

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24TH 2023

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendents a kingdom that will endure forever.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89:2-5,27,29

A prayer of praise to the Lord for his faithfulness to his covenant.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

Bible Verse for the Week

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17

Pro Sanctity

You are invited to join Pro Sanctity
When: Monday nights for the Rosary and today's Gospel reflection
Thursday nights for Sunday's scripture readings and reflections
Why: To pray, learn and share
How: Call 3392073069 on Mondays and/or Thursdays ALL ARE WELCOME!

Prayer for Vocations

Lord of the Harvest, we petition you as you have instructed us to ask for more laborers to serve in the vineyard of Your Church. You have told us that the harvest is rich and laborers are few and we experience this great need in the face of the challenge of the New Evangelization we ask the Holy Spirit to inspire young men and women to seriously consider vocations for the priesthood and religious life. Help all of us to be effective instruments to encourage and support those whom you are calling to serve and lead the Church of Brooklyn and Queens in the future. Lord, you told the Apostles to put out into the deep. We ask for the grace and courage to accept your call as we pray and work for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Every First, and Third Sunday, of the month after each mass Fellowship is followed in the Parish Center all are welcomed

PC PROBLEMS? Call Mike

He's the right Technician For All Your PC Issues!
Mike can give you a Fair Price For a Thorough Job
For details or to schedule a repair
Call Mike at 718-257-2400
347-942-6770 or mwilkins235@gmail.com



Weekend Masses in the Canarsie Cluster Parishes:

Our Lady of Miracles
(E. 86th St. & Flatlands Ave.)

Sat. 5:30 PM (Eng.)
Sun. 8:30 AM (Eng.)
10:30 AM (Eng.)
12:30 PM (French/Creole)

Holy Family
(Rockaway Pkwy. & Flatlands Ave.)

Sat. 5:00 PM (Eng.)
Sun. 8:00 AM (Eng.)
9:15 AM (Creole)
11:15 AM (Eng.)
12:45 PM (Eng.)

St. Jude
(Seaview Ave. & Canarsie Rd.)

Sat. 5:30 PM (Eng.)
Sun. 8:30 AM (Eng.)
10:30 AM (Family)
12:30 PM (Bi-Lingual)
1st Sun ... Eng/French/Creole

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24TH 2023



Please Pray for ALL Our Sick In Our Parish

Gino Pizzuti, Raymond Abruzzese Deryck Ming, Maureen Ming, Dorthea C Hogarth, Marie Kernizan, Ann Bethany, Sue Vales, Rosemarie Campanilla, Rosamund Gilkes, Dexter Stiell, Joseph Esposito,

We will keep names on the sick list for three weeks.

Our Parish needs your Weekly Support

	TIME	People
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Saturday	5:30 PM	Eng	55
Sunday	8:30 AM	Eng	171
Sunday	10:30 AM	Eng	114
Sunday	12:30 PM	French/Kreyol	168

Weather: Sunny Day

Our weekly goal is \$4850.00

This Weeks Total was \$4,710.00

Previous Week \$3,800.00

Your generosity is greatly appreciated

Second Collection



Coming Up This Week

Monday: December 25 Christmas Day

8:30 AM Mass

No 10:30 AM Mass

12:30 PM Mass

Tuesday: December 26

8:30 AM Mass

Wednesday: December 27

8:30 AM Mass

Thursday: December 28

8:30 AM Mass

Friday: December 29

8:30 AM Mass

Saturday: December 30

8:30 AM Mass & 5:30 PM Mass

Sunday: December 31

8:30 AM Mass & 10:30 AM Mass English

12:30 PM Mass French/Kreyol

Our Lady of Miracles Rectory Office Hours

Monday 10AM-5PM, Tuesday 10AM-5PM,

Wednesday 10AM-5PM, Thursday 10AM-5PM,

Friday 10AM-5PM, Saturday Closed, Sunday Closed

Our Lady of Miracles Rectory office is now open from Monday-Friday 10AM-5PM

Saturday December 23

8:30 AM Anniversary In Heaven for Angela Ruocco by Nina & Family

8:30 AM Birthday Blessings for Carl Evens Bruneus by Charlotte

8:30 AM Birthday Blessings for Carline Gaston by Her Mom Rosemonde Jean Pierre

5:30 PM Action De Grace pour blessings received by Marcelle

Sunday December 24

8:30 AM In Thanksgiving to the Baby Jesus by Letecia Casipe

8:30 AM For all God's Blessings for his protection & a quick healing by The Family

10:30 AM Birthday Blessings for Julette Richard, Rose Emile, Yvette Fidelis, & Pharlande Zamor by The Etincelles D'Amour Group

12:30 PM In Thanksgiving for The Desrosier Family by Monica

12:30 PM In Memory of Nortreda Francois & Fredley Desrosier by Monica

12:30 PM Birthday Blessings for Billy Augustin by His Mom

12:30 PM Honoring Mass for The Holy Trinity by Marie Gisele Merisier

12:30 PM Birthday Blessings for Emmanuel Gargon by Emmanuel Gargon

12:00 AM Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Miracles by Letecia Casipe

