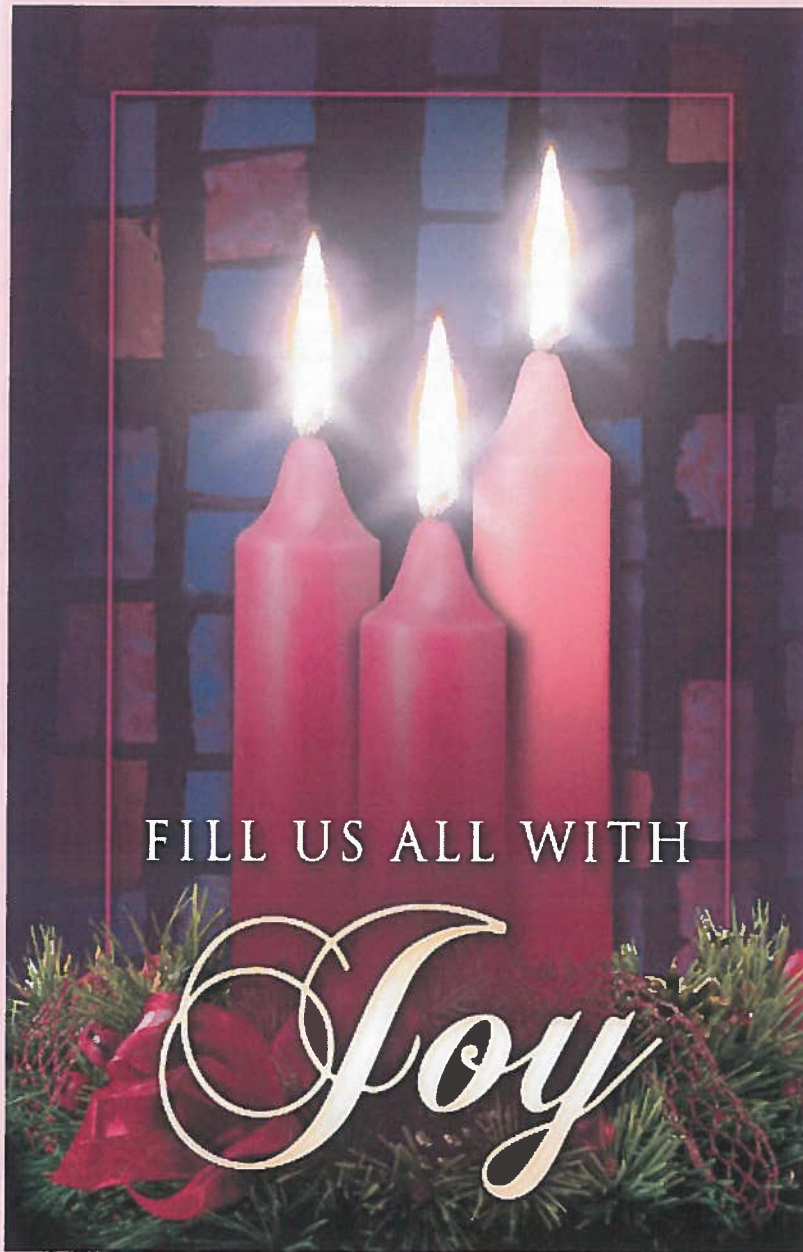


The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10-11, 2022



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "Patience attains all that it strives for."

—Saint Teresa of Ávila

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 17-18, 2022**

<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Saturday, December 17 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, December 18 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, December 18 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, December 18 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Gery Wright	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Todd Mesewicz Jeff Steinke Dave Ladehoff Vic Carlile	Joe Smolkovich Marko Smolkovich Wayne Bisailon Darren Lovell
<b>Lector</b>	Rob Landeck	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Jeff O'Connor	Dana Masching
<b>Servers</b>				Caroline Fulton
<b>Greeters</b>			<b>Greeter</b> – Jerry Ogrentz <b>R. Leader</b> – Karen Miller	Brent Fulton

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, December 12 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Thomas O'Connor (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

**Tuesday, December 13 (SH)**

8:00 am +Jerry Whalen (Wayne Dressler)

