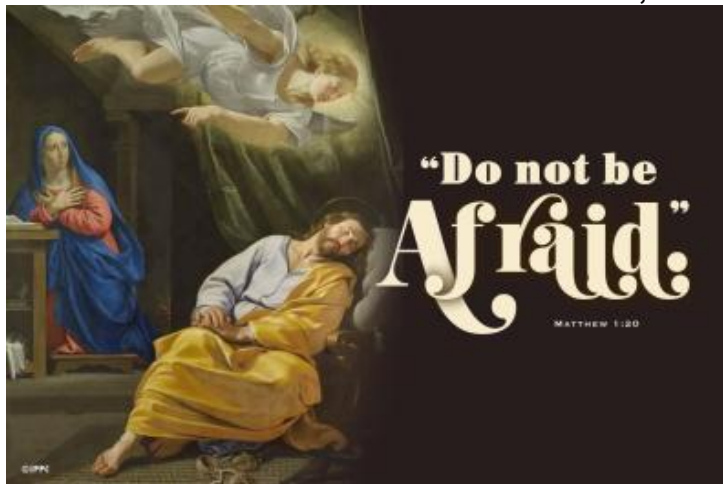


4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second: Romans 1:1-7

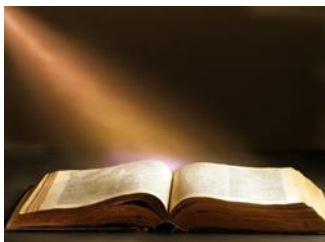
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-2

FOCUS: *God keeps his promises.*

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord reaffirms the promise of a savior for his people, a savior born under unusual circumstances who would clearly be God's chosen one. After many years had passed since that promise – years in which the Lord continued to guide and prepare his people – we hear of its fulfillment in Matthew's Gospel. In this final week of Advent, let us rejoice and praise God for he is faithful and keeps his promises.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Isaiah prophesies that the Lord will give his people a sign: A virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son and will name him Emmanuel. Paul introduces himself to the Romans as one called to be an apostle and set apart for the Gospel of God, specifically among the Gentiles. In the Gospel, Matthew recounts how the birth of Jesus Christ came to pass, in accordance with Isaiah's prophecy.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Mary Olsen, Ralph Batelli, Nancy Wood and Charles Watson

10 a.m.: Frances Hernandez, Antoinette Locatelli, Trish McGinn and Rosa Larreina

THE OPLATKI HAVE ARRIVED!

Oplatki, the Polish Christmas wafers, have been a Christmas staple in Poland for centuries.

While different traditions have evolved among some families, typically at Christmas Eve dinner, the eldest breaks off pieces to share with the others – along with good wishes. According to the Polish Art Center, the pink wafer is often reserved for the family pet (although it's fine for human consumption) to mark the significance of the animals at Jesus' birth – and in our lives. For that reason, this meal should be meatless.

St. Paul's has blessed packages of Oplatki available on a first-come, first-served basis through the office – or ask one of the deacons during the weekend.



CELEBRATE WITH US!

Christmas Eve Mass/Children's Pageant
5 p.m. Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
8 p.m. Saturday, December 24

Christmas Day Mass
10 a.m. Sunday, December 25

Solemnity of Mary, Vigil Mass
5 p.m. Saturday, December 31

Solemnity of Mary
10 a.m. Sunday, January 1

GOSPEL DISCUSSION RETURNS

Coinciding with the church's liturgical year, Scripture discussion of the Gospel of Matthew will take place on Zoom from 10-11:15 a.m. Mondays, beginning January 9.

New participants are welcome! If you would like to join the group, call Gail VanTassel at 845-457-3432 so that the Ignatius Bible Study Guide to accompany this discussion can be ordered.

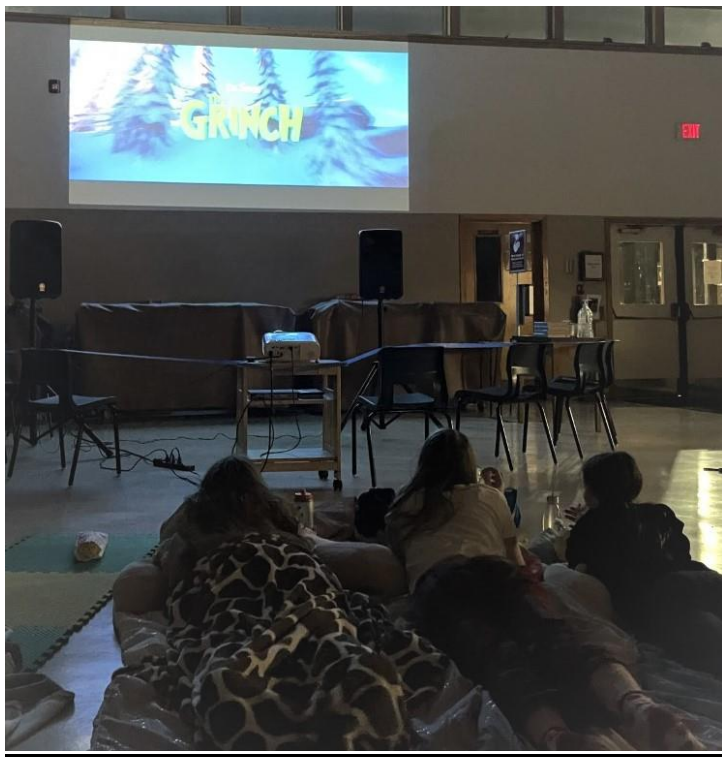
TREASURER'S REPORT

December 4-11: Totaled \$ 7,351.25

Envelopes: \$ 2,658.00 – Online: \$ 4,693.25
THANK YOU!

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday: 65
10 a.m. Sunday: 78 (snow)



IT'S A CINCH TO LEARN FROM THE GRINCH

For a few hours last Friday evening, Deacon John Hall became Whoville for almost 100 Grinch-ed-out movie fans who attended Religious Education's Family Movie Night that featured the classic 2018 version of "The Grinch."

Jessica Carpino, the Religious Education coordinator, appropriately attired in winter-worthy Grinch loungewear, was assisted by Kimmy-Lou Who in orchestrating the event. As the enthusiastic youngsters raced into the hall wearing Santa caps and clutching their blankets and Squishmallows, the organizers first had to play "mat police," ensuring that no more than two colorful mats per pint-size body were taken to set up their comfortable viewing spaces. Although there was no Who-pudding or roast beast, freshly popped popcorn was provided on which to feast.


After the final credits rolled, Ray Andidero found out he hit gold. The 50/50 winner took his cash, leaving future RE projects with a \$115 stash.


And as the children slipped away, they were given their assignments for another day: "Reflect a little more upon what you just saw. Practice corporal works of mercy so your hearts will grow. For the true meaning of Christmas is sharing God's love, as you know."



Above and from the left, Kimmy-Lou Who, Mr. Who, a/k/a Joe Porpora, and Jessica Carpino.

ADVENT UPDATE

 For **Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers** and **Altar Servers** who wish to serve during Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary (New Year's) weekends, there are signup sheets on the bulletin board between the church and the hall.

 Reconciliation Monday is this **Monday, December 19**. There will be priests available at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church** in Middletown from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. There will be **NO** priests available at that time at St. Paul's.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Please remember our **Food Pantry**, the use of which continues to grow.

We are able to keep up because of our partnership with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley – and your generosity!

Your donations of **unexpired** and non-perishable foods are appreciated. Almost all our pantry items are low at this time – with the exception of canned soup. Thank you.



