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December 8 Diciembre 2019
Second Sunday of Advent
Segundo Domingo de Adviento

Rev. Joby C. Thomas, Administrator
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Catholic Church

Hidden in the Canticle

I remember an occasion some decades ago when I was surprised to read an announcement of the Academy Awards: a well-known actress had received the Oscar for “best performance in a supporting role.” How could this be? I was sure that hers had been the lead role in that film: it gave substance and direction to the unfolding plot and was essential to the audience’s understanding of other characters, events, and meanings. What might this mean? For one thing, it means that sometimes a secondary or “supporting” role may indeed disclose key elements required for a full appreciation of a story’s message. This is especially true when the story in question is salvation history itself. John the Baptist is one such indispensable “supporting” character. He is an important figure to consider in the coming weeks of Advent, both in Morning Prayer and in the readings at the celebrations of the Eucharist.

Each day at Morning Prayer, the Church proclaims the Gospel text known as the Canticle of Zechariah. The text tells of a key character in salvation history: “You my child shall be called Prophet of the Most High, who will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to announce his salvation by the forgiveness of our sins.” Yet it does not even reveal the name of that child: John the Baptist. The Canticle of Zechariah presents a panoramic vista of God’s redemptive plan: a Messiah promised for the house of David; a prophetic voice reminding us of God’s fidelity to the covenant; the oath sworn to Abraham and his descendants; the rescue of God’s people from their enemies, allowing them to serve the Lord in holiness and righteousness. The sweep of salvation history comes to a head with the Messiah’s herald, John the Baptist, whose call to repentance would be followed by Jesus’ announcement of the reign of God: “The time is fulfilled, and the reign of God has now drawn near; so repent and believe in the Good News” (Mark 1:15). God chose a “supporting character” to prepare the way for Jesus’ proclamation, to serve as ambassador for the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

Throughout the Scriptures, we see individuals called to serve in supporting roles for others who carry God’s message: Aaron helps Moses speak before Pharaoh; aged Hannah gives birth to Samuel, first of the prophets; Elizabeth’s faith prompts Mary to sing her own Canticle of God’s mercy. The list is as long as the Scriptures themselves.

John the Baptist stands as a model for us in our own day and age. Each celebration of the Eucharist concludes with a commission to go and give what we have received: “Go, and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” These words invite us to serve all who are restrained by poverty—internal or external—burdened by sorrow, overcome by hopelessness or fear. We offer them the hope of the Gospel promise for any and all who sincerely seek God. Like John the Baptist, our presence, encouragement, understanding, and compassion can herald for others the coming of Christ, who brings forth the mystery of his reconciling grace. What a blessing to play such a supporting role in the fulfillment of God’s salvation in our own day and age!

—Abbot Gregory Polan

Gregory Polan, OSB, is Abbot Primate of the worldwide Benedictine Confederation. He served as abbot of Conception Abbey for twenty years before being elected Abbot Primate. He is also editor of The Revised Grail Psalms and The Ecumenical Grail Psalter.

FULFILLED

Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism-PART ONE
Fulfilled explores the biblical roots of the Catholic Faith. It uncovers God’s consistent design for our worship of him and his relationship with us. Learn how the Old Testament Tabernacle can be used as a blueprint for the Catholic Faith and how Jesus fulfilled it in the New Testament. Part One focuses on the elements found in the outer sanctuary of the Tabernacle and how they connect to the liturgical calendar, the priesthood, purgatory, baptism and more.



Registration begins December 1st at the Church door 9:30am and again on December 8th .
Classes begin January 5th.


You may contact Ron Foster at: fostermxacey@yahoo.com if you are unable to register at the church or if you have any questions.

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<p>In Loving Memory Of John Bednarski</p>	<p>In Memory of my husband <i>Walter P. Page Sr.</i> By <i>Jessie Page</i></p>
<p>IN PRECIOUS MEMORY OF MY PARENTS RAY & BETTY RUDELL MY SISTER & BROTHER JEANNE MORROW & JIM RUDELL by Michelle Rabb</p>	<p>In Memory of Glenna D. Medina</p> <p>By Louis Medina</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <i>my wife</i> Cindy Trahan</p>	<p>Grapeland Public Library 212 N. Oak Street Grapeland, TX 936-687-3425 Genealogy Program Wi-Fi, Copies & Computers New Hours: Mo, Tu, We, & Th 9am-2pm</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <i>Marie Slanina</i> and <i>Molly & Frank Machala</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of Denise Platt Ynguanzo</p> <p>For All with Cancer St. Peregrine Feast day May 1 Patron Saint of Cancer Victims St. Jude Feast day October 28 Patron Saint of Desperate Cases St. Rita Feast day May 22 Patron Saint of Impossible Cases Pray for Us In Memory of Brenda Grupa</p>

Someone Old, Someone New
[John] was not clear about what would happen to those who converted. He was more clear on what would happen to those who would not. Their future would be God's wrath, God's anger, God's fury, and God's vengeance.
He did not exclude the possibility of being saved, otherwise he would not have asked people to be baptized, but he does not dwell on that theme very much. His message was somber and grim, dark and heavy. . . John was right; Jesus confirmed his opinion. But John was right in the old way, according to the Old Testament pattern. With John, the Old Testament closed. . . Jesus made the difference very clear. He spoke about a complete break. He said: "Up to the time of John it was the law and the prophets; since then it is the Kingdom of God."

