



*St. Regina's Church Staff*

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## Remember In Prayer

Fr Robert Ponticello , Martha Jo ,  
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# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

## GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.

## OUR FASCINATING FAITH

### *Las Posadas* (December 16–24)

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of *Las Posadas* seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous *Misas de Aguinaldo* were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (*posada*) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the "O Antiphons" of the official liturgy, these *posadas* were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of *Las Posadas* has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?

## TODAY'S READINGS

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

**Psalm** — The king of glory shall come in (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. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

## CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

### Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve;

to give and not to count the cost,

to fight and not to heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labor and not to ask for reward,

save that of knowing that I do your will.

## CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

Dec 11th 2022  
SUNDAY COLLECTION  
\$1206.00  
RETIREMENT  
\$73.00  
FLOWERS  
\$55.00  
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES  
\$40.65

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;

Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

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

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;

Lk 1:67-79

Sunday: 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]

The office will be closed 20th of December until the 31st for the Christmas holidays

The Christmas vigil will be at St. Andrew in Lexington the 24th at 6.00 pm

The Solemnity of Mary will be the 31st at 4:30 in Lexington

DEC 25TH

Lector BEVERLY

Servers Carlos & Max

Counters

ANITA & ANN