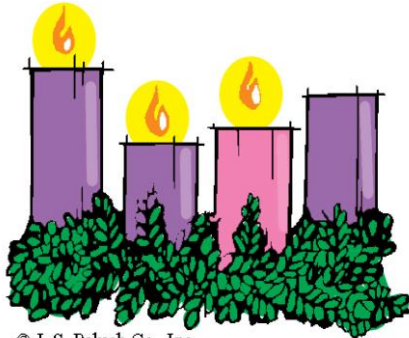


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2019

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.
 — *Isaiah 35:10a*



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REASON TO REJOICE

Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and “the coming of the Lord.” But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as *Gaudete* (Latin for “rejoice”) Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today’s first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God’s saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God’s presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah’s prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus’ presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: “The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Matthew 11:5).

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower (*Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10*).

Psalm — Lord, come and save us (*Psalm 146*).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (*James 5:7-10*).

GOSPEL — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (*Matthew 11:2-11*).

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

- Edith Bolder Homesdale Care Center
- Jeanette Hamilton Evans Home
- Eddie Jennings, V.A. Rehab Cameron
- Inell Hunter Home
- Martha Melton Addington House Ctr
- Marcheita Bush Home
- Carlos Nix Home
- Lavel McCullough Home
- Rosa Birch Home
- Sandra Cloyd Home
- Kevin Brown Home
- Jackie Countee Home
- Sharon Shackelford-Allen Home
- Earnestine Nard Home
- Mable Parson Home
- Earl Greene Home
- Michael Mize Home
- Chaunceyetta Mize Home
- Hargett Hayes Home
- Margaret Jones Home
- Flora Waddell Bishop Spencer’s Place
- Delores Bazy Home
- Deacon Greene Home

FAMILY MEMBERS

Please inform Father Leonard, when a loved-one has become homebound, or has been hospitalized. Call, 816-471-3696, or email: leombuthia@yahoo.com

DECEMBER 22nd ASSIGNMENTS

SERVERS Coordinator: V. Ammons*
 All Servers

LECTORS Coordinator, Rose Palmer*

- 8:00 a.m. Javan Hardy, Sharon Hardy
- 10:00 a.m. Diane Charity, Bernadette Cook

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Coordinator, Dianna Miller*
 8:00 a.m. Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller,
 Julia Price, Rita Womack

- 10:00 a.m. Rose Roos, Katie Steward,
 Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Patricia Williams,
 Deborah Buckley, Terese Chambers, Diane
 Charity, Jenise Comer, Bernadette Cook

USHERS Coordinators, Kim Urenda,
 Mary Pearson *

- 8:00 a.m. Elaine Johnson,
 Lawrence Blankinship

- 10:00 a.m. **TEAM B:** Mary Alexander,
 Phaedra Lombard, Chaunceyetta Mize, Chilon
 Spencer, Don Williams, Stephanie Broils

WELCOME: Chilon Spencer

COUNTERS: TEAM #4

Tracey Lewis, Team Leader

MEETINGS / DATES / TIMES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 Classes are held on Sunday,
 following the 10 a.m. Mass



SUNDAY SCHOOL

K-5th Grade Classes meet on the
 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.
 Ramonda Doakes, Director

1ST COMMUNION CLASS

Meetings: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays
 Shayla Mendy, Teacher

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP Meetings:

2nd and 4th Sundays, Church Hall,
 Lower Level,
 Coordinators: John & Debra Johnson

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

Meetings will be held in the
 Administration Building, *St. Monica*
 Room, Every 1st and 3rd Sunday.
 Coordinators: Eric & Burnetta Burtin, Elton &
 Phaedra Lombard

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.
 Meetings are held on Sundays, in the
 Small Chapel,
 Deacon Ken Greene, Instructor.

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER

- 3rd Degree Knights 1st Sat 1:00 p.m.
- 4th Degree Knights 1st Sat. 1:45 p.m.
- Fr. Constantine Ct. 1st Sun. 9:00 a.m.
- Ladies of Grace 4th Sun. 2:00 p.m.
- Jr. Daughters 2nd Sat. 2:00 p.m.
- Jr. Knights 1st Sun. 4:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Service

SATURDAY

Breakfast and Bible Study Classes
 8:00 a.m. Men’s Class will resume, Jan. 4th
 9:30 a.m. Women’s Class
 New members are welcome.
 Meetings are held in the Administration
 Building, *St. Monica* Room

HOMEGOING

Mr. Rodney Dixon, passed away, at the Veteran's Hospital, on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete, at the time of publishing this Bulletin. Call the Church for more information.

