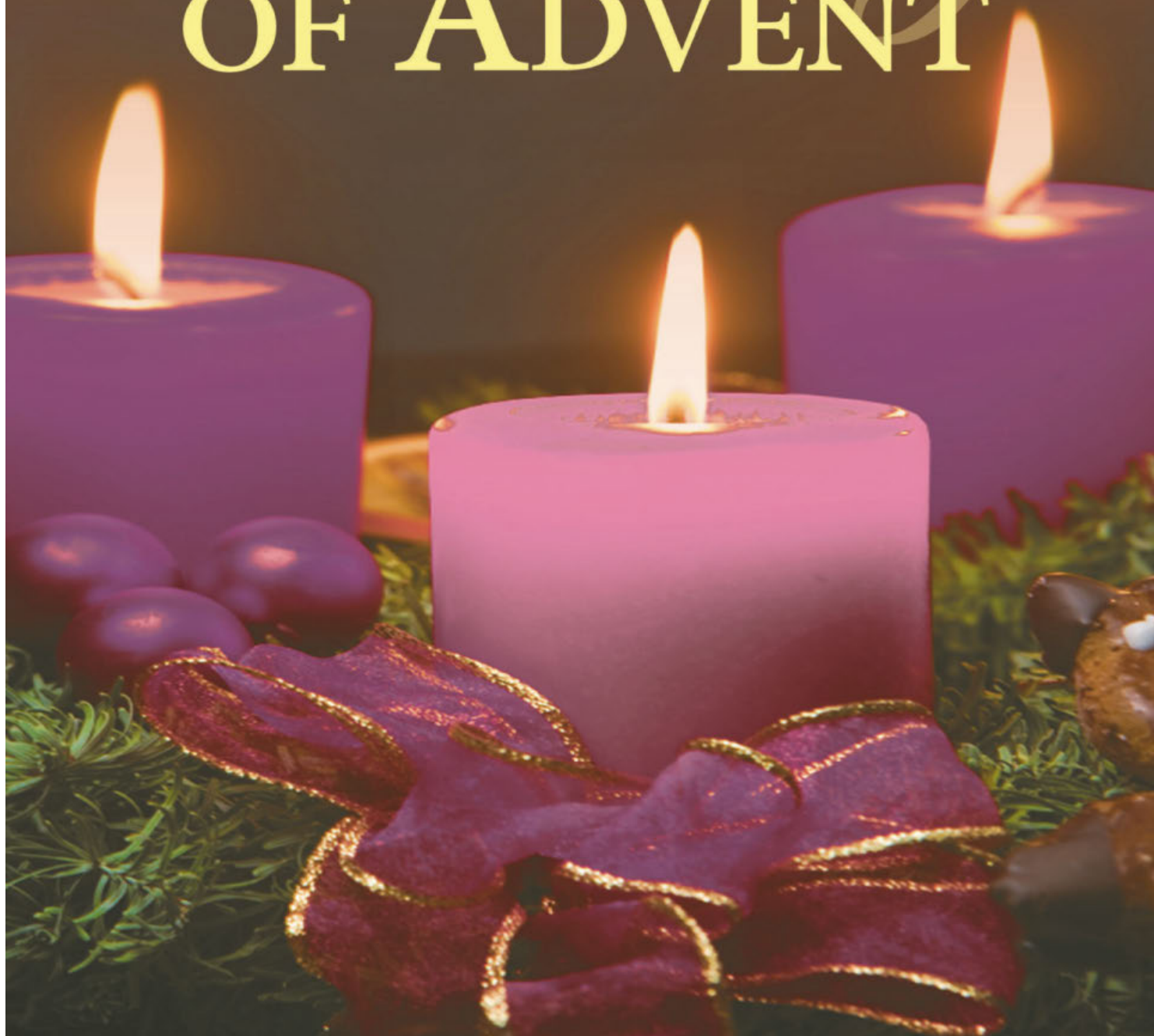


3rd Sunday OF ADVENT



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
December 17, 2023



PARISH DIRECTORY
www.olmcridgewood.com

Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309

Phone: 201.444.2000 Fax: 201.444.2002

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday—9AM-8PM | Saturday-Sunday—9AM-2PM

SERVED BY

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Ex. 203, fjfano@olmcridgewood.com

