

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess 5:23

**ST. JOHN BOSCO
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
December 13, 2020

The Pastor Jots It Down

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John Bosco and St. Rosalie Parishes,

Today, Holy Mother Church calls us to **rejoice**.



Though with the pandemic raging claiming more and more victims, with having to stay away from traditional family traditions and gatherings, and with the divisions and political turmoil in our country, Holy Mother Church still invites us to rejoice for the Lord is near.

Despite our problems we have reason to rejoice. We are God's children deeply loved by Him who sent His only Son to be Our Lord and Redeemer.

Jesus, sent by the Father as an act of love for us, took on human flesh and became like us in all things but sin. He showed us how to live, and he showed us how to die. He is our greatest lover. He is our greatest treasure.

Today, as we have completed the 1st half of the Advent Season, we can ask ourselves: What have we done to prepare for Lord's coming? If all we can say is that we decorated our houses and purchased all our Christmas gifts – then we have really missed out on how the Church is asking us to prepare spiritually for Christ's coming on Christmas Day.

Advent is a great time for family prayer. Advent is a great time to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Advent is a great time for Eucharistic Adoration. Advent is a great time to ponder the infancy narratives of Matthew 1.1–2.23 and Luke 1.5–2.52. Advent is a great time for self-denial in licit pleasures to help give us mastery in avoiding habitual sins. Advent is a great time for generosity to the poor. Advent is a great time to deepen our missionary discipleship – to invite fallen away Catholics to return or to dialogue with non-Catholic friends and neighbors about why you are Catholic.

Advent can be a very special season for each and everyone of us. Yet, how special it can be depends upon the individual efforts of each of us. Will it just be material preparations for the celebration? Or will it also be a spiritual preparation as we prepare to welcome our newborn King, Lord, Redeemer, and the one who loves us with an everlasting love despite our sins, faults and failing?

During these days of preparation, may each and everyone of us deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ the Lord.

God loves you!

F. Mark

St. John Bosco Catholic Church

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Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB

Pastor

Current Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday: 7:00am

Saturday: 8:00am

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 9:00 & 11:00am

Current Confession Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 - 5:15pm (*before Vigil Mass*)

Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions:

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:00pm

John, the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus

John the Baptist was the greatest of Prophets (Matt. 11:9-11) and the privileged messenger who was sent to prepare the way of the Messiah according to the Word of God. There are four main texts used to verify this:

1. “For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!’” (Matt. 3:3).
2. “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way; ³The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.’” (Mark 1:1-3).
3. ‘This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’ (Matt. 11:10).
4. “He [John the Baptist] said, ‘I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’ as Isaiah the prophet said.’” (John 1:23).

Clearly, John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus as all four quotes above demonstrate. We must also note that in the four citations the Old Testament is quoted from two sources: Isaiah and Malachi.

- Isaiah 40:3, “A voice is calling, ‘Clear the way for the Lord [YHWH] 1 in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.»
- Mal. 3:1, “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord [Adonai], whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord [YHWH] of hosts.”

Notice that according to the quotes above, John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jehovah. Isaiah 40:3 says that John is to clear the way for YHWH (Jehovah). In Mal. 3:1, it is God who says that “he will clear the way before Me.” Yet we see that the fulfillment of these verses is found in the arrival of Jesus.

Clearly, the Bible prophecies that John the Baptist will prepare the way of YHWH (Jehovah); yet it is Jesus who arrives on the scene. How can this be? The simple answer is that Jesus is divine; that is, He is the fullness of deity in bodily form (Col. 2:9). Also, John 1:1,14 tell us «In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . ¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” The fulfillment of John the Baptist as the messenger and Jesus as YHWH make these scriptures clear for us to understand.

- 1.YHWH is the Tetragrammaton, the four Hebrew letters used to designate the name of God. It has been transliterated into Jehovah and Yahweh. I use “Jehovah” in this article.

- From: <https://carm.org/isaiah-403-mal-31-matt-33-prepare-way-lord>

Gaudete Sunday: Some things to know and share

By Jimmy Akin in NCR Blogs 12/13/13

The third Sunday of Advent is known as “Gaudete Sunday.” In the readings, we hear about miracles associated with the Messianic age, its coming, and what we need to do to prepare. We also learn about the doubts of John the Baptist, how he dealt with them, and the blessing that makes us even more fortunate than John was.

1) Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is *gaudete* (Latin, “rejoice”); it's also pronounced with three syllables: gau-de-te)

2) What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season.