12:00 AM Birthday Blessings for Roosangel Remfort by Roosangel Remfort

12:00 AM Birthday Blessings for Emmanuel Lincifort by Emmanuel Lincifort

Emmanuel Lincifort

Monday December 25

8:30 AM Thanksgiving to Holy Family by Letecia Casipe

8:30 AM In Thanksgiving to The Infant of Prague, Our Lady of Guadalupe, & St Lucie by Norma Fequiere

Tuesday December 26

8:30 AM Wedding Anniversary for Ronald & Josette Edouard by Ronald

by Ronald

Wednesday December 27

8:30 AM Birthday Blessings for Soleil Rivas by Grandmother Marjorie

Thursday December 28

8:30 AM In Memory of all deceased OLM Parishioners by OLM

Friday December 29

8:30 AM Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Miracles by OLM

Saturday December 30

8:30 AM In Memory of all deceased OLM Parishioners by OLM

5:30 PM Thanksgiving for my wedding anniversary by Marie G. Francois Altenor

You can donate to the parish by using our electronic giving page at <https://givecentral.org/olm-brooklyn> Or simply text the word SUDAY to 646-736-4700 or mail your envelopes to the rectory at 757 East 86TH St Brooklyn NY 11236

From February 2023 All Mass Intentions are now \$20 each

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24TH 2023

Pope Francis's Reflection for Sunday December 24th 2023
Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

The invitation to joy is characteristic of the season of Advent: the expectation of Jesus' birth that we experience is joyful, somewhat like when we await the visit of a person we love a great deal, for example, a friend whom we have not seen for a long time, a relative.... We are in **joyful anticipation**. And this dimension of joy emerges particularly today, the Third Sunday, which *opens with Saint Paul's exhortation: "Rejoice in the Lord always"* (Entrance Antiphon; cf. Phil 4:4, 5).

"Rejoice!" Christian joy. **And what is the reason for this joy? That "the Lord is at hand" (v. 5). The closer the Lord is to us, the more joy we feel; the farther away he is, the more sadness we feel.** This is a rule for Christians. Once a philosopher said something more or less like this: "I do not understand how one can believe today, because those who say they believe have a face from a funeral wake. They do not bear witness of the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ". Many Christians have that face, yes, a face from a funeral wake, a face of sadness.... But Christ is risen! **Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"**

The Gospel according to John today presents us the biblical character who – excluding Our Lady and Saint Joseph – first and most fully experienced the expectation of the Messiah and *the joy of seeing him arrive*: naturally, we are speaking of **John the Baptist** (cf. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28).

The Evangelist introduces him in a solemn way: "**There was a man sent from God.... He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light**" (vv. 6-7). The Baptist is the first *witness* of Jesus, with the word and with the gift of his life. All the Gospels agree in showing that he fulfilled his mission by indicating Jesus as the Christ, the One sent by God, promised by the Prophets. John was a leader of his time. His renown had spread throughout Judea and beyond, to Galilee. But he did not surrender even for an instant to the temptation to draw attention to himself: he always oriented himself toward the One who was to come. He used to say: "**he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie**" (v. 27). Always indicating the Lord. Like Our Lady: always indicating the Lord: "Do whatever he tells you".

The Lord is always at the centre. The Saints around him, indicating the Lord. And one who does not indicate the Lord is not holy! This is the first condition of Christian joy: to decentralize from oneself and place Jesus at the centre. This is not alienation, because Jesus is effectively the centre; he is the light that gives full meaning to the life of every man and woman who comes into this world. It is the same dynamism of love, which leads me to come out of myself not to lose myself but to find myself again, while I give myself, while I seek the good of others.

This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith. And in dark moments, that inner joy, of knowing that the Lord is with me, that the Lord is with us, that the Lord is Risen. The Lord! The Lord! The Lord! This is the centre of our life, and this is the centre of our joy. Think well today: how do I behave? Am I a joyful person who knows how to transmit the joy of being Christian, or am I always like those sad people, as I said before, who seem to be at a funeral wake? If I do not have the joy of my faith, I cannot bear witness and others will say: "But if faith is so sad, it is better not to have it".



Scriptures For The Week

Monday December 25 The Nativity of the Lord
Vigil Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17; 22-25 Mt 1:1-25

Tuesday December 26
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22(696)

Wednesday December 27
1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a;2-8(697)

Thursday December 28
1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Mt 2:13-18(698)

Friday December 29
1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35(202)

Saturday December 30
1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40(203)

Our Lady of Trust Catholic Academy

up coming events

Open House for Pre-3, Pre – K4 & Pre K
9:00 to 11 AM

For more information call 718-241-6633

Record of PARISH contributions

If you use our church envelopes and need to have a record of your contributions to Our Lady of Miracles Church for the past year(2022) for income tax purposes, please contact the rectory during office hours or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to

Our Lady of Miracles Church, 757 East 86th street, Brooklyn, New York 11236. We will be happy to forward the information to you.

