



December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Collection Dec. 11, 2022

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| Regular Collection | \$671.00 |
| Flowers | 50.00 |
| Immaculate Conception | 50.00 |
| Attendance | 49 |

December 24, 2022

Lector: *Terrie Hancock*
 Commentator: *Guenter Schlottmann*
 Ushers: *Hathaway/Stanley*

Readings for December 24, 2022

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| Reading 1 | <i>Isaiah 62:1-5</i> |
| Reading 2 | <i>Acts 13:16-17, 22-25</i> |
| Gospel | <i>Matthew 1:1-25</i> |

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

Outreach chair person still needed- *The pastoral council is in need of a person to chair our outreach program. If interested and willing to help out, please see Sally Warburton for more information.*

Prayer List - *Tim Kimbleton, Carol Luttrell, John Balconi, Brenda Lessard, Jody Riffey, Bill Jennings, Megan Talbert, Rosanna Vallo, Stephen Petrowski, Christine Scarpinato, Michael Linkous, Jim Trowbridge, Orlando LoMascolo, Jerry Stanley, Bill Vest, Caroline Jewell, Joy McComb, Jack Thompson, Raegan Ray, John Millard, and Father Bernie.*

Let the Stanleys know if you have additions or deletions.

Christmas Flowers Donations- *If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers in memory of, or in honor of someone, we ask that you use the envelope provided in your contribution box. Also, please write in their names so we can print them.*

Christmas/New Year's Mass Schedule-*On December 24, Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the Birth of Our Lord at St. Edward's, beginning at 5:30 with a 30 minute choir presentation, followed by Mass at 6:00 PM. There will be no Mass here on Christmas Day or on New Year's Eve. New Year's Day Mass will be celebrated at our usual time of 11:00 on January 1.*

Christmas Eve Fellowship-*Following Christmas Eve Mass, we will have a small reception of finger-foods and hot chocolate. Please plan to stay awhile and celebrate with your St. Edward's family.*

December Birthdays

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| <i>Mary Klima</i> | <i>Dec. 4</i> |
| <i>Walt Harriman</i> | <i>Dec. 8</i> |
| <i>Wayne Trail</i> | <i>Dec. 9</i> |
| <i>John Balconi</i> | <i>Dec. 10</i> |
| <i>Cheri Strenz</i> | <i>Dec. 12</i> |
| <i>Dan Grubb</i> | <i>Dec. 21</i> |
| <i>Charlotte Phillips</i> | <i>Dec. 22</i> |
| <i>Mary Beth McNair</i> | <i>Dec. 31</i> |

December Anniversary

No December Anniversaries

"Taken from the Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer of Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with Permission."

Daily Prayer This Week

This may be one of the most difficult weeks to be reflective throughout each day. This weekend may be quite full for many of us. Others of us may be alone although we may be a part of the faith community on Friday or Saturday, or perhaps daily this week. While some of us have had guests staying with us and a house to clean this week, others of us will be reviewing memories and struggling, even a little, with being alone.

Even though this may be a very busy week, with final Christmas preparations, or perhaps travel to visit family, it can be a contemplative week if we focus our desires each morning. No matter what our days hold, we can take a few minutes in the shower or while getting dressed to consciously ask for the grace to approach Christmas with faith and with a heart open to the graces offered us. "Lord, help me today to stay focused on your coming in the flesh to be with us. While I'm busy about this and that, I ask your help. Keep reminding me throughout this day about Mary's acceptance of your plan for her, about the poverty into which Jesus was born." We will use our own words to connect these stories of our Salvation with the concrete interactions and events of our upcoming day.

Then, throughout the day, we will be able to let familiar parts of the story sustain us this week. All of us can relate to Zechariah's hesitation. We can look for and notice the times when we are hesitant to place our trust in God and how little we have to say about faith. But, when Zechariah could write "His name is John (God is gracious)," Zechariah could speak again. As we rush from one place to another, we can pray, "Lord, I know you are gracious, even when I act like I doubt it. Let me place my trust in you." A number of helpful contemplations are available on the [Praying Advent](#) site.

Mary herself can be a wonderful guide for us this week, and we can be bold in asking her to show us the graces her Son wants to give us this week. The one who says "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" and "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord" can help us find words for our "yes" and for our giving praise to God this week.

It could be a great grace to pause before going to church, Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, as individuals or for a brief prayer as a family, to ask for the grace to be touched by how he came in history for us and how he comes now among us still, to set us free.

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This week's thoughts are from Creighton Univ.

The length of the Fourth Week of Advent depends on when Christmas Eve and Christmas fall in the week. Perhaps we can use these days to try to heighten our awareness of *whatever* is going on in our lives these days, and how that can bring us to Christmas. Some examples might help. So many of us experience the ironic reality that Christmas can be the most lonely time of our lives. Some of these "mixed feelings" or "sad feelings" are difficult to recognize or name.

For some of us, the Christmas we will celebrate this year pales in comparison to wonderful Christmases of our past - perhaps because we were younger or more "innocent" then, perhaps because some of our loved ones who were central to our Christmas are no longer living or not where I am, perhaps because the burdens and struggles of my life or the changes in our world and the conflicts around us have robbed this Christmas of something that was there before.

For some of us, Christmas will be just another day. Unable to get out to go to church to be with a faith community, and without family or friends to be with, Christmas will be a day we are tempted to ignore. For some of us, Christmas inevitably means family conflicts. Facing the days ahead, whether it be the last few remaining parties, or conflicting demands of family and friends, or the friend or relative who drinks too much, or the experience I'm having that I drink too much and this season is an easy excuse. For some of us, Christmas challenges us with terrible financial burdens. Children today become victims of the gross commercial exploitation of the day. For those of us struggling to make ends meet on a day to day basis, feeling the cultural pressure of buying for our children things which we can't afford, can lead us to put more debt on the credit card in ways that simply push us further and further behind.

Some of us, might be really looking forward to Christmas, and not be aware of these struggles with Christmas, yet feel that, in spite of our best efforts to make Advent different this year, there is still something missing, and we still feel unready for Christmas.

For all of us, the story behind these days can draw us in, and invite us to bring our lives to the mystery of how Jesus came into this world and why. Our best preparation for the Holy Night ahead and the Joyful Morning to follow is for us to reflect upon how he came. He came in the midst of scandal and conflict. He came in poverty. He was rejected before he was born. He was born in a feed trough. He was hunted down. And he grew up in obscurity.

He did not shun our world and its poverty and conflict. He embraced it. And he desires to embrace us today, in this day. Right where we are. Right where we are feeling most distant. Right where we are feeling least "religious" or "ready." If we let him come into our hearts to be our Savior these challenging days, we will find ourselves entering the sacred night and morning of Christmas "joyful and triumphant" as never before.

*Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people.
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.*