**Wednesday, December 14 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Sondra Hertz (Melinda/Stanley Wright)

**Friday, December 16 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Anna Hildebrand & George Schmidt (Mariann Lane)

**Saturday, December 17 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Bob Landeck & Les Styck (Gayle/Rob Landeck)  
+Todd Hildebrand (Mariann Lane)

**Sunday, December 18**

7:30 am (SH) +Steven Riley, Lela Madison, Dean Madison,  
Dale Pool (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Mark Benoit (The Family)  
+Howard Nelson (Steve/Dena Coy)

10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

**A Look Ahead**

Dec. 10/11—2nd Collection for Retired Religious  
Tuesday, Dec. 13—Cleaning and decoration at SJ at 6pm  
Sunday, Dec. 18—Christmas Pageant/Fundraiser at SJ  
Tuesday, Dec. 20—Confessions at St. James 7:00pm  
Friday, Jan. 6—First Friday Adoration at SJ

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550  
Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com  
Home—815-933-4077  
Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com  
TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)  
Like us on Facebook [triparishcatholiccommunities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)  
**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550  
Julie Bisailon 426-2550  
**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550  
debjen04@gmail.com  
**Religious Education** –  
St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)  
St. James – Carolyn Levyclevstjames@gmail.com  
Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015  
**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048  
**Prayer Line**– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773  
SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [Jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)  
St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

**Question of the week:** Have others recognized Christ's presence in me? What can I do during Advent and Christmas to witness to Christ's presence in the world?

## Collections Week of Dec. 3-4, 2022

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,502

St. James—\$1,782

Sacred Heart—\$776

Thank you for your generosity!

### 2022 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### CHRISTMAS EVE;

3:00 PM AT ST. MARGARET MARY

5:00 PM AT ST. JAMES

9:00 PM AT SACRED HEART

#### CHRISTMAS DAY:

7:30 AM AT SACRED HEART

9:00 AM AT ST. JAMES

10:30 AM AT ST. MARGARET MARY



### A Stewardship Moment December 10-11, 2022

From the loneliness of his prison cell John the Baptist asks of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" The weeks before Christmas offer much to be joyous about, celebrating with family and friends, the glitter of seasonal decorations, the excitement of gift giving and receiving. But in our midst there are the lonely and neglected, the poor, the hospitalized, the wayward, the shut-ins. There are those who feel that they have no hope. To whom should they look? Discipleship in the Lord includes being good stewards of others. Are there those in our family, our neighborhood, our community to whom we can reach out to show them a sign of Christ's presence in their midst?



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is December 17-18 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. "For I was hungry and you gave me food..." Matthew 25:35

### Gospel Shorts—Then Came Jesus

Imagine buying tickets to a performance of one of your favorite entertainers months ahead. The evening finally comes and your expectations are high. You wait to hear all the "oldies but goodies," but the performance proceeds for two hours and still no renditions of the songs you'd waited so anxiously to hear. Many times, we anticipate certain happenings, but they disappoint us. So it was with John the Baptist as he sat in a prison cell waiting to be executed for preaching the coming of the Messiah. He had seen Jesus, had witnessed the voice of the Father, and the confirmation of the Holy Spirit. But was Jesus the One, or should he wait for another? He undoubtedly had expectations of exciting things that Christ's coming would bring, but now he was waiting to die. Do you make promises to your friends ... if only they will accept Christ? Do you lead them to believe all their external problems will disappear, that they be miraculously healed of their cancer? In our message we will consider how to be assured that Jesus is in fact the Son of God, and how he can encourage you each and every day.

### Parish News:

#### St. Margaret Mary—

- Need to get in the Christmas Spirit? Come decorate with us! We will be decorating at SMM on Wed., December 14 at 5:30.

#### St. James—

- Church cleaning/decorating will be on Tuesday, December 13th at 6 pm and all are welcome to come help out!
- CCW Christmas Party is at the Herscher Restaurant after mass on Sunday, December 11th. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can get the restaurant a head count.
- Last day to donate to our Winter wear collection is Dec. 11. Please consider a donation to help those in need during our chilly Illinois winters.

