



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.

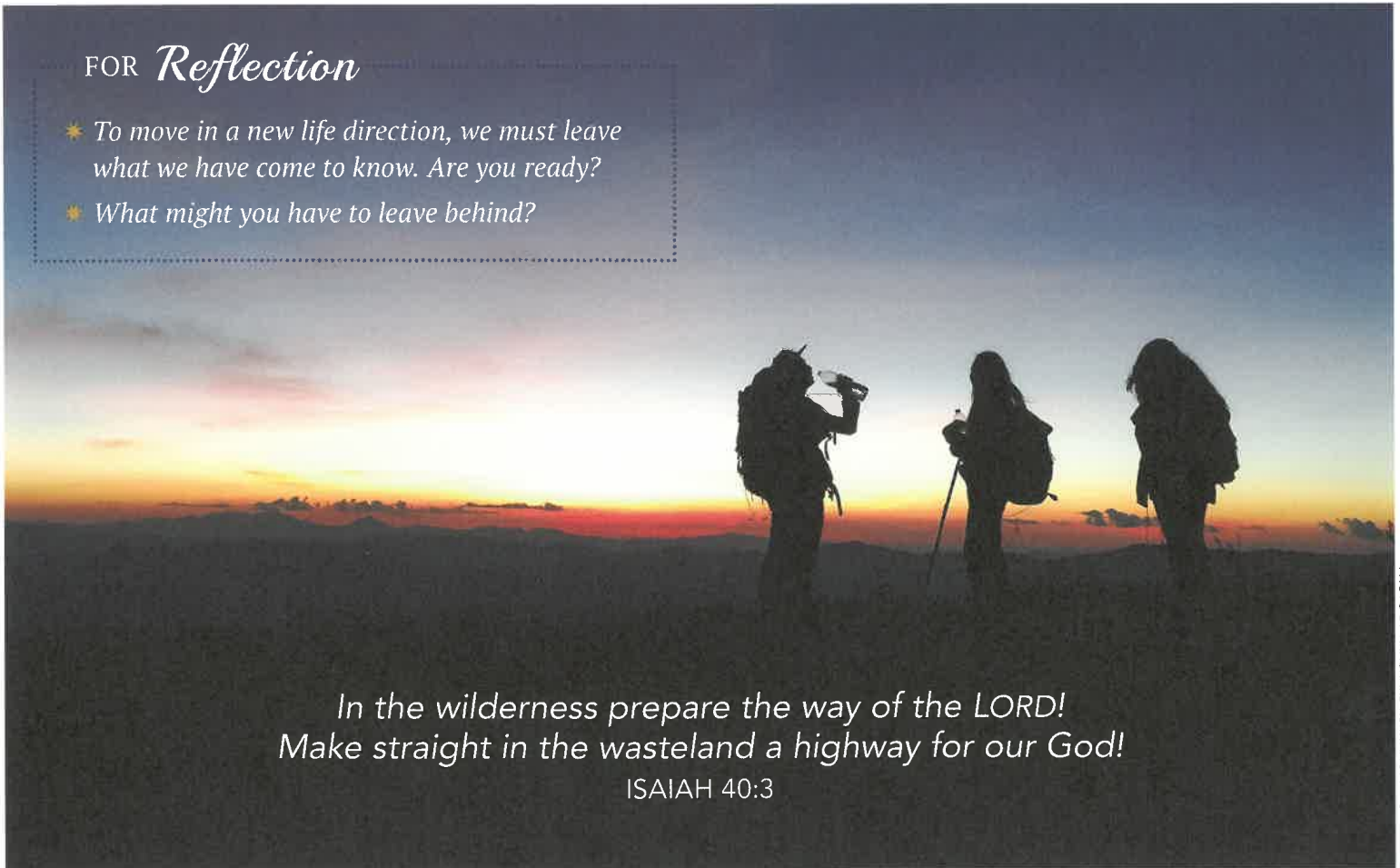
The people are told they will get a new start. In the first reading it will be after exile; in the Gospel it is the new ministry of Jesus. Even St. Peter refers to this newness. He calls it "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). He goes on to explain what this means. It will be existence "in which 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

PHOTO BY TRACHAND KUMTANOM FROM PEXELS

Good Shepherd Cluster Regional Mass Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020

