

**DECEMBER 12, 2021**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

*Zephaniah 3: 14-18a*  
*Philippians 4: 4-7*  
*Luke 3: 10-18*

Already But Not Yet.  
Be Ready.

Here we are more than halfway through the Season of Advent. This season is about preparing for the second coming of Christ. The week after this we prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ when we observe the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. Yet, we are always preparing for the moment of our personal earthly death and going to the Lord. The journey of life to eternity is on-going.

When a good Roman Catholic Christian is asked "are you saved" he or she should answer "already, but not yet." What does that mean?

As stated above, each person and indeed all of creation is on a journey. With every step we take and every breath we make we must say "yes" to God. It is not a matter of accepting Jesus once in life. It is a matter of constantly doing so. Thus, as in the gospel for today, as we make the journey we ask, "what shall we do?"

What we do is practice the disciplines of the faith. In so doing we clear away some of the clutter of life. Live right. And, while at times each of us experiences the excitement of expectation, we must keep a level mind and remain observant. Remain observant so that we may see God's presence and influence and follow the Lord's guidance.

As we carry on along the way of God, even as the way may be difficult, there are moments we experience joy. We recognize the Lord's presence and rise up with Him. We say, "Rejoice in the Lord always."

So, keep on the journey. We are "already but not yet" to its end.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

*Mi5:1-4a;Heb10:5-10;Lk1:39-45*

**STEWARDSHIP**

Attendance last week:	266
Tithes Collected:	\$8,089.00
Online Giving:	\$353.00
Total:	\$8,442.00

**This week's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is for Retired Religious.**

**SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**ADVENT Thursdays**

**This Thursday is the final Advent Evening With the Eucharist. Let us all come together for one hour with the Lord in His presence in the Eucharist.**

**7:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**Main Sanctuary**

**Next Thursday is Evening at Home. That is, you will stay home and spend time with the family or a close friend. You may share prayer and or the reading of the Scriptures prescribed for Christmas Day.**

**SPRITUALITY**

**Preparing to Celebrate the First Coming of Jesus the Christ with Your Family.**  
**When To Decorate.**

From a strictly liturgical standpoint the preparations for receiving the Christ Child intensify from December 17th to the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. This might be a time to begin to set up the Nativity Crib in church and at home. Involve the members of the family in the project. It is a good way to enter into conversation about the true meaning of the Christmas Season. However, until just before midnight leave out the image of the child. In the Liturgical sense He has not been born yet. From the First Sunday of Advent the Advent Wreath takes precedence. Continue your mealtime prayers around it.

Because some Christmas decoration have often lost their original religious meaning, churches should be rather circumspect about employing them and should do so with great discretion. If used at all, these decorations are best set up on Christmas Eve so as to respect the integrity of the Advent Season. Christmas trees are preferably kept out of the sanctuary and church proper. They are best left in vestibules or church grounds. This has been the

practice in St. Peter's Square from the time of St. Pope John Paul II.

As far as possible, decoration should be religiously themed, leaving plastic reindeer, sugar canes and Santa Clauses in the local shopping mall or at least within the confines of the parish hall for children's events and not in the church proper.

Within the church proper, apart from the crib, Christmas may be evoked by using, for example, traditional poinsettias, holly and other traditional elements according to the culture.

(This piece was excerpted from one written by Fr. Richard Vigoa, secretary to Archbishop Wenski.)

## COMMUNITY

### Christmas Season Schedule

**December 24, Friday (Christmas Eve): 4:00pm and 11:00pm**

**December 25, Saturday (Christmas Day): 10:45am**

**There will be NO 4:00pm Vigil Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>**

**December 26, Sunday Liturgies (Holy Family): 9:00am and 10:45am.**

**December 31, Friday (New Year's Eve): 4:00pm  
January 1, Saturday (New Year's Day): 10:45am  
There will be NO 4:00pm Vigil Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**January 2, Sunday (Epiphany): 9:00am and 10:45am**

### Christmas Tithes

**Important to the Life of this Parish.**

**Remember, at Christmas we donate our tithes on Christmas day and at the Sunday Liturgies. So, on Christmas day and the Sunday right after Christmas day we place our financial donation in the collection.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Liggett, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 11

4:00 p.m. † Jean Ingraham by Marie, Linda, & Peggy  
Fr. Dennis by Joanie

Sunday, December 12

9:00 a.m. † Daniel A. Murphy by Daniel Murphy  
10:45 a.m. † Charlotte Koch by Sharkey Family  
† Joseph Howell by Iris Capriotti

Monday, December 13

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, December 14

8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz

Wednesday, December 15

8:00 a.m. Past & Present Members & Benefactors of St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thursday, December 16

8:00 a.m. † Gerald T. Firek by Joyce

Friday, December 17

8:00 a.m. † Bette Giesler by Joyce

Saturday, December 18

4:00 p.m. † Helena Smilowski by Lezsak Smilowski  
† Erika by Theresa

Sunday, December 19

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish  
10:45 a.m. † Bernard Sharkey by Sharkey Family  
† John R. Fultz by William Fultz