



Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community

**Our Parish
COMMUNITY**

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38



Catholic Church serving in Eastern Kentucky since 1913

Eucharistic Services:

7:00 pm Wednesday -
Word & Communion Service
5:00 pm Saturday - Holy Cross in Jackson,
Vigil Mass
11:30 am Sunday - Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday after Mass; other times by appointment.

Office Hours: Wed - Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Ministers for next Sunday, Rev. Bob Damron

Lector : Jackie Caudill

Ministers at MGC

Lori Helfrich, Parish Life Director

email: lhelfrich@cdlex.org

Mother of Good Counsel Prayer by B.J. Ewen

Holy Mary, our heavenly mother,
keep us in your care.

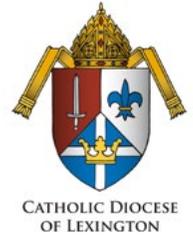
Give us your good counsel

as we strive to be disciples of your son Jesus
and help us to grow in faith and in our love for God.
Bless our parish which is named in your honor.
Help us in our lives as we humbly pray and help
us be attentive to the needs of our families and our
community.

Amen

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY
Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

1310 West Main Street
Lexington, KY 40508-2048
Phone: (859)253.1993
www.cdlex.org



Parish Mission Statement

Inspired and sustained in our Catholic faith through life-giving worship, we Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community, have as our mission to bring Christ and the teachings of the Catholic faith to one another and the larger community in a ways that draw us together as a supportive family, yet reaches out with a genuine concern for all people, so that we can be authentic witnesses in an area where Catholics are few in number.

329 Poplar Street. Hazard, KY 41701

Phone : (606)436.2533 | 606.233.3012 for emergency or after hours

Fax: (606) 436.0171 | www.mgccc.org



Fourth Week of Advent

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, one of the shortest weeks of Advent the Church can have. Even if you only have a few moments to pause and breath. Remember that breath is a gift from God who became one of us. Think of how Zechariah trusted in God's great plan.



Pause, Reflect & Pray (Artist's Statement & Reflection) Zechariah's Prophecy by Hannah Garritty

This painting engages the flow of Zechariah's prophecy. I painted in oil on canvas; the copper leaf represents God's healing love. Copper has qualities that interact with its surroundings. When coiled, it can harness electricity out of thin air. When used in body wrapping, it can support internal self-repair. When used in pots and pans, it disperses heat evenly. When used in piping, it allows clean water to flow.

Over the years, I have been drawn to taking away plastics in my artwork. It is not always possible because acrylic paint and PVC pipe are such accessible media. But the natural materials draw me in physically, emotionally. In my work, I return to copper to hold banners up, to build sculpture, to create motion, and to capture light in an installation. It is a natural material that is prevalent in buildings. You can buy it at your local hardware store.

Here, the copper represents aspects of discipleship. It represents the presence of God in our lives and our actions—the presence of God in Zechariah's prophecy and in John's life and work.

The image is inspired by waters meeting one another. This intersecting flow portrays Zechariah's words meeting John the Baptist's life. It is a crashing toward, a central meeting place, a potential energy meeting a kinetic being.

Holy One, your love is mighty—more powerful than all of the forces that act to barricade justice, to block righteousness. Guide us like you guided Zechariah in your ways of peace, in your strength of courage, in your acts of love. Amen.

PRAY

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the right. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.

Epiphany Party

Mother of Good Counsel will celebrate the Christmas season with our annual Epiphany party on Sunday January 7. Please sign up to bring a dish to share.

Christmas Message from Bro. Ed Gura

Dear Friends

O what Wonder has come upon us that words cannot express over our Christmas Gift from the Son who descended from heaven with his Cross to carry, and this the true Spirit of Christmas so let the Grace of Christmas embrace us and lift us to the heights of this Holiest of Nights and grow in our souls and leave us changed and never the same as we ponder the Son of God and Son of Mary who came to us dressed in flesh and poverty and took his rest upon the earth as a dependent Infant shivering in the cold as he lay arrayed in Humanity and Divinity upon a bed of hay in a rough feeding trough amidst the odor in an old and dirty Bethlehem stable among the sheep, oxen and cattle where he slept with enough Love and Forgiveness in his Heart to save the whole human race, for this Child came to take us by the hand and lead us into the Promise Land by going the way of Calvary where he hung nailed to a Tree in bitter agony and became the Sacrificial Lamb to make all on earth his lambs through his Wounds that are our Salvation and his Christmas Gift to us that he left for us under his Christmas Tree on Calvary.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Brother Ed Gura

Christmas Mass

Then there will be Christmas Masses at 5:30 pm and Midnight on December 25. There will not be any morning Mass on December 25.

