

## The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, December 15

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Repairs & Maintenance**

Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6:00pm

Young Adult Ministry meeting at 12:00 pm

Monday, December 16

#### **Monday of the Third Week of Advent**

Tuesday, December 17

#### **Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent**

Evening Prayer at 5:40pm

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 18

#### **Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent**

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am

Thursday, December 19

#### **Thursday of the Third Week of Advent**

Friday, December 20

#### **Friday of the Third Week of Advent**

Saturday, December 21

#### **Saturday of the Third Week of Advent**

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am

Ss. Damien/Marianne Prayer Group at 12:30pm

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 22

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6:00pm

## Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Ministry meets today, December 15<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 2 p.m. Do you want to cheer on the runners for Jingle Rock Run today? Join the Young Adult Ministry at 5:30pm to cheer them on. Please contact Joanna at 808-286-7994.

## Cathedral Gallery

If you are looking for that perfect gift to give to someone this Christmas, then look no further! The Cathedral Gallery is having a Clearance Sale. All Aloha Attire of Our Lady of Peace & Saints of Hawaii are half off! From Men's aloha shirts to Ladies' Camp Shirts, half off! Ladies' Mu'umu'u, half off! Reversible Tote Bags, half off! That is 50% off these selected items. For more information, please call (808) 585-3311.

## Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection	\$ 6,696.36
Weekday Collection	\$ 2,005.89
Coffers	\$ 649.96
Holy Day Collection	\$ 472.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,824.21</b>



## Retirement Fund for Religious

**Religious give thanks.** "Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

## Committed to Christ, Living in Gratitude

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card to the church. As a reminder, all commitments need to be submitted to the church no later than Sunday, December 22 in order to be accounted for in the final Summary Report. Please complete and submit your card to the church even if you are unable to make a change to your current level of giving. For those registered parishioners not currently supporting the church with regular offertory gifts, please consider a monthly gift to support the needs of our parish.

## Sharing Faith

- Isaiah tells those who are feeble or weak to be strong, for God is coming. How does that offer hope? Where do we give that hope?
- Reflect on the words of Psalm 146. Who of God's people are you being called to serve?
- How are you called to be a messenger? What message are you called to deliver?

## Living the Liturgy

- Read Matthew 11:5. Jesus tells John's followers what signs they will see. He names the ways his disciples are called to practice what God has done: loosened our bonds, healed us, and released us from oppression and sin. How can you do the same for someone else? Find a place where there is a need for support or help so you too may be a sign of God's coming reign.
- This past Thursday was the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Americas. Perhaps you can find a local celebration of her feast. Go to your library or on the internet to find the story of her appearance to the poor peasant, Juan Diego.

# December 15, 2019 – Third Sunday of Advent

## Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

*Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 | Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11*

John the Baptist was a forceful prophet who preached a message of repentance while pointing to the Messiah. His followers knew of the works that Jesus was doing while John was imprisoned. They came to see for themselves if Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus, using the images of Isaiah, points to what they see: “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear the deaf are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Matthew 11:5).

We know there are many in need. We have seen the powerless in our world. Their faces haunt us in our newspapers and on street corners. We know there are many who are shunned because they are strangers or are imprisoned and oppressed. Just like the Israelites and disciples, we hear challenging words about a God who cares for these very least ones. The echoes of these words reverberate across the distances. The work of this Advent is to let the word echo in our hearts and change our lives.

CELEBRATING THE LECTIONARY © 2019 Resource Publications, Inc.

### **Next Sunday's Readings: “Fourth Sunday of Advent”**

*Isaiah 7:10-14 | Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-24*

## From the Desk of Fr. Pascual

Dear Cathedral Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

*“Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord” (James 5: 7)*

Every summer, when I was a kid, I always look forward to spending time with my grandmother and relatives. They lived close to the farm where they till the land and plant crops that would be due for harvesting at that time. In summer, we pulled out the cotton from the plants and put them in the sack. My aunt would weigh the sack at the end of the day. I would be compensated for whatever I collected. It may not be that much but surely it was enough for me to use it to buy ice cream. Experiences such as this taught me so much about the value of sacrifice and the price repaid after a day's work.

More than anything else that we do during these days before Christmas, the Season of Advent calls us to do some hard working. Not necessarily the physical work but more so with spiritual works that truly open our minds and hearts to welcome Jesus into our lives. Jesus' presence in our lives will compensate for the sacrifice we make. Would there be anything or anyone else more important than this?

Life and faith are not to be taken for granted. It entails an amount of seriousness of discerning how to labor for the Lord. Surely, Jesus will come again. Though we do not know the day and time will come, John the Baptist's way of life and words serve as a wake-up call on how, in turn, we can prepare for His coming. Let us do our best every day to understand the meaning of the Advent days. Let it also our aim to deepen our faith in Jesus to bring about goodness and life into our own families, our church and our world.

May these two remaining weeks of Advent be faith enriching and life invigorating.

Your friend in the Lord,  
Fr. Pascual