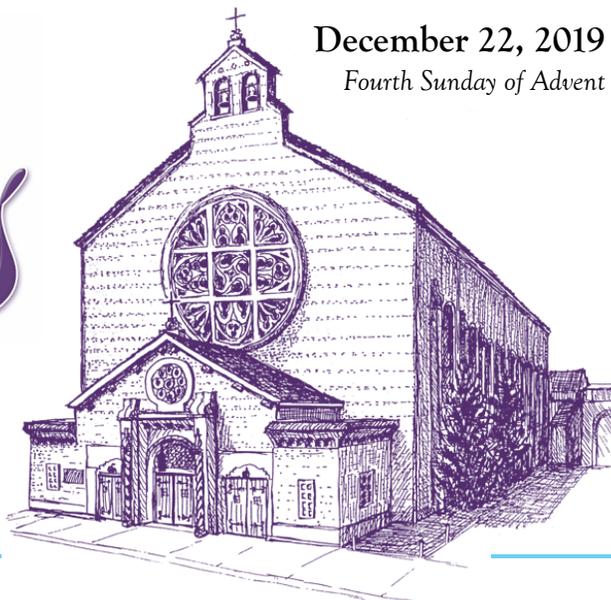


The Chimes

The weekly bulletin of
SAINT MARGARET MARY

2324 W. Chase Ave. • Chicago, IL 60645



December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

SAVE



“She will bear a son and
you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his
people from their sins.”

MATTHEW 1:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

61A

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor, Rev. Tirso Villaverde
Pastor Emeritus, Rev. James Barrett
Residents, Rev. Harold Murphy
Michael Okoro, C.S.Sp.
Deacon, Michael Neba
Accountant, Jim Masini
Religious Ed, Cynthia Splatt
School Principal, Christine Huzenis
Music Ministry, Steve Burke
Howard Schneider

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Weekday

Monday-Saturday 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00-3:30 pm.
An appointment can also be made
by calling one of the priests.

OFFICES

Rectory (773) 764-0615
2324 W. Chase
Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:00 am-12:00 pm & 1:00-5:00 pm
Friday by appointment

Parish Website:

www.smmchicago.org/parish
Parish School (773) 271-2008
Northside Catholic Academy

Activity Center

7341 N. Claremont
Holy Hands
(773) 764-0615, ext. 27

Picking up on last week's article, here is an explanation of some more Christmas symbols that have become popular in our current time. We may use them so often that we again never realize that these symbols were rooted in pagan practices that became Christianized—that is, became infused with Christian meaning as to transform their significance and meaning.

We may have heard of the Yule tree or even heard the Christmas season be referred to as Yuletide. The roots of the Yule tree are slightly different than those of the Christmas Tree.

The word "yule" is believed to have its roots in the Anglo-Saxon word "geol" which was a word that meant feasting and drinking. The celebration and festivities connected with the Yule Tree became a longing for "green things" during the cold, dark winters that oftentimes could be long and harsh. It became so popular that eventually Yuletide became another name for the Christmas season. The burning of the Yule log was adapted from an ancient Scandinavian custom of bonfires to mark the winter solstice.

Another symbol/decoration that is a part of many Christmas Carols is the mistletoe. Even as we hear references to mistletoe in the beloved Carols of the season, the use of it may not be as prevalent today as it once was. Either way, mistletoe has become a plant synonymous with acts of affection and even merriment. After all, the custom goes that two people who find themselves standing underneath the mistletoe are obligated to show affection to one another either through a kiss or some other gesture. However, the custom finds its origins in pre-Christian times.

Among the Druids, a pre-Christian religious group in the parts we now know as Ireland, Scotland, and Britain, mistletoe was considered to be a sacred plant with powers to heal and to protect. Because mistletoe was so highly revered as being sacred, enemies who happen to meet under the mistletoe were thereby expected to pledge themselves to a truce. The sacredness of the mistletoe strengthened the bond between the foes to the point that if either party ever broke the truce it was considered to be an unforgivable sin. It was from this pagan custom that mistletoe eventually was placed over the doorways of homes as a reminder that those who passed through those doors were bound to show peace, good will, and hospitality to one another. It was only after Britain became Christian that mistletoe began to be used as a Christmas symbol because of its revered reputation of having healing powers and became reminiscent of the healing that Jesus has come to give to all who believe in him.

