



Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8

Prepare the Way of the Lord

The admonition in the title of this reflection is found in the reading from Isaiah and in the Gospel passage. Isaiah describes a long line of exiles returning to Jerusalem after many hard years in Babylon. God leads them back home. In preparation for God's and the people's entry, the way is made clear: "Every valley shall be lifted up...The rugged land shall be a plain" (Isaiah 40:4). The road is repaired, just as we might do if someone important were coming to town. The Gospel writer reinterprets this passage. Instead of repairing an actual roadway, the words of John the Baptist prepare for the entrance of Jesus into his public ministry. Despite their differences, both passages

speak of the "way of the Lord," which is the way of salvation.

The people are told they will get a new start. In the first reading it will be after exile; in the Gospel it is the new ministry of Jesus. Even St. Peter refers to this newness. He calls it "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). He goes on to explain what this means. It will be existence "in which righteousness dwells." Saint Peter further states that this will come to pass on "the day of the Lord," the day when God's promises will be fulfilled and "all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9-10).

The events described in all three readings unfold because of God's merciful love of all. It is for such a day that we are called to prepare. Are we willing to exert the effort? Are we willing to listen to God's words?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *To move in a new life direction, we must leave what we have come to know. Are you ready?*
- ★ *What might you have to leave behind?*

*In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!*

ISAIAH 40:3



**St. Martin of Tours
Catholic Community
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

Mass Schedule

Monday – Thursday, 1205 at Fairfax Chapel

Saturday, 1700 at Belvoir Chapel

Sunday, 0930 at Belvoir Chapel

1100 at Fairfax Chapel

Pre-Registration is required for weekend Masses.

The link to register is:

[https://einventions.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?
i=570065&k=076642097D52](https://einventions.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=570065&k=076642097D52)

**The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed
and can be viewed from this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday – 1600-1645 at Belvoir Chapel
or by appointment. Contact Fr. Lindsay directly
to schedule.

For More Information

CH(MAJ) Michael P. Lindsay, Catholic Chaplain
571-266.2086
michael.p.lindsay.mil@mail.mil

Sister Michael Bochnowski, Dir of Religious Education,
703-806-3418
smary.m.bochnowski.civ@mail.mil
Office located at: Religious Education Center, next to
Belvoir Chapel, 5950 12th Street, Fort Belvoir

Mrs. Louise Oliver, Catholic Pastoral Life Coordinator
254-449-6417
FBCCInfo@gmail.com; louise.m.oliver.mil@mail.mil
Office located at: Religious Support Annex, Bldg 221,
10011 Middleton Rd, Ft Belvoir, near post office.

ADVENT RESOURCES

*The Archdiocese for the Military Services
has launched a new faith formation tool for
families with children grades PreK-12.
The **AMS Family Witness to Christ** gives
Catholic military families access to games,
videos, challenges and other innovative tools
to help their domestic church flourish.
This amazing tool, created in partnership
with CatholicBrain.com, is completely free to
military families. Sign up today by visiting
[https://amsfamilywitness.catholicbrain.com/
login](https://amsfamilywitness.catholicbrain.com/login) and using the code: ARC20793.*

The Reverend Joseph H. Piskura

(COL, CH, USA, Retired)

2 Dec 1929 – 26 Nov 2020

Sadly, Fr. Piskura passed away last month. He
served as a contract priest here at St. Martin of
Tours in 1990s. His obituary can be found at:

[https://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/
obituary.aspx](https://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx)

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For more information, watch a video about this
new program by going to:

<https://vimeo.com/451294408>

Website: www.FortBelvoirCatholicCommunity.com

Facebook Page: Fort Belvoir St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community

Advent Penance

Due to capacity restrictions in our Chapels, we will not host an Advent Penance Service.

Rather, Fr. Lindsay will hear confessions on the following days:

Tues – Thurs, 8-10 December

Tues – Wed, 15-16 December

Saturdays, 1600-1645

All confessions will be held from 1600-1700 in the new Blessed Sacrament Chapel, located in Belvoir Chapel.

No reservations are required.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Community Outreach



Angel ornaments can be found on the Christmas Tree in the Chapel entrances. Each Angel has information describing items requested by needy families. Take an angel, purchase one or more of the items, and return the gifts unwrapped to the designated collection boxes through Dec 20th. All items will be donated to Families living in New Hope Housing.



Catholic Women of the Chapel

CWOC meets in-person and virtually every Wednesday from 1000-1130 at the REC. For more information please contact Deb at CWOCBelvoir@yahoo.com.

