

## 9 December 2018 - Second Sunday of Advent



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

#### Saturday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
~ Holy Day of Obligation ~

9:00am † *Eduardo Genoves*  
4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*

#### Sunday, December 9

7:30am † *Alice McKenzie Bennett*  
9:30am *St. John's Parishioners*  
11:00am † *Philomena Elsbernd*  
12:30pm † *Luzmila Escoto*

#### Monday, December 10

9:00am *Parish Volunteers*

#### Tuesday, December 11

9:00am † *Walter Matterson*

#### Wednesday, December 12

9:00am *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

#### Thursday, December 13

9:00am † *Casiano Sr. & Catalina Carrillo*

#### Friday, December 14

9:00am *St. John's Parishioners*

#### Saturday, December 15

9:00am *Living & Deceased YMI bros*  
4:30pm † *Amado S. Pinlac, Jr.*



### SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is to support the fund for the **Retirement of Religious order priests, sisters and brothers.**

This collection helps them who have served us selflessly during their years of active ministry.

Thank you for your kindness and generous support.

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

Nov 27<sup>th</sup> - Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Tuesday's Spec coll. ....\$	97.00
Tues. On-line giving .....	5.00
Weekend Offering .....	3,074.00
Weekend On-line giving.\$	425.00
Reserve Fund.....\$	1,804.00
Reserve On-line giving...\$	50.00

### From the Desk of the Pastor ....

The passage chosen for the first reading today comes from the book of Baruch who anticipates the rebuilding of God's temple in Jerusalem. The temple was destroyed in 586 (2kgs 25:9). For Baruch, the temple is a sanctuary for those who seek refuge in God, a symbol of God's dwelling with his Glory among his people, and where people can experience God's Splendor and might. Therefore, rebuilding of the temple was important. It would facilitate the renewed formation of the People of God. The prophet imagines the restoration of divine presence as the process, which will ultimately restore the people of Israel.

However, there is much more to come, that which will surpass the splendor of the temple... He who fills the temple with His glory is about to come.....

St. Luke opens today's Gospel passage with a panoramic lens encompassing the whole Roman Empire, essentially the then known world. Then he telescopes down to the region of Palestine before closing in on Jerusalem, and at last zooming on a single man, John the Baptist. St. Luke like a historian makes radical claims about the importance of the advent of Christ in the context of almost international events.

What mattered to St. Luke about the fifteenth year of Tiberius' reign was that a lone prophet lived in the wilderness of an out-of-the-way region of the world. What was he doing? Saying...

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

**Prepare the way of the Lord, Make straight his paths.**

**Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.**

**The winding roads shall be made straight, and rough ways made smooth**

**And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

### PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

#### ADVENT RETREAT: December 15th, at 10am

Christmas begins with Christ. This Advent Season, as we gather to wait for Jesus, may the light of His presence bring Joy to our hearts. To make this advent season more meaningful, come for the 9:00 am Mass followed by a Christmas Advent Reflection on Saturday, December 15th @ the St Anne's Hall at 10:00 am. Give yourself the gift of some quiet time before the holiday shopping chaos.

#### 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:

Sunday Dec 16th at 7:30 am Mass  
Monday Dec 17th - Saturday Dec 22nd at 9:00 am Mass  
Sunday Dec 23rd at 7:30 am Mass  
Monday Dec 24th at 9:00 am Mass

After the novena, there will be a fellowship gathering for delicious pancit, lumpia and other delicacies.

#### 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.

#### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

St. Vincent de Paul conference will present a Christmas giving tree, soliciting gifts for boys and girls, men and women in shelters operated by St Vincent DePaul. A "Giving Tree" will be set up in the back of the church on December 8. Please choose ornament tags from the tree to buy gifts. Return those wrapped presents with tags attached and place under the tree at any Mass the following weekend, December 15-16. Thank you for your generosity in lighting someone's season.

#### John the Baptist

John the Baptist's formative years were lived in obscurity in the desert, his public ministry ended nearly four hundred years of prophetic silence. John was that voice crying in the wilderness preparing the way for the coming Messiah. The central theme of his ministry was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near". He was called "The Baptist" because his practice was to baptize those who responded to the message he proclaimed and sincerely repented of their sins. The authenticity of repentance was evidenced in very practical terms: share with those in need, eliminate graft, and prohibit extortion. these characteristics portray John as a fiery prophet with authority that demanded immediate action.