Another plant or flower that has become associated with Christmas is, of course, the poinsettia. This plant has become synonymous with Christmas as the lily has become synonymous with Easter. The plant actually originates in Mexico where it blooms at Christmastime. It was introduced to the United States in the late 18th and early 19th centuries by the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett after whom the plant was eventually named. He grew them in his own greenhouse and gradually the plant became so popular around Christmastime that in the early 20th century until now the poinsettia has become so essential in the Christmas décor both in religious settings as well as secular.

The poinsettia plant originally only came with scarlet red leaves although science has allowed the plant to grow with different hues of red and even white. It was perhaps the scarlet red leaves of the poinsettia that made red the customary color of Christmas. However, the use of red at Christmastime really ought to be more a secular practice than a religious one. In the liturgical life of the Church, the official color of Christmas remains white—or its equivalent of gold, silver, or even yellow. White as a liturgical color at Christmas is a reminder of the life we share with Jesus who truly remains the reason for the season.



Fr. Tirso S. Villaverde, Jr.

Readings for the week of December 22, 2019

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10
and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,
27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27,
29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
[Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/
Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
[cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY 3

COLLECTION REPORT

December 15, 2019

Sunday Envelope Budget	\$8,942.00
Sunday Envelope Actual	\$3,694.00
Loose Money	\$ 917.75
Total Collection	\$4,611.75
Variance	(\$4,330.25)
Weekly Budget Amount	
Envelopes Used	115



May all the promises of Jesus' coming be yours!

HOPE JOY PEACE

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NLT)

EXERCISE CLASS meets in the Activity Center on Tuesdays & Fridays from 9:30am to 10:30am. For more information, call Bernadette Dunne, 773-764-9422

BOY SCOUT TROOP 923

Come join the fun! Boys aged 11 and up are welcome to join Troop 923. We meet every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9 pm in the Rectory Hall. Contact us by email at HaveFun@BoyScoutTroop923.org or by voicemail at 312-772-4923.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR' SCHEDULE

Simbang Gabi, December 21st
4:00 pm...Reception to follow
Christmas Eve Masses, December 24th
4:00 pm and Midnight
Christmas Day Masses, December 25th
8:30 am and 10:30 am
New Year's Eve Mass, December 31st
4:00 pm
New Year's Day Mass, January 1, 2020
10:30 am



Parish Counseling – Reducing Stress Over The Holidays

It would be wonderful if every family gathering was a Norman Rockwell-type scene. But unfortunately, most families are a little bit less than “Rockwell perfect.” If a big family event is approaching over the holidays, there's a good chance that while you look forward to it, it may also bring stress and anxiety.

Fortunately, you have a good stress-reduction tool at your disposal. St. Margaret Mary now partners with Claret Center's Parish Counseling Program to offer confidential, nurturing and goal-oriented support for parishioners who've experienced depression, anxiety, grief, trauma and other challenges.

Counseling services are provided by Mike McCauley, an experienced professional who's now in the third year of Loyola University Chicago's MA program in Pastoral Counseling. Mike's services are available on a sliding scale. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mike at 773-234-4640 or mikemccauley.claret@gmail.com.



EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

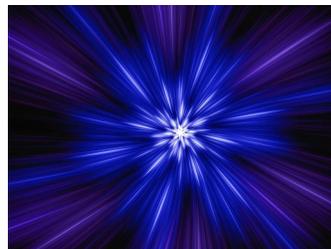
Our Religious Education students are again leading a Socks & Underpants Collection. Yes, new Socks and Underpants for the children and teens living in shelters.

Last year, we gave several huge bags to the New Life Family Shelter at Howard and Paulina. This year we would like to do even more. All parishioners are invited to participate.

What sizes? All sizes!

The Magi came to visit the Holy Family and brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. We are asking only for Sock & Underpants, just one or two.

