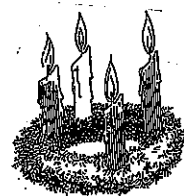




DECEMBER 18, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ISAIAH 7:10-14; ROMANS 1:1-7; MATTHEW 1:18-24



“Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.” – Matthew 1:20

Schedule of Holiday and Christmas Services

The Christmas Vigil
Saturday, December 24
7:30 pm



Christmas Day Masses
Sunday, December 25
8:00 am & 10:30 am



New Year's Eve Mass
Saturday, December 31
7:00 pm

New Year's Day Masses
Sunday, January 1
8:00 am & 10:30 am

From the Pastor's Desk



The Advent is almost ended. There is still one week to prepare our hearts for the Solemnity of Christmas. This coming Monday, we will have an opportunity to meditate, pray and hopefully to confess our sins so that the Lord may find a place in our hearts. Like Joseph, we need to trust in God, listen to Him and be faithful. We are here in this Church, a week before Christmas, because like Joseph, we are faithful and we trust in God, His power and His mercy. Although we may face financial problems, job insecurity, family problems, and health concerns, let us try to be trusting and faithful like St. Joseph. Instead of relying on our own schemes to get us through life, let us trust in God and be strengthened by talking to Him in fervent prayer and by listening to Him speaking through the Bible. Let us remain faithful and prayerful, imitating Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest ever believers in God's goodness and mercy as we welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives this Christmas. Do we have any gifts for our "Birthday Boy?" Let us check to see if Jesus is on our list this Christmas and if we have a special gift in mind for Him. We all know the pleasure of finding the right present for our husband or wife, for our children, a good friend or a parent. What special gift are we giving to Jesus this year to honor His birth, and what do we expect from God? God sent Jesus from Heaven to earth to give us human beings what we really need most in life: hearts filled with love. That is the gift which Jesus really wants from us, and that is what you and I really need from God this Christmas - a heart filled with love. We have tons of wants. We are like children with a catalogue before Christmas, circling all our wants by the dozens. But we have one essential need: a heart filled with love. God wants to give each of us a heart filled with love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness on this Christmas and every day of our lives. Let us be a Christmas gift to others. The greatest gift we can give to those we love is to have faith in them, believe in their dreams, and try to help them realize them. We need to believe in the dreams of our husbands, wives, children, parents, heroes, leaders and friends, then try our best to help them realize those dreams. Love you, Fr. Pawel

ADVENT REVIVAL—Our Lady Queen of Peace Church will host a one-night *Advent Revival Reconciliation Service* on Monday, December 19 at 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - In observance of *Christmas*, the parish office will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26.

CYO NEW YEAR'S EVE FELLOWSHIP - The CYO Adult Council invites everyone to celebrate the New Year with good food and your OLQP family at the *Annual New Year's Eve Fellowship* immediately following the New Year's Eve Mass at 7:00 pm on Saturday, December 31. Everyone is welcomed to this family celebration and donations will be gladly appreciated.

SODALITY'S WINTER ACCESSORIES DRIVE - During the month of December, the OLQP Sodality will begin its annual hat, scarves, gloves and mittens drive for the needy. The drive will continue through Sunday, December 25. Again this year, the drive will support the Youth Ministry's volunteer efforts with the homeless. In addition to winter accessories, we are also accepting socks, thermal undergarments and leg warmers. A collection bin will be available to collect donations in the rear of the church after each Mass beginning today. For more information or questions, please contact Margaret Ricks at (202) 582-1277.

THANKS FOR YOUR KINDNESS - *“Dear Queen of Peace Family: Thank you for all you prayers, love, encouragement and support last Sunday. Let no one tell you that prayer does not work. There was a small improvement with Liz Blake when we arrived at the hospital later that day. Since then, she has been steadily improving. God bless each and every one of you. Merry Christmas from the Blake and Cunningham Families.”*

Pray for Our Sick & Homebound

*Stephen Aldrich-Fannie Anderson- Jackie Arrington-Ann Bennett-Elizabeth Blake-Thomas Briscoe-James Brown-Gary Brunswick
 Vincent Carter-Willie Chapman-Forestine Cooke-Doris Daniels-Brenda Day-Delores Douglas-Grace Dumas-Annie Farrell
 Simpson Goolsby- Diane Hale-Mason-Jean Hale-Steven Hale-Wilfred Hale-David Hicks-Alreta Hill-Florine Johnson-Penniah Johnson
 Virginia Matthewson- Grace Taylor-McNair-Paul Medley- Michael Pegues-Yvonne Pitts-Christopher Powell-Oscar Quarles-Brenda Ross
 June Russ-Tracie Saunders-Doris Seldon-Patricia Lyons Staton-Tommy Staton-Lottie Tidline-Constance Thompson-Juanita Warren
 Rebecca Washington-Russell Watts-Theresa Young*

(To add names or for questions regarding the "Pray for Our Sick" list, please contact Deacon Miller at (301)336-4074)