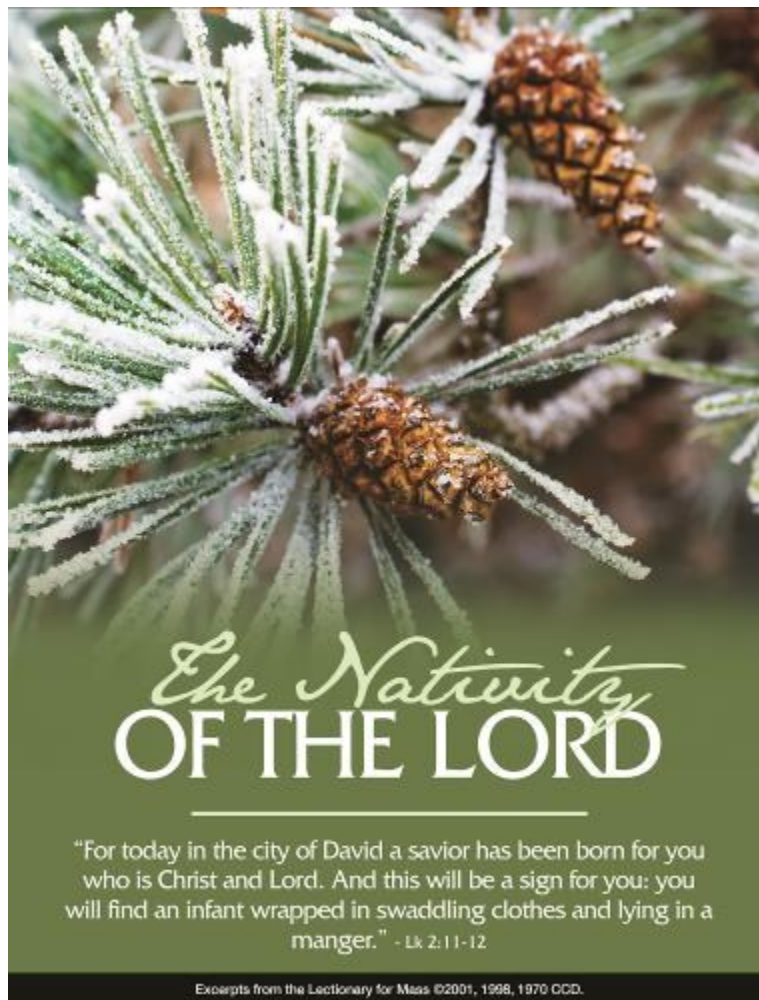


December 24/25, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent/The Nativity of the Lord



ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION ON READINGS

December 24, 2017 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 SM 7: 1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; PS 89: 2-5, 27, 29; ROM 16: 25-27; LK 1: 26-38

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." With those words our Blessed Mother Mary places her total trust in God. We are called to do the same, and this final Sunday of Lent is the time for us to do that, if we have not previously. Mary's response to God is the same response we need to offer the Lord. It is most appropriate that we hear this message at this time and on this day.

This took much more trust in the Lord than we might imagine. Mary agreed to receive a pregnancy that would be seen as suspect in a culture which had a potential death penalty for adultery. Spiritually speaking, there are similarities between the Lord's work in Mary and His work in all of us. Jesus lives within each of us spiritually. He lived in Mary not only spiritually but also physically.

Jesus was made visible to the world through Mary physically, but He should be made visible to the world through us as well. Who we are and how we relate to and treat others is a sign to the world of Who Jesus is and what a Christian is and should be. Are we showing the world what it means to be His disciple? Is there a better time than this to do so?

