

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 18TH, 2011



God comes. In this annunciation gospel God establishes a divine dwelling place in a most unexpected place—in the womb of Mary. The word is made flesh by God’s initiative—it is God-given. By fixing a place for divinity in human flesh and blood, God fixes a place for us within the divine embrace. Truly, the Lord is with us.

In the first reading, David takes the initiative in providing God a suitable dwelling place among the chosen people. However, God’s house is not built of fine wood. It is even more than the dynasty that David is promised. God’s house is a people—of the heirs of David. What humans would confine to stones and mortar, God plants in human flesh and blood. By her faithful cooperation, Mary herself is shaped by God into a living temple fit to bear the divine Presence. This Son too is named: Jesus, “the Son of God.”

On the last two Sundays the gospel has referred to preparing the way of the Lord. Like Mary in this Sunday’s gospel, this makes concrete demands on our lives. Yet, it is not what *we* do that brings divine Presence to us; it is what *God* accomplishes in us. We are challenged to recognize the presence of God to us in so many unthinkable ways. God has been with us wherever we went, enabled us to dwell in peace, established a kingdom for us that will last forever, adopted us as sons and daughters, filled us with grace and overshadowed us with the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we must say, “Let it be done to me according to your word.” Salvation is nothing less than our cooperation with God’s initiative in establishing divine Presence within and among us.

PROJECT ADVANCE APPEAL—HOME RUN

With less than two weeks to go for this final home run. You can make your gift by dropping it off in the collection basket or the rectory office, or by going to their website www.rcav.org and go to “donation options”. Thank YOU for your gifts.

2012 ENVELOPES Are ready for you to pick up. They are on the table at the north side of the vestibule and are sorted in alphabetical order. Please do not take a boxed set that has another person’s name on it. If you are registered and want envelopes but don’t have them, please fill in the ‘Request for Envelopes’ form available in the main foyer. If you cannot find your envelope, please call the rectory office. You should pick your envelopes ASAP as we will put them away during the Christmas holidays. Thank you.

COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY A second collection will be taken up THIS weekend. Thank you for your generosity especially at this time of the year.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST The Knights of Columbus invite you to their Christmas Pancake Breakfast today, after the 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses. All are welcome!

2011 DONATIONS To Holy Name of Jesus Parish must be received by the parish by December 31, 2011, in order for the donor to receive a tax receipt for 2011. This is a requirement by the Canada Revenue Agency.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT “THE DOOR IS OPEN”

There is “*room at the inn*” for all who come to The Door is Open – thanks to generous donations. A gift of \$40 funds the drop-in centre for one hour, \$25 will buy coffee for an entire day of welcome and safe shelter, \$15 will help serve a sit-down lunch to the weekly seniors’ group. Contributions may be sent to The Door is Open, 150 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 2A7 or call: 604-443-3299 to charge your donation to Visa. More info: visit www.thedoorisopen.ca

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Monday	Dec. 19	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Gemia Rodriguez-Lopez.
Tuesday	Dec. 20	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the deceased members of the Diogo Family.
Wednesday	Dec.21	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Sr. Ruth Monahan, SCIC.
Thursday	Dec. 22	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intentions of the Practicante & Rego families.
Friday	Dec. 23	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the Souls in Purgatory.
Saturday	Dec. 24	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intentions of Fred & Vilma Quintia <u>5:00 p.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Dr. Santos Iloretta <u>11:00 p.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Georges Abi-Rached.
Sunday	Dec. 25	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intentions of All Holy Name Parishioners. <u>11:00 a.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Raymond C. N. Chow.

KUDOS— Evelyn Florendo and her team of volunteers would like to extend their “*thank you*” for our support in their annual outreach to the young adult residents at the Detention Centre, Burnaby. Evelyn says “On behalf of the incarcerated children and the staff of the Burnaby Youth Detention Centres, I would like to thank all you beautiful people who have shown the real meaning of sharing and the spirit of Christmas. Merry Christmas!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT OF THE WORLD MOSIAC

Sarah Hall, who designed and made the stained glass windows for our church's three side entrances, has been commissioned to create a mosaic based on John's gospel—the "Foot of the Cross." You can examine her prayerful and beautiful design in the vestibule. If you wish to sponsor/donate a leaf-plaque on the *Jesse Tree of Life*, please contact the parish office for more details. You are encouraged to keep this spiritual enterprise in your prayers. Thank you.



