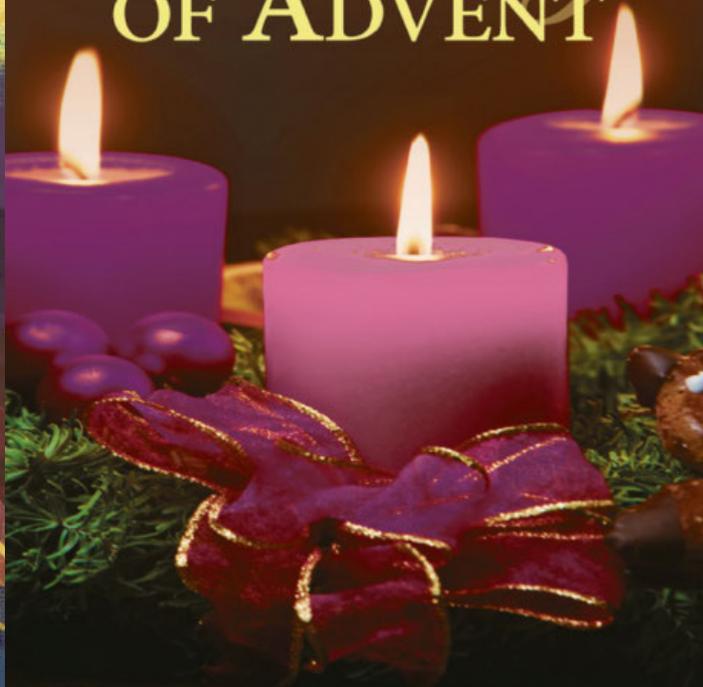


St. John The Beloved Parish

3rd Sunday OF ADVENT



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus said to them in reply,
"Go and tell John
what you hear and see."
- Mt 11:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 OGD. ©LPI

DECEMBER 11, 2022

VERY REV. JOSEPH PIEKARSKI V.F., PASTOR

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	7:30 a.m.
	9:30 a.m.
	11:30 a.m.
	5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday	8:00 a.m.
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Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Parish Address:

907 Milltown Road, Sherwood Park
Wilmington, DE 19808
(302) 999-0211

Please consider online
giving at [SJBDE.org/Give](https://www.sjbde.org/Give)
or scan this QR code



Our Mission: "Growing a welcoming community of disciples through participation in the sacraments, service, prayer and ongoing formation."

Welcome to St. John the Beloved Parish.
 Please visit SJBDE.org and click the "Join Our Parish" button to register and become a member of our faith community.
 Registered **Parishioners**, if it's been a while, please take a minute to update your information at wilmington.parishsoftfamilysuite.com.
 We appreciate your assistance. **Thank you!**

CHURCH STAFF
 Very Rev. Joseph Piekarski, V.F., Pastor
 Rev. Michael Preston, Associate Pastor
 Deacon Thomas A. Bailey
 Deacon Mark Fontana
 Deacon Stephen Oldiges
 Mr. Frank Julian, Parish Administrator
 Mrs. Sue O'Hanlon, Bookkeeper
 Dr. Lisa Papili Carlsen, D.M.A.,
 Director of Liturgy and Music
 Mr. Kevin Duffy, Facilities Manager
 Mrs. Jennifer DiBella, Communications
 Mrs. Marie Malatesta, Safe Environments
 Coordinator

PARISH OFFICE (302) 999-0211
 Mrs. Trish Tucker
 Ms. Kim Beideman

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (302) 994-7757
reled@sjbde.org
 Mrs. Susan Murray, Director

ST. JOHN THE BELOVED SCHOOL (302) 998-5525
sjtbschooloffice@sjbde.org
 Mr. Richard Hart, Principal
 Mr. Matthew Haney, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Sharon Breznitsky, Admissions

PARISH OUTREACH (302) 994-7867
Community of Christ Church 1205 Milltown Rd.
 Mr. Jamie Moulthrop, Coordinator

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES:
 All Saints: 737-2524
 Cathedral: 656-3323
 Gate of Heaven: 732-3690

Unable to attend Mass in person this week? Our 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays is streamed live and posted at SJBDE.org/livestream. To be notified whenever we go LIVE, subscribe to our parish You tube Channel at Youtube.com/c/StJohnTheBelovedParish.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Confession)
 Is available every Saturday from 4 - 4:45 p.m. A confession guide is online at SJBDE.org/Reconciliation.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
 Complete the form online at SJBDE.org/Wedding.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
 To schedule a Baptismal Preparation Class call the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK
 Anyone seriously ill, or facing surgery, please call a priest to make arrangements.

