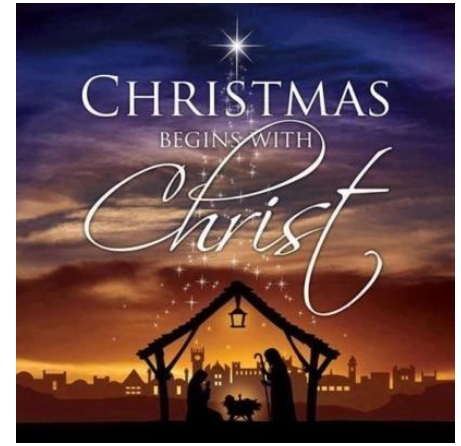




**Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin**

**Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053**

December 22, 2024



Fourth Sunday of Advent

The **First Reading** is taken from the Prophecy of *Micah 5:1-4*. In today's reading we hear words of hope that focus on one who is to be born in Bethlehem and who will bring in the day of peace when all nations will look to Jerusalem.

The **Second Reading** is taken from *Hebrews 10:5-10*. The perfect offering of Christ restores us to oneness with God. Jesus came to do the will of God perfectly. He overcame the power of evil that separates us from God and became our bridge back to God when we fall into evil. David prefigures Christ's sacrifice. The Psalm is now seen from the perspective of Christ.

The **Gospel** of this Sunday, *Luke 1:38-45* recounts the visit of Mary to St. Elizabeth. An ancient title of Mary is Ark of the Covenant. The Church Fathers saw the parallels between the Old Testament wooden chest containing the divine presence and the Virgin about to give birth to Jesus. This theme is developed in a tape series by Tim Staples. Tim brings out the similarities between today's Gospel and the ascent of the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6:1-15).

1. As the ark is brought to Jerusalem, King David is overcome with awe saying, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" (v. 9)
2. The ark remains three months in the hill country near Jerusalem, bringing great blessings to the house of Obbedom. (v.11)
3. King David leaps for joy—dancing before the ark. (v. 13) (Tim Staples, *All Generations Shall Call Me Blessed*)

In today's Gospel, Elizabeth says to Mary, "Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" She tells how the babe (John the Baptist) leaped in her womb as she became filled with the Holy Spirit. Finally Mary remains three months with her kinswoman before returning to her home. This Sunday, so close to Christmas, the Church invites us to focus our attention on Mary, round-wombed because of the God-child. As we say in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin: "Ark of the Covenant, pray for us."

—Excerpted from Fr. Phil Bloom

This is the last Sunday of our preparation for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's birth. Like Joseph, we can all feel unworthy of the honor of welcoming him into our hearts and our homes. We are indeed unworthy, not because we have little of this world's goods, but because we have so little humility, so little charity, so little faith and trust in God's goodness. Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar.

The feast of Christmas should draw the hearts of every child of God towards the furnace of divine love. In the manger, the infinite love of God for us miserable sinners is dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless Baby, represented by a statue, we know that the person, and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lie hidden "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like ourselves, so that he would make us sharers in his divine nature. He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it.

"Unsearchable indeed are the judgements of God, and inscrutable his ways." But though we are unworthy of his infinite love, it nevertheless stands out as clear as the noonday sun in the Incarnation. We realize that we can never make ourselves worthy of this infinite love, but let us imitate Joseph and accept the honor which God is giving us, as we trust that he will continue to make us daily less unworthy.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

If you have a notice for the bulletin, you can email louisecampbel@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to the parish, but do not have an envelope you can e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. A receipt will be provided.

**Collection:
December 15, 2024**

Envelopes	\$125.00
Loose	\$15.00
Missals	\$5.00
Sacred Heart Ladies Group	\$8,000.00
	\$8,145.00

Notices:

1: Church Decorating: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday December 22nd, at 2:00 pm. all are welcome to come and help.

2: The Road to Bethlehem

The Final presentation of **The Road to Bethlehem** will occur on Sunday Evening, December 22nd at 7:00 PM in Wentworth Park. Take time away from the hustle and bustle and join us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. In song, word, and reflection we retell the story of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem. This is a Christmas Festival for the entire Christian Community, especially children. Join us! The Road to Bethlehem is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 9476

3: JUBILEE YEAR 2025 The Jubilee Year 2025 will commence on Sunday, December 29, 2024. The theme is Spes Non Confundit (Pilgrims of Hope). Pope Francis decreed that diocesan bishops celebrate Mass in their Cathedrals. It may happen that there will be Holy Doors in St. Ninian's and throughout several churches in the diocese. A jubilee Prayer will be made available and, scripture workshops, youth ministry and other activities are encouraged.

4: Tea and Tunes SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 Bonnie Brae Club 2-4 Wayne Bona, Tyrone David and Mannie Bourgeois. Admission 5 dollars Half and Half Tickets sold. Light lunch will be served.

5:



6: Christmas/New Year's Schedule of Masses This year the celebration of the solemn feasts: Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day) will simply be according to the regular weekend schedule

**Christmas Eve, The Nativity of the Lord
Holy Day of Obligation**

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

**Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord
Holy Day of Obligation**

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024**

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024**

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

**The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation**

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

**The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation**

World Day of Peace Wednesday, January 1, 2024

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am