

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.
May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

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."

Luke 1:30-33

December 13 Collection

Regular:	\$4,340.00
Faith Formation:	\$130.00
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Mass Intentions:	\$70.00
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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

December 20, 2020



Bulletin printed in-house at:
**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**

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Fort Worth, TX 76104

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SVD

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT—DECEMBER 20th**

The first reading is taken from 2 Samuel 7:1-5; 8-11;16 and refers to when David was anointed king in Hebron by all the tribes of Israel and Judah and his first step was to capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites and make it the political capital of his kingdom.

The second reading is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 26:25-27 where he introduces himself to the Christians in Rome and he gives an incomplete synthesis of his theology. His words remind us to give glory to God this Christmas and always, for the marvelous things he has done for us.

The Gospel is from Luke 1:26-38. At the moment our Lady said: "be it done to me according to thy word" the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth, took place on this planet of ours. The Son of God took on human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We are familiar with this story from childhood. We often say the Angelus in which this tremendous act of God's love is described. Although familiarity, in this case, does not breed contempt, it does help to blunt the real impact on our minds of such an extraordinary occurrence. If God had created a very special child, and made him into an outstanding saint, so that he could intercede with God for us, this would be a great act of love for us on God's part. Or, if he had sent an angel from heaven in human form, to teach us all about God and to help us to lead holy lives, this would deserve our deepest gratitude. But neither a saintly man nor a holy angel could do for us all that God wanted. No man or angel could make us adopted sons of God and heirs of

heaven. It was necessary, in God's plan for us, that his divine Son should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share his divinity.

Could infinite love have gone any further? Our creation, the fact that we exist as human beings on earth, is a great gift to us on the part of God. Of what value could eighty, a hundred, even seven hundred years of a continuously happy life on this earth be for us if we learned that we had to depart life forever one day? In a world tormented by sin and its evil effects our normal span of life would be less satisfying. However, when God created us, he so planned that our stay here would be but a stage, a stepping stone in fact, toward our everlasting home. We are well aware indeed of the lengths to which God's love has gone in order to make us his children and heirs to his kingdom. Are we, however, grateful to him for the love he has shown us? Are we honestly and sincerely trying to make ourselves worthy of the great future he has in store for us?

Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with God. During the week we shall be keeping the feast of Christmas. The Baby in the manger will remind us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of Christ? If most of us must answer: "no," this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. God is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: "behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word"?

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

**Reconciliation
(Confession):**

Friday & Saturday Confessions 9:00 a.m. — noon

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

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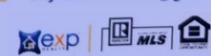
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In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time. ✕

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FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior the King of Kings. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

As the final purple candle is lit on this Fourth Week Of Advent, let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,

your grace into our hearts,

that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son

was made known by the message of an Angel,

may by his Passion and Cross

be brought to glory by his Resurrection,

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, December 21

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Tuesday, December 22

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Wednesday, December 23

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Thursday, December 24

Live Stream on our Church Website

Mass: 7 a.m.

Friday, December 25

Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m. (no Live Stream)

Live Stream on

our Church Website

Mass: 10 a.m.

Saturday, December 26

Live Stream on

our Church Website

Mass: 8 a.m.

Mass: 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 27

Live Stream on

our Church Website

Mass: 10 a.m.

Weekly Readings

12/21— SG 2:8-14 or ZEP 3:14-18a; LK 1:39-45

12/22—1 SM 1:24-28; LK 1:46-56

12/23—MAL 3:1-4, 23-24; LK 1:57-66

12/24—2 SM 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; LK 1:67-79

12/25—IS 62:1-5; ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25; MT 1:1-15 (Vigil Mass). IS 52:7-10; HEB 1:1-6; JN 1:1-18 or JN 1:1-5, 9-14 (Day Mass)

12/26—ACTS 6:8-10, 7:54-59; MT 10:17-22

12/27—SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 or GN 15:1-6, 21:1-3; COL 3:12-21 or COL 3:12-17 or HEB 11:8,11-12, 17-19; LK 2:22-40

Vocation View

Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say "let it be" in response to God's call to you?

Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always.

Divine Word Vocation Office 1-800-553-3321 www.svdvocations.org

PARISH CORNER

Nothing is eternal besides God and God's Kingdom. According to these words two weeks ago on December 6th we were facing a major water leak under the concrete between the Church and Parish Life Center. It took three days to find and repair the problem. The pictures represent the place where the problem occurred. The issue has now been resolved,



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Midnight Mass-Christmas: Friday, December 25, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. (will not be live streamed)

Christmas Day Mass: Friday, December 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Midnight Mass-New Year's: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 12:00 a.m. (will not be live streamed)

New Year's Day Mass Friday: January 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

On Friday, Christmas Day and Friday, New Year's Day, we will not be having adoration, nor confessions.

We are asking for those who would be interested in donating some Poinsettia flowers for the church to please call the church by Monday, December 21st. We will need them brought to the church by this Wednesday, December 23rd before noon.

We also need some help decorating the church on Wednesday. If you can be here by 9:00 a.m. Thank you in advance!

You could be someone's Angel

The Gabriel Project needs volunteers to mentor pregnant women with spiritual and emotional support.

Questions? 817-789-0514

gabrielproject@ccdofw.org

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Jesus prays

2606 All the troubles, for all time, of humanity enslaved by sin and death, all the petitions and intercessions of salvation history are summed up in this cry of the incarnate Word. Here the Father accepts them and, beyond all hope, answers them by raising his Son. Thus is fulfilled and brought to completion the drama of prayer in the economy of creation and salvation. The Psalter gives us the key to prayer in Christ. In the "today" of the Resurrection the Father says: "You are my Son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession."62

The Letter to the Hebrews

expresses in dramatic terms how the prayer of Jesus accomplished the victory of salvation: "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, and being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him."63

62 Ps 2:7-8; cf. Acts 13:33. 63 Heb 5:7-9.

That like Mary, our lives, too reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.
