



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.” - Lk 1:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH
235 North Front St. New Bedford, MA 02746

MASSES FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 19th-27th

Saturday, Dec. 19th—4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM +Helena & +Alvin Bodzioch
Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sunday, Dec. 20th—4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Monday, Dec. 21st—Advent Weekday

7:30 AM ++Obenauf Family

Tuesday, Dec. 22nd— Advent Weekday

7:30 AM ++Souls in Purgatory
Inez M. Ayres

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd—Advent Weekday

7:30 AM +Lester Mietus

Thursday, Dec. 24th—Advent Weekday

7:30 AM Healing & Return to Health
Req. Maria D.

Thursday, December 24th—Christmas

4:00 PM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased



Friday, Dec. 25th—Christmas

10:00 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Saturday, Dec. 26th—St. Stephen

7:30 AM +Sister M. Richard Thoden, IHM

Saturday, Dec. 26th—The Holy Family

4:00 PM +Michael Robinson
Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sunday, Dec. 27th—The Holy Family

10:00 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Sisters and Brothers of Our Parish Family,

Christmas, second only to Easter in importance in the Church year, is the Feast of the Incarnation, the feast of God becoming a human being. The reality that God chose to be one of us is a uniquely Christian teaching. Emmanuel means “God-with-us.” And while we must rise above ourselves to reach God, He is with us as we rise toward Him.

Every Mass is like Christmas, where the bread and wine are transformed into Jesus’ flesh, His Body and Blood. In a real sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical Season of Christmas begins with the Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. During this Season, we celebrate the Birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that His Birth brought about, including the fact that He was born to die for us.

Just as the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the Season and a tradition in our homes, so is the tradition of exchanging gifts with family and friends. The latter is a way to honor God the Father’s gift of His only begotten Son to us and to all the world. So, as we have received the Gift of Christ, we will want to pass that Gift on to our loved ones.

May we be blessed in our efforts to make Christ more present to all the people whose lives we touch each day.

A Blessed Christmas!

Father Conrad

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Psalm 89

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your
faithfulness.
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. R.
"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations." R.
"He shall say of me, 'You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.'
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm." R.

Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.



Luke 1:26-38

THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

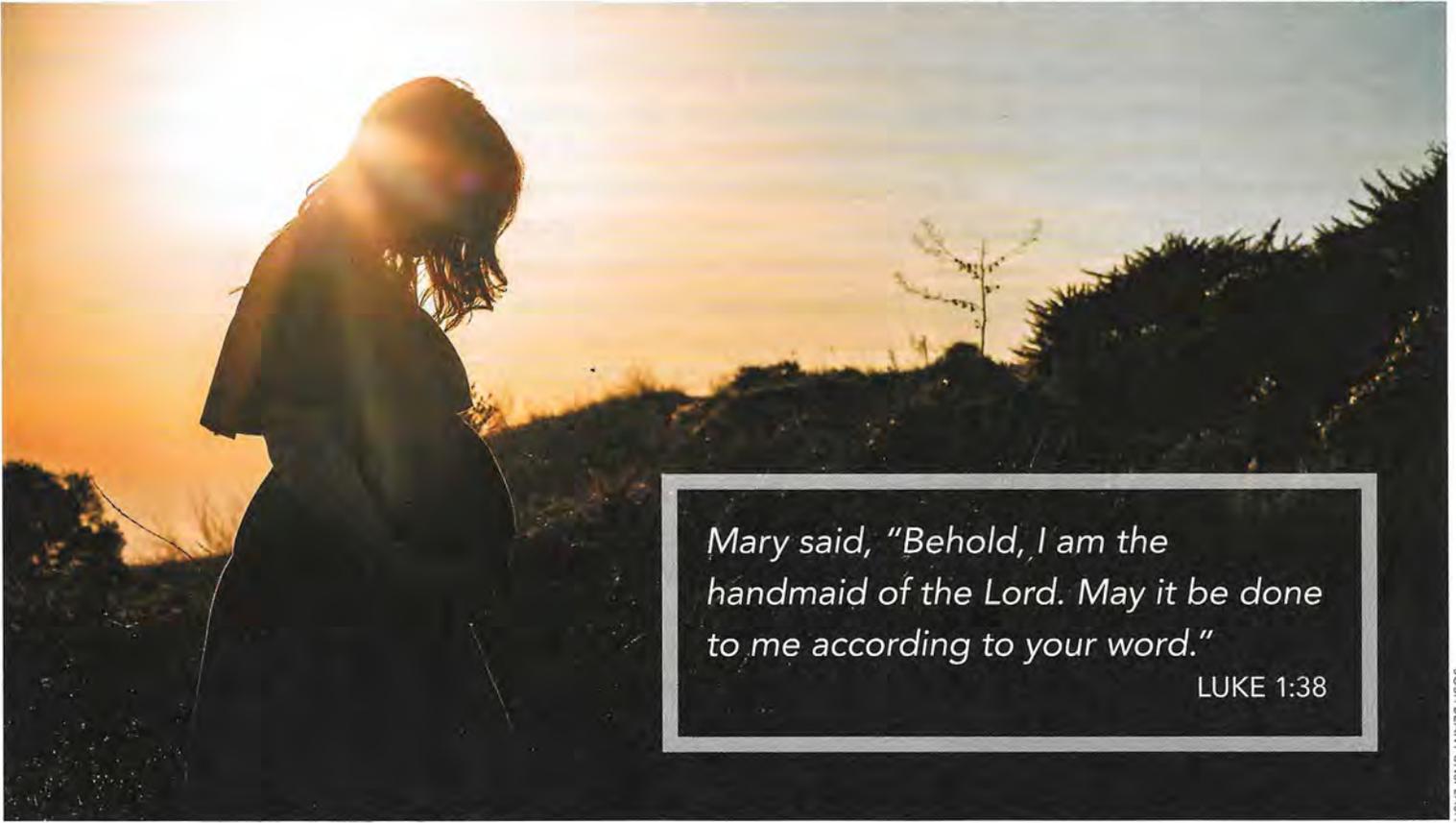
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

Rom 16:25–27

Lk 1:26–38



Mary said, "Behold, I am the
handmaid of the Lord. May it be done
to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

JOSH BEAN / UNSPLASH

How Can This Be?

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor

explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?
- ★ How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?

Dear Padre,

Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often



THE ANNUNCIATION / PSALTER VENICE

the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us.

Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Tuesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Wednesday

DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Thursday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Friday

DECEMBER 25
Christmas
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

Saturday

DECEMBER 26
St. Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Sunday

DECEMBER 27
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or Heb 11:8, 11–12,
17–19
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22, 39–40



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin....We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will....The Lord is always speaking to us!

—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8, 2014