

23rd December 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Advent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 22

9:00am † *Apolinar & Teodora Tabilog & family*

4:30pm † *Graciela Salinas*

Sunday, December 23

7:30am *St John's Parishioners*

9:30am † *Mary Connolly*

11:00am *Avelina Leanos (bday)*

12:30pm *YMI deceased brothers*

Monday, December 24

9:00am

Tuesday, December 25

~ *Christmas Day* ~

9:00am *Ryan Wolf & family*

Wednesday, December 26

9:00am † *Remedios Bautista McKay*

Thursday, December 27

9:00am † *Reynaldo R. Alejandro*

Friday, December 28

9:00am

Saturday, December 29

9:00am

4:30pm † *Veronica Sanchez*

Parish Office Hours

On **Monday, December 24th**, the Parish office will have limited hours. The office will be open from 9:00 am and close at 12 pm. **The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th**; Christmas Day and on **Wednesday, December 26th**. The office will re-open on Thursday December 27th.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

Dec 11th - Dec 16th, 2018

Tuesday's Spec coll.	\$ 85.00
Tues. On-line giving	\$ 10.00
Weekend Offering	\$ 3,044.00
Weekend On-line giving	\$ 290.00
AAA.....	\$ 1,638.00
AAA On-line giving.....	\$ 315.00

From the Desk of the Pastor

All of us at some time in life have witnessed things happen so fast that our minds cannot take them in. While Elizabeth and Zechariah wait on the lord, they put themselves at God's bidding time. They advance in age and for all practical purposes, child bearing appears to be a near impossibility.

Today Elizabeth gets the last word: She praises God for His stunning intervention in her lonely humble life she shared with her devoted husband Zechariah. Against all odds, God has made a miracle possible for her: The child to be born, is not just a private favor for her, but is an act of God for the salvation of Israel. Hence she cannot help but wonder out loud, "What, then, will this child be?"

The answer to that question will flash in her spirit at the visitation of Mary: Mary travels to the hill country to the town of Judah to be of service to Elizabeth. We can scarcely imagine what it was like for Mary to travel in those days. It is also difficult to imagine Mary's joy at reaching the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Mary's visit to Elizabeth can be read as a story of endings and beginnings. Elizabeth will approach the end of her life by bearing a son who will bring the 'old age' to an end. Mary is beginning her adult life by bearing a son who will usher in a 'new age'. In Luke's Gospel, this is all part of God's plan and in the visitation, "old meets new" and "promise meets fulfillment". (Lk 1:39) God proves to be faithful who keeps his promises.

Even before he is born, John recognizes the special status of Jesus by leaping in the womb of Elizabeth (Lk 1:40). It is at this time that Elizabeth herself is filled with the Holy Spirit. This means that what she is about to say is not merely her own sentiments. The Holy Spirit inspires her proclamation and thus the words that she cries out, are 'prompted' words of revelation. They focus on Mary and her child: Jesus. (Lk 1:42) She proclaims Mary blessed and she identifies her child as the Lord. Elizabeth has fulfilled her role in God's plan. Her son will bring the old age to a close while proclaiming the advent of the new.

Through these stories, we learn to trust God just as men and women in the bible did, sure that surprising interventions bring fulfillment beyond expectations, deep inner joy and greater good to all. They come from a long line of revered and holy women beginning with Sarah who appeared to be barren but in fact were instruments of God's revelation. Mary pushes that tradition even more radically in that she is not barren, she is a virgin... for nothing, and really nothing is impossible for God!

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Christmas Flower Donations

We welcome donations for the poinsettias that will be purchased for the Church for the Christmas season. We suggest a \$10.00 donation. These donations may be made in memory of a loved one or as a petition for a special prayer request. The names and petitions will be included on a scroll and placed at the foot of the altar throughout the Christmas Season. Envelopes for flower donations are available in your envelope packet or on the tables located in the back of the church.

Christmas Schedule of Services

Simbang Gabi masses will continue until Monday, December 24th at the 9:00 am mass.

The Posada will be celebrated on Sunday, December 23rd 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, Tuesday, 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 29th and 30th weekend

Mass Schedule: Saturday at 4:30pm

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

Prayers and Rededication of Our Families: at the 11:30am Mass

The Knights of Columbus, Council 615, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, will be assisting at this Mass and sponsoring this dedication at the end of the Mass. All are invited to come with your families and join in this prayerful blessing. Following the Mass, the Knights of Columbus invite us for a 'get-together' in the Parish Hall.

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

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