

THIRD SUNDAY

OF

Advent

As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord God make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11



St. Luke Parish

Rev. Danilo Soriano
Pastor

Religious Education

Tel: 630/665-2322

stlrp@aol.com

Parish Office Tel: 630/668-1325

Parish Office E-Mail: stloff@aol.com

Website: www.stlukecarolstream.org

baptism with that with which every Christian is initiated. Obviously, the Trinitarian aspect is missing entirely as it has not yet been developed. John's baptism is more a symbolic purification rite. Asked if he is Elijah whose return was expected before the appearance of the Messiah, he denies it. Asked if he is *the* Prophet whose coming Moses foretold, he refutes that as well. John in his own eyes is nobody special. Everything points to "...one who is coming after me...". That, indeed, is what the entire Advent/Christmas cycle points to in all it does.

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By Dale J. Sieverding

In the first passage from Isaiah, we have the text which is quoted in Luke's Gospel at the inauguration of Jesus' public ministry. The speaker in the passage is empowered and commissioned by God to authorize such good news to the poor and downtrodden. In the Old Testament milieu, these words would have only been spoken by a king, for only a king would have been authorized to declare a year of jubilee. Hearing this passage alongside today's Gospel passage from John, highlights the thematic emphasis that Jesus is King and rules with authority. This is a theme which John works with throughout his Gospel up to and including the crucifixion scene where Jesus "reigns" from the tree of the cross.

John's Gospel today highlights the life and ministry of John in relation to Jesus who is the "Christ", the anointed one of God. John's importance to the narrative of Jesus' life is that of the "announcer" who points to the dynamic intervention of God in human history in the life and ministry of Jesus. In art history, John is always pointing away from himself to Jesus or a representation of the "light of the world". John "announces" the public ministry of Jesus.

The first letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest writing of Paul and speaks of the end times expectation that God will bring to fulfillment the work begun in the life of Jesus. Admonitions are given to the community to rejoice, pray and give thanks. If we are to understand the life of the fledgling Christian Church, it is under the banner of a community at prayer and giving thanks. Further, the community is charged to let the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit flourish in the Church.

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

By Virginia Smith

For the first two Sundays of Advent, the Gospel readings have asked us to look forward to the coming of the Christ at the close of human history. Today's reading has a more traditional outlook, backward toward the coming of the incarnated God into human history some two millennia ago. While John the Baptizer is stressed this weekend, Jesus himself will take center stage on the fourth and final Sunday.

Here the author of the Fourth Gospel accents one of his favorite themes, the contrast between light and darkness, light always pointing to the Son or Word of God. Across the world at this Christmas season, homes, businesses, and city streets will be ablaze with brightly lit seasonal displays. How many realize that each of those tiny bulbs represents the Light of the World? Too often the original meaning of our various Yuletide decorations is entirely lost, and what was meant to emphasize the Incarnation becomes just another secular show.

In the argument between the Baptizer and the Jewish priests and Levites, it would be a mistake to equate John's

As the community approaches the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, these passages highlight the uniqueness of God's breaking into the world in the life and ministry of Jesus who announced not just a year of favor from the Lord, but an entirely new existence of life in the Spirit.

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Please pray for the sick in our parish especially, Pat Angelo, Marge Austin, Yecenia Bosley, Angela D'Ambrosio, Disabled Vets, Angel Faulkner, Neal Hunter, Terri Miceli, Audrey Race, John Rossi, and Chris Rubino.

Please remember our beloved dead, especially John Breen, Al Rossi and the men and women who have given their lives for our country.



December 10, 2017

REG. CHURCH SUPPORT	
135 SUN. ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTIONS	= \$4,375.00
LOOSE CONTRIBUTIONS	= \$ 207.00

TOTAL COLLECTION	= \$4,582.00
AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION	= \$ 33.94

FINANCIAL FREEDOM	= \$ 310.00
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FAITH COMMITMENT	= \$ 400.00
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SHARE IN THE CARE	= \$ 219.00
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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	= \$ 340.00
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Thank you so much for your on-going generous financial support of St. Luke Parish! Every amount contributed helps, so we respectfully ask that you continue to regularly use your church support envelopes. It is your generosity that allows us to do what we do. Please give as your financial needs allow.