HOLY DAY MASSES as announced.

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is every Friday after 8:00 a.m. Mass, through 10:00 a.m.

Adult Choir rehearses Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the church and sings at the 11:30 Sunday Mass. New members welcome. Contact Joe Ambrosino via the parish office.

SJB Holy Spirit Intercessory Prayer Group meets Wednesdays at 10:15 am at the Table of Plenty Outreach Center, 1205 Milltown Rd. Bring your Bible. For more information, call the Parish Office.

First Saturday Devotions with the Blue Army are held every first Saturday of the month starting at 8 a.m.

Legion of Mary meets Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. in the Fr. Gerres Bldg. Please call the parish office.

Lazarus Ministry helps those who have lost a loved one. [More at SJBDE.org/lazarus-ministry](http://SJBDE.org/lazarus-ministry).

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Interested in becoming a member of the Catholic faith, or in learning more about the Church? Please call the Parish Office.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality meets the first Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m. Mass to honor our Blessed Mother, (September - June). Please join us after mass to pray the rosary.

St. Vincent DePaul Society provides help through works of service, spirituality and friendship. For information call (302) 999-0211.

Parish Hospitality to join this new Ministry, please call the Parish Office.

Parents with Young Children Ministry Contact Ruthie at 484-554-5618 for more information.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Rejoice,” the Church tells us on this, *Gaudete*, or Rose Sunday. What a wonderful time of the year we are in. The prophet Isaiah foretells the time when God Himself will come and save us. All will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

Like St. John the Baptist questioning Jesus’ **messiahship** in today’s Gospel, we can sometimes question what once seemed so certain, especially with the long, slow passage of time. But the Lord is faithful and true. His birth in Bethlehem is the beginning of salvation unfolding. At His Final Coming, our problems will no longer be and our deepest desires will be met. The Kingdom of God is at hand and we have been chosen to be members of that Kingdom. Rejoice.

In the meantime, we ... The Church... extends comfort to those in need, strengthens the sick and homebound, works for justice and peace...



SERVICE OF HUMANITY IS SERVICE TO GOD ALMIGHTY... by Seminarian Dennis Stameza- Pastoral Year at St John the Beloved Parish

Whatever you did for the least of my little brothers and sisters you did for me! St. John the Beloved Outreach Center (Table of Plenty) which is located two minutes from the church is a new hope for many. It is the Parish Outreach. The people of God who come here are full of joy and love despite that a good number of them cannot afford most of their needs. People come with their children and their loved ones to have something for their future.

The Parish Outreach serves people, and we learn that through serving people we serve God. The food and other things that we get are coming from the people out of love, not because they have more but they do it to serve God through people around them. The people that I am working with are so lovely; I have managed to create a healthy friendship with them. It is imaginable when someone comes to work in this outreach just to serve people without being given something. This is evangelization in practice, but also there are those who come and start asking questions concerning the parish, the Church in general, God and his Son Jesus Christ and many other more questions especially when they know that the one serving them is a seminarian. This is actually a way of evangelization though not everyone who comes there is a Catholic.

The Parish Outreach took me some years back, when we were young, and my mother was working as a gardener in a convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. My mother was not receiving cash for working but she was given food and other basic needs for her family. We really survived the hardship of life by the service my mother received from the convent of the sisters. I meet Christ everyday through His people that I am working with together with the people that I am serving, and all that I encounter while at St Benedict Outreach Centre. They have managed to strengthen my faith and my vocation. This is because I am always learning a lot from them.

From the parish outreach Centre, I can say that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is fulfilled when Jesus said that *“I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, I was in naked, and you clothed me...”* Therefore, I feel the presence of God when working here. This is an experience that contributes more to my priesthood journey. I will always cherish whatever that I am learning at the Parish Outreach and exhaust the best of myself in serving God’s people in all of my life.

