

Sunday, December 24, 2017: Fourth Sunday of Advent

FR. JARETT'S CATHOLIC Q & A



I have a son with a family of his own who does not see the need of going to mass every week. The reason he uses to defend this decision is that he knows too many people who call themselves Christian and then act completely opposite the rest of the week. How can I respond to this?

“While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ He heard this and said, ‘Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.’” (Matt. 9:10-12)

It’s interesting how we as humans place certain expectations upon others, and then forget about placing similar expectations upon ourselves. So, my question to your son would be, is he waiting on a Christian Catholic Church full of earthly saints before he will see the need of God’s strength in this sacrament of the Eucharist?

Now, please don’t get me wrong. I see this Catholic dilemma every week. So many of us Catholics going through the motions every Sunday and then not making any effort to live out our Christian faith to any degree during the rest of the week. However, it begs this question. If this dilemma causes us to lose faith in God, in Jesus Christ, and in His Catholic Church, where have we placed our faith? Let me use an example.

During seminary, one of the priests who had inspired me to pursue priesthood, who had showed me qualities that I desired to have in my own priesthood, was accused, convicted and sent away to prison on charges of sexual misconduct. This news caused me great distress in my own vocational discernment. At one point, I seriously thought about leaving seminary and choosing a different path. If this was the type of thing that a priest, who had greatly inspired me, could do, then perhaps I didn’t want to be a priest. Who’s to say that I couldn’t be tempted to the same things, and by leaving seminary, at least I would not become a hypocritical priest.

Then, my spiritual director posed this question to me, “How has God’s call, God’s voice in your life changed as a result of the actions of this priest?” The only answer that I could come up with was that God’s call and voice had not changed. In my prayer I still felt as though God was calling me to priesthood. I realized that I had been allowing the struggle of another human being to affect my own relationship with God and His call in my life.

How easy it is to get so caught up in the horizontal aspect of life; the people around us, our family, friends, fellow parishioners, and to allow the sin of our brothers in sisters in Christ to affect our vertical relationship with God. The Church is made up of human beings, and if we place our faith in them, we will always be disappointed, because we tend to be weak and to sin. However, if we place our faith in God, and in the rock of His Church, we will never be let down. I’m sorry but the Church is not a museum of saints, it’s a hospital for sinners. You’re going to have to come up with another excuse to skip Sunday Mass.

Have questions, clarifications, or concerns. Email them to Fr. Jarett at father.konrade@eaglecom.net

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tithing: Your Gift to God

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Collection for the week of Dec. 17	\$ 20,629
Weekly Collection to meet Fiscal Budget:	\$ 15,227
Fiscal Year Budgeted:	\$791,815
Collected Year to Date:	\$359,576

Dec. 31 Bryan & Melissa Schoepf
 Jan. 7 Jared & Ashley Bauck, Courtney Brady
 Jan. 14 Michael & Melissa Dick & Kerry Schuckman
 Jan. 21 Derek & Vanessa Schumacher & Kathy Stenzel

Readings for

Week of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)

Vigil: Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12 / Ti 3:4-7 / Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday, December 26 (St. Stephen)

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27 (St. John)

1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday, December 28 (The Holy Innocents)

1 Jn 1:5-2:2 / Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29 (St. Thomas Becket)

1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30 (The Nativity of the Lord)

1 Jn 2:12-17 / Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 / Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS WILL BE TAKEN DOWN on Sunday, Jan. 7, 1pm,

as we return to the celebration of Ordinary Time on our church calendar. Your help would be appreciated as we end the Christmas season.

A HUGE THANKS to all who helped the Art & Environment Committee decorate the Church for Christmas. Everyone put in a lot of time and hard work. We appreciate it more than words can express. We couldn't have done it without you!!! Thanks a million!

The Art & Environment Committee

Have a Happy New Year!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Masses, Intentions & Services

Sat. Dec. 23 5:00 p.m.+ Edward & Greg Wasinger
 Sun. Dec. 24 9:30 a.m.+ Wilfred & Fidelia Rome
 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 5:00 p.m.+ Armella Wittman
 12:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 Mon. Dec. 25 9:00 a.m.+ Darren Haynes
 Wed. Dec. 27 7:00 a.m. No Mass
 Fri. Dec. 29 7:00 a.m. No Mass
 Sat. Dec. 30 5:00 p.m.+ Karl Schmidtberger
 Sun. Dec. 31 9:30 a.m.+ Wendelin 'Buddy', Alvera, Robert Dinges & Emily Gross
 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR Dec. 23 & 24

Saturday, 5:00 P.M. Mass

EMHC

Whitney Ford
 Deacon

Celina Beilman
 Marcia Dinkel

Jo Good
 Zane Swartzan

Mary Toepfer
 Caden Riat

Lectors

Gracemary Melvin #1
 Eileen Roberts #2

Altar Servers

Katie Dinkel
 Abilgail Filak
 Caden Riat

Hospitality

Neil Nickelson
 Eileen Roberts #2

Sacristan

Tammy Dreiling

Gift Bearers

Greg May

Sunday, 9:30 A.M. Mass

EMHC

K of C
 Deacon

K of C
 K of C

K of C
 K of C

K of C +
 K of C

Lectors

K of C #1
 K of C #2

Altar Servers

K of C
 K of C
 K of C

Hospitality

K of C

Sacristan

K of C

Gift Bearers

K of C

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Mass

EMHC

Monica Seib
 Deacon

Sarah Cain
 Rose McFarland

Peter Waldschmidt
 Bob Wasinger

David Wasinger

Lectors

Patty Stull #1
 Jorge Vazquez #2

Altar Servers

Elizabeth Bowles
 David McFarland
 Ashton Rickford

Hospitality

Nick Seib

Sacristan

Jenni Leiker

Gift Bearers

Deenna Gregg

The St. Nicholas Parish Office will be closed on Monday Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26.

THANK YOU ST. NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS, who have remembered us with your kindness and sharing during our Christmas Season. May you have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Parish Staff