

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: Isaiah 7:10-14

Reading 2: Romans 1:1-7

Psalm: Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



FROM THE DESK OF FR. LUDVIK

Welcome to our Parishes!

We are so pleased that you chose to celebrate with us this weekend. We warmly invite you to active participation in our liturgical celebration. No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, your current family or marital situation, your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, no matter what your self-image or self-esteem: YOU are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at St. Aloysius and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches. Fr. John J. Ludvik, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Consider the impossibilities Mary faced in the Christmas story: She is a virgin and pregnant — she is having a child while she is a virgin. Impossible! No way! Won't happen! Joseph has to follow through on the marriage after he discovers Mary is pregnant. Impossible!



Mary must avoid being stoned to death when the neighbors hear the news. Impossible!

Consider the impossibility Elizabeth faced. She was well past the childbearing age, and yet God says she is going to conceive and bear a child. This impossible news left old

Zechariah speechless. Impossible! No way! Won't happen!

This is a story of biblical impossibilities. But, what are the impossibilities in our world? What would you label "impossible" in your life? Peace in our world. Impossible! No way! Won't happen!

Restoring relationships, healing past hurts in our lives. A non-Christian relative or friend entering a relationship with Christ and asking for baptism. Breaking an addiction and overcoming past hurts and disappointments? Impossible!

We find ourselves with the same troubled mind as Mary, wondering over the impossible (Luke 1: 29). We even ask the same question Mary asked, "How will this be?" (v. 34). To us it seems impossible! No way! Won't happen! The real question for people today is "How can the impossible become possible?"

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

"Little by little, we can make our daily life more and more prayerful, as we are able, over time, to incorporate those suggestions that work with our schedule and that we are ready for spiritually. There is a particular spiritual practice that Francis [de Sales] highly recommends that is possible for all of us: even on those 'impossible' days when we are perhaps unable to undertake our normal spiritual practices, we can stay rooted in prayer by constantly addressing brief prayers to the Lord. These can be acts of love, of adoration, of faith, of hope, of petition, or simply saying the name of Jesus—throughout the course of the day. Francis places a very high value on these simple utterances, or aspirations."

— Ralph Martin

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers.



All those on the Long Term prayer List.

Prayer request must be made through Cindy Guillot 253-862-9100.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Pope Francis who celebrated his 80th birthday December 17th! Let us send him many prayers!

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING

The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will. Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wiseman. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, And the Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

—HenryVanDyke

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Buckley 4p and 9p

Dec. 25 Christmas Day Wilkeson 8:30a
Buckley 10:30a

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
Buckley at 5:00p
Jan. 01 New Year's Day
Wilkeson 8:30a
Buckley 10:30a



RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Saturdays from 3:30pm-4:30pm Private Confessions as usual
- 3) December 20 at 7PM Communal Service with Private Confessions at St. Aloysius.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Please turn off cell phones or put on silent and NO chewing gum.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday –Dec 19

NO Rosary until Jan 2nd
 Religious Education K- 6th 4:30pm
 Youth 7th – 12th/Confirmation Prep 6:30pm

Tuesday - Dec 20

Mass +Joseph J. Kralovic 8:30am
 Communal Reconciliation 7:00pm

Wednesday - Dec 21– St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Mass +Edith M. Kralovic 8:30am
 Parish Christmas Potluck 12:00pm

Thursday - Dec 22

Mass +Joseph W. Kralovic 8:30am

Friday - Dec 23

Mass 8:30am

Saturday – Dec 24– Christmas Eve

Mass 4:00pm
 Mass 9:00pm

Sunday - Dec 25– The Nativity of the Lord

Mass at OLOL 8:30am
 Mass for parishioners/intentions 10:00am



CHRISTMAS DECORATING TODAY!

Adults and youth, tall and small, young and older are needed to assist with decorating St. Aloysius Church for Christmas. Although it is work there is much satisfaction in seeing the finished project while worshipping at Mass knowing you helped. We decorate this Sunday after the 10:30am Mass

THANK YOU—THANK YOU—THANK YOU

KofC—The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all that came to their breakfast and have supported the Catholic Community Services Pregnancy Center with gifts. They will be taken to Tacoma in time for Christmas. The hope is to help new mothers who have made the decision to keep their babies rather than opt for an abortion.

GIVING TREE—Thank you everyone who took gift tags off the Giving Tree. Many will have a wonderful Christmas because of your generosity.

OUTREACH—Thank you, we assisted 10 families with our Christmas food baskets, four of those families asked for assistance with gifts this year and you all gave generously. Thank you for your annual support.

