



Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."
LUKE 1:38

How Can This Be?

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor

explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?
- * How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?

Assumption of Our Lady



www.ourladyofassumptionhayriver.com

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year B

Hay River, NT

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Weekday Masses

Mon. Tues. & Wed. 12:10 pm

Thurs. & Fri. 5:30 pm

Reconciliation time: Saturday from 4:15 to 4:45pm; Sunday, 9:45-10:15am or by appointment. Please contact Fr. Innocent for any other sacraments or funerals



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& St. Anne, Katloodeche

Sunday Mass 1:30 PM

Date	Readers	Collection	Gift Bearers	Eucharistic Ministers	Coffee & Snacks
Dec. 06	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Dec. 13	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Dec. 20	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Dec. 27	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Jan. 03	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed

Christmas Masses Schedules:

The parish council resolved, after much discussion to maintain still the usual mass times for this year's Christmas celebrations. Thus, we have:

**Dec. 24th : 5.00pm Family mass [The pageant part will be omitted]
12:00am Midnight mass**

Dec. 25th : 10:30am Christmas Day Mass



Nota Bella:

[a] As we anticipate higher attendance for these masses, especially for 5:00pm and Midnight Masses, the parish council decided that we are going to make use of the church and the basement [the hall]. We hope that we can allow 60 people in the main church and 40 people in the church's basement. This is in accordance with the required 30 percent capacity of the church and the basement. The first 60 people to come will be in the main church, while the second 40 people will be in the basement. A television will be provided at the basement and somebody will bring communion to those of them who will be participating from the basement.

[b] All potential attendees are required to wear their face masks. The social distancing as already designated in the church will be observed. Temperatures and registration of names as we have been observing now, will also be maintained.

Big Thank You For Your Extraordinary Support in an Extraordinary Year:

We sincerely thank all our beloved parishioners for all your unflinching support to our parish in this extraordinary and tough year. Our parish was able to pull through this tough times; paying the bills and keeping the church operational because of your immeasurable financial support. Most people also volunteered their time and energy in various ways, just to make sure that the church is operational. We are super grateful to you all and may God abundantly bless you: THANK YOU.

Message of "A Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year":

Finally, as we gradually come close to the celebration of this year's Christmas and new year, I want to, on behalf of myself, Pastor, Sister Maggie and the members of the parish council headed by Eddie Smith, extend my warmest wishes of a joyful Christmas, filled with love and peace And a new year filled with God's grace to you our beloved parishioners. It has been terribly a tough year with the pandemic but our God has seen us through.

May God Bless Us All: Fr. Innocent



Dear Padre,

Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).



In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us. Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin...We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will...The Lord is always speaking to us!

—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8, 2014

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Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or
Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday
DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday
DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66

Thursday
DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79

Friday
DECEMBER 25
Christmas
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or
Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday
DECEMBER 26
St. Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Sunday
DECEMBER 27
*The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or
Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19
Lk 2:22-40 or
2:22, 39-40

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