

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

St. Michael's, Spalding—St. Theresa's, Ericson—Sacred Heart, Greeley

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Dec. 27: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Psalms 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20, 2020

There are just five days left until the celebration of Christmas begins. Let's live these last days of Advent well. We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of the Blessed

Mother's "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel.

As Disciples of Christ, the next sentence is also important for us. After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example today.

This Christmas let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. He will give us all the help and strength we need. That is what Rejoice tells on this last and fourth Sunday of Advent - the difference, the presence of Jesus made in the Holy Family. Why not take Jesus into your life and family from this Christmas so that He can make all the difference in your life?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May 2021 be kind to you! Please keep me in your prayers. You are in my daily prayers. *Fr Antony*



MASS INTENTIONS

TUE	12/22	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	†	John Doyle
WED	12/23	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	†	Joe Nekoliczak
THU	12/24	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	†	Clinton & Steve Asche
		5:00 p.m.	SACRED HEART		Dick & Annette Ackman
		7:00 p.m.	ST. THERESA'S	†	Don, Thad, Tricia, & Jacob Ita
		10:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	†	Larry Diessner
FRI	12/25	9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	†	Fritz Foltz
		11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	†	Francis Murphy
SAT	12/26	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	†	Pauline Haggerty
SUN	12/27	7:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	†	Lewis/Margaret Berger & Diane Nickolite
		9:00 a.m.	SACRED HEART	†	Alice Kavanaugh Mulcahy
		11:00 a.m.	ST. THERESA'S		PEOPLE OF PARISH

Merry Christmas!

COMMUNION SERVICES

SM at 8:00 a.m.

SH at 9:00 a.m. weekdays when a Mass is not scheduled.

ST at 8:00 a.m. Thursdays with Rosary to follow.

Catholic Dictionary

pall: A funeral pall is a white sheet of fabric that is designed to cover a casket during a funeral Mass in the Catholic Church.

The pall is placed upon the casket, symbolizing the white garments the individual would have worn at the time of his or her baptism.

REST IN PEACE Our condolences and prayers to the families of Jim Valasek, Henry Kahlandt Jr (Wendy Carraher's father), Charlie Scott. Please remember Larry Torson, who was buried this past week from SH. Please keep them in your prayers.



Note: Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24 & Dec. 25th. Bulletin deadline is Tuesday at noon.

* **ADVENT RECONCILIATION:** *
* Fr. Antony will be the only priest to *
* hear confessions. *
* **ST:** Sunday, December 20 following *
* 11 a.m. Mass until complete *

**SM, SH, ST
TRAVELING CRUCIFIX
FOR VOCATIONS**
Please consider signing up
for one week.



Note: SM—Wednesdays, Dec. 23 & Dec. 30, adoration will be from 12:30-1:30 only.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
St. Michael's	Wed. 12:30 p.m. to Thurs. 4:45 p.m.	First Friday, Jan. 1, 24-hr, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart		
St. Theresa's	Due to COVID-19 Adoration is suspended until further notice.	

ADVENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen

ST. MICHAEL'S	SACRED HEART	ST. THERESA'S
LECTOR Dec. 24: (5pm) Therese Cockerill Dec. 24: (10pm) Ed McCarthy Dec. 25: Dan Mailander Dec. 26: Ed McCarthy Dec. 27: Dan Mailander EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS HOSPITALITY MINISTERS ALTAR SERVERS MUSIC MINISTRY COLLECTION COUNTERS Dec. 27: Tammy Diessner CDA Rosary Second Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.	LECTOR EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS HOSPITALITY MINISTERS ALTAR SERVERS MUSIC MINISTRY ROSARY ELEVETTE SACRISTAN Dec. 24: Mary Ann McQuillan Dec. 25 & 27: Patty Harris DISINFECTING TEAM Dec. 24: Chuck & Kathy Sweeney Dec. 25 & 27: Pat & Shelly Donovan COLLECTION COUNTERS CARE HOME /HOMEBOUND COMMUNION	LECTOR Dec. 24: Paul Nordhues EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS HOSPITALITY MINISTERS ALTAR SERVERS CHURCH CLEANING Dec. : All the Women of St. Theresa's PRAYER CHAIN Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick Rosary for Vocations—Sundays 10:30 a.m. prior to Mass.
THE LORD'S PORTION December 13 Envelopes \$ 6010 ACH/online \$ 50 Plate \$ 105 Children's \$ 0 Total July 1st to date \$ 94,418	THE LORD'S PORTION December 13 Envelopes \$ 1,429 ACH/online \$ 165 Plate \$ 620 Children's \$ 0 Total July 1st to date \$ 43,629	THE LORD'S PORTION December 13 Envelopes \$ 590 Plate \$ 55 Children's \$ 0 Total July 1st to date \$ 23,713

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Spalding Academy Homestead Program
Development Director

The Spalding Academy Homestead Program Development Director works to grow the community of Spalding, Spalding Academy and St. Michael's Church through fundraising; public relations, family, business and workforce recruitment; strategic planning; and relationship building. The Homestead Program creates opportunities for families and businesses to relocate to Spalding, Nebraska by providing opportunities for job placement, business growth, community fellowship, housing and school enrollment. The Homestead Program seeks to propel the growth of Spalding Academy and St. Michael's toward the Omega Point, which is heaven. All programs and efforts are in communion with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Spalding is a community of 520 on the edge of the Nebraska Sandhills and is positioned for exponential growth.

