

Christ Child Catholic Church
*Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service*

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13, 2020

**We continue in this second outbreak of the
“COVID-19 more difficult and more
contagious and suffering all.**

**We will be holding masses outdoors. Dress
warmly and be warmed by joining your parish
community.**

**If it is raining or too cold, still come at the time
of the scheduled Mass to receive Holy
Eucharist and thus be reunited with Christ
Our Savior.**

**You can receive Communion in your car if you
wish!**

**The weekday masses are less crowded so come
then if that makes you feel more comfortable.**

**If you stay home, please make your home
place of the Word of God and with these ideas
read, reflect and make your prayers. Make
your home a Temple!**

First reading Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11

The Good News of Salvation

This is the fifth of Isaiah's Servant Songs. The Servant would be **anointed** by God's Spirit to **proclaim** a message of deliverance to the people. **JESUS** fulfills the task of the Servant when He quotes these words at the beginning of His ministry. For those who claim to follow Christ they simply cannot refuse to help the poor, oppressed, and needy in their midst. When she is restored, **Zion** (representing Israel) will be clothed with **garments of salvation** and

the robe of righteousness. These are wedding garments, with the metaphor of the bridegroom and the bride emphasizing the joy and delight shared mutually by God and His redeemed people. While Israel was guilty of being unfaithful to God, she will be restored to a relationship with its Husband. The church is also portrayed as a bride, with Christ the bridegroom. That's what the Church does during Advent. It focuses our attention on **Jesus**. It acts as his "advance man" and tells us he is coming. Finally, it explains to us how to prepare for his coming. The "coming" of Jesus that the season of Advent talks about is not only his coming in history, which we celebrate at Christmas, but also his final coming at the end of history.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Various Exhortations

“Rejoice always...” Paul's exhortation to **pray without ceasing** not a charge to constantly walk around muttering prayers but rather to have a life characterized by prayer. God's people are quick to pray in all circumstances, not only when emergencies arise.

In everything give thanks does not mean giving thanks to God for bad things that happen but realizing God is at work to produce good, even in bad circumstance.

To **quench the Spirit** means to dampen or put out the fire of the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit is at work in the lives of believers, others can pour cold water on His power by refusing to do what He commands. In this case, the Thessalonians were not paying attention to **prophecies**.

Prophecies should be tested against Scripture and rejected if they contradict God's Word.

Paul's concluding words summarize his hopes for the Thessalonian believers in light of Christ's return. By imploring, **Brethren, pray for us**. Paul revealed he needed prayer just as much as anyone else to be **preserved blameless**.

Christians must remember to pray for their spiritual leaders!

The Gospel John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The Eternal Word – John's Witness: The True Light

The **John** mentioned here is John the Baptist. He was a reflector of the **Light**, preaching one single message of repentance to prepare the way for Christ. The purpose of John's ministry was to **bear witness** to Jesus' true identity.

John the Baptist was **not the Christ**, not **Elijah**, not **the Prophet** predicted by Moses, but God's **voice**, preparing the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. John used his influence to point others toward Christ, just as believers today are called to do. John's message was clear: **Behold!**

The message of today's reading is this: John tells us how to prepare for the coming of Jesus. And the coming we prepare for is not just his coming into history as our savior, but also his coming at the end of history as our judge.

Let's close with one of the recommended **acts of contrition** from the rite of the sacrament of **Reconciliation**. Please pray along in silence:

**“Father of mercy, like the prodigal son, I
return to you and say:**

**‘I have sinned against you and am no longer
worthy to be called your son.’**

**“Christ Jesus, Savior of the world, I pray with
the repentant thief to whom you promised
Paradise: ‘Lord, remember me in your
kingdom.’**

**“Holy Spirit, fountain of love, I call on you with
trust: purify my heart, and help me walk as a
child of light.”**

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**Prayer requests: can be email to
christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com**

MASS INTENTIONS December 12 - 18

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Donald W. Hanley

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Teresa Espinoza Cruz

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Irene Ann Miller

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Helen Dolores Sullivan

Report Sunday December 5 & 6, 2020

TOTAL PLATE COLLECTION

\$1,279.00

May God bless your generosity...!

Witnesses of the Light

It's curious how the fourth Gospel presents the figure of the Baptist. He's a 'man', without any more qualifications or precision. There's nothing to tell us of his origin or social condition. He himself knows that it's not important. He isn't the Messiah, nor Elijah, no ever the Prophet that all are awaiting. He only sees himself as 'the voice of one that cries out in the desert: **Prepare a way for the Lord**. However, God sends him as 'witness of the light', able to awaken everyone's faith. A person who can spread light and life. What does it mean to be witness of the light? A witness is like John. He's of no importance. He doesn't seek to be original or draw attention. He doesn't try to impact anyone. He lives his life simply and convincingly. It's seen that God illuminates his life. He radiates it in his way of living and believing. It's said that today's world is being turned into a 'desert', but the witness reveals to us that someone knows about God and about love, someone knows about the fount and how to calm the thirst for happiness that we find in human beings. **Life is full of small witnesses!** They are believers who are simple, humble, only known in their surroundings. Deeply **good persons!** They live out of truth and love. They 'prepare the way' toward God for us. They are the best the Church has to offer.

24 December Thursday
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Mass at 2:00 pm.
And the Mass at 4:00 pm.

25 December Friday
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
CHRISTMAS the MASS at 10:00 am.