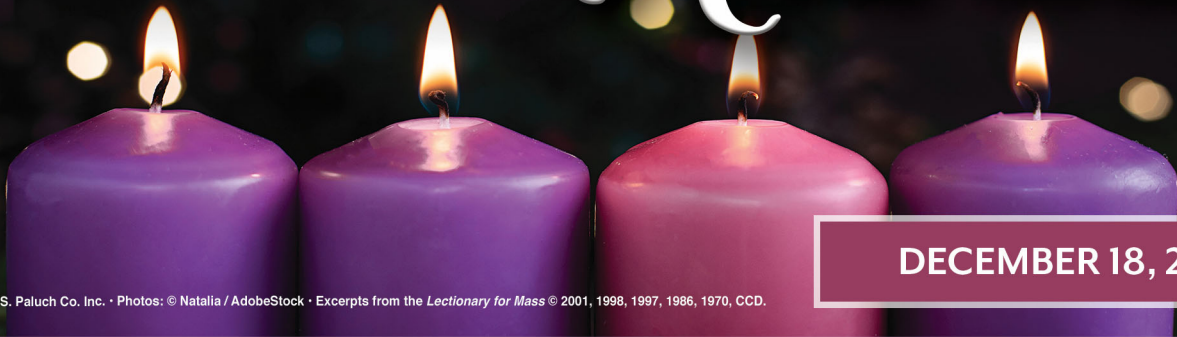


# Our Lady Queen of Peace

FOURTH  
SUNDAY OF

# Advent



DECEMBER 18, 2022

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*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."*

MATTHEW 1:23

## Served by

Rev. Antonio L. Ricarte, Pastor

[frtony@olqp.org](mailto:frtony@olqp.org)

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Zaccardo, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mr. Joseph L. Mantineo, Permanent Deacon

[dcnjoe@olqp.org](mailto:dcnjoe@olqp.org)

Justine Garcia, Pastoral Associate for Religious Ed.

[ReEd@olqp.org](mailto:ReEd@olqp.org)

Janue Vargas, Music Director

[musicdirector@olqp.org](mailto:musicdirector@olqp.org)

Christopher Innis, Principal, St. Peter Academy

Dorothy Feula and Harriet Sottile, Lay Trustees

## Emergency Contact

(Funerals, Anointings, etc.)

(201) 845-9566 ext. 3

## Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5:00 PM

Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 AM\* and  
12:00 Noon

Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM

Holy days - See Bulletin

\*Livestreamed on Facebook

## Reconciliation

Saturday - 1:00 PM or by  
appointment. A Catholic is  
obliged to confess **mortal**  
**sins** in kind and number to  
a priest **before** receiving the  
Holy Eucharist.

Baptism - Please call to arrange for your child's  
baptism soon after birth.

## RCIA

Adults desiring to be baptized, confirmed or  
become a Catholic, please contact the Parish Office

## Anointing of the Sick

Please call for a priest to schedule this Sacrament  
of Healing and Anointing for someone who is  
seriously ill or in danger of death. Do **not** wait  
until the sick person is unconscious.

## Matrimony

All Catholics should seek to have their marriage  
blessed by the Church so as to live in God's good  
grace and receive the Holy Eucharist. Contact a  
priest a year prior to the intended date of marriage  
to ensure proper preparation.

**Parish Center Office Hours** Monday through Thursday: 9AM - 12N / 1PM - 3PM; Friday: 9AM - 1PM

[www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org)

[parish@olqp.org](mailto:parish@olqp.org)

Parish Center

201-845-9566

Fax: 201-845-3742

Religious Education

201-845-9566 ext. 117

[ReEd@olqp.org](mailto:ReEd@olqp.org)

St. Peter Academy

201-261-3468

[www.spare.org](http://www.spare.org)

## ✝ Mass Intentions

**December 18, 2022 to December 25, 2022**

### Sunday- FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12/18	8:00 am	People of the Parish
	10:00 am	Frank Migliaccio
	12 noon	Christina O'Neill

### Monday - Advent Weekday

12/19	8:30 am	Delfin Sto. Domingo
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### Tuesday – Advent Weekday

12/20	8:30 am	Jose Nunes
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### Wednesday – Advent Weekday

*[Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church]*

12/21	8:30 am	Anne Bracco
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### Thursday – Advent Weekday

12/22	8:30 am	Mary Brandt
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### Friday - Advent Weekday *[Saint John of Kanty, Priest]*

12/23	8:30 am	Anne Bracco
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### Saturday - Advent Weekday