If you are interested, kindly approach Fr. Antony!



SM FALL AUCTION Raffle Winners:

John Deere riding lawn mower - Carol Seamann
Quilted wall hanging - Mariah Murphy
\$100 bill - Charles (Chuck) Mahony

More info/totals to follow at later date.

SM Religious Education
UPDATE: No classes until January 13 due to Covid.



SM/ST/SH -2021 Catholic Calendars are here!
Please thank our sponsors for underwriting the cost of these beautiful calendars at the main entrance of church.

ST MICHAEL'S FALL DRIVE:
Our total to date: \$42,380.03
of Donors: 41

FAMILIES IN FAITH:
Please pick up your book
I Heard God Laugh. They are
at the back of church. Merry
Christmas and Happy New
Year...Fr. Antony

SH is needing volunteers for the rosary, lector and/or door keeper/greeters for Christmas Eve and Christmas day Masses. Please contact Louie or Mary Bauer 428-5105.

SM/St. Anne's
December Church Cleaning: Circle of Trust
Side B : prefect Arlene Molczyk
Rotation: Hope, Joy, Trust
Dec. MEN'S CLUB: Team 8: Tim Pfeifer, Bill Thome

Reminder 4th Week of Advent -
Rejoice, Advent Meditations w/ the Holy Family, Sun., Dec 20th, 7pm,
go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrf8gqJVRQ>

CHURCH ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTIONS:

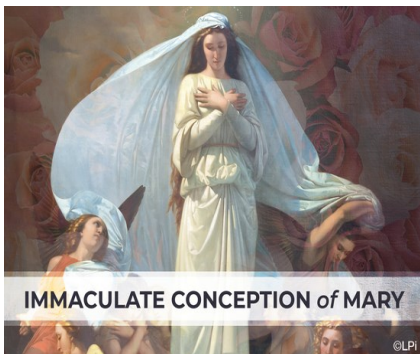


Due to COVID-19, you may send in your church contributions to the office weekly or monthly. St. Michael's & St. Theresa's may be sent to **PO Box 310**, Spalding. Sacred Heart may be sent to **PO Box 99**, Greeley. Automatic withdrawal (ACH) from your bank account can be set up for St. Michael's, St. Theresa's or Sacred Heart. Contact the parish for details.
NEW: Give online with WeShare. Go to our parish website: www.families-infaith.com. Go to the home page and click on the link.



We pray during Advent that we may open our hearts in love and hope as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth.

November 29— First Sunday of Advent
 December 6— Second Sunday of Advent
 December 13—Third Sunday of Advent
 December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent



'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, Be it done to me according to thy word'

Dec. 7:	St. Theresa's	5 pm
	St. Michael's	7 pm
Dec. 8:	St. Michael's	8:15 am
	Sacred Heart	7:00 pm



God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy... Pope Francis

Dec. 15:	St. Michael's	6-8 pm or by appt
Dec. 17:	Sacred Heart	6-8 pm or by appt
Dec. 20:	St. Theresa's	Following 11 am
		Mass until complete

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec. 24:	St. Michael's	5 pm and 10 pm
	Sacred Heart	5 pm
	St. Theresa	7 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

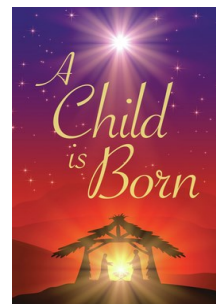
Dec. 25:	Sacred Heart	9 am
	St. Michael's	11 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dec. 31:	St. Michael's	5 pm
	St. Theresa	7 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Jan. 1:	St. Michael's	8:15 am
	Sacred Heart	7 pm



Ministries

Sacred Heart:

12/8/20
 Sacristan: Cathy Hansen
 Disinfecting Team:
 Louie Bauer/ Tom Donovan

12/24/20
 Sacristan: Mary Ann McQuillan
 Disinfecting Team:
 Chuck/Kathy Sweeney

12/25/20
 Sacristan: Patty Harris
 Disinfecting Team:
 Pat/Shelly Donovan

1-1-21
 Sacristan: Jeanette Walsh
 Disinfecting Team:
 Ken/Diane Ryan

St. Michael's-Lector:

12-7-20: Sarah Seamann
 12-8-20: SA/TBD

12/24/20:
 5 pm—Therese Cockerill
 10 pm— Ed McCarthy

12/25/20: Dan Mailander
 12/31/20: Robert Ballweg
 1/1/21: Duane Seamann

St. Theresa's-Lector:

12/7/20: Mark Smith
 12/24/20: Paul Nordhues
 12/31/20: Julie Landgren



OPENING PRAYER

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. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles: Light the first and second violet candles, the rose candle, and the final violet candle.

