

The Edwardian

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.

—*Luke 1:35*

Hail,
full of grace!
The Lord is
with you.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011**



Mass Intentions for the Week

- Sat. December 17—Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:45 p.m.
5:30 Simbang Gabi Mass
†Mamie Calderone req. by Nick & Peg
- Sun. December 18— Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Sacrament of Reconciliation 7:30, 9:00,
& 10:30 a.m.
8:00 †John Wegner req. by Jozwik family
9:30 †Victor & Mary Depa req. by Depa family
†Fr. Didier Bonnetterre req. by Pflanz family
11:00 †Robert Kurtzer req. by Kurtzer family
†Dorothy Keating req. by Mary Ellen Hayes
- Mon. December 19—Late Advent Weekday**
6:45 St. Edward Parishioners
8:15 †Patrick Comer req. by family
†Marty Pufpaf Jr. req. by family
- Tues. December 20—Late Advent Weekday**
6:45 St. Edward Parishioners
8:15 †Thea Ruhle req. by Highan family
6:30 pm Religious Ed Advent Reconciliation Service
- Wed. December 21—St. Peter Canisius**
6:45 St. Edward Parishioners
8:15 †Helen Ryczek req. by Ryczek family
- Thurs. December 22—Late Advent Weekday**
6:45 †In memory of Marty Lane 8th anniv.
req. by family
8:15 St. Edward Parishioners
- Fri. December 23—St. John of Kanty**
6:45 †Danica Vidovic req. by Hermia Ramos
8:15 †Robert Murray req. by family
- Sat. December 24—Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord**
4:30pm St. Edward Parishioners
10:30pm St. Edward Parishioners
- Sun. December 25— The Nativity of the Lord**
9:30 †Pascual Alfaro req. by family
Deceased members of Toop 904 &
Post 2904 req. by Troop 904 & Post 2904
†Jessica Vega req. by Mike Kurtzer
11:00 St. Edward Parishioners

Our Weekly Offering December 11, 2011

Sunday Collection:	\$ 7,028.75
Children's Envelopes:	21.50
Parish Pay:	\$ 1,520.75
Total Offering:	\$ 8,571.00

God bless you for your generosity.

Stewardship Reflections

"Do not be afraid, Mary." - Luke 1:30

It can be a little scary to do as God asks – to give Him the first fruits of our time, talent and treasure. The comforting words the angel spoke to Mary can comfort us, too, when we strive to be good Christian stewards – "Do not be afraid."

Church Happenings

Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30 a.m.
TRIP Sales 10:00—10:45 a.m. CH-L
Baptism 12:30 UC
Compassionate Friends 2:00—4:30 p.m. CH
STEP Club Drawing

Monday, December 19

RCIA 7:00 p.m. RH

Tuesday, December 20

No School
Religious Education Advent Reconciliation Service
6:30 p.m. UC

Wednesday, December 21

No School
Legion of Mary 7:00—8:30 p.m. CR
Cub Scout Committee Mtg. 7:00 p.m. RH
Choir Practice Adults 7:00 p.m. UC

Thursday, December 22

No School
Boy Scout Mtg. 7:30 p.m. CH
Choir Practice Children 3:45 & 4:15 p.m. UC

Friday, December 23

No School

Saturday, December 24

Novena/Rosary after 8:15 a.m. Mass

Sunday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

Rectory Closed

A note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

All four candles on the wreath are burning. The light is growing brighter. The Lord is near.

This year, Advent is as long as it can be. With Christmas falling on Sunday as it does, the Fourth Sunday of Advent is a whole week before the Feast. Usually Christmas falls on a weekday and then the fourth week of Advent is cut short. Sometimes, when Christmas is on a Monday, the fourth advent week is only one day long. But this year, it is a whole seven days. And so we still have time. Time to prepare – our hearts and minds and souls.

Traditionally one way for Catholics to prepare for Christmas is Confession – the opportunity for you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation continues this week. On Tuesday evening, December 20, at 6:30PM, the Religious Education Program will have a Penance Service. All parishioners are welcome. There will be extra priests available to hear confessions that evening. If you have not been able to work this part of your spiritual preparation into your busy Advent, this is a good time, and the last opportunity before Christmas.

* * *

We have a Christmas gift for you. Of course, the Greatest gift is the Christ Child – God incarnate. And His great gift to us is the Father’s love, which he demonstrated in his sacrifice on the cross. His next great gift – the promise of eternal life for those who believe in Him and follow Him. And then He gave us His Church. Some of us are not as close to him as we once were, or not as dedicated to Him as we want to be. We need some encouragement.

Perhaps some of you were able to see a part of the series “Catholicism” broadcast recently on WTTW, Channel 11. Created by a Chicago priest, Fr. Robert Barron, it is a rich and beautiful video presentation of facets of the Catholic Church. It is very moving and heartening.

