

## December 24, 2023

### Ministry Schedules

#### Lectors

Sat. 12/23: Carolyn Lema  
Sun. 12/24: Minnie Hughes  
Sat. 12/30: Carolyn Lema  
Sun. 12/31: Minnie Hughes

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Sat. 12/23: Marian Delay  
Sun. 12/24: Minnie Hughes  
Mon. 12/25: Pat Trim  
Sat. 12/30: Bob Meierdierks  
Sun. 12/31: Minnie Hughes

#### Ushers

Sat. 12/23: Andy Savarese  
Jason McKinney  
Sun. 12/24: Jim McGann  
Alex Andrews  
Mon. 12/25: Pat Trim  
John Coesens  
Sat. 12/30: Andy Savarese  
Jason McKinney  
Sun. 12/31: Alex Williamson  
Alex Andrews

#### Prayer Line

If you would like prayers for any serious health or personal reason you can text your prayer requests to Andy and Judy Savarese at (435) 259-5995. They will in turn forward your text to a group that will pray for your prayer intention.

### Confession Schedules

MOAB: Confessions are heard at 4:15pm on Saturday afternoons or by appointment at St. Pius X.

MONTICELLO: Confessions are heard at St Joseph's on the last Sunday of the Month.

### Scripture Readings and

#### Mass Intentions for the Week

**Sun** - 12/31 – Mass – 9:00 a.m.  
Genesis 15: 1-6; 21:1-3 or Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14  
Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19  
Lk. 2: 22-40 or Luke 2:22, 39-40  
**Mon** - 1/1/2024 – 8:30 am  
Numbers 6: 22-27  
Galatians 4: 4-7  
Lk. 2: 16 -21  
**Tues** – 1/2– Mass - 8:30 am  
1 John 2 : 22-28  
Jn. 1 19-28  
**Wed** – 1/3 – Mass - 8:30 am  
First John 2: 29-3;6  
Jn. 1: 29-34  
**Thurs** – 1/4 – Mass – 8:30am  
First John 3: 7-10  
Jn. 1: 35-42  
**Fri** – 1/5 – **No Mass**  
First John 3: 11-21  
Jn. 1: 43-51  
**Sat** – 1/6 – Mass 5:00 pm  
First John 5: 5-13  
Mk.1: 7-11 or Lk 3: 23-38

#### The Schedule for the 2024 National Collection:

Jan. 22 – Latin America  
Feb 22 - Church in Central/Eastern Europe (Ash Wed.)

Feb. 22 – Apr. 9 – Rice Bowl ( Lenten Season)  
March 5 – Black & Indian Missions (U.S.)  
March 19 – Catholic Relief Services  
Apr. 2 and/or 7<sup>th</sup> - Holy Land (Palm Sunday and/or Good Friday)

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Feb. 22- Apr. 9: Rice Bowl (Lenten Season)  
March 5: Black & Indian Missions  
March 19: Catholic Relief Services  
Apr. 2 and/or Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>: Holy Land (Palm Sunday and/or Good Friday)  
April 23: Home Missions  
May 21: Communications  
June 25: Holy Father (Peter's Pence)  
July 16: Pastoral Solidarity for Church in Africa  
August 6: Religious Retirement  
September 10: Calvary Catholic Cemetery (Diocesan)  
September 10: Priests' Retirement (Diocesan Collection)  
October 22: Mission Sunday  
November 19: Campaign for Human Development  
December 3: Catholic Community Services

#### Weekly Collection – St Pius

Offertory: \$2312

#### Offerors

Sat. 12/23: Andy & Judy Savarese  
Sun. 12/24: Peter & Minnie Hughes

### Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Mass at St. Pius X in MOAB 8:00 p.m.

December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day Mass at St. Pius X in MOAB 9:00 a.m.

#### Offerors Sign Up Sheet

There is a sign-up sheet for Jan. & Feb. 2024 in the back of church for those interested in taking up the gifts during the offertory.

#### Usher and EM Schedules

The Usher and Eucharistic Minister schedules for Jan/Feb/March 2024 are available on the table in the back of the church. If you are currently part of these ministries or have recently signed up, please be sure to pick up a copy.

### What is the meaning and purpose of a Christmas nativity?

A Christmas nativity is probably one of the most recognizable symbols of the Christmas season. The word *nativity* is taken from the Latin *nativus*, which means "arisen by birth." Nativities are art, models, carvings, or live demonstrations depicting the night of Jesus' birth. These scenes generally contain the same elements: the Christ child in a manger; His mother, Mary; His earthly father, Joseph; shepherds; angels; various barn animals; and

sometimes three wise men. Saint Francis of Assisi created the very first nativity scene in 1223 in an effort to promote the true meaning of Christmas and worship of Jesus Christ. His idea caught on, and soon a new Christmas tradition was born. Today, it's almost impossible for one to go through the Christmas season without seeing a nativity scene in front of a church, in a Christmas play, decorating someone's yard, or placed in model form on a fireplace mantel.

In spite of the nativity's popularity, there are a few theological errors in many of them. First, most nativity scenes are set in a stable or cave. While this may have been where Jesus was born, it's just as likely that Jesus was born in the lower level of a home, amongst animals who were brought inside for the night (the Greek word for "inn" (*kataluma*), found in [Luke 2:7](#), can also mean "house"). In addition, the angels that are often shown hovering over the stable in a nativity were likely not there, at least not visibly. The angels' part in the Christmas story took place in a field, where they announced Jesus' birth to a group of shepherds ([Luke 2:8-14](#)). Finally, although the wise men often

appear in a nativity, they did not visit Jesus the night of His birth.

The Magi visited Jesus sometime later, when He was a toddler ([Matthew 2:1-11](#)). In spite of the discrepancies, the most important thing about a nativity is its message to the world: **Because our sin requires a perfect sacrifice before a holy and just God, our Heavenly Father sent His own Son to earth as a man so that He could become that sacrifice ([John 3:16](#))**. The child who was born to Mary and laid in a manger would one day grow up to die on a cross and rise again so each and every person who believes in Him may receive forgiveness for sin and eternity in heaven ([1 Peter 1:3-4](#)).

On Christmas night, the angels lead the shepherds to a baby born in a manger, not a sign of power, self-sufficiency, or pride. The eternal God is reduced to a helpless, meek and humble human being. God lowered himself so that we could walk with Him, so that he could stand beside us, not above or far from us. Let's reflect on this truth as we behold the nativity scene.

**Merry Christmas to all.**

