

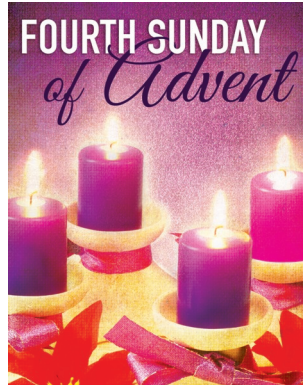
December 18 2016 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Family

1080 W. Roosevelt
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Parish

Dear Friends,



I really love the Advent season because there is so much richness in the season. To say that it is a period of 4 weeks to prepare to celebrate Christmas is to miss so much about this season. Even a glance at the Scriptures for the season makes it clear that it's about so much more. Plus there's a tension at the very heart of Advent that to some might even seem like a contradiction. We started with the First Sunday, which was all about the end times. The coming we pray and wait for is beyond our reckoning and beyond our control: the Second Coming of Christ. The Church has been waiting for this event, this "Parousia," since the first disciples watched in awe as Jesus ascended to the Father. We have trusted and continue to trust in his promise. Then we moved to the Second and Third Sundays, and the focus was more on Jesus coming out of Nazareth to begin his public ministry, starting with his Baptism at the Jordan. This is where we heard about preparing the way for the coming of Christ into our hearts and lives, from the lips of that great prophet John the Baptist. John fulfilled his mission and calls us to prepare the way, as well. Today, the Fourth and last Sunday of Advent, we hear about a Virgin who is with child, preparing to give birth to a Son whom she will name Jesus. This will all be in accord with the words of the Angel of the Annunciation who announced the great event we call the Nativity. This incarnation is the beginning of our salvation in Christ Jesus. Throughout these Sundays, through the Scripture readings, especially from Isaiah, is the Promise God had spoken; and, therefore, it will be fulfilled. Alongside our yearning and longing for the Second Coming of Christ is the sincere desire that he come into our hearts and lives here and now, while we walk on this earth. And this is precisely where we encounter what seems to be a contradiction. Even as we pray with the whole Church through the ages, "Maranatha" (Come, Lord Jesus!), we rejoice in his presence here in our midst today. The very Church who waits for Christ to return celebrates Sunday after Sunday the "Real Presence" of Christ, alive and active in our midst. He is present now, not only and uniquely in and through the sacraments, but also through the lives of his people. Every act of mercy, each gesture of generosity, every expression of true and self-sacrificing love is a sign of Christ, present in our midst. The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Peace!

I know many of you will be traveling next week and will not be joining us for our Christmas celebration. On behalf of the Parish Staff, have a Blessed and Safe Christmas.

Fr Mike

Rectory

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Parish Staff

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Masses

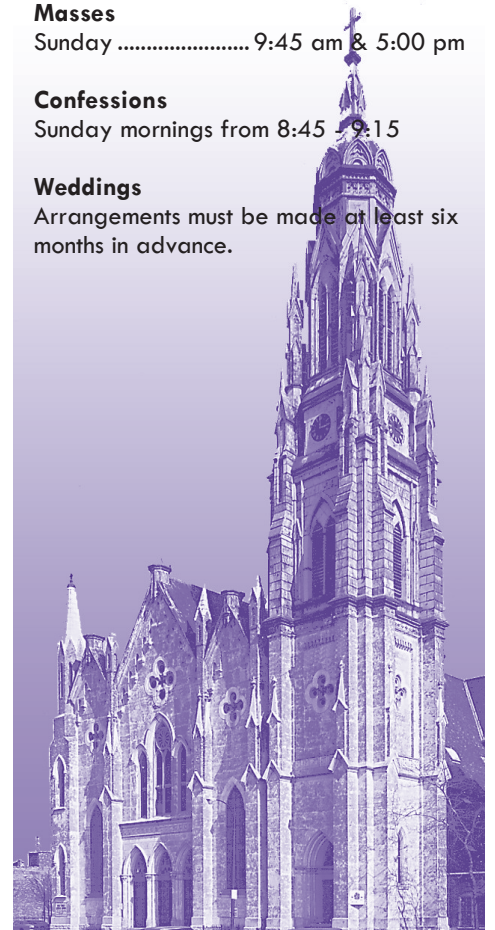
Sunday 9:45 am & 5:00 pm

Confessions

Sunday mornings from 8:45 - 9:15

Weddings

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS Week after the Collection

Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

WANT HELP DEALING WITH OUR STRESSFUL WORLD?

Have you ever considered counseling, but you couldn't find the time? Maybe the time is now! The Holbrook Counseling Center, a service of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, provides confidential counseling at many locations including our office by Holy Name Cathedral. Our counselors are licensed, and we have convenient appointment times including days and evenings. We have affordable fees, and we accept private pay and/or behavioral health insurance. We are in network with BC/BS PPO. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call us at (312) 655-7725.