12/24	8:30 am	Maria and Vincenzo Napoleone
	5:00 pm	James O'Reilly
	10:00 pm	Cathy Cordasco

### Sunday - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas) *Solemnity*

12/25	8:00 am	The Georgetti Family
	10:00 am	People of the Parish
	12 noon	Ann Michulak

## Weekly Memorials

**Advent Wreath Candle**  
in Memory of Mary Brandt  
*by Kathy McGowan*

**Altar Candles**  
in Memory of Michael Nunes  
*by Teresa Nunes*

**Saint Joseph Candle**  
in Thanksgiving  
*by the Romain Family*

**Blessed Mother Candle**  
in Memory of  
John A. Hrablook

## December 18, 2022 - Today's Readings

**First Reading** — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

**Psalm** — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

**Second Reading** — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

**Gospel** — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

### Rest in Peace

Rev. Monsignor Kenneth J. Herbster; Alice M. Liso

### Sick Relatives and Friends

Mary Adamo	Megan Harwood	Betty Porter
Cristina Aguilar	Michael Hazuka	Francis Quinn
Pauline Albarano	Baby Christopher	Robert Raimo
Augie Aversa	Sean Hill	Susan Rheem
Josefina Baldoza	Gardenia Hounbo	Anthony Ruffino
Mary Ellen Barberia	Andrew Hunkele	Melissa Finck-
Matilde Beninca	Dominic Jengo	Ruisch
Claire Borrello	Nancy Jengo	Elsy Ruiz
Cardinal Burke	Pamela Jengo	Frank Sampson
Ginny Cattaneo	Lauren Kaczynski	Wilbert Santos
Carmen Cepeda	Rosemarie Kaminski	Pat Sommers
Denise Chu	Joan Keenan	Joseph Steiner
Carmen Maria Colon	Rev. Michael Kreder	Carolyn Sobering
Brian Connors	Alice Liso	Jacqueline Sullivan
The Cortese Family	Maxine Locascio	Nick Taylor
Javier Cruz	Diane Lohrer	Theresa Taylor
Jeanette DeLillo	Deacon Joseph	Theresa Tempio
Richard DeSpagna	Mantineo	Liam Justin Torres
Sally DeSpagna	Gerry Marcincavage	Marianne Tracey
Emily DeStefano	Sonia Medrano	Maria Trovini
Phil Dimitri	Andrew J. Mendez	Joseph Turchyn
Eileen Diverio	Frankie Monnecka	Danielle Visconti
Mark Diverio	Deanna Mooney	Mary Walker
Stephen Diverio	Jim Moran	Andrew Wey
Fr. Larry Fama	Barbara Nelson	Julia Whitney
Jane Favorito	Sharon Osnowitz	Joyce Wilson
Nancy Focarino	Nicholas Pappas	David Zerby
Emily Ferreira	Harriet Pellicione	<b>*Names in bold</b>
Yancey Garcia	Vallie Pompilio	<b>are new to the list</b>
Fr. Mickey German	Mary Pontillo	

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;  
Lk 1:46-56

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;  
Lk 1:57-66

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27,  
29; Lk 1:67-79

**Sunday:** **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29;  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
**Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;  
Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-  
7; Lk 2:15-20  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;  
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

## Special Collection for This Weekend



As a reminder, this weekend's  
special collection is for  
**Repairs and Maintenance.**

## God Wants to be One With Us



What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond

comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sale



The Knights of Columbus are having their annual Christmas tree sale! Please visit their Christmas Tree selection on Maywood Avenue.

*Please consider giving to OLQP online this Advent. Scan the QR code below with your camera phone, text "GIVE" to 201-733-3457 or visit [www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org)*

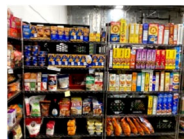
TEXT "GIVE"  
TO 201-733-3457



## Human Concerns News

### FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

Please place any non-perishable donations for Sacred Heart Food Pantry in the back of Church under the stairs.



## Bible Study - Wednesdays at 7 pm

Our Bible Study takes place Wednesdays at 7 pm at the Parish center. Please send a note to [OLQPBibleStudy@gmail.com](mailto:OLQPBibleStudy@gmail.com) for more information.



## The Decorating Committee Needs Your Help!

We will be decorating our church for Christmas on **Thursday, Dec 22 @ 11:00 am** and need **many volunteers**. If you would like to volunteer and lend a hand, please come at the designated time. Thank you in advance for your support. Any questions call Judy Tompkins @ 201-845-4097 or 201-994-5378.



