

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

OUR SUNDAY OBLIGATION

This year, Advent is as short as it can possibly be. We will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent, and then celebrate Christmas the very next day. This can cause some confusion as to when we should be going to Mass. If we go to the Christmas Eve Mass, does that mean we have Mass twice in one day? Or does going once fulfill our Sunday and Christmas obligation?

Recently on [*Go Ask Your Father*](#),TM Monsignor Stuart Swetland explained how we should approach this unusual situation, and how we should view our obligation to attend Mass, not just at Christmas, but all year round. Msgr. Swetland said: "You have two obligations on December 24th and 25th – the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas. A lot of people like the Christmas Eve Mass, and I understand that. So what I would recommend is on Saturday night go for the 4th week of Advent, and Sunday night go to the Christmas Eve Mass. Or Sunday, during the day, go for the 4th Sunday of Advent and then on Monday go to the Christmas Day Mass. Any of that is fine.

And we've been talking about them as obligations, and yes they are ... but it's not so much that God wants us to be at Mass, He wants us to want to be at Mass. In other words, He wants us to love Him. To not want to go to Mass means you don't love God.

Now, don't get me wrong, I understand dryness in prayer. I understand when prayer is difficult. But as Thomas Merton points out, the best prayer we can do is to pray when we don't want to pray. Because then we're praying for the right reason, for no other reason than that we love Him. When prayer is difficult, we continue to pray. Not because we're getting anything out of it, but we're doing it because we love Him and we want to be with Him.

The point is that our prayer, especially the central prayer of our life, the Mass, is the best possible place we can encounter Christ and be encountered by Christ. That is the heart and the center of our faith. It's not a canon law, it's not morality, it's not a book – it's a person. It's Jesus of Nazareth. And our encounter with Him is what everything in our faith is built upon."

~relevantradio.com, Stephanie Foley, December 12, 2017

DAILY MASS READINGS

- Monday:** *Advent Weekday*
Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
- Tuesday:** *Advent Weekday*
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
- Wednesday:** *Advent Weekday*
Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
- Thursday:** *Advent Weekday*
Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
- Friday:** *Advent Weekday*
1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
- Saturday:** *Advent Weekday*
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
- Sunday:** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:26-38

This Week's Program Schedule

Monday, December 18

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 8:30AM | Bible Study | Lounge |
| 6:00PM | Adoration/Reconciliation | Church |

Tuesday, December 19

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------|----------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 6:30PM | Knights of Columbus | Conf. Rm |

Wednesday, December 20

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 6:00PM | CRE Christmas Program | Church |

Thursday, December 21

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|
| <u>Friday, December 22</u> | | |
| 4:30PM | Mass | Church |

Saturday, December 23

- | | | |
|--------|----------------|--------|
| 3:30PM | Reconciliation | Church |
| 5:00PM | Mass | Church |

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|
| 9:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 5:00PM | Children's Mass | Church |
| 8:30PM | "Midnight" Mass | Church |

Something for our Children!

Can you unscramble the following words from today's Gospel?

GTHIL	HSITCR	PPTHEOR
EERTSD	PTZEIBA	TWAER

Answers on the next page→

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Give back to the Lord a sacrifice, a share of what the Lord has so generously given to you.

Last Sunday's Offertory: \$ 6,020.70
Community Assistance: \$ 5,952.32
Immaculate Conception: \$ 1,782.81

Thank you and God bless you!

MASS INTENTIONS

5:00PM	Sat., Dec. 16	John Kailihiwa†
9:00AM	Sun., Dec. 17	Ron Gonsalves†
6:00PM	Sun., Dec. 17	All Saints Community
8:00AM	Mon., Dec. 18	Ed Sai, Sr.† & Ruth†
8:00AM	Tues., Dec. 19	Marvin Evers†
8:00AM	Fri., Dec. 22	Ray Phielix†

SPECIAL THANKS to all of our office helpers over the past couple of weeks, especially **Carol Perry, Claire Soares and Marian Jessee** as well as **Michaeleen and John Klarich**. God bless you for your unselfish service! It is sincerely appreciated!