#### Sacred Heart—

- There will be a special collection on Sunday, December 18 that will once again replace the income we have missed out on from not having our stag/stagette. There are envelopes in the back of the church. This additional income is very beneficial to the running of our parish. From the money collected last year, we have been able to install a new furnace in the parish hall, have plans for an air conditioner to be installed in the spring and for restroom improvements.
- The Sacred Heart CCW Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Herscher Restaurant at 6:00 pm. There is a signup sheet in the entrance of the church.
- This week, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in memory of Dolores Fitch and Roberta Gagnon. The St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Jim Riley, Dick Fitch, and Vernal Gagnon.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Gerald Regnier**

Father of Tim (Jordan) Regnier

May he and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

**The Christmas Pageant, Breakfast, and Basket Raffles are returning to St. James on Sunday, December 18 after the 9:00 am Mass.**



If you are interested in donating a basket for the raffle or cash to purchase items for baskets, please text Terri at 815-685-0931 or Tanhya at 815-530-4406.





This week we have two obscure saints.

**Saint Vicelin of Oldenburg, (Dec. 12)** was born to the nobility and orphaned young. Vicelin studied at Hameln, Germany and in the cathedral school of Paderborn, Germany. He became the canon at Bremen, Germany and later became a teacher and principal of the school at Bremen. He was the spiritual student of Saint Norbert of Magdeburg who ordained him. He became a missionary to the Wagrian Wends in northeastern Germany in autumn 1126, and to Slavs in surrounding areas. He founded monasteries at Neumunster, Holstein, Segeberg, and Hegersdorf. In 1147 most of what he had built and done was wiped out in a series of raids by pirates; he and several of his priests fled back to the Empire. Vicelin was named the bishop of Oldenburg, Germany in 1149; known for the spirituality of his flock, and for his good works for the poor. His last two years he suffered a painful paralysis of the right side of his body resulting from an apparent heart attack and stroke.



**St. Daniel the Stylite (Dec. 11)** became a monk at Samosata on the Upper Euphrates River at the age of twelve. When chosen abbot by his brothers, he declined. He made two trips to learn from Saint Simeon Stylites the Elder, and received that saint's blessing. He planned a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, but a vision of Saint Simeon caused him to travel instead to Constantinople where he spent the rest of his life. At age 42, Daniel decided to become a pillar-dwelling hermit like Simeon and spent the next thirty-three years on one.

Daniel lived on a series of pillars built for him by Emperor Leo I and other wealthy supporters, living in the open weather, standing each day until he collapsed. He was ordained by Saint Gennadius. Many came to learn from the holy man, sitting at the foot of the pillar as he preached, and celebrated Mass. He gave spiritual counsel and healed the sick who were taken up to his platform. Daniel was a counselor to Emperor Leo, Emperor Zeno, and the Patriarch of Constantinople; he prophesied some of the political turmoil in which Zeno was involved.

Daniel came down from his pillar only once – to convince Emperor Baliscus to abandon the Monophysite heresy.

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

John, meanwhile, had been locked up in prison. When he got wind of what Jesus was doing, he sent his own disciples to ask, "Are you the One we've been expecting, or are we still waiting?"

Jesus told them, "Go back and tell John what's going on:

The blind see,  
The lame walk,  
Lepers are cleansed,  
The deaf hear,  
The dead are raised,  
The wretched of the earth learn that God is on their side.

"Is this what you were expecting? Then count yourselves most blessed!"

When John's disciples left to report, Jesus started talking to the crowd about John. "What did you expect when you went out to see him in the wild? A weekend camper? Hardly. What then? A sheik in silk pajamas? Not in the wilderness, not by a long shot. What then? A prophet? That's right, a prophet! Probably the best prophet you'll ever hear. He is the prophet that Malachi announced when he wrote, 'I'm sending my prophet ahead of you, to make the road smooth for you.'

### Traditions- Gift Giving

If you want to do something different this year when you are exchanging gifts consider a Danish tradition. They wrap the gift in a box and then put it into an even larger box, and continue to put the gift into larger boxes until the present is huge. Another twist on this tradition is to wrap the gift and put the recipient's name on it. Then wrap it in a bigger box and put someone else's name on it, then box and wrap it in an even bigger box with yet another person's name on it. Keep up this process until the package is huge. The gift will change hands many times before it is finally unwrapped by the planned recipient. This may be difficult if you are giving someone a 70" tv or a new Lexus.

