Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
— Luke 1:42
December 23, 2018 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth follows a strong tradition of women in their culture, to come together to support each other during pregnancy. Mary likely carried a shadow of scandal in her pregnancy, since it began before her marriage. Elizabeth, having carried her own burden of social disapproval after many years without children, sees only cause for celebration. Elizabeth sees beyond the social shame of Mary’s situation to observe how God is working, and how Mary has accepted joining in this work.

Unlike Elizabeth’s husband Zechariah, who thought it unbelievable that God could bring them a son, Mary believed the angel’s message. Elizabeth honors Mary, in part, for simply being able to imagine that God could do this extraordinary thing through her. Perhaps God had been preparing Mary’s heart throughout her young life, so that she could be fully receptive to God’s specific call when the time was right. Mary opened herself to an uncertain future, trusting that God would accompany her in the joys and sorrows of being the mother of Jesus.

PREGNANT WITH GOD

Advent, as a time of preparation for Christmas, echoes the pregnancy of Mary. Something is stirring within us, and we await the coming of Jesus. Although we the Church have observed Advent and Christmas many times, God is always offering something new to us. Like the angel asked Mary, God is always asking us to allow Christ to be born in and through us. Christ wishes to make himself at home within us, and increase his presence in our hearts.

Like pregnancy, at times God’s activity within us can be disorienting and confusing. The story of Elizabeth and Mary reminds us that however uncertain we may be about what God is up to in our lives, we have cause to rejoice—because God is indeed good, and will truly bring blessing to us. And through letting Christ be born in us, God will bring blessing to the world.

Today’s Readings: Mic 5:1–4a; Ps 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Heb 10:5–10; Lk 1:39–45

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St. Francis Xavier Parish
7th and JEFFERSON STREETS, MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. 26041
Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):
Sat. 3:30 p.m., or any other time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:
By appointment. Contact the Parish House at least six months before the date of the marriage. Pre-Cana is required.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
By appointment. The Diocese requires instructions beforehand for the parents. Contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (C.C.D.):
Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. for Grades 1-12.

REGISTRATION AND CHURCH SUPPORT:
Parishioners should be properly registered at the Parish Office.

Church Office Phone: 304-845-1593
Church Hall Phone: 304-845-9238
Xavier Hall Phone: 304-845-7080
Rev. That Son Cell: 408-858-7467
Parish Office Email: sfxmoundsville@comcast.net
Website: sfxmoundsville.org

MASS SCHEDULE:
Weekends: Saturday - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
Weekdays: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.
Holy Day Mass Schedule: 8:00 am, 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

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WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:
12/29 4:00 p.m. Danny Prado/ Libby Magnone
12/30 8:00 a.m. T. Wise/ L. Remke
12/30 10:00 a.m. L. Whitelatch/ C. McDonald

Altar Servers:
12/29 4:00 p.m. Volunteer
12/30 8:00 a.m. Kent
12/30 10:00 a.m. Whitelatch

Gift Bearers:
12/29 4:00 p.m. Kay Bosworth & Daunel Gump
12/30 8:00 a.m. Dan & Lori Laberdeee
12/30 10:00 a.m. Georgia Petit

Sacristy Cleaners: Week of December 24, 2018
Sue Church & Cindy Gunto

Greeters:
12/29 4:00 p.m. Celeste Evans
12/30 8:00 a.m. Roger Frame, Phil Kent
12/30 10:00 a.m. Larry Freeland, Butch Miller

Bingo December 28, 2018
Raffle: Diane Barker
Kitchen: Sue Church and Kathleen Naegele

COLLECTION: December 9, 2018
Envelopes - $3,114.00
Loose Offering - $1,611.00
Religious Retirement - $626.00
Electronic Giving - $35.00
Building Fund - $595.00
Memorial Offerings - $285.00
Pennies for God - $10.10
Attendance - 274

SECOND COLLECTION CHRISTMAS
Catholic Charities West Virginia

Celebrate the joy of Christmas by giving in the true spirit of the season. Share your gratitude for all of the blessings that you have received throughout the year, confidently knowing that your gift is assisting our parish in advancing the mission of the Church. —All gifts made before December 31 are tax deductible for the tax year in which your gift was made.