A similar opportunity will come to us next weekend. You will receive a gift from St. Edward Church - our Christmas gift to you. After Christmas Mass, each person will be given a book called “*Rediscover Catholicism.*” It is a wonderful 21st-Century synopsis of what we believe as Catholics. It is well-written, with a sense of humor, by Matthew Kelly, a dynamic speaker, dedicated to helping others to become “the best version of themselves” – just as God wants us to.

It is a perfect gift. Though it is not totally free. I ask that you please read it and then give it to someone in your family, or a friend, to read. Someone who perhaps has been estranged from the Church, or someone who has disengaged from their faith. This gift, passed along by you, might help re-ignite their relationship with the Lord and with the Church.

* * *

How are we doing with the new translation of the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal? Some people (and priests) are doing very well it, remembering the places in the Mass where the new words or phrases come along. Others, like me, may stumble across a change now and then, if we’re not paying attention. Somehow it catches us off guard and we find ourselves saying what we have said for the last forty years. It’s only natural I suppose. It can even be a little comical. But, no doubt we will adjust. I’m sure God is pleased with our efforts. And He is worshipped by the desires of our hearts. So let us be patient, with ourselves and everyone else. “And with your spirit.”

God bless you all,

Father Mike



THE "O ANTIPHONS" OF ADVENT

On the last days of Advent, you may wish to add these "O Antiphons" to your evening prayer, your prayer at table, or your bedtime prayer.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

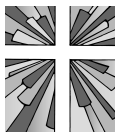
December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

—From *"Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers"*

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday of Advent

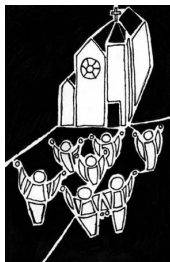


Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How can I make known to others the Incarnation of Christ?

Fourth Sunday of Advent Pray Before You Speak



Have you ever been told to "think before you speak?" Nathan seems to have spoken too soon when he told David to do whatever he wanted about building a house for the Lord. I suppose he was being respectful to his king, and it sounded like a good idea. But later that

night the Lord gave him a message for David, that God did not need anyone to build a house for him; God would make David's house (in the sense of family or descendants) last forever.

Nathan was a prophet and was expected to speak for the Lord. When he finally listened to the Lord, he got the message right. And that can be a lesson to us. Instead of just thinking before we speak, it could be a good idea to pray before we speak.

How many times have we said something in anger (or selfishness, fear, any strong feeling) that we wished we could take back? If you just think before you speak, you might just rationalize what you wanted to say in the first place. But if you take a little more time to bring your feelings to God, ask for his guidance and listen for what God would have you say, things might turn out a lot better.

God can also surprise us if we give him the chance: The kingdom ("house") God was predicting was not a political one, but a universal one. Jesus fulfills this promise as the Son of God who came to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Jesus himself prayed to the Father often in his life.

And we can do the same. We pray before meals; why not pray before going to work? We can pray before making decisions about our family, getting engaged, taking a new job, buying a new house (car, HD-TV, etc.) When a friend or relative needs someone to talk to, we can pray that we listen well and say what God wants our friend to hear. When we are sorry for hurting someone, we can pray for forgiveness and even listen to God, for what we might do to make up to them. If we have enough faith to let God guide our lives, let's take the time in prayer to listen for that guidance.

Thank You!

22nd Annual Cookie Walk

SEPO would like to give a great big thank you to all our tireless bakers who generously donated their time and talent to our 22nd Annual Cookie Walk. A special thank you to all the people who helped to make this a great success!



Cindy Rosasco
Kathy Chun
Jodie Armenta

ALTAR SERVERS FOR WEEKDAYS
Mon., Tues. & Wed., December 19 & 20 & 21: S. Asplund & M. Dunne
Thurs., Fri. & Sat., & December 22 & 23: M. McDermott & L. Lorenzo

MASS SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

MASS	PRESIDER	LECTOR	EUCH.MINISTERS		SERVERS
Dec. 24 Saturday 4:30 pm	Fr. Jim McIlhone	Robert Asakura	Paten: 1 Carmencita Lanuza 4 Lourdes Ryczek 5 Faye Quintus	Cup: 2 Kris Jozwik 3 Marty Ryczek	P. Bledsoe G. Bledsoe M. Dunne
10:30 p.m	Fr. Mike Cronin	Alfonso Aguirre	Paten: 1 Lou Cella 4 Nancy Flood Donahue 5 Cheryl Flood	Cup: 2 Phyllis Michalik 3 Ray Michalik	S. Campos C. Asplund S. Asplund
Dec. 25 Sunday 9:30 am	Fr. Jim Beath	Sr. Mary Emmeric	Paten: 1 Sr. Mary Beth Minkel 4 Archie Africa 5 Don Chun	Cup: 2 Carol Farrell 3 Open	D. Reudas J. Lark E. Jove
11:00 am	Fr. Mike Cronin	Dave O'Donnell	Paten: 1 Dom Ciruelas 4 Carmelita Ciruelas 5 Ellen Marie Villella	Cup: 2 Joan Wirkus 3 Bernadette Brosnan	C. San Juan P.Brite S. Geraghty

"Preparation"

Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.