## Christmas Pageant Today, Dec 18th @ 4 pm

The Christmas Pageant is coming back—**Sunday December 18th at 4 pm in the Church**. Come hear our awesome adult choir perform songs of the season along with our



newly formed children's choir. Our children and young people will be dressed in costume to portray the story of the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. We encourage everyone attending to join in and sing along to many of our cherished Christmas Carols. **This event is open to all. Invite your extended family, your friends and neighbors. This Christmas Pageant is guaranteed to fill your heart with warmth, love and the spirit of this blessed season.**

## Silent Night - Wednesday 12/21



The Church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection and **confessions Wednesday - December 21st from 7:45 pm-9:00 pm** following the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena.

## OLQP Cursillo Community Meeting Dates

**Welcome back to a new season of Cursillo.**

Our 4th day group will be meeting on the following dates at Parish Center at 7pm. Even if you have not attended a Cursillo weekend, please come and join us and make a new friend and share Jesus's love. Here are the following dates for meetings.



### Meeting Dates:

12/19/2022, 2/20/23, 3/20/23, 4/17/23, 5/22/23, 6/19/23

All are Welcome! Hope to see soon!

If you would like more information about what Cursillo is all about, please contact Joanne Godlewski at [jojowey@gmail.com](mailto:jojowey@gmail.com) or 201-870-3100, Rudy or Irene Schwarz at [silvers@optonline.net](mailto:silvers@optonline.net) or 201-742- 5695 Connie Szymanski at [szyma843@optonline.net](mailto:szyma843@optonline.net) 201-843-1836.

## Christmas is Near!



Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. Celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

Below, you will find links to blessings and other content to help you celebrate this season of joy and hope for salvation.

(source <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/christmas>)



Please park in designated parking spaces only. To ensure everyone's safety, please do not park on the fire lanes on the side of the driveway. Thank you for your cooperation!

## The Meaning and Traditions of Advent



Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, and welcome his presence into our lives. During a time of Christmas shopping, holiday parties, and family gatherings, it can be hard to find the time to prepare properly for this faith-filled

season. However, the Catholic Church has a rich history of traditions to help keep our minds focused on the true meaning of the season.

In an interview with EWTN News In Depth, Dominican Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, host of the Godsplaining podcast, discussed the history of Advent and how it began in the fourth century. "It was originally a kind of time of preparation for people that were preparing for baptism," he said. "The feast of the epiphany was a great day in the old calendar, it used to be alighted with the feast of the baptism of the Lord."

Since it was a time of preparation for those soon-to-be baptized, Father Patrick pointed out that "It had more of a feel of Lent to it." "There was a kind of rigor again, looking forward to the coming mysteries that were celebrated by the sacraments," he said. Jumping forward to the present day, the meaning of Advent is different. It now focuses on the birth of Jesus, and families place an Advent wreath in their home. The Catholic Church also uses different colors to represent the season.

**"That deep purple that you see in Advent, that very rich color, is the color of repentance," Father Patrick explained. "It reminds us of the sober and somber character of the season and tells us that we should be preparing not just our homes, not just our surroundings, but our souls."**

The Advent season is not one entirely characterized by somberness, however. Gaudete Sunday represents the midway point of the Advent season and is a Sunday of rejoicing. On Gaudete Sunday, which is the third Sunday of Advent, a rose colored candle is illuminated.

"Christmas and the Advent season, I think, are so different from Lent principally because they have this note of hope," Father Patrick said. "Advent is a season ultimately of light and we see that in the candles of the Advent wreath." While many think primarily of the outward signs of Advent, this time of year is deeply rooted in the inward preparation we are called to as we draw closer to the birth of Jesus.

During the interview, Father Patrick recalled a homily given by Saint Bernard Clairvaux, which is read by the Church in the liturgy of the hours. In the homily, the saint describes three comings of Christ. "Christ came once as a child in Bethlehem, and the Lord Jesus is going to come again to judge the living and the dead, so this is the second principle meaning of Advent," he said. "But, the third coming of Christ is that Christ is coming into our hearts." "The spirit of Advent, then, is to be ready each Christmas to receive Christ in my life, in the here and now, in a new and deeper way," he said. (<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/the-meanings-and-traditions-of-advent>)

## Devotions Before Holy Communion

### An Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that by the words of consecration spoken during Mass, bread truly becomes the Body of Christ and wine His most Precious Blood, and that Thy Divine Son is offered to Thee upon the altar under appearances representing that separation of His Body and Blood which took place on Calvary. Therefore, do I believe with my whole heart, that this holy Victim is the same as that of the cross, whom I am about to receive, in order to unite my sacrifices to His own, by immolating myself with Him for Thy glory. Amen.