### Reflection

#### Advent Week 3—Establish Your Hearts

**Love:** We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness. With the coming of this light there is love. Such great love helps us to love both God and one another.

### Get Fed

Discover one of St. Therese of Lisieux's favorite saints.  
St. Theophane Venard was a humble and courageous missionary priest.



"I want to go to Tonkin, too! I want to be a martyr, too!" cried eight-year-old Jean-Theophane.

He had just read about a recent missionary martyr, a native of his own birthplace in Poitiers, France.

From that moment, Theophane Vénard never wavered in his youthful desire for priesthood and missionary work. When he was eighteen, he grieved his family by asking to enter the seminary for missionaries.

The missions in the East were the path to certain martyrdom. At that time, a priest lasted about five years. If an executioner didn't kill him, disease would.

Mr. Vénard let his son go to seminary—but the two parted with the expectation of never seeing each other again.

Theophane persevered in his formation despite great discouragement, giving himself to Our Lady every day as he prayed the Rosary. After ordination, he was sent to Hong Kong, and from there to Tonkin (northern Vietnam) in 1854.

He arrived in Tonkin during the fierce persecution of Christians. For six years, he worked secretly, hiding by day in a tight space with two other missionaries. His flock loved their gentle French priest and called him "little Fr. Vén."

Then, in the winter of 1859, he was arrested and imprisoned. He lay locked up in a tiny cage for months, where he wrote many letters to his family, speaking with joy of his coming death.

Finally, he was taken out of his cage and beheaded. Twenty-three years after reading about the Tonkin martyr, Theophane's spontaneous childhood wish was fulfilled.

St. Thérèse loved St. Theophane Vénard because she herself had desired to be a missionary—though God's plan for her "mission work" was contained within a monastery and eventually poured forth from heaven after her death. His letters home inspired her as she pursued her Little Way during her brief earthly life. You can come to know St. Theophane through his writings, too, in [Modern Martyr: St. Theophane Vénard](#). Learn about the sanctity hidden in the most ordinary things through the words of this young priest. [Available today at The Catholic Company!](#)

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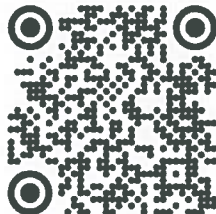
—Ignacio G.

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SAVE THE DATES in 2023!

Celebrate the  
*National Eucharistic Revival*  
With these special  
*Diocesan Celebrations*

DIOCESAN-WIDE FORTY HOURS DEVOTION  
FEBRUARY 8, 9, 10

AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS, JOLIET

AND

PRAYER SERVICE with NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PREACHER  
MARCH 23, 24, 25

AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE

Watch for more information in the upcoming bulletins





Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of Venice in Florida  
 Rev. Msgr. Stephen E. McNamara, V.I. - Vicar General  
 Dr. Volodymyr Smejk, M.A., J.C.D., J.D. - Chancellor

Rita Caruoto, Chair  
 Robert Farnham, Vice-Chair  
 Eduardo Gloria, Chief Executive Officer

November 30, 2022

Father Ron Neitzke  
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet - St. Margaret Mary Parish  
 207 E. 5th St.  
 Herscher, IL 60941

Dear Father Neitzke,

Please accept this acknowledgment of your donation of \$7,466.00 and 14 gifts cards, which were received on 11/28/2022.

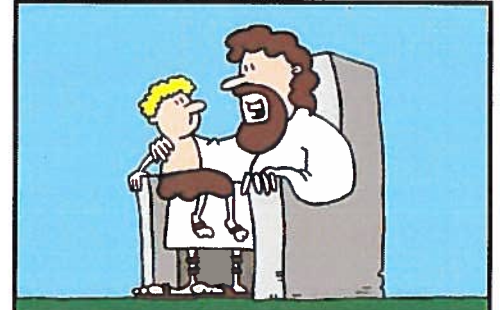
Because of your generosity we have been able to assist over 90 thousand people affected by Hurricane Ian. While many hurricane victims still remain homeless, hungry, or without utilities, your gift today DOUBLED by a generous \$25,000 match by the Tromble Family Foundation - will go directly to these families and individuals. Together we'll continue to support our communities and their families after this disaster and beyond.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and know it's because of gifts like yours that we can continue to provide help, create hope, and serve all.

