



Community News

Volume 18, Issue 10	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Dec 20, 2024
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This Sunday's Counsel	<i>"Advent is the season of preparation and vigilance for the coming of Christ."</i>
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THEME:
We prepare for the coming of our Savior when we emulate Mary in obeying the will of God.

WORD:
Advent is the season of preparation and vigilance for the coming of Christ.

PROMISE:
*"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."
 (Lk 1:45)*

ORDER:
"...Stand firm and shepherd his flock..." (Micah 5:3a)

DIRECTION:
Bring your children and the young generation close to Jesus and Mary.

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent paint a vivid picture of God's plan of salvation unfolding. From the prophecy of Micah to the joyful encounter between Mary and Elizabeth in the gospel of Luke. We witness the gradual unveiling of the Messiah, the long-awaited shepherd who will bring peace and restoration to the world.

Micah, points towards Bethlehem as the birthplace of the future ruler of Israel. God, in his sovereignty, chooses the seemingly insignificant and unexpected – a small town, a humble lineage – to bring forth the savior of humankind.

The moving encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, provides a powerful example of how to prepare for the coming of the savior. Mary, upon learning of her divine pregnancy, responds with humble acceptance, declaring, **"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."** this act



of unwavering obedience, undertaken in the face of uncertainty and potential social shame at that time, exemplifies the true spirit of advent preparation. True preparation for the coming of the savior is not merely about external observances or the accumulation of material possessions. It is about aligning our will with God's will, embracing his plan for our lives, and living in a state of constant readiness to receive him. Like Mary, we are called to surrender our own desires and agendas, trusting in God's wisdom and love.

Elizabeth's joyful proclamation, **"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled,"** is a powerful reminder of the importance of faith. True faith is not blind optimism or wishful thinking. It is a deep and abiding trust in God's promises,

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REV FATHER ROBERTO "TITO" IGNACIO'S: 50TH SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY



On December 1, 2024, we are honored to highlight and congratulate Father Roberto "Tito" Ignacio from St. Veronica Parish, Howell on his golden jubilee as a priest. Father Ignacio began the celebration with the Holy Eucharist and concelebrated by Rev Peter James Alindogan, the Parish Pastor. The parochial vicar, deacons and his former classmates from California and Canada were also present. This 50th sacerdotal anniversary was special and important to Father Ignacio as hundreds of invitees attended including his family from Virginia, BLD members from various districts and parishioners from churches where he served as a priest. For 20 years he served as chaplain of the Filipino Charismatic movement and has served to a number of ministries including ME, LSS and Youth Encounter. Although, retired and resides in St. Veronica Parish, Howell, of which he said **"I am here to help and happy to be here."** BLD Camden is eternally grateful and thankful to Fr. Tito for his ministry, comforting advice, homilies, funny jokes and the many years he served and helped our community. (See photos pages 3 and 4) *Source: BLD Camden*

Teaching Calendar

Jan 11 Wed 1-4pm Christian Community. All members.
 Jan 25 Thurs 1-4pm Christian Witnessing. All members.
 Feb 8 Thurs 1-4pm Live Like Jesus. Covenanted/
 Committed members.
 Feb 22 Thurs 1-4pm Renewing the Mind. All members.
 Mar (time and date TBA) Teaching of Holy Mass
 Venue: Meet at the Annex for all teachings.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec 21 Sat 5:30 am - Misa de Gallo, Christ Our Light, 402 Kings Highway. Contact Elsie/Perla/Mommy Rose for Food donations.

Apr 29 Sat Philippine Mission at Botolan, Zambales. Contact soon J/A Maccherone or Neneng if joining.

Thank you for all the donated goods and monetary funds for the Adopt a Family. Gift cards worth \$380, clothes and toys were given to the family.

Healing Mass Every First Friday of the Month

Lectors

Dec 20	D. Cardente	K. Cardente	B. Urbiztondo
Jan 3	P. Bridgeman	E. Robin	K. Cardente
Jan 10	T. Palmero	L. Palmero	J. Gracia
Jan 17	P. Bridgeman	D. Bridgeman	S. Palma
Jan 24	K. Cardente	D. Cardente	E. Maranan
Jan 31	B.J. Dilag	D. Bridgeman	E. Robin

Lord's Provisions

Nov 22	Praise & Worship	\$453.00
Nov 29	No Praise & Worship - Thanksgiving	
Dec 6	HEALING MASS	\$347.00
Dec 6	Second collection Mission	\$123.00
Dec 7	Christmas Party	\$790.00

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

a conviction that his word is true and his plans will ultimately prevail. Mary, through her unwavering faith, exemplifies this blessedness. She believed in God's word, even when it seemed impossible, and her obedience bore the fruit of salvation for all humanity.