Celebration of Giving

Catholic Charities 69th annual Celebration of Giving is underway! Our mission is to provide children and families served by Catholic Charities with gifts and necessities during Christmas. Celebration of Giving brings joy to many families who otherwise would not be able to celebrate. Drop-off at various locations from November 28 to December 14. During our 2015 event, Catholic Charities distributed gifts and toys to more than 25,000 children and families. Help Unwrap the Spirit by donating toys, sponsoring a family, or volunteering in "Santa's Workshop." For more information and for drop-off locations, visit www.catholiccharities.net/celebration or contact 312-655-7401 or COG@catholiccharities.net

Holy Family 2016 Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 18th
2:00 p.m. The Cardinal's
Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass of the
Nativity of the Lord. Featuring the
Historic Rice-Frobenius
Organ and Brass

9:30 p.m. Christmas Carols
10:00 p.m. Mass for the Nativity
of the Lord

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
9:45 a.m. Christmas Mass

Sunday, January 1st, 2017
New Year's Day-Feast of Mary,
Mother of God
9:45 a.m. Mass for the New Year

Sunday, January 8
The Feast of the Epiphany
9:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mass



Catholic Charities Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer? Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is looking for helpful, friendly volunteers to serve as greeters at the hospitality table at 721 N. LaSalle St. in Chicago. Volunteers welcome guests and help with the intake of clothing donations. Volunteers serve a 2 or 3 hour shift on a Monday, Thursday, or Friday of their choice between 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. For more information, email volunteer@catholiccharities.net or call the Volunteer Relations department at (312) 655-7322.

Readings for the Week of Dec. 18, 2016

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Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/
Mt 1:18-24
Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/
Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79
Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Observances for the Week of December 18, 2016
Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
Monday:
Tuesday:
Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: First full day of winter
Friday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Saturday: Christmas Eve
Next Sunday: Nativity of the Lord

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Renew My Church Dreaming Big about the Archdiocese of Chicago

Archbishop Cupich invites everyone across the Archdiocese to join together in launching a historic new moment for the Church of Chicago to respond to Christ's call to "Renew My Church."

Dec 18 at 9:45 am

Presider.....Reverend Michael Gabriel
Cross Bearer.....Virginia Clayton
Candle Bearers.....Maria Vega
& Kellee Athens
Banner Carrier.....Deborah Gauslin
Responsorial Psalm.....
Lectors..... Debra Blake
& Odell Gordon
Communion Ministers.....Sr. Sheila
O'Brien, Pervis Balthazar, Sr. Pat Cum-
mings, Bob Johnson, Vernon Lam &
Pearl Luss
Altar Servers..... Alexandria Wilson
& Amanda Wilson
Greeters.....Minnie Lee Moore
& Christine Pugh

Dec 18 at 5pm

Presider.....Reverend Michael Gabriel
Eucharistic Minister.....
Lector..... Erin Shields

Dec 25 at 9:45 am

Presider.....Reverend Michael Gabriel
Lectors..... Dawn O'Holleran
& Erin Shields
Altar Servers..... Javadia Rylon
& Alaric Rylon
Greeters.....Minnie Lee Moore
& Christine Pugh

Dec 25 at 5pm-NO 5PM Mass

December Ushers

Eastside.....Bill O'Brien
East Center.....Maria Vega
Westside.....Leslie Archer
West Center.....Michael Bivens

Please Remember in your Prayers:

Brenetta Barrett, Monica Belby,
Sandra Smith Bell, Mary Ellen
Castroverde, Mary Cleveland, Alicia
Kramer, Lettece Lee, Octavia Miller,
Phillip Miller, Marla Moore, Felice
Morales, Patricia Morris, Charlene
Stacker, Jim Sweeney, Endy Turner,
and Phillip Young

 **Mass Intentions**

Living and Deceased Members
of the
National Catholic Society of Foresters

Virginia Hall

SS Anthony, Joseph and Jude,
Special Intentions

Looking for service hours, building your resume, meeting new folks, or wanting to make a difference? The Women's Center (pregnancy help center) is looking for new volunteers to join Mondays-Fridays at our N. Cicero Ave. location. **1) We are looking for bi-lingual in Spanish volunteers** to help Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, particularly with translating. **2) We are looking for self-starters with flexible availability to be "on-call" Lobby Desk subs on occasional weekdays 1-4pm.** **3) We are looking for new Lobby Desk volunteers:** Wednesdays 9am-12pm and on Thursdays 1-4pm to greet guests and help with projects. **4) We have a weekday opportunity to prep bottles for our Spare Change Campaigns** (great for a small group or service hours!). *For more info, contact Paige at 773.794.8807 or pscarlett@womens-center.org.*

"Oh house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" As we begin the anticipation of Advent, let us give thanks and walk together in the love of God by participating in a World-Wide Marriage Encounter weekend on December 9-11, 2016, February 17-19, 2017 or April 7-9, 2017, all at Elk Grove Village, IL. Early registration is highly recommended. For reservations/information, call Jim & Kris at 630-577-0778 or contact us through <http://wwwme-chicagoland.org>.

Sunday Collection

Goal: \$3,500.00

December 4	-9:45.....	\$2,065.58
	-5:00.....	\$310.90
Give Central.....		\$680.00
	Difference -	\$443.52
December 11	-9:45.....	\$1,053.75
	-5:00.....	\$307.80
Give Central.....		\$1,060.00
	Difference -	\$1,078.45

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

Offerings	\$55,778.71
*Budget	<u>\$73,500.00</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$17,343.50)

*((\$3,500 a week for 21 weeks.)

Contributions can also be made at givecentral.org Call Sharon in the office with any questions or for help with online donations. You can click on the 'Donate' link on our web page at www.holyfamilychicago.org Thank you for your support.

"If every one of us, every day, does a work of mercy, there will be a revolution in the world! "

- Pope Francis



Calendar

- Dec 18 -Cardinal's Christmas Concert**
2 PM in Church
- Dec 22 - Children's Christmas Party**
4 to 7 PM Damen Hall
- May 7 - First Holy Communion**
9:45 mass

July 16, 2017 - Save the date
160th Anniversary celebration of Holy Family and the Jesuits in Chicago - more information to follow.

