

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11
Luke 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

I Am Not Jesus, but I Must Testify to Him

The passage we share from John's Gospel today caused me to reflect on my own vocation as a priest.

John the Baptist's role was to testify to the light. But he was not the light. John knew this and made it clear. "I am not the Christ." So, who was he? What did he know to be his role?

John the Baptist was a voice. He was a voice crying out in the desert. He was making clear a path for the messiah who was about to appear on the earth. Indeed Jesus (John's cousin) was already on earth. His formal ministry had not yet begun. John's role was to make people aware of the messiah's presence.

I think of John's ministry in the following way. In show business every headliner musical act has a warm-up act that comes on before the main act. John is that act. He "warms up" the audience. The Jews knew by all the prophets a messiah was to come. But if Jesus were to just pop up on stage would he have had any chance of being recognized? Someone had to testify to him! The messiah. So, what is my role as a Christian and moreover as a Priest?

I must make ready the way for the Lord's Second Coming! We live in the End times now. Jesus is present to us in and through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit prepares us by leading and guiding us so that we will recognize Jesus if he should appear to us right now.

The Holy Spirit works through the community of faith, He works through each member in the community. Each of us, myself included, is now the voice. Especially as a priest who has received the sacrament of Holy Orders. I must formally preach the Word. I must awaken all of you who hear the promise of Jesus' second coming. As the scripture says, "the spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor...." I have the formal responsibility and authority to preach.

It is necessary the Good News of the Lord be made known. God's Justice will happen especially for those who are down. What can I offer as guidance to all of you? Let us turn to St. Paul.

In 1 Thessalonians Paul offers the components of what to do to be prepared to meet Jesus. He says, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil." And so I offer Paul's words to you as my own.

It is my hope you will heed Paul's words as my own. Follow Paul's formula that you will be alert and awake to be ready for Jesus second coming. Jesus is already here. We rejoice that he has come the first time. The Holy Spirit makes him present. I guess now I am the voice. I am the worm up act.

The main act is still to take the stage. I testify he is to come again!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2Sam7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16;Rm16:25-27;Lk1:26-38

STEWARDSHIP
Time, Talent, Tithing
Attendance last week:
Tithes Collected: \$6,921.00
Online Giving: \$1,570.00
Total: \$8,491.00
Thank You!

This weeks' second collection is for Retirement Fund for Religious.

VOCATIONS
Happy 40th Anniversary Fr. Dennis!
Today is Fr. Dennis' 40th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He will preside at the 10:45am Liturgy. Many of his friends and people he has led to the Lord will be joining us here for the celebration.
We look forward to the celebration!
Thank You Father for preparing the way of the Lord!

Christmas Liturgy Schedule
December 24th
4:00pm. Vigil
11:00pm Mass During the Night

December 25th
10:45am Mass During the Day

All visitors are welcome for the Holy Day!
Please wear a mask. We will sanitize your hands when you arrive. You will place your donation in the wood boxes that are in the center isle next to the pews. Then you will seat yourself in a seat with a blue mark. Extra seating is in the chapel and hall.

LITURGY FOR DECEMBER 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)
O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from eve'ry foe deliver them that trust thy might pow'r to save, and give them victo'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Come, Thou Day spring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM LUKE 1: MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD. /D. Pérez-Cuan)

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

OFFERTORY HYMN: We Come to Your Feast/M. Joncas

//We come to your feast, we come to your feast:
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,
the greatest and the least.

We come to your feast, we come to your feast
with the fruit of our lands and the work of our hands,
we come to the feast.

1. We place upon your table a gleaming cloth of white: the weaving of our stories, the fabric of our lives; the dreams of those before us, the ancient hopeful cries, the promise of our future: our needing and our nurture lie here before our eyes.
2. We place upon your table a humble loaf of bread: the gift of field and hillside, the grain by which we're fed; we come to taste the presence of him on whom we feed, to strengthen and connect us, to challenge and correct us, to love in word and deed.
3. We place upon your table a simple cup of wine; the fruit of human labor, the gift of sun and vine; we come to taste the presence of him we claim as Lord, his dying and his living, his leading and his giving, his love in cup outpoured.
4. We gather'round your table, we pause within our quest, we stand beside our neighbors, we name the stranger "guest." The feast is spread before us; you bid us come and dine: in blessing we'll uncover, in sharing we'll discover your substance and your sign.

COMMUNION HYMN: (Beyond the Moon and Stars/D. Schutte)

"Beyond the moon and stars, as deep as night, so great our hunger, Lord, to see your light. The Sparrow finds her home beneath your wing. So may we come to rest where angels sing."

1. Our eyes have longed to see your loving face, to live within your courts for all our days.
2. Your roads have led us, Lord, cross desert sand. We place our hopes and dreams within your hand.
3. Upon our darkness, Lord, a light has shone. You chose to dwell with us in flesh and bone.
4. With shining star at night, and cloud by day, you brought us here to see you love's display.
5. When life's great journey ends, and day is done, then may our eyes behold your Holy One.

POST COMMUNION HYMN: Gentle Woman/C. Landry

//Gentle Woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love//

1. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst women and blest is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

2. You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the son. You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.
3. Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: (Emmanuel/S. Angrisano)

"Come, come, Emmanuel! Son of God appear. Heaven and earth, rejoice! Salvation is drawing near, salvation is drawing near".

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appears.
2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in here ways to go.
3. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem; from ev'ry foe deliver them that trust your mighty pow'r to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grace.
4. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind; make all our sad divisions cease, and be for us the King of Peace.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12

4:00 p.m. † Mary Stupi by Maryann & Paul Surprenant
Sean Chin by Jean Ingraham

Sunday, December 13

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. Fr. Dennis 40th Anniversary of Ordination by Joanie
† Dottie Jewett by Sharkey Family

Monday, December 14

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, December 15

8:00 a.m. † Patricia Murphy Wiener by Daniel T. Murphy

Wednesday, December 16

8:00 a.m. † Tina Bishara by Family

Thursday, December 17

8:00 a.m. † Bernard & Eileen Flood by Flood Family

Friday, December 18

8:00 a.m. † Bette Giesler by Joyce

Saturday, December 19

4:00 p.m. † Mary Stupi by Joanne Adamik
† Winifred & Thomas Casey by Elizabeth Scott

Sunday, December 20

9:00 a.m. † Helen Lalewicz by Crepages
10:45 a.m. † Kevin Siefker by Siefker Family
† Robin Selbach by Elaine & Eric Hall