

PARISH CALENDAR

The Second Sunday
of the Season of
Advent

December 9, 2018

All flesh will see the salvation
of our God!



Saturday, December 8	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, December 9	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 10:45 a.m.	Religious Education
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, December 10	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, December 11	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, December 12	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Advent - Stewardship Workshop
Thursday, December 13	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Friday, December 14	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, December 15	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confessions
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Zep:3:14-18a: Repentant, exiled Israel is called to hope and joy

Phil: 4:4-7: Rejoice; be kind and thankful!

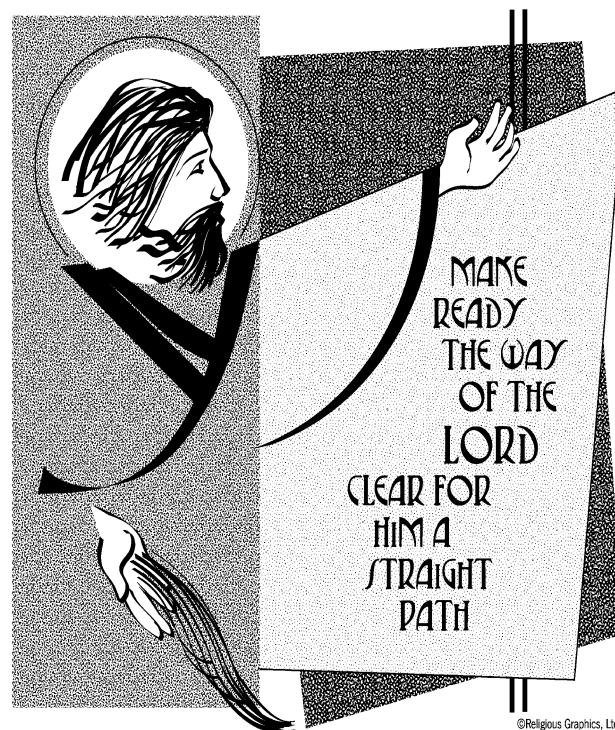
Lk:3 :10-18: John teaches repentance and proclaims Christ's coming

Reflection

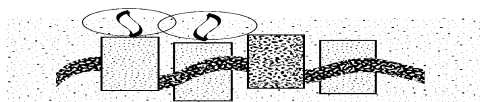
Today's readings trumpet the themes of universal salvation through forgiveness of sins. Be assured, our faith turns on these. Indeed, Jesus spends his entire ministry trying to convince us of these truths and inviting us to make them our mission. Yet we resist. We find universal salvation too inclusive, forgiveness too hard and too simple. We prefer to believe that you get what you pay for, that not everyone is "worthy," and so we balk at these things, which come so duty-free and so widely offered.

Punishment, on the other hand, is easy to believe in. We see it all around us. It's logical, stands on the ethic of reprisal and retribution, and is our all-purpose solution to the pain of being hurt. But forgiveness and all-inclusive redemption? These are not logical at all. They are foreign words—a new language, the sound of salvation. Oh, we say we believe in them, yet our shame and our actions belie our words. People who truly believe in forgiveness and all-inclusive redemption believe that the love of God is fire that consumes sin and shame. They believe in a world where the crooked is made straight, the rough made smooth, the high made low, the low uplifted. Such people possess a love that "increase[s] ever more and more." Justice and mercy are their companions. These are people who eagerly await the coming and embrace of Emmanuel.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Aging religious

need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

POINSETTIA'S: We are asking for donations for Poinsettia 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 21st 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 @808-224-6691, for more information.

WORD OF LIFE: "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother. Not sure how to help or what to say?" Learn ten tips at www.usccb.org/support-her." "10 Ways to Support Her When she's Unexpectedly Expecting" USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 09 Sun: 2 Sunday of Advent

Bar:5:1-9; Ps 126; Heb:11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk:2:22-40

Dec 10 Mon: Advent Weekday

Isa:35:1-10; Ps:85:9ab, & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk:5:17-26

Dec 11 Tue: Advent Weekday

Isa:40:1-11; Ps:96:1-2, 3 & 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt:18:12-14

Dec 12 Wed: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Rev:11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith: 13:18bcde, 19; Lk:1:39-47

Dec 13 Thu: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is:41:13-20; Ps:145:1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt:11:11-15

Dec 14 Fri: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

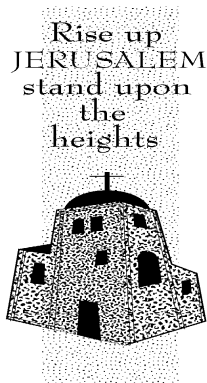
Is: 48:17-19; Ps 1: 1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Mt: 11:16-19

Dec 15 Sat: Advent Weekday

Sir:48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Good News

All of us love good news. Today's liturgy of the word abounds in good news. The Lord comes to rescue and redeem, not one, not some, but all. Spread the good news! Copyright © 2003, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



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NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's second reading, Saint Paul prays with joy and confidence for his friends in the Christian community has partnered with him to proclaim the Gospel. He sees Christ's active presence and plan of salvation at work in the community. God's overarching plan is unclear to us. But when we see evidence of God working through others, doesn't it give us reason to hope that Christ is alive among us? Does it inspire us to be partners with others in promoting the Gospel? Food for thought in this second week of Advent. (**International Catholic Stewardship Council ~e-Bulletin**)

Baruch was the prophet Jeremiah's follower and secretary (scribe). He is generally granted authorship of portions of the Book of Jeremiah. However, most biblical scholars say that he did not write the Book of Baruch. Rather, this book is probably the work of another scribe and contains the teachings and viewpoints of both Baruch and Jeremiah. Its form was finalized in the third century B.C., some four centuries after the two prophets' time on earth. By that time, the Hebrew people had returned from exile, the slashed and burned land had rejuvenated itself, and Jerusalem had been restored, standing tall and proud once again. Thus, today's first reading speaks of the "justice from God," of God's care, and of the coming of God's even more universal salvation: "God will show all the earth your splendor" (Baruch 5:3). It's as if the prophet were declaring, "How sweet it is! God's in the heavens! All's right with the world!"

The reading from Philippians is also a sweet one. While Baruch speaks of the holy city, Paul speaks of the holy people. He is sure of their rootedness in Christ, so sure that he declares that they will ripen in him and bear sweet fruit, indeed. Paul is delighted. He rejoices—even though he writes from prison—in the faith of the followers. He assures them that their care for one another will prepare them well for the coming of the Lord.

The Gospel speaks of that great coming, that grand entrance. An old friend of mine—a Texan by birth and choice, as he likes to say—revels in quoting this passage from Luke as proof that Jesus was a Texan. My friend points out that Luke states, "A feller the name of Lysanias was the tetrarch—ya know, sorta like the county sheriff—of Abilene. And ever'body who knows an'thin', knows Abilene's in Texas." Well, my old pal may be off by a few thousand miles, but he does draw attention to something interesting. By using specific references to religious and secular leaders of the age and by supplying some fairly precise geographical coordinates, the Gospel passage establishes the Messiah in time and place. Once established, the passage also directs our attention to a magnificent coming of a brand new age. "Listen up!" it declares. "Right here, right now, in this place, universal forgiveness and salvation are coming your way. Pay attention! Your life here and now and your life ever after depend on them."



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