Peace & Blessings,

  
 Eduardo Gloria  
 Chief Executive Officer

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?



The light  
 of the  
 LORD  
 grows  
 brighter

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### SUGGESTIONS FOR A MEANINGFUL ADVENT

- Gather your family members for a reading of the "Christmas Story" from the Gospel of Matthew or Luke. Discuss what it means to them and to you.
- Include a weekday Mass in your plans during Advent.
- Every morning until Christmas, say a Hail Mary for peace.
- Reach out to a lonely person at school. Invite him or her to sit with you and your friends.
- Prayerfully pray Psalm 51.
- For one whole week, complete a particular chore around the house without being asked.
- Give up some leisure time to shovel an elderly neighbor's driveway.

### Questions Catholics Ask

#### Can converts become sisters or brothers?

I am interested in becoming a sister. I am also a convert to Catholicism. Does that matter? It is possible for a person who has converted to Catholicism to become a religious sister or brother. Many converts to Catholicism are from other Christian traditions but they may also be from other religious traditions or no tradition at all. It can take a year or several years for a person to learn about the Catholic faith and become a full member of the Catholic Church.

Typically religious communities require that a convert be Catholic for at least two years before they can formally seek entrance. That gives the person who converted time and space to live the Catholic faith in "ordinary time"—that is, everyday life with all its ups and downs and in between.

During the time that one is preparing to become a Catholic, usually a process that follows the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a person can certainly explore religious life and learn about sisters and brothers and their mission and way of life. It's important, however, to tend to the calling to become Catholic, because that is its own calling from God.

When a person and a religious community are ready to begin a formal discernment with one another, there is nothing that is really different between a convert's experience and a lifelong Catholic's experience. It is important in so far as it is a significant landmark on our spiritual journey, and for each of us those landmarks will be different or have different meanings attached to them. And if there are areas that a new member needs more study or training in—be it Catholic theology, or pastoral care, or professional skills—the community may encourage them to pursue those.

These are good things to talk about with your spiritual director or vocation director who can help you integrate your calling to the Catholic faith with a calling to religious life or any other form of consecrated life as a Catholic person.





December 11, 2022

## Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today many of us light a rose Advent candle as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice,” and today’s readings hint at the joy of Christ’s coming. Who among us can’t relate to the concrete examples from the prophet Isaiah that give us many reasons for hope and joy as we anticipate Christ’s birth. Those of us who have experienced fear or doubt find reassurance: “Be strong, fear not!” During the holidays when many will grieve those who have died this past year, we hear that “sorrow and mourning will flee.” In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist points us to the source of our joy in the person of Jesus Christ. As we continue to prepare for his coming, we can take comfort knowing that God is with us now and for eternity. As we hear in today’s Psalm, “The Lord God keeps faith forever.”

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I am not a patient person. Waiting in the slow grocery line raises my heart rate, and I have to use cruise control in 35 mph zones (it works!). Despite my impatience, I’ve grown to love planting a vegetable garden in the spring and never cease to be amazed at the rich harvest of tomatoes in July or August. As St. James reminds us, we can learn from the farmer who patiently waits for the rains. “You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” Whether we have patient personalities or not, we can rest assured that the Lord is with us for the long game. Just as the rains help our tomatoes to come in – a miracle that still surprises me each summer – our faithfulness, prayer and good works can nurture our hearts and our souls. They also remind us of the true joy of the season: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, has taken on our humanity for our salvation. “Lord, come and save us.”

**ACTION** Need something to brighten your living area during the deep of winter? You can find amaryllis “bulbs in a box” online. They bloom inside and can be moved outside when spring comes, serving as a visible reminder that patience pays off. This can also be a nice gift for a friend or perhaps an elderly relative who does not have access to a garden.

