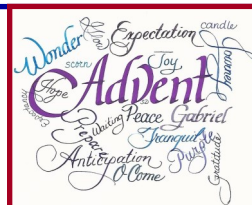


December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12 ~ Vigil/3rd Sunday in Advent
 5:30 PM Gail DiMartino

Sunday, December 13 ~ 3rd Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM Richard Cinque

Monday, December 14
 9:00 AM Marylou Yule

Wednesday, December 16
 9:00 AM Raymond Brady, Jr.

Friday, December 18
 9:00 AM Members of the Kitson Family

Saturday, December 19 ~ Vigil/4th Sunday in Advent
 5:30 PM Richard O'Neill

Sunday, December 20 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM Roland Warth

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday, December 19 ~ Vigil/4th Sunday in Advent
 5:30 PM Jen Zupetz

Sunday, December 20 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM AnnMarie Minerly

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 19 ~ Vigil/4th Sunday in Advent
 5:30 PM Joe Herschel

Sunday, December 20 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent
 9:30 AM Marie Barnett

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Alexandria Baker-Bonitz (*Navy*)
 Dylan Bonitz (*Navy*) Chase Bowen (*Navy*)
 Sarah Bowen (*Navy*) Juan Gonzalez (*Navy*)
 Kaila McGowan (*Marines*) Anthony Pagano (*Navy*)
 Joseph Ruize (*Navy*) Carissa Tironi (*Army*)
 Elliott Weidel (*Marines*)

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Joanne Bach, Hank Bodendorf, Margaret Ellen Burke, S.C.,
 Barbara Ceriale, Charles Clark, Bob Cross, Brian Cross,
 Nicole Dawson, Lucy D'Amato, Anna Gallo, Joe Gallo,
 Michael Gallo, Maggie Horne, Anthony Pagano, Sr.,
 Helen Ryan, Sadie, Frances Salewski,
 Pam Sibley, Chris Strobl, Gary Texter, Katylynn Auer Weidel

PRAY FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES

Rosella McKane, Regina Parthesius, Virginia Steinbeck, Robert Wise

LOOKING AHEAD

FOOD PANTRY – 9:00 AM by appointment
(Every Saturday Unless Announced)

Tuesday, December 15
 Religious Education Classes
 6:30-7:30 PM *(On Line)*

Saturday, December 19
 Bells & Stars Gifts Distributed ~ 9-11 AM 

Monday, December 21
 Advent Reconciliation Monday
 Reconciliation Available at Our Lady of
 Mount Carmel *only from 4:00 to 8:00 PM*


Tuesday, December 22
 Religious Education Classes
(On Line) 6:30-7:30 PM



Thursday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
 Mass at 5:30 & 10:00 PM

Friday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
 Mass at 9:30 AM

NO Religious Education Classes
on Tuesday, December 29

Friday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day
 Solemnity of Mary,
 Mother of God
 Mass at 9:30 AM 



Today's Scripture

3rd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Joy is the sense of peace that we find
 when we do God's will.
 Prayer is the means of discerning God's will.*

Saint Paul was the consummate instructor, using his Letters to the various people (i.e. the Thessalonians and the Hebrews) as the means by which he reached the masses. Through Scripture, his teaching continues to this very day.

One of his lessons revolves around *joy* and *prayer*. We should not quench the Spirit, but we must test everything. We must be open to God speaking in our hearts, but we also need to recognize that we do not have a monopoly on the truth. We must listen to God's speaking through the hierarchy and those around us.

Mass Attendance/Collection

Attending Mass December 5 & 6: **79**
 Weekend's Collection: **\$2,256.80**

The Season of Light

Advent is Witnessed by Creation

Autumn and early winter are times of great seasonal change. The leaves turn brilliant colors then fade and fall. The shadows lengthen as the days grow shorter and colder. The warmth of summer and vacations seem distant memories and we are reminded once again that the things of this world last but a moment and pass away. Even so, we look forward as well.

Christmas can be a wonderful time of year. Likewise, the winter ahead has delights. Few can deny the mesmerizing beauty of falling snow and the child-like excitement a winter

storm can cause. Advent draws us spiritually into this season of change, of longing and of expectation.

As the days grow shorter and the darkness increases we light candles on our Advent wreaths and remember that Jesus is the true light of the world, the light that shines in the darkness. These lit candles also symbolize our on-going commitment to come out of darkness into God's own marvelous light. (cf 1 Peter 2:9). A Gospel Song says: *"Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright."*

Waiting for His Second Coming

Advent is also a time to prepare for the second coming of the Lord. We say in the Creed, *"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead."* This truth flows directly from Scripture which teaches clearly two things on which we must reflect. First, He will come again in glory. Second we cannot know the day or the hour that he will return. In fact, though some signs will precede his coming, the emphasis of Scripture falls upon the suddenness of the event:

1. He will appear like lightning (Mt 24:27),
2. with the suddenness of the pangs of child birth (1 Th. 5:3)
3. in the twinkling of an eye and the sound of a trumpet (1 Cor 15:52).
4. It will take place when we least expect (Mt 24:44),
5. Just when everyone is saying, "There is peace and security!" (1 Th. 5:3).

Since this is to be the case we must live lives of readiness for that day. Advent is a time when we especially reflect of the necessity of our readiness. Here, too, an Old Gospel Song says, *"Ready!? Are you ready? For the coming of the Lord? Likewise, a spiritual counsels, "Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. The time is drawing nigh."*



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