

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 hear 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

Monday: Is. 35:1-10/Lk. 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Is. 40:1-11/Mt. 18:12-14  
Wednesday: Is. 40:25-31/Mt. 11:28-30  
Thursday: Gn. 3:9-15, 20/Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk. 1:26-38  
Friday: Is. 48:17-19/Mt. 11:16-19  
Saturday: Sir. 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt. 17:9a, 10-13  
Sunday: Is. 35:1-6a, 10/Jas. 5:7-10/Mt. 11:2-11

### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Community Christmas Program will be held this year at St. Anthony of Padua on Sunday, December 11 beginning at 6:00 pm  
Refreshments follow the program. All are welcome!

### ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION**  
Tuesday, December 12—4pm - 5pm  
Tuesday, December 20—4 pm - 5 pm

**AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**  
Friday, December 17—4 pm - 5 pm  
Friday, December 23—4 pm - 5 pm

Also, please check the Parish Event block for weekly confession schedule.

## WORSHIP

Monday, December 5  
8:00 am + Gertrude Christie

Tuesday, December 6  
8:00 am + Pete Weidner  
(Ginger (Weidner) & Dick Kester)

Wednesday, December 7  
5:00 pm + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Berry Gay (Joan Rembielak)

Thursday, December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of  
The Blessed Virgin Mary  
5:00 pm - AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Emily Katherine Mott (Mott Family)

Friday, December 9  
8:00 am + Ron Yusavage (Joan Smith)

Saturday, December 10  
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, December 11  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Genung, Hutch, Proutfoot Families  
(Pat & Richard)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Lucille Wisinski (Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, December 5  
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

Tuesday, December 6  
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Wednesday, December 7  
12:00 Noon - Advent Prayer Service & Luncheon  
At Cambridge Missionary Alliance Church

Saturday, December 10  
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, December 11  
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Before Mass - Confession

AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
After Mass - Confession

Monday, December 12 - AT BERNADETTE MISSION  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Confession

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 10 - 4:30 pm  
Sydney Zilhaver

Sunday, December, 11 - 9:30 am  
Michael & Sophia Mott

### ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,056.00
Maintenance	110.00
Candles	26.00
All Saints	5.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	15.00
Christmas Flowers	20.00
Pioneer Investment Club	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,382.00</b>

### FOOD DRIVE

Cambridge Springs Ministerium emergency food program is conducting a food drive. Non-perishable items can be put in the box in the gathering space. Thank you for your generosity.

### ST. BERNADETTE DECORATING

On Sunday, December 18 immediately following the 8 am Mass, St. Bernadette parish will be decorating the church for Christmas. Volunteers are needed. Anyone who can help please stay for decorating and coffee, donuts.

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year has passed, and we are again approaching the annual collection for our Retired Religious to be held in parishes on December 10 & 11. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as the over 30,000 retired religious throughout the country.

The *Retirement Fund for Religious* offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in this diocese contributed \$145,858 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs. Your generous gift provides vital support for their ongoing health care helping them to age in safety with dignity and comfort.

Senior Religious are our treasure in the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need today. Those who are no longer able to serve actively support all that is being done through their ministry of prayer, while continuously remembering all those who support them.

Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives though their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresightedness and generosity. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese and they stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church in the past and in the days and years to come.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know that you remain in their prayers. Please join me in supporting this year's *Retirement Fund for Religious*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,798.00
Maintenance	339.00
Lottery Tickets	1,360.00
Candles	70.00
CSA	120.00
Pumpkin Rolls	133.50
Campaign for Human Dev.	110.00
Immaculate Conception	15.00
Christmas Altar Flowers	35.00
Energy	100.00
Christmas	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,090.00</b>

Catholic Service Appeal  
Pledged: \$34,819    Paid: \$33,624

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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