

INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY OF THE DAY

This is the shortest the Fourth Week of Advent can possibly be. Within twenty-four hours the Church will be celebrating Christmas and the birth of our Lord. It is tempting to overlook the Fourth Week of Advent this year. It seems insignificant in that it consists only of Christmas Eve, and in fact it is easily overshadowed by Christmas. So too did Mary seem like an insignificant woman and Bethlehem like an insignificant town. But we know God places value in what seems to us insignificant.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*2 Samuel 7:1-5 The kingdom of David shall
8b-12, 14a, 16 endure for ever before the
Lord.*

*Psalms 89 "For ever I will sing the
goodness of the Lord."*

*Romans 16:25-27 The mystery kept secret for
long ages has now been
manifested.*

*Luke 1:26-38 Behold, you will conceive in
your womb and bear a son.*

Today we hear the familiar story of the angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she will conceive and bear the Son of God. What an unbelievable message this must have been! She was seemingly just an ordinary young woman, not even married, not even having relations with a man. As a Jew, she would have been praying for the coming of the Messiah; now she is told she would be giving birth to him. But like David in the Old Testament, she accepts the role God has for her. "May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) We hear a lot about waiting today.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 4:00 PM	Dec. 23rd, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Parishioners Intentions
Sunday 8:30 AM	Dec. 24th, Vigil of Christmas Mass Intention, Peyton Meyers
Monday 8:30 AM	Dec. 25th, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday 8:30 AM	Dec. 26th, Weekday Parishioners Intentions
Wednesday 8:30 AM	Dec. 27th, Weekday Parishioners Intentions
Thursday 8:30 AM	Dec. 28th, Weekday Parishioners intentions
Friday 10:00AM	Dec. 29th, Weekday Fountain

Christmas Day

12/25 8:30 AM Rosary
10:30 AM Peace

**** There are two Distinct
Obligations for the
Weekend
Of December 23, 24 & 25**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I take the gift of Jesus that I have been given and share this gift with others?

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

OFFERTORY \$ 2,368.00
BUILDING FUND \$ 526.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS \$ 477.00
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT \$ 1,227.00

TOTAL \$ 4,598.00

**BUILDING FUND
TO DATE \$ 2,074.00**

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

OFFERTORY \$ 420.59
RETIREMENT \$ 161.00

TOTAL \$ 581.59



PRAYING DURING ADVENT
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We come to the fourth week of advent and I know things can get very busy. Preserve the time with Christ every day this week. You can, if you have made it a real priority. While it is not a full week, God's grace and mercy are not limited by time or by days. He has no limits, yet he waits for you to come to him! Take these last five days of Advent and draw near to the Blessed Mother, who waits to give birth to her son. Remember, there is no limit on time and seasons with God: he is the eternal now. All the grace available at the first Christmas for those who came to worship him is there for you now. Each of these five days, come to the Blessed Mother and ask her to pray for you that you might be able this Christmas to kneel at the crib and say, as Mary did at the Annunciation: "Be it done unto me according to thy Word." Sometimes, fear strikes us when we try to pray this way because we think, "I am not good; I am not holy." But we can't let this thought excuse us from praying such a prayer. All we need to do on our part is tell God this is what we want to do – surrender to his will, as Mary did. Ask him for the courage, the hope, the desire to give this as your Christmas gift to the Christ Child in this year 2017. You will not regret it. May you begin to know how deep and rich and wide is the mercy of God.

On December 28th the Collins' Family has a couple of anniversaries to celebrate: Tom & Mary Kay are at 55 and David & Nancy at 30.

We would love for you to join us at Our Lady of the Rosary where Father Brown and Father Tom will be saying mass for us on Thursday, December 28 at 9:30am.

Afterward, please come over to the Hall for fellowship and some breakfast snacks - nothing fancy. Please, no gifts. Your presence is gift enough.

