



## PUT ON JOY

Today, Baruch speaks of the splendor that lies ahead for the city of Jerusalem and for all of us, regardless of where home is for us. Throw off strife, he tells us, and put on joy. Like a favorite old sweatshirt, joy fits, and how warm it keeps us, even when the winds blow cold.

Paul knows of this joy as he pens his letter to the Philippians, praying that they may grow in their ability to discern what is righteous and good. And Luke speaks to us of John, who was foretold by Isaiah and who sings a similar song—"Prepare the way of the Lord," for salvation is at hand.

A man ahead of his time, Baruch spent his days joyfully awaiting a distant glory. On this Second Sunday of Advent, Paul and John know that this glory is upon us.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
 Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Ambrose;  
 Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Wednesday: St. Juan Diego  
 Friday: St. Damasus I  
 Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

*"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."* Luke 3:4-6

## Immaculate Conception (December 8<sup>th</sup>)

### Holy Day of Obligation

*Please note change in schedule:*

Masses for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary are:

**SJB:** Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon and 5:30 pm

**OLA:** Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

The parish offices will be closed December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## SANCTUARY LIGHT

### DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

The Sanctuary Light at St. John will burn in memory of **Dee Bibbs and Noel Deming**.

The Adoration Chapel Sanctuary Light will burn in memory of **Carrie Fall**.

The Sanctuary Light at Our Lady will burn for the **Holy Souls in Purgatory**.

## IN SYMPATHY

Our Communities of Faith extend our sympathy and prayerful support for the family of **Sally Naquin**, parishioner of St. John the Baptist and sister of John and Michael Naquin and Peggy Parker.

May the Lord grant comfort and peace to her family and may she and all who sleep in Christ, find in His presence, light, happiness, and peace.

## NEXT SPECIAL COLLECTION

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Retirement for Religious

## WEEKLY COLLECTION 11/29/2015

### St. John the Baptist

Identified Contributions (158 Families)	\$	5,855.70
Unidentified Contributions	\$	748.00
Thanksgiving (30)	\$	990.92
Building Maintenance Fund (2)	\$	110.00
Youth Ministry (3)	\$	120.00
Legacy of Faith / Capital Camp (34)	\$	107,333.00

### ONLINE GIVING

Regular Contributions (30)	\$	1,455.00
Building Maintenance Fund (3)	\$	120.00
Legacy of Faith Capital Camp. (29)	\$	1,968.11
<b>CAMPAIGN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,572,235.03</b>

### Our Lady of Assumption

Identified Contributions (40 Families)	\$	1,547.00
Unidentified Contributions	\$	555.00
Thanksgiving (3)	\$	161.00
Building Maintenance Fund (1)	\$	100.00
Youth Ministry (1)	\$	50.00

### ONLINE GIVING

Regular Contributions (2)	\$	50.00
Building Maintenance (1)	\$	10.00

### **Pray for our Military and their families**

Marvin Ashford, Jr., Army	James A. Benning, USMC
Matthew Boyd, Army	Eugene Cazedessus, USMC
LeLand Crochet, III, USMC	Matthew Charlet Dart, USN
Patrick Deslatte, USN	Jacqueline Deslatte, USN
Stephen DiLorenzo, Army	Adam Foster, USN
Brad Gautreaux, USMC	J. Michael Head, USMC
Joseph N. Jones, Jr., Army	Sabrina Jones, LaNG
Markus Kippers, USN	Dustin Knight, USN
Joseph L. LeBlanc Jr., Army	Stanley Mays, USAF
Andrew Metcalf, Army	Ben Gordon Morseth, USCG
Gordon Newman, Army	Robert Brett Parker, LaNG
Brian Plauche, USAF	Andrea Byrd Prosser, USCG
Mike Prosser, USCG	Jesse B. Richard, Army
Nicholas Richards, USN	Michael Roberts, USCG
James Rouchon, USMC	Jarrold Mason Sealey, USAF
David Welch, LaNG	Gordon M. White, USAF
Tyler Wigger, USN	Christopher Williston USAF

### **LOUISIANA WAR VETERANS**

*Can you adopt a Veteran this year?  
We have over 30 Catholic Veterans in the Louisiana War  
Vets Home in need of very basic items: sweat shirt and  
pant, socks, pajamas... Call the office to adopt your Vet!*

### **Knights of Columbus Jambalaya Sale**

*The Knights of Columbus are selling tickets for their  
“Christmas Bites from Christmas Knights” jambalaya  
dinner after all Masses this weekend.  
Jambalaya plates are \$6.00 each and available for pick  
up in the Charlet Funeral Home parking lot on Saturday,  
December 12<sup>th</sup> throughout the Zachary Christmas parade.  
Please support our own Knights of Columbus council and  
enjoy some delicious jambalaya.*

### **St. John's Living / Giving Tree**

*The Living/Giving Tree at St. John's is now set up with  
envelopes for your donation to assist **our parishioners** in  
need, including **Daniel Cazedessus** as he continues to  
recover from his lung transplant.*

### **Healing Rosary**

*Please join us the first Monday of every month at 9:00 am  
at Linda Holley's home for our parish Healing Rosary.  
The next Healing Rosary is Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Handmaids of the Lord**

