

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: 1) 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 2) Romans 16:25-27 3) Luke 1:26-38

Sunday Liturgy

The Focus for Today's Mass is that we need to give thanks to God for the role we play in his plan for the world.

God has a plan for the salvation of the world, which works out in various generations over the centuries.

Throughout today's readings, we see Nathan, Paul, Elizabeth and Mary responding to God's call to them. We, too, are called to participate in his plan.

Let us be open to God in our lives and give him thanksgiving and praise.

Today's reading from the Second Book of Samuel tells of God's promise to David that his kingdom will endure forever.

Saint Paul ends his Letter to the Romans with a doxology praising God through Jesus Christ.

Saint Luke's Gospel describes the announcement of the birth of Jesus and recounts how Mary says yes to God's plan for her and the world.

General Intercessions

**PRIEST: Confident that God is involved in the details of our lives,
let us offer to him our needs and concerns.**

**For the Church, that all the faithful will have courage,
like Mary, to say yes and follow in God's ways of faithfulness, let us pray.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who rule and hold power over others,
may they govern with equality, integrity, justice and peace, let us pray.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who suffer in any way during this Advent season,
may they know Jesus in the comfort of those who care for them, let us pray.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For the grace of this Advent season
to foster a greater respect for the precious gift of human life, let us pray.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who have died in Christ,
may their reward be eternal joy in heaven, let us pray.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions..... (long pause)

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**PRIEST: Father and author of our lives, hear our petitions and
strengthen us to follow your will. Through Christ our Lord.**