

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27); Luke 1:26-38

KEY VERSE: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus" (v 31).

READING: Gabriel, God's angelic messenger, was sent to the insignificant village of Nazareth to proclaim the most glorious event the world had ever known. Mary (Hebrew, *Miryam*, "the exalted one"), was told that she would bear the "Son of the Most High" (v 32) who would inherit the eternal reign promised to King David (2 Sm 7:16). The child was to be named Jesus, a name that implied his mission: the "Savior" of all people. As a sign of the divine announcement, Mary's kinswoman Elizabeth conceived a son in her old age. Upon her cousin's greeting, the child leaped in Elizabeth's womb. In turn, Mary proclaimed her Magnificat, an expression of her faith in God's promise, knowing that "nothing was impossible for God" (v 37). Mary was the servant of the Lord who accepted God's will no matter how heavy the cross. Mary's dispositions for listening, welcoming, humility, faithfulness, praise and waiting equip all Christians for full ministry in the Church.

REFLECTING: With all that is discouraging in the world today, do I believe that nothing is impossible for God?

PRAYING: Mary of Nazareth, pray that my heart will always be open to God's plan for my life.



Holy Family Parish
National Catholic Church
1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

412.678.0566 Rectory; Auditorium 412.664.7009

www.hfpncc.org



December 21, 2008
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 12:00 P.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

Parish Staff:

Fr. Bruce Slezkowski, Pastor 412.276.5562
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Dr. Donald Mushalko, Chopin Choir Director 412.678.4437
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.673.4495
Deborah Parknavy, SOCL Coordinator
David Kost, Lector Coordinator
Parish Custodian 412.678.7347



OPENING HYMN "Hail Blessed Mary" Pew Hymnal, Song 6
 ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING Sheets in Pews
 INTRODUCTORY RITE Page 63
 INTROIT Luke 1:28:42; Judith 15:9b

P: Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

**R: You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel.
 You are the splendid boast of our people.**

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.

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OPENING PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12. 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89

L: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

Alleluia Verse

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 1:26-38

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HOMILY

GENERAL INTERCESSION

R: Lord, Hear our Prayer

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS Page 76

CANON Eucharistic Prayer 1 Page 77

THE LORD'S PRAYER All Sing Page 95

LAMB OF GOD Page 97

COMMUNION Page 98

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING Page 100

CLOSING HYMN "From Heaven A Voice" Pew Hymnal Song 3

The Children of our Nursery School under the direction of Kristen Korenoski will light the Advent wreath each week. Please use the Advent Liturgy Booklet in pews.

2009 Special Intentions Reservations

If you would like to reserve special dates for Mass Intentions or special events during the 2009 year, please see Father Bruce and he will mark these dates in the parish Ordo.

Eucharist Visit for Shut -Ins

Please call 412.276.5562 to make arrangements for Christmas Eucharist visitations for our home bound parish family members.

The Christmas Schedule has been sent to all parishioners. If you have not received yours, then we may have a wrong address. Also, extra Christmas Schedules will be available in the book stand located in the Narthex.

We thank Tom and Bonnie Zaucha, who in honor of Holy Family Parish and Father Bruce & Family made a special Christmas gift of food for the poor and destitute in the Caribbean and Latin America, a gift of two goats. With great love and affection, the spirit of Christmas has been shared in our names.

Holy Family Parish extends its prayer and sympathy to the family and friends of +Valerie Adams who was buried from the parish Friday. Eternal rest grant to her Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon her, Amen.

Outdoor Nativity Display

Former members of the Saints Cyril & Methodius SAMBS on behalf of the Holy Family SAMBS purchased the beautiful Nativity Display in front of the Church as a gift to Holy Family representing the reason for the season to be displayed to our community. We thank the ladies for their generous gift.



Advent Prayer

Like foolish folk of old I would not be,
 Who had no room that night for Him and thee.
 See, Mother Mary, here within my heart
 I've made a little shrine for Him apart;
 Swept it of sin, and cleansed it with all care;
 Warmed it with love and scented it with prayer.
 So, Mother, when the Christmas anthems start,
 Please let me hold your baby--in my heart.



Tri County Choral "Advent Meditations"

An Advent concert will be performed today at 3:00 P.M. by the Tri County Choral Institute's "Village Singers" here in Holy Family Parish. This group is composed of 60 auditioned singers from the surrounding counties in western Pennsylvania and will present traditional and contemporary songs of the Advent/Christmas season. Come and be inspired as we wait for the coming of the Lord this Christmas. A free will offering will be taken after the concert.

Parish Wigilia Dinner Today

5:30 P.M.

Adults \$15.00 Child (under 12) \$7.00

For Tickets and reservations call Barb Tadajski 412.953.7823 or Karen Bongiorno 412.754.1411

Come & enjoy good traditional food, music and koledy.

