

St. Cecilia's Bulletin

4th Sunday of Advent - December 23, 2018

During Advent we have been celebrating our emptiness.

I suppose this sounds odd, and yet give it a thought. If we were completely filled up we would have no room to let anyone or anything in. We would be like a clump of mud or a great thick mountain.

Somewhere in scripture the people ask God to take their hearts of stone and make them into hearts of flesh. Throughout Advent we have been asking especially for that. A time to become aware of God and then thank God for the spacious emptiness that a human heart has within it. Living hearts, not stone ones.

Increased dark allows human beings to hunker down inside their shelter, cozy and patient, waiting for the light to come back. Increasing our own emptiness and our own darkness can be frightening. The shade spreads out its kingdom every day here in the Northern hemisphere as Christmas comes nearer. We see less by natural light, and our body systems squirm to readjust.

I used to be resentful as the daylight hours got shorter and shorter—and especially when “daylight savings time” collapsed and the dark settled in an hour sooner in the afternoon. It was dark well before I left the office. Depressing. Finally, a few years ago, I saw some wisdom in deprivation and darkness. Increased dark allows human beings to hunker down inside their shelter, cozy and patient, waiting for the light to come back. This helps them reflect upon themselves.

It is the same way within our souls. Our darkness and our emptiness are where Jesus is to be born on Christmas. The places in us that are gloomy, angry, or jealous, these form our darkness. The friends who leave us behind, they have a high, family time while we feel so alone—this is where the child will be born.

*Watch Mary hasten to her cousin's house, a long trip, on foot, over dirt and sand and rocks, under the hot, hot sun (*Gospel*). She does not have a need to be coddled and queenly in order to bring forth The Holy One. She does not spend a second worrying whether the way is too hard. Her soul somehow knows about the soft light that will shine from within her. Everything else is in second place.*

Maybe emptiness can speak humbly from within us too. For a minute or two we could quit trying so hard to make everything alright in our admittedly arduous worlds.

*Let go and let God. That way we will get to know the one whose “origin is from of old” (*First Reading*). We might even let him take up his home in us. He can make himself whatever size is needed for our souls. What better Christmas could there be?*

- Fr. John Foley, SJ

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, December 24

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

TUESDAY, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WEDNESDAY, December 26

7:30 pm - Legion of Mary - Legion Room

THURSDAY, December 27

No Activities Scheduled

FRIDAY, December 28

12:30 pm - Movie - Collins Center

7:30 pm - Patricians - Serra Room

SATURDAY, December 29

10:00 am - Centering Prayer - Collins Center

4:00 pm - Holy Hour - Our Lady's Chape

9:30 A.M. FAMILY MASS COFFEE & DONUTS

Today the Knights and the League of the Sacred Heart will host coffee and donuts.

Next Sunday's the Young Families Group will host coffee and donuts.

Christmas at St. Cecilia's

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

**5:00 p.m. - Fr. Michael Liliedahl
with music by Frances Peterson**
**7:00 p.m. - Fr. Sebastine Bula, VC
with our Children's Choir**
11:15 p.m. - Carol Concert
**Midnight Mass - Msgr. Romulo Vergara
with Adult Choir and Orchestra**

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Sebastine Bula, VC
**9:30 a.m. - Fr. Michael Liliedahl
with music by Frances Peterson**
**11:30 a.m. - Msgr. Romulo Vergara
with Adult Choir and Orchestra**
NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

A Christmas Greetings to all of You

Dear Parishioners,

As we gather at Mass to celebrate God's coming among us, may we grow in faith, be reconciled to God and to one another, and let the light of Christ shine forth from our hearts to all the world. May God's blessings descend upon you and all your loved ones during this time of grace.

The Staff at Saint Cecilia's

*Please note that the Rectory Office will be closed
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!*

FINAL APPEAL FOR OUR 2018 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

If you have not already responded to the Appeal, now is the time, so that we may each do our fair share in supporting the Archdiocese. Your donation is tax-deductible, and will help us so that we don't have to take approximately **\$66,612.00** from our Sunday collections to pay our assessment. Gifts should be mailed to: Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2018, Archdiocese of San Francisco, One Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, CA 94109. Please write "St. Cecilia, S.F." in the memo. You can also donate online at SFArch.org/AAA. Thank you for your generosity.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY IS A
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE MOTHER OF GOD**

**THE MASSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31ST AT 5:30 PM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1ST - 7:00 AM & 9:00 AM
(NO evening Mass on January 1st)**

MEMORIAL FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES are available inside the Church. The 11:30 am Christmas Day Mass will be offered for the people whose names are listed on the envelopes. Deposit envelopes near the Jessie Tree. Donations help offset the expense of flowers & Christmas trees for your Church's Christmas environment.