At the 10:30 am Mass on January 5th, everyone is invited to join in the offertory procession and carry their gifts to the Holy Family.



CYCLES OF FAITH

4th Sunday of Advent

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. *"When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit."* For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet *"do not be afraid,"* the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of *"Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"* Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to *"expose [Mary] to shame."* Yet he was prepared to *"divorce her quietly"* all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?



+PARISH DEVOTIONS+

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

Every Wednesday at 8:30 am.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Friday following 8:00 am Mass until 7:00 pm.

Please enter the middle door, school side.

(Become a regular, call

Mila Cobarrubias at 773-814-4282 or

Judith Seruelo at 773-764-0247.)

Mass at 7:00 pm on First Fridays;

Vespers and Benediction at 7:00 pm

on all other Fridays.

HEART OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER MEETING

Every Friday at 7:30 pm in Rectory Hall.

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Every 1st Friday of the month

beginning with Mass at 7:00 pm.

Fellowship follows after Mass.

Contact person: Terry Luciano, 773-677-7347

FATIMA ROSARY

First Saturday of the month
immediately following 4 pm Mass.

SACRAMENTS

Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least three months in advance.

Baptisms: On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month immediately following the 10:30 am mass. Please make arrangements at least one month in advance.

Preparation class held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the rectory

R.C.I.A

Program/Process for adults interested in the Catholic Faith (Sept.-April). Call the Rectory for information.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome our new parishioners and invite them to register at the rectory.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Don Tres
Dolores Chozianin
- 10:30 am Rafael Zavala
Living Members of Nwanah Family
Stanley Kempner - anniversary
Julita Trovela
- 7:00 pm Simbang Gabi

Monday, December 23 St. John of Kanty

- 8:00 am Luzviminda Alhambra-Constantino, ann
Antonia L. & Eugenio R. Dias
- 7:00 pm Simbang Gabi

Tuesday, December 24

- 8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4:00 pm Chris Murtaugh
Rosie Thiel
- Midnight Deceased members of SMM

Wednesday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- 8:30 am Tom Kelly
- 10:30 am Deceased members of SMM

Thursday, December 26 St. Stephen

- 8:00 am Eugenio U. Semilla, Jr.

Friday, December 27 St. John the Evangelist

- 8:00 am Deceased members of SMM

Saturday, December 28 Holy Innocents

- 8:00 am Deceased members of SMM
- 4:00 pm Ann Donohue
Antonia L. & Eugenio R. Dias

Sunday, December 29 Feast of Holy Family

- 8:30 am George Meyers
Mary Hardy
Edwardo Leyva
- 10:30 am Rafael Zavala
Julita Trovela
Mrs. Amondo Nwanah
Deceased members of Nwanah Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

SMM serves, prays and celebrates.

Sacristans

Monday, December 23

A Volunteer Is Needed

Wednesday, December 25

Terri Luciano

Saturday, December 28

Mila Cobarrubias

Lectors

Saturday, December 21

4:00 pm Adam Bartilad & Angelina Alban

Sunday, December 22

8:30 am Peter Scheidt & Richard Schaefer
10:30 am Bill Bingham & Alex Jones

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, December 21

4:00 pm B. Alban, A. Alban, M. Varallo,
J. Moylan, D. Cole, G. Lindor &
A. Blumberg

Sunday, December 22

8:30 am M. Neba, P. & R. Mackin,
R. Hardy & J. Ashbach

10:30 am A. Luciano, B. David, T. Linwood,
L. Ibekwem, A. Baldonado &
M. Grigsby

Lectors

Saturday, December 28

4:00 pm Art Blumberg & Judy Moylan

Sunday, December 29

8:30 am Janet & Tim Murtaugh
10:30 am Ryan Madayag & Leonard Kohl

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, December 28

4:00 pm M. Neba, G. Lindor, D. Cole,
M. Varallo, M. Fallon & J. Ashbach

Sunday, December 29

8:30 am B. Russell, L. Igboanugo,
R. Hardy & P. & R. Mackin

10:30 am Y. Malicay, V. Onyeaghala,
G. Potucek, K. Conoquie,
J. Seruelo & A. Baldonado

