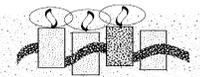


# PARISH CALENDAR

The Third Sunday  
of the Season of  
Advent

December 16, 2018

Great is the Holy One of Israel!



Saturday, December 15	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 16	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... <b>10:45 a. m.</b>	<b>Religious Education</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 17	..... 5:30 a. m.	Mass - Breakfast Pot-luck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 18	..... 5:30 a. m.	Mass - Breakfast Pot-luck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 19	..... 5:30 a. m.	Mass - Breakfast Pot-luck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... <b>7:00 p. m.</b>	<b>Advent - Stewardship Workshop</b>
Thursday, December 20	..... 5:30 a. m.	Mass - Breakfast Pot-luck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 7:30 p. m.	<b>Prayer Meeting - Church</b>
Friday, December 21	..... 5:30 a. m.	Mass - Breakfast Pot-luck
	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... <b>6:00 p. m.</b>	<b>Decorating Church for Christmas</b>
Saturday, December 22	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass - Breakfast Pot-Luck
	..... 4:00-4:45 p. m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Mi:5:1-4a: Hope of a ruler and shepherd who will “be peace”**

**Heb: 10:5-10: Jesus offered himself to do God’s will**

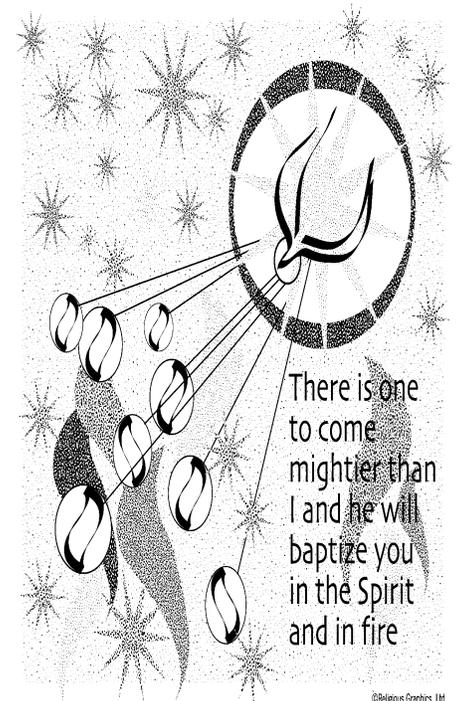
**Lk:1:39-45: Elizabeth acknowledges Jesus in Mary’s visitation**

*By this time of year, the airwaves are awash in Christmas carols. Department stores are all geared up for their final holiday sale blitzes. Schedules are crammed with Christmas shopping, pageants, preparations, and the occasional moment or two of panic. Children find it more and more difficult to wait. Something more than carols is in the air, and today’s liturgy more than mirrors this holiday intensity. All three of today’s readings speak to this “holidazzle.”*

*Zephaniah calls for celebration. The Messiah, the “King of Israel, the LORD,” is here among us. He comes to celebrate with us, to dance and sing, to share in our revelry. With the Savior’s presence, we have nothing to fear. Enemies are banished; judgment is lifted. All that is left to us is to rejoice in God’s presence.*

*Paul issues a double call for jubilation and praise. After all, the Lord is near at hand! What is there to be anxious about? What is there to fear? The Lord comes to blanket God’s people with peace.*

*In the Gospel, John the Baptizer’s listeners want to know what to do to be ready for the Lord’s coming. John gives them no elaborate agenda. The prophet’s response is simplicity itself: Keep on doing what you’re doing, but do so with great care and a sense of justice. John calls on his listeners who possess more than they need to give to those in greater need. He urges those who must tax not to be taxing, not to overburden, not to defraud. He reminds those who bear arms that they are not to strong-arm, to wield their weapons but sparingly, to forswear falsehoods, and to blunt their blows.*



REJOICE  
Daughter Jerusalem  
Be glad with all your heart

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:** *Religious Give Thanks*, “This money is pure gift,” writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.” It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters.: Your gift to last week’s collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

**POINSETTIAS’S:** We are asking for donations for Poinsettias for our Christmas decorations. You can either donate money for us to purchase a plant or bring the plant when we decorate the church on **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p. m.** For more information, please call the parish office.

