

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord. . . Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Luke 1: 45-54

Response: My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: R.

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. R.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, R.

Second Reading: 1 Thes. 5: 14-16

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

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. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it. **The Word of the Lord. . . Thanks be to God!**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God.

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ."

So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?"

He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent.

They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. **The Gospel of the Lord. . . Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**

Tithe Update

12/3/23: Reg. collection: \$4,713.00

Cont. Mission: \$510.00 Utility: \$390.00

Flowers: \$315

12/10/23: Reg. \$2,487.00 Utility: \$75.00 Retired Religious: \$140



The Seek the City Team will host another Citywide Visioning Workshop on Sunday, Jan 7th at St. Matthew Parish from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. As the process is transparently unfolding, we will continue to involve and depend deeply on pastors and leadership for guidance in the coming months. The new vision for our City Church will continue to require your voice & vision at the table. Below is a timeline of what to expect.

Jan 2024

The new year will allow time to continue the process and gained from the Workshops that will ultimately reveal prioritized ministries, where ministry in our city is impactful to the people and communities we serve, and where parish leaders and parishioners feel we are called to worship.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Upcoming Citywide Visioning Workshop, Sunday, Jan 7, 2024 at St. Matthew parish (Signup link available on Website.)

Leadership Gathering (TBD – end of Jan) – opportunity to share feedback from the Visioning Workshops and next steps.

Feb/Mar 2024

February and March will be a time of prayer and discernment, where all Pastors & Parish Leaders will be called to reflect on the visioning feedback and to weigh in to help develop the first iteration of the new model for our City Church.

SAVE-THE-DATE: Citywide Mass at the Basilica (Thursday, Feb 8th)

SAVE-THE-DATE: Lenten/Easter Pilgrimage Journey (Begins Wed Mar 21st and continue each Wednesday during Lent [7:00pm – 8:30pm] Locations: The Basilica, St. Bernadine's, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen)

April/May 2024

The first iteration of the Draft models to be shared with leadership and parishioners for feedback and comment, and then shared openly through regional town halls for public comment.

June 2024

In June, we will open ourselves to the call to be disciples in mission and embrace a renewed landscape for the City Church that we seek.

Draft recommendations provided for the Archbishop.

Final models will be presented at the end of June 2024.

Christmas Season at Saint Ambrose

**Next Sunday, Dec. 24th, Mass 10AM for
4th Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday Eve, Dec. 24th,
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 6PM
(NO Mass on Christmas Day)**

Sunday, Dec. 31st, 10 AM, Feast of the Holy Family
Blessing for all Families present, 10AM
Sunday Evening, Dec. 31st,
Mass for New Year's Eve, 6pm

Monday, New Year's Day (NO Mass)

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, Mass at 10am
Feast of the Epiphany

Please join us!

All celebration live streamed and on our website:
www.saintambrose.com
Available Parking in our School Yard

CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF THE LIVING



NATIVITY IN GRECCIO

Beginning December 8th we began the 800th anniversary of St Francis celebrations of the creating of the Living Nativity Scene in the small Italian village of Greccio, to bring Bethlehem close to those who would never have the chance to be in the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

To celebrate this great anniversary, the Capuchin Friars of St. Ambrose Friary will host a novena beginning Dec. 24th and continue through until January 7th, 2024. **Special indulgence has been offered by Pope Francis to anyone praying the novena prayer at the Crib in any Franciscan Church throughout the World and St. Ambrose is a Franciscan Church.**

*Heartfelt
Sympathy*

We express our sympathy to Mrs. Deborah Young on the death of her daughter Kim. Also to Mrs. Kaye Disch on the death of her brother and for Mrs. Roxie Sykes on the death of her husband.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may your perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen!

Season of Advent

We continue our Advent Reflection series each week with a guest homilist/speaker on the theme of the day in preparation for Christ's coming again.

Advent Reflections:

Sunday, Sunday, Dec 17: JOY - Jeffrey Griffin
from Franciscan Center

Sunday, Dec 24: LOVE - Dr. Camille Privette



Weekly Mass Intentions

Dec. 17th, Mr. George Augins, on the 8th anniversary of his passing, requested by his loving daughters, Faye Augins and Shelley Tyler.

Dec. 24th, Mrs. Angelina Daniel, on the 17th anniversary of her passing, requested by her daughter, Ms. Denise Daniel. Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let your perpetual light shine upon them, may their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen

Christmas Raffle

Once again this year we will host the Christmas Raffle. Tickets will be on Sale next week: The prizes include an Afghan crocheted by Fr. Paul's Mom, gift baskets, nativity scene and more. Tickets are \$2.00 each or a BIG 7 for \$5.00. Drawing on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th.



Prayers for Mrs. Zaborowski

Mrs. Zaborowski is home recovering and all went well. Ms. Alice and Fr. Paul thank everyone for their prayers. Ms. Alice will be 90 years of age on Christmas Day. If you would like to send a card: Mrs. Alice Zaborowski, 278—38th Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15201. She loves to hear from St. Ambrose and knows that prayer gets us through!

New Mass Book

The new mass book for the year 2024 is open for your mass intentions. First come, first serve and try to limit yourself to a few intentions to make room for others.

Contact the Office

If you have something you would like to donate, a mass intention, a simple question that can be answered by our receptionist, Ms. Faye Augins, please call Faye first. Fr. Paul is getting many messages for things he refers to Faye. Thank you.