4 pm-Holy Family-Veronica Geerts

6 pm-St. Boniface-Collective

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020-2nd Sunday of Advent

8 am-Holy Family-Merle & Ethel O'Byrne, Norman Heit

10 am-Holy Family-For the People

11 am-RCIA @ Holy Family

11:30 am-Holy Family Confirmation-Bill O'Neill

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

8:30 am Holy Family-Bill & Marlene Weigel

6 pm-Immaculate Conception-For the People

WED., DECEMBER 9, 2020-Fr. Marvin Salz

6:30 pm-Faith Formation Classes @ Holy Family

THURS., DECEMBER 10, 2020-Nick Thomm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

10:30 am Holy Family Funeral Emil Marr

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

4:30 am Holy Family Mantanias

4 pm-Holy Family-Collective

5:30 pm Holy Family Spanish Mass-Daisy Rodriguez

6 pm-Immaculate Conception-Collective

Bob Schluetter & Al & Rosella Bach

SUN., DECEMBER 13, 2020-3rd Sunday of Advent

8 am-Holy Family-Donald Schueth

10 am-Holy Family-For the People

11 am-Holy Family RCIA

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

Saturday: 4 p.m.- Holy Family- New Hampton
6 p.m.-Dec. 5 & 19, Jan. 2, 16, 30 St. Boniface, Ionia
6 p.m.-Dec.12, 26, Jan. 9, 23 Immaculate Conception, NW
Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.- Holy Family, New Hampton

Prayer for a Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

SPOTLIGHT ON: We wish to recognize and thank our Advertiser of the Week **Knights of Columbus Council #1697**. Please patronize our advertisers. Let them know you appreciate their support of the parish bulletin. That's the best way to thank them.

Welcome to the Good Shepherd Cluster
Holy Family, New Hampton
Immaculate Conception, North Washington
St. Boniface, Ionia

313 W. Court St., New Hampton, IA 50659

EMAIL ADDRESS: clustergs@gmail.com

website: www.goodshepherdcluster.com

GOOD SHEPHERD CLUSTER

Mission Statement

As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Pastoral Office 641-394-2105
St. Joseph Community School 641-394-2865
St. John's School of Religion 641-394-2404
Pastor: Fr. Brian Dellaert, 394-2105
Principal: Christina Carlton, 394-2865
Deacon: Victor DeSloover, 563-429-2773
Cluster Bookkeeper: Becky Ptacek-Havlik
Cluster Secretary: Marcia Howe
Director of Faith Formation: Brian McGee
Hispanic Minister: Gustavo Jimenez
Youth Minister: Amanda Husak
Youth Minister Aide: Jill Stumme
Music Director: Michelle Lau, 394-7140
Adult Choir Director: Ann Bennett, 394-5407
North Washington Men Choir: Dan Heying, 641-364-7781
Retired Priest: Msgr. Carl Schmitt

Holy Family

Stewardship needs per week: \$11,751.62

Adult: \$9,709.95 Envelopes: 85
Offertory: \$513.01

Immaculate Conception

Stewardship needs per week: \$1,012.06

Adult: \$690.00 Envelopes: 4
Repair & Maint. \$150.00 Thanksgiving: \$100.00
Offertory: \$75.00 Capital Camp. \$1,025.00
Rosary Society: \$75.00

St. Boniface

Stewardship needs per week: \$791.12

Adult: \$440.00 Envelopes: 4
Thanksgiving: \$100.00 Christmas: \$250.00
Repair & Maint. \$10.00

CLUSTER NEWS

GIVING TREE: The Giving Tree gifts purchased need to be returned to the churches this weekend, December 6. They will be delivered to homes December 12. Volunteers will be needed help with deliveries. Please be at the Methodist Church @ 8 a.m. to begin delivering gifts. Questions, contact Mary Ann Diesburg @ 319-231-3976.

2021 CALENDARS AVAILABLE: In the entrance of the churches. Good Shepherd Cluster Calendars are also available at Vern Laures Auto Center and Hugeback & Johnson Funeral Homes. The calendars are compliments of Vern Laures Auto Center and Hugeback & Johnson Funeral Homes. We thank them for their generosity.

2020 RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION: The annual collection for Religious Retirement will be the weekend of December 12-13 across the country, including in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

COLLECTIVE MASS @ ST. BONIFACE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 6 PM: Deb Bonfig and Florine "Flossie" Clark.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MASSES: Tuesday, December 8, at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Family and 6 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, North Washington.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: Saturday, December 12. Morning prayer will begin at 4:30 a.m. at Holy Family. An evening Mass will be held at Holy Family at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to celebrate this special day.

