**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B**

**The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin, whose name was Mary. He said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."**

**Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, December 23, 5:00 p.m. Mass – Day 9, Christmas Novena – Simbang Gabi**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. Mass**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Christmas Eve Mass – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

**7:00 p.m. Mass + For Soul of Christopher Joseph**

**9:00 p.m. Mass + For Souls of the Bedard, Gavin and Baxter Families**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

**Monday, December 25, 10:30 a.m. Mass**

**+ For the Soul of John Carroll by the Family**

**Octave of the Nativity, Tuesday, December 26, No Mass – Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr**

**Octave of the Nativity, Wednesday, December 27, 8:30 a.m. Mass - Feast of St. John, Apostle, Evanglist**

**Octave of the Nativity, Thursday, December 28, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**Octave of the Nativity, Day 5, Friday, December 29, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Saturday, December 30, 5:00 p.m. Mass – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m. Mass – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**New Year’s Eve, 5:00 p.m. Mass – The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and World Day of Peace**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**New Year’s Day, Monday, January 1, 10:30 a.m. Mass - The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and World Day of Peace**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION: On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, our gospel reading is the story traditionally called 'the Annunciation'. Luke in fact begins his gospel with two annunciations, the first to Zechariah about the coming birth of his son John the Baptist, and the second to Mary. In both passages the angel announces a birth and speaks of the greatness of the one who is to be born. In the case of Jesus: 'He will be called Son of the Most High.' What lies at the very heart of this passage is the request of God to Mary and her generous response, by which she allows the Son of God to become a human being within her. Mary hears the word of God and accepts the gift of the child, who is the Word, the Son of God. Paintings of the Annunciation often show Mary at prayer with the book of the Scriptures close by. She has come to know God through prayerful engagement with the Scriptures, and, at this crucial moment in the history of salvation, she responds generously to the call of God in her heart. Mary was not aware where this would lead her. The words 'I am the handmaid of the Lord' are filled with trust that, whatever lies ahead, God will give her the grace to remain faithful. This willingness to do God's will makes her the first of the disciples of Jesus, and the Mother of the Church. How can we be a faithful servant of the Lord, as Mary was? What does this moment of the Incarnation mean to us? Let us pray for trust and perseverance amid the trials, which face us. Let us always be grateful for the wonderful deeds of God.**

**CHRISTMAS – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**CHRISTMAS REFLECTION: Three separate sets of readings are provided for the three Masses of Christmas Day: the Mass at Midnight, the Mass at Dawn and the Mass during the day. The readings considered here are those of the Mass during the day. The opening words of the Gospel according to John, known as the Prologue, offer a rich reflection on the mystery of the human birth of the Son of God. The evangelist refers to him as ‘the Word’, for God has finally spoken his fullest word to the human race. As the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews states, God having spoken at many times in the past ‘in the last days has spoken to us through his Son’. The Prologue also refers to Jesus as ‘the Light’, for he brings truth and direction in our darkness. The darkness of sin and death cannot overcome the light of Christ. The evangelist speaks of the rejection of the Word by many, but also of the power given to those who do accept him, to all those who believe in him. The feast of Christ’s birth invites us to renew that faith and welcome the Word of light into our lives again. Do we appreciate that the birth of Christ is God’s loving invitation to change our life? Do we welcome the Word of life and light into the dark corners of our life? We pray that the feast of Christmas will bring many to reconsider the Christian message. Let us open our hearts to the grace and truth of God.**

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS REPORT: NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2023:**

**November 19, 2023**: **Envelopes: $2, 614.30; Loose: $1,026; Clergy Support: $275.00; Votive Candles: $68.05; Reconciliation: $26.00; St. Vincent de Paul: $286.00; Catholic Mission: $425.00; Evangelization: $5.00. TOTAL: $4,725.35**

**November 26, 2023:** **Envelopes: $970.00; Loose: $331.60; Clergy Support: $5.00; Vigil Candles: $37.35; St. Vincent de Paul: $255.00; Journey towards Healing: $20.00 TOTAL: $1,618.95**

**December 3, 2023:** **Envelopes: $4,485.00; Loose: $229.40; Clergy Support: $460.00; Building Fund: $230.00; Christmas: $260.00; St. Vincent de Paul: $1,491.05; Votive Candles: $71.00; Catholic Mission: $3.00 TOTAL: $7,229.45**

**December 10, 2023:** **Envelopes: $620.00; Loose: $405.50; Building Fund: $5.00; St. Vincent de Paul: $165.00; Votive Candles: $51.75; Nigerian Community: $500.00; TOTAL: $1,752.25**

**~ THANK YOU for your generosity and support ~**

**St Peter's clothing drive: St Peter's Parish will be holding a winter clothing drive for those in need at all masses Dec 30/31, Jan 6/7 and 13/14.   We are asking for gently used adult winter coats and scarves, children and adult hats and mitts.  Children's snowsuits are provided by the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund. Please drop off items in the gym.  Donations go to Society of St Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your ongoing support. Serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.**

**FOR CHRISTMAS -** **He Comes to Us! The true miracle of Christmas is not the power of God to become man. It is not the mystery of divinity merged with humanity. No, it is something more wondrous, more astonishing – for we have a God that comes to us! Before the Incarnation, the world and its religions had seen God from a distance, something each of us must struggle to find. But Jesus’ birth gave us a God who is a seeker, one who runs to find His children, even in the lowest of habitations, a stable. Thus at Christmas we are all Elizabeth, amazed at the arrival of our Saviour right on our own doorsteps. This intimate blessing makes the Nativity the most precious of gifts, the mercy and love of a God who does not wait for our stumbling steps, but instead he comes… He comes to visit us. *MERRY CHRISTMAS! ...***

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