

# Saint Michael the Archangel Church

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2014

Fr. José M. Zepeda, FSSP, Pastor

Fr. Michael Stinson, FSSP, Assistant Pastor

### Mass Intentions

Sun. Dec. 21st	Fourth Sunday of Advent, <i>I Class</i>
8:00 a.m.	† Andrew Toth - <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Gene DeAngelis</i>
10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon. Dec. 22nd	Greater Feria of Advent, <i>II Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Kirk & Bonni Kanzenbach - <i>Mitchell Family</i>
Tues. Dec. 23rd	Greater Feria of Advent, <i>II Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Holden Family - <i>Mrs. Holden</i>
Wed. Dec. 24th	Vigil of Christmas, <i>I Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Joan Fanning - <i>Walter Bartholf</i>
Thu. Dec. 25th	Nativity of Our Lord, <i>I Class</i>
Midnight	<i>Pro Populo</i>
8:00 a.m.	Private Intention
10:15 a.m.	Private Intention
Fri. Dec. 26th	St. Stephen, <i>Protomartyr, II Class</i>
6:00 p.m.	† Jule & Lou Guzek - <i>Niece</i>
Sat. Dec. 27th	St. John, <i>Apostle &amp; Evangelist, II Class</i>
9:00 a.m.	Thomas Serio - <i>Morris Family</i>
Sun. Dec. 28th	Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, <i>II Class</i>
8:00 a.m.	James & Eileen Hanisch - <i>Wedding Anniversary</i>
10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Sunday

Low Mass: 8:00 am

High Mass: 10:15 am

#### Weekdays

Monday-Thursday: 7:45 am

Friday: 6:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am

### **CONFESSIONS**

Monday-Saturday

One half hour before Mass

Sunday: 7:15-7:50

& 9:15-10:05

### **DEVOTIONS**

#### **Exposition-Benediction**

Friday 5:00 pm

Saturdays 8:00 am

#### **DAILY ROSARY**

Monday-Thursday - After Mass

Friday-Sunday - Before Mass

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-Friday 9 am-4 pm

**THURSDAY - CLOSED**

Saturday - 10 am-Noon

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## INTROIT

*Is. 45, 8*

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just; let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour. The heavens show forth the glory of God, and the firmament declareth the work of His Hands. *V.* Glory...

## COLLECT

Bestir, O Lord, Thy might, we beseech thee, and come; and with great power come to our aid, that, by the help of Thy grace, that which is hindered by our sins may be hastened by Thy merciful forgiveness. Who livest...

## EPISTLE

*1 Cor. 4, 1-5*

Brethren, let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ, and the dispensers of the mysteries of God. Here now it is required among the dispensers, that a man be found faithful. But to me it is a very small thing to be judged by you, or by man's day: but neither do I judge my own self. For I am not conscious to myself of any thing, yet am I not hereby justified: but He that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge not before the time, until the Lord come; Who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise from God.

## GRADUAL

*Ps. 144, 18, 21*

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. *V.* My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless His holy name.

## ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia. *V.* Come, O Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of Thy people Israel. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*Luke 3, 1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being

tetrarch of Galilee, and Philip his brother tetrarch of Iturea and the country of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilina, under the high priests Annas and Caiphas; the word of the Lord came to John the son of Zachary, in the desert. And he came into all the country about the Jordan, preaching the baptism of penance for the remission of sins; as it is written in the book of the sayings of Isaias the prophet: A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled; and every mountain and hill shall be brought low: the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways plain: and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

## OFFERTORY

*Luke 1, 28*

Hail, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

## SECRET

Look with favor, we beseech Thee, O Lord upon these offerings here before Thee, that they may profit both for our devotion and for our salvation. Through our Lord...

## COMMUNION

*Is. 7, 14*

Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bring forth a son; and His name shall be called Emmanuel.

## POSTCOMMUNION

Having received Thy gifts, O Lord, we pray that the saving effect of the mystery may increase as we frequent it. Through our Lord...



## **Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, *Divine Intimacy***

I place myself at the feet of Jesus and ask Him to prepare my heart for His imminent coming.

“Call together the nations, tell it among the people and say: Behold our Savior cometh!” The message becomes more and more urgent: in a few days, the Word of God made flesh will show Himself to the world. We must hasten our preparations and make our hearts worthy of Him.

The incarnation of the Word is the greatest proof of God’s infinite love for men; today’s liturgy very appropriately recalls to our mind the wonderful words: “I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore have I drawn thee, taking pity on thee” (Jer. 31:3). Yes, God has loved man from all eternity, and in order to draw him to Himself, He did not hesitate to send “His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Rom 8:3). With hearts full of love, we must run to meet Love who is about to appear “incarnate” in the Infant Jesus. May it be a love that is faithful in great things as well as in small, an ingenious love that is always seeking opportunities to repay God’s infinite love. “Love is repaid by love!” This is the motto which has made saints, and spurred a multitude of souls to greater generosity.

With this love prepare for Christmas, be in this love faithful, for as St. Paul says in the Epistle (I Cor. 4:1-5), “What we desire is that everyone may be found faithful.”

