

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEKEND		
<b>SAT</b> 5:00 pm	12/21	All Holy Spirit Parishioners, Deceased Family Members, All Souls, Thanksgiving, Poor Souls & Unborn Children
<b>SUN</b> 10:00 am	12/22	All Holy Spirit Parishioners, Joseph Loi Tran, Poor Souls, Deceased Family Members, Joseph, Mary, All Souls of Relatives, David Scarnato
MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND		
<b>SAT</b> 5:00 pm	12/28	All Holy Spirit Parishioners and Families, Maria Huong Vu, Maria Vinh Tran, Paul Ngac Vu, Joseph and Mary, All Souls of Relatives
<b>SUN</b> 10:00 am	12/29	All Holy Spirit Parishioners and Families, Joseph Loi Tran, Poor Souls, David Scarnato, Wadlington Family, Eidt & Vernetzy Family

WEEKDAYS	
<b>MON</b> 12/23	Deceased Family Members
<b>TUE</b> 12/24	Deceased Family Members
<b>WED</b> 12/25	Nguyen Family Living and Deceased, All Souls
<b>THU</b> 12/26	Kenneth Bonaparte
<b>FRI</b> 12/27	Kenny Perdue, Jr.

**Readings Advent A03 – Reading 1 Is 35:1-6a, 10** – The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.



Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: **Be strong, fear not!** Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

**Reading 2 Jas 5:7-10** – Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Mt 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."

## Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return



My sisters and brothers in Christ, Already we have come to the third Sunday of Advent. We are asked, just as the followers of John the Baptist are asked: what did you go out to see? If we want to put that into words for our own time, we could ask: why do you participate in Church? What are you looking for in life?

Every year we hear these wonderful readings from the Scriptures of our faith. We hear the Prophet Isaiah proclaiming over and over that salvation is coming, that things will be differing, that **“Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return.”**

Yet our world seems not different at all! When we look at our human history, the same realities of violence, greed, lust, power, domination, and quest for wealth go on over and over and over. The poor are always oppressed. We humans don't really seem to care about the blind or the deaf, unless there is some money it for us. We humans have never made a great human success of the world.

Instead, we find over and over that the wealthy get more wealth and the powerful rule the nations. Sure, once in a while we find a saint, either in our own Catholic tradition or in some other great religion or just a great person who seems to love.

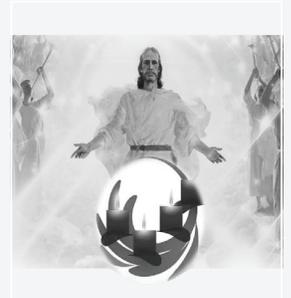
At the level of our personal lives, we find the same incapacity always to do what is right and what is good. We often choose to do the right thing or choose to try to be good—yet we find ourselves not living up to our own choices!

**In this darkness that surrounds us all, we can surely long for a Redeemer!** We have to be aware that Jesus comes to redeem us but He does not promise to change the world! He promises to change those who follow Him and that is quite different. The changes that we want in our world depend on us.

**How do we live? Do we help the blind to see? Do we help the deaf to hear? Are we people who bring life to others and who bring good tidings to all?** This is Christ's invitation to us in this Advent. Our own personal lives can only be all that is possible when we are doing the will of God. Once we begin to look for His will and to try to do it, all our other ambitions begin to fade and our values take their rightful places in our lives.

So today, this third Sunday of Advent, we are invited once more to follow the Lord and to know that this will transform our life entirely. Let us walk in this path with love and confidence and see what the Lord has planned for us! Let us thank Him and bless His name.

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Anna Massey, Beatrice M. McMillon, Brenda Thompson, Brandon, Bobbie Henry, Cameron Nedd, Chloe Pomes, Catherine Hernandez, Dawson Macera, Denise Wiltz, Elinor McKeon, Elizabeth Gale Hardy, Erena Hardy, Jr., Geneva C. Jones, Glynn Boyd, Jerod Boyd, Jeanne & Dan Schmitt, James Casby, Jason Boyd, J.W. Prejean, Kim D. Davis, K. Franklin & Family, Kayla Guterrez, Lula

Ward, Leslie Eiswerth, Matthew Prejean, Major Deloche, Minnie Linyear, Martha Davis, Mary Landreneau, Pam Kamphuis, Roderick Boyd, Richard. R. Vernetzy, Sr., Sliman Family, Tom Thomas, Trudy Morris, Tyrone Wiltz, Viney Miller, Wayne Belaire



December Birthdays: Carlos Gimenez 12/12, Celia Smith 12/17, Joseph Schmitt 12/2, Edwin Agwaramgbo 12/31, Charlotte Baham 12/23, Annette Nunez 12/19, Gilbert Crowden 12/20, Mack Sliman 12,16, 12/24, Chris Busby 12/27, Alejandro Gimenez 12/5, Hong-An Duong 12/13, Dottie Heck 12/6, Christopher Lewis 12/24, Patty Hebert 12/9, Elinor McKeon 12/10, Tahj Jackson 12/8, Gayla Rivera 12/4, Mary Preen 12/4,