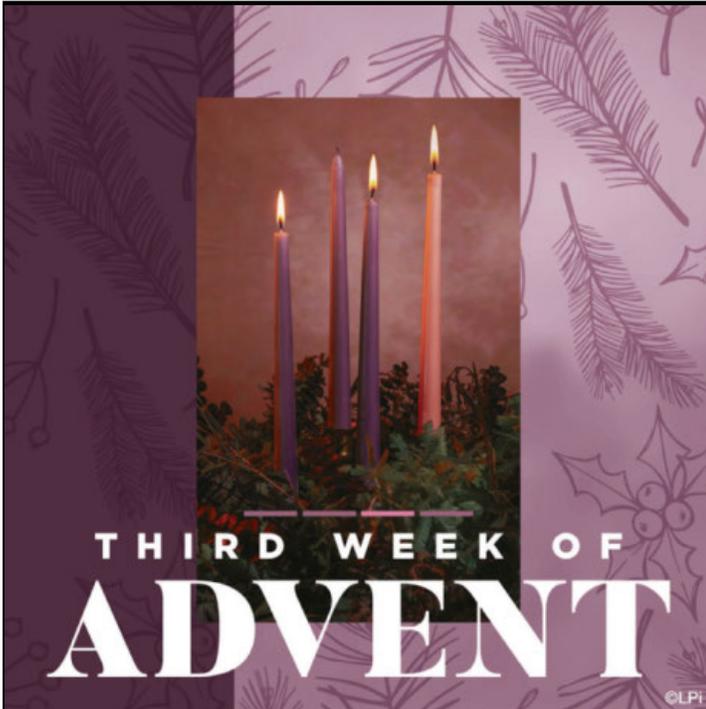


Parish Penance

Tuesday, Dec. 13
12 noon Confessions
6:30 p.m. Confessions

Oplatki are available at the Parish Office.





Readings for the week of December 11, 2022

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
 Monday: 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
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30
 Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36
 Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/ Mt 1:1-17
 Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Your gifts make a meaningful difference to St. John The Beloved Parish's ministries and programs. We wish to extend a sincere **THANK YOU** to everyone who financially supports our parish through weekly giving, special collections, one-time gifts, and all of the other avenues of giving (e.g. volunteering your time and talent). Everyone's income and needs are different, and each gift is understood to be a sacrifice given for the greater good. May God Bless your efforts. **We appreciate you.**

Saints and Special Observance	
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; Guadete Sunday	
7:30 a.m.	Frank & Mary Renai
9:30 a.m.	Our Parish Family
11:30 a.m.	Dan Terrizzi
5:00 p.m.	Francis & Marie Murray
Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe	
8:00 a.m.	Patricia Bradley Dorothy Saypack
Tuesday: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	
8:00 a.m.	Frank & Theresa Artinger Jessica Appleby
Wednesday: Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	
8:00 a.m.	Waylon Eugene Kelly Peter Fernandes
Thursday: Advent Weekday	
8:00 a.m.	Agnes Motto Anna & Jesse Demurat
Friday: Advent Weekday	
8:00 a.m.	Ronald Ragan Hector & Severo Hetio
Saturday: Late Advent Weekday	
8:00 a.m.	Richard Piekarski Rena Gilbert Patricia Giannone Joseph Netta Mary E. Travis Jerry Burke
5:00 p.m.	Deceased Members of the Papili Family
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
7:30 a.m.	Sam Snyder
9:30 a.m.	Elizabeth A. McDonald
11:30 a.m.	Our Parish Family
5:00 p.m.	Diane Naylor

Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

November 27, 2022

Offertory	\$ 12, 060.45
Building/ Maintenance/ Energy/ Landscaping	85.00
Outreach	87.51
<u>Votives</u>	<u>272.00</u>
Total Parish Collections	\$ 12, 504.96
St. Vincent DePaul	745.30
<u>Diocesan Collections</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total Collections	\$ 13, 400.26

PARISH NEWS

Please remember in your prayers all those who have gone before us, and the recently deceased members of St. John the Beloved Parish Community:

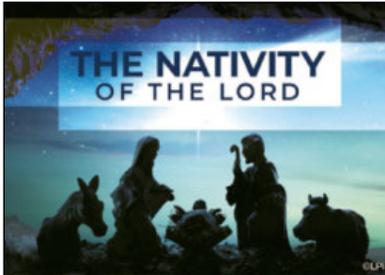
+ Antonio Mazzola, Jr.
+ Carol M. Hall

+ Philomena "Mamie" Frezzo
+ Richard L. Raymond

+ Thomas Zdrojewski, Jr.
+ Joan E. Wolf

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Dec. 11 is the Third Sunday of Advent
"Our Savior Will Come"

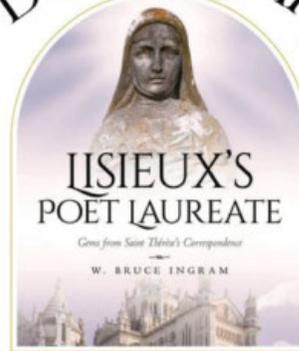


All are invited!