## Sunday, Dec 11, 2022

### 'Tis the season to be generous

Seasonal gift-giving was originally an expression of generosity toward the needy. These days, gift-giving has become many other things, including a source of anxiety or obligation, mindless consumerism, one-upmanship, and often, an annual occasion of snowballing debt. The gifts Jesus brings are different—they are restorative, occasions of good news. Consider offering gifts that fill hearts, not closets. Heifer International, World Wildlife Fund, and PlanUSA are among the many organizations that accept donations in directed ways to honor your loved ones.

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk . . . and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

## Monday, Dec 12, 2022

### We're good enough for God

The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego in December 1531 is reminiscent of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Juan and the young Mary were both understandably overwhelmed by what was asked of them. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary is "greatly troubled at what was said." According to later accounts, Juan told Our Lady to pick someone of higher standing as messenger, since he was a "man of no importance." But by accepting the challenge, a Jewish peasant girl became the Mother of God, and an indigenous Mexican persevered in getting a church built in Our Lady's honor. Today, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world. Think you're not good enough for God's plan? Trust that God equips us all for what we're called to do.

#### FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

## Tuesday, Dec 13, 2022

### Follow the light

Lucy, whose name means "light," is a great saint for these darkening days of Advent. Her name and example personify the "light" mentioned throughout the Bible, not only Isaiah's promises of a future messiah—"people who walk in darkness will see a great light"—but Jesus, who called himself the "Light of the World", while also calling us the same. Scandinavian celebrations of Lucy, with a crown of candles on her head, remind us that she fed persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs, affixing candles to her head in order to use both hands to serve. How will you be a light to the world today?

#### MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Take refuge in the name of the Lord."*

## Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022

### In the darkness, a great light

One of multiple doctors of the church celebrated this month, Saint John of the Cross was a renowned priest and friar in Spain, descended from a line of "conversos" (Iberian Jewish converts to Catholicism). A contemporary of another Carmelite saint, Teresa of Ávila, John was, like her, a mystic whose writings have lived far

beyond his own lifetime as classics of European literature. His seminal work, the poem "Dark Night of the Soul," is the basis of a widely held tenant of spirituality involving spiritual distress as a part of searching and growth. (We all have our "dark nights of the soul.") His "Ascent of Mount Carmel" is likewise widely revered. In this season of holy joy as we celebrate the approach of the Messiah, may we likewise honor the legacy of the humble Catholic friar of Jewish descent whose profound and mystical faith has inspired millions the world over.

#### MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, CARMELITE PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). *"And Jesus said to them in reply, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard.'"*

## Thursday, Dec 15, 2022

### The greatest gifts are priceless

The tradition of Christmas gift-giving can be uncomfortable for those wanting to take seriously Catholic teaching about the environment and consumerism. Fortunately, more and more people are open to alternatives: gifts of time or special skills, gifts made from household items, gifts to charitable causes in loved ones' names. How can you celebrate creatively, in keeping with the spirit of Christmas?

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190). *"I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John."*

## Friday, Dec 16, 2022

### Truly right and just

The prophet Isaiah tells the Israelites to "observe what is right, do what is just." No easy task, often leading us to ask for some guidance. Fortunately, Jesus showed us the way. As we await the celebration of Christ's coming, take a moment to ponder some of the examples of right and just living Jesus gave us, such as caring for outcasts, being a healing presence, praying, evangelizing, and forgiving. Simply put, follow Christ's advice to love God and your neighbor as yourself and to count your blessings, and let Christ take care of the rest.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36 (191). *"These works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."*

## Saturday, Dec 17, 2022

### Dip into God's wisdom

Today we begin the recitation of the O Antiphons. The church sings these seven lines during evening prayers (vespers) on the last seven days of Advent, and also uses them as the Alleluia Verse during the daily Mass. Each antiphon is a title for Christ taken from the Book of Isaiah. They go back to an unknown source some 1,500 years ago in medieval Europe, and all begin with "O," thus known as the "O Antiphons." Take an opportunity today to connect to this ancient tradition by enjoying sung versions and explanations of the antiphons on the internet, starting with today's antiphon, O Wisdom.

#### ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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