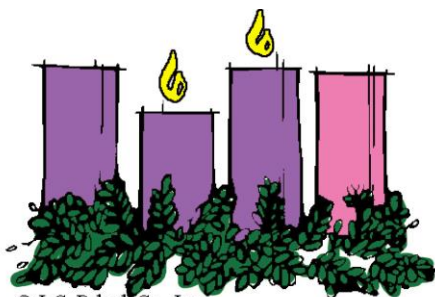


**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 8, 2019**

The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.  
— *Isaiah 11:9*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**THE LONG-AWAITED ONE**

As the Sundays of Advent unfold the scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to his historical birth. Today's scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace.

After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (Matthew 3:11) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (*Isaiah 11:1-10*).

**Psalm** — Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (*Psalm 72*).

**Second Reading** — Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (*Romans 15:4-9*).

**GOSPEL** — Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (*Matthew 3:1-12*).

**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                  |
| Patricia Williams        | Home                  |
| Margaret Jones           | Home                  |
| Flora Waddell            | Overland Park Rehab.  |
| Delores Bazy             | Home                  |
| Deacon Greene            | St. Luke Hospital     |

**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](mailto:leombuthia@yahoo.com)

**DECEMBER 15th ASSIGNMENTS**

**SERVERS** Coordinator: V. Ammons\*  
All Servers

**LECTORS** Coordinator, Rose Palmer\*

8:00 a.m. Cynthia Eastman, Mary Graham  
10:00 a.m. Rose Alexander, Sebastian Allen

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Coordinator, Dianna Miller\*  
8:00 a.m. Gerald Buckman, Mary Graham, Christine Johnson, Elaine Johnson  
10:00 a.m. Syrtiller Kabat, Carrie Miller, Dwight Miller, Chaunceyetta Mize, Pauletta Monroe, Dorothy Mustin, Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Barbara Parks, Lydia Ramirez

**USHERS** Coordinators, Kim Urenda, Mary Pearson \*

8:00 a.m. Elaine Johnson, Lawrence Blankinship  
10:00 a.m. Team A: Isaac Taitt, Shannon Fields, Leah Henderson, Alex Perez, Vicki Shackelford, Kim Urenda, Cynthia Uzomah

**WELCOME:** Chilon Spencer

**COUNTERS: TEAM #3**

Janice Smith, Team Leader

**3RD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**

**HOST:** JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

**MEETINGS / DATES / TIMES**

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



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> COMMUNION CLASS**

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
Shayla Mendy, Teacher

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP**

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays,  
Church Hall, Lower Level,  
Coordinators: John & Debra Johnson

**SENIOR YOUTH GROUP**

Meetings will be held in the Administration Building, St. Monica Room, Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat 1:00 p.m.
4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Knights	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. 1:45 p.m.
Fr. Constantine Ct.	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Ladies of Grace	4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. 2:00 p.m.
Jr. Daughters	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. 2:00 p.m.
Jr. Knights	1 <sup>st</sup> 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  
9:30 a.m. Women's Class  
New members are welcome.  
Meetings are held in the Administration Building, St. Monica Room.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 3:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
**Saturday** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Second Sunday of Advent  
**Monday:** Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Tuesday :** International Human Rights Day  
**Wednesday:** St. Damasus I  
**Thursday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
**Friday:** St. Lucy  
**Saturday** St. John of the Cross



You may have recently received an end-of-the-year appeal at your homes. This is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the time, talent and treasure you have shared over the past year. With 2019 quickly coming to a close, you still have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those in our communities. If you did not receive a mailing, please contact Lynn Lichte, Donor Stewardship Specialist, to make a donation at [llichte@ccharities.com](mailto:llichte@ccharities.com) or 816-659-8243. We would also ask that you consider making this a monthly gift and check to see if your employer would be willing to match your donation.

**Nancy Butters**  
Development Manager

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### DECEMBER

**15<sup>TH</sup>** Jr. Youth Group's  
*Annual Christmas Cookie Sale*

**22<sup>ND</sup>** Jr. Youth Group's  
*Annual Christmas Cookie Sale*

**24<sup>TH</sup>** CHRISTMAS EVE, MASS 4 p.m.

**25<sup>TH</sup>** CHRISTMAS DAY, MASS 9 a.m.

### JANUARY 1, 2020

**Mary Mother of God**  
**9:00 a.m. Mass**

## SAINT JUAN DIEGO (1474-1548)

December 9

How well Mary's own words describe Juan Diego: "God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52). Through him, for the diverse peoples of the Americas, indigenous and immigrant, the Mother of God became known as their Mother, too. Cuauhtlatzin, his given name, means "One Who Speaks Like an Eagle," and Juan Diego faithfully delivered the Virgin's request that a church be built at Tepeyac where she had appeared to him. To the skeptical bishop's request for a sign, Our Lady showed Juan Diego roses blooming through stony ground, despite winter's cold. When he unfolded his *tilma* to present them to the bishop, imprinted there was Mary's image! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a *mestiza*, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus to peoples too easily prone to a "clash of cultures," Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son.

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



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## 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*

## 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!**