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled; and every mountain and hill shall be brought low.” The voice of John the Baptist, the great Advent preacher, is heard again in today’s Gospel (Lk 3:1-16), inviting us to prepare “the way of the Lord.”

This invitation is especially a call to humility; John was not only the herald of this virtue, but its model too. We know, by the testimony of Jesus Himself, that he was “more than a prophet” and that “there hath not risen among them, that are born of women, a greater than John the Baptist” (Mt 11:9-11). John claimed to be nothing more than a mere voice, “the voice of one

crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord,” and declared that he baptized only with water, while another would come who would baptize in the Holy Spirit, another of whom John protested himself unworthy to loose “the latchet of His shoe” (Jn 1:23-27). And further, speaking of the Savior’s coming, John adds, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (ibid. 3:30). Today’s Office gathers up all this magnificent testimony of St. John the Baptist, as if to give us a concrete idea of the profound sentiments of humility with which, in our heart, we ought to make smooth “the way of the Lord.” If the valleys, that is, our deficiencies, are to be filled up by love, then the mountains and hills, that is, the vain pretenses of pride, must be made low by humility.

A heart filled with self-love and pride cannot be filled with God, and too small will be the place reserved in it for the sweet Babe of Bethlehem.

O almighty, omnipotent, eternal God, what greater proof of love could You give your poor creatures than the gift of Your Word, Your only-begotten Son? For our sake, You clothed with human flesh, like the flesh of sin, Him who is eternal splendor, the perfect image of Your substance!

“God of goodness, who art above all goodness, You alone art sovereign good! You gave us the Word, Your only Son, to live with us, to assume our evil, corrupt nature. Why did You make us such a gift? Out of love, because You loved us even before we existed.

Love will fill the valleys in my heart, and humility will level its mountains and hills. Destroy my pride, arrogance, and vanity, O Lord, by the powerful fire of Your love. By the might of Your all-powerful arm, tear out of my heart every fiber which is infected with the poison of self-love, and which, therefore, does not belong to You. O Lord, I, too, wish to decrease, decrease that You may increase in me, so that on Christmas day You may find my heart entirely empty and free and therefore ready for the total invasion of Your love.

**SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH** extends a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners in the parish.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR:** All children ages 5-16 years old are invited to sing in the Children's Christmas Choir which will perform with the Adult Choir before the Midnight Mass. This is the last practice before Christmas. Please remember that the binders, sheet music and CDs belong to St. Michael's Church and should be returned to the parish in good condition after Christmas.

**Fr. Zepeda** will be away from the parish from December 23rd until January 7th.

**KOC:** Knights 50/50: the winning ticket for December's \$41.50 drawing is 766813. So far no winner has come forward - it could be you! Please see Todd Drain before or after the 10:15 Mass to collect your winning ticket, or give him a call at 570-815-7397 to schedule a time. If the prize is not claimed by the January drawing, December's prize will rollover into the January drawing, which will occur on the 4th of January.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Our annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, January 4th. We are asking parishioners to contribute a potluck main dish for at least 10 people and a dessert. Everyone is welcome!

**The First Annual Christmas Pageant** will also be presented this year after dinner. We hope you all can make it!!

**BOYS NIGHT OUT:** Father Zepeda invites boys of the parish and their dads to hear a talk by Father Pendergraft, FSSP, on the priesthood, Friday, January 16th following the 6:00 PM Mass. Refreshments will be served prior to the talk, which will begin at 7:30 PM.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Midnight Mass**

**Thursday, December 25 - Sunday Schedule**

**8:00 a.m. Low Mass**

**10:15 a.m. Low Mass**

**COLLECTION:** December 14 - \$2,376.00  
Immaculate Conception - \$695.00

## *Altar Boy Schedule*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 21st**  
**8:00 a.m. Mass**

**ACI** Joseph Schneider  
**AC2** Patrick Schneider

**TEAM C**

**MC** Robert Seeley  
**TH** Dominic Gardner  
**AC1** Timothy Emig  
**AC2** Francis LaFata  
**C**  
**S1** Brendan Seeley  
**S2** Michael Gardner  
**S3** Jack Gardner  
**S4** Stephen LaFata

**WEEK THREE**

**Monday** Joseph Schneider  
**7:45 a.m.** Patrick Schneider

**Tuesday**  
**7:45 a.m.**

**Wednesday** Dominic Gardner  
**7:45 a.m.** Jack Gardner

**Thursday**  
**7:45 a.m.**

**SUNDAY IN THE**  
**OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY**

**December 28th**  
**8:00 a.m. Mass**

**ACI** Stephen LaFata  
**AC2** Francis LaFata

**TEAM D**

**MC** John Gillenkirk  
**TH** Matthew Gillenkirk  
**AC1** Joseph Schneider  
**AC2** Patrick Schneider  
**C** Collin Chidester  
**S1** John Skuba  
**S2** Joseph Skuba  
**S3** Joseph Seeley  
**S4** Brendan Seeley