The entertainer and comedian Bob Hope once said, "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"

PARISH OFFICE

8755 Scarborough Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
www.saintgabriel.net

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Phone: (719) 528-8407
Fax: (719) 598-1696
Email: office@saintgabriel.net

PARISH CLERGY

Pastor, Fr. Kirk Slattery frkslattery@saintgabriel.net
Deacon Andy Dunnam denadunnam@saintgabriel.net
Deacon Mike McGrady mmcgrady@saintgabriel.net
Deacon Dave Geislinger dgeislinger@diocs.org

MASS SCHEDULE

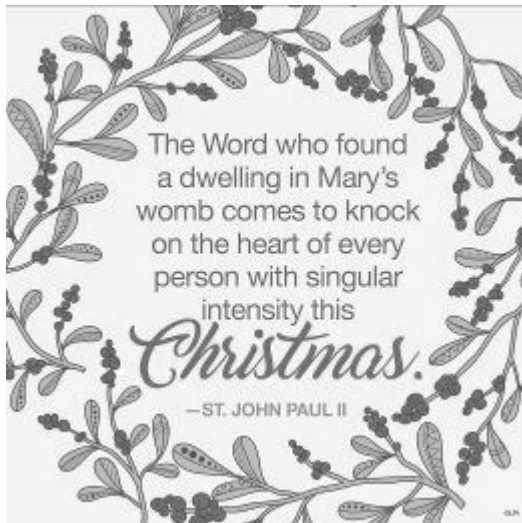
Weekend: Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 8:30 am,
10:30 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish) & 4:30 pm
Weekday: Tuesday-Friday 12:15 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday-Friday: 11:50 am-12:10 pm, Saturday: 2:30-3:30 pm, or by appointment.

EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AND ADORATION

First Friday: 10am to noon.
Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday 10 am to 7 pm.



RETRACTION

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE

There will be **DAILY MASS** on December 26 and 27. Confession begins at 11:50am followed by Mass at 12:15pm.

2017 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

Any contribution that is to be credited to tax year 2017 must be given to the church or postmarked no later than Dec 31, 2017. Any contribution received after Dec 31, 2017 will be credited to tax year 2018. All checks must be dated no later than Dec 31, 2017. Any check dated Jan 1, 2018 or later must be credited to tax year 2018.

ADORATION

"Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the most tender of friends with souls who seek to please Him. His goodness knows how to proportion itself to the smallest of His creatures as to the greatest of them. Be not afraid then in your solitary conversations, to tell Him of your miseries, fears, worries, of those who are dear to you, of your projects, and of your hopes. Do so with confidence and with an open heart."

— St. Damien of Molokai

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration) is every Wednesday from 10am - 7pm. Plan a time to share a little time with Jesus as we prepare for His birth.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Gabriel Parish Mission. Jan 22-24. Each night will begin at 6:30 pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ends at 9pm.

Fr. Greg Blamlage of Missionaries of the New Evangelization from Colorado Springs will lead the parish program.

Each night Fr. Greg will open us up to a deeper understanding of Gods magnificent love and to His desire to heal us in every way. Come with an open heart and an expectant faith.

For more information, please contact the office at 719-528-8407.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Dual Mass Obligation for Fourth Sunday of Advent and The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas). This year Christmas, a holy day of obligation, falls on a Monday. On this weekend, you will have a dual obligation to attend both a normal Sunday Mass as well as a Mass celebrating Christmas. To fulfill both obligations, you need to attend one Mass from First Obligation Masses and one Mass from Second Obligation Masses.

4th Sunday of Advent Masses (First Obligation)

December 24—Masses at 8:30am, 10:30am, and 12:30pm (Spanish).

Christmas Eve Masses (Second Obligation)

December 24 – Masses at 4pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm (Spanish), and Midnight

Christmas Day Mass (Second Obligation)

December 25 – Mass at 10am

New Year's Day Mass

January 1 – Mass at 10:00 am (combined)

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed Dec 25 and Jan 1.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Snow season is here! For office hours and possible Confession and Mass cancellation, please call 528-8407, for recorded information which will be updated by 9am. For specific ministry event cancellations, look for information from the ministry coordinator. Please be safe during these winter months.