Rev. Jakov Vidov, Parochial Vicar

Ex. 202, jvidov@olmcridgewood.com

Rev. Mert J. Cordero, Valley Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Stephen Toth, Valley Hospital Chaplain

Valley Pastoral Care Office: 201.447.8148

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Deacon Nicholas J. DeLucca

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Deacon Bob Liwanag

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Natalie McKenna, Safe Environment Coordinator

Ext. 403, nmckenna@olmcridgewood.com

Dear Friends,

A big **congratulations and thank you** to the members of our **5** choirs who helped us all get into the spirit of Christmas as they performed for us in the Christmas Concert a week ago this past Friday evening. From the unique opening by the Children's Choir (inviting the congregation to chime in by singing **Christmas**—you had to be there to understand), to the closing rendition of **Silent Night**, sung by everyone in the church), the Christmas spirit filled the church with the sights and sounds of the season. Every one of the choirs was outstanding and the extraordinary thing is that we have **5** choirs; the Children's Choir, the Contemporary Choir, the Spanish Choir, the Adult Choir and the Bell Choir. And four of these choirs sing every week to help us celebrate the Eucharist better, the Children's Choir at the 9:30AM, the Contemporary Choir at the 6:30PM, the Spanish Choir at the 3:00PM and the Adult Choir at the 11:00 AM. What a great tribute to the generosity (of time) and talent of so many who offer their voices in praise of the Lord. Thanks again, choir members. And we can't forget the instrumentalists who accompanied them, nor the cantors, one of whose numbers was the *Christmas Hallelujah*, a favorite of mine (I was almost going to stand up and pump my fist in appreciation but I thought everyone would think I had lost my mind). And to the directors who keep it all together. And to the volunteers who handled the wonderful reception and to Bartlett Tree who did an exceptional job with the tree lights this year. And to Peter Sicko, our Director of Music, who oversees all of this. Thank you, one and all, for this great gift you have given to the parish. It was recorded and I am told it will appear on the website on Christmas Day.

Christmas is only one week away. Both today and last week, John the Baptist is the central figure in our Gospel readings. But especially last week, the Baptist calls us to repentance, in the waters of baptism, so that we may be ready for the baptism which Jesus will give us, the baptism in the Spirit, the Spirit who helps us witness to everything we believe about Jesus. So, in a sense, this baptism of repentance is a turning point, away from any sins which clouds that witness, to a recommitment to that call to witnessing God's love for His world in the gift of Jesus, His Son. Advent is the time to "rekindle the inner light which confirms the blessing and promise of the Lord," (Fr. Alfred Delp) because life has a way of clouding up that light. Sometimes these clouds are the circumstances of our lives, the sickness and death of those we love, estrangements within our families, concerns over our children and grandchildren, marriage problems, addictions in the lives of those we love, economic fears, fears over our safety or a return of the pandemic, or of a different pandemic, not yet known to modern medicine, or a host of other modern day problems, many of which we can do little or nothing about to correct or change. But those clouds can also include our sins, and these we can do something about. If you've been carrying around sins that weigh you down and cloud your

vision of the light of the Lord's blessings and promise in your life, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession**, can dispel those clouds. As I said, this moment is a turning point, a time to put the past in the past, to turn our faces to the Lord and resolve, now and in 2024, to more fully live in that Spirit of witness. Take the step. Now's the time. With everything that's going on in the world, we can find true inner peace. The **Parish Penance Service, with time for individual confessions**, is celebrated Wednesday evening, Dec. 20th, at 7:30PM. The Penance Service gives us the time, not only to examine our consciences, but to look at the perspective through which we view life, and ask ourselves is it rich enough, is it deep enough, does that perspective really give meaning and fulfillment to my life. **That, in itself, can really be a turning point in your life.** Confessions will also be heard on Monday evening, Dec. 18th, from 7:00-8:00PM and again on Saturday, Dec. 23rd, from 1:00-2:00PM. Don't miss this chance for that turning point in your life, to let that light shine through.

God Bless,
Fr. Ron

STEWARDSHIP

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." This excerpt from today's 2nd Reading provides the disciple with a good insight into **Stewardship**. The Christian Steward rejoices in the gift of faith, stays close to the Lord in prayer and recognizes God's blessings in his/her life, living in thankfulness by offering back gifts of his/her **Time, Talent and Treasure**. Do you "fit the bill?"

