**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, December 22nd ✞ Norman Forest

Sunday, December 23rd (11:00 a.m.) ✞ Ivan Vukovic

**Blank schedules for Christmas and New Year's Eve Masses** are at the back of the church. **Please** fill in your name for the mass you will be attending.

**2019 Donation Envelopes**

Sunday Offering Envelopes 2019 Offering envelopes for the new year are now available for pick up by parishioners

The Bible Study will resume on January 14, 28, 2019. We are still doing the study called **Mary, Virgin, Mother, And Queen**.

**24 Hour Adoration – Friday, January 4th, 2019**

Sign up Schedule in Adoration binder at the back of the church. All time slots must be filled.

**The Abundant Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life,

you spoke through the prophets,

and they foretold the coming of the Savior.

You came upon the young virgin,

and she conceived in her womb the Son of the Most High.

You gave Elizabeth your gift of knowledge,

and she called Mary “the mother of my Lord.”

You filled John the Baptist with joy at the sound of Mary’s greeting,

and he leaped in his mother’s womb.

We, too, desire your transformative power in our lives.

We ask you to fill us to overflowing so we may

boldly proclaim the coming of Christ,

give birth to him each day in our hearts,

know his presence in all we meet,

and rejoice in the sure knowledge that he has come among us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Parish Office will be closed on December 25, 26, and 27th.**

**No bulletin will be printed for December 29/30th. Regular bulletin will resume January 5th.**

**Christmas Eve Prayer**

Loving God, Help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thought, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen

**The Spirit Speaks through Elizabeth**

Today’s Readings: Micah 5:1–4a; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45*.* When we meet Elizabeth in today’s Gospel, she is caught up in astonishing events. She is carrying a child in her old age while her husband, Zechariah, has been rendered mute after questioning an angel who gave him a message that the child would be conceived.

When her relative from Nazareth comes for a visit, Elizabeth grasps that something even greater is now happening. Her baby leaps in her womb; and Elizabeth, bursting with the Holy Spirit, knows at once the news that Mary has come to tell her. She is overwhelmed that her relative has been chosen to bring to birth the promised Messiah, and she recognizes God’s abundant blessing in both Mary and this child.

Mary, who had shared the news from the angel Gabriel with Joseph alone, now hears Elizabeth’s words echoing the words of the angel. Gabriel had called Mary “favored one”; Elizabeth calls her “blessed among women.” The angel had said the child to be born would be “holy, the Son of God”; Elizabeth calls him “Lord” (Luke 1:35).

Both Gabriel and Elizabeth echo Micah’s long-ago prophecy of the Messiah: “his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: he shall be peace.”

With Christmas nearly here, let us welcome Christ into our hearts with the same joy that Elizabeth did, and pledge to be instruments of his peace in our families and our world.

**CHRISTMAS AND**

 **NEW YEARS MASS TIMES**

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

3:30 pm Christmas Nativity Pageant

4:00 pm Mass

6:30 pm Mass

9:00 pm Mass

Midnight Mass (12am) (Bilingual)

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 am Mass

 Feast of Holy Family

Sunday, December 30 - 9:00 am and 11:00 am

New Year’s Eve (Feast of the Holy Mother of God)

***Holy Day of Obligation***

Monday, December 31 - 5:00 pm Mass

New Year’s Day (Feast of the Holy Mother of God)

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 - 10:00 am Mass (Bilingual)

**No weekday masses (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) December 26th – December 27th**