ANGEL TREE: You may select an angel from the tree to provide a gift for a child in need. Turlock Together distributes gifts for children ages 0-12. United Samaritans distributes gifts to children ages 12-17. Please return your unwrapped gifts to the office by **December 17**. **In years past we have had one or two families that we assist directly. If you would be interested in sponsoring a family, please call the office at 669-0473.**

TURLOCK TOGETHER: Each year Turlock businesses and agencies combine their efforts to collect toys and food for needy families in Turlock. A receptacle has been placed in our church lobby to collect your non-perishable food donations. Please return your donations by **December 17**. Distribution will take place on Saturday, December 23.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE: YLI Queen of Faith Institute #254 will hold a bake sale after all masses this weekend. Proceeds will be split between the Seminarians and the Sisters of the Cross. God bless you for your generosity!

NATIVITY PLAY: We are seeking children, ages 5 and up who would be interested in participating in a Nativity Play during the 5:00PM Christmas Eve Children's Mass. **Third practice is scheduled for this Sunday, December 17 after the 9am Mass.** Please meet in the church. Call the office for more details.

This week's helpers include ...

Altar Linens ~ Regina deBos
Children's Liturgy ~ Donna Roeck

Thank you and God bless you for your unselfish service!

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS: LIGHT, CHRIST, PROPHET, DESERT, BAPTIZE, WATER. How did you do?

TIPS FOR TITHING

Jesus' Standard ... Giving should be planned, proportionate, and sacrificial. It should be budgeted in accordance with your personal circumstances and, at the same time, requires some personal sacrifice to exhibit true generosity.

Poinsettia ...

The poinsettia with its scarlet leaves, now of many hues, came from Mexico where it grows as a shrub. It was brought to the U.S. by the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779-1851) who had them grown in his greenhouse in South Carolina. Eventually, they were named after him. Only since 1920 have they become potted plants. Poinsettias are now associated as much with Christmas as lilies are with Easter. *Catholic Customs & Traditions, P. 70-71*

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Children's Mass	5:00PM	Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Mass (Midnight Liturgy)	8:30PM	Dec. 24
Christmas Day Mass	9:00AM	Dec. 25
Christmas Day Mass	11:15AM	Dec. 25

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Please pray for our sick community members and friends:

Gustavo Delgadillo	Socorro Aguilar	Ed H
Peggy Howard	Rita Yonan	Andres...
Sarah Anderson	Linda Seymour	Stephen...
Jim Perdomo	Flynn Hillman	Janet Fiorini
Carol Soares	Doree O'Connell	Jack B. Shaw
Cynthia Basco	Jackie Ferreira	Thelma Tamis
Edie Ferrari	Efren Ramirez	Sharon...
Patti & Tom Scott	Charlie W.	Ed Rocha
David & Paula Baca	Catherine Harris	William Jackson
Joanne Mattos	Isabel Rodriguez	Edward Lytle
The Merchant Family	Pat B.	Wayne Maass
Matthew...	Artie Romero	Raul Campusano
Katarina Renenger	Cecilia Renenger	Kevin Downs
Maritza Dominguez	Josephina Camacho	Shelly...
Bernard & Ann Pannella	Keith Bentley	Taylor Holt
Taurino & Concepcion Lopez	David & Linda Back	Fred Clerici

Your special prayers for these and others suffering from illness are gratefully appreciated. Thank you and God bless you!

Notify the office if you have anyone you would like to place on our list of persons in need of prayer due to illness. So that space will always be available for your loved ones, names will be kept on our list for three months. (However, your prayer requests can be renewed.)

PLEASE PRAY: It is with sadness that we announce that our beloved parishioner, **Bob Screen**, passed away on Monday, December 11 after a short illness. Please pray for Bob's family and for the repose of his soul. May God grant him eternal rest.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CRE)

CRE Christmas Program, Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00pm. There will be no CRE on December 27, January 3 and January 10. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Classes will resume on January 17.

RCIA

Any adult wishing to embrace the Catholic faith or any Catholic wishing to be confirmed should contact Michael Fuller by calling the church office at 669-0473.

2017 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the lobby **this weekend**. Please stop by and pick up your box of envelopes. The boxes are arranged **alphabetically by last name**. If you do not see your name, please take an unassigned box, record your name on the line corresponding to the box number on the sign-up sheet. If you have questions please contact the office at 669-0473.

TEMPORARY DATA ENTRY CLERK(S): The Office of Development & Stewardship, Diocese of Stockton, is looking to immediately fill three (3) full-time temporary data entry staff to assist with the 2018 Bishop's Ministry Appeal at the Stockton Pastoral Center Office. Duties to include customer service, data entry and cash handling/filing. Schedule is 30-40 hours per week. English and Bilingual (Spanish) recommended. If interested in short-term work, please call Martha McCoy at 546-7646 or email at mmccoy@stocktondiocese.org