

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Rev. Barry C. Black is a former chaplain for the United States Senate. At the beginning of every Senate session Chaplain Black would offer a prayer asking God to bestow the gifts of unity, wisdom and cooperation upon the senators. Once Chaplain Black prayed: "Lord God, infuse these senators with a spirit of reconciliation that will break down divisive walls, bringing harmony and cooperation. Give them a spirit of unity and the wisdom to have respect for one another." Following the conclusion of his prayer the Senate got down to their business, immediately creating a rhetorical storm of bickering, accusations and political posturing. Establishing an atmosphere of cooperation, harmony, unity and peace was definitely not part of their agenda for that day.

While his ministry of preaching peace, unity and cooperation to a flock whose main objective is to argue and squabble, Chaplain Black never did get discouraged. Rather he carried out his ministry steadfastly praying that the senators would make decisions and create policies based on wisdom, fortitude, selflessness and right judgment. In many ways Chaplain Black is very much like the two Old Testament prophets (Isaiah and John the Baptist) whom we hear about in today's Scripture readings. Chaplain Black mirrors both these prophets in his steadfast faithfulness in boldly proclaiming God's word offering comfort, hope, consolation, peace, love and mercy to all.

Today's first reading is the prophet Isaiah's comforting message of hope for his fellow Israelites. This passage is part of Isaiah's "Book of Consolation." This book initiates a series of oracles proclaiming God's comfort for His people exiled in Babylonian Captivity. God assures His people that their long years of exile would soon be over and they eventually would be able to return to their homeland. God declares that a new period in Israel's history would soon be unfolding: the people's sins would be forgiven, their punishment would be over and they would now experience God's redeeming presence.

Today's Gospel comes from the prologue of St. Mark's story of Jesus. The purpose of a prologue is to provide the information that is needed to understand the story that follows. In today's passage we are given information about the identity of Jesus as being the Messiah and the Son of God. Also the role and function of the prophet John the Baptist is spelled out for us.

St. Mark begins his Gospel by introducing us to John the Baptist, the precursor of Jesus. John the Baptist's first function is to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 5	4:00 p.m	Special Intention
Sun Dec 6	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Dec 6	10:00 a.m.	Dolores Hermiller + James Trenkamp
Sat Dec 12	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt
Sun Dec 13	8:00 a.m.	Urban Selhorst
Sun Dec 13	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,830.00	Loose \$424.00
	Total	\$2,254.00
36 envelopes returned = 18%		



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for December 12 & 13, 2020

Money Counters: Courtney Gerten, Chad Wolford
4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Jenny Roby
Ushers: Chuck Niese and Dave Siefker
Lector: Jason Swartzlander
E.M.: Jeanne Parinello
Servers: KJ Hohenbrink

8:00 a.m.

Cantors: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag
Lectors: Anna Schroeder
E.M.: Wes Lovett
Servers: Ethan Hoffman

Readings for December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10 - 11
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 24
Gospel Reading: John 1:6 - 8, 19 - 28

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The Serra Club of Lima Area, which exists to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, will have their next meeting on Thursday December 10 at St. Charles Church. Guests are welcome either in person or via live stream (www.stcharleslima.org). Mass will begin at 6:30PM followed immediately by the program. This month's program speaker will be Janis Burns-Watson, Chaplain at Mercy Health St. Rita's. Ms. Burns-Watson is a former protestant minister who converted to Catholicism in the recent past via RCIA. Social distancing practices will be in place. No reservations are required. If any questions, call Kathy McGraw 419-303-0339