

The Work of the People

The Second Sunday of Advent

Each year at the Second Sunday of Advent the focus of the Scriptures moves from the second coming of Christ to our preparation for celebrating the first coming of Christ into the world. The message Christian disciples here this Advent is first and foremost a message about who God is and all God does for God's people. The Scriptures tell us God saves, God shelters and protects us, God's light triumphs, God provides nourishment, God comforts and heals, God's justice reigns. Through Advent we learned that in Jesus is the revelation of God. As disciples, we confess Jesus as Lord, the Son of God, the Son of Man.

In the reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the Root of Jesse is described in an allegorical sense. Here, a little shoot comes out of a barren stump and will reach out to the Gentiles. The wolf and the lamb, the child in the adder (a snake), are examples of this extreme contrast between what was possible and what will be.

As Paul writes to the Church in Rome, we find that endurance and encouragement are curious descriptions of God. It contrasts with the sometimes angry and brooding images of God we hear in the Old Testament. Paul called for harmony among the early Church followers. This is not that much different than the Christian communities and various theologies of God that exist today. Jesus led us to look beyond our differences and ministered to people in many walks of life.

The Gospel introduces us to John the Baptist who preached a difficult message, and challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" One is not baptized out of fear, nor is it about pedigree, education, background, or position. Baptism is a response to the call to "produce good fruit as evidence of... repentance."

The reflection for this Sunday is from Sr. Miriam Pollard, OCSO, who is a sister of Santa Rita Abbey in Sonoita, Arizona.

There shall be no harm nor ruin on all my holy mountain. Not there is, but there shall be. Oh couldn't you cry? Shall. Will. On that day. Future tense. Justice shall flower in his days. Shall . . . Which means—what? That we are still burdened with the present inadequacies and even the present idiocies of the human condition, its pain and dislocation. That we have still to walk on roads pot-holed with wars and after-wars; that we have to live with the memories we wish were not.

But, listen. Our impressions of time are unreliable: Then. Now. Not yet. But we are misled. We think then: God has entered and captured the human condition. He has accomplished his Great Work. Now: we are caught in the tangles and shards of what we have made of that adventure.

Not yet: Tomorrow. Someday.

But what if . . . What if not yet is already here, dark and smudged and incomprehensible. But here. What if not yet is already now. What if Advent is a hand reaching through a bank of fog, holding together, all at once, what we think of as then and not yet.

In the Now. What if the glory that is to come is already here, and the fullness of the Adventure is resting in our hearts no matter how dim and confused and unsatisfactory that rest is feeling. Hold out your heart. The unfelt certainty of now rests lightly there. What has been and is and will be: the now that is forever.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8

Monday: Gn. 3:9-15, 20/Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk. 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is. 40:1-11/Ps. 96:1-2, 3 & 10ac, 11-12, 13/ Mt. 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is. 40:25-31/Ps. 103: 1-2,3-4,8 & 10/Mt. 11:28-30
Thursday: Zec. 2:14-17 or Rv. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Lk. 1:26-38 or Lk. 1:39-47
Friday: Is. 48:17-19/Ps. 1:1-2, 3,4 & 6/Mt. 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir. 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps. 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19/ Mt. 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is. 35:1-6a, 10/Ps. 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas. 5:7-10/ Mt. 11:2-11

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, Dec. 16 - 7:00 pm - Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro
Wednesday, Dec. 18 - 7:00 pm - All Saints, Waterford
Thursday, Dec. 19 - 7:00 pm - St. Lawrence, Albion
Sunday, Dec. 22 - 3:00 pm - St. Anthony of Padua

PRAISE AND WORSHIP HOLY HOUR

Join in for an evening of prayer and song before the Eucharist at St. Agatha, Meadville on Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm. Deacon Kevin Holland will give the teaching. Call 814 333-2274, ext. 2 with questions.

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP

Attend the March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, January 24, 2020. Buses chartered by People for Life will leave Erie on Thursday evening, Jan. 23 at 11 pm and return about 1:30 am on Jan. 25. Students and families on tight budgets are encouraged to inquire about sponsorships arranged by People for Life. Reservations should be made as soon as possible. Send \$55 per seat to People for Life, P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. Pay by December 21 and get a \$5 early bird credit (send \$50/seat). For more information or to use a credit or debit card, call 814 882-1333 or go online to www.peopleforlife.life/january2020.