Saint John lamented; Jesus rejoiced. John sang a funeral hymn, Jesus an alleluia verse. John refused to eat bread; Jesus broke his bread. John refused to drink wine; Jesus changed all the water in the kitchen into wine. John dressed in a camel's skin; Jesus in a customized shirt without a seam. John warned; Jesus invited. They were, in fact, so different that they started to wonder about each other. John sent his disciples to Jesus to ask him: "Are you really the one?" Jesus answered: "You, John, are the greatest of the Old-Timers, but the smallest of the New Timers is greater than you!"

Something new had started—the Kingdom of God. We are invited into that Kingdom, the Kingdom of the new era. We are invited not only to profit passively from it, but to build it. -Fr. Joseph Donders, Praying and Preaching the Sunday Gospel Joseph G. Donders (d. 2013), a member of the Missionaries of Africa, was an educator, writer, and social justice advocate.

Mass Schedule and Intentions		
Misa Horario y Intenciones		
Tue/Mar 10	8:30am	
Wed/Mié 11	8:30am	
Thu/Jue 12	5:00am	
	Mañanitas	
Fri/Vie 13	8:30am	
Sat/Sáb 14	5:30 pm	
Sun/Dom 15	8:30am	
	Jeff Krenek Jr. †	
	Req by the Ruffino family	

Alguien viejo, alguien nuevo
[Juan] no tenía claro qué pasaría con aquellos que se convirtieron. Era más claro sobre lo que sucedería a quienes no lo harían. Su futuro sería la ira de Dios, la ira de Dios, la furia de Dios y la venganza de Dios. No excluyó la posibilidad de ser salvo, de lo contrario no habría pedido a las personas que se bautizaran, pero no se detiene mucho en ese tema. Su mensaje era sombrío y sombrío, oscuro y pesado. . . John tenía razón; Jesús confirmó su opinión. Pero Juan tenía razón a la antigua usanza, según el patrón del Antiguo Testamento. Con Juan, el Antiguo Testamento se cerró. . . Jesús hizo la diferencia muy clara. Habló sobre un descanso completo. Él dijo: Hasta la época de Juan, era la ley y los profetas; desde entonces es el Reino de Dios. San Juan se lamentó; Jesús se regocijó. Juan cantó un himno fúnebre, Jesús un verso alabanza. Juan se negó a comer pan; Jesús partió su pan. John se negó a beber vino; Jesús cambió toda el agua de la cocina en vino. John se vistió con una piel de camello; Jesús en una camisa personalizada sin costura. Juan advirtió; Jesús invitó. Eran, de hecho, tan diferentes que comenzaron a preguntarse el uno por el otro. Juan envió a sus discípulos a Jesús para preguntarle: ¿Eres realmente el elegido? Jesús respondió: ¡Tú, John, eres el más grande de los veteranos, pero el más pequeño de los nuevos es más grande que tú!

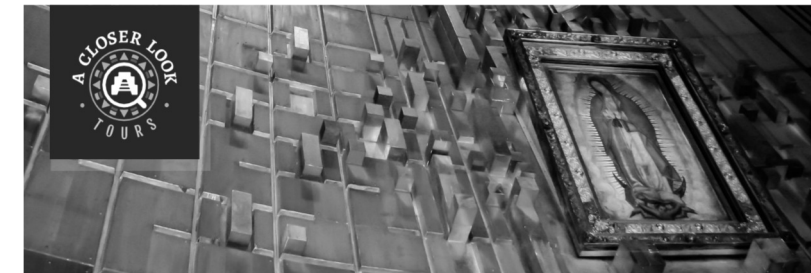
Algo nuevo había comenzado en el Reino de Dios. Estamos invitados a ese Reino, el Reino de la nueva era. Estamos invitados no solo a sacar provecho pasivamente de él, sino a construirlo. -Fr. Joseph Donders, Orando y predicando el Evangelio dominical Joseph G. Donders (m. 2013), miembro de los Misioneros de África, fue un educador, escritor y defensor de la justicia social.