CALENDAR

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Mon, Dec 25 Christmas Day. Mass at 10am. Office Closed.
- Wed, Dec 27 Eucharistic Adoration from 10am – 7pm. Pray the rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet after the 12:15 Mass. Children’s hour from 4-5 pm. Pray the rosary at 6:15 pm. Evening Prayer and Benediction starts at 6:40 pm.
- Wed, Dec 27 Dante’s Divine Comedy 7pm.
- Wed, Dec 27 Knights of Columbus Meeting 7pm.
- Fri, Dec 29 Reading/discussion group for Divine Mercy Prayer Cenacle in the Library after 12:15 Mass.
- Sat, Dec 30 Iron Sharpens Iron Men’s Breakfast 8:30-10:30am.
- Sun, Dec 31 Knights of Columbus Free Breakfast after 8:30am Mass.

SAVE THE DATE

- Jan 13 Faith Formation Facilitator Workshop 8:30-10:30am.
- Jan 22-24 Parish Mission “Christ’s Healing Love.”
- Feb 10 Women’s Conference 9:30am-3:30pm.

RETURNING GODS GIFTS UPDATE

We are almost there to meet our 2017 Goal.
2017 Parish Goal: \$113,435
Total Intentions: \$112,599.37
Total collected to date: \$108,935.85
Percentage collected: 96%
For every dollar donated past the parish goal the Diocese will give 1/2 back to the parish.

DECEMBER FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

YDisciples: Dec. 29-30- Lock-In, Jan. 1- Marian House Soup Kitchen, Jan. 6- Ice Skating.

BEACON OF FAITH CAMPAIGN UPDATE AS OF 11/30/17 PHASE 1-PARISH HALL

Total intentions to date: \$ 2,022,440.01
Total amount collected to date: \$523,162.79

There is still time to get your pledge in. Just go to <http://www.saintgabriel.net/commitment-form> and fill in the form.

CHRISTMAS

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.
~W. T. Ellis

Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance—a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved. ~Augusta E. Rundel

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas. ~Dale Evans Rogers

Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind;
Teach us to be patient and always to be kind. Amen.
~Helen Steiner Rice

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

This is a question we ask each other often before Christmas. Yet how many of us actually take a few minutes to kneel before the infant Jesus and ask Him what He wants from us this Christmas?

When we ask in prayer, it is very possible that we may hear a whisper that He wants us to share a little more of our time with Him. Maybe each of us could make a New Year’s resolution to spend more time with God by:

- Attending daily Mass.
- Finding some time for prayer in the morning.
- Ending our day with spiritual reading.
- Praying the rosary while we drive to work.
- Participating in Eucharistic Adoration (Adoration is From 10am-7pm Every Wednesday or simply stopping into church occasionally for a quiet visit.

Whatever you decide, the gift of time with God could be the very best gift we could give this year, not only to Jesus but also to ourselves. It might be just what our own hearts are truly longing for. You may also discover in prayer that Jesus may be inviting you to consider a gift of your treasure during this joyful season. Just as the Magi presented their gifts of great value to the new born King, in gratitude and in support of His mission, a Christmas offering to our parish can have tremendous impact on our mission!

May God richly bless you this Christmas Season!



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Deacon Mike McGrady
Director of Faith Formation



St. Gabriel the Archangel

Dec 2017

Hello Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Christmas Octave is a time to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation and the early years of Jesus' life. The octave begins with the birth of Jesus and ends on the eighth day with the veneration of Mary's role in the Incarnation.

Dec 25 - Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord.

Dec 26 - Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr.

Dec 27 - Feast of St. John, Apostle and evangelist.

Dec 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents and martyrs.

Dec 29 - 5th day in the Octave, Presentation in the Temple.

Dec 30 - Feast of the Holy Family.

Dec 31 - 7th day in the Octave, the prologue of John's Gospel.

Jan 1 - The Octave Day of Christmas, Mary the Mother of God.



