

# Saint Michael the Archangel Church

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2013

Fr. José M. Zepeda, FSSP, Pastor

### Mass Intentions

Sun. Dec. 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Advent, <i>I Class (Rorate)</i>
8:00 a.m.	Kathleen Heisler - <i>Walter Heisler</i>
10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon. Dec. 23rd	Greater Feria of Advent, <i>II Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Sr. Marie Bernard - <i>The Cilia Family</i>
Tues. Dec. 24th	Vigil of the Nativity, <i>I Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Evelyn Tereshko - <i>Christian &amp; Joyce Keifer</i>
Midnight	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Wed. Dec. 25th	Nativity of Our Lord, <i>I Class</i>
10:00 a.m.	Christine Burnham - <i>Gemma Burnham</i>
Thur. Dec. 26th	St. Stephen, <i>Deacon &amp; Protomartyr, II Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	† Louis & Jule Guzek - <i>Elaine Guzek</i>
Fri. Dec. 27th	St. John, <i>Apostle &amp; Evangelist, II Class</i>
6:00 p.m.	† Neglected Souls in Purgatory - <i>Leonard &amp; Mary Tabone</i>
Sat. Dec. 28th	Holy Innocents, <i>II Class</i>
9:00 a.m.	Mike Emig
Sun. Dec. 29th	Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, <i>II Class</i>
8:00 a.m.	Luke Heisler - <i>Dad</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...



The Word, begotten from all eternity by the Father, has raised into personal union with Himself the blessed Fruit of the virginal womb of Mary; in other words the human and divine natures are joined in our Lord in the unity of a single Person—the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Further, since when we speak of a son we mean a person, Jesus must be called the Son of God, because as the Son of God He is a Divine Person. From this it follows, that our Lady is called the Mother of God; not that she has begotten the Word but because from her is derived the humanity that the Word has united to Himself in the mystery of the Incarnation.

Of this mystery the first manifestation to the world was the birth of our Lord at Bethlehem. Whence we see the reason why every year at Christmas the Church says “Puer natus est nobis et Filius datus est nobis”. “Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.” It is the Son of God, God begotten of the Father in the one day of eternity (Ego hodie genui te), who is now begotten of the Father as Man in the day of the Incarnation: Ego hodie genui te. “By the taking of the Manhood into God,” says St. Athanasius, the Son of Mary is born to the divine Life. As it was at midnight that our Lady brought her first-born Son into the world and laid Him in a cradle, so Mass is celebrated at midnight in St. Mary Major, where the relics of the crib are kept.

“With great devotion,” says St. Leo, “has the Incarnate Word given Himself to win for us the fight against Satan, for not in His divine Majesty but in the weakness of our flesh He waged war against this cruel enemy.” The victory which He has gained, in spite of His weakness, shows Him to be God. It is “God of God, Light of Light,” who disperses the darkness of sin. “Christ is the true Light who comes to enlighten the world, plunged in darkness” (Collect), “By the mystery of the Word made Flesh,” says the Preface, “the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind: so that while we acknowledge Him as God seen by men, we may be drawn by Him to the love of things unseen.” “The grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires... that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and might cleanse to Himself a people acceptable, and zealous in good

works” (Epistle). He is made like unto us that we may become like unto Him (Secret), and by His example may be enabled to live a holy life (Postcommunion). Thus shall we live soberly, justly, and godly in this world, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the glory of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ (Epistle).

### **The Eternal Generation of the Word**

“A God,” says St. Paul, “inhabits light inaccessible.” It was to make His Father known to us that our Lord came on earth. “No one knoweth the Son but the Father: neither doth any one know the Father but the Son and he to whom it shall please the Son to reveal Him.” The Word made flesh is the manifestation of God to us. It is God made man, showing the Father to us. We are not therefore, surprised at the importance attached by the Church in the liturgy at Christmas time, to this manifestation of the Divinity of Christ. Beneath the natural charm of the Babe laid in the manger by Mary, the Church would have us distinguish, as if through a transparent veil, the Deity become in some sense an object of sight and touch. “He that seeth Me, seeth the Father also” were our Lord’s words; or as expressed by the Christmas Preface: “By the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word we know God under a visible form.”

Moreover to make it clear that it is the contemplation of the Word that is, in a special way, the foundation of the spiritual discipline of this season, it is especially from the writings of the two apostles John and Paul, who were conspicuously the heralds of our Lord’s Divinity, that the liturgy borrows those passages which speak of this mystery with the greatest degree of illumination and depth. The Christmas liturgy brings us on our knees with Mary and Joseph, before this God clothed with the garment of our flesh. “Christ is born: come let us adore him.” With the humble procession of the shepherds coming to the manger, “we are made to run in haste to glorify and praise God”, to mingle with the sumptuous caravan of the Magi-kings, with them to prostrate ourselves before the Christ-Child in adoration. “He whom all the angels of God adore.” Together with the Church, we acknowledge the great dogma of the Divinity of Christ, the Incarnation of the Word.

(The Saint Andrew Daily Missal)

**All children ages 5-16 years old** are invited to sing in the St. Michael's Children's Christmas Choir, which will sing with the Adult Choir before Midnight Mass for about 50 minutes. Practices will be on Sundays after the 10:15 Mass. Red binders with the music are in the choir loft for interested children (**One binder per family please**). The taped music will be sent to your parents email.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help decorate the Church for Christmas today starting at 1:00 p.m. Men, women, and teens are needed! May God reward you!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Our annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, January 5th. We are asking parishioners to contribute a potluck main dish for at least 10 people and a dessert. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please contact Maria Mitchell.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

Midnight Mass - **Team D**

Mass of Day - **10:00 a.m.**

**BOYS NIGHT OUT:** Father Zepeda invites boys of the parish and their dads to hear a talk by Father Stinson, FSSP, on vocations to the priesthood Friday, January 17th following the 6:00 PM Mass. Refreshments will be served prior to the talk, which should begin about 7:30 PM.

**PARISH RAFFLE:** From Now until January 4, we will be selling Raffle Tickets to help support St. Michael's. The Last Raffle was a great success, lets make this one even better! Tickets are just \$2 each, and we need all the help we can get in selling them!! Please contact Millissa McGuirk or Stephanie Pendrak to help sell/purchase tickets.

**SUNDAY ENVELOPES:** 2014 Sunday envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church.

**COLLECTION:** December 15th - \$1,930.00

## *Altar Boy Schedule*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 22nd**

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

**AC1** Joseph Schneider  
**AC2** Patrick Schneider

**TEAM C**

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

**WEEK THREE**

**Monday**  
**7:45 a.m.**

**Tuesday** Robert Seeley  
**7:45 a.m.** Patrick Seeley

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

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

**SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE**

**OF CHRISTMAS**

**December 29th**

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

**AC1** Joshua Sica  
**AC2** Timothy Sica

**TEAM A**

**MC** James McWhirter  
**TH** John Gillenkirk  
**AC1** Joseph McWhirter  
**AC2** Patrick Seeley  
**C** Robert Seeley  
**S1** John Pheasant  
**S2** Andrew pheasant  
**S3** Matthew Gillenkirk  
**S4** Timothy Emig