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St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB

Responsorial Psalm 89: Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

St. Theresa's Parish News & St. Joseph The Worker Parish News:

Due to Covid-19, both parishes are closed for Mass' until further notice.

Zoom Along with Us

If you use the internet you can join St. Joseph & St. Theresa with the Zoom Mass Each Sunday as one more option to celebrate community and the sharing of the Word together. After Mass we will be having *Coffee Sunday* with each other who wish to stay and visit with the rest of the community. If you wish to join into the Zoom Mass send an email to St. Joseph The Worker, stjoewkr@mymts.net to get on the Access List.

St. Joseph Parish, Russell, St. Theresa's Parish, Rossburn Advent Confessions are available by request. Phone the Parish Office, 204-773-2924 to book a time.

Sunday Missal (2020-2021) now available! \$4.00 each. Also: Parish Advent Daily Reflection Booklets (new this year-space for journaling). Contact the Parish Office, if you would like one! 204-773-2924

THANK YOU to the parishioners who dropped in at the Church or mailed their donations for the Russell & Area Food Connections (\$565.00 collected so far) and the Orphanage in Peru (\$235.00 collected so far)! Your generosity was truly heartwarming considering the circumstances we find ourselves in right now. We collected an amazing amount of food items, socks and children's gifts for the annual Christmas Food Hampers to be distributed in our area. If you did not donate and would like to do so, please mail your cheque (made out to Russell & Area Food Connections or Oeuvres Regis-Vernet) to the parish, or drop it off at the parish office, or mail directly to Russell & Area Food Connections c/o Box 118, Russell, Mb. A big Thanks to all the parishioners, the CWL and the Knights of Columbus for the prizes they donated for our Draw! Stay tuned for the winners! The prize draws will be made on Dec. 24th.

Thank you also to all you participated in organizing/assisting in any way to make this event happen!

Special Thanks to...

- St. Josephs Knights of Columbus for putting the outdoor church sign up: "Keep Christ in Christmas"!
- Grant Roszell who continues to upgrade/maintain our church tech needs!

Did you Know! The National Catholic Broadcasting Council offers Sunday & Daily TV Mass on the Web, visit the website at www.dailytvmass.com or www.youtube.com/dailytvmass to watch Mass each day.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for the month of December: *"For a life of prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer."*

December 20, 2020 Stewardship Message

Fourth Sunday Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Mass Intentions For The Week:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec. 19 For health of family req. Jean Goba
 Sunday Dec. 20 Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. – For all Parishioners req. Father Paul
 &
 +For deceased family req. Walter & Florence Shwaluk

Monday Dec. 21 For Health Avery Josephina Osborne req. Darin & Carlene Douglas
 Tuesday Dec. 22 Special intentions req. Albina Kozak

Wed. Dec. 23 Special intentions req. Simone

Thurs. Dec. 24 Zoom on-line Mass 6:00 p.m. +Ben Schmidt req. Bev, Jim & Family

Friday Dec. 25 Zoom on-line Mass 10:30 a.m. + Joe Zegalski req. Gord, Melanie, Bill, Mary-Lou & Eugene Lyshyshyn

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday Dec. 26 For health of family req. Jean Goba
 Sunday Dec. 27 Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. – For all Parishioners req. Father Paul
 &
 + Michael Sobie req. Bernadine Brown

Friday, January 1st, 2021 New Year's Day Zoom Mass 10:30 a.m.



Christmas Message 2020

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The celebration of Christmas this year will look and feel much different from what we are used to. Nevertheless, we will still celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and related feast with faith and devotion. The days preceding Christmas are particularly laborious for all and a danger of neglecting ourselves. Christmas is a feast of union – the union of God and humanity in Christ.

No matter what our age may be, it is impossible to await Christmas without some expectancy and excitement of a child. As on the first Christmas, God gave himself to us out of love. I believe we are sincere in this expectation but a little slow to place our own gift before the manger.

I wish to thank you for the many kindness, invitations, cards, prayers and gifts that you have offered me and to the community, faithfully serving the Lord with your time, talent and treasure this past year. We are grateful to each of you for all the work you do to enhance our liturgies, our parish gatherings, and community outreach. You keep this parish alive! Thank you for your generosity towards all our special collections, building fund and Sharing God's Gifts.

May God richly bless you, with hope, happiness, and peace during this Christmas season and throughout the coming New Year.

Sincerely,

Father Paul Bisson, Pastor



Please remember in your prayers those who are sick in hospitals, care homes, or in their homes & those who care for them. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Anointing, Confession, or Holy Communion – please call the parish office & leave a message: 204-773-2924.