Thus, it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: “The Lord is near.”

3) What is the appropriate liturgical color for this day?

According to the rubrics:

In this mass the color violet or rose is used.

It can thus be either one. It doesn't have to be rose; it can also be violet.

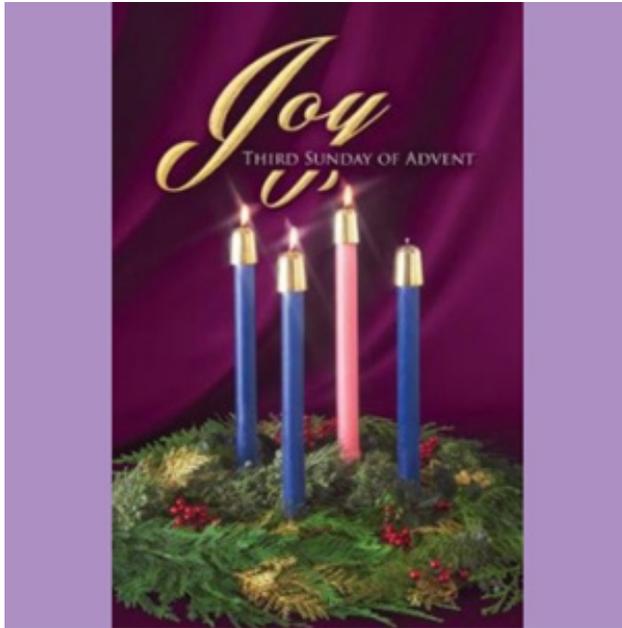
4) What does today's first reading say?

The first reading is from Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10.

It opens with a prophecy that the desert region will rejoice and sing and bloom with abundant flowers.

The reason is: “They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.”

It then contains an exhortation to strength and courage,



and explains the reason why:

Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.

It then contains the significant statement:

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

And it concludes:

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness;

sorrow and mourning will flee.

5) What does this mean?

This prophecy uses nature imagery to convey the sense of joy that the Jewish people would experience upon their return from exile.

This is what is meant by the statements that the desert will sing and be covered with flowers that “see the glory of the Lord.”

It depicts God's coming with vindication to save his people after their exile, and it depicts urges patience until it arrives.

It portrays God working miracles among his people, such as healing the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute.

It promises that he will bring back those he has ransomed and give them everlasting joy, from which sorrow and mourning will flee.

Taken up into the Christological realm, this passage points to the joy of those God redeems through Jesus from their sins and the deliverance and spiritual homeland that he provides.

It contains elements that point forward to both the first advent of Christ—when he performed miracles such as curing the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute.

And it contains elements that point forward to the ultimate consummation that will occur with his second

advent, when “death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

6) What does the Gospel reading say?

The Gospel reading is from Matthew 11:2-11

The reading contains two parts.

In the first, John the Baptist, who is in prison, sends messengers to Jesus to ask, “Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?”



Jesus replies by telling them to report to John what they have seen: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

He adds: And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.

In the second part of the reading, as the messengers are preparing to leave, Jesus pays tribute to John the Baptist by asking the crowd a series of rhetorical questions about why they went out into the desert to see John when he was ministering.

The implied answer to the questions is “no” (no, they did not go out to see a reed shaken by the wind or someone dressed in fine clothing) until he names going out to see a prophet.

At this point Jesus affirms that they did go out to see a prophet, “and more than a prophet.”

He then identifies why John is more than a prophet: He is the fulfillment of Malachi 3:1, in which it is said:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.

Finally, Jesus states:

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

7) What does this mean?

The Jewish people in Jesus’ day had certain ideas about what the Messiah would be like and what he would do. It was common to envision him as an earthly king who would deliver Israel from the dominion of the hated Romans by violent revolution.

John the Baptist may have shared some of this expectation, for even though he had received a revelation pointing to Jesus as the Lamb of God (John 1:30-34). Despite this revelation, Jesus’ subsequent actions (his failure to start a revolution?) apparently caused John to question whether Jesus was the Messiah.

Rather than lose faith or let his doubts eat away at him, John decided to confront the issue directly, and so he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if his understanding of Jesus’ Messiahship was correct.

Jesus indicated that it was, pointing to the fact that he had been fulfilling the predicted miracles and the preaching of the good news proper to the Messianic age. One of these miracles was the recovery of sight to the blind (already mentioned in the first reading and the responsorial Psalm).

