

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 23, 2018**

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH
7105 Cass Ave. DENTON, NE 68339
Parish priest: Msgr. Mark Huber
Regular Sunday Masses: Sat. Vigil: 5:00 pm
8am, 10am, 12 noon

◆ Daily Mass: 8:00 am
Confession: ½ hour before weekend Masses
or anytime upon request

Phone: 797-2105 ◆ Cell: 416-1943
Web: <http://www.dentonstmarys.com>
E-mail: stmarys@windstream.net

MASSES INTENTIONS 12/24- 12/30/18

Mon - 4pm - all people
- 6pm - Ken Muff
- 10pm - Bill & Dorothy Sullivan
Tues - 9am - Pat Bartek
Wed - 8am - Ernie Hejl
Thurs - 8:30am - Mary Van Ert
Fri - 8am - Emil Jarecki
Sat - 8am - John Hewitt
5pm - Bishop Flavin
Sun - 8am - Verna Vaverka
10am - Emily Benes
12 noon - all people

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Dec. 24th 4, 6 and 10pm; Dec. 25th 9am

EXTRA CONFESSIONS: Dec. 22 8:30-9:30am; 6-7pm; Dec. 23 6-7pm; Dec. 24th 10-11am and 12noon-1pm

CAROLING: A group shares Christmas cheer with parishioners who are partly to mostly homebound. If you would like to join in the celebration gather at St. Mary's at 1pm on Sun. Dec. 23rd to carpool to various homes. They are usually visiting for 2-3 hours. If you want to bring treats to share please do so. Call Cindy at 402-421-8939 if you have questions.

2019 ENVELOPES & CALENDARS: In the narthex

PARISH THINGS: // This Wed. 6pm join in decorating the church // Mary, Mother of God Masses: Dec. 31st 6pm; Jan. 1st 9am & 10:30am // Jan. 8th Epiphany dinner // Jan. 15th Bible class 6:45-8pm // Jan. 21st Knights of Columbus meeting

"FOODNET:Volunteers serve at Denton Comm. Center, 5pm Mondays, assist preparing meals at 3:30pm, pick up food from different locations on Mondays 1-3, or clean up at the end, contact John Hetcko or Mary Coulter.

NEARBY EVENTS: // Dec. 28th Holy Infant Mass at 6:30pm at John 23rd Center for couples who have lost a child, - 402-473-0620 for details // Marian Mantle prayer group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 3pm in the Flanagan room at Madonna Hospital to pray for faith for children // Pray the rosary 9:30 or 1pm on Tues. outside the Lincoln abortion clinic // NFP intro session Jan. 10th, 7pm @John23rd Ctr, see www.lincolndiocese.org/nfp // June 10-14 summer days with Christ the King Sisters for children who completed 1st to 8th grade.

LITURGY PLANS- Dec. 29/30, 2018

5pm vigil	8am	10am	
Clements	Shinaut	Jurgens	music
Clements	Cvitak	Braunsroth	reader
Patera	Chapman	Zinnecker	acite
Griffin	Riley	Sears	ushr
	G Shinaut	Henkel	ushr
Gandara	Hollman	Kugler	gifts
Patera	Chapman	H Miron	svr
		T Miron	svr

12 noon not assigned

POPE'S INTENTIONS: That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

CHURCH CLEANING: Dec.: Janyce Ostrander, Carmen Hesser, Paige Mongeon, Beth Coufal, Jodi Gabel, Audine Oehm, Judy Gant, Linda Jeffery, Judy Lewis, Amanda Wasser

PRAYER LINE: Parishioners will pray for your intentions, bootswailes@aol.com or 402-328-9730

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY: 12-16-18 Tithes: \$5,191.00; Loose plate: \$256; Retired priests: \$100; Mass intentions: \$140.00

ADVENT GIVING TREE: Residents of Crete Manor appreciate being remembered at Christmas. The altar society sponsors this and will have a tree with tags on it. If you can get a gift please wrap it and place the tag or name on it so it can get to the correct person. Please return by December 23rd. Thank you.

"Every who down in Whoville liked Christmas a lot. But the grinch who lived just north of Whoville did not. The grinch hated Christmas, the whole Christmas season. No one quite knows the reason. It may be his head wasn't screwed on quite right. It may be his shoes were a little too tight. But I think that the likeliest reason of all was that his grinch heart was three sizes too small."

I suppose you've all heard of Dr. Seuss' Grinch who stole Christmas. What was his problem? His heart? His shoes? Acedia makes the smallest step towards God, spiritual life, or simple human flourishing, seem impossible, not worth the effort. It does not awaken joy, but sadness. One of the Desert Fathers, describes acedia as "the noonday demon" that depicts life stretching out for a long period of time, and brings before the mind's eye the toil of the ascetic struggle and, as the saying has it, leaves no leaf unturned to induce a person to forsake their place in life and drop out of the fight. If you or someone you meet seems to hate Christmas, see if there is need to visit the humble manger scene of Christ and be amazed that God would enter such a situation, our world.



FROM SCANDAL TO HONOR

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth follows a strong tradition of women in their culture, to come together to support each other during pregnancy. Mary likely carried a shadow of scandal in her pregnancy, since it began before her marriage. Elizabeth, having carried her own burden of social disapproval after many years without children, sees only cause for celebration. Elizabeth sees beyond the social shame of Mary's situation to observe how God is working, and how Mary has

accepted joining in this work.

Unlike Elizabeth's husband Zechariah, who thought it unbelievable that God could bring them a son, Mary believed the angel's message. Elizabeth honors Mary, in part, for simply being able to imagine that God could do this extraordinary thing through her. Perhaps God had been preparing Mary's heart throughout her young life, so that she could be fully receptive to God's specific call when the time was right. Mary opened herself to an uncertain future, trusting that God would accompany her in the joys and sorrows of being the mother of Jesus.

PREGNANT WITH GOD

Advent, as a time of preparation for Christmas, echoes the pregnancy of Mary. Something is stirring within us, and we await the coming of Jesus. Although we the Church have observed Advent and Christmas many times, God is always offering something new to us. Like the angel asked Mary, God is always asking us to allow Christ to be born in and through us. Christ wishes to make himself at home within us, and increase his presence in our hearts.

Like pregnancy, at times God's activity within us can be disorienting and confusing. The story of Elizabeth and Mary reminds us that however uncertain we may be about what God is up to in our lives, we have cause to rejoice—because God is indeed good, and will truly bring blessing to us. And through letting Christ be born in us, God will bring blessing to the world.

Today's Readings: Mic 5:1–4a; Ps 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Heb 10:5–10; Lk 1:39–45

12/23/2018

*Blessed are
you among
women*



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December 23, 2018 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted

in trust in God. The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.

12/23/2018