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:11–14

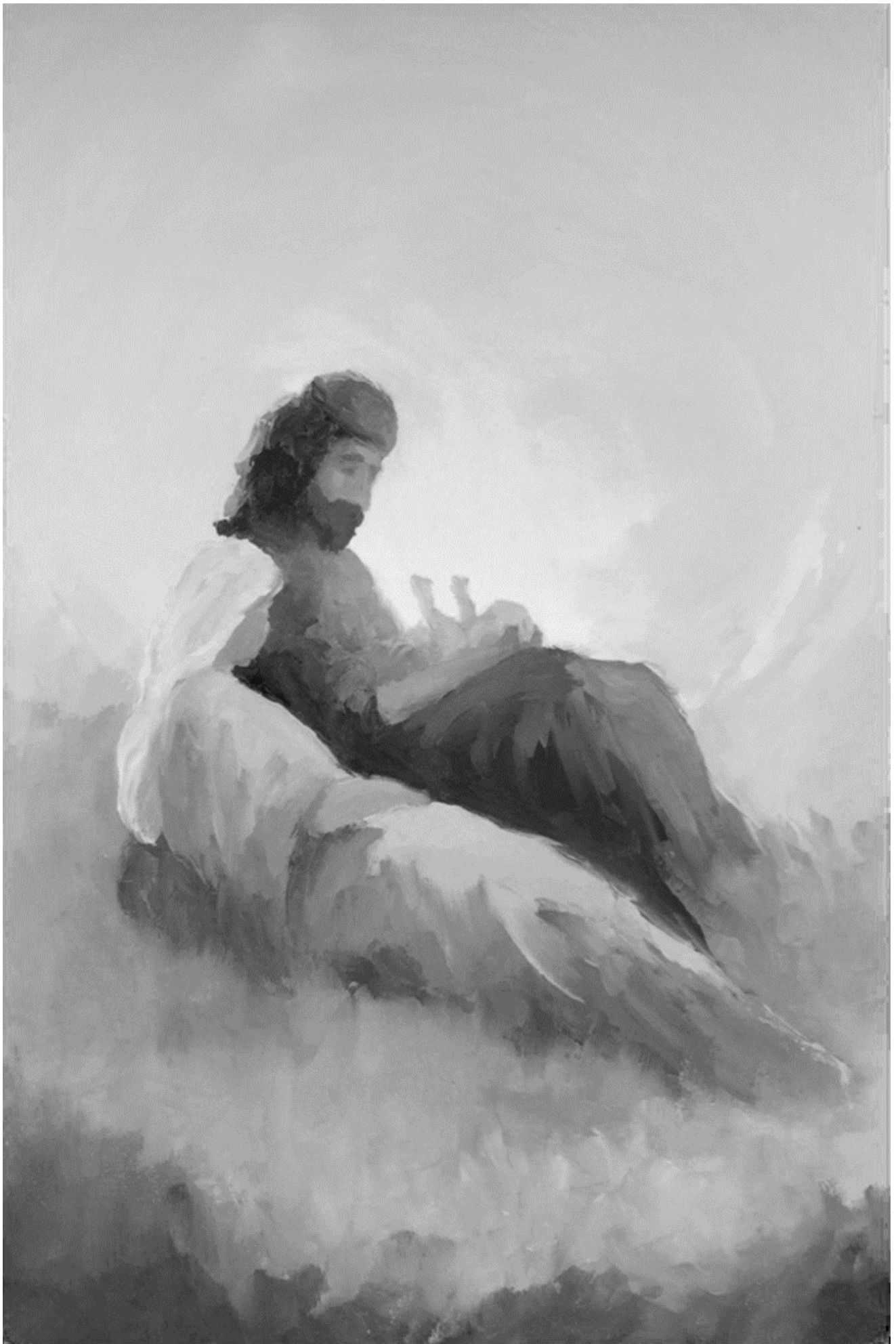
Besides this you know what hour it is,
how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep.
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;
the night is far gone, the day is at hand.
Let us then cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
we rejoice with Mary at the message of an angel,
announcing that the time for the promised Messiah has come.
With Mary, we await with joy for his birth on Christmas Day.
Help us to prepare our hearts for your Son with acts of charity
done out of love for you.
Increase our faith, so that we may say with Mary:
“Let it be done to me according to your word.”
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.
Amen.

Song: Sing five verses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”





OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
grant that, as we joyfully welcome the coming of
your Only Begotten Son, Jesus, our Redeemer,
we might merit to face him confidently
when he comes again as our Judge.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lighting of the Candles: Light all the candles on your Advent wreath,
including the white candle in the center, if included.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18–25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, “God with us”). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife but knew her not until she had borne a son, and he called his name Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the wondrous gift of your Son,
born in Bethlehem so many years ago.
May we continually make a welcome place for him in our hearts
and receive him anew each day.
Increase our love for you,
and give us the grace to live in accordance with the teachings of your Son.
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.

Song: Choose your favorite Christmas hymn to sing. Merry Christmas!

