



Fr. Noel Danielewicz
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Third Sunday of Advent Rejoice~Gaudete!

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!”

The words of St. Paul remind us that the coming of Christ is drawing near! Amen! We are journeying together on the road to Bethlehem like the shepherds and the magi to bring **our GIFT** to the newborn King. The gift of our Christian lives!

Isaiah the prophet says of us as he said of John the Baptist—*“I am sending my messenger.”* And like John we say of ourselves, **“I must decrease; Christ must increase!”** Which translates: **“We too must get out of the way!”** You and I are called to be heralds of the Good News as we bring the message of the angels to the waiting world.

Using the lens of the Gospel, Matthew refers to the best man of the Lord as **“John the Baptist,”** while Mark calls him **“John the Baptizer,”** and Luke refers to him as **“John the Baptizer,”** while in John’s Gospel, he is simply **“John!”** When questioned John responded: **“I am not the Messiah, nor Elijah, and not the prophet.”** Rather, **“I am the one crying out in the desert!”**

Among the Advent catchwords are—**“Watch and Wait, Prepare and Pray, Listen and be Still!”** However, the typical response of people down through the ages is:

“How long, O Lord, how long?”

Sisters and brothers, is NINE months too long to wait for a desired child? Is nearly 30 years too long to wait for the ushering in of the Kingdom of God? The message that God’s blessings and promise are not always in tune with our human timetable as echoed by the cries of the people of Israel. It also was felt by the human hurt of the infertility of Zechariah and Elizabeth. They pressed on and kept on trusting the God of Israel and kept from despairing, doubting or trusting God and anyone else.

Pausing for a moment, let us take stock of our Advent preparation as we have reached the mid—point mark. Have we begun? Have we become over—whelmed by **SALES** and the

shopping days still left before Christmas? Have we simply become inundated with **the political situation in the country?** With the **COVID-19 virus?** And have failed to become spiritually nurtured? Have you bought into the **pervasive secularism** of our contemporary society? Are you going along with closing the doors of your heart to the message of the Good News—that the long—awaited Messiah is near at hand?

John presents himself as a **WITNESS!** Nothing in the Gospel is centered around John for he understood who he was, knew his place in the plan of salvation, and found himself unworthy to untie the straps of Jesus’ sandals. **John came as a witness to the LIGHT!** He made it categorically clear that the message was NOT about him, rather about the **ONE** who is coming after me!” Waiting for? Are we waiting for **JESUS, the Savior of the world?** Are we waiting upon Jesus the **SON of the Virgin,** who is about to be born in the hearts of all humanity? Are we waiting on the **LAMB** who will take away the sins of the world? Are we waiting upon **the shepherd—king?** Are we waiting upon **the Prince of Peace and the Sun of Justice?**

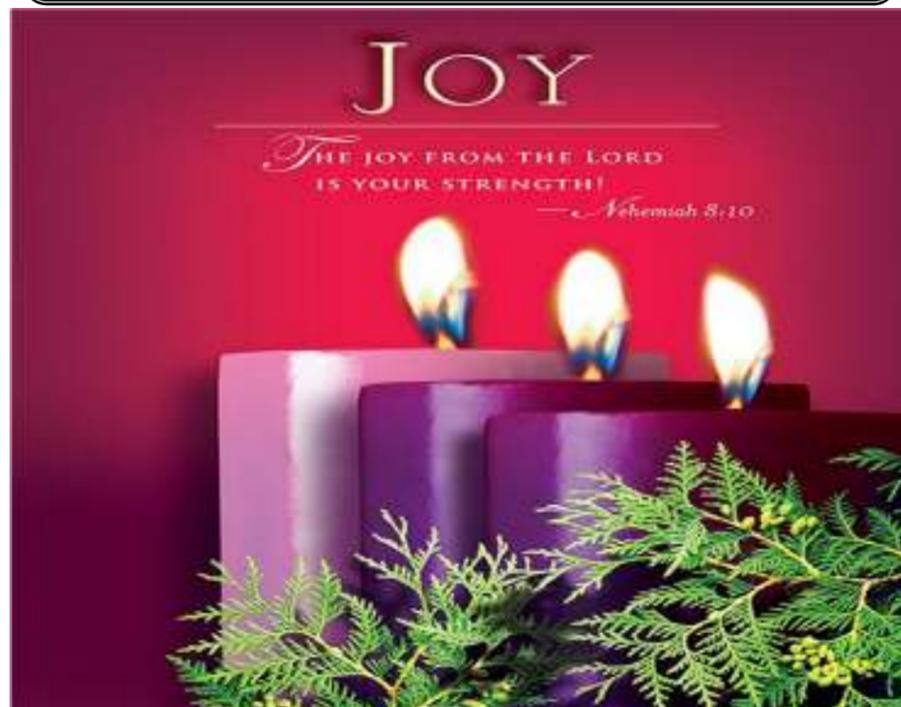
Church, we are at a new juncture of time and eternity. May the Word of God speak to your hearts and lives in a new and compelling way that is life—giving for you and for others. May we continue to wait upon the Lord, who promises and delivers for **HE** is the God of our salvation during these trying times.....keep on believing, keep on trusting in Mary’s **SON,** who is our **JOY** and our **HOPE** for Christmas 2020!