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$15,789. God bless all who generously express their thanks to God for His many gifts in the way they support the work of the Gospel and the building of the Kingdom. As the New Year approaches, why not make using electronic giving, **We Share**, one of your resolutions. It really does help in the parish's mission.



Please prayerfully consider joining fellow parishioners By supporting Our Lady of Mt Carmel through a recurring online gift.



Look for the **WeShare** link on our homepage, scan this QR Code, or call 877.316.0260

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1736
ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS PARTY
TODAY—SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH | 1:30PM-4:00PM
PARISH CENTER—ALL SENIORS WELCOME!**

Questions? Call Mike, 201.689.0562, or Mark, 201.906.0102

**ADVENT MORNING PRAYER—6AM
CONTINUES THROUGH THIS FRIDAY—DEC. 22ND
LOWER LEVEL OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING
(Enter through the rear door.)**

BE A CHRISTMAS MASS GREETER



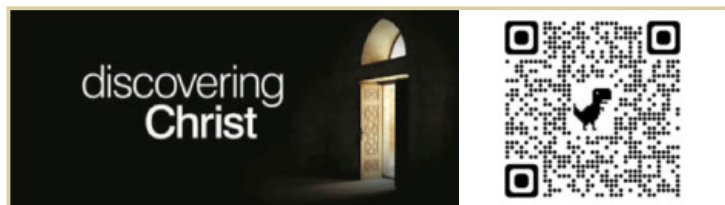
There's *so* much to love about Christmas, but the thing we're *most* excited about during this time of year is that people who don't *regularly* join us, *will* definitely be joining us. And guess what? We can't *wait*. It's part of what we love about being a Christ-follower: sharing the love of Christ with anyone, anywhere, anytime!

So, this Christmas, we're going to need *your help* to make this a *great* experience for them (and for us!). And it's SO SIMPLE: be a GREETER at the Christmas Mass of your choosing. All you'll need to do is sign-up with the QR Code.

You can serve by *yourself*, with a *friend*, or even your *family*! Make it as *fun* as you want! Wear ugly Christmas sweaters, bring bells. Or not! You'll personally open a door *before* and *after* Mass for each person sharing your friendly, warm presence with your guests.

Come at *least* a half an hour before, so you can be at your post, ready to go. We'll even have a pew reserved for you at the 4pm and 5:30pm. Give it a prayer. Give it a thought. Sign up.

Love you all,
Fr. Frank



CHRISTLIFE 2024: DISCOVERING CHRIST

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Join Fr. Frank and the ChristLife Team and see for yourself. It's not your typical Church event—we can promise you that!

Registration Required! Reserve your place today!
Register by scanning the QR code, calling 201.444.2000 x200, or emailing lobby@olmcridgewood.com



**CALLING
ALL SANTA'S
HELPERS!**

We will decorate the church for the Feast of the Nativity **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**, immediately following the 8:30AM Mass. We would be grateful for anyone who can help—even for a *little while*—with stringing lights, climbing ladders, arranging poinsettias, etc.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2023 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

RECONCILIATION PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 20th—7:30PM

CONFESSION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH—1:00PM-2:00PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH—7:00PM-8:00PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD—1:00PM-2:00PM

NO CONFESSIONS CHRISTMAS EVE

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM Fr. Jakov

4:00PM—Auditorium Fr. Ron

5:30PM Fr. Frank

5:30PM—Auditorium Fr. Jakov

7:00PM Fr. Frank

Carols Begin at 11:30PM

MIDNIGHT Fr. Ron

MONDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00AM Fr. Ron

9:30AM Fr. Jakov

11:00AM Fr. Frank

12:30PM Fr. Frank

12:30PM-Auditorium Fr. Jakov-Spanish

NO 6:30PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

CONTINUE FOLLOWING THE TRAVELS OF MARY & JOSEPH THIS ADVENT!

Check our website or Facebook page each day during Advent to follow the travels of Mary & Joseph, along with their donkey, Boaz—"Bo" to his friends. We're following their journey to different places on their way to the Nativity Christmas Day. You might be amazed at some of the places they will visit!

For the children in your family, or those with a child-like heart, there's a map on our website that you can print and chronicle their destination each day.

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Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 10AM-4PM

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Call 201.445.0622 to arrange a tour!

