



**December 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **John 1:1-5**

**Today thank those who gave you life – God and your parents. Write a note of appreciation to your parents for the gift of life. If they have already gone to be with God, say a special prayer for them today.**

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**December 2** You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing; They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest, as they exult when dividing the spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, The rod of their taskmaster, you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this! Lord has sent a word against Jacob, and it falls upon Israel; **Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Today let us give thanks to those who battle that we might live. Say a special prayer for those serving in our military, our police forces and our fire departments. Write a note of appreciation for one of our service members – bring it with you to church this weekend and we will send the notes of our parishioners together!!**

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**December 3** But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide fairly for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, The root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the peoples — Him the nations will seek out; his dwelling shall be glorious. **Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Today give thanks for a friend. Surprise your friend with a kind gesture, a note to let them know how much they mean to you, or a small gift to remind them of how happy you are to have them in your life.**

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**December 4** The days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days, at that time, I will make a just shoot spring up for David; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Jerusalem shall dwell safely; this is the name they shall call her: “The LORD our justice.” **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**As we prepare for the second Sunday of Advent, let us think about what this past week has done for us as we prayed each day and gave small gifts of love, appreciation, and hope. Light the first candle on your Advent wreath and pray together to thank God for our many blessings.**



**December 5** In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years. Once when he was serving as priest in his division’s turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. **Luke 1:5-11**

**Today let us give thanks for our priest – God has sent us a great blessing in him. Write a note of thanks and bring it with you to church this weekend, where we will collect them and offer them to Fr.**



**December 6** Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of [the] Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.” **Luke 1:12-17**

**Today give thanks for our siblings. Though we may not always get along with one another, God has blessed us as His children together. Write a note, send an email, send a text, just to let them know that you love and appreciate your siblings!**



**December 7** Then Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel said to him in reply, “I am Gabriel, who stands before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.” Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home. After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, “So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others.” **Luke 1:18-25**

**Today we pray to the Holy Spirit to bestow on us the grace and faith that it requires to believe. Pray together with your family that the Holy Spirit help you all, together, to remain faithful during this advent season.**

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**December 8** In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

**Luke 1:26-28**



**Today we give thanks for the bravery that Mary showed to bring the Son of God into our world. Say a prayer to Mary & ask for her blessings on our own mothers. Today, do something kind for your mother. If she has passed, offer a rosary for her.**

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**December 9** Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” **Matthew 1:18-21**

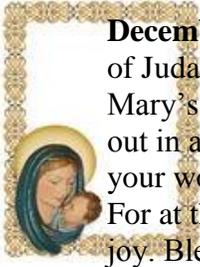
**Today we give thanks for the courage that Joseph showed to share in the gift that Mary was given of our Lord Jesus Christ. Say a prayer to Joseph & ask for his blessings on our own fathers. Today, do something kind for your father. If he has passed, offer a rosary for him.**

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**December 10** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus. **Matthew 1:22-25**

**Today we say thanks for our children. As we often do, we pray for the next generation. We offer them our strength and our faith, showing them what God has intended of us. We pray for other children who have no one else to pray for them.**



**December 11** During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

**Luke 1:39-45**

**Today we pray for all those members of our extended family. Send a note, write a letter, send a text...let them know that they are in your thoughts today!**

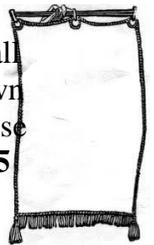


**December 12** And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. **Luke 1:46-56**

**Today we pray for the mercy of God. Let us today show mercy to another through our works. Bring someone a cup of coffee, give someone a hug, tell someone of how much they mean to you.**

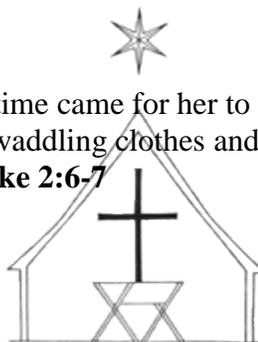
**December 13** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **Luke 2:1-5**

**Today we pray for the leaders of our cities and nations. We ask that God bring them counsel and guide them. Today share your appreciation with one of our town leaders.**



**December 14** While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. **Luke 2:6-7**

**Today we pray for new mothers. God bless them and all the new babies.**



**December 15** Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”



**Luke 2:8-12**

**Today we give many thanks for the blessings of home that we all have. Consider what you may do to help those who do not have the comforts of home.**

**December 16** And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest **Luke 2:13-14**

**Today we give thanks for the ladies and gentlemen who give of their time and talent to make music at our church. Write a note of thanks for them and bring it to church this weekend.**



**December 17** When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

**Luke 2:15-18**

**Today we give many thanks for those who have blessed us with their stewardship in the church. Consider what you can do to help our parish to celebrate God’s love!**



**December 18** And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. **Luke 2:19-20**



**\* We give thanks for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us throughout our years, and think of how we have shared our blessings with others. Today, write a note of thanks for our Deacon for all of the many gifts that he shares with our church and bring it with you to Mass this weekend.**

**December 19** Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, Then the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall take his place as shepherd by the strength of the LORD, by the majestic name of the LORD, his God; And they shall dwell securely, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: he shall be peace. If Assyria invades our country and treads upon our land, We shall raise against it seven shepherds, eight of royal standing; They shall tend the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod with the drawn sword; They will deliver us from Assyria, when it invades our land, when it treads upon our borders. **Micah 5:2-5**



**We are grateful today for the comfort of our homes and the blessings that God has bestowed. Let us gather food for those who have none so that we may help them in this cold time of year.**

**December 20** When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” **Matthew 2:1-2**



**Today do something special for your family. Take out the trash, wash the dishes, vacuum the floor – anything that will be helpful to your family. Be grateful for the family with whom you have been blessed!**

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**December 21** When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

**Matthew 2:3-6**

**For those many persecuted we pray today. That they may be lifted up into the arms of our Lord!**

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**December 22** Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.”

**Matthew 2:7-8**

**Today we pray for those poor souls, who in their ignorance, would persecute, bully, or harm others. That their hearts may be reformed by the word and life of Jesus.**

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**December 23** After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. **Matthew 2:9-12**

**We pray that we may follow the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ and follow the right paths.**



**December 24** And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**

**Today we thank our God for the gift of His Son. Share the good news with those around you – MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