Speak out against expanding the criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide. The Government of Canada has introduced legislation to expand the criteria for euthanasia so that even more people will be eligible. This was triggered by a decision by a Quebec judge, who decided that the requirement that death be "reasonably foreseeable" is not constitutional. If this clause is removed, persons with disabilities will be eligible for euthanasia even in circumstances where death is not reasonably foreseeable. You may write your MP today to let them know what you think, to access a written letter or email to send see:
https://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/federal_government .



Dear Padre,

Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often



the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us.

Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Tuesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Wednesday

DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Thursday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Friday

DECEMBER 25
Christmas
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

Saturday

DECEMBER 26
St. Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Sunday

DECEMBER 27
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or Heb 11:8, 11–12,
17–19
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22, 39–40

Our Parish COMMUNITY

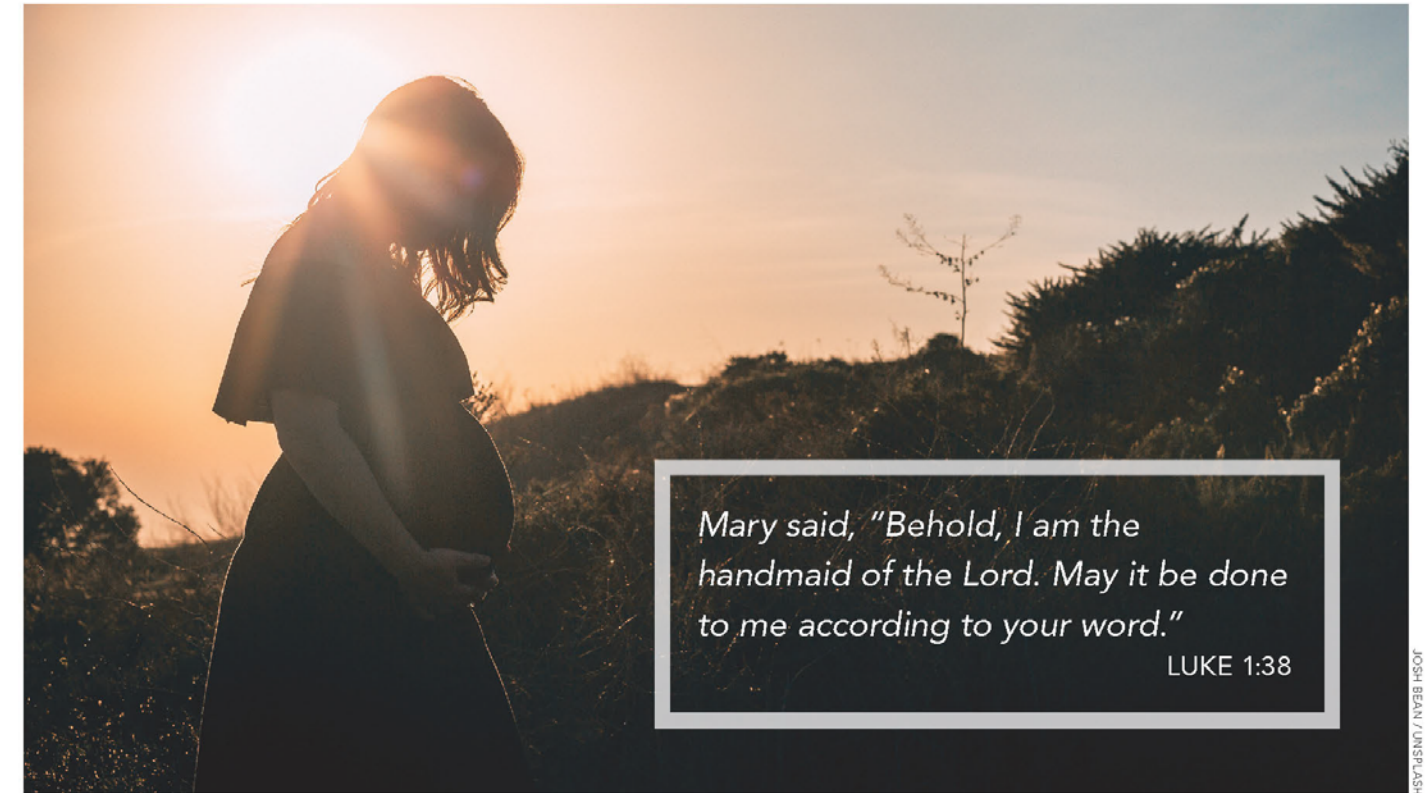
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

Rom 16:25–27

Lk 1:26–38



Mary said, "Behold, I am the
handmaid of the Lord. May it be done
to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

How Can This Be?

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor

explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?
- ★ How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin....We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will....The Lord is always speaking to us!

—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8, 2014

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