

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE.** In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul names God as, "Him who can strengthen you." This time of living through a global pandemic has brought many in our families to challenges, hardships and trials. Which of these difficulties might God be calling you to turn over to his strength and power? In the Gospel reading, Gabriel greets Mary, "Hail full of Grace! The Lord is with you." Would we, like Mary, respond with trust and faith if these words were directed to us?

**WISHING ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS AND EXTENDED PARISH FAMILY THE BLESSINGS AND JOY OF THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM: "FOR TODAY HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU A SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST AND LORD."** While Christmas this year may be quite different than Christmases in the past, the message is still the same. "God so loved the world, that He gave us his only begotten Son." So while our cheer may be more subdued and our family gatherings smaller because of COVID, don't forget that the first Christmas was celebrated by only one family, the Holy Family, with a few shepherds peering inside the cold stable cave at this wondrous baby lying in a manger. Circumstances may be different, but God's gift to us this Christmas is still the same, and perhaps even more appreciated, that no matter where we are or how we celebrate, God is with us. God is Emmanuel who touches us with his eternal love, strengthens us with hope, comforts us with his love, and fills our hearts with his peace. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.** The Slovenian Consulate General in Cleveland wishes all of our parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption in Collinwood, and their families a peaceful and blessed Christmas, and good health in the New Year 2021!!

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS.** While Governor Dewine announced the extension of the 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. COVID curfew until January 2nd as part of the Stay at Home Order, Article 2 entitled Protected Activities, states that this order does not apply to religious observances and First Amendment protected speech. So, the State of Ohio has made it clear that there is no prohibition for anyone attending Midnight Mass. Because of the anticipated larger crowd for Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Mass and Midnight Mass, every other pew will be roped off to ensure that people maintain proper social distance. We kindly ask those attending to please wear masks and use hand sanitizer before taking your seat.

**50/50 WINTER RAFFLE.** Our parish Winter Split the Pot Raffle is in full swing. Donation is \$5 per ticket. You may pick up tickets in the entranceway by the priest's sacristy after weekend Masses and in the parish office during the week. Take as many tickets as you wish to either sell or buy. They make great Christmas stocking stuffers.

**COOKING WITH MICKA COOKBOOK.** The new cookbook compiled by Toni Srzen of the favorite recipes of the St. Vitus and St. Mary parishioners will be available before Christmas. Orders are now being taken by calling the rectory office at 216-761-7740.

Today's Psalm Response

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Last Sunday's Offering: \$5,199**

**Immaculate Conception: \$1,081**

**Early Christmas Gifts:** \$5,000 in memory of mom & dad Aloysius & Mercedes Nemec from daughter Karen Nemec; \$125 from Slovenska Pristava Pensioners; \$500 from Andrew & Annette Celestina; \$500 from Folklorna Skupina Kres; \$750 from officers and members of Catholic Order of Foresters, St. Mary Court #1640; \$100 from Rudy & Joanne Ivancic; \$150 from Thomas & Ann Maher in memory of Viktor Lamovcic; \$170 from Rev. John Retar; \$75 from Richard Kuhel.

**Church Needs:** \$25 in memory of Josephine Strle from Marie & David Kushner; \$20 in memory of Tim Petric from Matt & Mary Ann Hozjan; \$25 in memory of Mollie Jurecic from Doris Zajec; \$50 in memory of Rudy Ujcich from Maria Ujcich; \$100 for sanctuary lamp from Michael & Monica Zernic; \$200 in memory of Edward and Ann Kretic from daughter Karen Marino.

The following in memory of Marica Lavrisha: \$20 from Ana Mihelich, \$20 from Florian & Pat Osredkar, \$25 from Zachary & Maria Bruner, \$50 from Bob & Sue Frederico, \$20 from Mihela Lesica, \$20 from Julie Drobnick, \$20 from Marie Giuffre, \$250 from Frank & Magdalene Lavrisha, \$100 from Anton & Margaret Lavrisha, \$50 from Mira Kosem, \$50 from Mark & Michelle Bremec and Ann Bremec.

**Blessed Mother Teresa Society:** \$100 from Michael & Monica Zernic, \$50 from Cerkniško Jezero AMLA Lodge 59.

**High School Scholarship Fund:** \$100 anonymous.

Your generosity to the Parish is appreciated!

**CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE.** Along with today's bulletin is the schedule for all Masses and times for the Sacrament of Confession. Please keep the insert for easy reference and pass along the information to your relatives and friends.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES.** If you wish to make a donation in memory of loved ones for Christmas flowers and decorations, please feel free to take the special envelopes by all the entrances of the church.

**MAY WE ASK FOR YOUR GENEROSITY?** St. Mary parishioners have always been very generous to the parish, especially for the holidays. With the cancellation of so many of our fund raisers this past year, and also less people attending Mass because of the COVID pandemic, may we ask you to be particularly generous this year with your Christmas donation or if you wish, a special gift for church needs would be greatly appreciated. We thank you for always being so supportive of your parish.

**THE SANCTUARY MUSEUM.** The Museum of Divine Statues at 12905 Madison Ave. Lakewood, Ohio is a destination for viewing beautiful art and artifacts rescued from many of the closed churches in the Cleveland area. As a matter of fact, the museum is in the former St. Hedwig's Church. The museum hosts private tours, as well as tours of Confirmation classes, PSR Programs, as well as senior citizen tours. The tour season will resume in 2021 when conditions are safer. To learn more about this museum or to contribute to its upkeep, go to <https://www.thesanctuarmuseum.org/donate>.

**APPLESTRUDEL FOR THE HOLIDAYS.** St. Mary Slovenian School is selling homemade frozen apple strudel: \$11 for regular size & \$15 for larger size. Call the rectory for orders at 216-761-7740.

**Masses for the Week of December 21-26, 2020**

<b>Monday:</b>	(12/21) ST. PETER CANISIUS (Priest and Doctor of the Church)
7:45 a.m.	Jereb Family (Gorshe Family)
<b>Tuesday:</b>	(12/22) LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Jennie & Edward Pograis (Daughter Margaret Pograis-Bennish)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	(12/23) ST. JOHN OF KANTY (Priest)
7:45 a.m.	Miro & David Celestina (Mari Celestina)
<b>Thursday:</b>	(12/24) LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
5:00 p.m.	Theresa Kocin (Judy Suydam)
11:30 p.m..	Christmas Prelude Music
12:00 midnight	Mirko and Jože & Amalija Champa (Randlett Family)
<b>Friday:</b>	(12/25) THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
9:30 a.m.	Celebrant's Choice
11:30 a.m..	Parishioners
<b>Saturday:</b>	(12/26) ST. STEPHEN (The First Martyr)
7:45 a.m.	Stephanie Segulin (Altar Society)
5:00 p.m.	M/M Ludwig Avsec (M/M Paul Janc)
<b>Sunday:</b>	(12/27) THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
8:00 a.m.	Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Anton & Paula Adamic and Radmilla Veider
12:00 noon	Josef Lah (Wife & family)

**Please Pray for Our Sick:** Rev. William Jerse, Tom McNulty, Tom Adamich, Zdravko Novak, Mladen & Dušanka Lengel, Brenda Prebevsek, George Rozman.

**May He Rest in God's Peace:**

+Dr. Edi Gobec



**MUZEJ SVETIŠČ.** Muzej božanskih kipov, 12905 Madison Ave. v Lakewoodu, OH, je kraj za ogled čudovite umetnosti in artefaktov, rešenih iz številnih zaprtih cerkva v Clevelandski okoliščini. Muzej, ki je v nekdanji cerkvi sv. Hedvige, gosti zasebne oglede, oglede za birmanske razrede, PSR skupine in upokojence. Sezona turneje se bo nadaljevala leta 2021, ko bodo razmere varnejše. Če želite izvedeti več o tem muzeju ali prispevati k vzdrževanju, pojrite na <https://www.thesanctuarymuseum.org/donate>.

**50/50 ZIMSKO ŽREBANJE.** Našo župnijsko zimsko žrebanje je v polnem razmahu. Donacija znaša \$5 za srečko. Lahko jih najdete na vhodu pri zakristiji po nedeljskih mašah, med tednom pa v župnišču. Vzemite toliko vstopnic, kolikor jih želite prodati ali kupiti. Lahko jih tudi daste drugim kot božična darila.

**KUHANJE Z MICKO.** Nova kuhrska knjiga, ki jo je sestavila Tončka Sršen, o najljubših receptih faranov svetega Vida in Marije Vnebovzete bo na voljo pred božičem. Naročite jih lahko, če pokličete župnišče na 216-761-7740.

