

24 December 2023
IV Sunday of Advent (Both Calendars)
Feast of All the Holy Ancestors of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday Mass: Anticipated Sat. 4 PM/Sun. 8AM Ancient Rite Latin Mass
9:30 AM (Live-streamed) **NO 11 AM Mass today**
Confessions: Sat. 7:30-7:55 AM; 2:30-3:30 PM, 6:30-7:30 PM
(Please note: No Confessions Wed. 27 Dec. this week).

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Sun. 24 Dec. Anticipated Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord
4 PM For: The Parishioners of OLGCC

MON. 25 DEC. SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

12 Midnight The Mass “in the Night”
Ancient Rite Latin Missa Cantata
For: Special Intention

9:30 AM: The Mass “at Dawn”
For: Special Intention

11 AM: The Mass “in the Day”
For: Special Intention

No Weekday Mass this week Tue.-Thu. 26 Dec.-28 Dec.

Fri. 29 Dec. St. Thomas Becket, Abp, Martyr
8 AM For: Deceased Members of the Robert McCabe Family
Req: Mr. & Mrs. Robert McCabe

Sat. 30 Dec. St. Hermes, Exorcist, Martyr
8 AM For: Special Intention

4 PM For: The Parishioners of OLGCC

Sun. 31 Dec. The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
8 AM For: Margaret & Richard Hart+
Req: Eileen Hart

9:30 AM For: Doris Maciag+
Req: Mr. & Mrs. Stephen van Lieshout

11 AM For: Gregory O'Connor+
Req: Mr. & Mrs. Allen Kraeger

WISHING EACH ONE OF YOU THE BLESSINGS OF THE INFANT CHRIST

May His grace, love and joy flood your hearts and homes as we rejoice in His Nativity. A merry, blessed and holy Christmas to one and all.

Please remember that we have two separate obligations to assist at Holy Mass this weekend: one for the Sunday and one for the Christmas Feast.

A MARVELOUS ENACTMENT OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Last Sunday's Living Christmas Pageant was so utterly beautiful, touching and sweet. The children who participated (there were about 60 of them!) put their little hearts and souls into it, you could tell: all for the love of the Infant Jesus.

We could never express our appreciation adequately to Cindy van Lieshout for all the time, effort and love she put into this highlight of our Advent season. Any one who was there could see that this involves a lot of work, and Cindy does it with such thoroughness and love that it is truly a labor of love. God bless you, Cindy. And God bless your husband Stephen for allowing us the use of the barn and all the animals: Jada, the donkey, all the calves, goats and even the cats. Thanks to the Matt Lohr family for bringing Frank their blind horse to the stable, as well.

We can't leave out all of Cindy's helpers: the girls of Our Lady's Sodality, Elizabeth Pratt, Julie Netzbund, Marnie Martin, Dr. Irene Vanderhoof and so many others who pitched in to make it such a wonderful event in our parish life. If you were not able to be there, or even if you were and would like a "review", Cindy has made a beautiful tableau of photos which is in the vestibule for you to view.

YOUR NEW ENVELOPES FOR 2024

Next weekend the new sets of envelopes for the new Year will be available in the church hall. Please remember to go down and pick your set up. If you cannot make the stairs, please ask one of your fellow parishioners to go down to pick up your set for you.

A VERY DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT

Last Monday, 18 December, the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a Declaration entitled *Fiducia Supplicans*, signed by Pope Francis. A Declaration is the highest rank of document that departments (now called dicasteries) of the Holy See issue. This document authorizes priests to bless same-sex couples as couples. This means that the Church, through the ministry of her priests, is blessing homosexual acts. This means that the Church is blessing people who are aping marriage and rejecting the will of the Creator. The document tries to present the rationale for this ruling, but the arguments are deceptive and weak. You cannot put lipstick on a pig.

Thank God, there are still some Catholic Bishops left in the Church who have rejected this travesty: The Bishops of the Ukraine, the Bishops of Mawi, of Cameroon, Nigeria and Kazakhstan and several other groups. As for the US Bishops...not so much. May God have mercy on them and on us!!!

"Bethlehem"

There came a Maid one wintry day
When all the world was frosted o'er
And sealed in sin of every sort
Devised by mortal man and more.

There came a birth one joyful day
Sanctifying the gift of life,
Redeeming man and bearing peace:
Sure haven from earthly strife.

Still, Herod's hordes like thunder rode
Seeking, searching a faultless foe;
Swords ready, swift and merciless
Signed their mark in the crimson snow.

Grievous moaning filled the air
And echoed in the wailing wind:
Lament and loss gave testament
That mankind had sorely sinned.

King Herod's ghosts are riding still,
Betraying motherhood's fair name
By sacrificing the sacred life
To the gods of choice and its shame.

There came a star one darkened night
Illuminating sky and earth:
May we its beams and bearers be:
And light the way to human worth.

Come, let us make our souls a home,
A stable swept and soft with hay;
Where hope is born to us because
There came a Child one Christmas Day.

*(From the December Newsletter of the Wyoming
Valley of Pennsylvanians for Life)*