**ST. RITA SOUVENIR BOOK:** We are pre-selling “St. Rita Souvenir Book” the cost is \$15! Please contact Sebastian Lopez @ 808-226-6691, for more information.

**WORD OF LIFE:** “In 1531, when the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was till a recent memory, the Mother of God appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman, now known as our Lady of Guadalupe. She sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the Bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; 2018-19 Respect Life Reflection, [www.usccb.org/respect-life-reflection](http://www.usccb.org/respect-life-reflection)

## WEEKLY READINGS

### **Dec 16 Sun: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Zep:3:14-18a; Ps:12; Phil:4:4-7; Lk:3:10-18*

### **Dec 17 Mon: Advent Weekday**

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

### **Dec 18 Tue: Advent Weekday**

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

### **Dec 19 Wed: Advent Weekday**

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

### **Dec 20 Thu: Advent Weekday**

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

### **Dec 21 Fri: Advent Weekday**

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

### **Dec 22 Sat: Advent Weekday**

*1 Sam:1:46-56; 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk:1:46-56*

## **Rejoicing in God with Us**

Traditionally, the Third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* (“rejoice”) Sunday. The somber Advent vesture is exchanged for a deep and vibrant rose. This week’s Advent wreath candle is also rose or pink. The readings for this Sunday reflect this bright delight. In fact, the whole rhythm of Advent picks up today. As the more immediate preparations for Christmas begin, the more restrained mood of Advent’s early days is abandoned. The “O Antiphons” are sung and proclaimed beginning this week. You can feel Christmas in the air. This sensation is not just schmaltzy sentimentality. It’s more like a sixth sense we Christians have. And the liturgy is urging us to employ this sense to recognize that Emmanuel, God-with-us, really is with us now.

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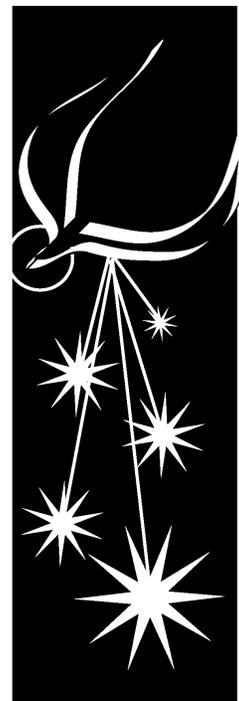
## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

*In today’s Gospel we hear the prophet John the Baptist being asked an insightful stewardship question: “What should we do?” Each group wants to know the appropriate response to John’s call; each reply points to how they should treat others. John does not simply say, “Be baptized.” Rather, he points them to their jobs and personal relationships. John’s message is simple: judgment is near, and repentance includes treating others well. We should be willing to share what we have with those in need. To listen to John the Baptist is to be called to account. Do I give only of my excess, or am I the good steward who is willing to make daily sacrifices in order to help others?*  
**(International Catholic Stewardship Council)**

## **Reflection**

*Today’s readings seem to indicate that our final Advent preparations need not be anything out of the ordinary. Thus, for us, celebration is part of the ordinary. Unbridled joy is the ever-present emotion for those who recognize that the Messiah is present. We need not involve ourselves in some highfalutin’ agenda to get ready for Emmanuel. Rather, our Advent task is to tend to what is at hand, to be in charge of our own souls, and also to be responsive to all who are near and dear.*

*And being responsive, by the way, is never something that is done in the abstract or in general. We can be responsive only in the concrete, in particular. Perhaps that’s why the Baptizer in today’s Gospel passage was so particular in his preparation advice. Clearly that’s why we have to be particular in our preparations for the coming of the Lord. We have to be at attention and pay attention to our personal needs, and in so doing, recognize and respond to the very particular and personal needs of others. Copyright © 2002, World Library Publications. All rights reserved*



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