

# DECEMBER 5, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Mass will stream live on Sunday at 10:30 am through [www.caedm.ca](http://www.caedm.ca)**



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Assistant: Roger Barba

Office Hours: Mon - Wed & Fri. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Thursday - CLOSED)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton—<https://www.caedm.ca>**

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**PPC Chair:** Barbara Abel 780-985-3655

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## **Advent Penitential - Reconciliation**

***Friday December 10th at 6:45 pm  
St. Maria Goretti—Devon***

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**Office will be Closed: Thursday December 9 to Friday December 17**

## **Cemetery Contacts:**

**Our Lady of Victory - Thorsby:** Mark Bendoritis - 780.985.3779 and/or Rod Kuzio - 780.789.2423

**St Francis:** Ed Naprawa - 780.789.2195 and/or George Cygan 780 918 3412

**St Charles - Warburg:** Jack Penner - 780.848.2293

**Holy Trinity - Nisku:** Ron Chamulka 780.955.8031

**St. Margaret Mary - Calmar:** Barb Abel 780-985-3655 and/or Cheryl Hancar 780-980-3046

# DECEMBER 5, 2021

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Baruch 5:1-9**

**Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11**

**Luke 3:1-6**

Today we are celebrating the second Sunday of Advent. Today's message comes to us through the scripture readings that we should continue to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ in our world and into our lives.

In the first reading, Prophet Baruch reminds the people of Israel that they have to share the gift of joy with others by calling them to put on the garment of integrity. God is asking them not to be part of the sad story of corruption. In this reading, God is assuring that he will flatten any high mountains and fill any deep valleys in order to make the ground level. This is an invitation to change their external behaviour and reconcile them with the Lord. In this prophetic song, God promised to bring back His people from exile in Babylon. The Reading begins by giving the people hope and confidence, inviting them to stop mourning for the past and prepare to celebrate the future. They should replace the robes of mourning with garments fashioned from the justice and glory of God. The garment of our sorrow and afflictions is the death and suffering that has come upon the Israelites because of their disobedience. The word glory appears repeatedly in the reading. The problem for them was the way to keep their faith. Jerusalem once ruined by the faithless policies of its kings will become a standard of faith for the entire world to see. The Temple was far away and they were living in a culture completely opposed to their Jewish tradition. The prophecy states that God would bring His people back to Jerusalem. Through sin, humankind has experienced spiritual death and the absence of the Divine Presence of God. Jerusalem is personified as a mother about to receive back her exiled children.

In the second reading, we have the apostle Paul stating that he prays with joy for the Philippians, his loyal partners in the work of evangelization. He was praying for them to be blameless and pure. He prayed that they may have the grace to discern between right and wrong, good and evil. We too like the Philippians must be known to be men and women of goodwill. We can be witnesses to the world and to one another by maintaining our Christian morals and values. Actually, as Paul makes clear that believers will triumph because God the Father will begin and complete his good work in them. Twice Paul says that he prays for his converts that they succeed in their life of love. Unfortunately, many times people look for personal pleasure without Christian responsibility. This leads to a situation of losing the sense of sin. Paul himself a prisoner of the Romans now praises the Philippians for their kindness and hospitality. He was grateful that they took care of him during his stay among them and he respected their hospitality.

Today's Gospel reading presents us with the words of John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth: and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." He calls out, "Prepare a way for the Lord," and his words are equally meant for us as for the people he directly spoke to. He comes "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins," says Luke. There are three words which are closely linked - baptism, repentance, and forgiveness. Baptism is the call to be initiated in the life of Jesus and be cleansed from all blemishes. It is a symbolic action through which people expressed their reconciliation with God by their immersion in the waters of the River Jordan hoping that their desire to have their evil past totally washed away. 'Repentance' is the forgiveness of sins and is understood as 'metanoia', meaning change of Heart, not just sorrow for past sins but a total and radical change of outlook in our relationship with God and other people. It calls for radical and genuine renewal and conversion of heart. It signifies a new outlook on life in keeping with the will of God. This metanoia or conversion in turn will bring about the forgiveness of sin.

Let us prepare ourselves to celebrate the past coming of the Lord that is commemorated on Christmas day. Let us constantly pray for each other with joy in every one of our prayers.

When passing through a mountain pass, a villager once came across an old man who was blind and who seemed to be afflicted with various ailments all over his body. It was clear that he was wasting away. He was even paralyzed and was constantly forced to remain in a seated position. The Villager could clearly hear him say, "All praise is for God who has kept me safe from ailments with which He has tested many among His creation, and He has indeed preferred me over many among those that He created." "My brother!" exclaimed the man. "What have you been saved from? By God? I think that you have been afflicted with every single kind of ailment!" "Go away from me," said the old man, as he raised his head. "Do I not still have a tongue with which I can pronounce His Oneness, and with which I can remember Him every single moment? And do I not still have a heart with which I can know Him?" These words of the old man were enough for the Villager to repent to God for his sins and ask Him for forgiveness. Remember, there is always someone else who is in more problem than you.

**HAVE A BLESSED SEASON OF ADVENT**

Fr. Arun