

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 12/12

Zechariah 2:14-17
Rom 8:28-30; Lk 2:15-19

TUESDAY 12/13

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13
Matthew 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY 12/14

Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25
Luke 7:18-23

THURSDAY 12/15

Isaiah 54:1-10
Luke 7:24-30

FRIDAY 12/16

Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8
John 5:33-36

SATURDAY 12/17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Matthew 1:1-17

Feasts, Solemnities, and Memorials This Week:

Monday, Our Lady of Guadalupe; Tuesday, Lucy; Wednesday, John of the Cross

COLLECTION FOR THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Back in the day, the nuns who taught in our classrooms did so for little or no pay. The result today is that there is a large and serious unfunded retirement debt that looms over thousands of religious sisters, brothers, and priests. The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious addresses that need. Today we join with Catholic churches everywhere in taking up a second collection after communion for this cause.

LA FIESTA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE

Monday, December 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The celebration begins in Mammoth with *las mañanitas* at 4:00 AM and continues with *la misa en español* at 6:00 AM. If you want a seat, come early. This is the largest gathering of the entire year. In Lee Vining *las mañanitas* is at 5:00 PM and *la misa en español* is at 6:00 PM.

DECORATING ST. JOSEPH CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We need help decorating St. Joseph Church for Christmas. Those interested should gather this Monday, Dec 12, at 1:00 PM in the church, or call Natalie at 760-934-6360.

FESTIVE HOLIDAY POPS

The Felici Piano Trio and Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra presents "Festive Holiday Pops" - Music by Handel, Bach and festive holiday tunes featuring soprano Maria Jette, next Saturday, December 17, beginning at 7:30 PM in St. Joseph Church. Tickets, discounted for seniors. on sale online and at the door.

PRAYERS

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Diane Evans, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreira, Julie Rogers, Antonio Salinas, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, and John Wallis.

DAILY MASS

Weekday Mass is celebrated this week Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday in St. Joseph's Rectory in Mammoth Lakes beginning at 7 AM. The door is open; just come in; don't ring the bell. Everyone is welcome to stay after for coffee and fellowship.



THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC

Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity you are God. Psalm 90:2

December 11, 2011

Third Sunday in Advent



*I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.*

Isaiah 61:10

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, MONO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

P.O. Box 372, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Phone: 760-934-6276

Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Joseph Church from 5:30 to 5:45 PM on Saturdays, 7:30 to 7:45 on Sunday mornings, y en español a las tardes del domingo de 5:00 a 5:15; and upon request before mass at Our Savior of the Mountains and Infant of Prague missions.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –
Christmas Eve: 6:00 PM,
Midnight Mass: 9:00 PM
Christmas Day: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM

Lee Vining:

Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -
Christmas Day 10 AM
Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -
Christmas Day 12 Noon

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

The Lord has sent me to announce a year of favor.

Creation reverts back to the Creator, who redistributes it bountifully. This is the meaning of a year of favor, or jubilee. It is the resolution of all tensions, because both rich and poor are freed of the roles of oppressor and oppressed. Jailer and prisoner are liberated from prison. The brokenhearted and the heart-breaker are rescued from the wounds of the past. In the year of jubilee, we are freed from the effects of sin and regret.

What would it take to make the spirit of jubilee alive in our world now? If we are rich, we need to surrender our surplus and if we are poor, our envy. If we hold others bound by unforgiveness, we need to show mercy; and if we have done wrong, confess our sin and seek restitution. If we live with hurt, we must embrace the light of healing. And if we have caused hurt, we have to become instruments of healing. If all of this sounds difficult, it helps to know that this is not our work alone, but God's work first and foremost. What we need to do is lead, follow, or get out of the way.

Perhaps the key to spiritual growth is surrender, at once the simplest thing to do and at the same time the most resisted act. If we surrender to God's grace and remove ourselves as obstacles to it, the spirit of jubilee would flood our world with liberation. Greed, hardness of heart, and oppression are all about holding on, closing our fists and not letting go. When we open our hands, salvation takes wing and sings Mary's song: The mighty are cast down from their thrones, and the lowly are lifted up; the hungry are filled with good things, and the rich are sent away empty. It is praise for the God of justice.

SECOND READING:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

In all circumstances give thanks.

We recently celebrated the national day of thanksgiving, expressing our gratitude for a country in which freedom rings, antelopes play, and turkey is served with mashed potatoes and cranberry

financial hardship, troubled children, failing parents, sudden illness? How can we be grateful "now, and at the hour of our death," as if the two moments had anything in common?

Being thankful for misfortune was never the point, as in the caricature of Saint Francis who finds "perfect joy" in a beating. Gratitude is the profound spiritual awareness of one's complete indebtedness to God in all this, despite all things. We reside in gratitude

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

John came for testimony. He was like the surprise witness in a long, drawn-out trial which, everyone presumed, had a foregone conclusion. This old world was a lost cause, and human nature wasn't going to change much. And then John walked in, and turned on the light. O brave new world!

"And where there was sadness, ever joy." John was not the joy, but he was the clown. He gives us a litany of am-nots: Am not the Messiah, am not Elijah, am not the Prophet. But he admits to other things: he is the voice in a wild place, the baptizer at the river. He is the ax with a fatal message for the tree of sin. He is the one who comes before, followed by the One who is the final act.

John never says come follow me; and when some do, he points away from himself to the Lamb of God, walking in another direction. He is not the way, but a signpost that points to the way; not the truth, but a witness to the truth; not life itself but a message for those who wander in the valley of the shadow of death.

John's vocation is important to us because it is our vocation as well. We are called to be witnesses to good news. We are voices lifted up in the wilderness, saying something very different than what other voices are shouting in the city. Our testimony points to the One who is coming, in this season, now, and always.

A voice in the wilderness cannot afford to whisper, or it cannot be heard. The witness we bear is too vital to speak in general terms or to point vaguely. We too have to sharpen our blade, so that sin will be threatened by our approach. The world sits in darkness, still waiting for the light.



El llamado de Dios a la justicia y la paz

Hoy brilla esplendorosa nuestra madre mestiza, la Emperatriz de América. La Virgen de Guadalupe personifica a los pobres de espíritu, a los desamparados y al pueblo humilde. En esta celebración, una vez más, vemos el llamado de Dios a la justicia y la paz. La Virgen Morena tiene un papel muy importante en la evangelización de aquellos que viven oprimidos en nuestra sociedad. En el Adviento y la Navidad se subraya la importancia de María en la Iglesia y la devoción popular se desborda en esta celebración.

sauce. Some Americans were grateful to God, and others to Thomas Jefferson. But some, we must acknowledge, were not grateful at all. For some among us, freedom has yet to ring, and the table has yet to groan with food.

How can Saint Paul bid us, all of us, to give thanks under these circumstances? In fact, Paul argues that we should give thanks under all circumstances, an idea that seems rather preposterous. How can we be grateful for

as a lover in affection for the beloved: it is our identity. We are grateful to God in every season of life, not because of human misery, but because of our God who is profoundly present in human misery, who shares the suffering of the afflicted, who begs help from those who have for the sake of those who have not. Gratitude, like love, cannot be reduced to give-and-take. It is the nature of the mystical dance of humanity and divinity.