Walking with you in prayer,

Friar Noel

FYI Framed pictures from the Ancestral Enthronement can be picked up following Mass.

St. Benedict the Moor Church



Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a Catholic Christian Community that celebrates its African-American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

“As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord.”

December 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“My soul rejoices in my God.”

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8 am
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am
or by Appointment

Emergencies:
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
2935 9th Street
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Pastor

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Staff

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Thompson

Director of Religious Education
Gail Buffong
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Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

Office Hours:
Pastor: Monday-Friday 10-11:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm

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Church

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Columbus GA 31906



Jonathan Justo
Valdosta State University
Criminal Justice Pre-law
December 14, 2020

May God guide and direct you to a bright and blessed future. Congratulations!

Happy Birthday!



Theresa Spratling	12-9
Jordyn Dawson	12-10
Joshua Jackson	12-10
Joseph Turner	12-10
Birdia Holmes	12-12
Beverly Saulsbury	12-12
Tokunbo Ayinmide	12-16
Michael Ngugi	12-16
Robert Dozier	12-21

Retirement Fund for Religious

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

ACA Annual Catholic Appeal

Church—God is good and we have been blessed! Our deadline for the Annual Catholic Appeal draws near...This week is our final contribution time. Our Church assessment as part of the Diocese of Savannah is **\$18,019**. Our current status—**We have pledged: \$16,063!**
Our balance is: \$ 1,956.
May the Lord bless all those who gave and continue to give with an abundance of blessings beyond measure! We are almost there.....let us reach our GOAL together!

Advent Wreath Families

The following families will be lighting the Advent Wreath at the end of the Universal Prayers

Sunday, December 13th Third Sunday of Advent
Katherine & Mary Brogden, Andre & Ashley
Sunday, December 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent
Shirley, Karen, & Kris Dexter

Mass Intentions

Third Sunday of Advent December 13th
10:30 AM for the St. Benedict the Moor
St. John of the Cross Monday, Dec. 14th
12:00 Noon the Lewandowski Family
Advent Tuesday, December 15th
12:00 Noon Skrocki Family
Advent Wednesday, December 16th
12:00 Noon Griffin Family
Advent Thursday, December 17th
Novena 1 O Wisdom Sirach 24: 3-6
The Florey Von Buegen Family
Advent Friday, December 18th
Novena 2 O Adonai Hebrews 12:18
+Learline Hicks
Advent Saturday, December 19th
Novena 3 O Root of Jesse Isaiah 11:10
+Daisy Julien McKenney

Advent Penance Service

As Christmas draws near, we have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance as we spiritually seek the Lord's Forgiveness.....Seventy times seven times! Our guest confessor will be Friar Manny, OFM Conv. Mark your calendar for: **Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:30 PM.** I will be available on Tuesday after the 12 Noon Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of God's forgiveness and reconciliation.

Christmas Masses

Sisters and brothers, if you haven't made it a family—tradition, worshipping together as a family centers us into the true meaning of Christmas. Join us at St. Benedict the Moor as a FAMILY and worship the Lord at the 8 PM Christmas Mass on December 24th or at 10:30 AM Mass on Christmas Day, December 25th. **The family that prays together stays together.** Masks are required and social distancing is observed.

Third Sunday of Advent

READING 1 Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

READING 2 1 Thes 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

GOSPEL Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Anniversary Mass

All couples celebrating their Silver or Gold (25th or 50th) Wedding Anniversary in 2021 are invited to join The Most Reverend Stephen D. Parkes, Bishop of Savannah, for a special Mass on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist. Those wishing to attend should contact their parish office or register online at <https://www.diosav.org/gold-and-silver> by December 21, 2020 in order to receive the formal invitation with detailed information. Please call the Diocesan Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life at 912.201.4068 with questions.

Christmas 2020 Schedule

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 22nd 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday, December 24th 8:00 PM

Holyday: Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th 10:30 AM

Holy Family Sunday

Sunday, December 27th 10:30 AM

Holyday: Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2021 10:30 AM

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 3, 2021 10:30 AM

Remember Church-- "that the Family that prays together...stays together!" Otherwise, you are on your own.....

In Our Prayers

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Elvia King
Sr. Agnes, fsma	Lenny Korona
Sr. Apollonia, cssf.	Ida Ruth Lane
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Elaine Layer
Helen Bell	Mittie Lewis
Amanda Cole	Delores McLeod
Mik Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Robert Cole	Denvey Nelson
Robert Dozier	Cordell Parker
Carl English	Gwendolyn Parker
Stephanie Findlay	Debra Pough
Fluellen Family	Evelyn Pough
Yvonne Gilberti	Joe Ravalese
Elizabeth Grey	Marcus Ransom
Ginnette Hughes	Lydia Sliva
Clarence Johnson	Madeline Smith
Donald Julien	Donnie Tarvin
Paul Julien	Emi Talbert
Jamaya Kennedy	Dorothy Washington
Michael King	Friar Jude Winkler
Earl King	