

ADVENT The Season of Joyful Anticipation



A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

The novelist George Bernanos once asked the question, 'What is the opposite of a Christian people?' It is not hard to think of some answers. I can think of a few---like a pagan people, a hypocritical people, a merciless people, etc... The readings for this second Sunday in Advent give us a better clue.

We hear from the prophet Baruch, '**Take off your dress of sorrow and distress.**' We hear from the psalmist, '**What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.**' We hear from St. Paul, '**I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you helped spread the Good News.**' We hear from the Gospel of St. Luke, '**And all shall see the salvation of God.**'

Bernanos said that the opposite of a Christian people is a sad people. A sad people! What would be the point? What news would there be for us to celebrate, as does Baruch? What news would there be for us to sing about, as does the psalmist? What news would there be for us to spread, as does St. Paul and the people of Philippi? What news would there be for us to proclaim to the whole world, as does St. Luke? Why turn God's good news into bad news or sad news?

Next Sunday is *Gaudete* Sunday, 'Rejoice' Sunday, but this year the Lectionary gives us a head start on rejoicing in Advent. That is as it should be. Our joy, as Christians, cannot be contained. It must not be restrained. The penitential always gives way to the salvific. That's the only point of our penance: to make our path straight for rejoicing, to liberate us from the sadness.

Christians cannot oppose the world's 'misdirected spirit of Christmas' with some kind of sober sadness or any kind of preaching guilt-trip. They must oppose it with their joy. What is the source of our joy? Exactly the good news being celebrated, sung, spread and proclaimed in our readings: God has come to be with us. And God shall come again so that we may be with him forever. And not only us, for 'all shall see the salvation of God'. It's not any 'spirit' of Christmas, it *is* Christmas.

We are not unaware of, or untouched by the sadness, the suffering, and the pain in human lives. Sorrow and distress are not absent from our wardrobes. We don't, so much, hide it away as we put it all in its proper place. And it is not that our faith does not motivate us to make our world a better place. We can ask, as anyone might, why? despite the best efforts of men and women of good will, there is still war, hunger, sickness, loneliness and all manner of sorrow in our world, but we cannot say, as others might, that God does not know or that God does not care.

In Christ Jesus, God has manifested the depth of his care for us. God is with us and God want us to be with him forever.



PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Please pick-up your new sets of parish envelopes from the tables at the entrance of the church. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Anyone wishing envelopes for 2019 is asked to call the parish office. **Please DO NOT USE your new envelopes until January 2019.**

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Dec. 10th - Is. 35:1-10; Luke 5:5-17-26
 Tue. Dec. 11th - Is. 40:1-11; Mat. 18:12-14
 Wed. Dec. 12th - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, feast
 Zechariah 2:10-13 or Rev.11:19a, 12:1, 3-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47
 Thurs. Dec. 13th - ST. LUCY, memorial
 Is. 41:13-20; Mat. 11:11-15
 Fri. Dec. 14th - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, memorial
 Is. 48:17-19; Mat. 11:16-19
 Sat. Dec. 15th - Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Mat. 17:10-13
 Sun. Dec. 16th - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Confession is the sacrament of the tenderness of God, his way of embracing us. (Pope Francis)
 Tuesday, Dec. 11th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Jude's



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Dec. 8 th	5 pm Mass for Elizabeth Rayappu, R.I.P.
Sun. Dec. 9 th	9 am Mass for parishioners 11 am Mass for all the souls in purgatory 2 pm Mass for Jesus Bangayan & Susana Acpal, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for Amparo Marcos, R.I.P.
Mon. Dec. 10 th	8 am Mass for all the souls in purgatory
Tue. Dec. 11 th	8 am Mass for all the souls in purgatory
Wed. Dec. 12 th	9 am Mass for Abilio Campos, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Novena Mass Novena
Thur. Dec. 13 th	8:00 am Mass for Joseph Chun Teh Chu, R.I.P.
Fri. Dec. 14 th	8:00 am Mass for Lucia Gutierrez, R.I.P.
Sat. Dec. 15 th	9:00 am Mass for Humberto Almeida, R.I.P.

PROJECT ADVANCE

“Live Gratefully, Give Generously”

Project Advance 2018 is drawing to a close. Thank you so much to everyone who gave to our Annual Project Advance appeal. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support. We have surpassed the \$80,000 mark. Well done! **For those who have not yet fulfilled their pledges, please be reminded that the deadline of Dec. 31st is fast approaching.** For those who have not yet made a donation we ask that you please consider making a gift. It is not too late. You can drop off your donation marked Project Advance at the parish office or in the Sunday collection basket or online at www.projectadvance.com and choose St. Jude as your parish.



ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Dec. 12th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Dec. 15th - 5:00 PM - A.Chavez, D.Giuliano, Carter & Chloe Tsang.

Sun. Dec. 9th - 9:00 AM - C.Barraca, J.Casino, J & R

Huang, V.Velasquez. **11:00 AM** - M.Balocan, N & N Nunez, C.Paule, S.Yip. **5:00 PM** - M. De Leon, A.Ferreira, M & M Hong, R & R Suganob, K & K Tan.

Servers are reminded to sign-up in the sacristy for the Christmas and New Years Masses.

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult). The program is suitable to anyone who is interested in learning more about our faith, for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith, whether you were baptized or not. For more info call the parish office (604) 434-6700.



SCHOOL NEWS

School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflections

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” Philippians 1:9-10

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

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Taize Prayer Service

Come and experience a quiet meditative Taize Prayer service with candlelight, music and prayers, Scriptures and silence, on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 7:45 p.m. at St. Augustine's Church, Vancouver.

Sharing Christ with the World

Evangelizing Joyfully with Michael Dopp

“An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!” – Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Every Christian is called to be actively engaged in evangelization, but where does one begin? What is true evangelization and why is it important? Hear from Michael Dopp, founder of the New Evangelization Summit on what it takes to evangelize in today's culture. Evangelizing means sharing Christ with the world in every human situation and we are all called to share the good news! Learn how to develop a missionary zeal to live out our baptismal vocation. Experience joy in your heart as we await the birth of our Saviour during this Advent season. True joy leads to evangelization. Join us on Thursday, Dec. 13, 7-9 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. Free Admission (free-will offering taken during the event). <https://rcav.org/event/sharing-christ-with-the-world>

Simbang Gabi Commissioning Mass

Simbang Gabi, the devotional nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas and to honour Mother Mary, will be held at several parishes within our Archdiocese. To kick-off Simbang Gabi, join us for a Commissioning Mass on Friday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Representatives of each parish hosting Simbang Gabi will be present. For a full schedule of the Simbang Gabi Mass times, visit <https://rcav.org/simbang-gabi>. For more info contact the Filipino Ministry Office at 604-771-2975 or email fjipinoministry@rcav.org

Quo Vadis – Men's Discernment Events

Join us for a day of recollection with Fr. Nick Meisl and Fr. Lucio Choi *Hearing the Voice of God in the Eucharist* on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, Vancouver. Event open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Please register at 604-443-3254.

Fiat: Women's Discernment Events – Day of Recollection

Join us for an Advent evening of recollection – Fiat of Women in the Old Testament on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. at the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist Convent, 2811 Venables Street, Vancouver. Fiat, the women's vocation discernment group for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, is getting ready for another year of events. Events are open to single, Catholic young women ages 18-35 who are open to discerning and responding to God's call in their life. Sign up now to receive emails of events. Email womensvocations@rcav.org or for more information. <https://rcav.org/event/fiat-day-of-recollection-2>

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life

Join us as we celebrate life on Friday, Dec. 28, at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Van. Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. and Mass is at 12:10 p.m.

