

# Fr. David's Weekly Newsletter



December 16, 2011

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent • May it be done according to your word.**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

### **The Pope's Three Christmas Wishes**

“My first wish, therefore, is that our gaze, that of our minds and our hearts, not rest only on the horizon of this world, on its material things, but that it in some way, like this tree that tends upward, be directed toward God. God never forgets us but He also asks that we don't forget Him.

“The Gospel recounts that, on the holy night of Christ's birth, a light enveloped the shepherds, announcing a great joy to them: the birth of Jesus, the one who brings us light, or better, the One who is the true light that illuminates all. The great tree that I will light up shortly overlooks the city of Gubbio and will illuminate the darkness of the night with its light.

“My second wish is that we recall that we also need a light to illumine the path of our lives and to give us hope, especially in this time in which we feel so greatly the weight of difficulties, of problems,

of suffering, and it seems that we are enshrouded in a veil of darkness. But what light can truly illuminate our hearts and give us a firm and sure hope? It is the Child whom we contemplate on Christmas, in a poor and humble manger, because He is the Lord who draws near to each of us and asks that we receive Him anew in our lives, asks us to want Him, to trust in Him, to feel His presence, that He is accompanying us, sustaining us, and helping us.

“But this great tree is formed of many lights. My final wish is that each of us contribute something of that light to the spheres in which we live: our families, our jobs, our neighborhoods, towns, and cities. That each of us be a light for those who are at our sides; that we leave aside the selfishness that, so often, closes our hearts and leads us to think only of ourselves; that we may pay greater attention to others, that we may love them more. Any small gesture of goodness is like one of the lights of this great tree: together with other lights it illuminates the darkness of the night, even of the darkest night.”



*For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

# C H R I S T M A S N O V E N A

## Opening Prayer:

V. O God, come to my assistance.  
R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

## Day 1 - December 16

### *The Incarnation.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, who descended from the bosom of the eternal Father into the womb of the Virgin Mary, where, conceived by the Holy Ghost, you took upon yourself, O Incarnate Word, the form of a servant for our salvation.

## Day 2 - December 17

### *The Visitation.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, who by means of your Virgin Mother, visited St. Elizabeth, and filled your servant, St. John the Baptist, with the Holy Spirit, sanctifying him from his mother's womb.

## Day 3 - December 18

### *The Expectation of Birth.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, who waited for nine months enclosed in the womb, and inflamed the heart of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph with the most powerful love and expectation, all for the salvation of the world.

## Day 4 - December 19

### *The Holy Nativity.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, wrapped in poor swaddling clothes, laid in the manger, glorified by angels, and visited by shepherds.

## Day 5 - December 20

### *The Circumcision.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, circumcised when eight days old, and called by the glorious name of Jesus, and proclaimed both by your name and by your blood, to be the Savior of the world.

## Day 6 - December 21

### *The Adoration of the Kings.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, who was made known to the three kings, who worshipped you as you lie on Mary's breast, and offered you the mystical presents of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## Day 7 - December 22

### *The Presentation.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, presented in the temple by the Virgin Mary, embraced by Simeon, and revealed to the Jews by Anna the prophetess.

## Day 8 - December 23

### *The Flight into Egypt.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, whom Herod tried to slay, carried by St. Joseph with your Mother into Egypt, saved from death by flight, and glorified by the blood of the holy innocents.

## Day 9 - December 24

### *The Journey in Egypt.*

O most sweet infant Jesus, who dwelled as an exile in Egypt for seven years, where spoke your first words, and, first begin to walk upon this earth.

## Closing Prayer

Have mercy upon us. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Have mercy on us.

Our Father...

Glory be...

Hail Mary...

O Jesu! born of Virgin bright,  
Immortal glory be to thee  
Praise to the Father infinite,  
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Christ is at hand. O come, let us worship him.

*Let us pray:*

O almighty and everliving God, Lord of heaven and earth, who revealed yourself to little ones, grant, we beg you, that while we celebrate and honor the most holy mysteries of your Son, the infant Jesus, and strive to imitate them, we may arrive at that heavenly kingdom which you have promised to little children, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

## 1. Who said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord"?

- a. an angel                      b. Mary                      c. Elizabeth                      d. a monarch

## 2. What is the first Joyful Mystery of the Rosary?

- a. Visitation                      b. Nativity                      c. Annunciation                      d. Presentation

## 3. Who was Jesus' step-father?

- a. Joseph                      b. Zachary                      c. Charlie                      d. Jehosophat

## 4. What is the second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary?

- a. Presentation                      b. Flight to Egypt                      c. Nativity                      d. Visitation

## 5. Where was Mary's home?

- a. Nazareth                      b. Judea                      c. Bethlehem                      d. Jerusalem

## 6. Where was Jesus born?

- a. Nazareth                      b. Galilee                      c. Jerusalem                      d. Bethlehem