MASSES CELEBRATED

DURING THE WEEK

ARE HELD

IN THE CHURCH

SATURDAY — DECEMBER 16

2:00 — Baptisms
 4:15 — 4:45pm Confessions
 5:00 — Rita Lewek req. by her family

SUNDAY — DECEMBER 17

8:30am — The People of St. Luke Parish
 11:00 — Stan Solkowski req. by Ann Solkowski and for Samantha Salazar req. by Elsa Salazar

MONDAY — DECEMBER 18

Mass will not be celebrated today

TUESDAY — DECEMBER 19

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

WEDNESDAY — DECEMBER 20

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

THURSDAY — DECEMBER 21

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

FRIDAY — DECEMBER 22

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

SATURDAY — DECEMBER 23

4:15 — 4:45 Confessions
 5:00 — Olczyk and Zaskowski families req. by Mary Olczyk and for The People of St. Luke Parish

SUNDAY — DECEMBER 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm — Breinig & Neff families req. by Mary Breinig and for Sally Hunter req. by her family
 6:00pm — Herbert Bowe req. by Patrick & Kathleen Elder

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,
16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3,
11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;
Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;
Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5,
27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

How will I answer? Questions are put to John the Baptist today. Who are you? What do you have to say for yourself? Worthy question for each of us.

- What truth, what goodness will I voice this week?
- What will I do to back up these words?
- How can I lead this person, _____, to Jesus, the Light of the World?

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday we have **CHANGED** the **Sunday weekend schedule**. Please keep this handy so you know when to attend Mass.

If you are a minister or past minister and can help with the holiday Masses call the office at 630/668-1325 or email us at stloff@aol.com. Thank you for your help.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – 2017

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday, December 23
Mass.....5:00pm

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
NO MORNING MASSES
Masses.....4:00 and 6:00pm

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25
Masses.....8:30 & 11:00am

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Saturday, December 30
Mass.....5:00pm

Sunday, December 31
Masses.....8:30 & 11:00am

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31
Mass.....5:00pm

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1
Mass.....11:00am

HO HO HO

Christmas Eve and Day schedule for music at the Masses will be:

4:00pm—Christmas Eve — Hand Bell choir
6:00pm—Christmas Eve — RE Children's classes
8:00am—Christmas Day — St. Luke Choir
11:00am—Christmas Day — Filipino Choir

Christmas Carols will be sung 20 minutes before all Mass.

Don't forget to bring your bells on Christmas Day!

ST. LUKE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Family of St. Luke Parish, are called through Baptism to celebrate the presence of Christ in our Lives and Sacraments. We were chosen and sent by Christ to live gratefully the life God has given us and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. In the Spirit of **Faith, Service** and **Community**, we bring people closer to God and each other.

LUMINARIA PROJECT

The Luminaria tradition is anything but local. It dates at least to early 17th century Spain. In one version, people burned cedar boughs along town paths, symbolically lighting the way to Bethlehem for Mary and Joseph. A slightly different version suggests that luminaria were intended to brighten the way for the Magi. The tradition is a feature of Christmas festivals in the American Southwest.

On the weekend of December 16th and 17th, CCW will be selling Luminaria Kits after all masses. Each kit will contain 10 luminarias for a price of \$5.00. We can celebrate the birth of Jesus by the light shining outside our homes and Church.

JERICHO REMODELING

For those of you who were at church on the weekend of December 2nd & 3rd you heard about our plans to remodel Jericho.

Joe Marks has done a lot of research for this project. But he needs help.

We are looking for ideas, people to bounce things off of, people who might have "connections" to purchase materials or have materials donated. Or even if you have questions as to what is going to happen.

Please consider helping Joe with this project which is going to start in June 2018.

You can contact Joe Marks at 630/653-5797 or call the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RAMBLINGS

The Religious Education Office staff would like to wish all of our families and volunteers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with wonder and awe! May you find the peace of the Christ Child in the New Year.



Important RE Dates

January 7th, 2018 — RE class 9:40-10:50

January 14th, 2018 — RE class 9:40-10:50 and Children's
Mass at 11:00

January 21st, 2018 — RE class 9:40-10:50

Generations of Faith

January 31st or February 2nd, 2018 — 6:00-8:00pm a light dinner will be served. Every Religious Ed Family is expected to attend one of these sessions.



DirectEd.org.com

PLEASE HELP THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF ST. LUKE - CAROL STREAM

Greeting Parishioners,

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Luke has a food pantry. When a phone call comes in for help from within the borders of our parish, our members respond the best we can to help. The pantry contains cereal, soup, tea, paper products, canned veggies, peanut butter, jelly, some shampoo, laundry detergent, hand soap and toothpaste. Sometimes a toothbrush. Those we serve also need help to buy milk, pay deductibles for medical help, pay electric bills and at times some rental support.

