

The Catholic Community of Bradford

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Rev. John Jacquell

Pastor

Rev. Edward Walk

Senior Associate

Phone: (814) 362-6825

Email: office@stbernardcatholic.org

Website: www.stbernardcatholic.org

Facebook:

St Bernard of Clairvaux - Bradford, PA

LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY 10 AM

Youtube.com

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford PA

Our Mission: We are a Catholic Christian community committed to being welcoming, outreaching to the homebound and forgotten, while strengthening the faith formation of our youth and adult members in their faith journey.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

95 East Corydon Street, P.O. Box 2394

Bradford, PA 16701-5394



ST. BERNARD MASSES

Saturday 4:00 pm

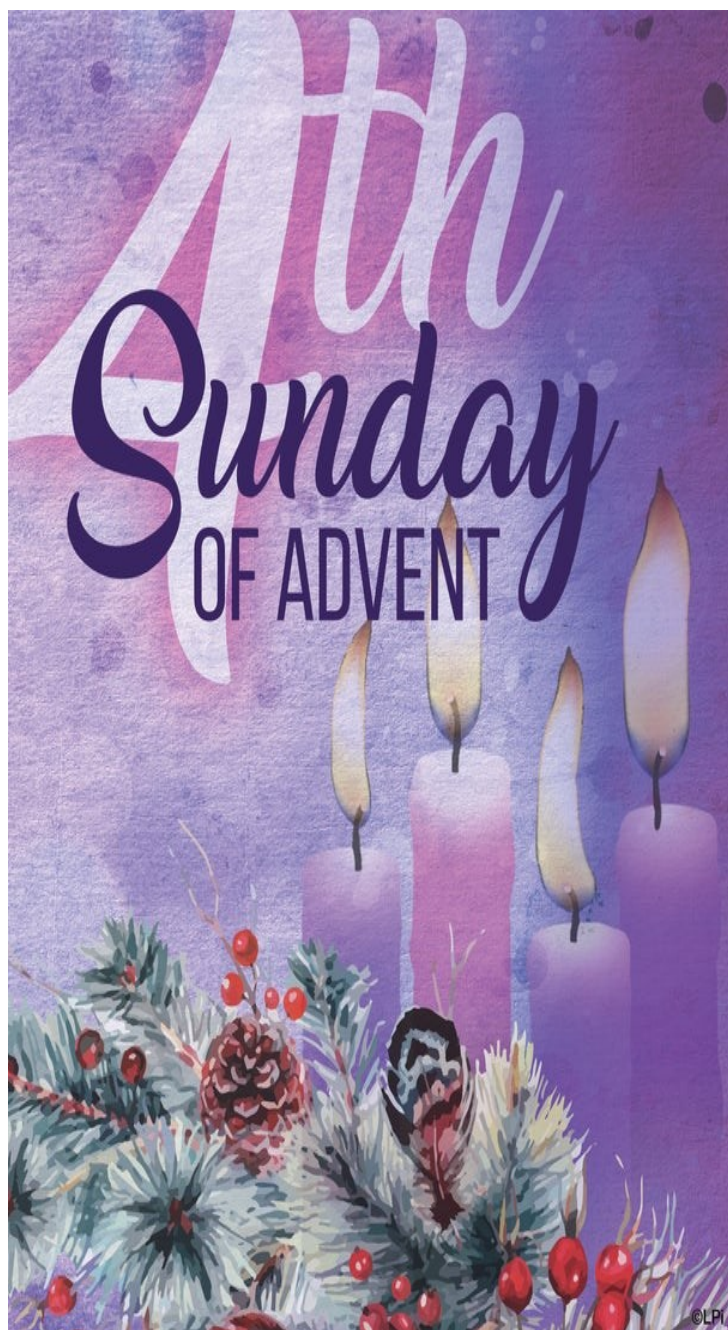
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am

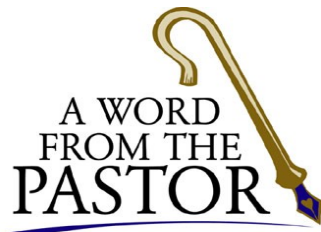
DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL MASSES

Monday & Thursday — 8:00 am & 9:00 am

Tuesday — 9:00 am Wednesday — 8:00 am

Friday — 12:10 pm Saturday — 9:00 am





In the past few months, I have received many priceless gifts – especially the companionship of my fellow “sabbaticants.” We continue to keep in touch. Sr. Celestine is finally heading back to Kenya as I write, and Sr. Aurea finally departed San Antonio for the next phase of her sabbatical. Fr. Jerry just e-mailed me from Philippines.

