THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

If Only…

We all have our own “if onlys.” If only my hands didn’t shake. If only my knees were stronger. If only I weren’t afraid. If only we had enough rain. If only I could see more clearly. If only I could hear as I used to. If only I didn’t feel trapped.

God understands. Even though life is not perfect, and even though our property and bodies deteriorate, God promises a restoration of all that is beautiful. The struggles of this life cause us to yearn for another, more glorious life.

Isaiah prophesies a day when God’s glory will come. “Here is your God,” Isaiah says. “God comes to save you.” These words brought hope to those in exile, a people powerless and poor.

When Christians hear this text, we hear a promise that echoed all the way to the birth of Jesus. Jesus, whose name means “savior,” is coming, and all will be made new in him.

Every time we strengthen the weak, help the needy, water the plants, or shovel the snow, we remove the struggles of this life and even though our property and bodies deteriorate, we experience immense consolation, fulfillment of God’s glory and we must rejoice in that fact day and night (See Diary #1661-1662). Reflect upon this “challenge.” Can you find joy in all things and offer praise and gratitude to God no matter what? God is worth it and He deserves your continu- al praise. He never leaves you and when you realize this it will be the source of unending praise and thanksgiving.

Lord, I adore You, worship You, praise You and thank You for all things in my life. Thank You for the blessings and for always being there when life is hard. Help me to grow in my gratitude for You and to rejoice always for Your Mercy.

Jesus, I trust in You.
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES
All Penance Services are at 7:00 p.m. unless indicated otherwise.

Sun. Dec. 15 Presentation, Lee’s Summit, 6:30 pm
Tue. Dec. 17 Holy Spirit, Lee’s Summit
Wed. Dec. 18 St. Robert Bellarmine, Blue Springs
Thur. Dec. 19 Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrisonville

DEDECORATING THE CHURCH
Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 22nd when we will be decorating the church for Christmas following 8:00 a.m. Mass. Many hands make for light work. Your help is appreciated.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
The Keep Christ in Christmas program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It promotes the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes, and communities. It encourages us to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. Activities during the Advent season include:
- Keep Christ in Christmas posters
- Proudly displaying a Nativity scene
- Giving to the needy
- Praying around your Advent wreath
- Reading the Christmas story as a family

These activities are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope everyone will participate and truly “Keep Christ in Christmas.”

THE FERTILITYCARE™ SYSTEM
Freedom from contraception – it's a beautiful gift! The FertilityCare™ System (Creighton Model) Introductory Session is offered monthly at a variety of area locations and long distance. This fulfills your marriage policy requirement, it’s helpful for achieving and avoiding pregnancy, it has medical applications and it’s better than IVF for infertility. Register online at www.fertilitycarekc.com, or call the FertilityCare™ Center of Kansas City at (816) 858-0198.

ADVENT WREATHS & CANDLES FOR SALE
The Altar Society has Advent wreaths and candles for sale in the vestibule. Wreath w/candles are $15.50. A wreath is $12. Candles are $3. Contact Pat Devolder if you would like to make a purchase.

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY
There will be no meeting of the Altar and Rosary Society in January.

PLEASANT HILL LAY CLERGY ANGEL TREE
The Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy yearly sponsors an “Angel Tree.” It is separate from our Parish Angel Tree. If you have adopted a child(ren) and picked up an “Angel,” please return gifts to City Hall by Monday, Dec. 16.

GIVING THE GIFT OF WARMTH
Catholic Charities is blessed to partner with the Knights of Columbus throughout the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph in the Coats for Kids Drive. The Knights have done an amazing job of raising funds and providing coats for school children in need. We are hopeful that their example of generosity will spread as we begin our winter drive to collect, hats, gloves and scarves for our clients coming through the Welcome Center. This time of year is especially challenging for the homeless and those in need. Please consider giving the gift of warmth this season by donating to our drive. For more information please contact Nancy Butters, Development Manager at nbutters@ccharities.com or (816) 659-8266.

Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph
4001 Blue Parkway, Suite 250
Kansas City, MO 64130
Web site: www.catholiccharities-ksj.org

This Sunday we celebrate Gaudete Sunday at Mass. Gaudete is Latin and it literally means, “You rejoice.” It’s called Gaudete Sunday from the Entrance Antiphon for this Mass, which is taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Phillipians 4: 4-5. The Entrance Antiphon for this Mass proclaims, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.”

We are rejoicing because this Advent, the coming of our Lord, is now so much nearer compared to the beginning of Advent. It is indeed a greater build-up to the tremendous day of our Lord’s birth. This day most people remember for the color of vestments that priests are permitted to wear, which is rose; not pink, but rose. Priests can trade off the violet vestment, a penitential color, that is normal for Advent, to the more festive color of rose to indicate the joy of this Sunday. Let us renew our own fervor in our preparations for our Lord’s birth if we have not already. Let us enter into this Sunday with joy, and carry that joy through the remainder of Advent. Let us indeed, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.”

Father Vogel

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOOD DRIVE
The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a food drive to be held during the month of December. The goal of “Food for Families” is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. Many in our community are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food for their families. The Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through this program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward that end.

REPORTING ABUSE
The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at (816) 812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City — St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Services Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at (816) 392-0011 or chastain@diocesekcj.org for more information.