**DANES JE ČETRTA ADVENTNA NEDELJA.**

**DRUŽINSKA PERSPEKTIVA.** V svojem pismu Rimljanom je sveti Pavel imenoval Boga kot tistega, "ki vas more ... utrditi". V tem času, ko živimo med svetovno pandemijo, se marsikdo v naših družinah najde pred izzive, stiske in preizkušnje. Katere od teh težav vas Bog morda vabi, da bi predali njegovi moči in oblasti? V branju evangelija Gabriel pozdravi Marijo: "Zdrava, milosti polna! Gospod je s teboj." Bi se tako kot Marija odzvali z zaupanjem in vero, če bi bile te besede namenjene nam?

**VSEM FARANOM IN RAZŠIRJENI ŽUPNIJSKI DRUŽINI ŽELIMO BLAGOSLOVE IN RADOST TISTEGA PRVEGA BOŽIČA V BETLEHEMU: "DANES SE VAM JE RODIL ODREŠENIK, KI JE KRISTUS IN GOSPOD."** Čeprav je letošnji božič morda precej drugačen kot božični praznik v preteklosti, je sporočilo še vedno enako. "Bog je namreč svet tako vzljubil, da je dal svojega edinorojenega Sina." Torej, čeprav je naše veselje morda bolj umirjeno in so naša družinska srečanja manjša zaradi COVID-a, ne pozabite, da je prvi božični praznovale le ena družina, Sveta družina, z nekaj pastirji, ki so v tem hladnem hlevu gledali tega čudovitega dojenčka, ki leži v jaslih. Okoliščine so morda drugačne, toda Božji dar nam za božič je še vedno enak in morda še bolj cenjen, da je Bog ne glede na to, kje smo in kako praznujemo. Bog je Emanuel, ki se nas dotakne s svojo večno ljubeznijo, nas okrepi z upanjem, nas potolaži s svojo ljubeznijo in napolni naša srca s svojim mirom. Kristus je rojen! Slavite ga!

**BOŽIČNI POZDRAV.** Slovenski Generalni konzulat v Clevelandu izreka vsem župljanom sv. Marije vnebovzete v Collinwoodu in njihovim družinam mirne in blagoslovljene Božične praznike, ter v Novem letu 2021 veliko zdravja!

**KUVERTE ZA BOŽIČNO CVETJE.** Če želite v spomin svojim dragim prispevati za božično cvetje in okraske, vzemite posebne kuverte ki so ob vseh vhodih cerkve.

**BOŽIČNI SPORED.** Skupaj z današnjim oznanilom je urnik za vse maše in zakrament spovedi. Prosimo, obdržite spored, da ga boste imeli pri roki in ga posredujete svojim sorodnikom in prijateljem.

**BOŽIČNA POLNOČNICA.** Čeprav je guverner Dewine napovedal podaljšanje Covid policijske ure, od 10:00 zvečer do 5:00 zjutraj, do 2. januarja v okviru odrebe "Ostani doma", v 2. členu z naslovom Zaščitene dejavnosti piše, da ta ukaz ne velja za verske obrede in govor, zaščiten s Prvo amandmajo. Tako je država Ohio jasno povedala, da ni nobene prepovedi za vsakogar, ki se udeležuje polnočne maše. Zaradi predvidenega večjega obiska božičnih maš ob 5:00 in polnoči bo vsaka druga klop oddeljena z vrvjo, da bodo ljudje ohranili primerno socialno distanco. Prosimo vas, preden se usedete, nataknite si maske in uporabite razkužilo za roke.

**LAHKO PROSIMO ZA VAŠO VELIKODUŠNOST?** Farani Marije Vnebovzete so vedno zelo radodarni do župnije, zlasti ob praznikih. Z odpovedjo toliko naših dobrodelenih prireditev v zadnjem letu in tudi manj ljudi pri mašah zaradi pandemije COVID, vas prosimo, da bi bili letos še posebej radodarni z božično donacijo ali, če želite, s posebnim darilom za cerkvene potrebe, za katere bomo zelo hvaležni. Zahvaljujemo se vam, da vedno tako podpirate svojo župnijo.

**ODPEV DANAŠNJEGA PSALMA JE:  
Gospodove milosti bom na veke opeval.**