PLEASE TAKE A COPY OF THIS BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

IMPORTANT DATES

DEC 27th - OLOL Altar Society Christmas party
 JAN 8th - Epiphany Play by RE children & KC dinner
 JAN 27th - Mass for Life at St. Martin's - 9:30am



POTLUCK LUNCH

Parish Christmas Potluck lunch
 Noon – Wednesday DEC 21st
 Everyone come and share a holiday dish and fellowship with friends and parish family.

ALTAR SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday December 27th, 7:00p

Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society will hold their rescheduled Christmas Party and all women of both churches are invited. It will be held in the parish hall.



WREATHS

St. Aloysius Altar Society has Fresh Noble Wreaths for sale. *Last Chance to get your holiday wreath is this weekend!* We have only 6 left, visit the parish hall to purchase your lovely wreath! Enjoy the scent of Christmas!

PARALLEL -DUCKS AND US.

Soren Kierkegard, the 19th century Danish religious philosopher, told a story about a town where only ducks live. Every Sunday the ducks would waddle out of their houses and waddle down Main Street to their church. They waddled into the sanctuary and squat in their proper pews. The duck choir waddles in and takes its place, then the duck minister comes forward and opens the duck Bible. He reads to them "Ducks! God has given you wings! With wings you can fly! With wings you can mount up and soar like eagles. No walls can confine you! No fence can hold you! You have wings. God has given you wings and you can fly like birds."

All the ducks shouted "AMEN!"
 ..and they all waddled home.



NEW PARISHIONERS

"Welcome to our Parishes!"

Please take the time to register, registration forms are in the back of Church or at our Office. Please return filled out forms to the Office or place in the Collection Basket.

NEW FISCAL YEAR REPORTS FOR 12-11-16

St. Aloysius	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Weekly Revenue	\$4,098.77	\$2,963.00	\$1,135.77
Fiscal YTD	\$78,171.13	\$71,112.00	\$7,059.13
Our Lady of Lourdes			
Weekly Revenue	\$927.00	\$790.00	\$137.00
Fiscal YTD	\$20,056.30	\$18,960.00	\$1,096.30



EPIPHANY PLAY

All children are invited to participate in the Epiphany play on January 8th, 2017. We need little ones and older children, please contact Chris Korolsky (253) 686-0784 with any questions. Those planning on participating in the play must attend rehearsals listed:

- ⇒ Tuesday, December 27, 3:00 to 4:00 pm
- ⇒ Thursday, December 29, 3:00 to 4:00 pm
- ⇒ Tuesday, January 3, 3:00 to 4:00 pm
- ⇒ Saturday, January 7, 10:00am - Noon

EPIPHANY TRADITION

A tradition at St. Aloysius and Our Lady of Lourdes is the celebration of the Epiphany with a presentation of the Christmas event by the children of our parish and a Lasagna Dinner prepared by the Knights of Columbus, a great way to come together as a parish and celebrate the Christmas Season. This year Epiphany is on January 8th. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, so please come early at 4:45 pm to choose a table or purchase a glass of wine. Prices for dinner are \$8 for a single adult, \$15 per couple, and \$25 per family. The Epiphany Play will begin at 6:30 pm.



AN ADVENT PRAYER

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Savior. Amen

THREE MINUTE RETREATS

www.loyolapress.com/retreats

Luke 1:46-47.

Filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Mary bursts into a song of praise during her visit with her cousin Elizabeth. Both women know of God's wonders. Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, praises Mary for her devotion to God, calling her blessed. Mary offers praise for God's love of those most in need. Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, shows us what it means to trust and love God. She was the first to accept Jesus into her life and remains a model for us today.

What moves my heart to sing praise to God or to call on God for help?

How can I develop a habit of gratitude and praise to God?

(Pray to God using Mary's words of praise or your own.)
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Amen.

HOLDING THE HANDS OF GOD

By Milton C. Gardner, Jr.

Hand-holding is, I believe, a tradition as old as the creation of mankind. Somehow, I can imagine that Adam and Eve must have held hands as they walked through the Garden of Eden.

Through the centuries, lovers have held hands as an expression of fondness and devotion. In times of distress--even pain and anguish--caring people have reached out to hold the hands of the afflicted and in this silent way have said, "I care."

Often, God's people hold hands as they sing or pray. Thereby, they form a "bond of love" and forge lasting bonds of brotherhood.

Sometimes parents hold the hands of a child who is dreading some pain--perhaps a shot or a medical procedure. Hand-holding is reassuring and comforting.

"Let me hold your hand," we say to a child when we cross a busy thoroughfare. Hand-holding affords protection. As the family of God, we have the blessed assurance of God's hand to steady and secure us. He offers His hand as an expression of His tender devotion and constant love.