Two other very unexpected gifts showed up to lift my spirits more. Upon arriving in Texas, I discovered I had a \$577 credit on my old Visa card. When I did some digging, I found out my health insurance kicked in more for my hip surgery (Feb) than expected. The hospital credited my account. What to do? After visiting with the bank, they said I could not transfer it – so I decided to have Fr Jim send me that old card and I used it to pay for my trip through New Mexico during Thanksgiving break.

In San Antonio, the “low tire pressure” indicator kept coming on – so I took the car to Discount Tire, Inc. In 30 minutes, they discovered and repaired the leak – and charged me \$0. When I tried to protest, they said “Flats are free.” That’s their policy. On my way home, another tire developed a slow leak, and I stopped in to a Discount Tire in Columbus, OH. Same result. I would love to continue patronizing this chain, but the nearest ones are in Pittsburgh and Altoona. God is so good! And so are these folks.

I would be remiss if I overlooked the dedicated team of ministers and support staff that keep our parish moving in the right directions. They are each critical members of a great team.

And, I’m especially touched with the goodness of God who sends a savior into the world – namely his only begotten son, Jesus. God comes personally to redeem, forgive, and give us life eternal with all the saints. These are far beyond the best gifts we will ever otherwise receive.

From all our team at St Bernard’s, we hope your celebration of Christmas is everything you’d hoped (and more) – for that’s the way it works with God! Blessings!

~ Fr John

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th
4:00 pm & 8:00 pm

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th
9:00 am & 11:00 am

ALL MASSES IN ST. BERNARD CHURCH

New Year’s Eve, Wednesday, December 31st
(Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary)
4:00 pm

New Year’s Day, Thursday, January 1st
(Holy Day of Obligation)
9:00 am & 12:10 pm

THANK YOU FR. JIM! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Fr. James Gutting who graciously filled in while Fr. John was on sabbatical. In addition to celebrating Masses, hearing confessions, and conducting funerals, he did many visitations to the homebound and the various Nursing Homes. In addition, in Fr. John’s absence, he took on administrative duties to keep the Church running smoothly. He’ll be missed!



Children’s Christmas Choir—The Youth Choir will be sharing their gift of singing for us at the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Bernards. The choir is directed by Ryan Cannon and assisted by Lynne Kuntz and Nancy Vinelli. The final practice is Sunday, December 21st at 12:30 to 1:00 in the church. Thank you to all parents who make this possible.



For accounting purposes, please do **NOT** combine your December offertory envelopes with your January 2026 envelopes! Thank you!

Prayer— Prayer for Advent – Miracles

Dear God, You are in the miracle business. I still believe that You can move mountains and separate seas. Break into every unknown and astound us with Your goodness and grace. Amen. ©LPi



*St. Bernard Sanctuary
Candle will be burning this
week in Memory of
Lisa Zurat Cropper &
Edith Buccolini*



Holiday Office Hours

**Closed Wednesday, December 24th &
Thursday, December 25th.
Closed Wednesday, December 31st &
Thursday, January 1st, 2026.**

Wishing Everyone A Happy & Healthy Holiday Season!

Planning your wedding in 2026? Celebrate this joyful season by investing in your future together. Join **Engagement Encounter**, a weekend retreat designed to help couples build a strong foundation for lifelong marriage. When: **February 6-8, 2026** Where: *St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie.* This retreat fulfills diocesan marriage preparation requirements and welcomes **Catholic and interfaith couples**. Call the Family Life Office at **814-824-1261** or email: familylife@erieRCD.org. Register and learn more at eriercd.org/familylifeoffice. "A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime." Give your relationship the gift of time, reflection, and connection this Christmas season.



CATHOLIC TRIVIA Question: Which saint's nickname is "Santa Claus"?