Year End Giving

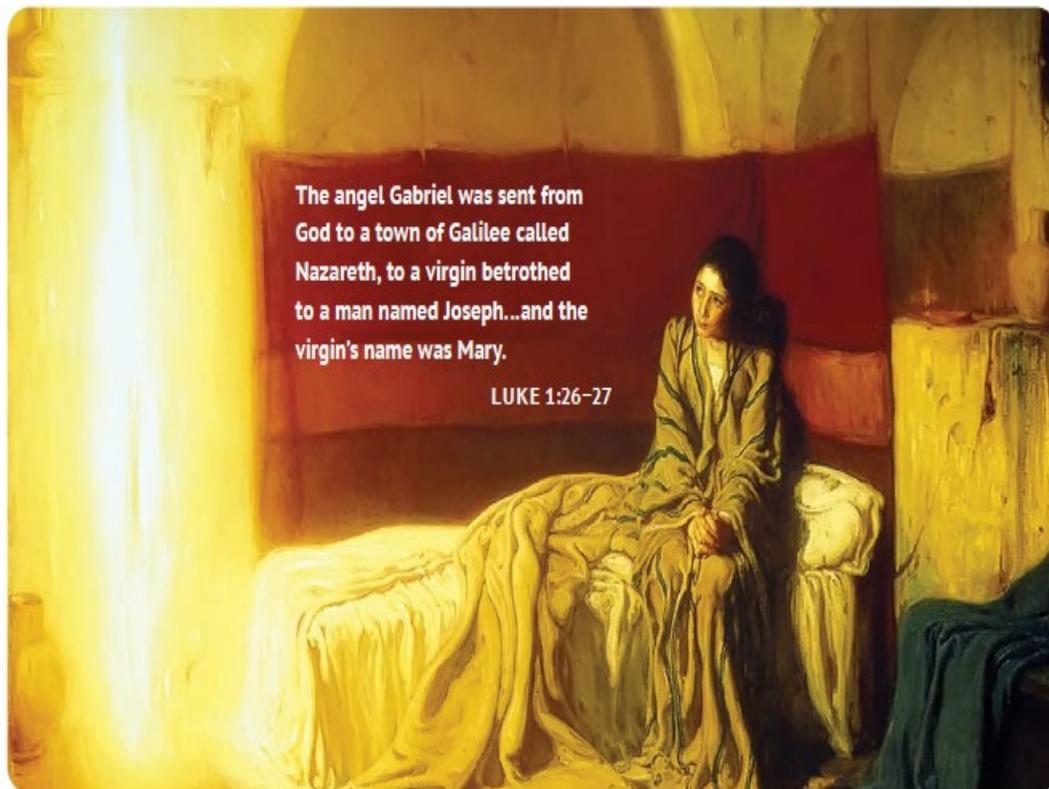
Please remember any donations to be counted for 2023 must be dated December 31, 2023. You will be receiving your year end giving statement in January by email. If you wish to receive a printed copy please let Lori know.



Prophecy | Hannah Garritty
Oil paint, charcoal, and copper leaf on canvas

Upcoming Events

12/24: Christmas Eve Masses
12/25- 12/30 : Church Office Closed



Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said “yes.”

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God’s love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?

© 2023 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS • LIGUORI, MO 63057-9999 • IMAGE: SIMONA PIOLLA 2 / SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021

Monday
December 25
Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or
1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday
December 26
*St. Stephen,
the First Martyr*
Acts 6:8-10;
7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday
December 27
*St. John,
Apostle and
Evangelist*
1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday
December 28
*Holy Innocents,
Martyrs*
1 Jn 1:5-2:2
Mt 2:13-18

Friday
December 29
*Christmas
Weekday*
1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday
December 30
*Christmas
Weekday*
1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Sunday
December 31
*Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary,
and Joseph*
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17
Lk 2:22-40 or
2:22, 39-40



Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19-21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340-420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Our Weekly Offering

12/17/2023

Loose: \$136

Envelopes : \$1255

Votives: \$123

Retreat: \$25

Online: \$75

Total Weekly Offering: \$1614

Birthdays This Week:

12/25: Stephen Davidson

12/27: Alex Martinez

12/28 : Alita Vogel

Pope Francis Prayer Intention

Intentions for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Stay Connected to MGC on Social Media



Mother of Good Counsel



Mother of Good Counsel

Prayer List

Joey Napier, John Meehan, Roy Varghese, Brian Campbell, Matt Tuttle, Willie Gomez, Joe Fehribach, Louise Ayres, Charles McDaniel, Jon Latunik, Deb Night, Harvey Richardson, Delois McIntosh, Karen Davis, Zachary Hollan, Deedee Wells, Sherrian Noble, Stephanie Welch, David Napier, Martha Huggins, Roger Noyes, Willow Brockman, Tina Dawhare Fields, Valarie Maggard Dye, Marleen Combs, Robert Caldwell, Don Davis, The Rice Family, Maria Hall, Neal Boggs, Jackson Varela, Julie and Jonah Spencer, Jace Combs, Mandi Dishner, Brandon Robinson, Michael Whitaker, Thomas Stidham, Roy Pulliam Quentin Davis, Nancy Kelly, Bobby Muncy, Grayson & Kaitlin Baker, Chuck Brunty, Al Pratt, Mike Deubec, OFM, and Abby Turk.

If you know of someone who needs a pastoral visit or is in the hospital and would appreciate a visit contact the parish and let Lori know about the request.

Prayer Family
Alita Vogel