

December 22nd 2019 - Fourth Sunday of Advent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 21

9:00am † Lourdes Simpliciano
4:30pm † Betty Flynn

Sunday, December 22

7:30am St. John Parishioners
9:30am YMI Brothers
11:00am † Apolinar & Tedora Tabilog
12:30pm † Raul Perez

Monday, December 23

9:00am † Perfecto Hierro Sr.

Tuesday, December 24

9:00am † Frisco & Consolacion Apalit
4:30pm St. John Parishioners
12:00am St. John Volunteers

Wednesday, December 25

~ Christmas Day ~

9:30am † Rodrigo & Gladys Tarantan
11:00am St. John Volunteers
12:30pm YMI Brothers

Thursday, December 26

9:30am Dominador & Lety Tomas (ann)

Friday, December 27

9:00am † Reynaldo R. Alejandro

Saturday, December 28

9:00am St. John Parishioners
4:30pm YMI Brothers

ADVENT WREATH

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle."



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

December 9th - December 15th, 2019

Tuesday's Spec coll.	\$ 66.00
Tues. On-line giving	\$ 5.00
Immaculate Conception coll\$	299.00
Imm. Concpt. On-line giving ..\$	0.00
Weekend Offering.....	\$ 2,787.02
Weekend On-line giving...\$	295.00
Religious Retirement.....\$	1,335.00
Religious Rtrmnt On-Line Giving.\$	0.00

From the Desk of the Pastor

Two weeks ago Isaiah, the prophet spoke of the hope of a new king who would be more reliant on God than on the might and political alliances with foreign powers. Today's passage brings us to the dynamic that laid the groundwork for a new oracle.

King Ahaz was in a panic. The might of the Assyrian army was massing on the borders of Judah. How could Ahaz extricate himself from this inevitable defeat at the hands of his enemies. Prophet Isaiah reminded Ahaz that his duty as Judah's king was not to find strength in arms or in political alliances, but in the ancient covenant with God.

Isaiah begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to trust in God, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. But Ahaz would not listen. **Isaiah encounters in Ahaz, a stiff resistance and a stubborn refusal to seek refuge in God and know what he is expected to do;** because that meant that he had to act with diligence. The king hypocritically refuses to change his plans He pouts and turns his back on Isaiah. (See 2 kgs 16:5-9)

It was at this point that the prophet Isaiah, a true Israelite, foretold the birth of, "Emmanuel" an heir to the throne of David.

This is in sharp contrast with St. Matthew's presentation of **Mary and Joseph:** who are given to hear of God's plans, and who **in total surrender to God with utmost trust and fidelity embrace God's Word, even when they have to change and give up their own plans for their future.** Together, they try to do what is right. When God reveals to them a different plan, one that seems to make their lives more difficult, they respond with trust. As the Gospel tells us, Joseph "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him." Joseph shows us that at the heart of a right relationship with God lies trust that is put into action!

It seems as if Joseph slept the rest of the night through and in the morning awakened to a new life.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Pastoral Council thanks you for your overwhelming support and participation in the "Parish Mass Survey" conducted in the last few weekends.

The Parish Council recommends to the Pastor and the Parishioners the following Mass schedule: 8:00am (English); 10:00am (English) and 12noon (Spanish) effective from Sunday January 5, 2020.

We are grateful to all of you who took time and invested yourselves in this stewardship of the Parish. Your efforts and your hearts say in so many words that you care and are invested in this Parish of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you.

Long live St. John the Evangelist Parish. God Bless!

Christmas Schedule of Services

Simbang Gabi masses will continue until Tuesday, December 24th at the 9:00 am mass. The Posada will be celebrated on Sunday, December 22nd after the 12:30 pm mass.

Christmas Vigil Services: December 24th

4:30 pm Bi-lingual, families and children's mass; 11:30 pm lessons and carols ~ 12 midnight mass in English

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

Mass schedule is as follows: 9:30 am, 11:00 am will be in English and 12:30 pm in Spanish.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: December 28th and 29th weekend

Mass Schedule: Saturday at 4:30pm

Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:00am and 12:30pm in Spanish.

Prayers and Rededication of Our Families: at all Masses

At each mass that weekend the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a consecration of all of our families to the Holy Family. This will include a special prayer led by Father Agnel with responses by all in the Congregation. In preparation for this, at each of the masses on December 21st and 22nd, members of the Knights of Columbus will pass out flyers with suggestions for how you and your family may prepare for the consecration prayer. This will be a meaningful way to end 2019 and to begin the next decade in a way that unites ourselves and our families with the Holy Family.

Feast of Mary, The Mother of God, January 1, 2019; Holy Day of Obligation

New Year's Day, there will be only one bilingual mass at 9:00 am

Parish Office Hours

On **Tuesday, December 24th**, the Parish office will have limited hours. The office will be open from 8:30 am and close at 12 pm. **The office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th**; Christmas Day and on **Thursday, December 26th**. The office will re-open on Friday December 27th with limited hours.

Emmanuel...God is with us" Of all the titles given to the Lord, these words describe the identity and mission of Jesus. God is not distant, abstract, demanding, a god of wrath and military might. God desires to be near to us in our challenges and in our joys. As we approach Christmas, what does it mean to you that God is with us, now and always?