Mass Intentions For The Week

DEC. 22 SATURDAY
4:00 P.M. John A. Helfer†
(Kathryn Helfer)

DEC. 23 SUNDAY
8:00 A.M. Tom Bonar†
(Bonar Children)
10:00 A.M. John Colucci†
(Cindy Gunto)

DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 P.M. For living and deceased members of St. Francis Xavier Parish
10:00 P.M. Estep and Yeater Families
(David Yeater)

DEC. 25 CHRISTMAS
10:00 A.M. The benefactors of Saint Vincent dePaul
(St. Vincent dePaul Society)

DEC. 26 WEDNESDAY
8:00 A.M. Raymond Blatt†
(Tom & Monica Bonar)

DEC. 27 THURSDAY
8:00 A.M. Joseph A. & Mary C. Patrello†
(Mike Patrello)

DEC. 28 FRIDAY
8:00 A.M. Deborah Depiero†
(Robin Targosky)

DEC. 29 SATURDAY
4:00 P.M. For departed friends†
(Ta Ta Mary)

DEC. 30 SUNDAY
8:00 A.M. The Targosky children
(Their parents)
10:00 A.M. Monica Mercer†
(Christina Wetherell)

Don’t spread germs! Flu season is upon us. Remember, it can be spread through hand contact. (We now have a hand sanitizing station in the vestibule.) If you are ill, you are permitted to stay home.
PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS:

Prayer Request: Gregory “Shad” Fromhart, Don McCormick, Maggie Yeater, Gina Hoops, Dianne Hill, Miriam Kulavik, Rodney Kerekes, Kimberly Peffley, Bobby Kleinedler, Chris Colby, Richard Timko; **Homebound:** Semon & Phyllis Prado, Doris Murphy, Bob Tetrick; **Nursing Home:** Gary Dobbs, Patricia Schmidt, Helen Remke, Thelma Gitlin, Barbara Meyer, Elizabeth Potts, Marilyn Neidhardt, Joe & Helen Cuchta

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Dec. 21 - Jan. 2 - Church office closed
Jan. 16 - Parish Council meeting 6:30
Jan. 17 - Screening of “Recovery Boy” 1:00 P.M Church Basement
Jan. 23 - Monthly cooking series: Viet Nam 11A.M - 1 P.M. Church Basement
Jan 26 - World Youth Day

**The Sanctuary Candle** beside the tabernacle burns this week for: Robert & Bernadine Miller Requested by Miller/Porter Families

MONTHLY COOKING SERIES
Learn to make basic fried rice, fresh spring rolls and soup with Father That Son. 11:00 to 1:00 in the Church Basement on Wednesday, January 23. The monthly series will explore the cuisines of Italy, Poland, Germany, Ireland, Lebanon, Greece and America. If you have a talent for cooking please volunteer to lead a session.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
Wednesday, January 16
6:30 P.M.
Church basement

Screening of the movie **RECOVERY BOYS** on THURSDAY, January 17 at 1:00 P.M. in the church basement. This documentary is set in West Virginia and deals with the current, ongoing opioid epidemic. Filmmaker Elaine McMillion-Sheldon and her team spend 18 months tracking four young white men and their struggle to recover. We are inviting some of the people involved with the making of this film to join us. The parish will provide pizza and refreshments.

Thank you to decorators, cleaners, servers, canters, lectors, shut-in project volunteers, communion ministers, and all who helped make this Christmas season wonderful.

‘Tis the Season of giving:
Give Hope
Give Time
Give a smile
Give life a chance
Give positivity
Give Thanks

May the spirit of God be with you this Christmas, and may your family be blessed with all of his most precious gifts.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday. Father That Son and the parish staff.