



**CONSOLATA SHRINE  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
YEAR B**



**24th DECEMBER 2017**

**FIRST READING**

**2 Samuel 7:1-5.8b-12.14a.16**

***The kingdom of David shall be made sure for ever before the Lord***

**A reading from the second Book of Samuel**

When King David dwelt in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies round about, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

***The word of the Lord***

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 89:2-5.27.29**

**Response. I will sing forever of your mercies O Lord**

I will sing forever of your mercies, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity.  
I have declared your mercy is established forever;  
your fidelity stands firm as the heavens. **(Response)**

"With my chosen one I have made a covenant;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your descendants forever,  
and set up your throne through all ages." **(Response)**

"He will call out to me, 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock of my salvation.'  
I will keep my faithful love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall last." **(Response)**



## SECOND READING

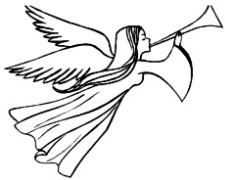
Romans 16:25-27

*“The mystery which was kept secret for long ages is now disclosed”*

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brethren: To him who is able to strengthen you according to my Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writing is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

***The word of the Lord***



**Alleluia**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;  
Let it be to me according to your word.

**Alleluia**



## GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

*“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son”.*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**



**T**he angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since

I know not man?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

***The Gospel of the Lord***

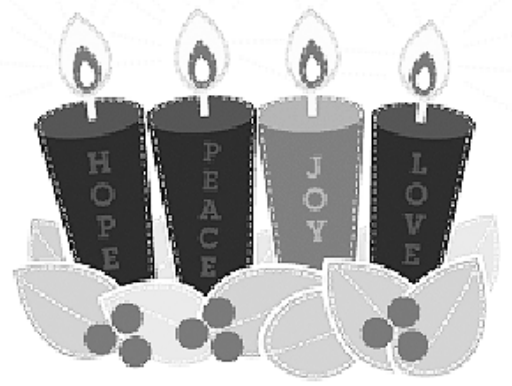
## LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

On the fourth Sunday of Advent the last purple candle is lit.

This candle is customarily called the “Angels Candle” and it represents PEACE. During this Sunday, the readings lead us to be happy trusting in the realization of the Promise of God, in the coming of Jesus Christ. The source of our Joy is He, and in Him we find strength and real light to our lives. During this week the father prays: **“O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, all things are in your hands, come and show us the way to salvation.”**

The father continues: **“O Lord, stir up your power, we pray, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of your grace, your merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.”**

All of the candles of the wreath are lit. Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. You can also... Light the 1st purple candle (repeat 1st week’s prayer) Light the 2nd purple candle (repeat 2nd week’s prayer), Light the rose candle (repeat 3rd week’s prayer), Light the 4th purple candle, Scriptures for your reflection: Malachi 3:1-5, Romans 8:18-25



## REFLECTION

### THE MYSTERY KEPT SECRET by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

What is announced to Mary in today’s Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today’s Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9). Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13-14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see Zephaniah 3:14-17). The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of “the Most High” - an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-19). He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today’s First Reading. As we sing in today’s Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God, “my Father.” As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end. He is to rule over the house of Jacob - the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1-5). Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all

nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today, to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too, must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience - that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Christmas Eve programme is as follows: Christmas Carols from 7.30pm - 8.30pm, followed by mass from 9.00pm. After which, there will be adoration from until after midnight.
2. Tomorrow is Christmas Day and mass will follow the Sunday schedule i.e. 7.30 am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 12.00pm and 5.30pm.
3. The envelopes for Christmas dues are available at the entrances of the church.
4. Tuesday 26th, is a public holiday and masses will be as follows as 7.00am, 9.00am and 5.30pm.
5. Due to the Christmas activities, there will be no Children's Sunday Services until the 4th of February 2018.
6. Preparation for the commissioning of PMC will take place on Thursday 28th-Friday 29th December. All children who have never received the yellow scarf are invited to register. Packed lunch/ pen/pencil/Bible are required
7. The Pastoral Team and the Parish Pastoral Council wish all of us a Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year.

### SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

#### 24th Sunday December 2017

7:30pm - 8:30 The Christmas Carol Service.

9:00pm The Christmas Vigil Holy Mass.

#### 25th December, Christmas Day

Masses follow Sunday Schedule

#### 31st Sunday December 2017

5.30pm. Evening mass

9:00pm The New Year Vigil Holy Mass

11pm Adoration

#### New Year, 1st January 2018

Masses will be at 8am (Swahili Mass), 10am and 5.30pm (English Mass)

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