As Christians, we are called to enter into these celebrations, beginning with the birth of Jesus as described in Luke 2:6-7. *"While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."*

Pope Benedict XVI explains in *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, from the moment of Jesus' birth, he belongs outside the realm of what is important and powerful in worldly terms. Yet it is this unimportant and powerless child that proved to be the truly powerful one, the one whom ultimately everything depends. So, one aspect of being Christian is having to leave behind what everyone else thinks, and wants, the prevailing standards, in order to enter the light of the truth of our being, and aided by the light to find the right path. How do you feel about leaving behind the standards of the world? What is in your power to change today? How will you celebrate the entire Christmas Octave?

May the Incarnation touch your hearts,

Deacon Mike

"When we give extraordinarily, extraordinary things will happen!"



Fr. Kirk Slattery, Pastor

OUR SHEPHERD'S TIDINGS



St. Gabriel the Archangel

Dec 2017

Dear St. Gabriel the Archangel Family,

In the still of the night, our Savior entered this world as a child. In that humble moment God revealed His love to all the earth. Let us rejoice with praise and thanksgiving as we share with one another the peace of this Christmas Season.

As your Pastor, I have been inspired and uplifted by the example of faith so many of you have given through your generous works and prayer. The lives of countless people have experienced the loving hand of God through your willingness to share the Gospel. You have helped to ease suffering, lift spirits, build up community, and have been the voice of justice for the most vulnerable.

May God continue to bless you and your families this Christmas season and New Year. May your hearts be filled to overflowing with the joy of Christ and the hope of salvation, as we look forward to the New Year with great anticipation, courage and conviction of faith.

On behalf of the staff and clergy of St. Gabriel, I wish you all a blessed Christmas!

May God bless you always,

Fr. Kirk

"when we give extraordinarily, extraordinary things will happen!"

Respect Life Events

January 15-Rocky Mountain Walk for Life.
January 20-Life March Colorado State Capital.
January 25-28- National March for Life in San Francisco.

EMERGENCY EXITS

In our continued focus on safety, we ask everyone to note the emergency exits in case of an emergency, such as a fire. These exits might not be the ones through which you entered. There are five exits from the Nave, all clearly marked - two on either side of the altar, two behind the overflow area, and one at the main (West) entrance. Please note alternate exits in case the one nearest to you might be blocked during an emergency. If we must exit during an emergency, please help others near you that may need assistance.

ST. GABRIEL'S ON FACEBOOK

Keep up to date on what is happening at St. Gabriel's by liking the St. Gabriel Facebook page. Find us under St Gabriel The Archangel Catholic Church.

SEEKING VOLUNTEER

Do you want to help make St. Gabriel's a safe place for Worship/Fellowship? We are looking for someone to lead our Health & Safety Team. If you're interested, please contact Marc Lanning at mlanning@saintgabriel.net or Steve Reed at stevenj.reed@yahoo.com for more information.

PARISH INFORMATION E-MAIL LIST

Keep abreast of all that is happening at St. Gabriel by signing up for the parish e-mail list. You can do this by going to the parish website at www.saintgabriel.net and clicking on Parish Info and selecting E-mail List Subscriptions and then filling out your e-mail address under Parish News.

Saint Gabriel's Men's Breakfast
4th Saturday of the Month
8:30 to 10:30 in the Four-Plex

"Don't be so judgmental!"

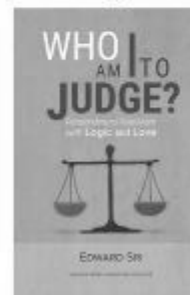
"Why are Christians so intolerant?"

"Why can't we just coexist?"

In an age in which preference has replaced morality, many people find it difficult to speak the truth, afraid of the reactions they will receive if they say something is right or wrong. Men of Saint Gabriel join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a spirit filled discussion as we explore Dr. Edward Sri's *"Who am I to Judge?"*

Dec 30 *What is Truth? - Common Questions about Moral Relativism*

Contact Deacon Mike for more information at 528-8407 or mmcgrady@saintgabriel.net



WEEKLY FAITH TOPIC
BIRTH DATE OF JESUS
PAUL TURNER

The opening of the third millennium harmonized with the tradition date of the first Christmas. Without a doubt, the birth of Jesus is the most important event to celebrate in a new millennium. But there is plenty of doubt about when that birth took place.