Did you know... That St. Cecilia's has paid for a membership in Formed.org for you? Visit formed.org on a web browser, and click on "Register" (lower right of page). Enter our Parish Access Code: **RZDPQZ** along with your email, create a password (to log-in, later), and

COLLINS CENTER NEWS

Closure: The Collins Center programs will take a Christmas break. Doors will open again on Monday, January 7th. **One exception: Movie:** "Back to God's Country", a Rock Hudson adventure film will be shown Friday, December 28th at 12:30 pm.

MONDAYS - CHURCH CLOSER

Due to the shortage of Knights, we will no longer be able to keep the Church open after the 9:00 am Mass every Monday. However, if we get an influx of new Knights, we will be able to resume keeping the Church open on Mondays for our parishioners.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHTS

St. Cecilia is one of the few Churches which remain open between Masses so that people can come to pray in a secure environment. We are able to do this because of the Knights of St. Cecilia, a group of men and women who volunteer their time - an hour a week - to mind the Church. They stand duty between 10:00 am - 5:00 pm weekdays and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Please give prayerful consideration to donating a little of your time. If you are interested in becoming a Knight please call the Rectory at 415-664-8481.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Welcome to St. Cecilia!

We welcome all who are visiting our Church this Christmas season, and we are delighted that you are here to share our joy at the birth of our Lord! If you would like more information about the Catholic faith, we invite you to join our Inquiry group which will start in February 2019. Come, and bring a friend!

For more information: Call Cynthia Ziganti at 415-664-8481 or c.ziganti@stcecilia.com.

ST. CECILIA SCHOOL HELPS FIRE VICTIMS

A **second school collection** to send additional gifts to the victims is in the works. If you would like to contribute, please contact Heather Baria at heatherbaria@gmail.com or you can send your donation in cash or check (made payable to St Cecilia SCRIP) to the School or Rectory.

YOUNG LADIES INSTITUTE DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Young Ladies' Institute will be having their annual Day of Recollection on Saturday, January 5th at St. Gabriel's Bishop Quinn Center, 2559 40th Avenue. Fr. Daniel Carter will be the moderator. Registration is at 9:30 am with Mass at 10:00 am. Registration fee is \$10. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea, and desserts will be provided. For questions and to register please call Helga Zinck at 650-871-8389 by Saturday, December 29th.

RECENTLY MARRIED

Michelle McDonnell & Christopher Cunningham

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF SOUL OF THOSE WHO HAVE

RECENTLY DIED:

Mercedes Marcelino Carigma

Enez Lembi

Stephen Pacatte

Sunday Ministries for Next Weekend

5 P.M. Saturday - MUSIC: Frances Peterson; Presider: Fr. Bula; Lectors: Marco Celi & Irene Quan; Euch. Min: Marco Celi, Irene Quan, Tina Celi, Garrett Scanlan; Altar Servers: Joshua Ling, John Malta Magana, Adam Zarkewki, Ashling Greene

7:30 A.M. Mass - Presider: Fr. Bula; Lectors: Donna Bruno; Euch. Min: Donna Bruno & Kathleen McKeon; Altar Servers: Kayla Hoy, Con McKeon, James Kramer, Riley Hartnett

9:30 A.M. Family Mass: The Young Families Group - MUSIC: Cecilia Cardenas; Presider: Fr. Bula; Euch. Min: Ann Sundby & Conrad Chu; Altar Servers: Becca Button, Anthony Monares, Marcus Bast, Aidan Downs

11:30 A.M. Mass - MUSIC: Adult Choir; Presider: Fr. Landi; Lectors: Kathy Wendy Ho & Mary Mangan; Euch. Min: Wendy Ho, Mary Mangan, Benjamin Kim; Altar Servers: Eddy Dudum, Vincent Douglas, Lyla Simpson, Steven Su

This Week's Mass Intentions

Monday, December 24

7AM - John Gaffey

9AM - William Nanry, Jr.

Christmas Eve - No Mass Intention

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day - No Mass Intentions

Wednesday, December 26

7AM - Eve Hutton

9AM - Anthony Greene

5:30 - Marian Connelly

Thursday, December 27

7AM - Jack & Nita Dineen

9AM - Margaret & Frank Lynch

5:30 - Marian Connelly

Friday, December 28

7AM - Brian McEntee, Living

9AM - Nicholas & Kitty Murphy

5:30 - Thomas J. Scanlan

Saturday, December 29

7AM - Marian Connelly

9AM - William Hogan

5PM - Jeanne Gafar-Nakamura, Living

Sunday, December 30

7:30 AM - Luke Philpot

11:30 AM - Howard & Virginia Arata