Answer: St. Nicholas

©LPi



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

Total Collection - Needed Weekly: \$ 10,072
 December 7..... \$ 8,364
 Immaculate Conception..... \$ 1,312
 December 14..... \$ TBA
 Retirement Fund for Religious..... \$ TBA

2025 Combined CSA Assessment \$ 94,414
 2025 CSA Collected \$ **77,654**

**Checks for CSA must be made out to St. Bernard.
Please do not COMBINE other payments with CSA.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



PARENTING POINTERS Christmas is almost over as far as our culture is concerned. Be counter-cultural. You don't want to be a Grinch about Christmas, but you can steal some moments of quiet prayer in the dark with your children. Light three candles and pause.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Rosary Altar Society: Thursday, February 12th @ 6:30 pm
Widow's Group: TBA
K of C #403 : Tuesday, January 13th @ 7:00 pm
Cemetery Board: Wednesday, January 7th @ 11:00 am
Pastoral Council: TBA
Finance Council: Thursday, January 22nd @ 4:30 pm
SF 50+ Club: TBA
Liturgy Committee: TBA
Catholic Women's Club: Tuesday, January 6th @ 6:00pm
 (Board Meeting) 6:30pm (Regular Meeting)



**The Bradford Council #403
 of the Knights of Columbus**
www.koc403.com

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the parish office. **Please Note: Next meeting on January 13th.** Council members are urged to attend, and new members are most welcome.

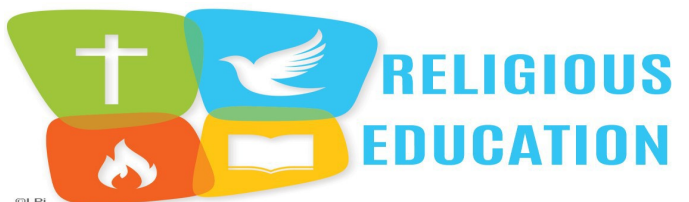
THANK YOU TO OUR
ADVERTISERS

BRADFORD MANOR
PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT!

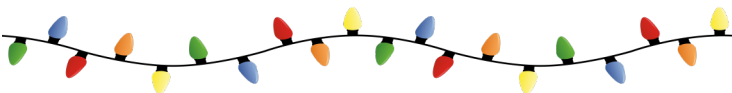
MARRIAGE The winter solstice brings the longest night of the year. Warm it with candlelight. For some couples, however, dark nights bring depression. If you are among those who are currently struggling in your marriage, turn to the power of prayer as one resource.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS—Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity! “Thank you very much for your donations, always,” says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Learn more at retiredreligious.org

WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES:
 We are in need of Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers for the Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm and Christmas Day Masses @ 9:00 am & 11 am. Sign up sheets are in the Sacristy. Thank you!



Grades 1-5 meet Sundays in Gallina Hall(11:00 am—12:15)
 Jan. 11th & Feb 1st
Grades 6-9 meet Sundays in Gallina Hall (5:45—7:15 pm)
 Dec. 21st & Jan. 4th (Confirmation Class Only)



END OF YEAR ONLINE GIVING—As we embrace the winter season and its serene beauty, we invite you to consider offering a gift to St. Bernard. Your generosity during this time helps us continue our mission and support our community. Visit our parish website (www.stbernardcatholic.org) to make a one-time donation or to set up automated, recurring giving throughout the year. It's quick, easy, and convenient. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. Your contributions are a true blessing, and we are deeply grateful for your kindness.

NEW YEAR... A NEW BEGINNING!

\$6 BUTTON
 FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6

FIRST NIGHT
Bradford

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DECEMBER 31ST, 2025

BUTTON OUTLETS:
 BCPAC
 BRADFORD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 NORTHWEST BANK
 (FOSTER BROOK & MAIN STREET)
 TOPS

4

FAMILY- FRIENDLY FUN ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES

CATHOLIC WOMEN GROUP WILL BE SERVING FOOD & SOFT DRINKS IN GALLINA HALL. FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS GO TO FIRST NIGHT BRADFORD ON FACEBOOK.



Advent Wreaths traditionally hold four candles (three purple and one pink). The candles represent Jesus coming as a light in the darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the “Christ Candle”. Each of the candles represent an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent.

1st Week-November 30th—Prophecy Candle/Purple: Hope
Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. It symbolizes penance, preparation and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent we remembered the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus’ coming with hope and anticipation.

2nd Week-December 7th—Bethlehem Candle/Purple: Peace
During this week we reflected on our lives and focused on becoming better-versions-of-our-ourselves in preparation for Jesus’ coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What has your journey toward Christmas been like so far?