There is no clear historical record of the date and year of Jesus' birth. Although two of the Gospels record incidents pertaining to the event, neither assigns a date.

Two main theories surround the choice of Dec. 25 to commemorate the nativity. The first theory looks to a third-century Roman pagan celebration coinciding with the winter solstice. As the days began to lengthen each year, Dec. 25 became a festival for the rebirth of the unconquered sun. Christians, who believed Christ was the real unconquered source of light, put his birth date on the same day.

The second theory looks to the passion of Jesus. According to early conjectures, the actual day of Christ's passion fell on March 25 in the year Jesus died. Some Christians believed that Jesus died on the anniversary of his conception. For this reason, March 25 became also the celebration of the Annunciation. Looking forward nine months, the birth of Jesus was placed on Dec. 25.

The traditional year of Jesus' birth was fixed in the mid-sixth century by Dionysius Exiguus, a monk and scholar who set the calendar according to the system we now know as A.D. (anno domini, "in the year of the Lord"). However, Matthew and Luke both say Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, which scholars now calculate from 37 to 4 B.C. Oddly then, Jesus was probably born "before Christ."

Although the actual birth date of Jesus cannot be known, he was born, and the millennium commemorates this birth by recognizing that all of time hinges on the life of Jesus.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC 24

- Monday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/
 Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/
 Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/
 Mt 2:13-18
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/
 Lk 2:22-35
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/
 Lk 2:36-40
- Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/
 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a]

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

- Dec 25 John Riley, Candidate
 Dec 26 Paul Ruff, Candidate
 Dec 27 Rob Rysavy II, Candidate
 Dec 28 Bob Seydel, Candidate
 Dec 29 Andrew Swanson, Candidate
 Dec 30 Mark Thuli, Candidate
 Dec 31 Ed Wilmes, Candidate

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Faith Community, the newest members of God's Family: Luna Eilene Mercado Wilson baptized December 23.

TITHING RECIPIENT

The recipient of today's tithe is for Parishioner and Emergency Support Fund. This fund provides help with emergency needs of parishioners. Please pray for the people supported by this fund.

PRAYERS

If you have a request for needed prayers, strength, hope, courage or thanksgiving for yourself, family or friends, please email the Prayer Chain at ncbelanger54@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

- | | | | |
|------|--------|----------|---|
| Sat | Dec 23 | 5:00 pm | for: Carmela Mondragon (SI) |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 8:30am | for: Floyd McMillan (+) |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 10:30am | for: Pat & John Ciuba, Barbara Webb & Theresa Gieger (SI) |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 12:30pm | for: Kelly Trujillo (SI) |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 4:00 pm | for: Hugo Botto (+) |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 6:30 pm | Pro Populo |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 8:30 pm | for: Rose Cerretta (+) |
| Sun | Dec 24 | 12:00 am | for: Delphine Juarez (+) |
| Mon | Dec 25 | 10:00 am | for: Arthur & Charlotte Brisbois (+) |
| Tues | Dec 26 | 12:15 pm | for: Brad McBride (SI) |
| Wed | Dec 27 | 12:15 pm | for: Alice Parlett (SI) |
| Thur | Dec 28 | 12:15 pm | for: Peter Lacastro (+) |
| Fri | Dec 29 | 12:15 pm | for: Klein Family (SI) |
| Sat | Dec 30 | 5:00 pm | for: Nicholas Alexander Watson (+) |
| Sun | Dec 31 | 8:30 am | for: Jacob Anderson (SI Birthday) |
| Sun | Dec 31 | 10:30 am | Pro Populo |
| Sun | Dec 31 | 12:30 pm | for: Jack Appod (+) |
| Sun | Dec 31 | 4:30 pm | for: For Those Touched By Cancer |