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| THIS WEEK: | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | <i>N.B. Christmas Eve-Day Liturgy Times Pre-Registered and Scheduled Directly by Contacting Fr. Young. For Christmas Eve-Day masses, there is not time for confessions so please come Tues-Wed eve if needed.</i> |
| 7:15am Lauds (Morning Prayer) | (Dec. 22) | (Dec. 23) | |
| Mass Intentions may be requested by contacting: | Mass Time | Mass Time | |
| | 8AM | 8AM | |
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| Fr. Young | 7-9PM Additional Confession Times | 7-9PM Additional Confession Times | <i>Weekend Liturgy options online at Sign-up Genius link (see below)</i> |
| <u>SIGN-UP FOR MASSES</u> | | | |

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10CoD4FABA82DABF8C25-LITURGIES](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD4FABA82DABF8C25-LITURGIES)

Pastoral Message

The Scripture readings for today's fourth Sunday of Advent focus on the circumstances leading up to the first 'advent' (coming) of Jesus. The event which sets the pattern for his coming to us now and at the end of time. The Gospel stresses the key role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the work of our salvation. In addition, today's Scripture texts describe God's promise to David and its fulfillment in Jesus, the Son of David: the long-expected Messiah. The unfolding of God's plan of salvation through history has contained many twists and turns. Our first reading tells of God's promise to David that he would have a long line of royal descendants culminating in a final King, Jesus Christ. The Psalmist recalls all of God's promises and surprises us, describing God's promise to David and his descendants in terms of a Covenant. St. Paul's explanation in our second reading is of the unveiling of God's plan for human salvation through Jesus. Yet it is with the Gospel - the Good News - proclaimed to and consented to in the Blessed Virgin Mary that we see the culmination of salvation take flesh amongst us. The Gospel narrative reminds us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings, or even in great kings like Solomon, but rather in humble souls who say yes to God's Word. Most especially, in Mary we see that in hearing the Word of God - and freely obeying it - His Word takes flesh and pitches his tabernacle (i.e. tent) in our midst. We are so blessed - though we are not worthy for our Lord to 'come under our roof' - nevertheless, He so wills to offer His mercy daily; and comes to dwell within our healed soul & body.

Like Our Lady - we need to say a courageous and generous "yes" to God: True obedience comes from a free choice made in the light of what is true and good. Such a self-surrender often requires a great deal of courage because it can involve going against the tide of social expectations. True obedience also aims at putting oneself at the service of something/Someone that is greater than oneself, accepting what God clearly wants us to do or what He wants to do through us. It is by saying, with Jesus and Mary, a wholehearted and totally unconditional "Yes" - "*Fiat! May it be done in me,*" to Jesus that he will be re-born in each of us, or maybe even born in me for the first time. By my saying "Yes," Jesus will be born or re-born in others, too. The Good News in today's Scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the salvation of His people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. In many cases, our work for God seems rather ordinary, but each ordinary task which we carry out fits into God's plan in ways that we cannot yet understand. God desires not only the skill of our hands and talents but the love of our hearts. The Babe in the Manger reminds us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing for Him in return? Let us show our gratitude to God by living as true followers of Christ: "Behold, here I am, Lord! I come to do Your will."

~WITH JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, FR. GEOFFREY YOUNG

Some notes for Liturgies throughout the coming weekends and for the Christmas celebrations:

- Arrive around 5 minutes before your scheduled time for liturgy (stay in your warm cars). It is best during this time to park on 12th ST side to use front entrance. Doors will be propped open when the Church is ready for you. You will see the doors open; **but please allow the exiting persons to leave first before approaching the entrance.**
- Once the liturgy has begun - the doors will remain shut - **no admittance will be permitted during this time under any circumstances** until you see the doors opened up. Assisting staff will help facilitate this and to allow a safe and free flow of traffic coming and going.
- Following the liturgies - for those able to assist in sanitation - wipe down your seats with the available cleaning supplies. The designated assisting staff at each particular service will help facilitate this. For all others, please depart as expediently as possible. Please, during this time, do not linger and visit in the Church-Gym our welcome area. Because of time constraints, it is important to clear out the area so it can be sanitized and prepared for the next parishioners to enter.

Ways to Contribute to the Church: Our Lady of Lourdes has a **food collection** for families in need connected to our parish community. To assist us in this ministry, you may make monetary donations out to the parish (indicate with a note/in the Memo: 'Food Collection'). This helps us to be able to buy goods or items particular to each situation. You will receive a charitable tax receipt of any monetary gifts given to the parish for this or other contributions. **Our parish also will be preparing Christmas hampers.** During Covid, this is the best way to help prepare hampers as we can buy any necessary items. Again, and gifts made out to Our Lady of Lourdes, with a note/memo to indicate where your gift is to be directed.

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS LESSON

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we listen to the Gospel that marks the end of the time of waiting. We listen to the very moment when everything changes--a brand new moment in the history of the Kingdom of God. Mary gives God her "Yes!" How can we give our "Yes!" to God? For age appropriate reflections on the Gospel, go to <https://www.thebetterpart.net/> and click on the age group for your child.

