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Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Our Lady of the Hills Parish

Established on February 4,



2007

173 Main Street
Haydenville, Massachusetts 01039-9768

December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent



*They shall
name him
Emmanuel*

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Parish Staff

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Child Protection
Norman Charest (interim)
Safe Environment & Victim Assistance
<http://diospringfield.org/Ministries/child-youth-protection>
413-452-0624

Liturgy Schedule

Masses

Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM
Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Confessions

Saturday 3:00-3:30 PM
Wednesday 9:00 - 9:30 AM

Holy Day Masses

8:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

Rectory Office

Hours: Monday – Wednesday
9:00AM – 1:00PM
Phone: 413-268-7212; Fax: 413-268-7202

Cemetery

St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery
located in Leeds, MA
Please call the Rectory Office at 413-268-7212.

Email: olothparish@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/olothhaydenville>

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 17 - December 25

Saturday	December 17	4:00 PM + Tom Thomas Jr., from his wife Bev Thomas
Sunday	December 18	8:00 AM + Deborah Lashway, from her husband Gerald
Sunday	December 18	10:30AM + Patricia Farrell, from her family
Monday	December 19	8:30AM
Tuesday	December 20	8:30AM + Living and Deceased Members
Wednesday	December 21	8:30AM + Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	December 22	8:30AM
Saturday	December 24	4:00 PM + Laurence Lambert, from Dick and Mary Lambert
Saturday	December 24	Midnight +The deceased members of the Moynahan Family, from the family
Sunday	December 25	8:00 AM +

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).
Psalm — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).
Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).
Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent;
Hanukkah begins
Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Friday: St. John of Kanty
Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)

Confession and Midnight Mass

On Monday, Dec. 19, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered beginning at **6:30 p.m.** in the church. Father John and other priests will be on hand.

Midnight Mass will take place this year as a quiet and contemplative service, likely with the lights dimmed, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Please pray for the family of Dorothy "Dot" Lucey as she recently passed away and is a member of our parish family.
May she Rest in Peace



Adoration will be held on Monday December 19, 2022
1:00 - 3:00 PM
Benediction about 2:50 PM



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

December 24

4 PM - Lector - Maggie Reagan
Euch. Minister - Mary Bart
Altar Server - Help Needed
Greeter - Carol Demerski

Midnight - Lector - Karen Guiel
Euch. Minister - Sheila Laroche
Altar Server - Help Needed
Greeter - Help needed

December 25
Christmas Day

8 AM - Lector - Marian Cerreta
Euch. Minister - Joe Pipczynski
Altar Servers - Help Needed
Greeter - Lois Bazluka

10:30 AM - Lector - Michael Moriarty
Euch. Minister - Nancy Dostal
Altar Server - Help Needed
Greeter - Lou Bouley

Reflection question:
In what ways can I proclaim God's praise in the coming week?

Christmas decorating times: Mark your Calendars

Sun. 12/18 after 10:30 Mass - Manger set up
Thurs. 12/22 after 8:30 Mass - final decorating.



WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Goal \$3,500
December 11, TBA
Thank you for your support.

GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.



Social Justice Corner:

Pray for Peace in Ukraine. Pope Francis says...
Prayer, charity and fasting are the principal ways for God to intervene in our lives and in the world.

"They are weapons of the spirit and, with them, on this day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine, we implore from God that peace which men and women are incapable of building by themselves. "

Consider a contribution to Catholic Relief Services to support Ukrainian Refugees.

Online: <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>

By Mail:

Catholic Relief Services
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, MD 21297-0303

Vote for our Parish!

Florence Bank is once again giving \$125,000 to local non-profits as part of its annual Customers' Choice Community Grants program. Last year, due to parishioners' votes, Our Lady of the Hills was awarded \$3,563.63. The 2022 votes must be in by Dec. 31.

Votes can be cast by mail or online. Please pick up a form in the back of the church by the side entrance door. The form will have more information. This is a big help for our parish so *please* vote soon.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Las Posadas (December 16–24)

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of Las Posadas seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous Misas de Aguinaldo were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (posada) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the "O Antiphons" of the official liturgy, these posadas were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of Las Posadas has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?

—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

A JUST CHRISTMAS at Mount Carmel **103 William St., Springfield**

Sunday, December 18
In the Parish Center at 1 PM

Our high school students look to Jesus "as a bearer of justice and peace, appealing to Christians to be agents of change for a world in need." CCD teacher Dr. Dan Cohen guides our candidates for Confirmation "to become such agents, with the help of the Holy Spirit."

Hear these teenagers bring insights to eight Christmas carols, in the light of 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

Join vocalist Carol Adamski, and Al Rosati on guitar. Bring friends and neighbors. Stay to meet the students and to enjoy refreshments by their families and a take-home memento.

For more information, call (413) 734-5433 (Ext. 102)

Hospital Visits

If a Parishioner or someone close to you is in the Hospital, please call the rectory at (413) 268-7212 to let us know.

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 11:00

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

December 18, 2022

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 4

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
Please print 100 bulletins for
this week's issue. Thanks.