

December 8th 2019 - Second Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 7

9:00am † *JJ Murphy*
4:30pm † *Casiano Sr. & Catalina Carillo*

Sunday, December 8

7:30am *YMI Brothers*
9:30am *St. John Parishioners*
11:00am † *Dona Elsbernd*
12:30pm † *Concepcion Zamora de Castillo*

Monday, December 9

9:00am † *Alice McKenzie Bennett*

Tuesday, December 10

9:00am *St. John Parishioners*

Wednesday, December 11

9:00am *Loreto Sacramento (today)*

Thursday, December 12

9:00am † *Dean Castro*

Friday, December 13

9:00am *Godfrey B. de la Torre (today)*

Saturday, December 14

9:00am *YMI Brothers*
4:30pm † *Amado S. Pinlac, Jr.*

From the Desk of the Pastor

Prophet Isaiah is instructed to comfort Jerusalem. He foretold the coming of God's redemption to the ancient Israelites and its manifestation in terms of an imminent end to the exile.

He proclaimed the advancement of redemption in terms of 'comfort' and 'consolation' as a direct response to their prayer in last Sundays' readings. He preached that the Hope of Israel was being fulfilled right before their eyes. God's salvation is dramatic, imminent and even happening right here and now!

The impact of the message is perhaps best explained (in terms of) when someone comes to tell prisoners (not knowing how) that their sentence has been commuted, and they are free to go home. God's reign is about to establish itself.

To that end, the metaphorical usage is captivating. "Every valley shall be filled in, and every mountain and hill shall be made low". The reading ends with a familiar and tender image of a shepherd caring for the lamb in his arms.

This Sunday presents John the Baptist. His message becomes the link between the expectations of Christmas, celebration of the birth of Jesus in the flesh, and the anticipation of the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism in the Church, where we find new members of the Church also in the flesh.

The juxtaposition of John's Baptism "with water" and Jesus' Baptism "with the Holy Spirit" brings the Gospel proclamation to a close for his weekend.

Something spectacular has begun to take place and more is yet to come.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Pastoral Council thanks you for your overwhelming support and participation in the "Parish Mass Survey" conducted in the last few weekends.

The Parish Council recommends to the Pastor and the Parishioners the following Mass schedule: 8:00am (English); 10:00am (English) and 12noon (Spanish) effective from Sunday January 5, 2020.

We are grateful to all of you who took time and invested yourselves in this stewardship of the Parish. Your efforts and your hearts say in so many words that you care and are invested in this Parish of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you.

Long live St. John the Evangelist Parish. God Bless!

UPDATE ON "FIXING GOD'S HOUSE"

It has now been nearly 15 months since we began the "Fixing God's House" pledge drive to raise funds for vital improvements to our Church and other Parish buildings and property. To date we have received donations and pledge payments totaling \$77,228. In addition, we have outstanding pledges of \$37,435.

So far, \$7,136 has been expended for improvements to gates and fences on the Church property. This leaves \$70,092 towards upcoming projects. Immediate needs are replacement of the Church's front doors, repair or replacement of the heating system, and safety upgrades for St. Anne's Hall.

We thank all who have made donations or pledges. For those with pledge balances, you should consider making a payment towards your pledge before year-end. The amount can then be included on your year-end summary of 2019 gifts that will be available from the Parish office early in the New Year.

If you have not yet made a donation or pledge towards "Fixing God's House", we encourage you to consider it now. There is much to be done to ensure St. John the Evangelist continues its goal of maintaining and improving our properties for future generations of parishioners.

Once again, your on-going support is truly appreciated. Thank you!

SIMBANG GABI NOVENA MASS

The Filipino Pastoral Council (FPC) welcomes you to the Simbang Gabi, a devotional nine-day series of Masses to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and with her help, prepare more intensely for the celebration of Christmas. The masses will be held daily from December 16th - 24th.

The FPC invites you to consider sponsoring any of the Simbang Gabi novena days. The nine day Simbang Gabi novena Mass Schedule is given below:

Monday Dec. 16th - Saturday, Dec. 21st at 9:00 am Mass
Sunday Dec. 22nd at 7:30 am Mass
Monday Dec. 23rd - Tuesday Dec. 24th at 9:00 am Mass

ADVENT WREATH

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle."

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle."

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for the **2019 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal**.

Parish Assessment \$	40,216.31
YTD we paid: \$	31,416.38
Balance we owe: \$	8,799.93

Kindly consider helping meet our goal. Thank you for your continued generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

November 25th - December 1st, 2019

Tuesday's Spec coll.	\$ 140.00
Tues. On-line giving	\$ 5.00
Weekend Offering.....	\$ 3,192.82
Weekend On-line giving...	\$ 385.00
Reserve.....	\$ 1,637.00
Reserve On-Line Giving...	\$ 75.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$ 2,232.00
Thnksgvng On-line giving...	\$ 70.00

November 2019 Collection Data

November 3	\$ 2,944.70
November 10.....	\$ 3,267.35
November 17.....	\$ 2,994.30
November 24.....	\$ 2,547.40

Christmas Flower Donations

We welcome donations for the poinsettias that will be purchased for the Church for the Christmas season. We suggest a \$10.00 donation. These donations may be made in memory of a loved one or as a petition for a special prayer request. The names and petitions will be included on a scroll and placed at the foot of the altar throughout the Christmas Season. Envelopes for flower donations are available in your envelope packet or on the tables located in the back of the church.