*Study program for 2016:  
“Consoling the Heart of Jesus” by Fr. Michael Gaitley.  
Beginning January 21, 2016 on Thursdays from 6-7:00pm  
for 10 weeks. Contact Jennifer Johnson at 654-9470.*

### **† ~ † NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE † ~ †**

#### **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Second Sunday in Advent**

-6:30 am: Knights of Columbus Rosary  
-7 am: Mass / Coffee & Pastries  
-8 am: Knights of Columbus Meeting  
-10 am: Chaplet of Divine Mercy / Rosary  
-11 am: Mass  
-5:30 pm: 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> -*Lifeteen*

#### **-OLA**

-8:30 am: Choir  
-9 am: Mass / Children's Liturgy  
-10 am: K-11th Religious Ed Class #8  
-10 am: First Sunday Social

#### **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

-9 am: Healing Rosary at Holley Residence  
-6:30 pm: Intercessory Prayer Group  
-6:30 pm: Scouts  
-7 pm: N.A. Meeting

#### **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)**

Office Closed  
-12 Noon Mass  
-5 pm: Children's & Youth Choirs  
-5:30 pm: Mass  
-5:30 pm: K-4th Religious Ed to attend Mass  
-6 pm Adult Choir

#### **-OLA**

-6:30 pm: Rosary  
-7 pm: Mass for Immaculate Conception  
-7:30 pm: Altar Society

#### **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

-7 am: Mass  
-5:30 pm: Sr. High Youth Night

#### **Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

-7:30 am: Mass  
-6:30 pm: Men's Club Christmas Party  
-7 pm: R.C.I.A.

#### **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

-7:30 am: Mass/Divine Mercy/Coffee & Biscuits  
-8 am.: St. Vincent dePaul Meeting

#### **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

-10 am: KofC Jambalaya Sale during Zachary Parade  
-3 pm: Confessions  
-4 pm: Vigil Mass

#### **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Third Sunday in Advent**

-7 am: Mass / Coffee & Pastries  
-10 am: Chaplet of Divine Mercy / Rosary  
-11 am: Mass / Children's Liturgy  
-5:30 pm: 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> -*Edge*

#### **-OLA**

-8:30 am: Choir  
-9 am: Mass  
-5 pm: Christmas Program followed by Potluck Dinner

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

*The next meeting for the St. Vincent de Paul Society is  
Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> following 7:30 am Mass.*

# OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

***Please note CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE  
for Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation***

***Immaculate Conception (December 8<sup>th</sup>)  
Holy Day of Obligation***

*On December 8<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

*It is a Holy Day of Obligation.*

*A Mass will be celebrated in Clinton on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.*

## ***The Living / Giving Tree***

*The Living / Giving Tree is now here.*

*As in the past, please take an “ornament” from the tree and add that person to your shopping list. Or, attach the ornament to a monetary donation and one of our elves will do the shopping for you. Contact is Diane Rouchon.*

## ***2015 Christmas Program***

*Everyone is invited to join us for this year's annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.*

*For more information on the program, contact Dawn Davis at 276-0369, Wanda Gawarecki at 683-9234, or Cecelia Landry at 635-4757.*

## ***Pot Luck with Santa following the Christmas Program***

*Please join us following the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for our annual parish Pot Luck with Santa. For more information contact Diane Rouchon at 683-5192 or Debbie Seals at 683-8680.*

*Sign up sheets will soon be available at the entrance on church.*

## ***Advent Penance Service***

*The Advent Penance Service is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm followed by the 6:30 pm Mass.*

## THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

“Immaculate” means without stain, perfectly clean, pure. Conception means the beginning, being conceived in the womb. The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. Original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God’s grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

“The ‘splendor of an entirely unique holiness’ by which Mary is ‘enriched from the first instant of her conception’ comes wholly from Christ: she is ‘redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son’. The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person ‘in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places’ and chose her ‘in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love’ ". CCC #492

Hail Mary, “Full of grace”!

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, trees are beginning to appear in living rooms throughout the parish. To a complete outsider to our culture, it must seem an odd thing indeed. The “roots” of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the “Paradise Play,” a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring “paradise trees” into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the “Paradise Tree” into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Jubilee Year of Mercy

December 6, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

This Tuesday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will open the “Holy Door” in Saint Peter’s Basilica, symbolically opening the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. In today’s scriptures, Baruch confidently anticipates God’s healing of the brokenness of humanity, and Paul sees God bringing our discernment, knowledge, and love to fulfillment. Our experience of life and of ourselves can make such prophecies seem wildly optimistic, even hopelessly naïve. Pope Francis challenges us to live this Jubilee Year as a graced time, when God’s mercy reawakens our enthusiasm to live our baptismal call as gospel people, our hope renewed and ourselves recommitted to selfless charity. Notice that in Luke’s Gospel today, God bypasses the religious elite and politically powerful to speak to a humble believer in the barren desert the saving word that will transform history. So God’s mercy continues to accomplish humanity’s salvation *in* and *through* ordinary, flawed, and least likely instruments—even us.

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