



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means

“God is with us.”

— *Isaiah 35:10a*

### TRUST IN GOD

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel.

Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to “tempt the LORD” in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord’s enduring protection of God’s chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.

Matthew’s reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ.

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The prayers surrounding baptism often speak of being “clothed in Christ,” and clothes are an important consideration. In ancient times, adults were probably baptized without any clothes at all, and old texts survive asking people to leave fancy garb and jewelry behind as they enter the font. Baptism was typically in a private place, the community waited elsewhere, and the casting off of clothing was hardly a public moment, nor was it embarrassing in ancient cultures where privacy was largely unknown.

Nonetheless, what was left behind on one side of the font was replaced on the other as a white robe was wrapped around the newly baptized. It was a robe of honor, a dazzling sign of a new beginning for a society that valued clothing as a sign of personal identity. For the newly baptized, a whole week in white garments was the rule, through the second Sunday of Easter, called “Sunday *in Albis*,” because of all the folks wearing their baptismal robes.

#### St. Regina’s Church Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

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### Remember In Prayer

Michaelle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello ,  
Emanuel Milligan, Leonard Humble ,  
Louis Humble Sr. , Joy Williams,  
Martha Jo Neuenschwander ,SADIE STANFILL

### TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — You will be given this sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:10-14).

**Psalm** — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory  
(Psalm 24).

**Second Reading** — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

**Gospel** — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-24).

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;  
Lk 1:57-66

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

Wednesday: 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]

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

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

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

### CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Monday: St. John of Kanty; Hanukkah begins  
Tuesday: Vigil of Christmas  
Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
Thursday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins;  
Boxing Day (Canada)  
Friday: St. John  
Saturday: The Holy Innocents

Deacon Moss will have a  
communion service on Jan.  
8,15,22,and 29th at 5:00 oclock  
Wednesdays

No PRE December 29th. Classes resume on January  
5th.

Due to the Diocese being closed, the Office will be  
closed Monday through Wednesday, December 23rd  
through January 1st.

Dec 29TH  
LECTOR MAURISIO  
E/M JIM/ FLORENCIA  
USHERS MICHAEL/OLIVIA  
SERVERS JESUS

Offertory 12/15/2019  
BUDGET \$1351.00  
ACTUAL \$ 92900  
—\$422.00  
CHRISTMAS  
FLOWERS  
\$25.00