitchen during Coffee Hour. A \$10 donation to our Music Ministry will give you a gift of wine.

Oplatki-Christmas Wafers are available in the back of the Church.

2010 Envelopes are available in the Church Narthex. Please inform the parish office if you cannot find your envelopes. Thank You.

Advent Meditation Concert Today

The TriCounty Village Singers will perform an Advent Concert, this afternoon at 3:00 P.M. The 60 member Choir will present Sacred Music representing the Coming of Christ as we conclude the Advent Season. The concert is free (a free will donation will be taken at conclusion) and is open to the public. The Village Singers under the direction of Linda Wallace is a group of auditioned singers who travel throughout Western PA. spreading the Message of Christ.

Looking to give the perfect charitable gift?

Are you wondering what would be the perfect charitable gift to give this Christmas Season? Think National Church Center. Our National Church is still raising monies to purchase the Center. Special Envelopes can be found in the book rack narthex. Your donation will be greatly received and tax deductible.

OPENING HYMN	“Hail Blessed Mary”	Hymn 6
INTRODUCTORY RITE		Page 63
INTROIT		Micah 5:1
P:	But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah.	
R:	From you shall come forth for Me, one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.	
P:	Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.	
R:	As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.	
THE KYRIE		Page 67
OPENING PRAYER		
LITURGY OF THE WORD		
First Reading		Micah 5:1-4
Responsorial Psalm		Psalm 80
L:	Lord, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we shall be saved.	
R:	Lord, make us turn to You, let us see Your face and we shall be saved.	
Second Reading		Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel Acclamations.		
C:	Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.	
R:	Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.	
C:	I am the servant of the Lord, may His will for me be done.	
R:	Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!	
Gospel		Luke 1:39-45
HOMILY		
NICENE CREED		Page 71
GENERAL INTERCESSION		
R:	Lord, Hear our Prayer	
PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS		
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING		
SANCTUS		Page 76
CANON	Eucharistic Prayer 3	Page 84
THE LORD'S PRAYER		Page 95
LAMB OF GOD		Page 97
COMMUNION		Page 98
POST COMMUNION PRAYER		
BLESSING		Page 100
CLOSING HYMN	“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”	Hymn 13

“Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you this sign the virgin shall be with child, and bear as on and shall name Him Emmanuel.” Isaiah 7:14



THEME-The Trust of God Through Faith.

Sometimes we worry because things are not just our way. We become impatient and sometimes angry. Sometimes God's promise isn't coming quickly enough for us or other people's priorities are not the same as ours. We must trust God through faith that He will take care of everything, in His own time, not ours.

Israel longed for a king like David, a mighty warrior who would vanquish the enemy and restore the nation to its former glory. Micah told the people that the Messiah would come, in due time to the city of Bethlehem.

God comes and does things in unexpected ways. We just do not recognize it. Take the birth of Jesus. God is manifested in a shepherd instead of a king; in a village instead of a large city. God chooses a simple girl, not a regal queen. Something one would not expect God to do to show His might and glory.

Today we acknowledge Mary during Mass. Mary is our model of faith. She knew how to trust and be obedient to God's will. Filled with grace through the Holy Spirit, she brought forth to the world her holy child. In her presence, may new life stir within us learning to trust, just as she did. As we approach the Christmas season, may she become a model of obedience and trust for us. Too often we forget that God is faithful to us and will take care of our needs. But in His own time, not ours. God does provide, but we must recognize His provision. Usually, it is not what we expect.

Sunday Ministry Schedules

<u>This Week</u>	<u>9:00 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Lectors	Blue Team	B. Zaucha
Greeters	C. Trumpe	S. Kish
Ushers	N. Rushnock & J. Chornak	F. Szatkowski
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers
<u>Next Week</u>	<u>9:00 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Lectors	Yellow Team	B. Zaucha
Greeter	M. Krusienski	A. Fioravanti
Ushers	T. Tomco & G. Jugan	F. Szatkowski
Acolytes	All Servers	All Server

This Week

Sunday, December 20, 2009 **4th Sunday Advent**

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Holy Mass	9:00 A.M.
<i>+Tom Tondera Int. wife Kay Tondera; +Anthony Davelli Int. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Zurovcik</i>	
Nursery School	9:00 A.M.
Fellowship Hour	10:15 A.M.
Holy Mass	11:00 A.M.
<i>+Marion Sanetsky Int of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kish</i>	
Tri County Advent Meditation Concert	3:00 P.M.
Parish Wigilia Dinner	5:00 P.M.

Monday, December 21, 2009

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00 P.M.
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Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Chopin Choir Rehearsal	7:00 P.M.
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Thursday December 24, 2009

Christmas Eve

Festival of Carols & Koledy	10:15 P.M.
Pasterka-Shepherds Mass	11:00 P.M.

Friday, December 25, 2009

Solemnity-Nativity of the Lord

Holy Mass	10:00 A.M.
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Saturday, December 26, 2009

Feast of St. Stephen

Holy Mass	10:00 A.M.
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Sunday, December 27, 2009

Solemnity-Humble Shepherds

St. John's Feast Day-Distribution of Blessed Wine at Mass

Special Envelope for the Savonarola Seminary

Holy Mass	9:00 A.M.
<i>+Stella Bryla Int Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ryan; +Henrietta Kushner Int Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Palko</i>	
Nursery School	9:00 A.M.
Holy Mass	11:00 A.M.
<i>+Edward Ghetian (65th Birthday) Int of wife Janet and Family;</i>	
<i>+John & Mary Zaucha Int of Family</i>	