### An Act of Hope

O my God, I place all my hope in Jesus, my loving Saviour, truly present before me on the altar. He, who on the cross offered to Thee the superabundant merits of His Divine Blood, shed for our sins. Do Thou graciously accept the offering, which I now make to Thee at the hands of Thy priests, of the holy Victim who has reconciled us to Thyself, and being fully appeased by Him, grant to my soul the graces it needs in order to receive my Lord worthily and obtain through Him all the effects of Thy Fatherly goodness. Amen.

### An Act of Contrition

O my God, at the moment of receiving within myself the Divine Victim of Calvary, I confess sincerely before Thy Divine Majesty and before the whole court of heaven, that I have offended Thee by thought, word and deed. By my sins I have contributed to the death of Jesus on the cross; but Thou hast forgiven me, washing my soul in the Blood of Thy Son and clothing it with the wedding garment of Thy grace. I come, therefore, contrite and repentant, but with a heart overflowing with boundless gratitude, to the holy table which Thou hast prepared for the prodigal child, who had abandoned Thee, and whom in Thy goodness Thou wouldst nourish with Heavenly Bread. Amen.

### An Act of Love

O my God, I love Thee with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength and with no other desire than to be inseparably united to Thee. It is through Thy Divine Son that this union is about to be realized within me. In Holy Communion I long to identify myself with Him, that it will no longer be myself, but Him, who lives in me; and when I have received Jesus within myself, then I shall love and be loved by Thee in that same measure, in which I am united to Him. Hasten then, to give me Thy Divine Son, at the hands of Thy priest, that through Jesus, I may unite myself forever to Thee, O God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Treasures of Our Tradition

How many languages do you know? Most Americans might say they have a primary language, can follow the basics of another encountered in school or in the workplace, and maybe know the barest elements of a third. Yet nearly everyone is fluent in languages of symbol and ritual, languages that transcend the spoken word and may perhaps communicate more clearly. A dance, the delights of the table, the thrill of sport, the power of a painting, a shared silence on a surf-washed beach or under a desert sky, a burst of delighted applause, all communicate without a single word.

Sacrament empowers fluency in these languages. A little girl returning from Mass where a baby had been baptized was asked to summarize her day thus far. "I went to church, and some little baby became my brother." That's far more accurate than the adult's remark, "There was a baptism at Mass today." When we celebrate sacrament, Christ is always calling us into deeper fluency with the languages beyond speech. Sacraments open our senses to the presence of God precisely so we can respond to the depth of that love more fully. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Act of Contrition



O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven, and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

## Prayer Shawls



If you are adding someone to our Parish sick list, please consider the healing power of these beautiful shawls. They are prayed over by the Prayer Shawl Ministry and blessed by our Pastor.

If you know of someone you think is in need of a Prayer Shawl, please contact the Parish Center: 201-845-9566 or email [parish@olqp.org](mailto:parish@olqp.org)

## The 2023 Mass Book is Open



The Church teaches us that our prayers are invaluable to the living as well as those who have died. We commend them to God's mercy when we pray for them. The living and the dead are helped not only by our daily prayers, but by the offering of Masses in their name for the benefit of their souls. Please visit the Parish Center to select your preferred dates. **To view available dates**, please visit our website at: <https://www.olqp.org/mass-intentions.html>

## Stewardship Corner

*Values Installed by Parents to last a Lifetime:  
(Continued from last week)*

Teaching our youth to steward the gifts of God presents the greatest challenge and the greatest reward. If we, as individual adults, practice stewardship, we are not only fulfilling the words of the Gospel and giving meaning to our lives, but we are living examples of Christ to our children. We (adults and children) are called by Jesus to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, to practice hospitality, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, to help people who are not free and to be a blessing to others.

*Rudy Schwarz*

## Stewardship Results

**Thank you for your contributions last Sunday.  
May God reward you for your generosity!**

Due to the early bulletin deadline, stewardship results for 12/11 will not be published until 12/25.