2020 SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE
Please be generous. Thank you.

Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Jan. 5 DREAM Fund and Subscription Sunday for The Catholic Key
Jan. 20 Catholic Home Missions Appeal

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES
Christmas Eve Mary, Mother of God
St. Bridget 4:00 p.m. Holyday of Obligation:
St. Patrick’s 6:30 p.m. New Year’s Eve
St. Bridget Midnight St. Patrick’s 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day New Year’s Day
St. Bridget 8:00 a.m. St. Bridget 9:00 a.m.
St. Patrick’s 10:15 a.m.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR
This Sunday we celebrate Gaudete Sunday at Mass. Gaudete is Latin and it literally means, “You rejoice.” It’s called Gaudete Sunday from the Entrance Antiphon for this Mass, which is taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Phillipians 4: 4-5. The Entrance Antiphon for this Mass proclaims, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.”

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Jan. 5 DREAM Fund and Subscription Sunday for The Catholic Key
Jan. 20 Catholic Home Missions Appeal
MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 14
5:00 p.m. + Patty Ruth
By Friday Morning Bible Study
Sunday, December 15
8:00 a.m. St. Bridget Parishioners
Monday, December 16
No Mass
Tuesday, December 17
9:00 a.m. + Trish Livingston
By Don and Cathy Vogel
Wednesday, December 18
6:00 p.m. + Mary Hensevelt
Thursday, December 19
9:00 a.m. + Jack Hennessey
By Briana Hampton
Friday, December 20
No Mass
Saturday, December 21
5:00 p.m. + Carl and Betty Schuster
By Gary and Katy Crabtree
Sunday, December 22
8:00 a.m. St. Bridget Parishioners
+ In Memory of
Confessions prior to weekday and Sunday Masses
Rosary prayed 30 min. prior to weekend Masses
Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed prior to Tuesday morning Mass
Rosary prayed 30 min. prior to weekend Masses

DAILY READINGS

Saturday - Sunday, December 14 - 15
The Third Sunday of Advent
IS 35:1-6A, 10 | PS 146:7-8, 9-10 | JAS 5:7-10 | MT 11:2-11

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Philemon 4:4-5
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Is 35:4
Say to the faint of heart: be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us

Monday, December 16
NMI 24:2-7, 15-17A | PS 25:4-5AB, 6 AND 7BC, 8-9 | MT 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 17
GN 49:2-8 | PS 72:1-2, 3-4AB, 5-8 | MT 1:1-17

Wednesday, December 18

Thursday, December 19
JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A | PS 71:3-4A, 5-6AB, 16-17 | LK 1:5-25

Friday, December 20
IS 7:9-10 | PS 24:1-2, 3-4AB, 5-6 | LK 1:26-38

Saturday - Sunday, Dec. 21 - 22
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
IS 7:10-14 | PS 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 | ROM 1:1-7 | MT 1:18-24

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Is 45:8
Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Is 7:14
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

THIS WEEK AT ST. BRIDGET

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 14
4:30 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 15
7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Rosary
6:00 a.m. Mass
5:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Dinner
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. EDGE Middle School Group
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday, December 16
No Mass

Tuesday, December 17
8:25 - 8:55 a.m. Confession
8:25 a.m. Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
9:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 18
5:25 - 5:55 p.m. Confession
6:00 p.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. SOR beginning with Mass
6:30 p.m. Women of Faith
6:30 p.m. That Man Is You

Thursday, December 19
8:00 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Adoration

Friday, December 20
No Mass
9:00 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study

Saturday, December 21
4:30 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 22
7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. EDGE Middle School Group
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

PARISH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DINNER
Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Our annual Parish Christmas Program and Dinner is this coming Sunday. We will begin our Christmas event with our SOR children’s Christmas Program at 5 p.m. in the church followed immediately by our Parish Christmas dinner (approximately at 5:15 p.m.) in Ledwidge Hall and the arrival of our very special North Pole guest. Our parish Christmas dinner is a wonderful and a well-attended event for our parish family & friends, especially with the children’s program. A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule for those who plan to attend. Our special North Pole guest will arrive in Ledwidge Hall during dinner where he will visit with the children. There is no cost for this event and all participants are welcomed. All we ask is that you bring a side dish & dessert to share (large enough to feed a family of four to six). We will provide the turkey and ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, and drinks. If you have any questions please, contact Rita Pilcher ritalpilcher@gmail.com or the parish office.

ATTENTION CHILDREN

The Knights of Columbus are encouraging kids ages 7 – 14 to make a poster that promotes the idea to “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Posters can be any size, either drawn or colored or painted. Posters should be turned in at the back of the church this weekend. All those who turn in a poster will receive a free “Keep Christ in Christmas” car/refrigerator magnet. Posters will be displayed in Ledwidge Hall at the Parish Christmas Program & Dinner. Please write your name on the back of your poster. For more information contact DJ Breitbach: (517) 317-3707.

ST. BRIDGET ANGEL TREE

Thank you very much for your participation in the Angel Tree Project. Your generosity is overwhelming and wonderful. Please place packages (wrapped or unwrapped) with the Ornament tag in the Christmas Box by the Angel Tree as soon as possible. Again, thank you so much for your continued generosity.