

PARISH CALENDAR

Third Sunday
of Advent

December 15, 2019

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Saturday, Dec 14	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, Dec 15	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:45 a. m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, Dec 16	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast Potluck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, Dec 17	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast Potluck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Wednesday, Dec 18	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast Potluck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, Dec 19	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast Potluck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 5:30 p. m.	Feeding Menu - Baked Ham/Luncheon Meat
Friday, Dec 20	..... 5:30 a.m.	Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast Potluck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Saturday, Dec 21	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass - Misa de Gallo - Breakfast Potluck
	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah: 7:10-14: God promises a sign, if asked.

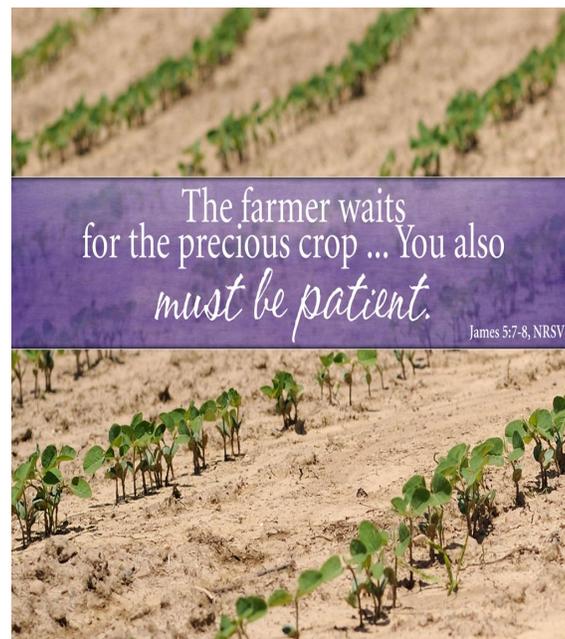
Romans: 1:1-7: Paul preaches Jesus, the Son of God.

Matt:1:18-24: A sign is given to Joseph.

Reflection

In Jesus, the work of John the Baptist and all of Israel's prophets before him has come to fulfillment. The reign of God is ushered in by this last prophet. John's vocation as prophet, though great, is dwarfed by his membership in the new dispensation, the new order, the reign of God. This membership, says Jesus, is available to each and every one who recognizes it.

We will know the reign of God is fully here when the human spirit breathes free, the shackles of fear are broken, the shadows of sin are dispersed, the weak are strengthened, hearts are healed, and the desert of the human spirit blooms. This reign of God does not happen to us; it happens in us and in the world, and it comes slowly and surely. The second reading today counsels patience, the kind of patience the farmers exercise as they await the fall and spring rains. One season of rain must provide subsoil moisture—it must run deep. The other rains provide the top dressing, the moisture for germinating the planted seed. Farmers cannot hurry the rains. They can only await them in hope. So it is for us now. We wait in hope. But today our joy runs deep and it spills over. Gaudete! Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



Rejoice! The Lord is near.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINSETTIAS DONATIONS: We are seeking donations for Poinsettias. Envelopes are at the back church for your Donation. Mahalo for your generosity.

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

From the loneliness of his prison cell John the Baptist asks of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" The weeks before Christmas offer much to be joyous about, celebrating with family and friends, the glitter of seasonal decorations, the excitement of gift giving and receiving. But in our midst there are lonely and neglected, the poor, the hospitalized, the wayward, the shut-ins. There are those who feel that they have no hope. To whom should they look? Discipleship in the Lord includes being good stewards of others. Are there those in our family, our neighborhood, our community to whom we can reach out to show them a sign of Christ's presence in their midst? (International Catholic Stewardship Council)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS LISTED BELOW IS THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, December 24th

6 p. m. Ohana Mass

11 p. m. Christmas Evening (Midnight)

Wednesday, December 25th

8 a. m. Christmas Mass

10 a. m. Christmas Mass

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Religious give thanks. "Thanks you' hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's special collection.

WORD OF LIFE: "Those who die in God's grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is not an abstract idea, but a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly descriptions and understanding. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and everlasting life by preparing now, in hope, for our passage from this life into eternal life. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Catholic Considerations for our Earthly Passing"

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 15 Sun: 3rd Sunday Advent

Isa:35:1-6a, 10; Ps:146; Jam:5:7-10;Mt:11:2-11

Dec 16 Mon: Advent Weekday

Num:24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps: 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-6; Mt:21:23-27

Dec 17 Tue: Advent Weekday

Gen:49:2, 8-10; Ps:72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt:1:1-17

Dec 18 Wed: Advent Weekday

Jer:23:5-8; Ps:72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt:1:18-25

Dec 19 Thur: Advent Weekday

Jud:13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps: 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk:1:5-25

Dec 20 Fri: Advent Weekday

Isa:7:10-14; Ps: 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk:1:26-38

Dec 21 Sat: Advent Weekday

Songs:2:8-14; Ps:33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk:1:39-45

Looking Forward

Children look forward to Christmas, teens look forward to the winter break, adults look forward to a time of relaxation—a weekend, a quiet evening. By this time in Advent, Christmas looms even closer and anticipation intensifies as we count off the days. Christmas is at most two weeks away. On this Gaudete Sunday we rejoice. We can hardly wait, and the joy spills over. Gaudete!

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This day the church rejoices in the coming of the Lord, which is assured, yet we need to be reminded of how it looks and what it requires of us. The coming of the Lord is filled with abundance and looks most inviting; yet the coming of the Lord costs something as well.

Just ask Isaiah. He continues to speak of the wonders of the Lord's coming, but he speaks this to a weary people who must face the daunting task of rebuilding a new life together in a ravaged and war-torn land. The cost of the coming of the Lord is the work we are called to do to build up God's reign. Nevertheless, Isaiah speaks of a healing time for body and spirit.

Isaiah's description of healing and fullness finds its way into today's Gospel. The Lord who was to come has now appeared, and the miracles of wholeness and health and renewed life are signs of a new order. With the arrival of Jesus, the "Messianic Kingdom" of which Isaiah spoke with such passion has come to pass.

... the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

PSALM 146:8, NRSV



Make your hearts firm because the coming of the LORD is at hand.



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