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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Blessed are you among women, and
blessed is the fruit of your womb.

-- Luke 1:42



Daily Mass

Week of December 23rd – 27th

- Monday: 8:00 Jack Nelson+
- Tuesday: 8:00 Soren Dixon+
- Wednesday: **Christmas!**
- Thursday: 8:00 Michael J. McBride+
- Friday: 8:00 Krysta Tsukahara+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Sharon Rinehart, Mike Abell, Michael Carter, Rufus Smith, Peggy Delson-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Weekly Collection	December 15 th
Plate	\$9,237.00

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th
5:00 p.m. – Family Mass
9:00 p.m. – Christmas Carols
9:30 p.m. – Mass

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25th
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Mass

New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1, 2025
9:00 a.m.



Dear Beloved Corpus Christi Family,

On this Gaudete Sunday, we gather in joyful expectation of Emmanuel -- God with us. The pink candle on our Advent wreath reminds us to *rejoice*, not because life is free from trials, but because the Messiah comes to walk with us through every challenge. He comes bearing the ultimate gift: love.

As I often share with you in my teaching and preaching, love alone may not solve all the world's problems, but loving support for one another gives us the courage to try. It strengthens our resolve to make a difference, to bring comfort and hope to those in need, to make life a little brighter for the least of our brothers and sisters.

I rejoice in all that you do to live out this love within our Corpus Christi Family and beyond -- to serve not only those whose faces we know but also those we may never meet. You embody Christ's light through your generosity, compassion and faithfulness, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us keep the Light of the Prince of Peace as our guide, illuminating our path toward love, justice and hope. Together, let us be the hands and hearts through which Christ continues to be made manifest in the world.

May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your hearts and homes, and may you always know the depth of God's love for you.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Fr. Leo, Fr. Basil, Fr. Paul, Dn. Chris,
Katie, Mele, Joe, Claire,
Rebeccah, Adrian, Anne, Ankie,
Gail, Karyn & Judy

Parish Office Holiday Hours!

Merry Christmas

In celebration of Christmas, the Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25th, Thursday, December 26th and Friday, December 27th. We will also be closed on New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31st and New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Happy Holidays to everyone!

The Twelve Days of Christmas!

*When Christmas tide
comes in like a bride
with holly and ivy clad,
Twelve Days in the year
much mirth and good cheer
in every household is had.*

Christmas is not a day but a season! It lasts from Christmas Day until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the year 567, the Church Council of Tours called the 13 days between December 25th and January 6th a festival season. Up until that time, the only other joyful Church season was the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost.

Almost everyone knows the carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." In England, they begin counting the twelve days on December 26th, making January 6th the 12th day. The stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve is the center point. In most of Europe, they begin counting the twelve days on December 25th. That makes January 6th the 13th day. Either way, we have a "baker's dozen" of days for announcing the good news of the birth of Christ.

Thristmastime is meant for hospitality, gift-giving, caroling and storytelling. We set this time aside to relax and be merry after weeks of preparation. We do only the work that is absolutely needed so that we can enjoy these festive days with our families and friends, and so that we can make sure that everyone is able to take part. Some families make it their custom during this time to cluster around the Christmas crib for prayers each evening. The Christmas tree is lighted each night while folks pray and sing carols. On Christmas day, the figures of the Magi are placed far away from the crib and then moved a little closer each day until Epiphany when they arrive in Bethlehem. Then, the Christmas story can be told and retold.



Memories and Dreams!

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

Readings For The Week December 23rd -- 28th

Monday: First Reading Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24;
Psalm 25;
Gospel Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday: First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Psalm 89;
Gospel Luke 1:67-79

Wednesday: First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10;
Psalm 98;
Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6;
Gospel John 1:1-18

Thursday: First Reading Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
Psalm 31;
Gospel Matthew 10:17-22

Friday: First Reading 1 John 1:1-4;
Psalm 97;
Gospel John 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: First Reading 1 John 1:5-2:2;
Psalm 124;
Gospel Matthew 2:13-18



An Evening of Caroling!

Christmas Caroling returns! All the Yuletide favorites will be sung today, December 22nd, beginning at **4:30** p.m. (not 4:00 p.m.) in the Church. We'll sing for roughly an hour (assuming that Fr. Leo finds our efforts on *The Twelve Days of Christmas* satisfactory). Around 5:30 p.m., we will adjourn to the Gibson Center for cookies and mulled wine. Please join us!

Today's Readings

First Reading -- From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm -- Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading -- We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel -- Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

Christmas Children!

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

-- Charles Dickens