



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY

of

Advent

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Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,”

As we get closer to Christmas it is time to consider St. Joseph's place in this marvelous mystery of the Incarnation. There is popular painting by the great renaissance master Raphael depicting the wedding of Joseph and Mary. Joseph looks young and handsome and Mary, of course, is God's masterpiece. There are two things that should be especially emphasized about St. Joseph. One, he is the true husband of Mary; two, he is the virginal father of Jesus. Mary is already wedded to Joseph when she conceives her divine Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what the Gospel writer means when he says Mary was “betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.” To be betrothed is to be wedded although there is a separation in time from the moment of the betrothal and the coming into the house of the husband. Which is why the angel says to Joseph, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for (i.e., even though) that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” Jesus is conceived within a lawful marriage. Mary was truly wedded to Joseph when she became the mother of Jesus. Jesus' conception is miraculous within a lawful marriage. In other words, he is not conceived out of wedlock.

As for the love of Joseph and Mary, no two spouses ever loved each other more. Love is expressed by loving well the beloved and loving well means desiring that the source of goodness, that is, God Himself, bestows His gifts upon the creature who is loved. The efficacy and solicitude of the prayer offered for the beloved are proportionate to the greatness of the love's desire and strength. No husband in the world has ever been nor ever will be more loved by his wife than Joseph was loved by Mary, and no husband has benefited more from his wife's prayers than Joseph. St. Paul says husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church, (Eph. 5:25). The love Joseph had for Mary was like that. Because Mary was abundantly enriched with divine favors and ‘stored all that was said and reflected on it in her heart,’ (Lk. 2:19) she would have shared these things with Joseph. She asked him to help her give thanks for the many graces she received; she conferred with him about her most sublime thoughts and desires, and together they would glorify God.

The second point about St. Joseph that I wish to emphasize is that he is the virginal father of Jesus. Pope John Paul II wrote an Apostolic Exhortation on the Person and Mission of Saint Joseph in the Life of Christ and the Church (*Redemptoris Custos*, August 15, 1989). The Pope says, “The Son of Mary is also Joseph's son by virtue of the marriage bond that unites them.” Then he quotes this lovely passage from St. Augustine: “By reason of their faithful marriage both of them deserve to be called Christ's parents, not only his mother, but also his father, who was a parent in the same way he was the mother's spouse: in mind, not in the flesh.” The Pope says, “The Savior began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union, wherein is manifested his all-powerful will to purify and sanctify the family - that sanctuary of love and cradle of life.” But how can we speak of a family without a true father? Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. “His fatherhood is expressed concretely in his having made his life a service, a sacrifice to the mystery of the Incarnation and to the redemptive mission connected with it.”

It was just a Year ago that the Church concluded the Year of Joseph. It was a year of special prayer and reflection. For us Catholics, St. Joseph has a permanent place in our homes and our hearts. Ask St. Joseph to help you make the final preparations for Christmas during this last week of Advent.

Let us journey together in faith, ~Fr. Steve



Posadas Navideñas 2022

The posadas will take place from
December 20-23.

At 6:00 p.m. at the following places:

Tuesday, December 20th

Begin at: Our Lady of Guadalupe Capilla
(409 E. 31st Street, 3rd & 31st)

Rejection at: Casa Maria

Accept: Limon Family – 237 E. 23rd Street

Wednesday, December 21st

Begin at: Limon Family – 237 E. 23rd Street

Rejection at: Portillo Family – 1050 S. 3rd Avenue

Accept: Leon Family – 1001 S. 5th Avenue

Thursday, December 22nd

Begin at: Leon Family – 1001 S. 5th Avenue

Rejection at: Ahumada Family – 22 W. 20th Street

Accept: Galaz Family – 450 W. Armijo Street

Friday, December 23rd

Begin at: Galaz Family – 450 W. Armijo Street

Rejection at: Salazar Family – 440 W. 23rd Street

Accept & Mass: Santa Cruz Church

1220 S. 6th Avenue



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve (December 24)

5:30 pm • 9:00 pm

(Confessions available on Dec. 24 from 3:30pm to 5pm)

Christmas Day (December 25)

6:30 am • 8:00 am (at church)

10:00 am (live streamed) • 12:00 pm

(There will **not** be a Mass in the evening of Christmas Day.)

The Annual Catholic Appeal –
 Our parish goal is \$40,340, currently we have collected \$22,856 that is (57% of our goal). The **Deadline is December 31st**. Please prayerfully consider making your tax deductible donation to help us meet our parish goal.
To give use your smart phone and Text ACA to 41444 ~ OR ~ visit www.cathfnd.org/donate
Thank you and God bless you Fr. Stephen.



Our Parish Offices will be closed starting Friday, December 23rd through Tuesday, January 3rd for winter break.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Grieving during the Holidays

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Bereavement Group at Santa Cruz Church has developed a video on the topic: "How to cope during the holidays while grieving"
 If you are interested in viewing this video here is the link:
<https://youtu.be/DgMM1IK1AvY>



Poinsettia Donations
Poinsettia donations are greatly appreciated to decorate the church for Christmas.
Thank you and God reward you!

Donaciones de Noche Buenas
Necesitamos y apreciamos
donaciones de noche buenas para decorar la iglesia para la Navidad. Gracias y que Dios te recompense!

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
1220 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

Sign up for Flock Notes text santacruzaz to 84576
Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Pastor:
 In Residence:

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
 Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17th

8:00am Vicente M. Sierra & Jesus Sierra/R.I.P.
 5:30pm Antonia G. Bernal &
 Casimiro M. Gallego/R.I.P.

Sunday, December 18th

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners
 8:00am Nathan Ramirez/Happy Birthday
 10:00am Rene Javier Flores/R.I.P.
 12:00pm Eva Cota/R.I.P.
 6:00pm Salvador Oseguera, Sr./R.I.P.

Monday, December 19th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
 8:00am Danny Estavillo/Happy Birthday

Tuesday, December 20th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
 8:00am Elena Luz Gamez/Happy Birthday

Wednesday, December 21st

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
 8:00am Jose & Beatrice Bustamante/R.I.P.

Thursday, December 22nd

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
 8:00am Delma Huggins & Damian Huggins/R.I.P.

Friday, December 23rd

In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/
 Int. Nieves Ortiz & Family
 8:00am Elizabeth Espree/R.I.P.

Visit our Website

santacruzchurchtucson.com

Facebook **Stephen Watson**

Please sign us for

Flock Notes to be

informed of parish events

Flock Notes text **santacruzaz** to **84576**

or go online to

santacruzchurch.flocknote.com

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 6 pm

8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: Call the parish office / Llame a la oficina parroquial

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

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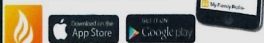
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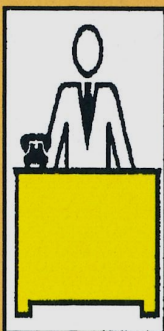
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