



December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Collection December 13, 2020

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| Regular Collection | \$2200.00 |
| Backpack, Daily Bread, & Take to Streets | \$ 180.00 |
| Attendance | 36 |

Please be respectful and quiet for those praying before Mass as you enter the sanctuary.

December 24, 2020 Ministers

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Usher | TBA |
| Lector | Dan Grubb |
| Commentator | Stan Stanley |
| <u>December 27, 2020</u> | |
| Lector | Rebecca Harriman |
| Commentator | Guenter Schlottmann |

Readings for December 24, 2020

Reading 1: Isaiah 9:1-16
 Reading 2: Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Information about St. Edward- Daily readings, the bulletin, and other information can be found on our webpage at: <https://stedwardpulaski.org>

Donations- please mail your regular donations to St. Edward's Catholic Church, PO Box 1670, Pulaski, VA 24301 if you are not attending Mass.

Mass Live Stream- Mass is still live-streamed every Sunday morning at 9:00 at <http://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchwytheville>

Prayer List- Mike Malloy, Rosanna Vallo, Tim Kimbleton, Doug Waldrop, Carol Luttrell, Brenda Lee, Brenda McLawhorn, Paul Bennett, John Balconi, John McNair, Joan Jennings, Susan Lambert, George Marunich, Amanda Linkous, Sharon Dalton, Jerry Dalton, Bill Jennings.
 (Please contact Stan Stanley if you have additions or deletions)

Christmas Flowers- The Church is now collecting money for flowers for the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. Please drop flower envelopes in the collection basket or mail to the Church. Thanks in advance.

In memory of Deacon Charley- This is the last week to donate in memory of Deacon Charley: Daily Bread of Pulaski, Take it to the Streets, and the Backpack Program of Wytheville.

Please Keep Father Bernie in your prayers.

Happy DECEMBER Birthdays!

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| Mary Klima | Dec. 4 |
| Walt Harriman | Dec. 8 |
| Wayne Trail | Dec. 9 |
| John Balconi | Dec. 10 |
| Joan Jennings | Dec. 18 |
| Dan Grubb | Dec. 21 |
| Mary Beth McNair | Dec. 31 |

Happy Anniversary

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| Mike & Yvette Fleenor | Dec. 29 |
| Mark & Nancy Bishop | Dec. 30 |

Covid Tip of the Week- Be thankful for the blessings God gives us, even during this pandemic.

Be Safe!

Don't forget to get your flu shot!!!!

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

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|---------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Dec. 24, 2020 | Vigil Mass | 4:30pm 7:00pm | St. Mary's St. Edward's |
| Dec. 24 | Midnight Mass | 9:30pm | St. Mary's |
| Dec. 25 | Christmas Day | 1:00am | St. Mary's |
| Dec. 27 | Holy Family | 11:00am | St. Edward's |
| Dec. 31 | Vigil Mass | 6:00pm | St. Mary's |
| Jan. 1, 2021 | New Year | 10 noon | St. Edward's |
| Jan. 3 2021 | Epiphany | 11:00am | St. Edward's |
| Jan. 10, 2021 | Baptism of the Lord | 11:00am | St. Edward's |



Entering into and Celebrating the CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is not the end of Advent. It is a real season of the Church year. We usually miss it because the consumer society that some of us live in has nothing to offer us, except for days to return gifts. Too often, within days after Christmas day, the decorations are down and it is over.

This year, let's try to really celebrate Christmas and the days that follow. Let's enter a new Season, which has its own spirit and desires and graces.

Special Feasts begin the season and we continue the story, so that we enter more deeply into the story of Jesus' coming to be one with our life, but also that we might enter more deeply into how Jesus comes this year to bless each of us.

Asking for the Grace We Desire

Sometimes we come up to Christmas eve and Christmas day, as well as the days after, with little or no time for formal prayer at all. Every moment, it seems, is filled with some preparation, some tradition, having people over to our house or going to others' homes. Even those of us who are home bound or those of

us who might be alone these days sometimes have difficulty "getting to" the heart of the Gift offered us these days.

This year, let's *ask* for the grace or graces we desire. We may have many desires swirling around inside, or we may feel so fragmented that we don't know what we desire.

Keeping Focused in the "Background"

The key to finding intimacy with God in the midst of each of our activities is to go through our day with an *awareness* of what it all means. With focus and a conscious attention to our desires, we can maintain an alive "background," even while rushing somewhere, opening packages, eating dinner or avoiding a conflict.

For example, while going to a family dinner or while preparing a meal - even though there might be music on or other conversation happening around me - I can take brief moments to "collect" who I am and why I'm here and what I desire for this moment in this day. In a few simple deep breaths, I can say, "O Lord, as you came into our world to share our lives, please come into this day and give us peace. Please bless me, my family and friends at this meal with a little more love. I hand over to you my anxieties and fears, as I ask you for your own peace."

Letting Rituals and Gestures Be Open to Grace

We hope that we will be able to celebrate the Eucharist or some common prayer with our faith community. Let's let that celebration be richly open to grace, with our attention and prayer. With focused attention, we can let many very ordinary parts of our days become prayerful and rich with grace. Imagine how different this Christmas would be if we let every handshake, touch on the arm, every hug, every kiss, be an opportunity - even for a few brief seconds - to turn to God in thanksgiving and with a prayer. "Thank you so much for Ann; she is such a gift. Please give her your freedom and peace." "Chris is such a wonderful partner. Please fill our marriage with faith, generosity and self-sacrificing love." "Lord, you know the struggles I have with Michael; let me be as compassionate and loving with him as you are."

In these or similar brief prayers, our very ordinary gestures of greeting might be transformed and full of faith. Any other activity can become a ritual, if I let it have meaning: turning on the Christmas tree lights, ("Lord, let your Light brighten this house this day."), opening the front door to guests, ("Lord, we open our house and our hearts to the gifts you bring us."), sitting down after a big meal, ("Lord, I feel full, in so many ways; thank you.").

And Giving Thanks at the End

At the end of our day, perhaps as we change our clothes, or just as we get into bed, we can give thanks for the wonder of God's gift to us in the coming of Jesus into our world, and for the graces that came to us through his coming to us today.

Creighton U Online Ministries