

Fourth Sunday of Advent Daily Prayer

This may be one of the most difficult weeks to be reflective throughout each day. This weekend may be quite full for many of us. Others of us may be alone although we may be a part of the faith community on Tuesday or Wednesday, or perhaps daily this week. While some of us have guests staying with us and a house to clean this week, others of us will be reviewing memories and struggling, even a little, with being alone.

Even though this may be a very busy week, with final Christmas preparations, or perhaps travel to visit family, it can be a contemplative week if we focus our desires each morning. No matter what our days hold, we can take a few minutes in the shower or while getting dressed to consciously ask for the grace to approach Christmas with faith and with a heart open to the graces offered us. "Lord, help me today to stay focused on your coming in the flesh to be with us. While I'm busy about this and that, I ask your help. Keep reminding me throughout this day about Mary's acceptance of your plan for her, about the poverty into which Jesus was born." We will use our own words to connect these stories of our Salvation with the concrete interactions and events of our upcoming day.

Then, throughout the day, we will be able to let familiar parts of the story sustain us this week. All of us can relate to Zechariah's hesitation. We can look for and notice the times when we are hesitant to place our trust in God and how little we have to say about faith. But, when Zechariah could write "His name is John (God is gracious)," Zechariah could speak again. As we rush from one place to another, we can pray, "Lord, I know you are gracious, even when I act like I doubt it. Let me place my trust in you.

Mary herself can be a wonderful guide for us this week, and we can be bold in asking her to show us the graces her Son wants to give us this week. The one who says "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" and "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord" can help us find words for our "yes" and for our giving praise to God this week.

It could be a great grace to pause before going to church, Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, as individuals or for a brief prayer as a family, to ask for the grace to be touched by how he came in history for us and how he comes now among us still, to set us free.

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/A2-AD-04.html>

Reflection

When I was a very small child, we lived in a house that had window sills which were just above my sight line. I remember having to stand on my tiptoes to see out. This was especially challenging when we were expecting company, because I could only stay on my tiptoes a few minutes at a time. This memory came back to me when I read our Gospel this Sunday. I say this because this weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and in our Gospel this weekend we read "*how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.*" Clearly this Gospel calls us to be on "tiptoes of expectation" as we enter the last week before we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Specifically, this Gospel tells the story of how Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant, and that an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph 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.*" In addition to telling us that Jesus conception was of divine origin, this Gospel also reminds us that God is not limited in the way God communicates with us. God can speak to us in our thoughts, through the movements of our hearts and spirits, through the people and events of our lives, and even through our dreams. If we are open to it, God has much to say to us.

In our first reading this Sunday we read from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. In this reading God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah, invites the feckless King Ahaz to ask for a sign that he might remember and trust in God's faithfulness. Ahaz declines, but God offers a sign anyway. "*Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.*"

Our second reading this Sunday is taken from the beginning of the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans. In it Paul reminds the people that he has been "*called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures.*"

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

1. When have you felt God "communicating" with you? Was it in your prayer, through other people, through the events of your life, through a dream or?
2. Ahaz didn't want to tempt God by asking for a sign, yet God gave him a sign anyway. Has God ever offered you a sign?
3. What do you need to do this last week of Advent to prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ?

<https://www.mary.org/blog/201912/thoughts-readings-4th-sunday-advent-2020#.Xfp1f25FyUk>

Misas de Aguinaldo

Los coordinadores de las *Misas de Aguinaldo* son las siguientes comunidades:
23 de dic.: Comunidad 10:30am domingo Jardines
24 de dic.: Consejos Pastoral y Económico
Misas de semana: 6am



Misas de Navidad

24 de diciembre:

“Midnight Mass”: 8pm (with Carols at 7:30pm)

Misa de Noche Buena: 10:30pm

25 de diciembre: Una sola misa a las 11am

31 de diciembre:

Misa de Vigilia Año Nuevo a las 5:30pm

1 de enero: Una sola Misa a las 11am

5 de enero: Misa de Vigilia de Reyes 5:30pm

6 de enero: Una sola Misa a las 11am



¡Felicidades a Carmelo Rivera
quien celebra su aniversario
de ordenación diaconal
el día 26 de diciembre!
¡ENHORABUENA!

Calendario Breve

- Rezo del Santo Rosario media hora antes de las dos misas diarias de lunes a sábado.
- Guerreros de la Oración reanudan sus reflexiones el lunes, 13 de enero de 4 a 4:45pm en el Templo.
- Estudios Bíblicos los lunes a las 7:30pm en la biblioteca de la Academia San Ignacio de Loyola.
- Ejercicios Espirituales, grupo avanzado, los martes a las 9am, grupo Normal, los martes a las 7pm, ambos en el Centro Parroquial.
- Circulo de Oración los jueves 7pm en la Capilla del Templo.
- El Ministerio del Sagrado Corazón se reúne los primeros viernes de mes para la misa de 8:00am en el Templo.
- La Cofradía de Nuestra Señora del Carmen se reúne el primer sábado de mes a las 7:30am en el Templo.
- La Comunidad de la Misa dominical de las 8:00am invita a su **desayuno comunitario** el tercer domingo de mes al finalizar la Misa. Próximo desayuno será el **19 de enero**.

ANUNCIOS PARROQUIALES

- El proyecto “**Arboles de la Esperanza**” tiene fecha límite de este domingo, 22 de diciembre. Agradecemos a todos las personas que han colaborado.
- Habrá receso de las **Noches de Película** hasta enero. Anunciaremos la fecha mas tarde.
- Padre Larry estará fuera de Puerto Rico desde el 25 de diciembre hasta el 8 de enero.
- **La Arquidiócesis de San Juan** les invita a la Ordenación Episcopal de **Mons. Alberto Figueroa Morales el viernes, 27 de diciembre a las 11:00am** en la Iglesia Santa Teresita, Calle Loiza en Santurce. Se pide mucha oración por el nuevo obispo auxiliar, y la participación de todos en la celebración de su ordenación episcopal.
- Habrá en el templo y libre de costo un **Concierto de Navidad** del Coro de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico el domingo, 12 de enero de 2020 al terminar la misa de las 5:30pm. **¡Separen la fecha!**



A Jesús en la Navidad

Jesús:

Esta Nochebuena quiero pasarla contigo.

*Aunque el mundo no se pare ni guarde silencio,
detendré mi existencia en tu presencia.*

*Quiero dejarte que me mires,
ver tu sonrisa y escucharte.*

Desde el cielo podías verlo todo,

pero quisiste verme desde otra perspectiva.

Viniste a decirme que sabes bien lo que es el amor humano.

Viniste a sufrir y también a disfrutar como nosotros.

Viniste a demostrarme que comprendes mis preguntas.

Viniste a revelarme otro pedazo de cielo y a salvarme.

Viniste a mendigar lo que es tuyo.

Gracias, Jesús; yo también te quiero.

RECEMOS POR NUESTROS ENFERMOS

Ana Livia Otaño, Amaryllis Velilla, Gloria Negrón,
María Consuelo (Chela) Longo,
Nancy y Emmanuel Vega, Teresita Colberg,
Rafael Martínez, niño Arturo Javier Alonso, Lisardo Batán

RECEMOS POR NUESTROS DIFUNTOS

Luz Teresa Tirado +

(Favor de informarle a la Oficina Parroquial de los enfermos y de los fallecidos para que podamos anunciarlos en el boletín. Gracias.)