COLLECTIVE MASS @ HOLY FAMILY, SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 4 PM: Guido & Agnes Brincks, Eugene Sr. & Ruth Schultz, Gilbert & Carmelita Rosenbaum, Felix, Margaret and Janet Laures, Cindy Tieskotter, Francis & Blake Rosonke, Harold & Sally Weigel, Mike & Henrietta Elenz, Lester & Mary Rouchka, Jim Burke, Delores Richter, Henry & Cora Peters

COLLECTIVE MASS @ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 6 PM: Mary Lynne Hilsman, Mary Lee Geerts, Francis & Alice Klassen, Vic & Thelma Baltes, Ann Helling, Roger Nosbisch and Todd Orthaus

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS: Holy Family members-If you are interested in volunteering for Christmas Masses, please, sign-up on the sheets at the entrance of the church.

2021 BUDGET ENVELOPES AVAILABLE: St. Boniface and Immaculate Conception Budget Envelopes are available in the entrances of the church. Please take the time to pick up your envelopes.

PRAYERS for the SICK: We ask the Lord Jesus to bless all those in sickness, in weakness & in pain. Please join us in prayer for: Lona Sweitzer, Nora Ackerson granddaughter of Carol Boos, Danny Deetz, Debbie Brecher niece of Marge TeKippe & Diane Gerleman, Sue Ann Ferrie, Liza Hassler granddaughter of Gerald Johnson, Sharon Reicks, Gary, Stephen, Vincent Zeien, Ken Schneberger, all special intentions & cancer patients.

PRAYER NETWORK: For a prayer request, please call the parish office during the business day @ 394-2105 or after hours to Jan Gorman @ 641-229-6072, or Carol Schmitz @ 394-6072.

Please note: **Due to the length of our prayer list, we will list the special intentions for prayer for two weeks.** If you wish names to remain longer, please call the parish office 394-2105 & we will be glad to leave the names in for as long as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

Military active duty- SGT. Andrew Kasuboski, Joey Sanford, SPC. Kennady Nie, SPC. Adam J. Burgart, SPC. Trevor Burgart, SGT. Michael Messersmith, Adam Tieskotter, CPT. Tim Brincks, Michael Nosbisch, Michael Hansen, Paul Langreck, Carter Robbins (Karen Schwickerath's grandson), Zachary Wilker, Nick Shatek, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schulz, Nichole Caldararo, Kari Prellwitz, Dustin Boeding, John Meyer, Brandon Bengston, Patrick Schultz.

REST IN PEACE: Please remember those in your prayers who recently died: Myrna Hentges, Joseph Hackman father of Mary Hackman.

AREA NEWS & EVENTS

GIVE THE GIFT OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION! The *Our Faith* School Tuition Organization (STO) exists solely to make a Catholic education more affordable for every child who's family income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty rate. As an Iowa tax payer, you can help families with demonstrated financial need through a contribution to the STO. In return, you will receive an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of your donation. The amount you contribute also may qualify as a charitable donation on a federal tax return. Please visit www.ourfaithsto.org or call the Archdiocese of Dubuque at 800-876-3546 ext. 219 to learn more or have questions about this great program.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND 2021: Join Fr. Ivan Nienhaus and Fr. San Smith on a pilgrimage to Poland, October 18-26, 2021. Includes breakfast and dinner each day. Price out of Cedar Rapids or Des Moines is \$3,699 per person. Contact Mary Johnston at www.pilgrimages.com/johnston or blessu45@gmail.com or call 319-560-5138.

FIRESIDE GET-TOGETHER: You are invited and encouraged to join Archbishop Jackels for a special Advent Virtual Fireside Get-Together to be held Wednesday, December 9 (that's this coming Wednesday) starting at 6:30 pm. Pull up a chair to the virtual fireplace and join Archbishop Jackels for a family-friendly evening with warm conversation, entertainment and good cheer. The evening will include scripture, reflections by Archbishop on this crazy year we've had, surprise musical performances and opportunity to spread Christmas cheer...and much more. This is an online gathering so you do have to register in advance to get the secure link at www.dbqarch.org/fireside. You can either go to the Archdiocesan website to register. "See" you there.

