

December 20, 2020

Good Morning All,

Fr. Ephrem Reese will be celebrating the 8:30 AM Mass. Many thanks to Fr. Reese for his service to our church!

Last Sunday of Advent 2020. Masses for Christmas are:

Christmas Eve - Thursday at 4:00 and 6:00 PM
Christmas Day - Friday at 8:30 and 11:00AM

From the Diocese: TV Christmas Show Announcement

An Evening in the Upstate with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston Television Christmas Special on FOX Carolina Channel 21, December 25, 2020 at 10:30PM. Join us in the Upstate on Christmas Evening for fun and entertainment for the entire family hosted by Sister Pamela Smith. SSCM. Spiritual reflections will be given by Father Jay Scott Newman and Father Michael Okere. Highlights include the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School choir, a traditional Christmas story told by Franciscan Friar Patrick Tuttle and a special tribute to Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone for his 75th birthday.

1. Today's Readings: [Fourth Sunday of Advent | USCCB](#)

2. ***The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:***

***O Clavis David (Key of David) Isaiah 22:22
O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel,
who opens and no man shuts,
who shuts and no man opens:
come, and lead forth the captive
who sits in the shadows from his prison.***

3. Advent Calendar Quote of the Day: We have seen his star in the East, and have come to honor him. Matthew 2:2

Thank you for supporting St. Joseph's during all of 2020. It has been a challenging year for many people. We appreciate all of your kind words and your financial support of the church and all its ministries. For year end donations to be included in your 2020 contribution statement, please pay attention to the following dates:

A. Church - received in the collection basket by December 27, 2020.

Parish Office Communication

B. US Mail - all mailed contributions need to be received at the office by December 30, 2020.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

1200 Cornelia Road

Anderson, SC 29621

C. Online Giving - available at www.sjccs.net. Any gifts must be made by December 30, 2020.



Sunday Blessings to everyone!

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Linda McCormick

St. Joseph Catholic Church & School

1200 Cornelia Road

Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102

Fax: (864) 225-6432

O Key of David

In the 8th century BC King Hezekiah saw troubled times. Sargon the Assyrian invaded. Sennacherib invaded. You might know the poem of Byron: "The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold, / And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold...". They were saved by the Angel who smote the invaders with the plague and slew 185,000 in the night. Hezekiah instituted a religious renewal, which included the suppression of idolatry and polytheism which had grown up over time. Hezekiah, a descendent of David, is a foreshadow figure of Christ to come. Hezekiah cleansed the Temple. Hezekiah rose from a dire illness on the third day. Hezekiah gives the "key of David" to his steward Eliakim, all his authority, as an office to be handed on.

In Isaiah 22:22:

And I will lay the key of the house of David upon his shoulder: and he shall open, and none shall shut: and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Government shall be upon his shoulder.

In Matthew 6:19, when the Lord speaks to Peter near the source of the Jordan, we read:

And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.

David's key is again mentioned in Revelation 3:7-8:

And to the angel of the church of Philadelphia write: These things saith the Holy One and the true one, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth, shutteth and no man openeth: I know thy works. Behold, I have given before thee a door opened, which no man can shut: because thou hast a little strength and hast kept my word and hast not denied my name.

Like the Philadelphians in Revelation 3, we must never deny the Lord.

The Lord who came in history, will come again at history's end. To point the way to His return, He gave us a visible point of reference, someone to exercise His own authority to open and to shut, to bind and to loose. He gave us His Church with a

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Vicar in the person of the Apostle Peter and all of Peter's successors. The key is David's, which means, it is the Lord's. And that means that the one who has the keys, acts with Christ's authority, speaks with Christ's voice when he acts and teaches for the Church.

When the Lord died on His Cross and rose again, He fulfilled the debt incurred in the sin of the whole human race. He ransomed "captive Israel", the new "Israel", those who belong to Him in His new covenant. The Lord descended to the place where the faithful dead awaited His coming and set them free. This is often depicted as the "harrowing of hell". When we are in mortal sin, we are already in an anticipation of hell. Christ can set you free through the sacramental confession of your sins to a priest, who unbinds your sins and forgives them with Christ's own authority.

Source: catholic.org