Christmas Cards for 2LT Seminarian (Chaplain Candidate) Armando Herrera-DosReis

Our Knights Council proudly sponsors Armando and is looking forward him being ordained as a deacon on 22 May 21, and as a priest a year later.

Please consider encouraging him by sending Christmas Cards directly to him at:

Armando Herrera-DosReis; Theological College;
401 Michigan Ave, NE; Washington, DC 20017

Homily Notes

I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord – for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land. Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.
(Psalm 85: 9-14)

“Certainly this past year has revealed how fragile and divisive we are. We humans long for personal and societal healing, which we cannot accomplish on our own. But God has spoken and has life for us. Can God do that? Is God willing to save us? Isaiah provides a definitive answer – Yes! “Here comes with the power, the Lord God who rules by his strong arm.” And more... We can have new life, a growth into a new future, because our gentle shepherd God cares for the sheep and gives us comfort, like that mother with her bruised child on her lap.” (Preachers Exchange, Fr Jude Siciliano, OP)

In the midst of a world corrupted by sin, God’s people have called on him to “Come and save us.” Isaiah speaks words of hope to God’s people who separated themselves from God through their sin and brought on their own suffering. God continues to call his people to repent of their sins and return to lives of faith so that he might comfort and heal them. We live in a world that denies the reality of sin and refuses to accept the grace and mercy of God, which is offered to the humble and repentant. God is waiting and even pleading with his people to invite him to come and seek the grace of his compassionate love. May each of us humbly welcome the coming of the Savior: “Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.”

Fr. Mike

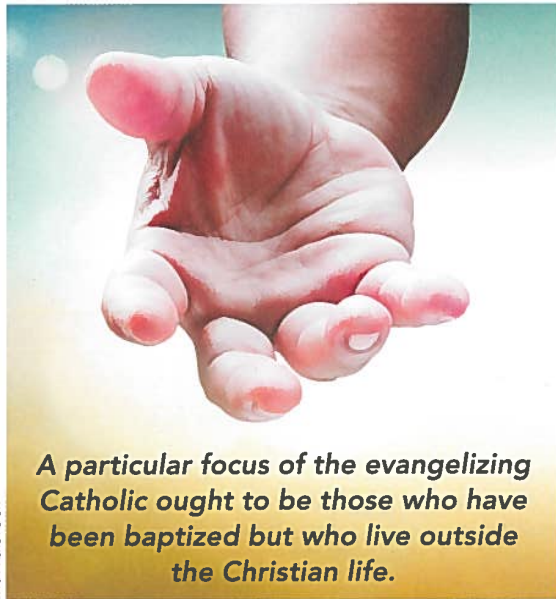


Dear Padre,

Do we need to evangelize, or spread the gospel, to fellow Catholics?

Yes! Evangelization is beneficial to Catholics who already practice the faith. As St. Paul VI pointed out, “The Church...seeks to deepen, consolidate, nourish and make ever more mature the faith of those who are already called the faithful or believers, in order that they may be so still more” (On Evangelization in the Modern World [*Evangelii Nuntiandi*], 54).

What about nonpracticing Catholics? Yes, again! A particular focus of



A particular focus of the evangelizing Catholic ought to be those who have been baptized but who live outside the Christian life.

the evangelizing Catholic ought to be those who have been baptized but who live outside the Christian life. We already know that a large number of the baptized have not formally repudiated their baptism but do not live in accordance with it. They resist the idea of evangelization out of indifference or a hostility based on the belief that he or she is one of the family, but is “in the know” and no longer believes.

Christ wishes God’s love to be proclaimed and

reproclaimed to all Catholics—practicing and nonpracticing. This is the essential mission that Christ gives to his Church—to invite everyone to experience the full impact of God’s love in Jesus.

—Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

How beautiful it is to think of ourselves as proclaimers of the resurrection of Jesus, not only in words, but also in our conduct and testimony of life! Jesus does not want disciples who are merely able to repeat memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope with their way of welcoming, smiling, and loving.

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 4, 2017

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 7
St. Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Is 35:1–10
Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday

DECEMBER 8
Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Wednesday

DECEMBER 9
Advent Weekday
Is 40:25–31
Mt 11:28–30

Thursday

DECEMBER 10
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday

DECEMBER 11
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17–19
Mt 11:16–19

Saturday

DECEMBER 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14–17 or
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26–38 or 1:39–47

Sunday

DECEMBER 13
Third Sunday
of Advent
Is 61:1–2a, 10–11
1 Thes 5:16–24
Jn 1:6–8, 19–28