THE BOXES inside the church and at the main entry to the church are asking you to help. Donations are fully tax deductible, so a check will help you keep record of your donations. When members of our parish call us for help, we need your prayers, volunteer help and financial assistance in order to help them.

PLEASE HELP WITH YOUR PRAYERS, YOUR TIME AND FINANCIALLY IF YOU CAN.

5 HEALING GESTURES

Want to protect children from the effects of violence, abuse, neglect, hunger and other traumas?

These simple practices or Healing Gestures, can help children thrive.

1. **Celebrate.** As influential adults, you can help children celebrate with “put-ups” and “not put-downs.” A cheer, a clap, a smile, a kind greeting or a statement that acknowledges them are simple expressions that can heal minds, change minds, and help children thrive.
2. **Comfort.** Studies show that adults who provide consistent emotional and physical support can buffer the “fight or flight” stress response in children. Teaching them how to manage their emotions and calm themselves down, helping them connect their words to feelings, and practicing relaxation and emotional regulation skills can also help.

3. **Listen.** To listen is a gesture we practice every day. For all children, especially those who have experienced traumatic stress and violence, a patient and receptive adult who listens can help them feel safe and valued.
4. **Collaborate.** Through everyday interactions, you can teach children the skills to collaborate and resolve problems by modeling cooperative relationships, helping them build trust, and encouraging them to express their opinions and ask for help when needed.
5. **Inspire.** Think back to when you were a child. Do you recall a glimmering moment when your spirit soared in response to words an adult said to you? When their words elevated your sense of self and inspired you to do something big? So inspire the children in your life, and give them their own glimmering moments to remember.

From the Changing Minds Now campaign. U.S. Department of Justice and Futures Without Violence.
www.changingmindsnow.org.

11/2017



Advocate Health Care
Tomorrow starts today.

OUR GREATEST NEED

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness and acceptance,
so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown

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THE PERFECT GIFT

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday — or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, "How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends — the people who seem to have everything — and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you — your time, your talent and your treasure — used in service to others."

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EVERLASTING JOY

In a *Chicken Soup for the Soul* sampler, Karen Asire tells of a particularly difficult Christmas after her husband left and began divorce proceedings. As Karen and her three young children set up their tree, she fought tears and secretly tucked aside certain ornaments, such as one announcing "Our First Christmas Together."

Several days later, a neighbor stopped by with a gold decoration proclaiming JOY. "We've hung this ornament on our tree for several years," she explained, "but this year we wanted you to have it." When Asire hung it on the tree and stepped back, "all the other ornaments seemed to fade into the background, and all [she] saw was the shimmering gold of the JOY ornament." She allowed herself to cry then, grateful for the reminder that amid grief and heartache, God's love shines.

Pain fades in time, while God's Christmas gift — Jesus — brings joy that lasts forever.

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AUTISM: FACT AND FICTION

There's a lot of information floating on the Internet and other sources about autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Dr. Karen Fried, director of Developmental Pediatric Services at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, shares what's true and false behind some of these commonly held beliefs.

Belief: Research has shown there is a definite link between early childhood vaccinations and autism.

False: "Many large, well-controlled studies have looked at whether or not there's a link between childhood vaccinations and autism," Dr. Fried says. "Studies continue to show vaccines are not associated with ASD."

Belief: The number of children diagnosed with autism is surging.

True. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2010, one in 68 children was diagnosed with ASD. In 2000, that number was just one in 150 children. The disorder is more common in boys than girls. Currently, it's estimated that one in 42 boys and one in 189 girls have been diagnosed with ASD.

Belief: Children with autism don't have emotions—including joy, sadness or love—so they may be cold and not empathetic.

False. "Children with ASD are children first and, therefore, have emotions," Dr. Fried says. "The manner in which they express those emotions may be different or unusual."

Belief: Autism can be caused by poor parenting.

False. In the 1950s, autism was thought to be caused by faulty parenting. Now, it's clear faulty parenting is not a cause of autism. Though the parenting theory still crops up from time to time, most researchers reject this theory as misguided and harmful, Dr. Fried says.

Prayer: Tender and loving God, may we see your face in each beautiful and unique child.

12/2017

 **Advocate Health Care**
Tomorrow starts today.