



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mary's/
St. Patrick's, and St. Peter's Cathedral:

Advent does seem to fly by, but it is not over. On this last weekend we always hear an aspect of Mary's role in the story of the incarnation. This year it is her visit to her cousin Elizabeth, when at her arrival the yet unborn John the Baptist leaps with joy in Elizabeth's womb. The Savior had literally drawn near to him.

What if we were to respond with similar enthusiasm? To be sure, we are no longer in our mothers' wombs, but we have every reason to be excited. Christ in the Eucharist is nearer to us when we receive communion than he was to John when they were both in their mothers' wombs. His words resound in our ears when we hear the Gospels read. We too should respond with joy and exuberance.

Advent reminds us of that. Micah's prophecy of a ruler rising from Bethlehem looked backward to King David and forward to a successor who would rule his people in justice forever. This is a source of great joy and hope.

We see the tense expectation of first century Jews as they await God's deliverance. That is why they flock first to hear John and then to hear and follow Jesus.

They had confidence that God would act on behalf of his people. We believe that in taking flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary God has done just that: he has intervened in the world on our behalf.

So some excitement is in order, and frankly the Yuletide festivities can help us, if we do not let them overwhelm us. Yes, secularization obstructs the message but not for us. The excitement of children and the joy of adults as they look to reunions and memories remind us of the energy and enthusiasm of which the human person is capable.

We need to channel that knowledge and that excitement to the Gospel and remember the glory of the Lord that we encounter in this season. The Holy One of Israel took on human flesh to share our woes and to complete our joy. John the Baptist leapt in the womb when Mary greeted Elizabeth. Be sure that some part of you is ready to enter into the texts of the hymns and carols of the season and to leap with joy in the presence of the Lord.

In Christ,

Fr. Klein
Rector

Pray for the Sick

Darlene Bargelski, Facenda Burton, Michael Dineen, Helen Dugan, Cal Fuhrmann, Jaxon Gardner, Valencia Giannantonio, Ann Hagan, David Kidd, Kathy Kingsley, Fr. Leonard Klein, Rita Lynam, Bill Marshall, Barbara Mondzelewski, Francesca Olivere, Alice Goetz O'Neill, Teresa Rodriguez, Earlene Roles, John Sarnecky, Howard Scott, Cheryl Smith and Olga Yapo.

2019 Calendars

Help yourself to our 2019 calendars in the back of Church.

Birthday Wishes

Prayers and warm wishes for the following parishioners who have birthdays this week: **December 24:** Rev. John McVoy; **December 26:** James Giardinelli; **December 27:** Michael Vincze, Sr.; **December 28:** Olga Yapo, Gregory Lundmark

Altar Flowers

The beautiful flowers which adorn our sanctuary this weekend were provided by Dorothy Grzybowski in memory of her grandson, Robert Grzybowski.

Masses/Services for the Week

Saturday, Dec. 22	4:00 PM	Robert Grzybowski
Sunday, Dec. 23	8:00 AM	Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Irene Hannas
Monday, Dec. 24	4:00 PM	Jane B. Erickson and Helen A. Menton
Tuesday, Dec. 25	10 AM	Rev. William Kauffman
Wednesday, Dec. 26	12:10 PM	Max Paul
Thursday, Dec. 27	12:10 PM	Alvin and Kathryn Hall
Friday, Dec. 28	12:10 PM	John Hahn
Saturday, Dec. 29	4:00 PM	Howard and Gloria Dobson
Sunday, Dec. 30	8:00 AM	Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Living Intentions of the Kennard Family

Mass Schedule

Mass for Monday, December 31 will be at 9 AM and Tuesday, January 1 will be at 10 AM (there will be no 12:10 PM Masses on those days).

Christmas Flower Memorial

Do you have a loved one you would like remembered this Christmas? Why not do so with a Christmas Flower Memorial? Please use the envelope provided in your envelope package or one of the envelopes on the table near the entrance of the Cathedral. These memorials will assist us in defraying the cost of our Christmas flowers. A list of memorials will be published in the January 6 bulletin.

The Dialog

As you exit church, please pick up a copy of the Christmas Edition of The Dialog. In it you will find Bishop Malooly's annual Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, plus a special 150th anniversary tribute to priests in service to our diocese and parishes.

Book of Sacred Liturgy

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Readings/Responsorial Psalm Pg. 473

O Come Divine Messiah #777

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns #771

People Look East #774

Word of Life

"To couples who cannot have children of their own, you are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others."

—Pope Saint John Paul II, February 13, 1982 Homily.
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Help Needed to Prepare the Cathedral

Do you have time to assist in preparing the Church for the Christmas Season? Please come help this Sunday, December 23 after the 11:00 AM Mass.

History Book in Celebration of the 150th Anniversary
"Rejoicing in the Lord," has been published to help commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. This book features histories and photographs of all Catholic churches in Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Books will be available after all Masses in the back of Church. The cost is \$35.00 per copy. If you would like to reserve a copy while supplies last, please call the Parish Office at (302) 654-5920 or email cathedralstp@comcast.net.

Special Christmas Schedule

Cathedral of St. Peter

Monday, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
(*Bishop Malooly, Celebrant*)

4:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord
10:00 AM

St. Patrick

Monday, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
4:00 PM

7:00 PM (Latin Mass)

Tuesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord
9:00 AM

10:30 AM (Latin Mass)

St. Mary

Monday, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
10:00 PM

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