

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2011

THE DRAMA OF SALVATION

I was an amateur actor in my youth and fascinated by ancient Greek theater. The plays that I read fell into only two categories—they were either tragedies, where noble characters struggled blindly against a dark and fixed fate; or they were farces, where the absurd characters expressed all the folly of human life. But I always felt that something was missing. Later I understood that the missing element was *drama*, those moments in which everything depends upon a moral choice or a conversion that will finally allow truth, justice, and love to conquer. What I missed in these plays was the element of the person's freedom that decides everything. It seemed to me that, for the Greeks, fate did not hinge upon human freedom. It is the Christmas story that reveals drama, not tragedy or farce, as the heart of our lives. As the angel delivers his message to Mary, it is a drama that unfolds; absolutely everything hangs upon a free choice, a word, from a young girl. Heaven itself is silent and fixed upon her answer. Will she say yes or no? Her drama is ours. The event of the incarnation hangs today upon our frail freedom, and heaven itself waits to hear us say, "Be it done!" so that Love may conquer.



Father, you make the event of your Son's incarnation pass through my freedom. May the prayers of the Virgin Mary grant me your grace and help me say for the sake of my salvation and that of the whole world.

Father Vincent Nagle, R.S.C.B.
Published by: Magnificat

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

4th Sunday of Advent

No Pastoral Council Mtg.

2:00 PM Reserve Corps of St. Michael-Church

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Religious Education Class

6:30 PM Choir Concert

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 PM Bible Study-hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:30 PM Penance Service at Holy Name

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:30 PM Prayer, Praise & Worship-Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00 PM Choir Dress Rehearsal-Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

5:15 PM Children's Mass

11:30 PM Carols & Midnight Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

HOLIDAY

Christmas Day Masses 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

OFFICES CLOSED

No Bible Study

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24

5:15 p.m. +Angula Bates

Midnight Int. of all Parishioners

Sunday, December 25

8:00 a.m. +Gwen Harmon

10:00 a.m. +Jackeline, Dilcia, & Wilfred Morgan, Jr.

Monday, December 26

8:00 a.m. +Edmund Richards

Saturday, December 31

5:15 p.m. Int. of all Parishioners

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 2012 REVIVAL
Friday, Saturday & Sunday - January 13, 14 & 15 @ 7pm nightly
Father Charles "Chuck" Andrus, SSJ - Revivalist
Retain HOPE and fulfill the DREAM!
Music by: St. Agatha Choir, St. Brigid Choir, Holy Name Brighter Day Jr. Choir,
Chris Nuño, Reverence, Transfiguration Gospel Choir.
PRAISE DANCERS



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Holy Name of Jesus Tuesday, December 20th - 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Children Mass – Saturday, December 24th 5:15 PM

Midnight Mass - Saturday, December 24th

(Christmas Carols at 11:30 PM)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Sunday, December 25th 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

No 12:15 PM Mass

NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, December 31, 2011 – 5:15 PM

Sunday, January 1, 2012

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:15 PM

ADULT CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, December 18th - 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

We are asking that you be as generous as possible with your giving. Envelopes are in the pew. We will place the envelopes on the altar for prayer in Memory of, or in Honor of, your love ones.

DID YOU KNOW? Shopping mall safety tips

It's easy for kids to get sidetracked with all the sights, sounds, and smells surrounding us at holiday time. It is especially important to monitor your children when taking them through the mall during the Christmas season. If children become separated from you, teach them to look for a "safe stranger" who can help them. For example, a mom with kids or the cash register person can help a child who is lost. Avoid telling children to go to the "manager." Any adult in a suit, who looks important, can look like the manager to a child. 2. Children must be told never to leave the mall or store to go looking for you in the parking lot. Let them know that you would never go outside or leave until you are reunited -- no matter what anyone else tells them. For Assistance Ministry call 213.637.7650.

SACRIFICIAL GIFTS

Sunday, December 12, 2010

\$6,188.14 Sacrificial Gift
468.46 Building Fund
267.69 "We Care"

SACRIFICIAL GIFTS

Sunday, December 11, 2011

\$4,478.37 Sacrificial Gift
358.36 Building Fund
204.78 "We Care"

SCHOOL NEWS

The students, parents, teachers and staff of Transfiguration School would like to wish its parishioners, friends and family a very Merry Christmas and Happy & Prosperous New Year.

School resumes Tuesday, January 3.

Join the school as we celebrate **Dr. Martin Luther King Day** with our parade on Friday January 13, 2012.

MEN, MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 20, 21, and 22 2012. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, and Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM. Friday. Our retreat opens at 6:15 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 1:30 PM. A **\$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.** This years Retreat theme: **CATCH THE FIRE! Responding to God's Touch.** To make your reservation please call Greg Warner 323.974.7405, 310.538.2214 or Maurice Simon 323.296.1501.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 2 Sm 7:1-16, Ps 89:2-29, Lk 1:26-38

Monday Jgs 13:2-25, Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45

Thursday 1 Sm 1:24-28, Lk 1:46-56

Friday Mal 3:1-24, Lk 1:57-66

Saturday 2 Sm 7:1-16, Lk 1:67-79

Midnight Is 9:1-6, Lk 2:1-14

Sunday Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Jn 1:1-18

ALTAR SERVERS ASSIGNMENTS

Saturday, December 24

5:15pm Nia Robertson, Chris Robertson,
Arianna Foster, Makiya Foster, Carl Clay

Midnight Brenden Wilkerson, Gilberto Gonzales,
Maurice Burnett, Nicholas Godfrey

Sunday, December 25

8:00am Noelle London, Delisa Madere, Derek Madere

10:00am Caycee Chapman, Allias Hinton,
Martin Hill, Anthony Roque

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS!

A Benedictine nun writes: "We ask God to bless the faithful who made contributions in order to help us in our retirements." Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests offer their heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

PETITION FOR THE SICK

Virgie Aguillar, Yolanda Anderson, LaVern Agnew, Oliver Bartholomew, Booker T. Ball, Edgar Banks, Timothy Baker, Sr. Juliet Berber, Jerone Bill, Glenda Brown, Mary Brown, Andrei Briggs, Manual Brule, Bernard Byars, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Dorothy Campbell, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Katherine Clark, Lois Gomes Clark, Shirley Dieudonne, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, John Crear, Nigel Dunn, Angela Dupré, Ethel Earley, Connie Farlice, Anita Finie, Edith Foster, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Mavis Gibbs, Catherine Green, John Grossman, Pat Hernandez, Marion Hernandez, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Angela Johnson, Ellis Jones, Irwin Lagarde, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Sr. Marianna, Vylfred Manor, Johnny Moll, Yvonne Morgan, James U. Mundy II, Dorothy Okoye, Paula Osborn, Dale Payne, Daisy Pratt, Gerald Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Michelle Raines, Emma Rausch, Evelyn Roach, Reanna Semien, Lionel Smith, Sr., Shirley Spicer, Darnell Stang, Michele Starks, Wilbur Starks, Ken Ruff, Alice Tenette, Louise Thomas, Emma Thornton, Curtis Tureaud, David Tureaud, Iris Turner, Lubertha Weathers, Doris Whyne, Leon Williams, Lilla Williams, Patricia Williams and Agnes Wilson.