## **Everyone:**

**December 25th – Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord**

**AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST WITH THE ANGEL, PRAISING “GOD” AND SAYING: “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS”.**

**Luke 2:1**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AT CHRIST OF THE DESERT CHAPEL!!!!**

##

## \*\* Christ of the Desert Business Office will be closed from Friday, December 22, 2023 to Tuesday, January 2, 2024. If there is an emergency, please call Sacred Heart Church at 760-346-6502. They have an answering service available and can reach a priest.

**December Special Events:**

* **December 1st is FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **December 8th, Holy Day of obligation, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**
* **December 9th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **December 13th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **December 14th – Finance Council meeting.**
* **December 17th - Christmas Luncheon after 9:30AM Mass at Desert Willow Golf Resort.**

## **Christ of the Desert will be collecting donations for Galilee Center until December 18th.**

## **CHRIST OF THE DESERT CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

## **December 24th – Regular 9:30AM Sunday Mass.**

## **December 24th – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass is at 5PM.**

## **December 25th - Christmas day Mass is at 9:30AM.**

## **December 31st is New Year’s Eve. Feast of the Holy Family.**

* **January 1st During the year 2024: Monday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This year, the obligation to attend Mass on this date is abrogated, in accord with the complementary norm to canon 1246 §2 confirmed for the dioceses of the United States of America.**

## **SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Sunday, December 24th Sunday Obligation**

**6:45 AM Mass– No Music**

**8:00 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**9:30 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**11:00 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**12:30 PM Spanish Mass- Español**

**Christmas Eve Mass Schedule**

**3:30 PM Carols - Children’s Choir**

**4:00 PM Mass - SHS Children’s Choir**

**5:30 PM Carols - Contemporary Ensemble**

**6:00 PM Mass - Contemporary Ensemble**

**8:00 PM Spanish Mass - Español Monday,**

**December 25th Christmas Day Mass Schedule**

**12:00 AM Mass - Latin Midnight Mass**

**8:00 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**9:30 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**11:00 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**12:30 PM - Spanish Mass - Español**

**2:30PM Latin Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**No Evening Masses**

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**December 24, 2023**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Life is troubling.**

**Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don’t trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?**

**I don’t think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, “But she was greatly troubled at what was said.” An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her *precisely when she is troubled*. Her anxiousness and God’s presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It’s about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.**

**Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord’s messenger say to us what he said to Mary, “Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God.”**

***— Father John Muir***

**December 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Themes for the 4th Sunday of Advent.**

### The readings for the Fourth Sunday in Advent speak of the original Ark of the Covenant and of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, the new Ark of the Covenant.

### In the first reading, David wants to build a home for the Ark of the Covenant, and instead God promises to establish the house of David forever.

### The psalm reiterates God’s promises to David.

### The second reading praises God.

### And in the gospel, Gabriel the Archangel appears to the Blessed Virgin Mary and brings her the news that she has been chosen to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ

### **Mass Readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent.**

* **First Reading**– [2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=310&rp=3074): “And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm.”
* **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 89](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=311&rp=3074): “Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.”
* **Second Reading** – [Romans 16:25-27](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=312&rp=3074): “The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations.”
* **Gospel** – [Luke 1:26-38](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=313&rp=3074): “But Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?’ And the angel said to her in reply, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.’”

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**December 25, 2023**

**Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord**

**“She gave birth to her firstborn son.” The pain of childbirth is something that boggles my mind. I’m sure I couldn’t handle it. I can’t even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it’s a beautiful part of nature, but there’s still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.**

**Which is why it’s worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church’s theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.**

**Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. *God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way.* He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!**

**Let’s delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus’s birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever.**

***— Father John Muir***

**Themes for The Nativity of the Lord**

Christmas is an important celebration in the Church. Only Easter carries a greater significance. On this feast we celebrate the incarnation of our Lord – God choosing to become one of us.

Christmas is celebrated as an octave – eight days of observance.

The Christmas season starts on December 25 with the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord . It includes the Feast of the Epiphany.

**Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass Readings for the Nativity of the Lord.**

* **First Reading** – [Isaiah 62:1-5](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=840&rp=674): “As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.”
* **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 89](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=841&rp=674): “For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.”
* **Second Reading** – [Acts 13:16-17, 22-25](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=842&rp=674): “From this man’s descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.”
* **Gospel** – [Matthew 1:1-25 or Matthew 1:18-25](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=843&rp=674): “She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

**Christmas Day - Mass Readings for the The Nativity of the Lord.**

* **First Reading** – [Isaiah 52:7-10](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=852&rp=674): “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, ‘Your God is King!’”
* **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 98](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=853&rp=674): “All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.”
* **Second Reading** – [Hebrews 1:1-6](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=854&rp=674): “In these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.”
* **Gospel**– [John 1:1-18 or John 1:1-5, 9-14](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=855&rp=674): “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”

**Themes are gleaned from**[**www.young-catholics.com**](http://www.young-catholics.com/)

**FINANCIAL SECTION:**

**DECEMBER HAS 5 SUNDAYS FOR THOSE THAT GIVE MONTHLY.**

**Please make all checks payable to “Christ of the Desert” not Sacred Heart.**

**Total monies collected to date: $77,822 or 57.6% of annual budget. Last week we collected $3,213.**

**Monies collected each week reflect the Friday & Sunday Mass plus rental income from offices in the Courtyard.**

**This information is important for our community in order to understand where are financially throughout the year.**

        **Our Monthly expenses are budgeted at $11,250 per month or $33,750 per quarter. $135,000 annually.**

**Thanks for your continued generosity.**

**See instructions at end of Bulletin for ways to continue giving via your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service.**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members:**

**We will be having our next Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday, January 10th 2024 at 11:30 am at the Catholic Charities building in the parking lot.**