Please remember his wife, Martha, and the Dixon Family, during this time of bereavement.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

Monday: Las Posadas begins

Saturday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

Thank You

To Fr. Leonard, and the St. Monica Church Family, thank you for your calls, cards, flowers, and especially, your prayers, for my recovery. Please continue to keep me in your prayers.

Margaret Jones

GIVING THE GIFT OF WARMTH

We are blessed to partner with the Knights of Columbus throughout the diocese of KCSJ in the Coats for Kids Drive. The Knights have done an amazing job of raising funds and providing coats for school children in need. We are hopeful that their example of generosity will spread as we begin our winter drive to collect, hats, gloves and scarves for our clients coming through the Welcome Center. This time of year is especially challenging for the homeless and those in need. Please consider giving the gift of warmth this season by donating to our drive.

For more information please contact Nancy Butters, Development Manager at nbutters@ccharities.com or 816-659-8266.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER



22nd Jr. Youth Group's Annual Fundraiser

**Christmas Cookies
Josephite Calendars**

**24TH CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
4:00 p.m.**

**25TH CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
9:00 a.m.**

JANUARY, 2020

1st 9:00 a.m. Mass

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NEXT SUNDAY

The Altar / Rosary will need help with the Christmas decorating, Next Sunday, after the 10:00 Mass.

Thank you in advance for your support.

TREASURES –

**SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (c. 1542-1591)
December 14**

How beautiful the experience of love for God and neighbor, a fire deep within! How disheartening when love suddenly cools and our souls grow dark, our prayer arid. How painful when misunderstanding, even rejection, comes our way, sometimes from those we least expect. For all such "seasons of the soul," an inspiring fellow-pilgrim is the poet and mystic John of the Cross. As a young Carmelite, he was recruited by Teresa of Ávila for her Discalced ("barefoot," evangelical poverty) Carmelite reform, striving to renew the Church from within after the Protestant Reformation had led countless religious away. John suffered unspeakably harsh abuse, even imprisonment, from friars who rejected this reform. Yet during these times of deepest suffering, John composed spiritual masterpieces that still guide souls to God, their titles reflecting his own painful yet ultimately victorious journey: from *The Dark Night of the Soul* through *The Ascent of Mount Carmel* to his *Spiritual Canticle* and *The Living Flame of Love*. John summarized his spirituality simply: "Put love where there is no love, and you will find love."

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

Our Diocesan Vision, One Family: Restored in Christ – Equipped for Mission, identifies the need for healing and restoration. Bishop Johnston, in collaboration with lay faithful, has established Journey to Bethany, a program designed to address a variety of wounds and broaden awareness of healing resources within our diocese. This program will initially focus on those harmed by clergy sexual abuse.

An email survey, titled "Bishop Johnston's Healing Our Family Survey" will soon to be sent to randomly selected parishioners throughout the diocese. Your responses will help identify the manner by which we can assist all of those impacted by clergy sexual abuse. Those who do not receive the email survey will have opportunities to attend presentations to hear results and provide additional input.

Thank you for your participation, support and prayers!

FORWARD IN FAITH CAMPAIGN – UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who is participating in our "Forward in Faith" Campaign. The campaign is to take care of our accumulated diocesan assessment arrears, and build reserves for our parish. Thanks to many of you, who took time to fill in pledge cards. More pledge cards are available in the pews. **Please take time to fill one out, and drop it in the collection basket.** If you have any question, please don't hesitate to approach one of our Stewardship Committee members, for clarification. In coming weeks, you will be receiving your annual tithing envelopes, together with "Forward in Faith" Envelopes. Please use the Forward in Faith envelopes toward the campaign.

Our goal is, to raise **\$150,000** by October 2020. So far, we have received **\$13,430**, and **\$136,570**, still to go. The goal is huge, but God is faithful. God bless you all.

Fr. Leonard

Bulletin Deadline – Wednesday – NOON.

