



# December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Upcoming Dates

Dec 25, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm  
Jan 4, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm  
Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

## Mass Intentions

**Sat 4pm:** Terrel Koutz Harms<sup>†</sup>, Joan Brown.  
**Sun 9:30 am:** Marty Tierney, Linda Dubois,  
John Seymour<sup>†</sup> requested by Barbara Seymour.  
**Sun 11 am:** Paul & Sheila Juilly, Jack Burger.

## Readings

Is 7: 10-14  
Ps 24: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 (7c. 10b)  
Rom 1: 1-7  
Mt 1: 18-24

## Parish Donations

You can scan the QR code to make a donation.

December 10-11	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$348.00	\$594.00
St. Catherine	\$145.00	\$225.00
St. Colman	\$190.00	\$70.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$1,572.00

## Pastor's Desk

As we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent, I just wanted to say that I was impressed by the Christmas party that we had last Sunday I noticed others visited each table and introduce themselves and we have the family of Robles their children and their family that attended and met all of them and invited them to be able to celebrate with their parents. It is great that others were mingling with others and getting to know other parishioners.

So, it is every advent season when we celebrate waiting for the nativity of our Lord. The

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall
Finance Committee Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman

\* of February, May, August and November

commercialization of Christmas has helped with the problem of waiting: we just don't do it anymore!

The celebration of Christmas is no longer tethered to a single day. It begins earlier each year. But what is interesting is that, as it becomes more of a shopping extravaganza, so too does it come to a quick and decisive end.

A local TV stations had three of its personalities chatting the other day about when Christmas ends. One of the anchors claimed that her tree and decorations came down almost immediately, while another admitted she waited until after the New Year because she loved the appearance of her home. The third one claimed that her Catholic upbringing taught her that the celebration of Christmas lasts through Epiphany, so everything stayed put until that day. Actually, the traditions extend the celebrations up to the Baptism of the Lord, and an even older one takes it to the feast of the Presentation. So, it seems that, like our problem with waiting in the season of advent, so too do we struggle with wanting to end Christmas too early

The lesson here is that we need to rediscover the deeply holy and transformative nature of this holiday. It is good for us to wait for the coming of Emmanuel just as long as we can, but it is also good for us to let the birth of Jesus Christ linger in our hearts and lives as long as possible. The church provides a liturgical calendar to help us achieve that reality and celebrate God becoming human so that humanity can become more like God. What we need to master is the internalization of what this season means, from Advent to Presentation. The birth of Jesus can be more than just a holiday. If we truly embrace the incarnation, it can be for us a yearly birth of holiness that calls us to the same life that Jesus lived: serving others as selflessly as possible and making sure we see them as brothers and sisters,

all of us children of God. When that happens, the season of waiting will remain with us each day of our lives. What we await during the season of Advent will inspire us to celebrate not just a holiday but a way of living.

Peace and blessings!

Fr. Luis

## Announcements

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm, St. Elizabeth (Christmas Carols begin 15 minutes before Mass).  
December 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am, St. Elizabeth (Christmas Carols begin 15 minutes before Mass).  
December 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am, St. Coleman.

## Religious Calendars

The 2023 religious calendars are arriving a little late this year. The new company that has taken over their production said that they will be shipped out on December 27th. They will be available in the churches for all parishioners when we receive the shipment.

## Confessions

Fr Luis is available to hear Confessions after 9 am Mass on Fridays and before weekend Masses. Please call the rectory at 707-869-2107 to confirm with him, so that he knows to arrive early on the weekend, or stay late on Friday. Alternatively, a more convenient time can be scheduled with him by calling the rectory.

## Discussion Questions

### **First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14**

1. Isaiah said, "A virgin will bear a son and name him Emmanuel." How long had God planned for Jesus' birth? From the beginning of time? After Adam? If the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, was the plan from the beginning of time, what does that tell you about God?

2. God gave a sign to Ahaz, who hadn't even asked for one. Does God give signs that aren't requested? Give some examples. Do you think you ever miss any of God's plans for you? Why?

## How can I help during these hard times?

You can now easily donate online *by scanning the QR code with your smartphone* or using the donate button at [stelizabeth.churchtrac.com](http://stelizabeth.churchtrac.com). Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit [smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577) to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.

## **Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

1. Paul says the Gospel is about God's Son, descended from David. How can a human being from our history books be God's own self? Or is Jesus just a name in the history books?

2. Can the "grace of apostleship" be different for everyone? Could everyone be "called to be holy"? Name some ways that you can take Christ into your work, home, parish, today.

## **Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24**

1. List the obstacles God encountered in bringing Jesus into the world. Is anything obstacle-free? How can good come out of obstruction? John Shea made a statement about Joseph's hesitancy to take Mary into his home. discuss his statement: "This foreshadows the tension of all who will be drawn to Jesus. Is he a scandal to be rejected, or a manifestation of the Spirit to be welcomed?" (John Shea 45) "When Joseph awoke ..." Did Joseph wake up in more than one way?

2. Pope Francis says that St. Joseph had some new horizons to navigate. What are all the new horizons in the Church and the world in general, that you think the Holy Spirit is showing us today?

At this point, Joseph trusts God totally, obeys the Angel's words and takes Mary with him. It was precisely this unshakeable trust in God that enabled him to accept a humanly difficult and, in a certain sense, incomprehensible situation. Joseph understands, in faith that the child born in Mary's womb is not his child, but the Son of God, and he, Joseph, will be its guardian, fully assuming its earthly paternity. The example of this gentle and wise man exhorts us to lift up our gaze and push it further. It is a question of recovering the surprising logic of God which, far from small or great calculations, is made up of openness towards new horizons, towards Christ and His Word.

Pope Francis Audience: St Joseph and new Horizons  
Dec 22, 2019



SCAN ME