

Dear Padre,

I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

One Christmas story is in Matthew, and the other is in Luke. They differ on some details—but at their hearts, the teaching is the same. In both, Mary is a virgin betrothed to Joseph but not yet living with him, and Jesus is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Both also have Jesus born in Bethlehem.



In Matthew, the angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph; in Luke, Mary receives the announcement. Jesus is named by Joseph in Matthew and by Mary in Luke.

The biggest difference involves the Christmas visitors. Matthew's Magi were educated Gentiles from a pagan country.

They worshiped Jesus and

brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing us at the start of the Gospel that Jesus is King, Priest, and Savior. Luke is always partial to the poor, so he has shepherds rather than Magi witness to Christ.

The Christmas stories are different because the authors and their audiences were different. But there's no need to get lost in the details. Read both accounts and allow God's grace to deepen your faith.

Fr. John Murray, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10–14
Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Wednesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Thursday

DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Friday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Saturday

DECEMBER 25
Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
1:1–5, 9–14

Sunday

DECEMBER 26
Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24
Lk 2:41–52

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS, DECEMBER 24, 2019





**THE FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021**



St. Ann Catholic Church & Our Lady of Chartres Mission

Pastor: Reverend Fr. David Milton

Office phone: 228-832-2560, Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

Web: www.stannparishlizana.org --- Email: stanngulfport@hotmail.com



St. Ann Mass Schedule & intentions

Dec 18th 4pm Parish

Dec 19th 9 am Tracy Joe Dotson

Dec 19th Sun 6pm Int donor

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Both
before Mass and by Appointment

Mon 8am Int of Donor

Wed 6pm Int of Donor

Thurs 8am Int of Donor

Fri 8am 4pm Christmas Eve

Sat 12 am, 9am Christmas

Dec 25th 4pm Int of Donor

Dec 26th 9 am Parish

Dec 26th Sun 6pm **No mass**

Our Lady of Chartres Mass Schedule.

Sun 7:30 am, **Christmas, 25th 7:30**

From Father David's Desk...

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Are We There Yet?

It's not only children who are impatient with the lo-o-o-o-ride that takes them to a party or an amusement park. Adults can hardly contain themselves as they await the announcement of a winner, the return of an absent loved one, or the birth of a baby. This is the kind of excitement found in today's readings. Micah describes the long-awaited leader promised by God. He will be even more than the people could have imaged: firm, strong, and dependable. They must have asked, "When is he coming?"

By the time the Gospel was written, Jesus' followers knew a lot about him, so they were able to embellish stories a bit, the way we often do to emphasize the greatness of someone. They believed he was so extraordinary that his greatness was recognized even before he was born. His pregnant mother was told, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). She must have been frequently asked, "When are you due? When is he coming?"

The reading from Hebrews does not provide specific details of Jesus' coming. Rather, it tells us why he came: "I come to do your will, O God" (10:7). That is what the people of Micah's era were really longing for—not simply a leader, but one who did God's will and who would lead them to do it too. We're now on the threshold of the fulfillment of that promise. Are you excited? Are we there yet?

For Reflection

* For which of God's promises are you excited?

* Open your mind and heart to our firm, strong, and dependable leader

WITH PRAYERS

FR. DAVID

ST. ANN STEWARDSHIP: Identifiable 51, \$1,970.00 \$loose: \$261.00 **Total: \$2,231.00**
Children: \$32.47 Ach: \$5.00. IBVM \$145.00
OLC STEWARDSHIP: Identifiable \$155.00
Loose: \$93.00 **Total:** 304.00. IBVM \$70.00

Mass schedule for weekend: Dec-25th and 26th
Saturday Vigil at 4pm and Sunday 26th at 9:00am **No evening Mass.** Our lady of Chartres at 7:30 am. For more information call Fr. David @228-832-2560. Thanks.

Christmas mass schedule:

St. Ann's

Vigil at 4:00pm (Friday 12/24)

Midnight at 12:00am

9:00am (Saturday 12/25)

Our Lady of Chartres 7:30am (12/25)

New Year's Day, Mary Mother of God

St. Ann: Vigil: 4pm (Fri 12/31) & 9am (Sat 1/1)

Re-opening of the Church: Thank to all the volunteers who helped replace the pews and clean the entire church. I really appreciate your love and help! A special thanks to the family who donated the cost of the paint.

VISITATION OF THE SICK: Please keep the parish office informed so we may minister to those who are ill at home, in the hospital, or in a nursing facility. For those wishing to receive the Eucharist contact the parish office, 832-2560.

MASS	LECTOR	SERVERS	USHERS
Sat Dec 18 th 4pm	Mike West		Mike West
Sun Dec 19 th OLC 7:30 am	Sandra Ammons		Terry Mitchell
Sun Dec 19 th 9 am	Eddie Duran		
Sun Dec 19 th 6pm	Kathleen Cuevas		
Fri Dec 24 th 4pm	Mike West		
Sat Dec 25 th Midnight	Beverly Saucier		
Sat Dec 25 th 7:30am OLC	Sandra Ammons		
Sat Dec 25 th 9am	Kim Wood		
Sat Dec 25 th 4pm	Mike West		Mike West
Sun Dec 26 th OLC 7:30 am	Sandra Ammons		Terry Mitchell
Sun Dec 26 th 9 am	Beau Underwood		
Sun Dec 26 th 6pm	Lacy Marchand		

Knights of Columbus Christmas Whiskey

Basket: Raffle Tickets are available after every mass or you can get one from Johnny or Garland Moran. Thanks

Christmas Flowers and Baskets: There are envelopes available for donations for Christmas flowers. Also nomination forms for the Christmas baskets are available. Donations of food are needed for those baskets. Thanks

Need of Kidney Donor: A 47 year old man needs a kidney donor. The donor must have type B positive or Negative blood. Want to save a life by donating a kidney? Call Fr. David Milton at 228-346-3578 or 228-834-2560. Thanks

Sympathy: Fr. David and the parish community offer our prayers to the family of Helen O'Neal, who passed away. Remember her and her grieving family in your prayers. Thanks

Advent Penance service: will be on Wednesday, December 22nd after the evening mass. I encourage you to make use of this opportunity.

MASS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS: You can have Masses offered for the deceased as well as for living family and friends. Mass cards and envelopes are available at the office, each Mass card is \$10.00 dollars. Thanks.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Those who are ill: Leslie Cuevas, Lee James, Ezekiel Rutherford, Dalwin Cuevas, Colby Cagle, Andrew Fillengame; Breanna Ladner, Andrew, Sharon Somora, Nancy Ladner, Chris (Duke) McGill, Paul Ladner, Dianne Dearman, Marie Cuevas, Sharon Smith, Kathy, Marlene Moran, Teresa McAllister, Kendra Necaie, Courtney Stewart, Kathy Robison, and, Joseph and Megan Colbi Capuano, Bill & Brenda Peterson, Christine Constantine, Anthony Moran, Jill Ladner, Stephany Bass, and Brandi Moran, Lynn & Linda Bangs, John O'Neal, Terri, Loretta Ladner and Matt Dubission; Addie Threadgill; Cindy Ladner; Amanda Mayberry; Robin Cuevas Emmie Tubbs, Wally Clifford, T.J Moran, Robin Shamplo, Glinda Gardman, Timmy & Paula Lizana, W.C. King and Brenda page and sr. Anna Louise.