

LET US BE WATCHFUL AND ALERT FOR THE LORD OF THE HOUSE TO COME

It is fitting that the very first reading we hear this Advent is a lament imploring God’s personal intervention. For Advent is a time of waiting: waiting for the opportunity to celebrate God’s intervention in human history; waiting for, and preparing for, Jesus’ return.

The writers of the book of Isaiah – which we will hear proclaimed these first three Sundays of Advent – witnessed colossal historical events in the life of the Israelites: wars, revolts, dethroned rulers. Yet in Isaiah, no military or political power compares in importance to God’s majesty, and to the intimate relationship between God and his beloved, chosen people.

So in the midst of the Israelites’ exile, Isaiah recalls all the times in history that God provided protection, and begs for the Lord to come once more to their aid. He acknowledges that they have sinned, but is confident in God’s abiding covenantal promise.

Isaiah’s plea is one of confident hope, proclaimed by someone who knows that nothing the Israelites have done changes God’s love for them. Isaiah emphasizes God as Father and redeemer – a God who shapes us with the loving tenderness of a potter molding clay.

We hear this same confidence in the Gospel message of Jesus to his disciples. His words, Be watchful! Be alert! Are not a threat or some doom message. They are instead instructions for how to live with assurance: we don’t have to wonder or worry, because we know with certainty that the Lord of the house will come! We will not be abandoned or forgotten. The Master will return.

The nights are much longer than the days in this dark time of the year. We may be facing harsh difficulties, unknown risks or painful circumstances. Yet what the prophet Isaiah names is what Paul the Apostle confirms: *In him you were enriched in every way*, because God is faithful. We have already been given the graces we need to face our specific circumstances. In the words of Saint Paul in today’s reading: you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is, indeed, faithful. The only question we must answer is, how are we responding to this awesome grace?

RCIA.

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the Mass with Father Colten. Please continue to pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as they are on this journey of faith together learning and experiencing the teachings and traditions of our Catholic faith. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Dec 04	Is 2:1-5, Mt 8:5-11
Tues Dec 05	Is 11:1-10, Lk 10:21-24
Wed Dec 06	Is 25:6a, Mt 15:29-37
Thur Dec 07	Is 26:1-6, Mt 7:21, 24-27, Eph 3:8-12, Jn 10:11-16
Fri Dec 08	Gn 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12, Lk 1:26-38
Sat Dec 09	Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun Dec 10	Is 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Pt 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Regular Collections</i>	\$	9,021.00
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$	778.00
<i>Nativity Elem.</i>		10.00
<i>Capital Improvement</i>	\$	85.00
<i>Christmas Flowers</i>	\$	535.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	10,429.000

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES:

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS: • Concert Series Concert IV: The University of South Mississippi’s “Civic Chorale” Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 10th– 2:00 p.m. • Nativity Children’s Choir sings for Press Release/Conference on the steps of the Cathedral - Thursday, December 7th – 11:40 a.m. • Concert Series Concert V: “Magnolia Concert Society – Christmas Concert” – Sunday, December 17th – 3:00 p.m. We are still seeking sponsors for our Concert Series that currently has events scheduled through June - 2018. **STILL TIME TO JOIN IN PREPARATION:** Wednesday nights – 7:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals for Christmas Eve Concert/Midnight Mass For more information, please contact: TERRY D. MADDOX: Office: 228 967-7230 Cell: 251 406-1454 E-Mail: terrydalemaddox@gmail

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of obligation. We will have Vigil Mass on December 7th at 6:00 p.m. We will have Masses December 8th at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., Noon and 6:00 p.m. All Masses will be in the Cathedral.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Be sure to avail yourself to our Lord’s Infinite Mercy during the Advent Season in preparation to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

