

# The Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

Date	Intentions	Requested by
12/13 11:00	Joyce Herbort +	Tom Herbort
12/16 12:00	Cancelled	
12/17 12:00	Cancelled	
12/18 9:00	Cancelled	
12/20 11:00	Ivan Allen V	Carmen Allen

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Our Lady of the Mountains: Christmas Eve Vigil 3:00 pm  
 Christmas Day 11:00 am  
 St. Jude's of Sapphire Valley: Christmas Eve Vigil 1:00 pm  
 Christmas Day 9:00 am

In this time of Covid-19  
 please consider making your offertory donations  
 on-line. Visit our website:  
[www.olmhighlands.com](http://www.olmhighlands.com)

## Our Lady of the Mountains

### Guidelines and Precautions during the Covid-19 Pandemic

We are taking the following precautions to keep everyone safe at Mass.

1. The obligation to attend Mass is still lifted.
2. Social distance of 6ft is observed at all times.
3. Seating is limited to every other pew to facilitate social distancing.
4. Sanitizing hands is encouraged upon entering and leaving. Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances.
5. The wearing of masks is highly encouraged. Masks are available at the entrances.
6. Reusable items in the pews have been removed, such as hymnals and missals.
7. Congregational singing is suspended.
8. All physical contact between congregants is suspended such as hand-holding at the Our Father and the Sign of Peace.
9. The priest sanitizes his hand between households during the distribution of Holy Communion.
10. Distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended.
11. All high-contact surfaces are disinfected after Mass.



## Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

God of the meek and the simple,  
 strip away the complexity we made for ourselves.  
 Free us from the things we think we should do and  
 turn our minds and hearts to what you ask of us.  
 Help us to let go of worry and anxiety, judgment and  
 resentment, anger and self-righteousness.  
 May we faithfully embrace trust, gratitude, simplicity  
 and contentedness. Amen

## Saint of the Week

"Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness  
 and difficulty, persevere in it for this very reason. God  
 often desires to see what love your soul has and love is  
 not tried by ease and satisfaction."

~St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

## Stewardship Thought

Develop your talents to the fullest so that you can use  
 them to benefit your church and community. Your  
 abilities will grow with use; unused, they may wither  
 away.

## Father's Column

### Retreats: Resting in the Lord

"The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves" (Mark 6:30-32).

The Author of human nature understands the value of both labor and rest, for He, too, labored for six days and rested on the seventh. But how do we understand resting? Is it a mere cessation from work? Is it whatever "recharges our batteries"? Given that we are created in the image and likeness of God and recreated in Christ, we should remember we are created for God and will only find our ultimate rest in Him, as St. Augustine once famously wrote: "our hearts are restless, O God, until they rest in Thee."

Such is the reason for retreats. Retreats, modelled after Christ's retreat into the desert, are occasions by which we leave the world for a while and be alone with God. By "leaving the world," we mean finding a new location, such as a retreat house or monastery, but also leaving the hectic communications and distractions that constantly bombard us, especially in a very connected world.

People often are afraid of such silence or being alone with God and themselves. On such occasions, they are forced to face their consciences and unresolved issues. They think by ignoring them or distracting ourselves from them, they will obtain peace, at least temporarily.

True peace (and rest), however, is "tranquility or order," and our souls will only become properly ordered and thus rested if we avail everything to Christ in that complete exchange of hearts. Retreats are thus meant to facilitate such a prolonged encounter with the Lord.

I encourage everyone to make a retreat or at least practice resting *in Christ*. "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and by burden is light" (Matt 11: 28-29).

Mileschristi.org offers excellent directed retreats, including one in Maggie Valley for women this April.

## Catholic News Herald

### Veterum Sapientia Institute

The new Veterum Sapientia Institute that Fr. Barone spoke about in his bulletin column on November 22, 2020 has an informative article in the Catholic News Herald dated December 4, 2020. The institute will offer courses in liturgical theology for seminarians, priests and religious. Also being offered to the general public are introductory classes in spoken Latin and spoken Greek, as well as in-depth courses in patristic and scholastic theology.

Registration for Spring 2021 courses is now open. Online classes begin Monday, Jan. 11, and end by Friday, March 26.

Learn more about the Veterum Sapientia Institute and register for online classes at [www.veterumsapientia.org](http://www.veterumsapientia.org)

Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:

Pat Pittari, Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, Laura Sanders, Mary Catherine Cann, James Urbanski, Sandy Powers, Griffin Harper, The Klingler Family, Shawn Webster

Also for those in our book of prayer intentions, and those for whom there is no one to pray.  
 Please pray for all the men and women serving the United States in the military.

Please pray for the souls of our beloved deceased.

Scott Peek, Sr., Stewart Austin, Nick Klingler, John Powers, Earl Goodrow and Ron Simmons, Lee Smith, Harry Vaughn