

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A December 23rd, 2007

Pastor: Fr. Patrick Furtado Associate Pastor: Fr. Leo Monroe Deacon: Michael Soentgerath



This Week In Our Parish LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A 5:00 pm mass: †Tyrone Deane / Deane Family
Sunday, December 23rd	Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A 9:00 am mass: †Jim McLaughlin / Linda and Family 11:00 am mass: †Arthur and Gwen Ratnayake / Cynthia Amarasinghe
Monday, December 24th	Christmas Eve 9:00 am mass: Deceased members of the Gauthier Family / Mom, Sylvie and Gyslain Gauthier 10:30 am mass: Southwood Care Centre: For all parishioners, living and deceased 6:30 pm mass: Children's Pageant 7:00 pm mass: †Larry, Norman, Gabriel and Henry / Lucille and family 11:00 pm mass: For all parishioners, living and deceased
Tuesday, December 25th	Christmas Day 9:00 am mass: For all parishioners, living and deceased 11:00 am mass: For all parishioners, living and deceased
Wed., December 26th	Feast of Saint Stephen 9:00 a.m. mass: Friends of Holy Souls / Michael Special Intention / Alfonso Family 6:30 pm: Prayers for the Sick
Thursday, December 27th	Feast of Saint John 9:00 am mass: †Adam Prediger / Tom and Arnelle Gerling Lila MacLean / Leo and Mary Bunz
Friday, December 28th	Feast of Holy Innocents 9:00 a.m. mass: †Don Towle / Orval and Elizabeth Klein
Saturday, December 29th	Ferial / Saint Thomas Beckett 9:00 am mass: Health of Jack Baran / Bill Panko
Saturday, December 29th	Feast of the Holy Family 5:00 pm mass: †Tyrone Deane / Deane Family †Marcel Savoie / Charlotte (2nd Intention)
Sunday, December 30th	Feast of the Holy Family 9:00 am mass: †Deceased members of the Doyle Family / Kathleen and Family (Second Intention) 11:00 am mass: †Nicholas Ferby / Ross and Elaine In Thanksgiving / Edith and Romy (Second Intention)

Please note: There will be NO 7:00 a.m. Masses from December to 26th to January 8th, inclusive. **They will resume January 9th.**

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach Christmas, the pace of life seems to speed up, which causes us to struggle daily to focus on the true meaning. All three readings today speak of the identity of "One who was to come." The Old Testament reading foretells the birth of the one who will be called Emmanuel. In the New Testament, Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus in a far greater way than the prophet could ever have imagined. Mathew reveals the true identity of this special child Jesus. Both St. Paul and St. Matthew make it clear that Jesus was the son of David because Joseph, his legal father, was descended from the line of David. But Jesus is more than that. He has another and infinitely greater identity. He is "Emmanuel," which means "God is with us. Through Jesus we have that divine dignity, which is a matter of faith.

Christmas is a wonderful time, but there are people who fear, maybe even dread, that approach of Christmas. For some of us, hassle and extra work make us fearful. For others, it is financial strain of buying gifts. Sometimes, the fear of conflict within families may cause tension. Certainly, the loss of a loved one during the year is always felt more deeply at Christmas.

Those who fear the approach of Christmas can take heart and hope from the story of the first Christmas. There was plenty of fear present in it also. Joseph was afraid when he found that Mary was expecting a child, even though they had not yet lived together. An angel appeared to him in dream and said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph trusted God and overcame the fear and did what was right. Mary was afraid on hearing the greeting of the angel Gabriel. The angel said to her, "Mary do not be afraid; you have won God's favour." Mary trusted in God and overcame her fear to say "yes" to what was asked of her. When the angel appeared to the shepherds, they too were terrified. But the angel said, *Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy. Today a Saviour has been born to you, who is Christ the Lord.* They trusted God, went to Bethlehem, saw the child and returned to their flock, glorifying and praising God.

As we near the completion of the Advent season, how will we enter the moment of the birth of Jesus this Christmas? We have a decision to make. Will we participate in the external celebration only, or will we choose to celebrate with "great joy" as the angels sing: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

God bless you all!

Father Leo Felix Monroe, SAC

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

6:30 p.m.	Children's Pageant
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Vigil Mass
10:45 p.m.	Carol Singing
11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 25th: Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.	Christmas Dawn Mass
11:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass

Monday, December 31st: New Year's Eve / Mary, Mother of God

5:00 p.m.	Mass, followed by Benediction and Parish Potluck
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Tuesday, New Year's Day / Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.