

Third Sunday of Advent



When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: The blind regain their sight... And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

Matthew

Rev. Barry Windholtz

Pastor

This Weekend's Hymns

All hymns can be found in the Seasonal Missalette.

Opening Hymn: #215

Closing Hymn: #214

St. Rose Church

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

2019

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 BW Special Intentions of the Parishioners & Friends of St. Rose

10:30 BW Barry Savage from Joan Ford

12:00 BW Patricia Stanton Charles from Mrs. Arlene G. Potter and Ron

Monday, December 16

12:10 Jose Halili from Juliana Halili

Tuesday, December 17

12:10 Frances Salerno from Tim and Rhonda Windholtz and Family

Wednesday, December 18

12:10 Michael Ryan from the Family

Thursday, December 19

12:10 Sharon Ober from Howard and Elaine

Friday, December 20

12:10 Gerhard Wedekind from the Mohr Family

Saturday, December 21

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

12:10 Robert Joseph Carle (Birth Remembrance) from Mom and Steve

BW 7:00 Barry Savage from Patricia Sayre

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:30 BW Carol Ferneding from Helen Weartz

10:30 BW Special Intentions of the Parishioners & Friends of St. Rose

12:00 BW Barry Savage from Chris Ryan

From the Pastor's Desk

Last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious was \$8,927.80. Thank you for your generosity.

The annual St. Rose Christmas Party is on **Tuesday, Dec. 17th.**

Doors will be open at 6:00 p.m. In addition to a potluck dinner, Paul Welch will lead us again this year in a carol sing-a-long. St. Rose will provide the meat, dessert, and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite covered dish.

Tickets are available after the Masses in the back of church.

CAREGIVING AND THE HOLIDAYS

Holidays can be difficult. If you know of a caregiver who needs encouragement and support, please tell them about our Caregiver Assistance Network and have them call Angie Homoelle at 513.672.3834 or visit www.ccswoh.org/caregivers for our local meetings calendar.

The Choir of St. Rose will be joined by chamber orchestra and soloists for a **Christmas** spectacular of treasured carols and choral masterworks on December 20th and 22nd. **The concert is SOLD OUT.** However, if you have tickets for the concert **please remember to bring them with you on the night of the performance.**

In the back of church are your envelopes and gift for 2020. If you have any corrections on the name or address or cannot find your envelopes, please call Rose Ann @513- 871-1162.

CHRISTMAS 2019

Tuesday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve 3PM, 5PM, 7PM, **10:00 PM**

Wednesday, Christmas Day 8:30AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM

Mary, Mother of God—Holy Day of Obligation

Dec. 31st 7PM Jan. 1st 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 12PM

We guide our steps by faith, not by what is seen. 2 Cor 5:7

REFLECTION. Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight.

It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God.

St. Francis de Sales

PRAYER Heavenly Father, help me to shine the spotlight of Your faith on the world I live in. Grant that I may see You everywhere and serve You in everything.

Vocation Night—Mt. St. Mary's Seminary is hosting a Vocation Night on Wednesday, January 29 from 5:00 pm.—9:00 p.m. The night is for men college age and older who are discerning who God wants them to be. For more information or to register, see the website at www.cincinnati vocations.org or call Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer at 513.263.3390.

Lectors/Lay Distributors for December 21st and December 22nd

7:00 Joe Christmann, Rich Creighton, M. Luehrmann, Mike Gregorio, W. Russ

8:30 Jon Hemmer, Matt Howland, Tom Perrino, Michael Trotta, Lenny Diaspro

10:30 Michael Alfieri, Roland Becker, Timothy McMahan, Bob Sheil, Joe Sonnefeld

12:00 Pat Burke, John Flick, Patrick Homan, Shawn Gillette



Opening Prayer

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

Though we are in the midst of Jesus' ministry and John is in prison, he has a question for the would-be Christ: "Are you the one who is to come / or should we look for another?" John the Baptist had been preaching fiery judgment, imminent wrath. But then he is arrested and imprisoned, and Jesus begins preaching and doing mighty deeds. Where is the judgment John expected? Was John wrong?

For his part, Jesus does not respond with a simple "yes" or "no" answer. He responds by sending John's disciples back to him with a report of what they have seen and heard. Jesus reviews some of his deeds in alluding to the prophet Isaiah. He then concludes with an ominous beatitude that seems to be addressed to John directly: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

In the Gospel of Matthew we do not have a story of John and Jesus as cousins, as Luke would have it. Instead, Matthew tells us something that might be closer to the historical picture. Perhaps John misunderstood Jesus and his mission. Perhaps John even took offense at what Jesus was preaching and what he was doing. Jesus' words and actions were not what John had expected.

Jesus reminds the one who baptized him that the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them. This is the mission of the Christ sent by God. Nowhere does it say how John responded to this beatitude addressed specifically to him. That silence speaks volumes. Jesus' mission is proclaiming this kingdom and creating it. Let us not take offense at his priorities, even if they are not our own. Instead, let us align ourselves with the Christ sent by God, assisting in proclaiming and creating the kingdom in our own day and time.

Closing Prayer

God of love, mercy, and repentance, you prepared the way of your Son by sending John the Baptist, whose own expectations were exceeded. Give us the openness of mind and thought to recognize your work in the world, even when that exceeds, or may be quite different from, our own expectations. We humbly pray. **Amen.**



For Reflection:

• The disciples of John the Baptist ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, / or should we look for another?" What do you think are the greatest temptations that lead us to turn our gaze from Christ and to search for fulfillment elsewhere?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayers."

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Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,

"What did you go out to the desert to see?

A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.



This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Readings for the week:

3rd Sunday of Advent
Isa 35:1-6a, 10
Ps 146:5-7, 8-9, 9-10
Jas 5:7-10
Matt 11:2-11

Monday
Num 24:2-7, 15-17a
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8, 9
Matt 21:23-27

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

Wednesday
Jas 2:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Matt 1:18-25

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

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

Saturday
Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Luke 1:39-45

4th Sunday of Advent
Isa 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Rom 1:1-7
Matt 1:18-24