

December 22nd & 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent

In this season of wonder, let us contemplate the gift that Jesus is to us.

Today, as we begin this very short Fourth Week of Advent, the readings give us much to reflect on about Jesus – God’s gift to all of us. Micah tells the Israelites that from Bethlehem shall come a ruler, whose origin is from of old, and he will stand firm and shepherd his flock, God’s people. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus did not come to offer God holocausts and sin offerings, but obedience to his Father’s will. Finally, Elizabeth, formerly barren, is with child and she greets as Lord the unborn child that her young kinswoman is carrying.

Jesus far exceeds our imagination in both his power and his humility. We are assured throughout the readings about the greatness of Jesus: he is to be the ruler of Israel for all time, with greatness and majesty. Elizabeth recognizes him for who he is: the Son of God, the blessed fruit of Mary’s womb.

Yet, even as we recognize the greatness of Jesus, we know of how humbly and quietly he came into the world – born in a tiny village that was too small to be among the clans of Judah – and born to a young peasant girl who was also a virgin, from an unknown town, Nazareth. He came in humble obedience to God, and lived his entire life following God’s will – even to the point of rejection and of suffering terribly on a cross. As we learn in the Letter to the Hebrews, through Jesus’ offering of himself and his complete obedience to God’s will, he consecrated a people for God, once for all.

As people consecrated to God through Jesus, we can continue in our lives the work our Savior began when he was born in a manger. The readings remind us that God was able to work through a very small town, a humble young virgin, an older woman who was presumed to be sterile, and a tiny baby. This great God – who created a vast universe virtually out of nothing – can also do much in our lives, through our limited resources, time and talents.

So, as we celebrate in three days the gift that God gave us through the Incarnation of his Son, let us also pray that we can be gifts to one another and to those whom God has sent us to serve. Let us pray for obedient hearts, that we might always strive to know God’s will in our lives and to follow that will. Let us pray that, like Elizabeth, we might be enlightened by the Holy Spirit to see God’s work in unexpected places and people.

And let us pray that, like Mary, we can give birth to Jesus in our world today – that through us, Jesus might be the Shepherd of the troubled souls whom we encounter in our daily lives. May we at all times, throughout our lives, allow Jesus to do the will of God through us, in whatever big or small way he chooses. *****

December 25th The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
The Son of God shares in our human life and we share in his divine life.

Today, the world recalls that the Son of God was born in the small town of Bethlehem. We rightfully celebrate that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. But do we fully appreciate all the ramifications of this greatest Christmas gift?

Soon after today’s celebrated idyllic scene of the birth in the manger – with curious animals, marveling shepherds, adoring wise men – we will begin to see the totality of Christ’s salvific mission. This God-made-man lived on this earth for a very short time, and often under the shadow of persecution and doubt (CCC 530). His parents fled to Egypt, innocent babes were slaughtered, kings saw him as a threat, neighbors didn’t believe him and critics labeled him as a blasphemer. Jesus preached a message of peace and reconciliation, yet some rejected his words. He restored people to health and brought them back to life, yet accepted his own death on a cross. Finally, he rose triumphant from the grave. We know this Jesus. We know the rest of his story.

Today, the beginning of John’s Gospel reminds us of the source of that story – Jesus’ divinity. He was God who existed at the beginning of time. He was God the Son who knew God the Father and revealed him to anyone who would listen. He was God who was conceived in human form by the power of the Holy Spirit. Yet he was a God who knew human hearts and understood human frailties. The very purpose of his Incarnation was to raise us up, to save us from our sins, to put us back into right relationship with God, and to give us, once again, a share in the divine life. *God has spoken to us through the Son.*


As we busy ourselves with activities today, let us take time to marvel at our participation in the divine life. Made in God’s image, we, too, are children of God, born of God in baptism. From the fullness of Christ, we have all received grace. Sinners though we are, we have been redeemed from a life of sin. Self-centered though we may be, we are capable of love. Skeptical though we may be, we have been blessed with the ability to see the good in others. Selfish though we may be, we have been moved to compassion for the immigrant, the poor and the sick.

Long after the manger in Bethlehem and the grave in Jerusalem, Christ continues to share his divine life with us. Christ is present at every Mass we offer, at every sacrament we celebrate, at every blessing we pray. The Word is present when every word of his Scripture is proclaimed. Christ is present in every jail cell, in every sick room, in every lonely corner. He is present when we invoke his name in prayer, and even when we do not. This is how we share in his divine life – imbued with his grace, surrounded by his Spirit, molded by his message. Today and every day, let us be attentive to his sanctifying grace and become what we are truly meant to become. *****

Holy Angels Parish
Merry Christmas - This Week
Confessions are a half hour before every Mass

- Holy Angels Parish Christmas Schedule**
- Monday, December 24th Christmas Eve (Vigil)**
 4:00 pm Holy Family, La Valle
 7:30 pm St. Boniface, Lime Ridge
- Tuesday, December 25th Christmas Day**
 8:00 am St. Patrick, Loreto
 10:15 am Holy Family, La Valle
Holy Family 7:00 pm Recovery Meeting
- Wed 12/26 **Holy Family No Mass**
- Thur 12/27 **St. Patrick No Mass**
Sauk County Health Care Center No Mass
- Fri 12/28 **Holy Family 9:00 am Mass-Daniel Horkan**
Holy Family Pot luck Breakfast following Mass
- Sat 12/29 **Holy Family 4:00 pm Mass-Walter "Jack" Schulz**
St. Boniface 7:30 pm Mass-Fr. Lorin Bowens
- Sun 12/30 **St. Patrick 8:00 am Mass-Gene & Mary Wunnicke**
Holy Family 10:15 am Mass-For the Members of Holy Angels Parish Family
- Mon 12/31 **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**
St. Boniface 9:00 am Mass-George A. Weitzel & Florence M. Weitzal
- Wed 1/2 **Holy Family 9:00 am Mass-Elizabeth Hamburg**
St. Patrick 6:45 pm Religious Education Resumes
- Thur 1/3 **St. Patrick 9:00 am Mass-Gene & Mary Wunnicke**
Sauk County Health Care Center 10:15 am Mass-Charlotte Raese
- Fri 1/4 **Holy Family 9:00 am Mass-Bernard "Bun" Anderson**
- Sat 1/5 **Holy Family 4:00 pm Mass-For the Members of Holy Angels Parish Family**
St. Boniface 7:30 pm Mass-Gary Bodendein
- Sun 1/6 **St. Patrick 8:00 am Mass-Rich & Gilbert Rose**
Holy Family 10:15 am Mass-Elizabeth B. Hamburg

Please remember in your prayers

 **From Holy Family: Robert "Bobby" Kuehn** who entered eternal life on December 5th, 2018. Bobby is survived by his mother Mary Ann Kuehn, and by his brother, Paul Kuehn, and his sisters Cindi Morgan (Rich), Mary Lou Judas (Timm).

Parish Support
Holy Angels 12/15 & 16

Envelopes	3074.00
Offertory	390.00
Youth	4.50
Building Maint.	45.00
Flowers	165.00
Word Among Us	5.00
Christmas	10.00
Bless Our Priests	190.00
Total	\$3883.50

Thank you!

Please make checks payable to Holy Angels Parish.

Hymnals	\$1330.00
St. Boniface Wood Work Project	\$3750.00

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, may the joy, love, and peace of the season be with you all.
Merry Christmas, Father Sanctus K. Ibe

Due to the Christmas Season, this bulletin publication will be the last one for the year. Our next bulletin publication will be on January 5th and 6th, 2019.

Pope Francis on Twitter:
 "Advent is a time for us to prepare for the coming of Jesus, Prince of Peace. It's a time to make peace with ourselves and our neighbors."

St. Boniface Sanctuary and woodwork project:
 If you would like to donate to the St. Boniface woodwork project for the stands for our statues of Mary and Joseph; St. Boniface and St. John Vianney the estimated cost is at \$6500.00 for stripping, finishing, and painting, we would appreciate your donations. Please make your checks out to: Holy Angels Parish and in the memo space write St. Boniface Wood work project.



Hymnals: We would be asking every household to please purchase one or more copies, at the price of \$20.00 each, as a gift, or in remembrance of a loved one as a memorial. It will help to defray the cost. 400 copies are needed for our parish family. The total cost for the books will be \$7485.00.

Checks can be written to Holy Angels Parish, just write "Hymnal" on the memo and be sure you include a note that says if this is a gift or in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one for each hymnal. Some suggested dedications are listed on the special envelopes in the back of the church. Please take an envelope and print your acknowledgements on the front. Thank you



In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life
through him.
1 John 4:9

Holy Angels Parish Christmas Flower Donations

Donation by:

Richard & Carol Costerisan
Patrick & Sheila Drea Family
Patricia Gudenschwager
Al & Jean Harrison
David & Kathryn Jisa
Betty Justman
John & Jeanne Kast
Mike & Jane Kelley
Karen Koch
Sandra Langbein
Shane & Maggie McCluskey & Family
Bernice Mueller

Joan & Al Schefske
Eileen Schutz
Ann Slaney
Margaret & Gary Smelcer
Nick & Dorothy Streit
Coletta Zanon
John & Ruth Zentgraf

Additional Donations by:

Scott & Susan Anderson
Betty Booz
Rachel & Troy Brunner
Gene & Marjorie Clary
Dennis & Janice Dreischmeier
Retia & John Dryer
Dwayne & Cathie Faber
Elizabeth Hamburg
Pete & Sharon Hess
Karl & Marilyn Hoffman
Marilyn & Charles Kagel
Don & Jeanette Klang
Mary Ann Kuehn
Eileen Mathis
Barb & Denny Meyer
Greg & Joyce Renneberg
Leonard & Donna Schaub
Robert & Barbara Schoen
Eileen Schutz
Steve & Jodi Statz

In Loving Memory of:

Michael Costerisan
In memory of the Deceased Members of St. Patrick's
My Loved Ones in Heaven
The Harrison and Decot Families
Frank & Tee Messa, Al & Marilyn Jisa, & Florence & Leo Drea
Harold Justman
Nathan Kast
John & Alice Sebranek and Vincent & Lillian Kelley
Bob Koch
Chester & Helen Hernacki
Clarence & Agnes McCluskey, & Olivia Brown
Deceased Members of the Chris & Stella Mueller Family
and the John & Clara Mlsna Family
The Moreau & Schefske Families
Deceased Schutz Relatives and Deceased Carroll Relatives
Alex & Louise Chiaro
Bill & Lois Imhoff
Deceased Members of the Streit and Koenigsfeld Families
Joseph & Patrick Cruice, Grandson Anthony Block, and Richard & Lois Zanon
Walter Schulz

