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St. Regina's Church Staff

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Remember In Prayer

Michaëlle Box, Connie Galvan,
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Emanuel Milligan, Charley Therrell,
Leonard Humble , Louis Humble Sr.
, Dolores Mullins , Martha Jo Neuenschwander,
Paul Jelonek , David Korabek

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. — *Luke 1:42*

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Dec 30th

Maurisio

EUCCHARISTIC MINSTER

Tom/Jim

USHERS

Michael/Jesus

SERVERS

FRANCISCO

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday: Vigil of Christmas

Tuesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Wednesday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

Thursday: St. John

Friday: The Holy Innocents

Saturday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

Mass Intention

Coleman Bartholomew

Christmas Eve Mass Dec 24th at
St. Andrews at 10:00 pm

Christmas Day December 25th

St Andrew at 9:00 am

St Regina at 11:00 am

New Years Eve Dec 31st

7:00 pm St. Andrews

New Years Day Jan 1st

St. Andrew 9:00 am

St. Regina 11:00 am

December 21st through December 26th: The office will be closed.

December 31st and January 1st: The office will be closed.

There will be no class on December 23rd or December 30th.
Classes will resume on January 6th.

OFFERTORY

12/16/2018

BUDGET \$1249.00

ACTUAL \$1390.00

\$141.00