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

&

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Thursday Evenings—8PM-9PM

January 11—March 14

Retreat Saturday, March 16

Lower Level of the School Building



- ♦ Do you see a need for a more Christ-centered marriage?
- ♦ Are you interested in living out the sacrament of marriage more deeply?
- ♦ Are you preparing to enter marriage? If so, this course fulfills the marriage preparation requirement.

This course is open to all couples—both those who are already married and those who are preparing for marriage.

**For more information or to register,
contact Fr. Jakov**

jvidov@olmcridgewood.com or 201.444.2000 x202

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Aedan Cannon, Matthew Casale, Edgar Delgado, Durkin McCarthy, John Morano, James Nardelli, Robert Smith

**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)**

**CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



Most people come to Jesus when there is hardship, trials and tribulations. That's good because Matthew 11:28 tells us Jesus said "Come to me all who labor and burdened and I will give you rest." But as we progress in our spiritual life, we begin to adore Jesus more, be sorry for our sins because it hurts Jesus and we realize it is not good for our lives and we thank Him more for all the graces received as well as for strength, courage and wisdom to tackle our daily lives.

Everyone is invited to participate in Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. The chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—even during midnight hours and the upcoming holidays! Stop by at anytime to see Jesus. Better yet, sign up for an hour that is good for you.

SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sundays: 9-10AM, Tuesdays: 2-3AM; Thursday: 3-4PM
Fridays: 4-5PM, 6-7PM; Saturdays: 12NN-1PM; 6-7PM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com



Ministry of Motherhood (MOMs)

**Monthly Meeting—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD
9:15AM—PARISH CENTER**

**MOMS OF ALL AGES WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!
COMPLIMENTARY BABYSITTING!**

Hey MOMs! Start off 2024 with the positive and prayer filled energy of a MOMs meeting! This month Sarah Shutrop, writer for the Hallow App, will tell her personal story and lead us in a discussion on sharing our spirituality with our children. Come solo or bring a friend. Enjoy the morning connecting with fellow mothers.

For more information, go to www.olmcmoms.com or email Jackie Carter at OLMCmomsridgewoodnj@gmail.com

**Grace Within: A Journal Experience
Tuesday Mornings Beginning January 9th
9:15AM-11:30AM—Parish Center Library**

OLMC mothers—at all stages of motherhood—are invited to join Grace Within: A Journal Experience. Grace Within is a spiritual and personal journey over the course of six Tuesday (January 9—February 13) mornings using the Grace Within Personal Journal. If you are feeling called to find peace in the ordinary during these challenging days, this is your invitation to understand how you can grow spiritually; to seek

and know your inner spark of divinity; and to become who God created you to be! Join this small and intimate group, make lasting connections with other moms, and prepare your heart for yourself, and your family life in 2024.



Scan this QR Code to register now!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Dec. 17	1:00PM Bell Choir (PCB) 1:30PM RCIA (MR) 1:30PM KofC Senior Citizen Party (PCA) 2:15PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PC) 4:30PM Spanish>English Class (Library)
Mon. Dec. 18	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Tue Dec. 19	4:00PM Religious Education (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed Dec. 20	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Parish Penance Service (Church) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thur Dec. 21	9:00AM Deck the Halls-Decorate the Church 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church)
Fri. Dec.. 22	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM Spanish Christmas Party (PC)
Sat Dec. 23	8:30AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 12:00NN CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)

**MEN'S CORNERSTONE ANNUAL RETREAT
FRIDAY-SATURDAY—JANUARY 26-27, 2024**

If your spiritual batteries are in need of a recharge, then this Cornerstone retreat may be God's answer. Registration is now open for our Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat held in the Parish Center. Use the QR Code here to register now.

Expect to find camaraderie, fellowship and opportunity for renewal in a relaxed environment. This year's event is fast approaching, scheduled two weeks before Super Bowl LVIII. Consider it a gift to yourself.



