

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11**

**“Are you the one who is to come?”**

<b>MASS SCHEDULE</b>				
Sun	Dec	15	9:00AM	Paul T. Wannamaker + By The Wannamaker Family
Thur	Dec	19	9:00AM	- Available
Fri	Dec	20	12:00PM (noon)	- Available
Sun	Dec	22	9:00AM	Michael Lojinger + By Mike & Linda Ezzell
Wed	Dec	25	10:00AM	Betty Lilly + By John & Jan Boelte

**To Schedule a Mass Intension  
Please contact the Church Office  
828-743-5717**

**SAINT JUDE - OFFERTORY**

(The Weekend of December 8, 2019)

Offertory: \$2521.00    Attendance: 89

Religious Retirement Fund: \$633.00

**The Ladies of St. Jude**

The Ladies of St. Jude meet from March-November on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall at 10:00am. They support the Parish in their spiritual growth & outreach programs, assist with funerals, care for the sick and organize social and fellowship programs. For more information, please contact Mary Ann Massa at 919-605-4246.

**Prayer Blanket Ministry**

The Prayer Blanket Ministry's - Winter Schedule (November - May) meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month. They gather at 10:00am for a meeting in the upstairs classroom. You don't have to know how to sew, crochet or knit. If you need a prayer blanket, please contact the Church Office at 828-743-5717.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Jim Barton, Denis Benardello, Patricia Blasi, Lane Bolmer, Tom Borzell, Marian Michel Boyd, J. Randy Brooks, Karen Cameron, Dr. Jay & Jana Carpenter & The Carpenter Family, Tom Carrasquillo, Fr. Hugh Chikawe, Daniel Coffey, Dottie Collier, Sherry Cook, Terese Crawford, Margaret Daniel, Christopher Day, Katherine DeLage, Pat Delaney, Linda Denny, Judi Eisnagle, Mike Ezzell, Sandra Fischel, Gina Galetti, Gretchen Giesey, Jerry Goldberg, Jerry Gordon, Laura Gregory, Walt & Judy Green, Jackson Hall, Donald Haug, Matthew Hite, Amy Hoyle, Jo Hoyle, Katie Hoyle, Daniel Jacobs, Dakota Johnson, Treba Johnson, Bill Keadle, Suzanne Keenan, Cathy Keir, Joe Knauff, George Lee, Trentha Mackey, Marinka, Camerron Martin, Conor McCall, Janet McClory-Presley, Betsy McCloskey, Michael Monti, Ron Nelson, Lyla Ruby Newton & Coen Michael Newton & The Newton Family, Sheila Rinker, Cynthia Runberg, Sherman Runions, Russell Sands, Brendan Scallon, Jr., Elaine Schmid, Bonnie Jean Small, Lennis Smith, Ava Snyder, Leonardo Suarez, Rosemarie Thompson, Kim Wagland, Cassie Watts, Meredith Worth.

**Military Prayer List**

Lt. Col. Fred Dufault (Afghanistan)  
Captain Evan Shawler (Air Force Flight Surgeon)

**St. Jude Prayer Group**

The St. Jude Prayer Group meets on Fridays at 12:30pm following the 12:00(noon) Mass. We pray the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, spend some silent time in Adoration, and pray for the needs of our Church and of our world. For more information, please contact Jane Miller at janem@tampabay.rr.com or 813-230-3500.

**Emaus Prayer Group**

Emaus Prayer is a spiritual movement of faith that is called to prayer, obedience and adoration of the Holy Sacrament. They meet each Wednesday at 6:00pm. For information contact Yuliana Vargas at 828-226-5083 or Efrain Morales at 828-226-1045.

**Spanish Prayer & Rosary**

The Spanish Prayer & Rosary meets on Friday evenings at 7:00pm. For more information, please contact Isela Vazquez at 828-331-7892.

## Today's Readings

**First Reading:** Media coverage of events in the Middle East has familiarized us with the empty expanse of arid desert described in today's reading. Therefore we can appreciate the unbelievable transformation which Isaiah promises. The prophet says that the desert will become a lush garden, as God's chosen people return singing and dancing from their 70-year exile in Babylon. The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad .... (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

**Second Reading:** The letter of James was written approximately 50 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was addressed to a group of Christians who were disappointed that Jesus had not yet returned in glory. Using an agriculture image, the author encourages them to keep their hope alive as they face the day-to-day trials of life. *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 .....* (James 5:7-10).

**Gospel:** John the Baptist is in prison and sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the one who is to come. 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*" .....



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.....*  
(Matthew 11:2-11).

## A Season Of Hope

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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## Knights of Columbus

The St. Jude Knights of Columbus meet at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Please contact Joe Vergo (Grand Knight) for information at 239-777-8606.

## Ongoing Events - Knights

\***Raffle Tickets** -on sale for **\$5.00** following Mass. Shared proceeds will support local charities.

## Hispanic Ministry Calendar

Wednesday, Dec. 18, **Emaus**, 6:00pm

Friday, Dec. 20, **Spanish Prayer Group**, 7:00pm

Wed., Dec. 25, **Christmas Day Mass**, 10:00am

Wed., Jan. 1, **New Year's Day Mass**, 10:00am

## General Church Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 15, **Christmas Brunch**, 10:00am

Friday, Dec. 20, **Prayer Group**, 12:30pm-1:30pm

Wed., Dec. 25, **Christmas Day Mass**, 10:00am

Wed., Jan. 1, **New Year's Day Mass**, 10:00am