LETTERMEN SPONSORED CANNED FOOD DRIVE: During the date of November 23-December 9, Anyone willing to show acts of caring/concern for others. Please help us collect items for the Food Pantry. The Chickasaw County Food Pantry is in need of some of the following canned meats, canned vegetables, canned soups, canned fruits, sugar, paper products, and laundry soap. They will be willing to accept anything that is non-perishable. Please drop your donations off at the New Hampton School offices. Let's all do our part to be a caring person and help those in our community during this canned food drive. We appreciate all your help to support this cause.

18th ANNUAL "CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS" German-American Museum, St. Lucas Holiday Hot Beef Sundae: Curbside pick-up dinner. Beef Brisket in Gravy, Real Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Carrots/Sauce, Homemade Rolls, Dessert: Homemade Christmas Cookie, Bar, Belgian Chocolate. \$10 per dinner. Saturday December 12th, Hours: 3:30 – 7:00 pm. To pre-order, call Virginia at 563-778-2710. Matching Fund Event: St. Lucia Court 233, National Catholic Society of Foresters and St. Lucas Historical Society.

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS OPEN HOUSE: German-American Museum, St. Lucas. Saturday December 19th and Sunday, December 20th 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Visit museum with historic displays and a new exhibit: a collection of attic vignettes – Christmas décor, school room, tea and dining area, religious corner, antique toys and games. Masks are encouraged.

ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD? Then this is THE year to join the Virtual Archdiocesan Women's Beauty in Christ: ON FIRE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT! Saturday, January 30th, 2021, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. From the comfort of your own home, you'll connect with your friends and experience all the great features of our annual conference: Archbishop Jackels, two national speakers, incredible prayer and worship and great vendors@. Speakers Maria Vadia and Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, will ignite women with the fire of the Holy Spirit! Invite your daughters, sisters, and friends to "meet" you virtually at the conference!!! Register today (Group discounts available): <https://www.archwomensconference.org/>.

Good Shepherd Cluster Middle School Youth Group December Zoom Session!



- What: An evening of prayer, games, and fellowship as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas Season!
- Who: All students in grades 6-8
- When: Thursday, December 17th from 6:30-7:30 PM
- Where: Your home! All games and activities will be online.

How to join: email Brian McGee, Director of Faith Formation at DBQ141FF@dbqarch.org to receive the Zoom link!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS MEMORIAL: Donations are being accepted at all parishes. Please complete the form below and include with your donation. Donations can be dropped off at the Cluster office, placed in the weekend collection or mailed to the office. Donations are due to the office by December 21 to be included in the December 27 bulletin.

Christmas Memorials

Parish Name (please circle): Holy Family Immaculate Conception St Boniface

Memorial Name(s) _____ Amt _____

Person(s) giving Memorial _____ Env # _____

MUSIC CORNER

Join us in prayers and songs.

#38 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O, come O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the law, In cloud and majesty and awe. **(Refrain)**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem, From every foe deliver them That trust thy mighty pow'r to save, And give the victory o'er the grave. **(Refrain)**

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[At the words that follow up to and including "and became man," all bow.]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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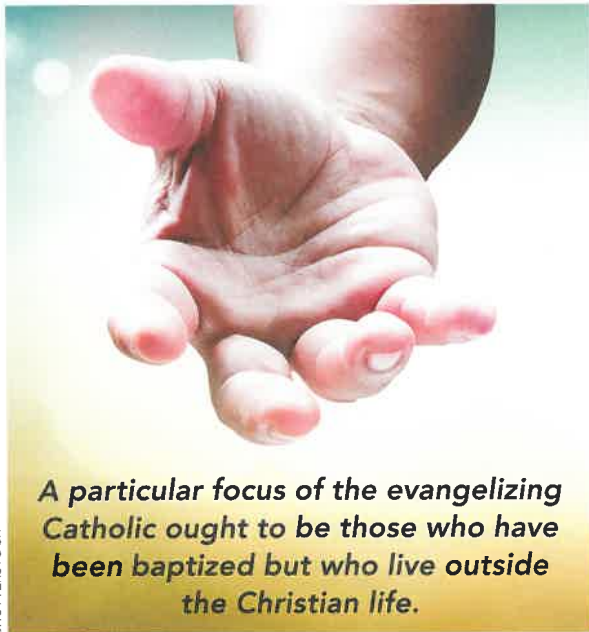


Dear Padre,

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 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.



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

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