**Questions/More Information
Contact Manny Santos, msm@mikavi.com**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Alss, Gilbert Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Art Carpenter, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Joan D'Gerolamo, Agnes Duffy, Kenneth Gershbort, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Patricia Haug, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Joseph Letiza, Anna Lobascio, Joel Lustberg, Cambell McArthur, Margaret Peak, Cathy Ricciuto, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Don Strittmatter, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Dennis Tomala, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



TODAY'S READINGS

Monday, Dec. 18

- + 6:30AM **Richard Genot**
req Michelle & Joel Lustberg
- + 8:30AM **Joseph A. Sidote, Jr.**
req Barbara & Joanne Sidote
- +12:00NN **Solita Patiño**
req Patricia & Richard Engel

Tuesday, Dec. 19

- + 6:30AM **Richard Kling**
req The Calvetti Family
- + 8:30AM **Arthur Messineo**
req Louise Haner
- +12:00NN **Cornelia & Frederick Bruno**
req Julia Bruno

Wednesday, Dec. 20

- + 6:30AM **Christopher Maita**
req Lynne San Phillip
- + 8:30AM **Deanne Dunne**
req The Morbelli Family
- +12:00NN **Margaret & Stan Gordon**
req Patricia & David Hughes

Thursday, Dec. 21 *Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

- + 6:30AM **Jeanne Bollhofer Fry**
req Mary Bollhofer
- + 8:30AM **Joseph & Georgine Irving**
req The Orzetti Family
- 12:00NN **Patricia & Richard Engel**
In Thanksgiving for their Marriage
req Their Children & Grandchildren

Friday, Dec. 22

- + 6:30AM **Maureen Barron**
req Her Family
- + 8:30AM **Ellen G. Hughes**
req The Dunworth Family
- +12:00NN **Hortensia Garrido**
req The McClure Family

Saturday, Dec. 23 *Saint John of Kanty, Priest*

- + 8:30AM **Mercedes Rodriguez, Carmen**
Peralta, Abraham Ali & Caridad Suarez
req Faride & Carlos Suarez

5:30PM For the People of the Parish

Sunday, Dec. 24 *Fourth Sunday of Advent—Christmas Eve*

- + 8:00AM **Antoni Gozdz**
req Lucy Rieger
- + 9:30AM **Danny McGinley**
req His Family
- +11:00AM **Joseph A. Sidote, Jr.**
req Barbara & Joanne Sidote
- +12:30PM **Marybeth Frank Pettenati**
req Carole & Bill Frank
- 2:00PM **Angelina, Anna, Edgar & Julian**
req Edgar & Cecilia Delgado
- 4:00PM-Church For the People of the Parish
- 4:00PM-Aud. For the People of the Parish
- 5:30PM-Church For the People of the Parish
- 5:30PM-Aud. For the People of the Parish
- 7:00PM For the People of the Parish
- 12:00MN For the People of the Parish

1. Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Trito-Isaiah, the third author of the book that bears his name, was the most encouraging of these prophets, supporting the faith and hope of his contemporaries. The Servant of the Lord returns as the image of hope, announcing the favor that has been bestowed upon him so that he might bring a word of comfort to the people. For this, the Servant thrills at this new task entrusted to him for blessings will abound, blessings celebrated in nuptial language.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Amidst the struggles of daily living, as well as fears about the long-expected parousia (2nd coming), Paul encourages the community at Thessalonica to find their joy in God. That joy would enable believers to be grateful to God in all circumstances and would lead them to more fervent prayer and that prayer would lead them to a strengthened relationship with God which creates an opening for the Spirit Whose promptings will lead the believer on his/her journey.

3. John 1:6-8, 19-28

The poetic prologue to the Gospel of John is interrupted by the insertion of this reference to John the Baptist. John was a popular preacher for the people and could easily have claimed Messiahship. In this excerpted passage, the Evangelist makes clear (especially to some of the Baptist's followers, long after his death) the clarification of the Baptist's role; he is the forerunner, the one who would announce the light, not the light itself. In his own words, John is not even Elijah, or another prophet; he is simply the one who announces, the one who prepares. This is the role for all believers—to be one who announces Jesus as Messiah and Lord.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Does your faith lead you to find joy in living? If not, where do you find it?
2. If you were to "testify to the light," as the Baptist, what in your life would you point to?
3. Both Isaiah and John claim to having been sent. Do you feel sent by God? To do what? To be what? Do you live as one sent?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

(always subject to change)

Sat. 12/23	5:30PM	Fr. Frank
Sun. 12/24	8:00AM	Fr. Jakov
	9:30AM	Fr. Ron
	11:00AM	Fr. Frank
	12:30PM	Fr. Ron
2:00PM Spanish Mass		Fr. Jakov

Late changes appear on the website after 12:00NN
on the Saturday of that weekend.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Presiders: See Page 4



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