

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

— Isaiah 11:9

THE ONE FOR WHOM OUR HEARTS LONG

Put yourself in the scene of today's Gospel passage. John the Baptist is in prison. He has heard stories of what Jesus is doing, and wants reassurance that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. John's disciples and those who surrounded Jesus were faithful Jews who would have known Isaiah's prophecies by heart. God would send One who would bring sight to the blind, healing to those who were ill, salvation to all who longed to know God's mercy and peace. Jesus' response to the disciples' question rings as powerfully in our ears today as it surely did for the people who were with him that day. His actions are precisely those that the people had been told to expect. Jesus is the One for whom the people have been patiently yet anxiously waiting, like the farmer who waits for the fruits of his labor. Jesus is the One for whom our hearts long.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm — The Lord saves us when he comes (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week's Collection	\$1,793.00	\$1,166.00
Number of Families contributing	78	55
Total Pledge for 2022	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (47 Weeks)	\$149,574.00	\$152,316.00
Received to Date	\$141,707.00	\$109,403.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$7,867.00	\$42,823.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$155.00	\$10,224.00

Thirteen ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$25,130.00	\$156,125.00

Three people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

POOR BOX totaled \$77.00.

11 **CHILDREN** contributed \$42.00.

BAA totaled \$76.00

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Maria Lochi of San Donaci, Italy, welcomed several stray dogs into her home over years, but Ciccio was her favorite. The German Shepherd even accompanied her to Mass every day at Santa Maria Assunta Church.

When Lochi died in November 2012, the devoted Ciccio followed her coffin into the church. According to the British newspapers *The Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*, his devotion is expressed in another way too: when the church bell rings each afternoon, Ciccio attends Mass just like he did when his owner was alive. Father Donato Panna said, "He's very well behaved. He doesn't make a sound."

Ciccio's faithfulness has tugged at the heartstrings of villagers who give food and water and let him make his home "in a covered area outside the church." Father Panna hopes to find Ciccio a permanent home and owner.

Faithfulness is an admirable quality. May we be as devoted to our heavenly Father as Ciccio is to his owner.

"He exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion."

—Acts 11:23

Creator, guide us toward seeking You always.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Family of Ned Blaster in loving memory of him on the 48th Anniversary of his death;
2. the Family of Nora Frances in loving memory of her on the 4th Anniversary of her death;
3. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for the *Retirement Fund for the Religious*. Please be generous in this collection.

ONE TREE

*One tree can make one lakh matchstick,
but one matchstick can burn one lakh tree.*

Moral:

*One negative thought can burn
all positive thoughts.*

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE will be celebrated this Monday, December 12th at 10:00 A.M. Birdie's Patricia, Christina, Natalie, and Brandie will take care of the celebration.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

- To your enemy: **FORGIVENESS.**
- To an opponent: **TOLERANCE**
- To a friend: **YOUR HEART.**
- To a customer: **SERVICE**
- To all: **CHARITY.**
- To every child: **A GOOD EXAMPLE**
- To yourself: **RESPECT.**

CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE
Wednesday, December 21st – 6:30 P.M.

BEAUTY IS IN THE HEART

I'm not "*HANDSOME*,"

but I can give my "*HAND*" to "*SOME*" one who needs help. *Beauty is in the heart, not on the face.*

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS It is asked that everyone donate \$10 for poinsettias. Please give your donation to Mary Rita O'Hara, Bridget Rita, or the Church Office.

ONE LINERS

- *Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.*
- *It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.*
- *Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.*

THANK YOU to two parish members for their donations in thanks to St. Anthony for something found; and to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

JOKE OF THE WEEK Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he then calls it a poem, they give him \$50.00."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.00."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect the money."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tuesday: St. Lucy
Wednesday: St. John of the Cross
Friday: *Las Posadas* begins

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For the repose of the Margaret Sherlock on the 8th Anniversary of her death.
Tuesday: For the repose of the soul of John F. on his 66th Birthday.
Wednesday: In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory; and for the repose of the soul of Tommy Paul Riley.
Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Petie Cat Gorman on the 14th Anniversary of his death.
Friday: In honor of the Holy Souls and Precious Blood.

SHARE HIS LOVE

***When we carry enough faith
In our hearts each day,
We'll feel God's saving power,
His gentle guiding ways.***

***When we seek Him daily
In our thoughts and prayers,
We'll share His love with others
Upon life's thoroughfare.***

***By kindly thoughts and deeds,
His will is being done,
For the Father loves us all,
Each and everyone.***

READERS

Sat. Dec. 10th, 4:00 P.M. Cathy Lisa & Reed
Sat. Dec. 10th, 7:00 P.M. Leah & Dayna

Sun. Dec. 11th, 10:00 A.M. Taniel & Lauren Ashley

Sat. Dec. 17th, 4:00 P.M. Savannah & Ritz
Sat. Dec. 17th, 7:00 P.M. Natalie Apple's Carolyn

Sun. Dec. 18th, 10:00 A.M. Dominique & Lauren Ashley

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Christina Apple
Tuesday - Macy
Wednesday - Josie
Thursday - Natalie
Friday - Dayna

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday - Theresa Hun
Tuesday - Jack's Mary Rita
Wednesday - Julie Ann
Thursday - Betty Jo
Friday - Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **December 10th**
Right Winnie Ann
Left Bridget Rita

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

December Mary Regina & Julie Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

December 11th Nora
December 18th Ned's Rose Marie

BIBLE HUMOR

- Q. What time of day was Adam created?
A. ***Right before Eve.***
Q. Why couldn't Cain please God with his sacrifice?
A. ***Because he wasn't Abel.***
Q. Who was the wealthiest male Financier in the Bible?
A. ***Noah. He was floating stock while everybody else was in liquidation.***

CARRY

***Carry a heart that never hates.
Carry a smile that never fades.
Carry a touch that never hurts.***

~~~~~**PRAYER CORNER**~~~~~

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER**

*O God, who see how Your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*