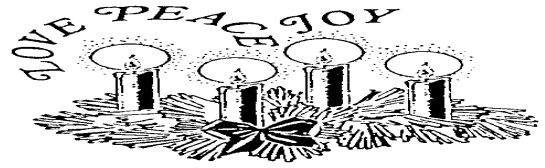


Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017



If this reading from Isaiah sounds familiar may be because we also hear it in Luke. This is the passage that Jesus is given to read in the synagogue, the verse he is referring to when he says, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). No wonder we hear it now, in anticipation of the celebration of his birth. The prophecy of Isaiah is on the cusp of fulfillment. The good news of gladness, of healing, of liberty, of vindication is here in the person of Jesus.

What is this "year of favor" that Isaiah announces? The year of favor was traditionally the time when debts were cancelled, land was redistributed equitably, and slaves were released. It was an acknowledgment that all the goods of this world, all creation, come from God and that God ultimately has sovereignty over humanity. What implications does this have for us today? What would happen to you and all you own? Obviously, it depends on our status and what we own in the first place. But maybe we should think of it from God's perspective. God cares for each and every one of us. So if any one of us is poor or brokenhearted, or oppressed, or held captive, it is an affront to God.

St. Paul's advice to the early Christian community at Thessalonica is good advice for us as well. "Rejoice always" for we have been redeemed by Jesus. "Pray without ceasing," for this is how we can communicate with God. "In all circumstances give thanks," for all that has been given to us. "Do not quench the Spirit," for it the Holy Spirit who builds, energizes, and sanctifies us as we act according to God's will (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19). It is also the Spirit who inspired Isaiah and Paul when they wrote the words we heard today.

Question of the Week

How can I help bring a "year of favor" to the world, to the community, to those I know?

Saturday, December 16, 2017

Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent

4:00p.m. Darrell and Elodie Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Ellsworth McKendall – Leonard Belton – Bruce Gabriel – Corinne Singletary – James Young – Dorothy Maney – Intentions of James and Tamerle Young

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30a.m. Darrell & Elodie Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Earthy B. Lazard – Calvin Tate – Walter Banks, III – Lawrence Miller, Jr. – Corinne Singletary – Melvina Kepp – Bruce Gabriel – Nathaniel Wilson, Sr. – Joseph Nguyen – France Obioha - Intentions of Maude DeGrasse – Yvonne & Jeff Guerin

10:30a.m. Lamar and Shirley Smith – Fred and Dorothy Johnson – Lourdes Glapion Nix – Charles Breaud, Sr. – Frank Richard, Jr. – Harry and Beatrice Encalade – Albert Pierre – Melvin Thomas Intentions of Alcina Sampson

12:00p.m. Blair McDonald – Intentions of Joseph Simms, Jr. – Parishioners of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Monday, December 18, 2017

8:30a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Jacobs, Sr. – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Nguyen – James Young – Intentions of Joseph Simms, Jr. – James and Tamerle Young – Maude DeGrasse

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Nguyen – Intentions of Joseph Simms, Jr. – Maude DeGrasse – Yvonne & Jeff Guerin – Miles Metz

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

8:30a.m. Joseph Cong Cao – Peter and Mary Kham Nguyen – Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Nguyen – Playdoh Bouligny – Intentions of James and Tamerle Young – Maude DeGrasse – Miles Metz

Thursday, December 21, 2017

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Nguyen – James Young – Intentions of Yvonne and Jeff Guerin – Joseph Simms, Jr. – Maude DeGrasse – James Young

Friday, December 22, 2017

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Nguyen – Melvin Orticke – James Young – Intentions of Joseph Simms, Jr. – Yvonne and Jeff Guerin – Maude DeGrasse

Saturday, December 23, 2017

8:30a.m. Joseph Nguyen – Jerome Rixner, Jr. – Intentions of James and Tamerle Young – The Living and Deceased Benefactor of the Catholic Negro American Mission.

Announcements

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call out to you. Eucharistic Adoration Monday - Friday, 9:00a.m. – 12:00 Noon and Saturdays, 12:00 noon – 3:00pm. No Eucharistic Adoration from December 22 – December 30. Eucharistic Adoration will resuming January 2, 2018.

Bible Study

The Bible Study theme for the Season of Advent is: “**What are you looking for?**” For each week in Advent a weekly theme, based on the Gospel for that Sunday, will be the focus of our meditation for that week. The theme for the **Second Sunday in Advent** is: “**Are you looking for Forgiveness?**” The focus for this week is on Forgiveness of others, the incarcerated and newly released from imprisonment. It is a chance to forgive ourselves and seek forgiveness from others. This Bible Study is based on the readings for the **Second Sunday in Advent. Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Responsorial Psalm: 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Reading II: 2 Peter 3:8-14; Gospel: Mark 1:1- 8.** This Bible Study can be found on the parish website and it can be downloaded for your personal use. **Join us on Monday’s in the Center at 7p.m.**

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, Christmas Eve
Vigil: 4:00p.m. – 12:00 Midnight
Monday, December 25, 2017
Christmas Day
8:30a.m., 10:30a.m., 12 noon

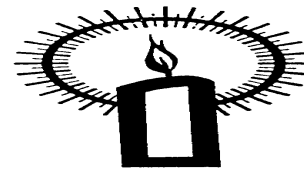


Thursdays, 8:00p.m. in the Center where you might win and have some fun with friends & family.

RCIA

The St. Maria Goretti (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) has begun. Registration forms can be found in the rear of the Church or by contacting a RCIA team member.

This week’s Session is a continuation of a discussion of how God reveals Himself to us entitled: **All things Mary: Who was Mary? Is Mary the Mother of God? Was Mary without sin? Did Mary really remain a virgin? Why is Mary called Queen of Heaven? Why is Mary mentioned in the Creeds of the Catholic Church? Do Catholics worship Mary? Where did the Rosary come from?** For more information please contact the RCIA Team: Deacon Terrel J. Broussard, Harold Broussard, Sheila Thompson, or any member of the RCIA Team or by email at tbroussard@smgnola.com, or visit the website smgnola.com.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for this week will burn in memory of Ellsworth McKendall. The Sanctuary Lamps in the chapel this week will burn in memory of Rose Angelocci and Louis & Rosita Reddick.

MASSES For The Week

Monday, December 18, 2017

6:00p.m. Exercise Class – Center

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

7:00p.m. First Place Class – Rm. 10

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

10:00a.m. Religious Education Play – Center

7:00p.m. Liturgical Dance Practice - Center

Thursday, December 21, 2017

6:00p.m. Holy Name Rosary – Rms. 3 & 4

6:00p.m. Bingo

Friday, December 22, 2017

7:00p.m. **Simbauggabi** – Center Area

Saturday, December 23, 2017

7:00a.m. **Peperare The Way** Men’s Fellowship – Rms. 3 & 4

PREPARE THE WAY

The St. Maria Goretti Catholic Men’s Fellowship present-*Prepare the Way, An Advent Program for Men.* Join us as we read and discuss scripture, pray with each other and for each other in preparation of the birth of our Savior. The program will meet weekly beginning on December 2, 2017 from 7:00- 7:45 am in the Monsignor Gauthreaux center. The program is free and is open to any man ages 12 and older. Sign-up sheets are on the table at the entrance of the church.



Following That Perfect Light

We welcome everyone into our parish. If you have not filled out a census card, the cards can be found on the table at the entrance of the church