Due to the Corona Virus we will not be serving the Precious Blood we will let you know when we will be serving the precious blood.

Haitian Prayer group meet every Monday night at 7:00 Pm in the church. All are welcomed

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24TH 2023

Office Of Faith Formation News

Registration for Religious Ed classes for 2023-2024 is closed. Thanks to all parents and guardians who enrolled their children for this year. Remember classes begin with the 8:30 mass after which the children will proceed to the school auditorium for the continuation of class.

Adults who are interested in learning more about Catholic Faith, please contact Sr Francesca at 718-649-1006

Our office Days and Hours

Tuesday: 9:30AM-4:00PM

Friday: 9:30AM-4:00 PM

Email: dre101163@diobrook.org

All children beginning the first grade in Public or Catholic school must register their child for the 2 year communion preparation program. After communion all public school children must register for on-going classes till the 7th grade at which time all Public and Catholic school children must register for the 2 year confirmation preparation program.

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Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday, from 9:30 AM till 12:00 Noon, we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction. We are looking for people to sit in church while the Blessed Sacrament is on the altar. Please come to the rectory to put your name down for an hour or two.

The only time we will not have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is if we have a funeral

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 CATHOLIC APPEAL PRAYER

Loving Father, through Baptism you have made us members of the Body of your Son and His Priestly People. You have enriched us with the outpouring of the gift of your Holy Spirit. You continue to make your Son present among us through the Sacrament of His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

We are ever grateful for what you do for us and we seek to respond by revealing your goodness through the witness of our lives.

Help us to nourish and support those members of the Body of Christ who are in need of our generous sharing of our time, talent and treasure.

We make this prayer through Christ our High Priest and Lord. AMEN

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 Goal at Our Lady of Miracles R.C is \$35,000

Thank for your generous support.

God bless you!

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE WHEN YOU ARE ENTERING THE CHURCH. THIS IS QUITE DISTRACTING TO THE PRIEST AND OTHER PARISHIONERS THANK YOU.

Bible Puzzle

Adam and Eve Crossword

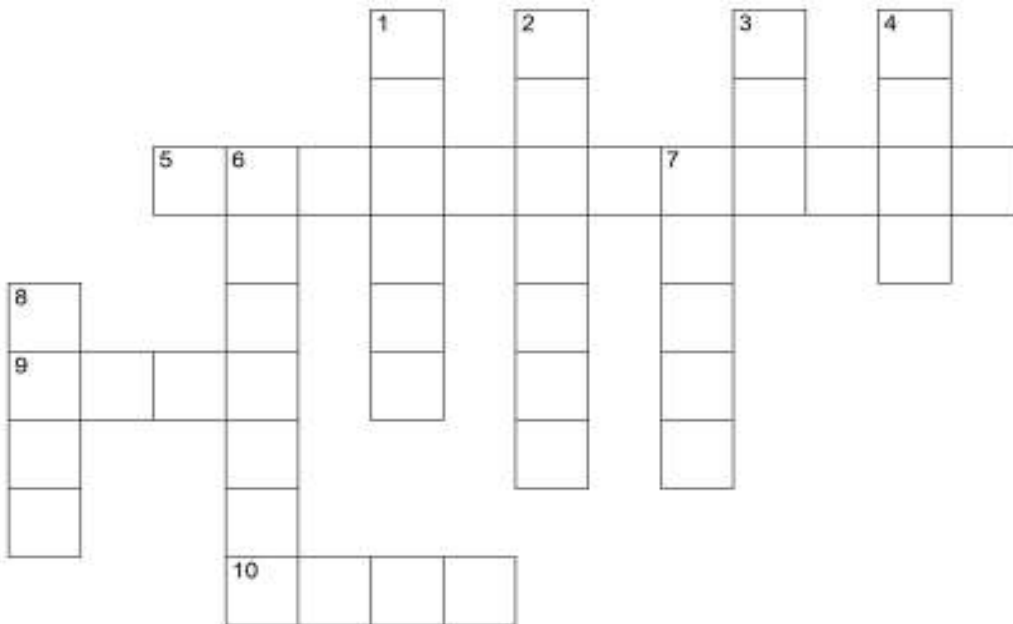
Work the puzzle to review what you know about Adam and Eve and their sons. Look up the verses to be sure of your answers.

Across

- At first Adam and Eve lived in the _____ (3 words). (Genesis 2:8)
- The first man was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
- Adam and Eve's third son was _____. (Genesis 4:25)

Down

- God told them not to eat the fruit of the tree in the _____ of the garden. (Genesis 3:2-3)
- After Adam and Eve sinned, they were _____ (2 words) of the garden. (Genesis 3:23)
- The first woman was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
- God was pleased with _____. (Genesis 4:4)
- Adam named all the _____. (Genesis 2:20)
- Adam and Eve sinned by eating the _____. (Genesis 3:6)
- _____ was jealous of his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:8)



Adam, Eve, and Cain all sinned against God. What should you do when you sin?