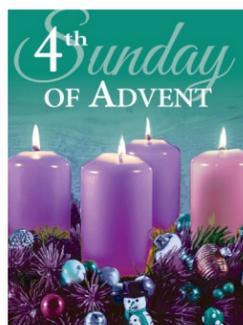




Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.



Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

Reservations are needed for Masses for Christmas and The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Refer to today’s bulletin for the schedule and phone or email the office to book spaces.

SYNOD 2021-2023, Journeying Together

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has invited the Catholic Church to participate in the Synod on Synodality, which is all about our journeying together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God is called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens in understanding of Her mission and looks toward the future. A Synod, which is the process by which the Church will begin this important work is not just a convening of Bishops advising the Pope. It is a journey of discernment in which the entire people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit’s will for the Church. Through our listening and our sharing, we will seek to understand what the Holy Spirit’s will is for the topic being discussed – and thus, for the Church.

Offertory December 5th, 2021

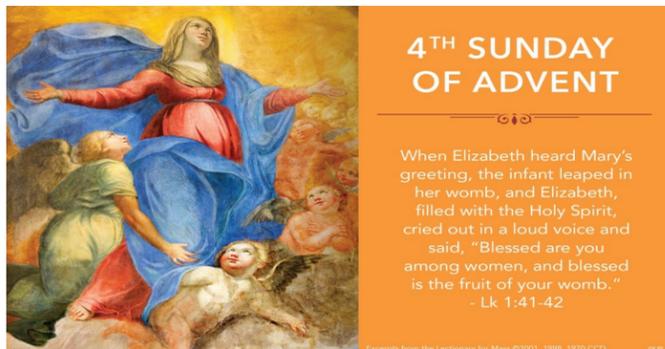
Envelopes: \$3, 360.00

Offertory December 12th, 2021

Envelopes: \$3, 135.00

**E -Transfer: stannfendonaions@cogeco.net
 (No password required)**

Sunday, December 19th, 2021



Sat. Dec 18	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions Fourth Sunday of Advent
	5:00pm	✠ Isaiah (Magazzeni Family) ✠ Betty & Les Szabo (Jan & Lana) Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun. Dec 19	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Ashley Lelievre (Racz Family) ✠ Anthony, Muriel & Wayne Rebeiro (Rebeiro Family)
Mon. Dec 20	9:30am	NO MASS
Tues. Dec 21	9:30am	Special Intention (Patti & Cyril Simek)
Wed. Dec 22	7-8pm	HOLY HOUR & Confessions
	9:30am	Intentions of Vern & Donna Walters & Family (Teresa & Colin Walters)
Thurs. Dec 23	9:30am	✠ Margaret Marshall (Mike & Anne Young) Christmas Eve Masses
Fri. Dec 24	5:00pm	✠ Wally & Sophie Paterak (Chris Meyo & Family) ✠ John & Anne Mikolasek (Mary Ann Biggar & Family)
	8:00pm	✠ Frances MacDougall (Gwen MacDougall & Family) Christmas Day Masses
Sat. Dec 25	Midnight	✠ Jack & Dorothy Walters (Colin & Teresa Walters)
	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Anthony Filbert (Linda Filbert & Family) Birthday Blessings for Malti Gujadhur (Divya G.) Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sun. Dec 26	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Ralph Biancanello & Gerrard Gosselin (Vince Addario)

Sunday, December 26th, 2021



Mon. Dec 27		NO MASS
Tues. Dec 28	9:30am	Birthday Blessings for Kapil, Trimal & Raveem Rahulan (Divya G.)
Wed. Dec 29	7-8pm	HOLY HOUR & Confessions
	9:30am	Intentions of Mullin Siblings (Colin & Teresa Walters) Birthday Blessings for Rudraksha Sahi (Divya G.)
Thurs. Dec 30	9:30am	Intentions of Fr. Chad Grennan (Colin & Teresa Walters)
Fri. Dec 31	9:30am	✠ Margaret Murphy (Mike & Anne Young) Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God
	5:00pm	✠ Jack & Dorothy Walters (Colin & Teresa Walters)
Sat. Jan 1		Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God
	9:30am	All Parishioners
	11:00am	Sarah, Ever & Harper Addario (Vince Addario) Epiphany of the Lord
Sun. Jan 2	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Deceased Members of the Rebeiro Family (Rebeiro Family)

Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses. Offertory envelopes for 2022 are now available.

Volunteers will hand them out as you enter the church or phone to arrange pick-up. E-transfer will continue to be available to make your donation. Check your envelopes for Special Collection dates. **FOR THE YEAR 2022, USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR. If a box has not been prepared for you, let the office know.** Also, please do not begin using your new envelopes until 2022. Thank you!

All Church contributions/donations for 2021 must be received on or before Dec. 31st, 2021 to be applied to your 2021 tax receipt. It is best to make your last donations of the year on the weekend of Dec 25/26 as the office will be closed from Dec 24-Jan 1st. Donations received after that weekend will be applied to your 2022 tax receipt. Thank you!

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often colour what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe. In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today’s Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.



Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the “light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families.” While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God’s continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

SYNOD 2021-2023, Journeying Together



The active phase of our local participation in the Synod will begin in the New Year with small group discussions organized in every parish focusing on the fundamental question: *A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your*

local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”? (PD, 26) For more information, visit <https://www.synod.va/en.html>. For information on what is happening in our local Church, visit <http://www.saintcd.com/synod-2021-2023>

Reminder-Protocols for Receiving Communion: Please wait for the ushers to invite you to come forward for Holy Communion. The ushers will ask your preference and those receiving by the hand will come forward first. Then, they will invite those who would like to receive Holy Communion by mouth. When approaching the front, to receive communion, please maintain at least a 6-foot gap with the person in front of you and keep your mask on. When you reach the point to receive communion, stop at the green line, bow and respond “Amen” after the priest says, “The body of Christ”. Then remove your mask and step forward to receive the host. For those receiving on the hand, move to the left or right of the priest to consume the host. Then replace your mask and return to your seat via the side aisles.