CCD

At CCD, a Penance Service will be held on December 6, for students in grades 3-11. On December 13, all students will have a Christmas party before the Christmas break. No CCD classes will be held on December 20 or 27. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3 for all students. The CCD teachers wish all of you a joyous, blessed Christmas!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Dec 09 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Helen Languirand 4. Patrick Hall 5. Kalin Lloyd	Dec 07 6:00 p.m. Mary Townsend	Dec 09 4:00 pm Simon Randall McKinzy Mathis
Dec 10 7:00 am 1. Vicki Howard 2. Linda Stewart 3. Nancy Powell	Dec 08 NOON Linda Bourgeois	Dec 10 7:00 am Wyeth Stewart Alex Stewart
9:00 am 1. Maggie Landry 2. Sharon Tash 3. Judy Trahan 4. Bobby Weaver 5. Belinda Corley	6:00 p.m. Patrick Hall	9:00 am Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julie Landry Sofia Carreón
11:00 am 1. Sandy Steckler 2. Judy Steckler 3. Susan Toche 4. Rhonda Clark 5. Robert Moniot	Dec 09 4:00 pm Julie Capuano	11:00 am Hadyn Hollis Greysen Ross McRae Ross
5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Mary Townsend 3. Angela Cannon	Dec 10 7:00 am Jim Shuggart	5:30 pm Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Taylor Yasar
	9:00 am Liz Wilkinson	
	11:00 am Don Marie	
	5:30 pm Janice Fields	
	CANTORS	
	Dec 09 4:00 pm William Endicott	
	Dec 10 9:00 am Peter Abide	
	11:00 am Sean Ross/Choir	

MASS INTENTIONS

	6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon Dec 04	Clare Hornsby	Richard "Red" White
Tue Dec 05	Walter Blessey	Daminh Chuong
Wed Dec 06	Josh Bozeman	Maria Hoang Thi Khoai
Thur Dec 07	Collins-Sims Fly.	Sr. Mary Riordan, RSM (SI)
Fri Dec 08	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Jean Kridle
Sat Dec 09	8 Jeanne Harbison	4 Ray Yenewine
Sun Dec 10	7 Iris/Woody Steele	9 F. T. P.
11	Richard "Red" White	5:30 Deacon Ben Wimberly

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sister Jackie Tarrant, Beverly Hammond, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Kim Wilkerson, Pete Skrmetta, Candy Widener, Lehmon Skrmetti, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Mabel Viator, Michael Zorich and Karen Skremetta.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*The Perk Players will visit Nativity School at 9:00 a.m. on December 5th. We look forward to their rendition of the story of the Singing River.

*Listen for those jingle bells! St. Nicholas has been known to visit Nativity School on December 6th!

*Mass will be celebrated at Nativity School on Friday, **December 8th at 10:00 a.m.**, in the school gym. Celebrating the liturgy will be Father Steve Benden.

*Nativity School will hold its annual Christmas Store for the Children on Friday, December 15th. Children shop for items for their parents, grandparents or siblings **at no cost!** This tradition began after Katrina and has continued ever since. If you have small new or gently used items that you would like to contribute, please drop them off at the school.

ONLINE GIVING SOON AVAILABLE AT NATIVITY

We are excited to announce that Nativity BVM Cathedral will soon be offering one-time and recurring donations conveniently from our website! You will be able to make your secure donations via electronic check or debit/credit card by simply visiting our website at www.nativitybvmcathedral.org. More information will soon be available on our website or by calling the parish at (228) 374-1717. This convenient new method of giving will be available in February, 2018.

WLOX AT NATIVITY

On December 7, 2017 at 12:00 noon, WLOX TV will be at Nativity Cathedral to film the announcement of our 175 Anniversary to begin on January 1, 2018. Bishop Kihneman and Bishop Morin will be present for interviewing. Our Nativity School Children's Choir will also perform. Please come for this public announcement of the coming momentous year. Light refreshments will be served.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent– 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

Christmas Eve – 11:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 04 Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.

Dec 05 Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC

BINGO at 5:30 p.m.

RCIA at 6:00 p.m.

Dec 06 Cleaning Team "D"

CCD at 5:30 p.m. SHC

Dec 07 Greenbriar Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Dec 08 – Rectory Closed

Holy Day Mass at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.,

Noon and 6:00 p.m.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for December 5th: Miller (Glenn & Kim), Mitchell (Brett & Michel), Nguyen (Lion Van & Dong), Nguyen (David & Thu Thuy), O'Grady (Sean & Katie) and Otiende (Romanus & Molly). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The SVdP Society provides assistance each Tues from 9-11:00 am. Your continued support helps to ensure the SVdP is able to provide support for those in need.

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

ENTRANCE HYMN

54

OFFERTORY

#412

COMMUNION

#341

SENDING

39