

12.23.2018

WELCOME!

Our parish community welcomes you! We are blessed by your active participation in our worship together. Thank you for helping us grow!

"Be faithful in little things."
-Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R

MASS AND CONFESSION SCHEDULE

MASS

Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

CONFESSION

Sundays in the meeting room

behind the kitchen

7:20 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.

10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

By appointment: call Fr. Jim

DAILY MASS

Thursdays at 8:30 am at

Women's Health Center

Also, sign up to host a daily Mass online or at the entrance table.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING

Tithe Collection: \$3,382.00 || Building Fund: \$1,586.00

Thank you for your generosity during this holiday season!

12/23 and 12/30 2nd Collections are for the Building Fund.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: FAMILY CONNECTION

In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth described in today's Gospel, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Mary traveled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leapt at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another.

As you gather as a family, work together on a word search or hidden-picture puzzle. Help one another until everyone has found each of the words or pictures in the puzzle. Talk about this experience, noticing how some people found words or pictures more easily than others and how easy it was to see the word or picture once someone else pointed it out. Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-45. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby, John the Baptist, leapt with joy at Mary's greeting) Pray together that as we share our faith together as a family, we may help one another recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Pray together the Hail Mary.

Read more at www.loyolapress.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

DEC 23 @ 9:00 AM

Fr. Cink and a visiting priest will be available to hear confessions at Prodissee Pantry from 9-10:15 am.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

DEC 23 and 30

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

DEC 24 @ 4:30 & 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

DEC 25 @ 9:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to altar serve at this Mass. Please sign up at the entrance table.

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

JAN 1 @ 9:00 PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESUMES

JAN 6 @ 9:15 AM

SEELOS' BIRTHDAY POTLUCK

JAN 13 @ 11:30 AM

See details to the right.

PARISH POTLUCK AND GAME DAY

In celebration of Bl. Seelos' 200th birthday (1/11/1819), all are invited to a parish potluck and board game day on Sunday, January 13 at 11:30 pm. Please see Sign Up sheets at the main entrance to help with set up, food and beverage coordination, game coordination, clean up, and breakdown. Getting involved is the easiest way to get to know more of your fellow parishioners!

FREEBIE FROM DYNAMIC CATHOLIC

Dynamic Catholic has provided us with free CDs of their book "God's Ten Gifts for Women," chapters 1 through 3. Please pick up one at the entrances to church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Thank you to all of our Sunday School kids and parents. Classes wrapped Kleenex boxes and decorated gifts bags for residents of Little Sisters of the Poor filled with toiletry items. A total of 34 gift bags were completed!

ENVELOPES, CALENDARS, ORNAMENTS

2019 calendars and parish giving envelopes are still available. Please pick up yours at the tables in the back. Please note that giving envelopes for 2019 will only be available for those who express interest and provide contact information. Also a limited quantity of our very own Christmas Ornament commemorating Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos are available for \$25.00, also available at the entrance tables.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Thank you for the generous donations for our Christmas flowers. These are in memory of:

Frank and Eric Angelitus

Rusty Cowles

Ellen Hope Cox

Helen and Ora Donaldson

A. L. and Blanche Dryden

F. Louis Duff

Erous and Eric Eschete

Eugie Lewis

Ken and Janette Lind

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKenzie

John and Lee Murphy

Alma Tenorio

Doug West

Ernest Williams

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

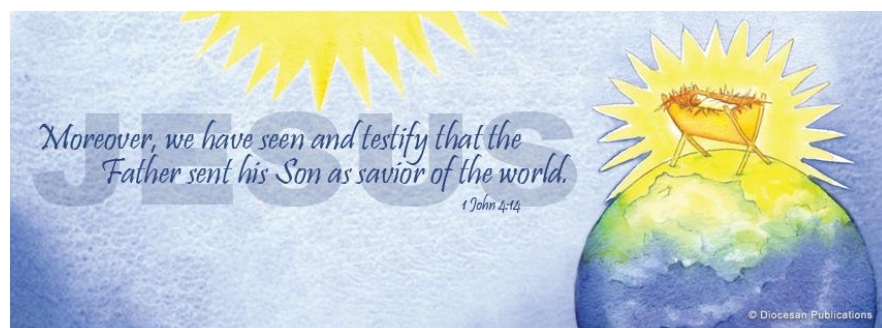
CHRISTMAS DAY: FAMILY CONNECTION (John 1:1-18)

At Christmas we celebrate the great mystery that God became flesh and dwelt among us. We call this mystery the Incarnation (the word means "to take on flesh"), and it changes everything. Today's Gospel reminds us that we can also look upon the Nativity from God's perspective to better appreciate the significance of the Incarnation. The mystery we proclaim at Christmas is that God, the very God who created all things from nothing and who is light itself, took on our humanity in order to transform us. Through his birth among us, we have seen the face of God and have become nothing less than God's own children. At this awesome mystery, we adore.

Gather as a family around your Nativity set. Keep this image before you and talk about how familiar we are with this scene. Invite members of the family to recall the details of Jesus' birth that we hear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Observe that the Gospel of John invites us to consider Jesus' birth from a different perspective. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:1-14.

John's Gospel reminds us that the image we see in our Nativity set is a most remarkable sight: God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. We call this mystery the Incarnation. What are some of the things that John's Gospel says happened for us because Jesus came to dwell among us? (Light overcame darkness; we see God's glory in Jesus; we became children of God.) Together thank God for this mystery of the Incarnation and the salvation that we received because Jesus was born among us. Sing together a Christmas hymn, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night."

Based on the readings from "Mass During the Day." Read more at www.loyolapress.com.



CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Infant Jesus, in a short time, You will come to visit us. Your Holy, Divine coming is full of Peace, Joy, and Love. Dear Jesus, please help all Your devotees around the world. Amen.



The "Holy Innocents:" the first-born sons that Herod killed in search of newborn Jesus. We pray for an end to the slaughter of holy innocents in our own day: the unborn killed by abortion. Pray for a greater respect for human life!

DAILY READINGS | DEC 24 – DEC 30

- December 24: Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent
2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 / PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 AND 29 / LK 1:67-79
- December 25: The Nativity of the Lord (Mass at Dawn)
IS 62:11-12 / PS 97:1, 6, 11-12 / TI 3:4-7 / LK 2:15-20
- December 26: Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr
ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / PS 31:3CD-4, 6, 8AB, 16BC, 17 / MT 10:17-22
- December 27: Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist
1 JN 1:1-4 / PS 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 / JN 20:1A AND 2-8
- December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs
1 JN 1:5—2:2 / PS 124:2-3, 4-5, 7CD-8 / MT 2:13-18
- December 29: The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 JN 2:3-11 / PS 96:1-2A, 2B-3, 5B-6 / LK 2:22-35
- December 30: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1SM 1:20-22, 24-28 / PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 / COL 3:12-21 or 1 JN 3:1-2, 21-24 / LK 2:41-52

December 23, 2018 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

LOVE

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

-Luke 3:4,6

BL. FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS CATHOLIC PARISH



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