

READINGS

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

We often hear people speak about "the real meaning of Christmas." Christmas celebrates the birth of our Savior, that's true. In celebrating it, however, we should not think of His birth as the beginning of His existence. I want to go a bit more deeply into our belief that God the Son existed from all eternity along with the Father and the Holy Spirit without a beginning. Because that is so, what we are really celebrating is the fact that God Himself became human flesh and blood, and thus entered into our human nature and history. That's something that is stupendous - so stupendous that the theologians refer to it as the Miracle of the Incarnation. How else could God make Himself really known to us? Oh, He could send angels, raise up prophets to tell us about Him, or let Himself be known in events in nature. He has done all that but we just didn't get it. So, God went the whole distance and removed any distance between Himself and us - He became Man. The truth that God comes to us in

our own humanity is vital to how we think about God and His fundamental relationship with us. God wants to share His life with us. Why? For no other reason than He loves us. We all know that there is distance between ourselves and God. This distance is not God's doing, it is not His will. It is our doing. And there's nothing that we can do by ourselves to close the gap. We need God to do that. With God's gift to us, with the Savior He has given us, we can bridge the chasm. Most marvelous of all is the fact that God sent His Savior to us not simply to live among us but actually become one of us in our very nature. That is the astounding miracle that happens each and every time we celebrate Mass and you receive Him in your own humanity in Holy Communion. God becomes one with your body and blood with His Body and Blood. Because of the Incarnation God becomes one with you. Each Mass is another Christmas. That's the truth.

From Fr. Charles Irvin

STEWARDSHIP

December 11th.....\$2,021
Retired Religious.....\$585.16

Our Lady of Wisdom relies on Bobcat Catholics like you for more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to the their Catholic faith. Contact our Development Director, Daniel Glaze, to join this mission at 512-392-5925.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The mystery of the Incarnation occurred through Mary and yet through the Holy Spirit given to us in Baptism and Confirmation we too are called to embody the presence of God. Have we, like Mary, said yes to God? Are we, like Joseph, nurturing and protecting that life within us? As we celebrate this holy season of birth, are we giving birth in our lives to the fruits of God's love: justice, peace, kindness, humility and joy?

Sunday morning Rosary will continue through the Christmas break

Now scheduling for the beginning of the new year.

Interested in leading a 9:30am Sunday morning Rosary? Even if you are inexperienced! Contact Sawndra in the office M-F 512-392-5925

MATCHING GIFT COLLECTION

Thank you to all those who participated in our Matching Gift collection last month. We exceeded our \$20,000 goal and raised a total of \$40,376.56!

With this we can continue our mission of reaching every student on campus!

All WEEKLY ACTIVITIES will resume with the start of the spring semester. January 17, 2017. Have a great Christmas break!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- ROSARY** every Sunday 9:30am in the Chapel
 - ADORATION** of the Blessed Sacrament *Tuesdays* 5:45-9pm and *Mornings* Mon-Fri 8:30-9:30am in the Chapel
 - NIGHT PRAYER** hosted by the men of Lambda Omega Alpha, 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings after Adoration.
 - FREE LUNCH** every Tues., 11am-1pm in the Lobby
 - BIBLE STUDIES** every day!
- Visit www.txstatecatholic.org**

ETHICS & INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY (EIM) NEARBY OPPORTUNITIES:

- January 7, 2017**
Saturday, 9:30am– 11:30am
Santa Cruz in Buda &
- January 9, 2017**
Monday, 7:00pm– 9:00pm
St. Anthony's in Kyle

Please register at the Diocesan website ahead of time so that adequate material may be available. austindiocese.org > Quick Links
Then > eAppsDB (for new applicants)
Or > EIM Workshops (to register for a workshop)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Will not meet December 18th—January 1st for the Christmas break. First class day after is Sun. Jan. 8th at 8:45am

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Be spiritually prepared for the Christmas season!
Penance Services
Kyle, Mon., Dec. 19th
San Marcos, Wed., Dec. 21st
ALL services begin at 7pm.

REMINDER today we have our monthly St. Vincent De Paul collection.

BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!



FAN INTO FLAME

Fri-Sun Feb. 3rd– 5th, 2017
Do you want or need to get reconnected to the Lord? Do you want to light a spark in your spiritual life? The Fan into Flame retreat is the opportunity for you to do so! Contact Andres Sanchez at asanc1234@gmail.com or 956-975-8000 for details.



CHRISTMAS BREAK SCHEDULE

Except for Masses listed below, the office and the building will be closed from Thu., Dec. 22nd-Sun., Jan. 8th
Masses during that time:
Sat. Dec. 24 6:30pm
(Christmas Eve)
Sun. Dec. 25 10:00am
(Christmas Day)
Sun. Jan. 1 10:00am
5:00pm
7:30pm
(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)
Sun. Jan. 8 10:00am
Sun. Jan. 15 10:00am
5:00pm
7:30pm