

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Anthony Paretto

10:00AM Marino Santiago
Dinko Busanic

12:00PM Ann Judith Santiago

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

11:00AM Nedjelko Radovic
Martin Picinic

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

11:00AM Bruce Marisak
Maria & Martin Morin

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

11:00AM Sandra L. Wilson
Milagros Sanchez

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

11:00AM Nedelko Radovic
Attilio & Capezzuto Families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:00AM Vincent, Mary & Anthony
Merlino
Bozo & Anthony C. Morin

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

11:00AM Nicholas Busanic
Julia Stanic
Valentina Fatovic
Rose McCluskey
5:00PM Eichler & Parenta Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00AM Mary Corrado
Devin Williams
12:00PM Rosemary & John Della Rosa

ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of

D'Andrea & Milone Families

ALTAR WINE

In Memory of

Ernie Sdrigotti

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of

Maria & Martin Morin

MASS CANDLES

In Memory of

Mario & Marlene Villegas

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for this Sunday are:

Is. 61:1-2a, 10-11

Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ.

Ps. Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

1 Thess. 5:16-24

Be constantly ready for Christ's arrival.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John stresses that we must make a path for the one so powerful since he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH

Today, we have the invitation to rejoice for a reality that has not yet come; the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we await. People rejoice ordinarily when what they anticipate arrives or when there is a fulfillment of what they expect. Now, the one we await has not yet arrived, but there is a clarion call on us to rejoice, but why? The joy of this Third Sunday of Advent lies in John the Baptist's message concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God created some people for the messiah's advent and mission, and John the Baptist is one of the prominent personalities in the messianic drama. He was born to be a witness to the Light (John 1:7). The coming of John and his message brought the messiah closer to the people. There is an indication that what seems to be eternally far is now fundamentally close. In the Gospel Reading today (John 1:6-8, 19-28), John spoke about our Lord Jesus Christ's coming using the light imagery.

The importance of light to life cannot be over-emphasized. Light brings warmth, joy, and happiness, just unlike darkness. That our Lord Jesus Christ is the light is a fact beyond contention. The prophet Isaiah had earlier said that those dwelling in darkness had seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2). On his part, also our Lord made a bespoke statement which says: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

There is a need for us to rejoice and be glad today because our redeemer and redemption are nearby. We are expected to rejoice and be glad not just for rejoicing's sake but because we are on the right path, and we are also doing the needful in anticipation of the arrival of the messiah.

We are already experiencing the lighting of exceptionally beautiful and awesomely decorated Christmas trees and lights in various cities in the world. Most shops, offices, and other public places are radiant with so many Christmas accessories. Often, I pause and ponder while at the same time wishing that our inner lives could be as beautifully decorated and luminous as the Christmas lights and effects around us so that the joy and happiness will have full meaning.

As we march into this Third Sunday of Advent, let us continue to rejoice and be glad as the joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh.8:10). St. Paul admonished us in the Second Reading (1 Thess.5:16-24) to always rejoice. However, we must not fail to pay attention to the fact that while activating our joy and gladness, we should hold onto what is good (1 Thess.5:21). We end with the legendary song of Isaac Watts.

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Fr. Bonnie

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here.

December 6, 2020

Sunday Collection

\$3,422.00

Assessment Collection

\$ 814.00

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.



ALL DAY CONFESSION

Confessions, in preparation for Christmas, will be held on Friday, December 18th from 11:30AM-5:00PM. Confessions are also held every Saturday from 12 Noon – 1:00PM.

MISSALETTES FOR ADVENT-LENT

New Missalettes for Advent through Lent are on sale at the rectory for \$3.00 each. We will not be able to put the books into the pews during this pandemic. If you wish to have a book to follow along with the mass, please purchase your own. All books contain weekday and Sunday readings.

SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday Masses will be at 5:00PM on Saturday and on Sunday at 10:00AM and 12 Noon. We can now accommodate up to 150 persons at each mass. When you attend mass, you must wear a mask before you enter the Church and leave it on for the whole mass. Also, please sanitize your hands when entering the Church with the hand sanitizers found at the elevator entrance. Please do not take off or lower your mask when you approach the priest for Holy Communion. Take the Communion in your hand and step aside and lift your mask as you return to your seat.

Once again, please consider whether you are “at risk” and make a good choice about whether or not to attend mass. I remind you that the Archbishop has indefinitely dispensed all Catholics from their “Sunday obligation” so do NOT feel compelled to attend mass out of fear. If any of you is feeling “under the weather” or running a fever, we ask you please DO NOT come to the church. You may be jeopardizing the life and health of others.

RIGHT TO LIFE

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. For that reason, we, the Bishops of each of the dioceses in New Jersey, join in voicing the strongest possible opposition to the “Reproductive Freedom Act.”

Without minimizing other serious threats to human life and dignity evident in contemporary American society, the Catholic Church consistently maintains that “the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed” (USCCB Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, “Introductory Letter” 2020).

When informed of the text of the USCCB document early in 2020, Pope Francis observed that the right to life of the unborn “is the most fundamental right. This is not first a religious issue; it is a human rights issue. (Pope Francis to American Catholic Bishops, USCCB Region IX, January 16, 2020).”

As the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, we urge all Catholics and people of good will to reject this proposed legislative initiative in our state and to contact your States legislators to vigorously express opposition to its passage.

“!”

“YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS PRESENT MOMENT IS THE MOST PRECIOUS PRESENT YOU WILL EVER RECEIVE.”

ADVENT OF GIVING

Due to the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic, we have decided not to have the traditional Christmas Give-Away for needy families. Instead, we would appreciate Gift Cards to Walmart or Target, Visa, Master Card or American Express in increments of \$25.00.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONAL SCHEDULE

Friday, December 18th11:30AM – 5:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Thursday, December 24th2:30PM & 5:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Friday, December 25th.....8:00AM, 10:00AM & 12 Noon

NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS

Thursday, December 31st.....5:00PM

NEW YEAR’S DAY MASSES

Friday, January 1st.....10:00AM & 12 Noon

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 2nd.....5:00PM

Sunday, January 3rd10:00AM & 12 Noon

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Baby Michael, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate, Tatiana Flores, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Sean O’Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Louanne Mitchell, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O’Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Conrado Trinidad, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Laura Cipullo, Richard Allen, Anthony Martello, Jr., Miguel Madera, Joe Villani, Lisa Mutchler, Elizabeth Chan, Benjamin Yap, Henry Yap, Anthony McCluskey, Jane Kim Estantino, Mike Hromin, Nancy Manto, Roy Regaspi, Gloria Marquez, David Barmore, Drew Johnson, Kunaim Emelyanesko, Kathy Santiago, Vinny Franco, Baby Grayson DiNatale, Kathie Gumb, Michael O’Connor, Patrick Shanley, Perry Bonaguaro, Rev. John Renard, Louise O’Connor, Cathleen McLaughlin, Fran Barbato, Jared Lanzaloto, Joel Rivera, Angelica Colavito, Jennifer Van Dam, Angelina Cozzitorto, Dawn Troll, Joseph Kirincich, Guy DiNapoli.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Marilyn Lochner, Caesar Nunez.

CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

Keep us good Lord,

Under the shadow of your mercy,
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort
Knowing that nothing can separate us from
Your love.
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen