

ADVENT The Season of Joyful Anticipation



A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Once, a priest told me that there is a modern-day obsession with turning everything into entertainment. This priest was not against entertainment. He loved to tell jokes and whenever he saw me, he would have a joke ready to tell. He once told me that the best column in a newspaper is the obituary, and that would be the column he read first. To him; it was the artificiality of forced entertainment and the idea that everything in life has to be entertaining that troubled him.

In today's first reading, from the Prophet Zephaniah, it is prophesied that God Himself will be doing the entertaining. God will dance for His people and there will be shouts of joy on a day of festival. This is no forced, artificial entertainment, but rather the crowning joy which the people will experience when God frees them from their enemies and He dwells among them.

The people who went to see John the Baptist were not looking for entertainment; otherwise they would be disappointed. John's was a simple message of repentance. He offered no quick fix, feel-good solution to those who asked for his advice; but rather told them to live a just life. Yet he was full of life, full of a joy which no amount of artificial entertainment can give us. And the source of the joy: Jesus Christ. The child who leapt in his mother's womb is the man who now utters every word and performs every action in witness to the one who is to come. The dance which begins before his birth now comes to fruition as his whole life becomes an utterance and performance pointing to the Christ.

The repentance which John preached was his invitation to enter into a dance of joy; to experience the joy which comes when our lives are lived in response to the great dance of creation and the eternal dance of the creator. This is to live in justice, which brings the harmony of peace. Religion is our dance of joy in response to the creator, bringing harmony to our lives and through us to the whole of the material world.

John is emphatic: he is not the Christ. His dance is made possible only because of the one he points towards. When he leaps for joy it is in response to the dance of the one who will start a fire which will never go out; the one who is God among us, dancing in the midst of His people.



As we listen to the words of John and look to our own need for repentance, it is essential that we always do this in reference to Christ. Without Christ we cannot enter into the joy which is the crowning of our salvation. His is the dance of a mighty warrior, the dance of one who has freed His people and established them in the harmony of His kingdom of peace. This is entertainment on a cosmic scale, for through Him the whole of creation is transformed.

Advent prepares us for His coming, as we follow John the Baptist in seeking to live our lives in response to the coming of Christ. He comes to give us the fullness of life.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Dec. 17th - Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Mat. 1:1-17

Tue. Dec. 18th - Jeremiah 23:5-8; Mat. 1:18-24

Wed. Dec. 19th - Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25

Thurs. Dec. 20th - Is. 7:10-14, 8:10d; Luke 1:26-38

Fri. Dec. 21st - Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45

Sat. Dec. 22nd - 1 Sam 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

Sun. Dec. 23rd - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5:2-5a; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45



PROJECT ADVANCE

"Live gratefully, give generously"

Thank you so much to everyone who gave to our annual Project Advance appeal. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support. Please be reminded that the deadline to fulfill your pledges is Dec. 31st.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Dec. 15 th	5 pm Mass for the int. of Flori Laureola
Sun. Dec. 16 th	9 am Mass for Carmela Giardullo, R.I.P. 11 am Mass for Rosaria Pulice, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for parishioners
Mon. Dec. 17 th	8 am Mass for the int. of the Viduya fmly.
Tue. Dec. 18 th	8 am Mass for all the souls in purgatory
Wed. Dec. 19 th	9 am Mass for Walter Corra, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Novena Mass Novena
Thur. Dec. 20 th	8:00 am Mass for Therese Gagnon, R.I.P.
Fri. Dec. 21 th	8:00 am Mass for Virginia Jotie, R.I.P.
Sat. Dec. 22 nd	9:00 am Mass for Dolores Tiangco Martin, R.I.P.



ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Dec. 19th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Dec. 22nd - 5:00 PM - C & C Akol, M.Cabuhayan, J.Lanuza, J.Nguyen.

Sun. Dec. 23rd - 9:00 AM - N.Chao, J & N Yuen,

C.Vu. 11:00 AM - R.Bottin, S.Cho, W.Pham, J.Roque.

5:00 PM - K.Alonzo, A.Babas, P.Casanova, T.Johnson, F & T Le, E.Nguyen, J.Plata.

Servers have you signed-up for the Christmas and New Years Masses yet? If not, please do so as soon as possible. The sign-up sheet is in the sacristy.



IN MEMORIAM

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Elsa De Marco, a long time parishioner, who passed away and whose funeral will be held this Thursday, December 20th at 10:30 am, in our church. May she rest in peace!

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.**



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!
Early dismissal: Next Friday, Dec. 21st, is the last day of school before the Christmas break. All students will be dismissed at 12 noon.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Dec. 24th - Children's Christmas Mass at 5 pm
Midnight Mass at 11 pm

Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Masses at 9 & 11 am only.

Dec. 31st - Holy Hour at 11:00 pm with Benediction
Midnight Mass at 12 am followed by refreshments

Jan. 1st - New Year's Day Masses at 9 & 11 am only.



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflections

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Philippians 4:6

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

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Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi, the devotional nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas and to honour Mother Mary, is being held at several parishes within our Archdiocese. For a full schedule of the Simbang Gabi Mass times, check our bulletin board at the entrance of the church or visit: <https://rcav.org/simbang-gabi>. For more information, please contact the Filipino Ministry Office at 604-771-2975 or email filipinoministry@rcav.org

Archbishop's Annual Mass for Life

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

Fiat: Women's Discernment Events – Snowshoe with the Sisters

Fiat, the women's vocation discernment group for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, is getting ready for another year of events. Please save the date for our upcoming snowshoeing event on Jan. 12. More details to come. 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 throughout the year. E-mail womensvocations@rcav.org for more information

Winter Institute

The Winter Institute is a day dedicated to ministry training and faith formation courses. Join us Saturday, Jan. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Notre Dame Regional Secondary School, Vancouver. Registration is \$40 on or before Jan. 14. Course offerings for 2019: For course descriptions and registration, visit rcav.org/oc-winter-institute

Quo Vadis – Men's Discernment Events

Join us for a Discernment Evening with Fr. Nick Meisl - Hearing God's Call in the Bible on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish, Vancouver. 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 least one week in advance by contacting the Vocations Office at vocations@rcav.org or call 604-443-3254