3rd Week-December 14th—Shepherd’s Candle/Pink: Joy
This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called “Gaudete Sunday” as we reflect on the joy the shepherd’s felt at the birth of Jesus. How is Jesus inviting you to experience greater joy this Advent?

4th Week-December 21st—The Angel’s Candle/Purple: Love
During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God’s love brought to us from the Angel Gabriel. This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas. Are you ready?



The Nativity reminds us of the humble birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph found shelter in a stable, and there, among animals and shepherds, the Son of God was born. The Nativity scene — or crèche — helps us reflect on this moment, showing figures of the Holy Family, angels, shepherds, wise men and animals gathered around the Christ Child. Bringing out the Nativity at Christmas is a special tradition. Families are encouraged to pray together as they set it up.

Suggested Blessing: Loving God, we give thanks for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. As we look upon this Nativity, may we remember His humble birth and open our hearts to welcome Him each day. Bless this scene and all who gaze upon it, that we may live in hope, peace, joy and love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. **Many families place the Baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve, after lighting a candle or singing a carol.**



The Nativity of the Lord—Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one’s embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas



BULLETIN INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING BY NOON ON FRIDAY 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO BULLETIN DATE.

PASTORAL STAFF:
 Rev. John Jacquel, *Pastor*
 Rev. Edward Walk, *Senior Associate*

LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY 10 AM
 You Tube, **St Bernard of Clairvaux Bradford**

WEBSITE: <https://stbernardcatholic.org/>

FACEBOOK: **St Bernard of Clairvaux - Bradford Pa**

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 2394, Bradford, PA 16701

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am to 4 pm
 Gina Davidson, *Business Manager*
Email: business@stbernardcatholic.org
 Elaine Doriguzzi, *Administrative Assistant*
Email: office@stbernardcatholic.org

CONFESSIONS:
St. Bernard — Saturdays from 3:15 to 3:45 pm before 4:00 pm mass; Thursday before First Friday from 4:30 to 5 pm; After 9 am mass on Saturdays.
 Private appointments may be made by calling the **Parish Office 362-6825.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (REP)
REP Coordinator: Cindy Greek
 Students not attending Catholic school should be enrolled in REP programs. The Bradford Catholic Community Religious Education program is Grades 1—5 & Grades 6—9 (Confirmation). Please call the parish office for more information.

MEMBERSHIP: All Baptized Catholics should be registered, practicing and supporting members of a Parish. Only properly registered members appear on our parish list and are eligible to receive the benefits of parish membership for sacraments. Each parishioner is called upon to practice good stewardship of time, talent and treasure. If you are not currently receiving envelopes, you may not be registered. Call the Parish Office - we would love to meet you!

MARRIAGE: Couples need to contact a priest *at least six months before their wedding.* Registered and active participation needs to be considered before marriage.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:
 We welcome all inquiries about the Catholic faith. This **RCIA** process begins in the fall of the year. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Office to request the Sacrament of the Sick for family members who are seriously ill. Communion for the sick is taken to the hospital, nursing homes, and the home-bound on a regular basis.

BAPTISM: Both parents must attend the Pre-Baptism Preparation Program. Please call the St. Bernard Parish Office for dates and times of upcoming class. Baptisms are scheduled after completing the program. Call the Parish Office to schedule the class and baptism. Godparents must be at least 16, confirmed and active, registered members of their parish.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Liturgical

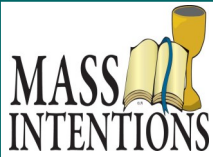
Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Organist St. Bernard | Rita Bennardi |
| | Michael Hicks |
| Resurrection Choir | Joan Raabe |
| God's Housekeepers | Parish Office |
| Liturgy | Fr. John B Jacquel |

Parish Community

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pastoral Council | Craig Cuthbertson |
| Catholic Women's Club | Joan Yohe |
| Rosary Altar Society | Dawn Kozminski |
| Telephone Prayer Chain | Natalie Marasco (598-5565) |

Cover photos of churches by LongArt Photography



WEEK OF DECEMBER 22ND—28TH

All daily masses are in the Divine Mercy Chapel (Including Saturday, 9am) (Subject to change) Weekend Masses in the Church

Monday, December 22nd

SBC 8:00 am Elizabeth "Betsy" Costello (Charles & Debbie McCreadie)

