



Fourth Week of Advent

Lightening 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. 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 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: A Mother's Greeting by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer: He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler...whose origin is from...ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king. God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever. Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom. He is "the shepherd of Israel," sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us." Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh". He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchisedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history. All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle. Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her. Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading - "she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy - she is the mother of our Lord.

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CONSOLATA SHRINE FOUTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23rd December 2018



The Power of God Manifests itself through Weakness.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

"From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel."

A reading from the Book of prophet Micah

Thus says the Lord: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who has labour pains has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the sons of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And this shall be peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.80:2-3,15-16, 18-19 (R4)

R: O God, bring us back; Let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us (R)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R)

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R)



SECOND READING

Hebrews. 10:5-10

"Behold, I have come to do your will."

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Brethren: When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,' as it is written of me in the roll of the book.' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



Alleluia, Alleluia

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



Alleluia

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39 -45

“Why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In those days: Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.’

Announcements

1. Envelopes for Christmas dues are available at the entrances of the Church on blue boxes. Kindly pick one for Christmas preparation.
2. The parish office will be closed on Monday 24th, from 1 pm and resume on 27th December.
3. Couples planning to get married next year 2019 are invited to register and begin their premarital counseling sessions. Kindly register at the Catechists Office from today onwards.
4. Due to the festive season Children 's Sunday Services is closing from today and will resume on the Sunday 3rd February 2019.
5. Bible Diary for 2019 with daily reflections are available at the desk outside the church and in our Bookshop. Take a copy for yourself or as a Christmas gift to your friends.
6. We continue registering members who would like to go on pilgrimage to Israel. A great occasion to understand and deepen our Faith. For more information, please check the posters at the boards outside the Church.
7. For Christmas Season and New Year Programme please see the next page.

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5.8-12.14.16; Ps 89; Lk 1: 67-79;
Tuesday: Is 52: 7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18;
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10: 17-22;
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97; Jn 20:1-8;
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Ps 124; Mt 2:13-18;
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96; Lk 2:22-35

CHRISTMAS SEASON PROGRAMME FOR CONSOLATA SHRINE

24 th December Christmas Vigil	Masses 7.00 am and 1.15 pm Confessions 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5.30pm. Carol Service, Start at 6:30pm Vigil Mass at 8:30pm,
25 th December Christmas Day	Swahili Mass at 7:30am English 9am, 10.30am, 12pm and 5.30pm
26 th December Solemnity of St. Stephen	Masses as: 7am, 9am and 5:30pm
27 th December: Feast of St. John the Apostle	Masses as: 7am, 1:15pm and 5:30pm
28 th December Remembrance Holy innocence	Parents are encouraged to bring Babies and children under 5 for Blessings at any of the Masses 7am, 1:15pm and 5:30pm
December 30 th Solemnity of Holy Family	Sunday Masses as 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am, 12pm and 5.30pm
31 st December, New Year eve	Confessions 9am to 12pm, 2pm to 5.30pm.
	6pm Thanks giving Mass,
	8pm – 9pm: Adoration
	11:45pm New Year Mass
1 st January 2019, New Year	Mass as: 8am, 11am and 5.30pm