Join our Religious Education Program Families for our Advent Prayer service on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church. This prayer service will include the presentation of our Nativity Play by our Religious Education Students! Please plan to join us!

Confirmation 2023 Letters of invitation have been sent to our families with 8th grade students eligible to begin preparation for reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. Our parent/candidate formation sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, January 3rd and Wednesday January 4th (parents and candidates need only attend one or the other) at 6:30pm in the Church. If you have a student who attends a private school in 8th grade, please contact the Religious Education Office at smurray@sjbde.org to discuss preparation with St. John the Beloved Parish.

Author Book Signing Event



Please join us for a Meet and Greet with local author **W. Bruce Ingram** as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of **Saint Thérèse of Lisieux** (1873-2023)

Monday, January 2
1:00 pm -3:00 pm

Saint John the Beloved Church
907 Milltown Road Wilmington, DE 19808

All proceeds fund the W. Bruce Ingram Scholarship at **Saint Mark's High School.**

“
OPEN WIDE YOUR DOOR TO THE ONE WHO COMES. OPEN YOUR SOUL, THROW OPEN THE DEPTHS OF YOUR HEART TO SEE THE RICHES OF SIMPLICITY, THE TREASURES OF PEACE, THE SWEETNESS OF GRACE. OPEN YOUR HEART AND RUN TO MEET THE SUN OF ETERNAL LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES ALL MEN.
”

- ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN

SOCIAL MINISTRIES of SJB PARISH

Our mission is **“Growing a welcoming community of disciples through participation in the sacraments, service, prayer and ongoing formation.”** Every ministry, every committee is important. We sure can use your help in building the Kingdom of God. The Lord calls each of us to serve. Please prayerfully take the opportunity to truly discover within yourself what God may be calling you to do within in the various dynamics of our Catholic Parish. Call the Parish Office for more information. Visit **SJBDE.org/Ministries** to review the many ministries and organizations St. John the Beloved Parish offers.

Gifts of Church Greeting and Hospitality: If you enjoy meeting new people and attend weekend masses consider joining the Parish Church Ushers and or Hospitality Ministry. Ushers assist all congregants in finding a seat and take up the offertory at the directed time of the liturgy. The Hospitality Ministry greets and open doors congregants and hands out bulletins in addition to setting up and being present at the monthly after mass refreshments. Please call the Parish office at (302) 999-0211 for more information.

Gifts of Serving at Mass: Do you love to read God's Word or want to assist in serving the Holy Eucharist at communion? Do people often tell you that you are gifted musically? Do you enjoy serving the priest during mass? Do you want to help clearing and cleaning of the vessels of the Eucharist? Then consider volunteering in our Liturgical Ministries.

St. John The Beloved Parish Outreach



A big thanks to everyone who adopted a family for this year's Adopt a Family program. Please remember to register your family by using the link provided or dropping us a line if you haven't already done so. If you didn't get an opportunity to adopt a family, please consider helping us out with a gift card donation. Contact the Outreach office for more information or visit us at www.tableofplentyde.org

Gift bundles are due back to Table of Plenty between December 13 -16.

Questions? Call (302)994-7867 or visit us online at www.tableofplentyde.org. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.

Thank you for your support. To donate to Outreach, food donations can be left in the bins in the back of the Church or brought to The Table of Plenty Outreach Center Ministry of SJB office which is located at: Community of Christ Church on Milltown Rd.



Clip this list to shop & donate:

- breakfast cereal
- pasta and sauce
- peanut butter and jelly
- black beans
- soup
- mac and cheese
- rice
- canned fruit
- canned vegetables
- tuna, canned meats
- shampoo, deodorant
- body wash, soap
- toothpaste & toothbrushes
- laundry and dish soap

Donate a gift at <https://SJBDE.org/Give>. We appreciate you generosity and support. Please visit www.tableofplentyde.org for more.