DEVOUTLY RELIGIOUS AND CRITICALLY SCIENTIFIC - Can You Be Both?

A presentation by St. Mark's Continuing Education - Is it possible to be devoutly religious and critically scientific? Fr. John McCarthy, S.J. will claim that you can. However, the popular voice still speaks of the conflict between science and religion, as if two solitudes exist that will never meet. Join as this assumption is examined and learn the Catholic view of science and faith. St. Joseph the Worker Parish on January 7, 14 and 21 - 10 a.m. to noon. Cost \$50 includes all materials. For more information or to register, email continuinged@stmarkscollege.ca or call [604-822-6862](tel:604-822-6862)

MAN to MAN—An evening for Catholic Men with Archbishop Miller. Any Catholic man is welcome to enjoy a meal with your shepherd and hear about his vision about plans for a dynamic Catholic men's conference and how you can get involved. This gathering will be at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver, Saturday, February 4, 2012, 6:00—9:00 PM. Cost: \$20. Online pre-registration required by Jan. 27th. Contact Kyle Neilson, (604) 683-0281 or ore@rcav.org for more details.

CHRISTMAS 2011 SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24th 9:00 AM Mass
 Dec. 24 at 5:00 PM – Christmas Eve's Children & (Caroling begins @ 4:30 PM) Family Mass
 Dec. 24 at 11:00 PM – Christmas Night Mass
 Dec. 25 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM – Christmas Day
 Monday, Dec. 26 at 9:00 AM – Feast of St. Stephen

NEW YEAR 2012 MASS SCHEDULE

Dec. 31 at 9:00 AM
 Dec. 31 at 5:00 PM – Anticipated Mass
 for New Year 2012
 Jan. 01 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM –
 New Year Day Mass

Advent Confessions:
 Dec. 18th, 7:00 PM at St. Anthony & St. Patrick;
 Dec. 19th, 6:00 PM at Guardian Angels;
 Dec. 21st, 7:30 PM at Blessed Sacrament;
 Dec. 22nd, 7:00 PM at St. Peter and Paul.

Scripture Readings



4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps. 89;
 Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 19, Mon., Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps. 71; Luke 1:5-25

Dec. 20, Tues., Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10d, Ps. 24; Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 21, Wed., Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Song of Songs 2:8-14;
 Ps. 33; Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 22, Thurs., 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2; Luke 1:46-56

Dec. 23, Fri., Malachi 3:1-4, 4:5-6; Ps. 25; Luke 1:57-66

Dec. 24, Sat., 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 16; Ps. 89; Luke 1:67-79

STEWARDSHIP: A Disciple's Response

In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?



**2011 PROJECT ADVANCE:
 Touching Many Lives!**
 Total pledges/gifts: \$107,052.25

of donors: 236 (44%)
 out of 540 Registered Households
 Archdiocese Assessment: \$35,900 plus \$3000 expenses

THANK YOU!!! Those who are still thinking of making your pledge, please put it in the Sunday collections; or mail it to the Parish Office. Your PARTICIPATION is just as important as your gift.

Deadline: December 31st for this year's tax-receipt.

BULLETIN AD We have some advertising spaces that will be available in the back of our weekly bulletin. The cost is \$200 for the whole year, which begins in February and goes to the end of January, 2013. Please reserve your space ASAP and send us a business card size of your advertisement. Thank you.

OFFERTORY GIFTS BEARERS Children and their family members of our PREP program have signed up to bring up the gifts of bread and wine and our sacrificial offerings for the Sunday Masses starting in 2012. If you and your family wish to participate in this ministry, please call the office and let us know of your availability ASAP.