

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018



John the Baptist's responses to the crowd ("Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.") Recall Matthew's story of the Last Judgment ("I was hungry and you gave me food . . . naked and you clothed me" [Luke 3:11, Matthew 25:35-36]). Notice that Jesus takes it one step further. Now it is not a random person, but Jesus specifically, whom we are helping in our plenty. But it was John who laid the groundwork. It was John who was asked three times, "What should we do?" It was John who told them, even before Christ began his mission, how to act like a Christian.

Speaking of the Last Judgment, John's image of the wheat and the chaff is a sobering one. The wheat will be gathered in the barn, "but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire" (Luke 3:17). The wheat is valuable. Once it is ground or milled it can nourish us. It contains the seed, so that it can be planted and grown. It can be shared with others. The chaff cannot be grown or eaten or shared. Once removed from the grain, it is virtually of no use. John calls us to nourish, to grow, and to share, like the grain that has fed the world for thousands of years.

"Shout for joy," "Cry out with joy," "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Zephaniah 3:14, Isaiah 12:6, Philippians 4:4). The readings and the psalm response each begin with exultation. No wonder this Sunday is referred to as Gaudete Sunday. The reason for the joy is simple: God is in your midst," "among you is the great and Holy One;" "The Lord is near" (Zephaniah 3:17, Isaiah 12:6, Philippians 4:5). Rejoice always, indeed.

Question of the Week

Knowing that God is in our midst, how can I answer the question from the Gospel: "What should I do?"

Saturday, December 15, 2018

Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent

4:00.m. Darrell and Elodie Gabriel – Bruce Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Tu Tran – Joseph Cong Cao – Audrey Jefferson – Danny Jon Singletary – George Marcell – Daniel and Elizabeth Ripoll – Virgil and Mary Duplessis – Vernon Mercadel – Veronica V. Richards – Frank Donze – Ellsworth McKendall

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30a.m. Darrell & Elodie Gabriel – Bruce Gabriel – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – France Hai Cao – Earthy B. Lazard – Walter Banks, III – Calvin Tate – Corrine Singletary – Tu Tran – James St. Charles – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Eloise C. Parker – Melvina Kepp – Intentions of Stacey Martin – Tamerle Young – All poor souls in purgatory

10:30a.m. Lamar & Shirley Smith – Lordeas Glapion Nix – Melvin Thomas – Melba Fletcher – Chad Rancatore – Augustine Clarke Bozant – Andrew Joseph, III – Veronica V. Richards – Albert R. Pierre – Barbara Reese Lee

12:00p.m. Byron Brooks, Jr. – Forest Buxton – Intentions of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Monday, December 17, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Mr. Charles Winchell, Jr. – Tu Tran – Melba Fletcher – Deacon Poncho – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Intentions of Stacey Martin

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Deacon Poncho – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Tu Tran – Melba Fletcher – Intentions of Stacey Martin – All Poor Souls

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Joseph Cong Cao – Peter & Mary Kham Nguyen – Tu Tran – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Melba Fletcher – Austin Burroughs – Intentions of Stacey Martin and Family

Thursday, December 20, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Tu Tran – Deacon Poncho – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – Intentions of James and Tamerle Young

Friday, December 21, 2018

8:30a.m. Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Tu Tran – Deacon Poncho – Joseph Nguyen – Melba Fletcher – Selina Moss – Intentions of Martin Family – Tamerle Young

Saturday, December 22, 2018

8:30a.m. All Poor Souls in Purgatory – Mary Pham – Joseph Nguyen – The Living and Deceased Benefactors of the Catholic Negro American Mission.

Announcement

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call on you.” Eucharistic Adoration Monday thru Friday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00 noon and Saturdays, 12:00noon – 3:00p.m. No Eucharistic Adoration December 22 thought January 1, 2019. Resuming on January 2, 2019.

Bible Study

The Bible Study theme for **Third Sunday of Advent: Lord we wait for ...**” The purpose of this theme is to inaugurate a term of active waiting through service, as we prepare to receive Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. The theme for the First Sunday in Advent is: **Lord we wait for Joy.** The Bible Study is based on the readings for the, **Third Sunday in Advent: Reading I: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Responsorial Psalm: 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; Reading II: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Gospel: Luke 1:21-38.**

Welcome home returning Citizens from prison – invite them and their families to join us and serve their needs. Visit nursing homes, orphanages and Juvenile detention homes. The Bible Study can be downloaded for your personal use. Join us Monday, evening at 7:00p.m. in the Center.

Christmas Mas Schedule

Monday, Christmas Eve – December 24, 201

Vigil: 4:p.m. – 12:00 Midnight

Tuesday, December 24, 2018 – Christmas Day

8:30a.m., 10:30a.m., 12:00 noon



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

RCIA

Welcome someone back home this Christmas. Are your children still Catholic? Do they practice their faith? Do you know enough about your faith to help them? Every Catholic has a role in welcoming those seeking to join the Catholic Church. God has touched them in a special way that leads them to us. Let us get out of the pews and into the community.

The St. Maria Goretti RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is in its **Evangelization and Pre -Catechumenate phase.** Do you know someone who wants to be Catholic? **Come and join us.** Registration forms can be found in the rear of the church or by contacting RCIA team members. The RCIA is in its Period of Inquire. This week we will discuss: **What is the sacrament of Reconciliation? Must I be Reconciled with God to Spread His Word?** For more information contact the RCIA Team: Deacon Terrel J. Broussard or any member of the RCIA Team or by email at tbroussard@smgnola.com, or visit the website at smgnola.com

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.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for this week will burn in memory of Spencer Knox
The Sanctuary Lamps in the chapel this week will burn in memory of Albertine B. Knox and Glen F. Mogilles, Sr.



Monday, December 17, 2018

5:00p.m. Youth Foundation Tutoring – Rms. 3 & 4

6:00p.m. Zumba Class – Center

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

6:00p.m. Knights of Columbus Assbly – Center Rms. 3 & 4

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

5:00p.m. Youth Foundation Tutoring – Rms. 3 & 4, 9

6:00p.m. Excerise Class – Center

6:00p.m. Lake Carmel HOA – Rm. 7

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

7:00p.m. First Place Class – Rm. 10

Thursday, December 20, 2018

6:00p.m. Bingo

Friday, December 21, 2018

Saturday, December 22, 2018

8:00a.m. Lord Teach Me to Pray – Rms. 3 & 4

9:00a.m. The Forgotten Angles – Center & Kitchen

11:00a.m. Just Faith Meeting – Library

12:00p.m. East New Orleans Parade Line Up – Park Lot

Our Advent Journey



Jesus, help me to encounter you each day this Advent and Christmas.