Mass readings for this week:	
Sun/ Dom	08 Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-9, & Mt 3:1-12
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Mon/Lun	09 Gn 3:9-15, Eph 1:3-12 & Lk 1:26-38 <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Tue/Mar	10 Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14
Wed/Mié	11 Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30 <i>St Damasus I. Pope</i>
Thu/Jue	12 Zec 2:14-17, Lk 1:26-38 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
Fri/Vie	13 Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19 <i>St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr</i>
Sat/Sáb	14 Sir 48:1-11, Mt 17:9-13 <i>St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>
Sun/ Dom	15 Is 35:1-10, Jas 5:7-10, & Mt 11:2-11
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	

Collection/Colecta December 1 Diciembre			
Regular	\$2,277.00	Catholic Charities	\$50.00
Building Maint. (Memorials for Jane Evans \$300)	\$1,108.00	Hall Use donations	\$615.00

In need of prayer/En necesidad de oración

The Mc Grath Family, Gary Oliver, Renee Favaron, Geneva & Ryan Rabalais, Brenda Flasowski, Ralph & Bobbie Reeves, Cameron Schneider, John Christ Jr., Gerald Yeager, Virginia Kinart, Lola Calvert, Kala Coclazo, Sissy Langley, Andrea Nguyen, Bea Shelly, Kris Flook, Karen Jackson, Leo Poirer, Nayeli Popoca, Sharon Anderson, Louis Medina, John Kulp, Joe Cummings, Sherrie Abbott, Phylis Shupak, Maureen Durkin, Milt Brown, Kylie Cullinan, Todd Shriver, Orval Mize, Margaret Steidal, Bill Hammer, Will Fremont, Linda Mann, Jesús Ponce, Travis Bitner, Ted & Marilyn Harding, Joyce Gouldie, TJ & Julie Webb, Helen Schlitzkus, Kayden Bryn Shipley, Steve Sanford, Jonathan Foster, Judy Harwick, Jeanne Gatz, Terry Hammon, Roy Smith, Alfredo Vásquez, Sam & Margaret Burnett, Norma Powell, Hesta Bobbitt, Sarah Swar, F. Jane Pousson, Louis Hansen, Bertha Cambell, Louis Bodden, Kenneth Brown, Juan Bernardo Arvizu and all active military.



SHAPE, NUMBER, AND COLOR-ADVENT WREATH
SHAPE: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.
NUMBER: The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world's Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament. Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white "Christ" candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day. Many circular wreaths can incorporate a white candle by adding a pillar candle to the wreath center.
COLOR: Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and is used during Advent and Lent. Advent, also called "little Lent," is the season where we spiritually wait in our "darkness" with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ's birth, and just as the whole world does now as we eagerly await his promised return.



FORMA, NÚMERO Y COLOR - CORONA DE ADVIENTO
FORMA : La forma circular de la corona, sin principio ni fin, simboliza el amor completo e interminable de Dios por nosotros un amor que envió a su Hijo al mundo para redimirnos de la maldición del pecado. También representa la vida eterna que se hace nuestra por la fe en Jesucristo.
NÚMERO: La Corona de Adviento tradicionalmente tiene cuatro velas que se encienden, una a la vez, en cada uno de los cuatro domingos de la temporada de Adviento. Cada vela representa 1,000 años. Sumadas, las cuatro velas simbolizan los 4,000 años que la humanidad esperó al Salvador del mundo de Adán y Eva a Jesús, cuyo nacimiento se predijo en el Antiguo Testamento. Algunas tradiciones de la corona de Adviento también incluyen una quinta vela blanca "Cristo", que simboliza la pureza, que se enciende en la víspera de Navidad o el día de Navidad. Muchas coronas circulares pueden incorporar una vela blanca agregando una vela de pilar al centro de la corona.
COLOR: El violeta es un color litúrgico que se usa para indicar un tiempo de oración, penitencia y sacrificio y se usa durante el Adviento y la Cuaresma. El Adviento, también llamado "Cuaresma pequeña", es la temporada en la que esperamos espiritualmente en nuestra "oscuridad" con expectativa esperanzadora de nuestra redención prometida, tal como lo hizo el mundo entero antes del nacimiento de Cristo, y tal como el mundo entero hace ahora como ansiosamente aguarde su prometido regreso.

Birthday Blessings

- Dec/Dic 09 Leslie Camacho, Diego Fajardo, & Alfredo Sandoval
- Dec/Dic 10 Cecilia Campos, Alejandra Cruz, Jayden Mendez, & David Rodriguez,
- Dec/Dic 11 Shirley Estrada,
- Dec/Dic 12 Janet Grimaldo, Donato Pérez, Jonathan Pérez, Maricela Pérez, & Ricardo Ramirez

Bendiciones para Cumpleaños

- Dec/Dic 13 Margoth Cisneros, Luis Orduña,
- Dec/Dic 14 Yesenia Espino, Miguel Gonzalez Jr., Matthew Larkin, & Hannah Navarro
- Dec/Dic 15 Verónica Berrios, Amparo Gonzalez, & Juan Pérez

Ministers
Ministros

December 14 Sunday 8:30am
Lector: John Grupa
Extraordinary Minister: John Grupa

December 15 Sunday 8:30am
Lector: Terri Graham
Extraordinary Ministers: †Charles & Sylvia Slanina
John & Joy Thompson
Altar Server: Emily Ecord,
Rick & Ryan Hernandez

15 de Diciembre Domingo 11:30am
Lectores: Humberto y Maria Monsivais
Salmista: Belén Ramirez
Ministros Extraordinario: Maria Rodriguez, Elvira De La Fuente, & Oliva Aguilar
Servidores: Alexandra Andrade & Shanty López