SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT
Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 12/10
Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 5:17-26

TUESDAY 12/11
Isaiah 40:1-11
Matthew 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY 12/12
Zec 2:14-17 + Rom 8:28-30
Luke 2:15-19

THURSDAY 12/13
Isaiah 41:13-20
Matthew 11:11-15

FRIDAY 12/14
Isaiah 48:17-19
Matthew 11:16-19

SATURDAY 12/15
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
Matthew 17:10-13

SUNDAY Mass Schedule
Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church – Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM

Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission - Sunday Mass 10:00 AM

THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC
You must open the interior eyes of your soul on this light, on this heaven within you, a vast horizon stretching far beyond the realm of human activity, an unexplored country to the majority of human beings.
-Saint Vincent Ferrer

December 9, 2012
Second Sunday of Advent

Mi alma engrandece al Señor, y mi espíritu se regocija en Dios mi Salvador. Porque ha mirado la humilde condición de esta su sierva; pues he aquí, desde ahora en adelante todas las generaciones me tendrán por bienaventurada. Porque grandes cosas me ha hecho el Poderoso; y santo es su nombre.

Lucas 1:46–49

Este el miércoles 12 de diciembre es el Fiesta de
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Las Mañanitas 4:00 AM
La Misa 6:00 AM

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
OF MONO COUNTY
P.O. Box 372,
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760-934-6276
www.mammothcatholicchurch.org
email: info@mammothcatholicchurch.org
Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Mi alma engrandece al Señor...

Este el miércoles

12 de diciembre
es el Fiesta de

Nuestra Señora
de Guadalupe
Las Mañanitas 4:00 AM
La Misa 6:00 AM
Look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you.

One great burden carried by many Catholic parents and grandparents is that their children or their grandchildren no longer go to church. Having been brought up in the pre-reform church, their responsibilities to God and the Catholic Church as parents were carefully defined: they had to make sure their kids went to church or risk losing them to perdition. Or, as one irate mother put it to a pastor who had accepted her son's decision not to continue with confirmation classes, "Because of you my son is going to hell!"

While not denying that possibility, it is important to remember a tradition of good news and joyful hope dating back at least to the 7th century B.C. and the prophet Baruch. As secretary to the prophet Jeremiah, Baruch faced the same impossible situation of alienation from God with no means of reestablishing the relationship. He reiterated to his people a fundamental tenant of belief that religion, which demands a certain degree of commitment and participation from its members, often overlooks: that our faith is not in our abilities to maintain connection with God, but in God's ability to maintain connection with us.

When, in the minds of the devout of his time, all hope of salvation for their children was lost, Baruch envisioned a miraculous return. God, ever faithful, would watch over their children and bring them back.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11

I am sure of this much: that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus.

Saint Paul stressed the importance of establishing a positive direction and maintaining it. "I do not consider what lies behind," he wrote later on in Philippians 3:13–14, "but strain forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal, which is the prize of God's heavenly call in Jesus Christ."

This is the standard deal of seeing the glass half empty or half full. We can see what's going wrong, or we can see what's going right. We can believe that our failures will somehow nullify God's promise to us, or we can hold onto our faith that, no matter what, God will bring the good work begun in us and in our children, to completion.

That being said, people who are parents will still ask the common question: How do I get my kids to come back to church? First, it is important to acknowledge that people stop going to church for a reason: it's boring, it's meaningless, it's hypocritical, or a hurt—real or imagined—was inflicted. And to those who stop going, the reasons are valid and acceptable. But then we, as faithful Catholics, must understand our mission: We are witnesses to God's faithfulness, not our own. We need to focus our attention on God's ability and willingness to bring back the children, not on the children's unwillingness to continue with the church. The power of conversion lies not in fearful dread of human sinfulness, but in joyful hope and confidence in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1–6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

The way back to Jerusalem from Babylon seemed impossible. There were enormous obstacles. The Babylonian empire was history's greatest. The Jews had no hope of rescue. Who would be strong enough to get the job done? And besides, a conquering nation would simply inherit the slave population—the Jews—and continue exploiting them for their labor. And based on the covenant, the Jews couldn't do what they had to do to get God's attention and work a deal for deliverance.

Perhaps the best expression of Judah's impossible situation was the image of the physical journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. There were huge mountains ranges and enormous valleys, and the roads winding through them were often washed out and impassable. To this hopeless image the prophet Isaiah addressed himself in 40:3–5, referenced in today's gospel. Could Judah overcome the obstacles standing between them and a return to Jerusalem? Actually, no. But God could—and did! Read all about it in the Book of Ezra.

Advent, therefore, is the time when we turn our focus back to God's abiding will to save us and his almighty power to accomplish all that he has begun in us and in our children, despite all evidence to the contrary. When things seem darkest, as they do in this seasonal approach to winter, and hope fades, the light of God's love and forgiveness shines for us, even in the darkness of sin and death.

Las Mananitas

El alba, las flores, "Las Mañanitas" marcan el amanecer de la nueva humanidad que hoy celebramos. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe anuncia a los pueblos de América la promesa de una nueva vida. a entrar en armonía con toda la creación. El sol, la luna y las estrellas sirven de marco a su imagen de madre expectante que lleva en su seno al Hijo de Dios, quien satisface todo deseo espiritual. "La Magnífica" transluce el gozo que llena nuestros corazones. Celebramos con procesiones, danzas "matachines"), mariachis y trajes típicos de varias regiones de México.