## The Memorare



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## Parish Calendar

**Key: AU - Auditorium, CH - Church, PC - Parish Center**

- 12/18 4:00 pm - Christmas Pageant (CH)
- 12/19 7:00 pm - The Holy Rosary
- 12/20 7:00 pm - Choir Practice (CH)
- 12/21 7:00 pm - Bible Study (PC)
- 7:00 pm - Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena
- 7:45 pm - Silent Night (Confessions, prayer, reflection)
- 12/22 3:30 pm - Children's Choir Practice (CH)
- 7:00 pm - Luz Y Vida (AU)



**For our complete calendar, please visit**  
<https://www.olqp.org/calendar.html> or scan the QR code

## Saints and Special Observances

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent;  
**Wednesday:** St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins  
**Friday:** St. John of Kanty  
**Saturday:** The Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)

### BETTER

Better that only a few Catholics should be left, staunch and sincere in their religion, than that they should, remaining many, desire as it were, to be in collusion with the Church's enemies and in conformity with the open foes of our faith.  
- St. Peter Canisius

### FIGHT ALL ERROR

Fight all error, but do it with patience, kindness and love.  
- St. John of Kanty

### CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.  
- Charles Dickens

## Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



O Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
refuge of sinners,  
I beg of you by the infinite merits of the  
Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
and by the graces God has granted to you  
since your Immaculate Conception,  
the grace of never going astray again.  
Mother, keep me, a sinner,  
constantly bathed in the light of your  
Immaculate Heart. Amen.

## We Encourage New Families to Register

### Why should I register in the parish?

All members of the parish should be formally registered as members of the parish. You must be formally registered if you wish to arrange a Baptism, a Confirmation, or a Wedding in the parish Church or wish to register in the Parish School or the Religious Education (CCD) Program. You must also be a registered member of the parish for at least three months before you can obtain a Sponsor Certificate or schedule a Baptism or a Wedding. **Please call the Parish Center at 201-845-9566 to register or visit our home page at [www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org), scroll down to the middle of the page and click where it states "Parish Registration" to download the form.**

*Thank you and welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace!*

## Please Visit our New Instagram Page!

<https://www.instagram.com/olqchurch/>



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

# Advent

DECEMBER 18, 2022

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means "God is with us."*

MATTHEW 1:23

## TRUE GRATITUDE

Advent's four Sundays each have their own focus: "Stay awake!" (First); John the Baptist (Second); Rejoice! (Third); Joseph/Mary (Fourth). We might need to have a little pity on the Fourth Sunday, however, since the hectic realities of the secular calendar can overwhelm it, particularly in those years when there are only one or two (or zero!) days before Christmas. This year we have the luxury of a whole week! What shall we do with this gift from God? Perhaps a bit more charity or social action on behalf of God's poorest. Maybe take some time to listen for the voice of God in our dreams, as Joseph did. Attend daily Mass, Advent reconciliation, or pray the "O" antiphons (which began this Saturday evening). As with every gift, we show true gratitude by using it. Let us do so, as Paul tells us in Romans, for the sake of the name of Jesus, whose coming we await.

## WHOSE HOUSE?

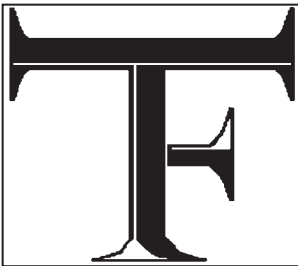
Interest in genealogy is much, much older than current fascination with using DNA analysis to trace our heritage. Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Abraham, Israel's father in faith. This is what immediately precedes today's Gospel reading, and is crucial to how we hear the opening sentence: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." It's not so much as a starting point, but a pivot point that places Jesus firmly in the "house of David" through Joseph (in first-century Judaism, lineage and heritage was traced solely through males). An essential understanding of the Messiah was that he would come from the house and lineage of King David. For those of us who follow Jesus in faith, it's important to recall that it was through Joseph that Jesus both came from the house of David and was made a son of the covenant of Moses.

## WHOSE HOME?

Matthew's Gospel also contains an angelic annunciation scene; we hear from it today. Another pivot point is presented, when the angel says "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." As with most angelic appearances in scripture, the angel provides an instruction not to fear. More importantly, Joseph is instructed by God's messenger to take Mary into his home. When Joseph and Mary were betrothed, they were officially constituted as husband and wife; the next step—approved by an angel—would have been for Joseph to take Mary into his home. So he provided a safe place for a young woman in a troubled pregnancy, and offered her child a home, a heritage, and a lineage. This rather difficult and risky move on Joseph's part might inspire us in this season to seek out and help out in those places where people are longing to have a house and—more importantly—a home.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24



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