St. Nicholas Collection

Thanks to the generosity of our children and parents a gift of \$60.00 was given to the Chrystalis House for the needs of the babies and moms.



Healing Prayer: Mary Adderly, Helen Augins, Jean Bennett, Parrish Boyd, Karen Brown-Berkley, Annie Bruce, Renee Bruce, Al Butler, Debbie Chase, Eric Cullings, Dale Dyson, William Ford III, Eric Frazier, Sarah Gamble, JoAnn Glenn, Angela Johnson, Cornell (Nelson) Johnson, Josie Johnson, Joseph Jones, Sheila Leary-Smith, Charles Manns, III, Kimberly Merrill, Allan Noble, Charles Richardson Williams, Corey Richardson Rhonda Rumbra, Carl & Bernice Shrieves, Daniel Smith Sr., Veronica Spears, Augustine & Archie Stith, Rosalita Stone, Gloria Tate, Ernest Thames, Jean Thomas, Rosalie Watkins, William Young, Sr. Eugene Zaborowski and Alice Zaborowski.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT SAINT AMBROSE PARISH



Opening Hymn: I feel the Spirit!

I feel your spirit all over me repeat (2times)
It's in my hands in my soul and down in my feet I feel your spirit
all over me [yeah] [Chorus]
I feel your spirit all over me repeat (2times) It's in my hands in my soul
and down in my feet I feel your spirit all over me
[Lead]
I feel your presence all over me repeat (2times) It's in my hands in my soul and down in
my feet
I feel your presence all over me

Prayer for Joy while lighting the 3rd Candle

Heavenly Father, let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Please fill us with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand. Grant that as Jesus promised, His joy may be in us and our joy may be complete.

As we light this third candle, fulfill His promise that, though we may grieve, our grief will turn to joy, and no one will take away our joy. Teach us to always pray with joy, giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. And grant us such love and faith in You that we may be filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. Amen

SEE THE BULLETIN FOR THE Liturgy of the Word

Homily:

Deacon Presberry

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts: "I Got Peace like a River"

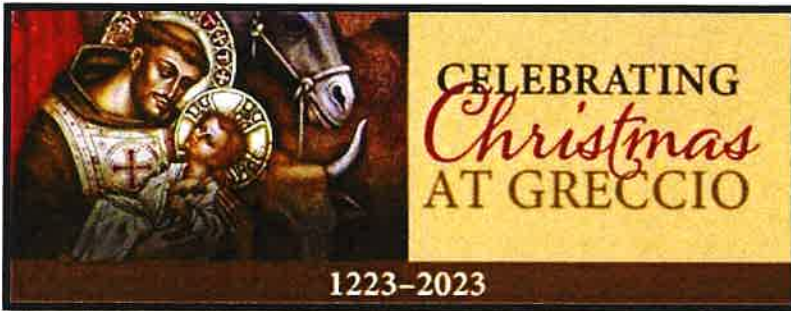
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got love like the ocean, I've got love like the ocean, I've got love like the ocean in my soul. I've got love like the ocean, I've got love like the ocean, I've got love like the ocean in my soul.
I've got camp on a mountain, I've got camp on a mountain, I've got camp on a mountain, In my soul. I've got camp on a mountain, I've got camp on a mountain, I've got camp on a mountain, In my soul.

Communion: "God Has Smiled On Me!"

Reflection on JOY given by Mr. Jeffrey Griffin, Franciscan Center

Recessional: "I Got the Joy, Joy, Joy!"

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart Where? Down in my heart! Where? Down in my heart! I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart Down in my heart to stay And I'm so happy, so very happy I've got the love of Jesus in my heart Down in my heart. And I'm so happy, so very happy I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart Where? Down in my heart! Where? Down in my heart! I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart Where? Down in my heart to stay.



**CELEBRATING 800
YEARS OF THE LIVING
NATIVITY IN GRECCIO**
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began the 800th anniversary of
St. Francis creation of the Living
Nativity Scene in the small Italian
village of Greccio, to bring
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would never have the chance to be in the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

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Invocation to the Holy Family and Saint Francis of Assisi

Oh, Good Jesus, contemplating this Nativity Scene, I ask you for the grace of forgiveness of my sins. You are the dawn from on high made flesh to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. You made your home among us and loved us to the point of giving your life for us. You did not come to condemn the world but to save it. Give me the grace of sincere repentance and the humility to recognize my frailty. Give me faith in your mercy and renew in me the joy of your salvation.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mother of the Church, teach us the joy of the humble and of those who believe in the promises of the Lord. Help us to proclaim the greatness of the God who accompanies and saves suffering humanity. You are the dawn of a new creation. You are the Virgin made Church, you are Mother of grace and mercy. Listen to our plea with the tenderness of your immaculate heart.

Saint Joseph, just and faithful servant of the Lord. You are a holy and generous custodian. Do not take your care away from us, lost pilgrims in search of the true homeland. Protect the Church from the snares of the evil one and teach us to trust in the One who gave his only Son to rescue us from sin, evil and death.

Saint Francis of Assisi, you who loved the poor and humble Christ so much that you wanted to relive in Greccio, with faith and devotion, the night of his birth in Bethlehem, intercede for us so that we can contemplate with a clean heart the beauty of the incarnation of the Son of God and the kindness of his gaze that calls us to a new life. Amen.



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