2009 Parish Envelopes are in the Church Narthex. Envelopes this year will include the mandatory obligations: General Church Fund, Diocesan Development, 6% Fund. Our parish Stewardship program includes only the funds that remain in our parish and not the special envelopes that go to special programs of the Church. Please take yours home. If there is no envelope with your name, contact the parish office. For any questions, speak with Father. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 — "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Christmas Oplatki is available in the rear of the Church

Wigilia Dinner Wine

For a \$10.00 donation to the Chopin & Annunciation Bell Choir, the choirs will give you a gift of sacramental wine of your choice for your Wigilia Dinners. Donations will be accepted during the coffee hour after Mass or through the parish office.



"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."

Galatians 4:4

THEME: Have I experienced the Lord's presence?

God makes a covenant of fidelity with us, as strong as a rock that cannot be moved. God is a loving "father" whose kindness and mercy stand firm forever. God builds an everlasting home in which to dwell, not a magnificent temple or palace, but a virgin womb, a new tabernacle for a new covenant. Mary's child is called "Jesus, Savior and Son of the Most High." His throne and kingdom will be without end.

Paul says that this mystery, hidden throughout the ages and manifested by the prophets, is fully revealed in Jesus Christ. The universal kingdom that Jesus establishes is for all people in search of love, truth, and justice.

To those who are fearful, God's messenger says, "Do not be afraid. Nothing is impossible with God!" With the Virgin Mary who placed her life at the service of God we humbly answer, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done as you say." Hail Blessed Mary, heaven's beautiful lily, for our God has favored you, Mother of all mercy. Through the birth of your dear Son, who would bring redemption.

Sunday Ministry Schedules

<u>This Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Blue Team	B. Zaucha
Greeter	H. Albeck	A. Fioravanti
Ushers	H, Matczak & N. Rushnock	J. Wagner
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers
<u>Next Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Yellow Team	B. Zaucha
Greeters	D. Szatkowski	S. Kish
Ushers	J. Chornak & T. Tomco	T. Zaucha
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers

**Fourth
Advent
Sunday**



This Week

Sunday, December 21, 2008

Advent 4

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.

+Tom Tondera Int. wife Kay & +Omar Craig Int. M/M David Kost and family.

Coffee Hour sponsored by Chopin Choir 10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass 11:30 A.M.

+Nicholas Fioravanti and + Kenneth Zaucha Int Antoinette Fioravanti

Village Singers Advent Meditation Concert 3:00 P.M.

Parish Wigilia Dinner 5:30 P.M.

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Christmas Eve

10:15 P.M. Festival of Christmas Carols presented by the Frederic Chopin Choir & Annunciation Bell Choir

10:40 P.M. SOCL Youth are asked to meet in the Church Auditorium for the procession with the Nativity Scene Figurines to the Manger

11:00 P.M. Mass of the Shepherds

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Christmas Day

Mass of the Nativity 10:00 A.M.

Friday, December 26, 2008

Feast of St. Stephen

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.

Mass commemorating the First Christian Martyr

Saturday, December 27, 2008

St. John's Day

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.

+John and Mary Zaucha Int Antoinette Fioravanti
Mass and the Blessing & Distribution of Wine

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Humble Shepherds

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.

Coffee Hour 10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass 11:30 A.M.

Special Offering for the Savonarola Seminary

There will be no SOCL Classes next Sunday

**SOCL Sarris Candy Orders
can be picked up after Mass today. See Carol Popovic.**

Last Chance for Stocking Stuffers

Enjoy Books

The 2008-2009 Enjoy Books have been reduced to \$25.00. See Ted Gibala after Mass to purchase the Enjoy Book. Using just two/three coupons pays for the price of the book and offers you various restaurants and events at discount prices throughout the year to enjoy with someone you love. The Enjoy Book is a great Christmas gift

Feasting with Traditions II

Need that special recipe Grandma used to make for Wigilia? No problem, our SAMBS has "Feasting with Traditions II" cookbook full of homemade ethnic specialties and is now available reduced at \$5.00. See any SAMBS Member for a copy. These cookbooks make great gifts for family and friends

God's Field

A reminder that payments for subscriptions to the Church publication God's Field (Rola Boza) are now due. Rates have increased to \$20.00 due to postal rates. Every member should receive this bimonthly newspaper filled with religious articles, church doctrine and parish events. Don't forget to subscribe via the parish envelope system today.

Parish Family Tree

A special Christmas Tree will be set up in the Church Narthex designated as the Holy Family Parish Family Tree. It is requested that all families of the parish bring an ornament from home and place it on the tree representing the relationship that we all share as one Church Family of God through Jesus Christ.

