

# ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

FR. BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM, PASTOR  
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OFFICE HOURS-(Mon-Fri)  
9:00AM to 2:00PM

## December 24, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**FIRST READING:** I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

**PSALM:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

**SECOND READING:** To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16: 25-27).

**GOSPEL:** Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1: 26-38).

### LITURGICAL REFLECTION: THE ETERNAL GOD

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome. Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35). Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR LECTORS

5:30PM Lector	<u>Saturday Dec 30<sup>th</sup></u> Volunteer	9:00AM Lector:	<u>Sunday Dec 31<sup>st</sup></u> Denise Lakatos
		5:30PM	<u>New Year's Eve Mass</u> Volunteer

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (December 18<sup>th</sup>- December 24<sup>th</sup>)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

MON	12/25 9:00AM . . +.Mary Jane & Kenneth Ferg - (Daughter, Barbara)
TUES	12/26 7:00AM. . . Intention Dantis
WED	12/27 NO DAILY MASS
THURS	12/28 NO DAILY MASS
FRI	12/29 7:00AM. . .+.For Deceased Members of the Family of Lirila Grajciar
SAT	12/30 5:30PM. . .+. (A) Rich Poplinski - (Wife & Son)
SUN	12/31 9:00AM. . . .Pro Populo

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL MASS

5:30PM . . +.Nancy Schultz - (Ray & Andrea Vargo)

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY

MON	01/01 9:00AM . . + (B) Margaret Blair - (Family)
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**Stewardship Reflections:**

Our God is mighty, all-powerful and Love itself. The only proper response is to worship Him and live our lives as a grateful gift for all His goodness to us. But how can we possibly live up to this task? Only by relying on God, as St Paul tells us in the Second Reading, from his letter to the Romans. Paul instructs us to go to "him who can strengthen you... Jesus Christ." The truth is, once we recognize that all we have is a gift from God, the next step is to acknowledge that we need God's strength and wisdom to guide us in the best use of those gifts for the building of His Kingdom. Hopefully, we are making time during Advent to go to God in prayer and through the sacraments to obtain the strength we need to live as His disciples and the guidance to know we are indeed following His will with the gifts He has entrusted to us.

In fact, our aim should be to make the words of our Blessed Mother our own. We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of her 'fiat', her 'yes' to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward. After Mary's fiat, we read "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her. Yet, she followed God's will perfectly! She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She trusted in her Heavenly Father to guide her at each step, and He did. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example as disciples today.

The Christmas, let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. It is the work of a lifetime. But He will give us all the help and strength we need to do it.

**Collection:**

Weekly	\$ 1,189.00
Monthly	\$ 15.00
Fuel	\$ 5.00
Building Fund	\$ 5.00
Flowers	\$ 10.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 5.00
Christmas	\$ 70.00
Initial Offer	\$ 9.00

*Thank you for your continued support of St. Anne's Parish! Please remember in your prayers the deceased parishioners and benefactors of our parish. God Bless!*



**ADVENT WREATH PRAYER**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

(Light the all purple candles & the rose candle)

**Prayer:** Pour forth thy power, O Lord, and come:  
Assist us by that mighty power,  
so that by thy grace and merciful kindness we may  
swiftly receive the salvation that our sins impede  
who livest and reignest with thee  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end.  
Amen



Dear Parishioners

In the movie "Frozen" there is a kingdom under the curse of an eternal winter. The lifting of the curse comes when the sister of the queen makes an act of true love to save her sister. That act of love begins to end the long winter of frozenness and spring and warmth come again to the kingdom. This reminds us of how we were under the curse of sin and darkness since Adam and Eve. What broke the curse was an act of true love, the Father sending His Son into the world who gives His life for all of us. And at Christmas we celebrate the great thaw of our winter and frozenness. God's love in Christ warms our hearts and souls, new life is given to us. This love will last until the end of time.

Mary the warmth of Christ's love at Christmas warm your hearts, homes and families and bring that love into our frozen and cold world.

On behalf of Fr. Balestino and myself have a most Blessed Christmas Season.

*H. Bernard*

*Fr. Balestino*

**Families and the Gospel (Luke 1: 26-38)**

**QUESTION:** What do you call a family, which began with an unmarried pregnant teen, and had a twelve-year-old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal? **ANSWER:** HOLY! Two lessons in today's gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."

**Families and the Gospel**

**Christmas**

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children