SBC 9:00 am In Honor of Families of Mary Hamer, Paul Lerch & Mark Lerch (Ron Lerch)

Tuesday, December 23rd

SBC 9:00 am John Schimmoeller (Beverly Gallup)

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

SB 4:00 pm All Parishioners

SB 8:00 pm Paulette Little (Family)

Thursday, December 25th (The Nativity of the Lord)

SB 9:00 am Fred & Steffie Eaton (Family)

SB 11:00 am All Parishioners

Friday, December 26th

SBC 12:10 pm Lisa (Zurat) Cropper (Richie & Susan Zurat)

Saturday, December 27th

SBC 9:00 am Richard Cavallero (Rosemary Burke)

SB 4:00 pm Lisa Ann, Edith & Mary (Julie & Steve)

Sunday, December 28th

SB 8:00 am Tubby Maduri (LaStella Italo American Lodge)

SB 10:00 am Ray Goll (Darcy & Kris Goll)

SB 11:30 am Bob & Mary Cuthbertson (Family)

Weekly confessions: Saturdays after 9 am Mass & 3:15 to 3:45 pm before 4 pm Mass.



DECEMBER 27TH, 2025

Saturday: St. Bernard 4:00 pm

LECTOR: Peggy Johnson

EM: Tammy Black **CUP:** Chris Pehonsky/Dick Williams

Servers: **VOLUNTEERS**

DECEMBER 28TH, 2025

Sunday: St. Bernard 8:00 am

LECTOR: Anne Frownfelter

EM: Chris Pehonsky **CUP:** Suzie Sperry/Cindy Greek

Server: Dave Hill



St. Bernard 10:00 am

LECTOR: Joyce Geis

EM: Gloria Scarano **CUP:** Teri Everett/Lynn Hogue

Servers: Claire & Teddy Henretta

St. Bernard 11:30 am

LECTOR: David Ditz

EM: Charlotte Cuthbertson **CUP:** Sue Lee/Craig Cuthbertson

Server: Dan Cuthbertson



Please pray for those who are sick or suffering

Thomas Ackley, Virgil Anderson, Arnold Family, Dianne Barr, Mary Beth Behan, Nancy Black, Theresa Bond, Sue Bradley, Nancy Bukowski, Tim Burris, Michael Cagney, GiGi Carroll, Dominic "Frank" Cavallero, Tami, Charters, Dick Clark, Kelly Costello, Melissa Cox, Billie Cummins, Paul & Marianne Curcio, Charlotte Cuthbertson, Jennifer Smith Dawson, Gerry Davis, Josh Dawson, Christine DiStrola, Brady Dolan, Denise Douthit, Richard Douthit, James Drumm, Alliyson Feldman, Ferguson Family, John Fornataro, Stepheny Franco, Robin Fuller, Chip Giordano, Pat Girard, Donna Gocella, Janet Goebel, Tonya Graves, Anthony Haller, Paul Hamer, Jan Hancock, Melissa Hannon, John Hart, Jill Henry, Joy James, Craig Johnson, Judy Keenan, Lilly Keesler, Mary Keesler, James Kibby, Bill Kline, Craig Kloss, Lisa Komidar, Bob Kuntz, Chris Lechner, Don Long, Paula Louk, Judy Mazzeo, Susan McCann-Piganelli, Dan McCarthy, Pat McCormick, Anita Magnetti, Mariana Militelo, Virginia O'Brien, Mary O'Connell, Chris Pehonsky, Lois Pessia, John Pockey, Joan Pointon, Dan Popiel, Courtney Prentiss, John Pupo, Linda Rabineau, Donna Rail, Anne Reed, Virginia & Ed Reed, George Rhodes, Sandy Rhodes, Kathy Ryan, Jackie Schlegel, Steve Schmidt, Judy Signor, Steve Skaggs, Eileen Smith, Hailey Smith, Betty Soble, Rosanne Strotman, Alex Tingley, Molly Thompson, Carol Vinca, Damion Wasiewski, Heather Watson, Philip Weese & Family, Rick Wheaton, Matthew Whelan, Beckett Whitney, Jim Wineberg, Lisa Zurat.

May they be strengthened by the healing presence of God's Spirit.



Readings for the week of December 21st



Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/ Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/ Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Thursday: Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Day: Is 52:7-10/ Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23