As we approach the culmination of the advent season, we are called to reflect on our own lives. Are we living in a state of readiness to receive the savior? Are we willing to surrender our own desires and agendas to the will of God? Are we cultivating a spirit of faith and trust, believing that his promises will be fulfilled in our lives?

The readings challenge us to deepen our understanding of true advent preparation. It is not just about the external trappings of the season, but about an internal transformation, a turning away from self-will and a turning towards God. By emulating Mary's example of humble

Rosary Leaders

Dec 20	Martha Ayon	Jan 17	Elsie Robin
Jan 3	Lynnette Palmero	Jan 24	Bessie Urbiztondo
Jan 10	Dorie Bridgeman	Jan 31	Perla Cruz

Prayer Warriors

Dec 20	D/P Bridgeman	E. Robin/M. D'Souza
Jan 10	D/K Cardente	P. Cruz/N de Castro
Jan 17	T/L Palmero	R. Dizon/J. Gracia
Jan 24	D.Pabatao/M. Fernandez	R. Maranan/J. Maccherone
Jan 31	R.Dizon/J. Gracia	T/L Palmero

Intercessory Prayer

Dec 20	GRP 1 (D. Bridgeman)	Jan 17	GRP 3(L.Palmero)
Jan 10	GRP 2 (P. Cruz)	Jan 24	GRP 1 (R. Bridgeman)
Jan 31	GRP 2 (P. Cruz)		

GOD'S BLESSINGS DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jose Padolina	26	Susana Thompson
5	Salve Palma	28	Kay Baburam
18	Mary Valencia	31	Autum Troung
18	Judith Belonia		

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

14	Bobby & Kate Ilagan
17	Jim & Sandy Scheiner
18	Nap & Linda Juliano
20	Bobby & Linda Sumanga

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obedience and unwavering faith, we can prepare our hearts to receive the savior and experience the joy and peace that only he can bring. The scripture narrative of Mary and Elizabeth, particularly their unique pregnancies, offers a profound message for all of us, especially as we navigate our roles within the BLD community. It is a reminder that God's ways are often unexpected. Seniors may express concerns about their ability to keep up, feeling that their age might hinder their involvement. Others, particularly younger members, felt overwhelmed by the demands of work and personal life, making it difficult to dedicate time to community service.

However, the stories of Mary and Elizabeth provide a powerful counterpoint to these concerns. Elizabeth, considered "**old and barren**," was blessed with a late-in-life pregnancy, shattering societal expectations. Mary, a young and unmarried woman, was chosen to carry the Son of God, a task that defied all social norms. These examples demonstrate that God's call to service transcends age, circumstance, and societal expectations. While the challenges faced by members of the BLD community are real, we must remember that God's grace is sufficient.

The BLD community is a testament to the power of faith in action. By embracing the lessons of Mary and Elizabeth, we can overcome our limitations, embrace God's call to service, and build a community that reflects the love and compassion of Christ. **Let us remember that it is never too late or too early to serve, and that our collective efforts, however small, can make a significant difference in the lives of others.**

Source: BLD Camden

Rev Father Roberto "Tito" Ignacio's: 50th Sacerdotal Anniversary
December 1, 2024



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BLD CAMDEN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH HALL DECEMBER 7, 2024

BLD Camden members and family successfully held a fun-filled annual Christmas celebration, Dec, 7 at the Holy Eucharist Church Hall. This year's party had 92 people including children, with the attendance of Fr. Philip Ramos (St. Simon Stock Parish), Fr. Tito (St. Veronica Parish and Fr. Jason Rocks (Holy Eucharist pastor). Our Community Christmas Celebration is one of our favorite events of the year. It is a chance for us to come together as a community and ensure that every family feels the warmth and spirit of the holiday season. Seeing the joy on children's faces and the fellowship among BLD members with their families and friends is what this event is all about.

The gathering featured, treats, presents for all children in attendance, photo opportunities with Santa, holiday games, line dancing, surprises and magical carols sung by BLD Praise team. An array of Christmas smells, delicious Filipino food and delightful desserts were prepared and generously donated by BLD members. Overall, the event was a celebration of the true spirit of Christmas, by sharing our bounty with each other and especially with our less fortunate brothers and sisters. With God's loving grace, we are grateful and thankful to our generous and dedicated BLD Camden members who selflessly made this event come true.

The good news of Christmas is that even when the world or our circumstances change – the message of Christmas is timeless. Because Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope and joy. That message doesn't change from year to year. (See photos on pages 5,6 and 7)



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