Thank you.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - Third Sunday Advent 2022

For about a month I was consistently feeling annoyed by the people around me. A friend challenged me to simply notice my internal judgments against others throughout the day. Quickly I “heard” my internal voice saying things like: “He’s so lazy.” “She’s weak and self-centered.” “He’s arrogant.” “They are so stupid.” And so on. To have those thoughts was one thing. But I was *choosing* them and quietly *agreeing* with them. They perhaps protected my fragile ego, but it fueled my frustration. My friend invited me to commit to refuse to agree with those judgments, and I felt much more at peace.

The Bible says, “**Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged.**” (James 5:9).

That word — “grumble” — beautifully describes what I was doing: quietly judging the inner character of people in my life. Of course, we judge actions and ideas all the time. So we must. But the grumble-judgment is about *persons*. It is never loving and always isolates and attacks. Happily, we don’t have to waste that precious spiritual energy because Jesus alone is the judge of each person.

New year challenge: This week, I challenge you to do what my friend asked me to do: notice your internal judgments about those around you (perhaps also those on tv, social media, etc.), and then to refuse to agree with the judgments. Ask Jesus to help you resist those unloving judgments. It’s not easy, but you’ll be amazed at the peace that comes when Jesus liberates you from grumble-judgments.

— *Father John Muir.* ©LPI



3rd Sunday of Advent — Luke 3:10-18

Blessed Advent! Remember last week where we read about this crazy man John “crying out in the desert”? Well, this week we read about what the people of his time wondered about him. They all asked him “What should we do?”

The crowds were asking, the tax collectors were asking, the soldiers were asking. And he answers each of them according to the temptation of their particular state in life. To the crowds he says, share of your abundance. To the tax collectors he says, stop taking more money for yourselves. Only collect from the people what is proscribed. To the soldiers he says, stop extorting money.



And so, what must we do to prepare? I ask myself if I am sharing from even the little that I think I have. Do I charge more than a fair price for my work? If I lend money to anyone, do I expect too much more in return?

I challenge myself this week, and I challenge you, to take some time and think about how we are preparing for the coming birth of Christ, in history, in today's world, and in the future when he will come to bring all of creation back to the Father.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**ENTRANCE HYMN: O COME, O COME,
EMMANUEL #39 (vs. 1-2)**

1. O come, O come, Em-man-uel,
And ransom captive *Is-rael*,
That mourns in lonely *ex-ile* here
Until the Son of *God* appear.

**REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Em-man-uel
Shall come to thee, O Is-rael!**

2. O come, Thou Wisdom *from* on high,
Who ord'rest all things *might-ily*;
To us the path of *knowl-edge* show,
And teach us in her *ways* to go. **(R)**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Philippians 4:4-5
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my
brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in
my thoughts and in my words, in what I have
done and in what I have failed to do, through my
fault, through my fault, through my most grievous
fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers
and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.

They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are frightened:

Be strong, fear not!

Here is your God,

he comes with vindication;

with divine recompense

he comes to save you.

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.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of
the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious
fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it
receives the early and the late rains. You too must be
patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming
of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers
and sisters, about one another, that you may not be
judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the
gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience,
brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 61:1

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works
of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this
question, "Are you the one who is to come, or
should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in
reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:
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. And
blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to
the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the
desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then
what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine
clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal
palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a
prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written:

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

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."

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH (THE NICENE CREED)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER “Lord, hear our prayer.”

*Liturgy of the Eucharist***Presentation and Preparation of Gifts**

HYMN: LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING #80

1. Lo __, how a Rose e’er bloom - ing
From __ tender __ stem __ hath sprung!
Of __ Jesse’s lineage com - ing,
As __ those of __ old __ have sung.
It came, a flower bright __, Amid the cold of win - ter,
When __ half spent __ was __ the night.

2. I - saiah ‘twas foretold it,
This __ Rose I __ have __ in mind,
With __ Mary we behold __ it, The __ Virgin __
Mo - ther kind. To show God’s love aright,
She bore to us a Sav - ior,
When __ half spent __ was __ the night.

