

St. John of the Cross Parish

Served by the Carmelites

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prepare the way...



ADVENT

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Mon	Dec. 10	Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
Tues	Dec. 11	Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wed	Dec. 12	Zechariah 2:10-13; Luke 1:39-47
Thurs	Dec. 13	Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
Fri	Dec. 14	Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Sat	Dec. 15	Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:10-13
Sun	Dec. 16	Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 3:10-18

CHURCH

Mon	Dec. 10	St. Therese of the Child Jesus, 7:00pm
Wed	Dec. 12	Band Practice 8:00-10:00pm
Fri	Dec. 14	All Choirs Practice 7:20-10:00pm
Thurs	Dec. 15	Children's Choir Practice 10:00-11:15am

SEMINAR ROOM

Mon	Dec. 10	RCIA 7:00-9:00pm
Tues	Dec. 11	Baptism Preparation 7:00-9:00pm
Wed	Dec. 12	Prime Time Crafts 1:30-4:30 pm
Wed	Dec. 12	Sacramental Preparation 6:30-7:30pm
Wed	Dec. 12	St. Vincent de Paul 7:45-9:00pm
Thurs	Dec. 13	St. Vincent de Paul 7:00-9:00pm
Fri	Dec. 14	St. Vincent de Paul 12:00 - 9:00pm
Sat	Dec. 15	St. Vincent de Paul 7:30am-1:00pm
Sat	Dec. 15	Lay Carmelite Formation 1:00-2:30pm

NESSINGER HALL

Tues	Dec. 11	Prime Time Line Dancing 1:00-2:30pm
Wed	Dec. 12	RCIC 6:30-7:30pm
Wed	Dec. 12	Knights of Columbus 7:00-10:00pm
Thurs	Dec. 13	Confirmation 6:30-8:30pm
Fri	Dec. 14	LIFETEEN 6:00-9:00pm
Sat	Dec. 15	Confirmation 10:00am-noon
Sat	Dec. 15	Prime Time Club 3:00-11:00pm

2nd Week of Advent Reflections

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Something big was about to happen, but then John the Baptist had been expecting something unusual. He had heard stories about the time before he was born, how he had come onto the scene long after his parents thought children would be part of their lives. Both his mother Elizabeth and his father Zechariah, a priest, had received messengers—though his father did not at first believe what was happening—who made surprising promises that John would take after the prophet Elijah.



John “grew and became strong in spirit,” and in time he embraced his calling to be a prophet with a passion and headed out to the wilderness.

And he had a prophet’s message: to call people back to God. “Repent,” he said—let your heart be changed, turn your life around—“for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Go down into the waters of baptism and come up a new person. Know you are forgiven.

Then came the moment John’s whole life had been heading toward. He realized one was “coming after me” who was “more powerful than I.” He even started denying he was the prophet he acted so much like. I’m not Elijah, or the Messiah, he said. The real Messiah was on his way.

John had completed his work. He had made straight the paths for the way of the Lord.

It’s Advent. Jesus is near. With the rest of the people of God you are out in the wilderness waiting for him to appear. How can you make straight the paths of your own life? Be open to a change of heart, to letting yourself be turned in a new direction. To what new roles—perhaps unexpected ones—does your life, like John’s, point? Could it be to bring some forgiveness and peace to yourself, your family, your friends, your coworkers, the world?

The answers may be hidden just beneath the waters, waiting to surface.

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Would you like one of the priests or the deacon from St. John of the Cross Parish visit you while you are in the hospital? Or would you like to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick? *Please let us know by calling the parish office.*



Next weekend is coffee Sunday hosted by the Liturgy of the Word for Children and the Altar Society

Come and Mingle!

St. John of the Cross Feast Day Celebration Mass will be officiated by Bishop Biossenneau on Saturday, December 15th, 5pm mass. Bring your whole family!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Monday, December 17th
Starting at 7:00pm

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, December 16th, 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm, and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00AM and 12:00PM

FEAST DAY MARY MOTHER OF GOD,

VIGIL MASS, DECEMBER 31
5:00PM and 7:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1

10:00AM and 12:00PM



MEMORY AWAKENS HOPE

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

"**Advent** is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope....

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

*Prepare the way of the Lord into our homes, our hearts, and our lives.
Make straight the crooked paths.*



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NEIGHBORING PARISHES ADVENT RECONCILIATION

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish: Dec. 13, 7:00 – 8:30pm
Merciful Redeemer Parish: Dec. 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
St. Joseph's Parish: Dec. 18, 7:00 – 9:00pm
St. Francis Xavier Parish: Dec. 20, 7:00 – 9:00pm



SAVE THE DATE

Knights of Columbus

Annual Dinner & Dance on Saturday,
February 2nd, at Swagat Banquet Hall



POINSETTIAS NEEDED

The Altar Society would appreciate donations of Poinsettias to be used to decorate the Altar during Christmas. Please bring them to the church and place them by the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the rotunda by December 20th.

Thank you for helping bring the spirit of Christmas to our parish!



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