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee" (Isaiah 41:13).

In times of loneliness and pain, we must slip our hands into the strong but gentle hands of God.



SUGGESTIONS TO WELCOME VISITORS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

- Consider parking to make room up close for visitors.
- Consider sitting up front to allow more room in back of Church and sit closer together.
- Welcome visitors who may want to sit in "your" pew.
- Help communicate the Love of Christ by being as welcoming to visitors at Mass as you would be to visitors in your own home.
- Help our visitors to see that one way to evangelize is to accept people as they are, especially those who only show up once or twice a year.
- Lets be a welcoming community...nothing really new, but an awareness can be most helpful.

SAINT QUOTE

"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."

— St. Maximilian Kolbe

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation."
—J.I. Packer

FROM OUR SEATTLE BISHOPS

The days and weeks that follow any election are often a period of uncertainty for all. We know and understand the fear and anxiety many of you have been experiencing. Be assured that your family, the Church, is with you and embraces you.

Our doctrine and mission remain the same. As Pope Francis reminds us constantly, we are all called to live Christian Charity and to protect and defend the dignity of every human being, especially the poor and most vulnerable. United with all U.S. bishops, we will continue to safeguard and maintain the well-being of those entrusted to our care.

We will continue working with our government to bring about a just and effective solution for all who have fled persecution, violence and poverty in order to build a better life for themselves and their families.

The Archdiocese of Seattle will continue to offer its programs and services to assist you in the path to citizenship and to keep all families united. Remember that our loving Father, who knows all things and has numbered even the hairs on your head, will watch over and protect you and your families.

Let your trust in the Lord and our Blessed Mother remain strong, as we continue to pray for one another, for our leaders and our nation.

PLANNED GIVING

Please Remember the Church in your Will and Estate Planning. For more information please contact:

JoAnne Strom, Director or
Charisse T. Valtinson, Assistant Director
Archdiocese of Seattle
Planned Giving Office
710 9th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 748-7984 or (800) 752-5902
Website: www.seattlearchpg.org



CONGRATULATIONS!

The Knights of Columbus congratulate the winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. Reece Breault from Carbonado and Lizzy Korolsky from St. Aloysius. They will be moving on to the next level of competition. Thank you for your participation.

THE PASTA DIET AND YOUR HEALTH!

ITALIAN PASTA DIET -- IT REALLY WORKS !!

- 1.. You walka pasta da bakery.
- 2.. You walka pasta da candy store.
- 3.. You walka pasta da Ice Cream shop.
- 4... You walka pasta da table and fridge.

You will lose weight!

MASS FOR LIFE

Monday, January 23rd, 2017—9:30 am.

Marcus Pavilion
Saint Martin's University
Lacey, Washington



Due to limited parking, all are encouraged to use buses or carpool. Directions to campus and parking are available online.

For Mass details: Liturgy Office, 206-382-4878. For parking and other questions: ocff@seattlearch.org

PARISH END OF YEAR TAX DEDUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS

As we close out 2016, we want to thank you for your faithfulness to our Parish Communities; a commitment that is clear through your prayerful and financial support of our parish. We prepare for 2017 with great anticipation, knowing that God has a plan to continue to help us to bring people closer to Christ. But we can only do that through the generosity of people like you, who have been integral to us fulfilling our vision of "Disciples living witness to the Good News."

Even though we have accomplished much together this past year, there is still much to be done! To that end, we want to invite you to help us finish the year strong and prepare ourselves for an exciting and productive 2017 by prayerfully considering an end-of-year financial gift to your parish.. Just a reminder, that in order for your gift to be tax deductible, it must be postmarked and/or given before December 31, 2016. Please remember that no amount is ever considered too small!

Thank you for being a part of either St. Aloysius or Our Lady of Lourdes and for helping us accomplish the vision God has given us. Your generous support is greatly appreciated, thank you.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

With Christmas so near, you realize that we will be here throughout the Christmas Season with beautiful Liturgies. Your loved ones returning home for Christmas like coming back for Mass. The Sacramental life of the Parish and all our varied ministries will be here for you in the coming year. Please help us by your continued financial and spiritual support. Thank you to all who have turned in the Stewardship Card for 2017.

*** ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL ***

Annual Catholic Appeal year end payments or donations must also be postmarked by Dec. 31st to be applied to the 2016 tax year. Please do not make payments in the parish collection basket. Mail directly to the Archdiocese of Seattle: Annual Catholic Appeal, PO Box 14964, Seattle 98114. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.