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*Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

— Luke 1:42



Blessed
are you
among
women

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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Church Office Phone: 304-845-1593
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Rev. That Son Cell: 408-858-7467
Parish Office Email:

Website: sfxmoundsville@comcast.net
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.

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





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December 23, 2018
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 and blessed is the fruit of your
 womb.
 — Luke 1:42

Mass Intentions For The Week



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- 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
 Estep and Yeater Families**
(David Yeater)
 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)

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 Laberde
 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.

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

INTRODUCING

**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.



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.

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.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 16

6:30 P.M.

Church basement

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



The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." LK 1:41-42





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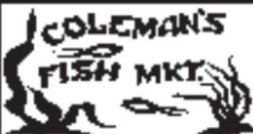


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