From "Christmas: Pope Benedict XVI Spiritual Thoughts Series."
 ---General Audience, December 17, 2008

Oplatki Wafers

This is the last weekend the traditional Oplatki Wafer will be available in the Church vestibule.

The suggested donation is \$2.00 per packet. Please give your donation to the priest or drop in the collection basket.

Proper Undertaking

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.

—George C. Lichtenberg



Holiday Mass Schedule

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Dec. 25th Christmas Day
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 31st New Year's Eve
5:30 p.m.

Jan. 1st New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy
Mother of God
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

St. Edward 2011 Choir Concerts

You are cordially invited to our Children and Adult Choir Concerts on December 24th.

* * *
 Children's Choirs
 3:50 p.m. before the Vigil Mass.

Traditional Adult Choir
 10 p.m. before the Midnight Mass.





"Murder in the Rectory"

This weekend is your last chance before Christmas to purchase tickets for the dinner theater event, "Murder in the Rectory," sponsored by the Hospitality Ministry. Ticket sales will resume after all Masses beginning Jan. 7, 2012.



CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL LIVE ON WGN-TV

Cardinal George will be the main celebrant at Christmas Midnight Mass at Holy Name Cathedral. WGN-TV/Channel 9 will broadcast this Mass live on Christmas Eve beginning at 12 a.m. for viewers in Chicago and the suburbs. Fr. Greg Sakowitz will provide English language commentary throughout the broadcast. This mass will be streamed live on WGN TV's web site: www.wgntv.com/livestream

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ON WCIU

A Christmas Mass pre-recorded at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls and celebrated by Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago, will be broadcast on WCIU-TV, Channel 26, at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. *Check your local cable schedule for broadcast times outside of Chicago.*

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Notices for the
January 1st Bulletin
are due in the Rectory office
by 3:00 p.m. on **December 19th**

Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Vocations

In today's Gospel the angel Gabriel said to Mary "Do not be afraid..." Without understanding all that will flow from it, Mary speaks her yes. Are you called to say yes to God? Do not be afraid! Men of college-age and older are invited to an *Exploring Priesthood Weekend* retreat at Mundelein Seminary to learn about, pray, and reflect on the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. The next EPW is **January 13-15, 2012**. To register contact Fr. Brian Welter at:

312-534-8298 or bwelter@archchicago.org

See www.ChicagoPriest.com for more details.



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Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 9:00 AM — 7:45 PM

Saturdays: 9:00 AM — 5:30 PM

Sundays: 9:00 AM — 12:30 PM

Priests

Rev. Michael J. Cronin, Pastor

Rev. James D. Beath, Associate Pastor

Rev. James P. McIlhone, resident

Retired Priests

Rev. John J. Donohue, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Joseph C. Taylor (In Residence)

Masses

Sunday: 5:30 pm (Sat.); 8:00, 9:30 &
11:00 am

Weekdays 6:45 and 8:15 am

Saturday: 8:15 am

Holy Days: 6:45 am; 8:15 AM and 7:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Advent Schedule: 4:45 p.m. Saturdays and one
half hour before each mass on Sundays.

St. Edward School

Sr. Marie Michelle, O.P., Principal

Mrs. Catherine McGill, School Secretary

4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue

Phone: (773) 736-9133

E-Mail: stedward60630@yahoo.com

Website: www.stedwardschool.com

**“TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND
A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN.”**

“A Time to Heal”—

Ronel Acar, Cecile Bechtold, Mary Ann Breidenbach, Noelani Faith Brighton, Brian Burgeson, Purification Ciruelas, Arturo Del Rosario, Joan Henry, Matthew Jensen, Ronald Klish, Andoy Laqui, Will Lill, Loring Malibiran, Virgilio Mangubat, Begelita Marquez, Pat McNulty, Catherine McGill O’Connor, Tim Mrozenski, Chris Nikolich, Dorothy Osbourne, William Reidy, Bruno Rosellini, Suzan Shepherd, Noella and Herman Schutt, Kilian Bede White, Sherry Wooden

“A Time of War”—

Raul Donald Aguilar, Lou M. Arceo, Michael Camp, L.Cpl. Tim Ferretti, Sergeant Clifford Gara, Rory Hehir, Juan Hernandez, Collin John Jones, 1st Lt. Randall Kester, Craig Lensegrav, Joselito R. Mercado, Sean O’Connor, Gretel Ypil Odon, Spc. Nicholas Saladino, Robert Stillwell, SSG. Edward Swartz, Brian West

“A Time to Die”—

All the Military and Innocent Civilians who have died in the War.

Please keep all these listed, and their families, in your prayers.