**Our menu will consist of Beef Stew, rolls and salad with a dessert TBD. Please email Cindy at****chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com****or call 760-346-0089 to sign up or Cindy will be available after Mass, starting December 24th, to sign up and pay $5 per person. You may pay ahead at sign-up or pay at the door. We do plan ahead for the amount of food so please make sure to pay if you signed up, even if you don’t make it.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: For persons with disabilities:
We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.**

**The Christ of the Desert “Bulletin” now appears on**[**www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com**](http://www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com/)**website. Open up the site and click on “church”, look down on the bottom left for Christ of the Desert. Open up this site for the “bulletin” and other information about our community.**

 **CELEBRATION SECTION:**

**There will be an information providing sheet on the table near the Chapel exit/entrance area.**

**You can always email the information to me as well.**

**You can sign up for any month NOW. I will keep a record of your special month and enter it when that month arrives.**

**WHO HAS A DATE IN DECEMBER & YOU WANT ME TO ADD TO THE NOTICES BELOW????**

**DISCLAIMER: If information below is incorrect, please let me know and I will correct the error.**

**DECEMBER BITHDAY SECTION:**

**Loretta Schutten has a birthday on December 6th.**

**Louella Bean has a birthday on December 6th.**

**Lee Marie Junga has a birthday on December 8th.**

**Jo Falk has a birthday on December 11th.**

**Germaine Thompson has a birthday on December 12th.**

**Jim Grand has a birthday on December 15th.**

**Jesse Schumaker has a birthday on December 19th.**

**Joyce McIntyre has a birthday on December 21st.**

**Chris Anderson has a birthday on December 25th.**

**JoAnn Pepper has a birthday on December 26th.**

**Shirley Murphy has a birthday on December 31st.**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Daria Smith’s mother, Christine Smith, will be celebrating her birthday in heaven on December 11th.**

**Seana Swanson’s son, Travis Swanson, will be celebrating his birthday in Heaven on December 16th.**

**Jackie Capitanelli has a birthday in heaven on December 16th.**

**Mary Walbridge will be celebrating her 60th birthday in heaven this year on December 17th.**

**DECEMBER HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Roger & Kathy Stambaugh – December 30th. 35 years!!**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year**

**DECEMBER: REMEMBERING WEDDING ANNIVERSAY SECTION:**

**None submitted.**

**DECEMBER REMEMBRANCE SECTION: “May their souls rest in peace”, Amen**

**Michael Brauntz, Roseanne’s husband passed away on December 8th. No year provided**

**Lesile Zannotti passed away on December 23rd, 2013.**

**Mary Mueller, Jay’ Mueller’s mother, passed away on December 31st, 2005.**

**Mary “Sissy” Grand, Jim Grand’s mother, passed away on December 31st, 2001.**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year**

**“Who would you like to pray” for section:**

**Please send me your new updated petitions which will appear in green.**

**Many of you pray for special intentions at Sunday Mass. Please send me those intentions so the entire Parish can pray to the LORD with you.**

**The Parish prays for the following parishioners:**

**Carol Lee Evans.**

**Would you put my friends on the prayer list as they are all ill. Arnie Tom Karen and Mira. Roxanne Reed**

**THIS WE PRAY TO THE LORD!!!**

**PAVER ORDERS:**

**Pavers can still be purchased. Installation will be within 30 days of your order. I have the tools to do the install myself now. Forms are available from the Parish Office or back of the church. If you are not sure what you want to say on the paver, let me assist you!!**

**Christ of the Desert office hours: 760-346-0089**

**Office hours are from 9:30 to 1:30 Monday- Friday. Please call first to be sure Cindy is available. When Cindy is in the office, the office door is locked. Please ring the doorbell “to get her attention”.**

 **SUPPORT OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE SMALL BUSINESSES SECTION:**

 **If anyone else wants to advertise their business in the Bulletin, send me your information.**

**Thinking about selling your house or condo? Call Crys Mueller at 760 989 8732. I have been with BD Homes for the past 15 years.**

**Enedina Sutton, a Distributor of Nature Sunshine Products and a long time parishioner. Has Herbal Supplements, all kinds of Vitamins, ointments, essential Oils, disinfectant products and much more. I do the business from home. I can be reached at****760-345-3754****. I live in Sun City Palm Desert community.**

**Invented by NASA engineers, used on astronauts returning from space to rebuild muscle, bone and heal wounds “red light therapy” is now available. I am a new parishioner. Please call or email me: Rom Partyka 805-673-9235 or email at****rom1942@msn.com****for more information or to set up an appointment.**

**Need a good Catholic housekeeper? Call Elvia Pantoja at 760 698 6050. 20 years’ experience in the Indian Wells & Palm Desert area. References provided upon request.**

**ON GOING MESSAGE SECTION:**

**Please continue to consider supporting our community with the following options:**

**Mail your weekly or monthly offering to Christ of the Desert. All our regular mail goes to Sacred Heart so you would need to use that address. Make checks payable to Christ of the Desert.**

**CHRIST OF THE DESERT c/o.**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH 43-775 DEEP CANYON ROAD, PALM DESERT, CA 92260.**

**OR**

**Go to your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service. You can set up an automatic payment directly from there. If you have any trouble doing this or don’t have a computer, just call your bank and they can help you.**

**Please make sure that you tell the bank to make the check payable to Christ of the Desert but send the check to Sacred Heart’s address:**

**43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**Jay Mueller**

**Stay Healthy! Do good work! Keep in touch!!!**

SHC & COD Finance Council Member

SHC & COD Parish Council Member

COD Remembrance Walk Coordinator

SHC Parish Walk Coordinator

SHC East Valley Food Distribution Coordinator

SHC East Valley Outreach Program Coordinator

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745