

December 18, 2011 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Family

1080 W. Roosevelt
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Parish

A Word from Father Jerry

Dear Parishioners,

"Hail Mary full of grace!" There are many great voices we hear during the Advent Season. As Advent draws to a close we hear the voice of Mary, the mother of Jesus. This moment in the Gospel is the Annunciation. Some of the most beautiful paintings ever done capture this moment of the visit of the Archangel Gabriel. Please take a moment to admire our beautiful window of the Annunciation to the East of the Shrine of St. Joseph. This window was a gift of the Holy Family Altar Society on the occasion of Holy Family's 50th anniversary in 1907.



The Lord speaks to all of us. How is the Lord speaking to you? These Advent days invite us to "listen". So much of our day is filled with background noise, rarely is there the gift of quiet to hear what the Lord may be asking of us. I know it's busy! Let's all try and find some quiet space this week.

Today we welcome Cardinal George and the Lumen Cordium Society for a Christmas Concert by the City Lights Orchestra. The Cardinal is a musician in his own right. I am delighted Holy Family was selected to host this beautiful afternoon of the music of the season. Please come! The concert begins at 2:00 p.m. It is free.

Yesterday almost 400 children from the near West side came to participate in our annual Christmas party for children. It was amazing! Special thanks to Virginia Clayton and Jerilyn Young for all the organization involved. Thanks also to the steering committee of the Kandy Kane Ball that collected hundreds of toys. I am also grateful to St. Raymond's and the Hispanic Heritage Organization for their contributions. The gifts, the food, Santa, the photos, the games-what a great time, thank-you.

We are preparing of course for Christmas next weekend. This coming Friday, we will be decorating the Church from 10:00 to 2:00. If you would like to help, c'mon by, we would love to see you!

On Christmas Eve (next Saturday), I will be hearing confessions from

Rectory

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Parish Staff

Administrator..... Rev. Jerry Boland
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Deacon Rudolf Kotleba

Director of Gospel Choirs ..Sam Parker

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Masses

Monday-Friday..... 7:30 am
(St. Ignatius Chapel)

Sunday..... 9:45 am & 5:00 pm

Confessions

Sunday mornings from
8:45 - 9:15

Weddings

Arrangements must be made at least
six months in advance.



Focus on the Word

The Sunday readings are placed in this bulletin for the benefit of those who might have a hearing impairment, and for your reflection before Mass and during the week. Since an important part of our Sunday worship is hearing the scripture proclaimed, we urge you to LISTEN to the readings as they are proclaimed. Thank you.



Reading 1

2 Sm 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."

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading

2 Rom 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

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

Lk 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Please take some schedules for our Christmas celebrations. Give them to friends and neighbors. Our celebrations here are beautiful and we love to have guests and visitors to join us. The Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00 features the renowned organist Walter Whitehouse who will perform on the Frobenius Organ with a Brass choir. At 9:30 our renowned Gospel Choir will lead us in singing the sacred carols of Christmas before the Vigil Mass at 10:00 p.m.

One of the highlights of the Christmas Season will be the dedication of our newly restored doors by Bishop Alberto Rojas. The oldest doors in the city will be dedicated by our newest Bishop!

I am grateful to so many of you that have offered to help families in need at this time. From the food pantry to taking seniors to their doctor's appointments, a parish community can really make a difference.

Have a Blessed Week, When He comes, and may he find us watching in prayer,

Fourth Sunday of
Advent



Liturgy

December 18 at 9:45 am

Presider Reverend Jeremiah Boland
Cross Bearer.....Virginia Clayton
Candle Bearers.....Tom O'Malley
& Katie Terone
Banner Carrier.....Tom McElligott
Lectors.....Lettece Lee
& Sabrina Cajandig
Responsorial Psalm.....Marilyn Reidy
Communion Ministers.....Jerry Hossli,
Diane Allen, Rita Gardner, Debra
Higens, Betty Ferguson, Donna Raclaw,
Sr. Mary Therese Freymann
Altar Servers..... Stephanie Okiro
& Amare Wilson
Greeter.....Ellen Duff

December 25 at 9:45am

Lectors.....Sr. Marion Murphy
& Sandra Broussard
Altar Servers.....Alexandria Wilson
& Amanda Wilson
Greeters.....