## 7. Why did Joseph take Jesus and Mary to Egypt after His birth?

- a. property values                      b. nice place to visit                      c. fleeing King Herod                      d. better job

## 8. Who told Mary, "And a sword shall pierce your heart"?

- a. Simeon                      b. Joseph                      c. Anna                      d. George

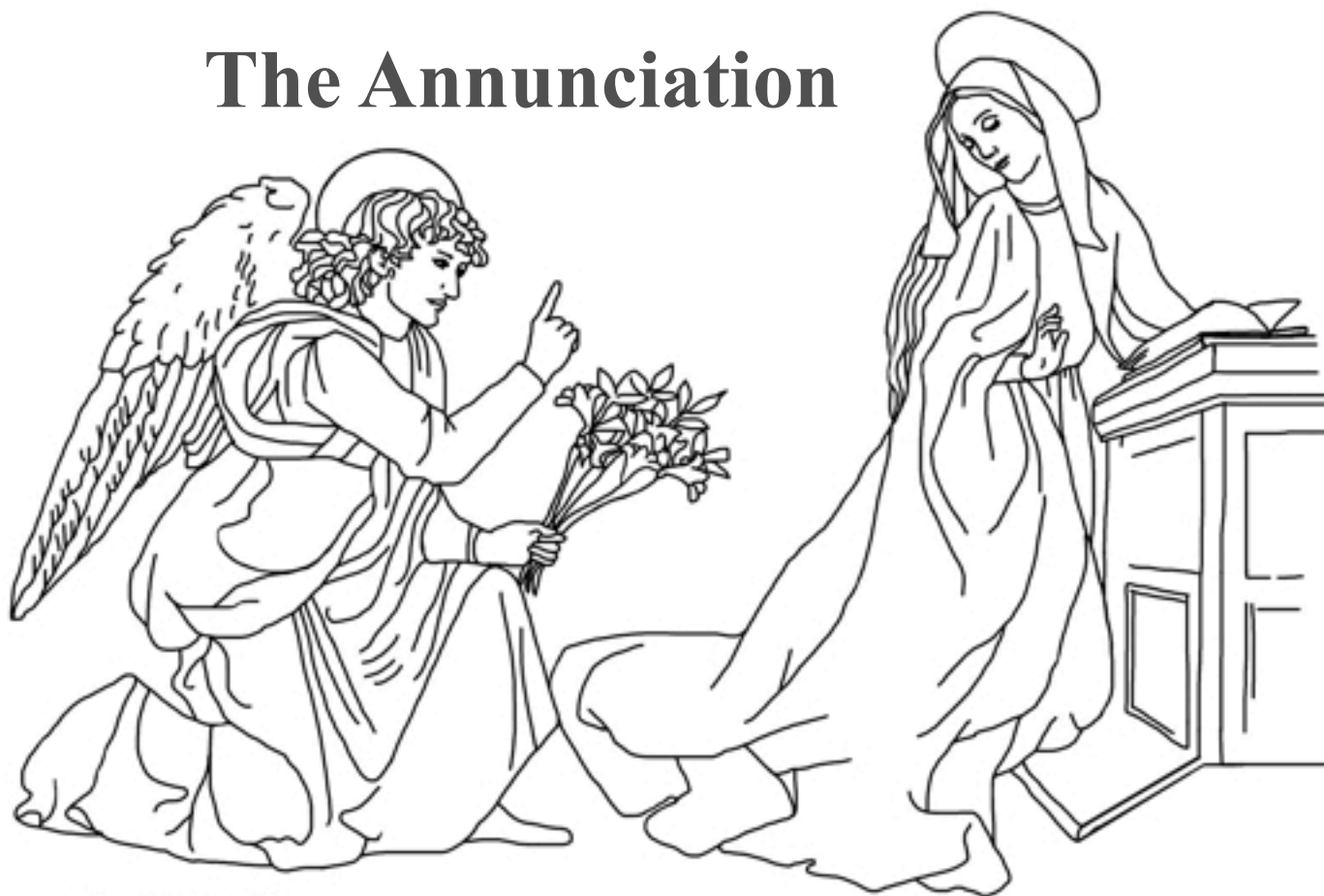
## 9. At the age of 12, how many days was Jesus missing from his parents?

- a. 1                      b. 3                      c. 7                      d. 40



Answers: 1. b; 2. c; 3. a; 4. d; 5. a; 6. d; 7. c; 8. a; 9. b.

# The Annunciation



## WORD BANK

ANGEL

GABRIEL

GOSPEL

HANDMAID

JESUS

LUKE

MARY

G M Q O J A F Q H  
E U L E I R B A G  
W D S T I S N O S  
U U O B V D S Q A  
S Y R A M P P C S  
E F R A E D D T M  
R V I L U K E J T  
M D Z I N P O X J  
A N G E L O V B H