Jesus then states that those who do not take offense at him (i.e., who do not reject him) are blessed.

In the original context, it applies to John the Baptist (he will be blessed for maintaining faith in Jesus, despite his doubts).

The same principle, however, applies to us as well. As John’s messengers are departing, Jesus pays tribute to their master, stating that he was a genuine prophet—and even more than that—he was the messenger prophesied in Malachi, who would be the herald of the Messiah.

This makes him the greatest prophet of all, which is why Jesus says that among those born of women, none has been greater than John.

Despite this, Jesus states that “the least in the kingdom of heaven” is even greater.

In this context, the kingdom of heaven is understood in its earthly manifestation as the Church, in the Christian age, which John did not live to see.

Every Christian—man, woman, and child—is more blessed than John because we didn’t just get to herald him. We get to live in the age he inaugurated, to share in its many blessings, and to be part of his mystical Body.

Pope's Prayer Intention December

For a Life of Prayer



We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Vocation Prayer Intention

From December 13 - 19
please pray for



Brother Branden Gordon
who is in
Theology IV
currently studying in Orange, NJ

Christmas Mass Schedule



ST. JOHN BOSCO

December 24th Morning 7:00 a.m. Fr. Wilgintz

Christmas Eve

6:00 p.m.	Fr. Mark	Vigil Mass
10:00 p.m.	Fr. Lou	Mass at Night

Christmas Day

7:30 a.m.	Fr Wilgintz	Mass at Dawn
9:00 a.m.	Fr. George	Mass during the day
11:00 a.m.	Fr. Mark	Mass during the day

ST. ROSALIE

December 24th Morning 7:00 a.m. Fr. Mark

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.	Fr Wilgintz	Vigil Mass
6:00 p.m.	Fr. George	Vigil Mass
8:00 p.m.	Fr. Mark	Mass at Night

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m.	Fr. George	Mass during the day
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Office Closure ~

****The church office will be closed December 23, 2020 - January 3, 2021.****

Announcements

November Contributions

November 1 Weekly	\$3,080.00
All Souls Day	711.00
Maintenance	772.00
November 8 Weekly	3,715.00
November 15 Weekly	13,505.00
November 22 Weekly	4,462.00
Campaign Human Development	223.00
November 29 Weekly	3,173.00
Online Giving	6,693.00

May the Lord bless your sacrifice!

Second Collection: This weekend's second collection will benefit The Retirement Fund for the Religious. Please be as generous as possible.

Moved?? Disconnected Home Phone??

Please contact the church office and update your information if this applies to you!



Sanctuary Candle

Prayers for Healing
Fr. Sid Figlia, sdb

Bread & Wine

Prayers for Strength
All Those Suffering

Third Week of Advent



Joy

*Dear Jesus,
Help us focus on you during this busy season.
May we stay aware of the joy you bring into
our lives. We want to find you in the everyday
moments and come with hearts of gratitude to
your manger on Christmas. Amen.*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12

8:00am Parishioners of St. John Bosco
5:30pm +Jacqueline G. Guillot
+Peter John Paul Nguyen
+Joseph Lai Duc Anh
+John Baptist Tuan Nguyen
+Wayne Delaune
+Joyce Sonnier
+Gene Robinson
Thank you Jesus, Blessed Mother
+All Souls in Purgatory
Conversion of Sinners
Fr. Sid Figlia, sdb
+Robert & Notile Klein
+Frances, Darlene & Donna Hefti
+Della & Charles Perry
+Theresa Cindy Cao

Sunday, December 13

9:00am +Marilyn DeBlanc
11:00am +All Souls in Purgatory
Conversion of Sinners
+Mary Ann Ramos
+Anna Tran Thi Phuong
+Phero Vu Van Hoa
+Ulrik Johansen
+Derek DiMarco
Thanksgiving to St. Lucy
+Paul Louis Nguyen Dinh Dzung
+Penelope Solis
Happy Birthday Quynh Thi Pham
+Mel Gaspar
+Lou LaMaison

Monday, December 14

7:00am +Paul Nha Chu

Tuesday, December 15

7:00am +Maria Vieng Pham

Wednesday, December 16

7:00am +Gioan Kim Vu Huu Chanh

Thursday, December 17

7:00am Happy Birthday Maria Yen Bui

Friday, December 18

7:00am +Raymond Ducote

*"Everything fades away, but not our gratitude.
We shall always pray that God will abundantly
bless those who have been so good to us."*

- Don Bosco

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