

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth [was] filled with the Holy Spirit

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, December 21, 5:00 p.m. Mass – In thanksgiving, Prayers and Blessings for Dr. George Assing on his recent appointment as associate Professor of

Medicine

Sunday, December 22, 9:30 a.m. Mass + For the repose of the Soul of Marilyn McMeekin by Paula Smith and Family

+ For the repose of the Soul of Aniceto Senior and Prayers and Blessings for Louise Tomalon by the Tomalon Family

+ For the repose of the Soul of Gary Moulton and Prayers and Blessings for Rosalind Moulton by Rosalind Moulton

11:00 a.m. Mass – Pro - Populo

Monday, December 23, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Novena Mass

+ For the repose of the Souls of Manolo Mazo, Jungelito Rontal and Martin Rontal by the Mazo and Rontal Families

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.; Christmas Eve Mass – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of the

Lord

Thursday, December 26, 8:30 a.m. Octave of Christmas Mass – Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr

Friday, December 27, 8:30 a.m. Octave of Christmas Mass – Feast of St. John the Apostle, Evangelist

For the repose of the Soul of Vincent Bosire by the De Souza and Joseph Families

Saturday, December 28, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Mass – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday, December 29, 9:30 a.m. Christmas Mass – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Pro - Populo

11:00 a.m. - Christmas Mass - For Souls in Purgatory by Karine Langley

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION: On the days before the feast of Christmas, and on this final Sunday, the gospel read at Mass is taken from the first chapter of Matthew's gospel or the first chapter of Luke's. These two gospel-writers give us accounts of the birth of Jesus, and in Luke's case the birth of John the Baptist too. Luke describes Mary as the 'kinswoman' of Elizabeth (Luke 1:36), and stresses how deeply related the mission of John the Baptist is to the mission of Christ. Today's gospel passage is unique because it presents a meeting between the mothers of the two men, each carrying in their wombs the children soon to be born. The story, known as the 'Visitation', follows the account of the Annunciation to Mary of the coming birth of the Saviour, which ended with Mary's 'Yes' to God and her words, 'let what you have said be done to me'. (Luke 1:38) Commentators on this gospel story have often stressed the kindness of Mary in going to the assistance of Elizabeth in her time of need. The story also has a deeper significance, for it is the first meeting between the Messiah and the one who will prepare the way for him. The first words of Elizabeth to Mary are familiar as part of the 'Hail, Mary': 'Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!' Luke tells us that the child in the womb of Elizabeth recognised the coming of the Lord, the Messiah. What John will do during his adult life, preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah, is anticipated here in the tender meeting of two pregnant mothers. As Mary welcomed the coming of the Lord into her body, now John, as yet unborn, welcomes his arrival too. If we continue to read the gospel beyond today's passage we hear the words of Mary's hymn of thanksgiving, the Magnificat, prayed daily by the Church at Evening Prayer. What can we learn from the behaviour and attitude of Mary and Elizabeth? How will the coming of Christ change us? Pray for all mothers that they may welcome the children of their womb. Pray for a deep spirit of thanksgiving for God's goodness.

Collection – December 14 and 15, 2024: Envelopes: \$1, 124.00., Loose: \$420.00; St. Vincent de Paul: \$150.00; Vigil Lights: \$101.45; Clergy Support: \$405.00; Mass Intentions: \$375.00; Christmas Collection for POP: \$250.00; Christmas Potluck 50/50 draw: \$195.00; Christmas collection: \$40.00, Grand Totals: \$2,655.45.

2024 – 2025 NEW SUNDAY MISSALS: HAVE ARRIVED! And You are welcome to purchase a copy or more of the new Sunday missal at the parish office for \$8.00 each.

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS NOVENA - SIMBANG GABI: All are invited to 9 days of Novena Masses for Christmas from Monday, December 16th - Tuesday, December 24th, It is a great source of spiritual nourishment to all of us, as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Jesus Christ. Invite your families and friends and come share in this wonderful time of Reflection. Please note that there will be No Weekday Morning Mass celebrated during our novena. Please see the start times listed. Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7pm, Tuesday, Dec. 17 @ 7pm, Wednesday, Dec. 18 @ 7:00 m, Thursday, Dec. 19@ 7pm, Friday, Dec. 20 @ 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 21 @ 5pm, Sunday, Dec. 22 @ 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Monday, Dec. 23 @ 7pm and Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve @ 7pm. and 9pm.

SPIRITUAL BANQUET FOR JUBILEE YEAR: Get ready for the Jubilee Year 2025 with this series of spiritual reflections on Luke's Gospel at Sheng Shen (Holy Spirit) Chinese Parish, 1187 Michael Street North. Speaker: Bible scholar, Bishop Yvan Mathieu Dates: Wednesday, December 18, 7-9pm (note date and time change) and Saturday, January 11, 10am-12pm.

DEAR FATHER, I lift those who are sick, suffering, or facing hardships. Please bring your comfort, peace, and strength into their lives. You are the Great Healer, and I ask that You touch their bodies, minds, and spirits with Your healing Power. Let them experience Your presence in a real and tangible way. Guide them through their pain, and grant them the grace to persevere. Surround them with love and support, and remind them that You are with them, even in the darkest moments. Help them to find hope in You. Knowing that You are a God who brings restoration and healing. Thank You, Lord, for being our comforter and healer. I trust that You are working all things for good, even in the midst of suffering. In Jesus' name....Amen.

LIFE IS AN ADVENT SEASON: Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us – as one of us – gives us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned. bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives.”

THE BIRTH OF JESUS: The birth of Jesus, or the nativity scene we place in our homes or local parish is a good reminder of the gift God gave us. The birth of Jesus changed our world. It is a gift for humankind that brings us much love and peace. That is why we are thankful to God this Christmas for his gift of Jesus who brings us peace and love. Let the Baby Jesus be born into our hearts, so we can follow his example in the teachings he left us and continues to leave us forever and ever.

“May the light of hope illuminated by the Holy Spirit burn within our hearts this Christmas. May the light of God’s love shine through us, and may our witness of faith be an invitation for others to believe in the gift of salvation that Christ offers to all, and most especially in this upcoming Jubilee year.” - Pope Francis