

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021



My dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

Grace and peace be with you as we continue our joyful anticipation that leads to gleeful celebration of Our Salvation's birth. Because we are still in preparation, we find ourselves on this portion of our journey in the Fourth Sunday of Advent cycle (c). Our Faith-family is still following our season's theme; "Waiting for the Change!" This "change" that we await will be multi-faceted and simultaneously singularly focused, if the season accomplishes its purpose.

Gaudete Sunday also known as the Third Sunday of Advent found us answering God's call for us to continue to proclaim the Good News. Testifying by our very being, who we are and whose we are. In a world that is dominated by denigration and despair, we are called to exude joy

and Hope. Reminded during this Advent season of the fact that our Hope is not an interrogative question, but a declarative statement. Knowing all this is great and to be reminded is a blessing, but it is difficult to proclaim just the same. Zephaniah told an Old Testament people that were exiled and in bondage to rejoice. Most did and eventually they were free. John the Baptist told an early New Testament people to prepare the way because their vindicator was coming. Many listened and were able to receive the Baptism of the Spirit, proclaimed by John. They received their reason to rejoice in their preparation following the prescription of John the Baptist.

Last Sunday was also the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a big day of celebration in the Catholic Church on December 12th. But because it fell on a Sunday, it has no preference (we cannot highlight it) liturgically. In other words Third Sunday of Advent celebration takes precedence. On December 12, 1531 Juan Diego was blessed to see Mary on the mountain top of Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City. He reported the vision to local town's people. No one believed him. She appeared four more times. The final time she gave him proof, a dazzling portrait on a coat that peasant Juan could've never made himself. Mary in this apparition has olive skin and dark hair. These are features on Native Americans or a Creole woman. Mary has assumed other ethnicities since she was given to us at the foot of the Cross. She is continuously making the "Change" necessary to facilitate her Son's will.

This is our last week of opportunity to "get our minds right" in preparation to properly celebrate the greatest gift given to us, Our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Our society is clamoring for real change. Our healthcare system is broken, because of political partisanship. Democracy is fracturing like the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Patriotism has for way too many become non-existent as a motivating factors for actions. Unfortunately, many are replacing our democratic society, replacing it with an attraction to demagoguery. Infection rates are rising. Hospitalizations are also rising. We have lost over 800,000 fellow Americans. Most of those deaths were avoidable. Many more people will die without a serious metanoia in our personal, communal, governmental mores.

Even after the disaster of the tornadoes in Kentucky and four other states, one of them traveled on the ground for 250 miles. We must find a way to rejoice. It was worse than a Horror movie. The tragic loss of life and property will generate real change in those people, responders, and all on the periphery to find God in this Advent journey. In the rubble of the Candle Factory, they have rescued about 40 persons. Already our God is providing things to rejoice about in this nightmare. Praise God!

Our Advent journey is quickly coming to a close, but we have one more week to prepare to celebrate. May we be like Juan Diego and continue to wait in our spiritual event as God calls us to modify our will to His. Once we follow "the call", we prepare the way of the Lord. All this will assist us in preparation and celebration after our Advent journey.

Shalom,
Fr. Anthony Bozeman

Weekly Offering for December 12, 2021

\$10,244.00 Tithe and Offering

Stewardship

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we, as **Stewards**, are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

Did you know?

Try these tips to get your children talking about their days

Ever been met with silence when you ask, "How was your day?" Your communication efforts with your children, especially school-age children, may need some tweaking. Try asking concrete questions, like "Who did you sit next to at lunch?" or, "What was the most interesting thing you learned today?" If your child is struggling with sharing his or her emotions, it might be helpful to ask about other emotions you see around you. Find opportunities to get children talking about how they feel by focusing on other people: "Why do you think that girl and her dad are hugging? What made that boy on the playground mad earlier?" You may be surprised at the results!

For more tips, request a copy of the VIRTUS® article

"Communicating with School-Age Children"

at <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.

RCIA Come, learn or renew your Catholic faith...

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7:00 PM. The topic will be about the "The Sacrament of Baptism" by Deacon Greg Patterson at Holy Name of Jesus (*Acacia Center*), 1955 W. Jefferson in Los Angeles.

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Helen Argusta, Gloria Bazemore, Victor Bozeman, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Kathleen Charles, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Cynthia Cyrus, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Bobby Eason, Mark Eason, Cynthia Fortier, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Brenda Garibaldi, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Jennifer Hallman, Barbara J. Jones, Marjorie Jones, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Victor Levi, Vylfred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Tyrone Pitts, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Frank Rhodes, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Alfred Sterling, Jr., Kay Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, Alice Williams, Jacqueline Williams, Peggy Wilson and Mechele Yerima.

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Mi 5:1-4a, Ps 80:2-19, Lk 1:39-45
Monday	Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday	1 Sm 1:24-28, Lk 1:46-56
Thursday	Mal 3:1-24, Lk 1:57-66
Friday	2 Sm 7:1-16, Lk 1:67-79
Saturday	Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Jn 1:1-18
Sunday	Sir 3:2:14, Ps 128: 1-5, Lk 2:41-52

Advent Penance Service at Transfiguration

Wednesday, December 22nd ~ 5:30 PM



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 2021

11:30 PM Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25, 2021

9:00 AM Mass ONLY

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31st

Vigil at 10:30 PM and bring in the year!

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022

(Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)

9:00 AM Mass ONLY

Thank you

The beautiful **flowers** on the altar were donated by **Annie Starks** in loving memory of her husband **WILBERT STARKS**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.



Happy Birthday to:

Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SSI

who celebrated his birthday

December 15th

S T A Y B L E S S E D

From your staff and Transfiguration faith-family