

December 12th - Third Sunday of Advent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 11

9:00am

4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*

Sunday, December 12

8:00am *St. John Parishioners*

10:00am *Fr. Jun Pilande (bdy)*

12:00pm † *Ezequiel Esparza*

Monday, December 13

9:00am † *Benny Falcon*

Tuesday, December 14

9:00am † *Albert & Michael
Gragmani*

Wednesday, December 15

9:00am *St. John Parish*

Thursday, December 16

9:00am

Friday, December 17

9:00am † *Gilda Stanson*

Saturday, December 18

9:00am

4:30pm † *Rodrigo Tarantan*

From the Desk of the Pastor

On the 'Third Sunday of Advent', formerly known as Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, the entire liturgy is transfused with a spirit of joy and rejoicing in anticipation of the coming of the Day of the Lord.

How many of us can remember, the people we have loved and admired, but who at the same time failed to live up to what we expected from them all?

Could it be that we expected too much from them? Expecting too much from others can lead to heartaches and disappointments. Upon reflection, I guess at times we realize that it was not entirely their fault, but ours for expecting and wanting too much from them, perhaps for having set them up with unrealistic standards.

The Gospel story today recounts how the crowds had high expectations, even wondering if John was the most awaited Christ. John the Baptist was great. Yet, he knew deep down in his soul, that he could not possibly live up to the expectations of the crowds: not only what they wanted, but also what they so desperately needed. And so, what does he do?

John does not disappoint the people. He tells them that they are not really expecting enough!

John knows that he is nothing compared to the one who is coming.

This Sunday is also a day of clarity in thoughts, mind and souls.

John the Baptist knows exactly who he is: a witness who finds himself unworthy even to do a servant's work, unfastening a sandal strap of his Master. The Lamb of God, the Anointed Son of God who is 'God with us': That one will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. It is He and He alone who will fill our hearts' desires. Such humility and conviction of knowing oneself is a quality of Advent we are asked to reflect and imitate.

Today we are tempted to be an extravagant Santa, or the perfect hostess or the wise guru, we feel frazzled and torn, our energies dissipate, being pulled in different directions, a hundred ways.

Only God is the one "who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine. Hope in Him never disappoints. Rejoice in the Lord always. The Savior is near.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

The Church is open for Masses

Weekday masses at 9:00am Monday through Saturday

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm and Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am in English and 12 noon en español

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 7:30am to 1:00pm. We pray the rosary at 9:30am in English and at 11:30am in Spanish. Come and join us in praying the rosary.

The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church.

Simbang Gabi Novena Mass

This year St. John the Evangelist Church will join the world-wide celebration of Simbang Gabi, a nine-day series of devotional Masses to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as we prepare more intensely for the celebration of Christmas.

The novena will be held daily from December 16th through December 24th, Christmas Eve at the 9:00am mass. On Sunday, December 19th, at 9:30am we will say the rosary before the 10:00am mass. All are welcome to come and join us.

History and Time of the Advent Wreath

The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th-century Germany among Lutherans and Catholics. The original purpose of the wreath was to bring focus on Christmas rather than on Advent as a distinct season.

The symbolism of Advent Wreath Candles:

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. As a whole, these colored advent candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

As we advance through the season of Advent, each Sunday opens a new week of Advent: a new Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, represents the four weeks of Advent; each candle stands for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

Shepherds Candle

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle," and it represents joy:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11)

REJOICE
in the Lord
ALWAYS
Philippians 4:4

This weeks second collection is for the **2021 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.**

As of December 7, 2021

Parish Assessment \$	33,576.00
YTD we paid: \$	25,646.80
Balance we owe: \$	7,929.20

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

November 22nd - November 29th, 2021

Weekend Offering.....	\$ 2,321.50
Reserve Fund.....	\$ 1,240.65

COLLECTION DATA

First Collections:

November 7.....	\$ 2,549.90
November 14.....	\$ 2,530.60
November 21.....	\$ 2,752.72
November 28.....	\$ 3,134.00

Total \$ 10,967.22