

DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

Advent is the season in which we are to open our minds and hearts to The Reign of God.

In The First Reading, we hear a prophecy: David's house and kingdom will endure forever; his throne will stand firm forever. We know what happened to David. It would be David's Descendant through whom The Prophecy would be fulfilled. Jesus is The True and Eternal King; it is His Reign and Rule that is to govern our minds and hearts.

In The Second Reading, St. Paul writes that God's hidden mystery has been revealed in a person: Jesus Christ, The Wisdom and Glory of The Father.

The Gospel speaks of The Annunciation to Mary. When Mary said yes to God's request that She be The Mother of Jesus, the consequences of that answer were extensive. Not only would her life and that of St. Joseph be changed forever, but also The Mystery of Jesus and His Mission would change all of history. At the core of that mission was ruling and reigning. The Angel proclaimed that Jesus would be given The Throne of David. But we know that Jesus' Reign is not political. Rather, The Rule that Jesus came to establish was located in the human heart. The Kingdom of God will come without end, when our hearts are governed by love, compassion, and forgiveness.

Our Blessed Mother Mary is our great example of faith and life. She perfectly allowed herself to be ruled by God and prepared herself, worthily for The Birth of Christ

Today, let us pray for the grace to follow the example of Our Blessed Mother Mary. As Mary prepared herself, worthily, for the birth of Christ, so also we prepare ourselves, properly, both to celebrate Christmas and to receive Christ always, in our lives, like Mary.



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	December 19
5:00 PM	Mass: Steve Cooley (RIP)
Sunday	December 20
8:00 AM	Mass: Ginny Dwyer (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Pieri Family (RIP)
11:00 – 12:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday	December 21
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Arthur Robillard (RIP)
Wednesday	December 23
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Frois Family (RIP)
Thursday	December 24 Christmas Eve
5:00 PM	Mass: Thomas Mazzotta (RIP)
Friday	December 25 Christmas Day
12:00 AM	Mass: Deceased Members Fernandez Family
9:00 AM	Mass: Living & Deceased Members of the Blair & Benson Family

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Open for your Intentions
10:00 AM	Mass: Kerry Tortolani (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Vigil Mass

Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 PM

Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25 at 12:00AM

Christmas Day Mass

Friday, December 25 at 9:00AM

This is the only mass on Christmas Day

New Year's Mass Schedule

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Masses are:

Vigil Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31 at 5:00PM or

Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

New Year's Day, Friday, Jan 1 at 9AM

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Is a Gift of Mercy

Prepare to celebrated Christmas with joy and peace that comes with forgiveness when we seek reconciliation with God and those we love.

Think about God's mercy waiting for you...consider going to Confession...

Sunday, December 20: Here at St. Paul's, after the 10AM Mass— 12PM.

Christmas Gift Cards

We would like to help some of our parish families this Christmas Season, if anyone would like to contribute a gift card from Walmart, Stop & Shop or Target, it would be appreciated.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my life. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come then spiritually into my heart. So that I may embrace you and unite myself completely to you. And never let me be separated from you.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection - Dec 12/13
\$3,262.00

Retirement for Religious - Dec 12/13
\$ 885.00

Thank you for your support!

Keep Christ in Christmas Posters

St. Paul's Knights of Columbus thanks the young people who submitted a poster. They were all wonderful signs of their joy of Christmas! The three first place winners are: **Joshua Bourget Baris** (Ages 5-7), **Braelyn Peloquin** (Ages 8-10), and **Caleb Lavigne** (Ages 11-14). Congratulations to all!

I Heard God Laugh

A book by Matthew Kelly

Is your life "working"? Most of us are trying to put together the JIGSAW puzzle we call life without a very important piece. Over time this becomes frustrating.

In this book, Matthew Kelly powerfully demonstrates that we cannot live the life we have imagined, or experience the joy we yearn for, unless we learn to tend the soul. Most people have never really been taught how to tend their souls. *I Heard God Laugh* will help you to do just that, and so much more. ***This book is this year's Christmas gift to parish families! Merry Christmas!***

Commitment to Sunday Offertory

To help the parish meet its financial obligations, we ask that you remain committed to the weekly offertory. Please consider using the parish envelopes and mailing your weekly/monthly offertory contribution. Or consider the convenient option of setting up an automatic contribution online. Details below.

The Christmas Second Collection

This year, the Christmas second collection is for the End of Year Gift for the Food Closet Ministry and needed Tree Removal.

Second Collection—Dec 19/20

This weekend's second collection is for Christmas flowers.

Let's Stay Connected

We've been emailing a weekly parish update to help us stay informed and to share resources. Please add your name and email to the list via our website:

www.stpaulsfoster.org

Your information is never shared with anyone else and is only used to communicate with you about the parish.



Year of Saint Joseph

My Dear Parishioners,

Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as the patron of the universal church by Blessed Pope Pius IX on 8 December 1870. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

This year is to increase our love and devotion to this great Saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal. After our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Joseph is the most powerful intercessor. The world of today more than ever has to recognize the holiness, greatness and power of St. Joseph.

May St. Joseph bless and protect you and your families.

Fr. Doré

A PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted
his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace,
mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Food Closet Ministry

This month we are in need of **Canned Tomatoes & Vegetables, Dried Pasta, and Spaghetti-O's. And also Plastic Bags.** The Food Closet is open every other Saturday morning 9:30– 11 AM

SAINT PAUL
ROMAN CATHOLIC



THE APOSTLE
CHURCH IN FOSTER

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