

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 23, 2007



Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph had lived his life as a good man, an upright person. But now this is something else again, for God had burst in on his life and on his family and tipped everything upside down. How is he to respond to all this?

The Christian life has little to do with “doing the right thing” but everything to do with giving our way over to God’s way, with falling into unconditional love.

Like Joseph, can we spend our life learning this?

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24TH

Mass Schedule for Christmas...

Christmas Eve – Monday, 24th December:

7:00 p.m. Oswald Foran by Claude & Colleen Lavigne

9:30 p.m. Pastoral Mass for Parish Community

Christmas Day – Tuesday, 25th December:

9:00 a.m. Helen McCrank by Joanne King

11:00 a.m. Claude Jacques by Mireille & Jacques Gauthier

29th Dec. Saturday 7:00 p.m. Jacques Lanouette by Funeral Choir

Joe Archambault by Suzanne & Family

30th Dec. Sunday 9:00 a.m. Thomas McSheffery by his wife Louise

11:00 a.m. Pastoral Mass for Parish Community

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31ST

Mass Schedule for New Year...

New Year’s Eve – Monday, 31st December:

7:00 p.m. Helen Laverty by CWG

New Year’s Day – Tuesday, 1st January:

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Blackman by Larry McNamee

11:00 a.m. Family Mass by Louise McSheffrey

Friday (1st) 8:30 a.m. Followed by Exposition and Benediction

For favours received by Claire Laframboise

Saturday 7:00 p.m. Jeanette Chartrand by Bingo Friends

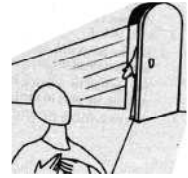
Sunday 9:00 a.m. George & Martin Tessier and Delina Farkas
by Mary & Olga

11:00 a.m. Coleman McConnell by Gloria Henderson

LAST WEEKEND’S COLLECTIONS: \$2,121.00 Thank You

HE'S HERE!

He is here! Emmanuel! God with us! **Open the door;** let the Lord enter! On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, *Christmas*, Christ coming again, is just around the corner. This is what we have been waiting for. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus, come! The Lord gives us a sign: the maiden will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel. This Son, according to the flesh, was the shoot from the stock of Jesse, that is, he was the descendant of David, son of Jesse. His resurrection revealed that he is the Son of God in all his power, living among us. He has pitched his tent among us. We belong to Him. In Him we can live in grace and peace; He saves us.



Come on in, indeed!

« Maranatha », What is that?

It is the word we have been using as response to the prayers of the faithful at Mass and also at last Thursday's Penitential Service and we will continue using it during the Christmas Season. It is an Aramaic word that means "Come, Lord Jesus." It is the language most likely spoken by Jesus. You find the word itself in the second last verse of the Bible: Revelation 22:20. And it captures well the longings of us as Christians: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus.!

*He comes, the Son of God, from the womb of a woman.
He comes to link heaven and earth in an eternal embrace of love.
He comes to be born in the cradle of humanity.
He comes to blaze a trail for justice.
He comes to console the fearful.
He comes to transfigure grief-stricken faces.*

*He comes as a human being to be God among men and women.
He comes to share the body of his life and pour out the blood of his love.
He comes to make the Invisible visible.
He comes to show the face of God.
He comes to heal the wounds of humanity.
He comes to lift up the drooping spirits of the world.*

*He comes to open God's arms.
He comes to minister divine tenderness.
He comes to die on a cross.
He comes to be laid in a tomb.
He comes to establish the power of life.
He comes to breathe the Spirit into us.*

*Do you believe this?
Nothing is impossible for God!*

LOOKING AHEAD TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 12:

The Ottawa Diocese is holding a formation session for all the baptized on the theme: ***Why do we celebrate Sunday Eucharist?*** It is an excellent way to prepare for the Eucharistic Congress. Leaders for the session are Fr. Roy Roberts and Fr. Bill Burke.

Saturday, January 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m at the Ottawa Diocesan Centre (1247 Kilborn in Ottawa). **Cost:** \$15 (bring your own lunch) **Registration deadline:** Monday, January 7 (613 738-5025, ext. 217 or email: abrown@ecclesia-ottawa.org)

Joseph, too easily overlooked?

We usually give more attention to the way the Evangelist Luke describes the message to Mary about the coming birth of Jesus. It is interesting that the Evangelist Matthew, for a variety of reasons, has the announcement made to Joseph instead. Who speaks the truth? Whom do we believe? It is not a matter of either-or. The message is so huge that one version of it does no justice to its significance.

Joseph, take your wife home with you.
The child she has conceived is the only Son of God.

Joseph, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt.
Their life is threatened.

Joseph, go back to Nazareth with Jesus and Mary.
That's where you will live.

Joseph, man of faith,
You said yes to God's plan.

Joseph, servant and son of the king
Be by our side and guide us to God



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT... A RIGHTEOUS MAN

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

You have only to say it and I shall do it. -----Mother Teresa

The gospels do not record Joseph's feelings upon learning of his predicament, though he planned to dismiss Mary quietly. When the angel instructed him otherwise, he hastened to shoulder this even more difficult burden. Ponder how you can follow the path to which God is calling you.

NET RETREAT: Host families are needed to house **Net Retreat Team one night only**, January 10th.
Contact Lynne LeGuerrier 819 684-4882.

49th INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS JUNE 15-22, 2008 (QUEBEC CITY):

Those interested in attending this event must register with the Gatineau diocese. **There are approx. 60 places left for our diocese.** Please contact Gerald Baril 819 771-8391. There is a \$30 rebate for registration taken before January: <http://www.cei2008.ca>

AYLMER ARMS APARTMENTS - NEEDS MEMBERS ON ITS BOARD OF ADVISORS: Aylmer Arms Apartments has an advisory group to its Board of Directors. It is a group of 7 members from the community representing the diversity of religious groups and community persons within Aylmer. They are **looking for 3 new members** to sit on the Advisory group. Interested? Please call the Parish Office.



WELL DESERVED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:



Congratulations to Ossie Miles who was recently presented with the "Community Volunteer of the Year" award by the Aylmer Sector, for his long term involvement with Meals on Wheels.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Wandaw Bobrowski, Hilda Preslawski, Odette Gratton, Pearl Proulx and their families in your prayers.

