

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019

Dear Parishioners,



Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another? (Matthew 11:3)

What a strange question, especially from John the Baptist. Not only was John Jesus' kinsman, but he had baptized Jesus and seen the Spirit descend upon him. But now that he is in prison and awaiting execution, John seems uncertain. Was he wearied by suffering? Did he need reassurance that he had not labored in vain? Or had he heard rumors of plots to kill Jesus and couldn't conceive that God's Messiah would suffer death? We just don't know.

But perhaps John wasn't uncertain at all. Maybe it was all part of the plan. What if John was doing exactly what he had always done: helping people recognize the Messiah? Maybe his question wasn't for himself but for his disciples—to help them believe in Jesus.

John's time was short. Concerned for his followers, he wouldn't want them to fall away once he died. His mission had always been to lead people to Jesus, and he was determined to be faithful to that mission right up to the very end. So it makes sense that before he died, John would want his disciples to know for themselves that Jesus was the Messiah. It makes sense that meeting Jesus would persuade them far more than John's words.

John's question resonates in our hearts too. Is Jesus really who he says he is? Can we find joy in him no matter what? Of course, we already have faith in Jesus, but don't we all need more? So John sends us to Jesus, along with his disciples, so that we can hear and see him.

Today is Gaudete Sunday, a day to rejoice that the Messiah is near. So when you see Jesus on the cross in your church, when you hear him in his word and receive him in Communion, echo John's question: "Are you the one my heart is searching for?" Try to quiet your heart, and listen for his answer. Let him convince you of his love and his grace. And then rejoice with him.

"Lord, I believe you are the Son of God."

Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Men, Mark Your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 24, 25, and 26 2020. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, and Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM Friday. Our retreat opens at 5:45 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 12:30 PM. A **\$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.** This year's Retreat theme: **"God is doing something New In Us... Exploring paths of deepening Faith"**. For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214.

You may register online at: materdolorosa.org/event/mens-weekend-retreat-jan-24-26-2020

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Is 35:1-10, Ps 146:6-10, Mt 11:2-11
Monday	Nm 24:2-17a, Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday	Gn 49:2-10, Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday	Jer 23:5-8, Mt 1:18-25
Thursday	Jgs 13:2-25a, Lk 1:5-25
Friday	Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-38
Saturday	Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45
Sunday	Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-6, Mt 1:18-24

Mass Intentions

Saturday December 14

5:15 PM Soul of Connie Farlice

Sunday December 15

8:00 AM Intention of Aaron & Briana Katz
10:00 AM Souls of Preston, Rosa & Dante Thompson
12:15 PM Intention of all Parishioners

Saturday December 21

5:15 PM Intention of all Parishioners

Sunday December 22

8:00 AM Soul of Karen Lee
10:00 AM Soul of Dorothy Stanley
12:15 PM Soul of Wilma Angelain Davidson

Weekly Offering for December 8, 2019

\$7177.42 Tithe and Offering
180.00 Building Fund
42.00 "We Care"

The School Christmas Program

Monday, December 16th at 6PM

School Vacation Break

December 18, 2019 and return January 6, 2020

Mass of Anointing

Our church community will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on **Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 11AM** here at Transfiguration. **NO 8AM MASS.** A light luncheon will follow.

PLEASE NOTE

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7PM
at St. Brigid Catholic Church

Christmas Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Children's Mass

Tuesday, December 24th at 5:15PM
Midnight Mass - Tuesday, December 24th
(*Christmas Carols at 11:30PM*)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Wednesday, December 25th at 10AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Tuesday, December 31st at 8AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 8AM

Transfiguration Choir Christmas Concert



Sunday, December 15 at 5PM

This year's theme is:

"May the Blessing of the Baby Jesus flow to you".

The choir invites you to an evening of beautiful Christmas music, Gospel music and Songs of Christmas. Get your tickets today from a choir member...adults tickets are \$15 and \$7 for children.

Thank you

The beautiful flowers on the altar this week were donated by **Gloria McClaurin** in memory of her beloved love ones **PRESTON, ROSA & DANTE THOMPSON.** If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

Memorial Service for Howlett Smith

The **memorial service** for Howlett Smith also known as "Smitty", former 8AM Cantor for Transfiguration, will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 10AM.

2020 Calendars are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Cyd Michelle Anderson, Brian Argusta, Percenia Beasley, Fr. Emile Belletty, Glenda Brown, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Alton Duhon, Cynthia Fortier, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Michael Frierson, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Janie Jackson, Robert Johns, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Mercedes LeBlanc, Baby Amani Leffall, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vylfred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Aliyah Patterson, Sally Price, Wiley R. Pugh, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Sandra Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, Johnnye Washington, and Alice Williams.