OUTREACH TO HAITI (OTH)

Susan Wallace, Executive Director of Outreach to Haiti would like to thank the parishioners of St. Anthony and St. Bernadette for their generosity at the Mission Appeal for the people of Haiti. God bless you!

WORSHIP

Monday, December 9 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 8:00 am + Daniel Baker (M/M Nelson Allen, Jr.)
 Tuesday, December 10
 8:00 am + Margaret Castoro (M/M Nelson Allen)
 Wednesday, December 11
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, December 12
 8:00 am + Living & Deceased of PNA Lodge 1540
 Friday, December 13
 8:00 am + Margaret (Peg) Styborski (Stacy Mott)
 Saturday, December 14
 4:30 pm + Marie Faub (Faub & Wiater Families)
 Sunday, December 15
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
 Thomas Brunot (Joseph & Alice Johnson)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

IMPORTANT MEETING

The Events Committee for St. Anthony Cash Giveaway and Game Night will meet today, Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 pm in the Parish Center. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

**ST. ANTHONY
 CASH GIVEAWAY AND GAME NIGHT**

Cash Giveaway and Game Night tickets are being distributed after weekend masses. Game Night will be on Jan. 25, 2020. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Ticket monies need to be returned no later than Jan. 11 and can be placed in the collection baskets Your assistance will make this annual fundraiser successful, so please pick up and return your tickets as soon as possible.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE
 (Except Holy Days)
 7:00 am - Communion Service
 Tuesday, December 10
 After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena
 Wednesday, December 11
 12:00 Noon - Advent Service & Lunch at CMA Church
 Saturday, December 14
 3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions
 Sunday, December 15
 Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE
 After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY
 NOTE: Latin Mass will be the last Sunday of every month at 12:30 pm

CHRISTMAS ROLLS

Sign-up sheets for Christmas Nut, Poppyseed, Apricot and Raspberry rolls are on the bulletin boards at both entrances. **THIS IS THE LAST WEEKEND TO ORDER THE ROLLS.** Pick-up will be the weekend of Dec. 14 & 15 in the gathering space. Rolls are \$10/each.

THEME BASKETS

The Events Committee needs your help in providing "Theme Baskets" for St. Anthony Cash Giveaway and Game Night on January 25, 2020. If you have questions please call Kathleen at 814 282-6700. Theme baskets are to be returned to the gathering space BEFORE January 11, 2020.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 - 4:30 PM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Tom Hobson/Judy Kingston
 Lector: Shawn Pflieger

Altar Servers: Robert Moats/Sophia Mott

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 - 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Christine Krzysiak/
 Don Marteeny/Harriet McLaren

Lector: Julie Hobson

Altar Servers: Max Marteeny/Andrea Walker

**ST. BERNADETTE
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 - 8:00 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Sada/J. Weagraff/K. Weagraff

Lector: J. Drda

Ushers: S. Sada, Sr.

Altar Servers: I. Levis

STEWARDSHIP

12/01/19

Offertory	\$575.00	CSA: Pledged - \$9,275
Votives	11.00	Paid - \$8,595
Solemnity	30.00	
Immac. Concep.	30.00	
Retirement	30.00	
CCD	35.00	
Human Dev.	10.00	
Christmas	30.00	
Flowers	100.00	
TOTAL	\$851.00	

"Jesus, you are awesome in your deeds and loving in your heart."

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, December 18. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors and kitchen open at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE'S

Sun. Dec. 8 - Holy Name Sunday
 Sun. Dec. 8 - 10:30 am - Religious Ed Class at St. Anthony
 Sun. Dec. 15 - 10:30 am - Religious Ed Class at St. Anthony

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,201.00
Maintenance	323.00
Candles	41.00
Christmas Rolls	80.00
Campaign for H.D.	140.00
Donation	50.00
Oplatki	6.00
Cash Giveaway Donation	100.00
Donation Roof Repair	50.00
Altar Flowers	182.00
CSA	80.00
TOTAL	\$2,253.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$23,967 Paid: \$22,872

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
