

Pulpit Announcements for the Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

**Welcome to all who are here today on this 4th Sunday of Advent.
Whoever you are or wherever you find yourself on the journey.
Know that here at St. Matthias, ALL ARE WELCOME!**

- **We are very happy that our Christmas Trees are attracting lots of visitors from near and far. On some rainy days there have been some short-circuit problems. Please know that every effort is made to keep all the trees lit till midnight.**
- **Thank you to all those who responded generously with the gift tags on the Christmas Giving Tree, and with the SMYLE youth collection for the poor. They were delivered on time to those in need.**
- **Please note the Schedule for Christmas season Masses. It is nice to see all the members of the families attending Mass together. Also, please invite a friend or neighbor to come with you to celebrate Christmas here at St. Matthias.**
- **Our music ministry will be offering extra carol singing for the 4 pm Mass in the church starting at 3:15 pm, and for the midnight Mass from 11:30 pm.**
- **You are welcome to join many of our parishioners at Eucharistic Adoration on Monday evening - any time between 6-8 pm.**

Today's gospel says, "Mary arose and went with haste to the house of Elizabeth..." With Christmas almost here, it is only natural that we too may be experiencing haste, a feeling of being rushed ... That rush can be for a longing for the Savior who comes to our aid. We can rush to meet Him in this very communal celebration of the Eucharist... Let us gladly welcome Him into our hearts...

Music for Our Assembly

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One:
let the earth be opened and bring forth a savior.*

Gathering Hymn – O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

5. O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our Prince of Peace.

Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3–6 para. in *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal* 1940, alt. Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811–1890.

Prayer of the Faithful

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Our response is: "Lord of Love, Hear Our Prayer."

1. For Pope Francis and all leaders of the Church, and for all of us who are the Church...That our hearts may leap for joy as we recognize God-with-us in the people and events of our lives, we pray. . .
2. For leaders of people everywhere, especially at this time of year for Christians, Jews, and Muslims living in Bethlehem and the hill country of Judah...Let Your Spirit open new pathways of peace and bring forth new hope for all who live in fear, we pray. . .
3. For the community of St. Matthias...That we, like Mary, may believe that God will do great things in and through our ordinariness, we pray...
4. For those who are sick in mind, body, soul, or spirit...May the celebration of the birth of Christ bring light and hope into their lives, peace and comfort in their hearts, and renewal of strength for their caregivers, we pray. . .
5. For all who have died, especially ***Aurea Elena Taylor and Stephen Vajtay Sr.***...welcome them into everlasting life and instill the peace Christ in the hearts of their loved ones, we pray. . .
6. For the prayers that are silent in our hearts, we pray. . .

The presider announces the Mass intention and concludes the Intercessions:

5 PM: Intention of Parishioners

8 AM: Jack Shafranski

10 AM: Julian & Felsia De Guzman

12 PM: Jack Frankenfield

Preparation of the Gifts - Creator of the Stars of Night

1. Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.

2. In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior to set free
Your own in glorious liberty.

3. When this old world drew on toward night,
You came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

4. At your great Name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.

5. Come in your holy might, we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe.

6. To God Creator, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three-in-One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

Communion Hymn – Like a Shepherd

**Like a shepherd he feeds his flock
and gathers the lambs in his arms,
holding them carefully close to his heart,
leading them home.**

1. Say to the cities of Judah:
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Go to the mountaintop, lift your voice:
Jerusalem, here is your God.

2. I myself will shepherd them,
for others have led them astray.
The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds
and pasture them, giving them rest.

3. Come unto me if you are heavily burdened,
and take my yoke upon your shoulders.
I will give you rest.

*Text: Based on Isaiah 40:9ff; Ezekiel 34:11ff; Matthew 11:28ff.
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Closing Hymn - People Look East

1. People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text : Eleanor Farjeon, 1881- 1965. Tune- Besancon, French Carol, Oxford University Press.

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Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19..

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.