

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 19, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 51 Vol. XXXVII

**CALENDAR ~ December 19, 2021**

Sat 18	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Florence Hill by Chuck & Janet Hill
Sun 19	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Michael King by Jim & Joan King Mass for 100th Birthday of Margaret Hamlen by Robin & Bonnie Worcester Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 20	9:00am 7:00am	Mass for ROS Ruhiela Cuadros by Mario & Alba Hernandez Men's Prayer Group
Wed 22	7:00pm	Mass for Richard Feldmeth, Jr., Happy Birthday by Claire Feldmeth
Thurs 23	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for the Spread of Devotion to Saint Joseph Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 24	5:00pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Wanda & Walter Chimiak by Nancy Frei Men's Prayer Group
Fri 24	10:00pm	Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Sat 25	10:00am	Mass for ROS Moe Daigle by the Daigle Family Bi-Lingual Mass
Sun 26	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm	Mass for ROS Guise & Maria Tuong by Kim Tran Mass for ROS Robert Riley by Giuliana Riley Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

*From a Medieval Saint*



*"We have no greater or clearer sign of the Nativity of Christ than the holy altar whereupon we daily receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Just as Christ was present in Bethlehem, though covered in swaddling clothes, He is invisibly present in the Sacraments."*

~Saint Aelred of Rievaulx~

*Wisdom of the Saints*



*"Good example is the most efficacious apostolate. You must be as lighted lanterns and shine like brilliant chandeliers among men. By your good example and your words, animate others to know and love God."*

~Saint Mary Joseph Rosello~  
Feast December 21

**For Annulment Information Contact:**

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or  
Email: [reharrill@rcdoc.org](mailto:reharrill@rcdoc.org).

**COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS**

Parishioners have the option of making their contributions online through the following link:  
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

**Contributions from**

**December 8 & 12, 2021**

Regular Collection: \$13,069.00  
Building Repair Loan: \$9,520.00  
Religious Retirement: \$1,877.00



*Christmas Mass Schedule*

Friday, 12/24: 5:00pm and 10:00pm  
(The 10:00pm Mass is our "Midnight Mass")

Saturday, 12/25: 10:00am Bilingual Mass  
(There is NO 5:00pm Mass)

**Mass Schedule for Next Weekend**

Friday Dec 31: 5:00pm: **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
Saturday, Jan 1: 5:00pm Epiphany of the Lord  
Sunday, Jan 2: **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**  
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule  
9:00am, 11:30am, 3:00pm



**DIOCESE of CHARLOTTE**



"This coming year is a historic occasion to inspire our parishioners and the larger community to a closer relationship with the Lord." The Charlotte diocese was formally established on Jan. 12, 1972, when Bishop Michael Begley was ordained and installed as the first Bishop of Charlotte. The diocese was carved out of the Diocese of Raleigh – splitting North Carolina into two dioceses, each with about 30,000 Catholics at the time. Now, the Charlotte diocese numbers more than 515,000 Catholics, making it one of the fastest growing dioceses in the United States. "An anniversary is a fitting time to reflect prayerfully and joyfully on our past, our present, and our future," Bishop Jugis wrote in his letter. "The Catholic faith has deep roots in western North Carolina, beginning long before the founding of the diocese. Thanks to the sacrifices, hard work, and devotion of countless missionary priests, consecrated men and women religious, and faithful lay men and women, the diocese was born and has flourished."

Anniversary plans are still being formulated, but celebrations will kick off with an opening Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on Jan. 12, 2022. Several articles will be featured in our bulletin throughout 2022

**Submit information for the bulletin** to Penny Watkins, at [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com); Deadline: 12:30pm, Wednesday before the bulletin comes out.



## JESUS AND THE PSALMS

About the Book of Psalms, Peter Kreeft wrote: "Here is the prayerbook God Himself inspired for us to use. Next to the "Our Father", they are the closest that human words will ever get to God's own answer to anyone who asks Him, *Teach us to pray*. In the Psalms we find joy and despair, praise and complaint, certainty and doubt, defeat and success, suffering and liberation. We should become familiar enough with them to be able to go to the one that is appropriate to the present occasion and need."

For most of us, that requires a little work in becoming more familiar with the psalms, prayers that Jesus used every day of His life. There are several ways we can use the psalms in prayer. The first way could be to pray a psalm according to how you feel.

Peter Kreeft wasn't the first to connect a psalm with a situation or feelings. In the mid 4th century, Saint Athanasius wrote a letter to his spiritual son, Marcellinus. He encouraged him to use the psalms in prayer because they provided a "fit form of words wherewith to please the Lord on each of life's occasions." Some examples he gave:

- If you are happy read psalms 92, 93, 96, 97, 100, 136, 150.
- If you are fearful read psalms 16, 23, 27, 46.
- If you are sorry read psalms 25, 32, 51, 79.
- If you are feeling indignant pray psalms 7, 17, 82, 94, 129.
- If you are brokenhearted pray psalms 6, 88, 137.
- When you are weary, pray psalms 6, 22, 31, 63, 90.

Another way to pray with the psalms is to pray the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office). Many of the psalms are used in a four-week cycle. Another "cyclical" method is to read the complete psalm from Sunday's Responsorial Psalm. Make note of the psalm number from the Missalette on Sunday, and during the week make the time to read and pray the entire psalm.

A method preferred by John Bergsma, one of today's foremost Scripture scholars, is to pray five psalms daily over the course of a month. Then do it for another 30 days, then another. He has one more suggestion... "Just do it! And don't just read them...meditate on them and pray."

The Book of Psalms offers us "timeless prayers for faithful people of all generations because they evoke universal and human experiences of need, want, oppression, contrition, praise and thanksgiving." (Kreeft)

Putting this into action, use the Responsorial Psalm for this week, Psalm 80, a psalm written or transcribed by Asaph. Asaph was one of three worship leaders in the tabernacle choir. Like King David, Asaph was considered a skilled singer and poet. He was also known as a seer and prophet. The complete psalm has twenty lines, but for today's Mass, only seven are used. The psalm expresses the community lament in time of military defeat. They pray that God will again turn to them and use the Davidic king to lead them to victory. This season of Advent is doing the same thing for us, so during this week, as we await the arrival of our King, read through the psalm...then read it again.

Then perhaps we shall do what Mary did... "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)



*"I love you, LORD, my strength, LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock of refuge, my shield, my saving horn, my stronghold!"*  
~ Psalm 18: 2-3 ~

### Advent Prayer of Love

Lord, thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your Son for us, even before we loved You. Thank You for inviting us into Your family. For all of us who are brothers and sisters in faith, please help us to love one another in perfect harmony. Father, please help us to see every person the same way that You see them.

Help us to love them the way that you love them — even when they don't love us back.

Please show us how to walk continually in Your love, that perfect love which casts out fear.

We love you, Lord.

Amen.