December Collection Ministers

Eastside.....Felix Rubin
East Center.....Julia Haynes
Westside.....
West Center.....Greg Baiocchi

 **Mass Intentions**

Living and Deceased Members
of the

National Catholic Society of Foresters

Sunday Collection

Goal: \$3,000.00

Dec. 4.....\$2,763.24
GiveCentral.....\$285.00
Difference: +\$48.24
Dec. 11.....\$3,199.81
GiveCentral.....\$175.00
Difference: +\$374.81
Religious Retirement.....\$1,716.15

Today's second collection is for hospitality.

If you wish to contribute to the Door Restoration Project you can do so on GiveCentral.com by choosing the event "Church Door Restoration"

Please Remember in your Prayers:

Kay Ansani, Priscilla Archer, Tracy Beyers, Angela Balthazar, MaryAnn Burke, Michael DeBlasis, Wilfred Cashman, Paul Cordero, Rachel Cordero, Betty Ferguson, Jesse Hernandez, Dale Gurney, Eleanor Kotleba, Jim McNally, Philip Mendoza, Phillip Miller, Neil Morris, Dan O'Holleran, Christopher Olkiewicz, Eric Shepherd, Patti Tierney, Lupe Torres, Christine Watson, and Jesse West

Free Consultation about Public Benefits for your Family

Do you know if your family is eligible for public benefits such as All Kids or Food Stamps? In July, income limits were raised and now more parents are eligible for Family Care. All children and adolescents can qualify for medical benefits. You too may be eligible for benefits.

Contact Saint Anthony Hospital's Community Wellness Program for a free and confidential consultation about your eligibility or public benefit questions. Your children and family deserve it!

We are located at 2826 W. Cermak.
Call us today at (773) 523-5079

DECEMBER 18 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In today's Gospel the angel Gabriel said to Mary "Do not be afraid..." Without understanding all that will flow from it, Mary speaks her yes. Are you called to say yes to God? Do not be afraid!
Men of college-age and older are invited to an Exploring Priesthood Weekend retreat at Mundelein Seminary to learn about, pray, and reflect on the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. The next EPW is January 13-15, 2012. To register contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or bwelter@archchicago.org See www.ChicagoPriest.com for more details.

Chicago Homeless Persons' Memorial

On December 21, the longest night of the year, the Ignatian Spirituality Project, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the Harmony, Hope & Healing choir and Old St. Patrick's Church invite you to a memorial service to remember those who have died on the streets of our city, homeless and alone. It is important for all people of good will to step outside the mania of Christmas and consider the incarnation through a different lens-the lens of the homeless poor living and dying on our streets. In our city, where the abundance of wealth and security is ever present there is in the shadows of the Magnificent Mile another reality: the reality of human beings losing the struggle for their lives. Certain things only the weakest and most vulnerable among us can teach us about life and the incarnation. It is to them that we turn to, to memorialize and to ask about the message of beauty and hope that Christmas offers. Thousands of people are holding memorial services across the country and will be joining us in prayerful remembrance on this night. The event will be held at 6 p.m. on December 21 at Old St. Patrick's Church. Let us join together as a community to step outside the mania of Christmas and honor these men and women who have died.

Holiday Bulletin Deadlines

Mon. 12/19 for the 12/25 bulletin
The articles must be in the office by noon on the due date.

Calendar

- Today - The Cardinal's Christmas Concert 2 p.m.
- Dec. 24 - Mass for the Vigil of the Nativity 5 p.m.
Christmas Carols 9:30 p.m.
Solemn Liturgy for the Nativity of the Lord 10 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
9:45 Mass - Gospel Choir
5:00 Mass
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve 5 p.m. Mass
- Jan. 1 - New Year's Day 9:45 Mass
5 p.m. Mass
- Jan. 8 - Feast of the Epiphany
Blessing of Holy Family's restored front doors 9:30 a.m.
Bishop Alberto Rojas presiding
Solemn Liturgy of the Epiphany at 9:45 a.m.
5 p.m. Epiphany Mass