3. O _ Flow’r, whose fragrance ten - der
With __ sweetness __ fills __ the air,
Dis - pel in glorious splen - dor
The __ darkness __ ev - ’rywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death now
save __ us __, And __ share our __ ev - ’ry load.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER****HOLY HOLY (#891)****MYSTERY OF FAITH**

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

AMEN

COMMUNION RITE**THE LORD’S PRAYER (p. 26 of missal)****RITE OF PEACE / LAMB OF GOD****COMMUNION****COMMUNION ANTIPHON** cf. Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

COMMUNION HYMNS:**HYMN: MY SOUL REJOICES #824**

(Owen Alstott; Text: Based on Luke 1:46–55. Text and music © 1984, 1991, OCP. Published by OCP. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-621383. All rights reserved.)

**REFRAIN: My soul rejoices in God, my Savior.
My spirit finds its joy in God, the *liv-ing* God.**

1. My soul proclaims your mighty deeds.
My spirit sings the greatness of your name. **(R)**
2. Your mercy flows throughout the land
and ev’ry generation knows your love. **(R)**
3. You cast the mighty from their thrones
and raise the poor and lowly to new life. **(R)**
4. You fill the hungry with good things.
With empty hands you send the rich away. **(R)**

5. Just as you promised Abraham,
you come to free your people, Israel. **(R)**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**THE CONCLUDING RITES****Final Blessing and Dismissal****RECESSIONAL HYMN: O COME, O COME,
EMMANUEL #39 (vs. 3-4)**

3. O come, O come, Thou *Lord* of might,
Who to thy tribes on *Si-nai*’s height
In ancient times didst *give* the law,
In cloud and majes-ty and awe. **(R)**

**REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Em-man-uel
Shall come to thee, O *Is-rael*!**

4. O come, Thou Rose of *Jes-se*’s stem,
From ev’ry foe de-*liv*-er them
That trust thy mighty *pow’r* to save,
And give them vic’try o’er the grave. **(R)**

AROUND THE DIOCESE

December 9-11 is Delaware Faith and Housing Justice Weekend.

Let us keep those who are homeless, those who struggle to find affordable housing, and those who work to help those in need in our prayers. Empower by the Holy Spirit, may we continue to help the most vulnerable each day through acts of love, service and justice. More information is available at cdow.org/charities and housingalliance.org.

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 1 pm at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, Delaware. The Mass coincides with National Marriage Week, February 7 through 12.

The Bishop will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 noon and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. There is no cost to you, however reservations are required. Please make your reservations by January 30th.

This year, you can register by clicking on <https://cdow.coursestorm.com/category/family-life-events> or by calling the office at 302-295-0657.

For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage and Family Life 302-295-0657 or OMFL@cdow.org

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff of

The Dialog! Pick up our annual Christmas edition in the back of church beginning on Dec. 17th. The next edition of The Dialog will be on January 13, 2023. As always, up-to-the-minute Catholic news for Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore is available online at TheDialog.org. We thank all our dedicated readers and advertisers for your support throughout the year!

from the *Respect Life Office*... **Nationwide Prayer Vigil for Life to Continue After Reversal of Roe v. Wade**

Catholics across the country are encouraged to observe a nationwide prayer vigil from **Thursday, January 19 to Friday, January 20, 2023**, to pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life. "The National Prayer Vigil is a time to praise God for the great gift of the recent Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision, overturning the tragic *Roe v. Wade* decision made almost a half-century ago. State and federal legislators are now free to embrace policies that protect preborn children and their mothers. Prayers continue to be needed for our state legislators. Read the communication from the [USCCB Public Affairs Office](#). Please visit the USCCB website for a [Schedule of Events](#).

The 2023 Youth Rally and Mass for Life, traditionally held in two arena spaces, has been cancelled. After a consultation process that involved dialogue with other dioceses, ministry leaders and the partners who assist in hosting the annual Rally and Mass, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington has decided not to move forward with hosting the larger multi-diocese Rally. To read the full statement, click here <https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/11/22-YouthRallyLetter1109.pdf>



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We can often feel parched, desolate, lifeless, and dark. Even though we still engage in the business and demands of life, we find ourselves somewhat detached, disengaged, and removed. We lack joy, wonder, awe, and zest. Rather than being an experience of freedom and excitement, life holds us captive. We are tethered to systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, and expectations that go against the grain of what it means to be God's child. We find ourselves in a desert. Jesus came to release us from all of this negativity and desolation. John the Baptist announced the arrival of

the One who embodies healing, reconciliation, freedom, and life. Stop complaining about what you don't have. Prepare for the arrival of the remedy to life's despair. Be strong, fear not! Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Be patient. With proper time and care, all will be well. ©LPi

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