

AS THE EARTH BRINGS FORTH ITS PLANTS,  
AND A GARDEN MAKES ITS GROWTH SPRING UP,  
SO WILL THE LORD GOD MAKE JUSTICE AND PRAISE  
SPRING UP BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS.

ISAIAH 61:11

© 2019 Church Co., Inc. Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass. © 2009, 1998, 1987, 1986, 1970, C.O.D. All rights reserved.  
Photo: iStockphoto.com/Adobe Stock, iStock.com/ame art, Tony Ward for iStockphoto.com/Church Co., Inc. 2019.



THIRD SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

DECEMBER 13, 2020

## REPENTING AND REJOICING

The readings this week bear a certain similarity to those of last week—we hear a prophecy from Isaiah that is reiterated by John the Baptist in Mark’s Gospel—but today the focus is different. Last week John told us to repent. Today he is the light leading us to God. Today is also known as “Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday,” as the reading from First Thessalonians commands us to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” We are to rejoice. Right now. Combined with last Sunday, this seems like a mixed message. “Which is it? Repenting or Rejoicing?” But John is telling us that one leads to the other. As we prepare for the coming of our Savior we must first repent and then rejoice.

### A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

Many years ago, Canadian singer Ann Murray had a hit song that spoke of her frustrations as she listened to the radio and read the headlines. She sang that “we sure could use a little good news today.” It strikes me that this is the message that the readings want us to leave with this week. The Gospel Antiphon proclaims, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” (from Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4: 18). John the Baptist is here to testify to the light, to the Good News.

### WILL THE REAL MESSIAH PLEASE STAND UP?

The Jewish people were waiting for their messiah, they were waiting for a hero. They prodded John several times trying to figure out what his role actually was, and to see what he knew. It became a guessing game. He tried to say nothing, but finally answered in a humble fashion, “I am not he.” He baptized with water as a means of leading people to the coming Christ and helping them to prepare. He somehow avoided the trappings of success that would turn his light on himself. Today he remains a road sign for us, pointing out Christ our Light.

We all want someone to rescue us, and most likely to fix the mistakes and errors that we continue to make as individuals and as nations. Much of that is human nature. Would there be as much fascination with superheroes if this were not the case? How many times do you as an adult turn to your folks for advice, or wish you could talk to a deceased parent? Some need help emotionally, others spiritually, others financially. The reality is that it is tough to get your “ducks in a row” and always has been. Today’s encouraging message is for us to always look to the Light for our help. May we always be like John the Baptist and testify how Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been our Savior.

### TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–1  
Luke 1:46–48, 49–50, 53–54  
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24  
John 1:6–8, 19–28

# ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

RICK FAGAN, DEACON

PHONE: (859)336-3569 EMAIL: [stdom@bellsouth.net](mailto:stdom@bellsouth.net) WEBSITE: [stdomparish.org](http://stdomparish.org)

## WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**JOHN THE BAPTIST:** At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. “Oh, Bill, I’d like you to meet Johnny’s father. And over here, this is Marie’s mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen’s soccer team.” With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: “I’m Ellen’s Dad.” It’s good to know who you are. Be it someone’s father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it’s important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles. John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God’s people had ever seen. John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He’s more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God’s reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**First Reading:** As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

**Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

**Second Reading:** Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**Gospel:** I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Friday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### **MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (12/14-12/20)**

**Monday 8:30 AM:** Brenda Spalding

**Tuesday 5:30 PM:** Florine Kely

**Wednesday 11:00 AM:** Helen Brady

**Thursday 5:30 PM:** Gerald & Barbara Fogle

**Friday 8:30 AM (No school/open to anyone):** Stephen Downs

**Saturday 8:30 AM:** Johnnie & Bud Parker

**4:30 PM:** Steve Hale

**Sunday 8:30 AM:** Edgar, Teresa & Terry Mattingly

**10:30 AM:** Maurice Smith

**2:00 PM (Spanish Mass):** For the Parish

### **LITURGICAL ROLES**

**Weekday Lectors:** (**Mon.**) Wassie Parrott, (**Tues.**) Lisa Burkhead, (**Wed.**) Mary Ann Hale, (**Thurs.**) Hamilton Simms, (**Fri.**) Katie Simms, (**Sat.**) Belle Sutton

**Weekday Sacristans:** (**Mon.**) Betty Carol Barber, (**Tues.**) Perry Carrico, (**Wed.**) Martha Ann Hardin, (**Thurs.**) Julee Jones, (**Fri.**) Deacon Rick Fagan, (**Sat.**) Jerry Mudd

**Weekend Liturgical Roles** for the month have been sent/will be sent via email.

**St. D Prayer List:** Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, U.S. Military, Bob Barber, Johnathan Bradshaw, Doris Purdom, Megan O'Bryan, Stephanie Bueschel Warner, Joe Lee Spalding, Kim Pinkston Spalding, Lester Shouse, Ted McNeal, Edwin Thompson, Jim Smith, Steve Smith, Beth Hellman, Dennis Rust, Margaret Faye Martin, Corbin Noel, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

**Tithing Contributions** for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$5,920.00

# **MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS**

**Parish Reconciliation/Penance Service for Advent:** We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a communal penance service here at St. Dominic on Mon., Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in preparation for Christmas. Several priests will be available for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Christmas Eve Mass Intentions:** Please use the white envelopes found in the pews when submitting intentions for the 11:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. In order to have the names of those remembered printed in time, **please drop envelopes in the collection plate or bring them to the church office by 12/16.**

**Christmas Masses:** On Tuesday, December 1, we began taking reservations for Christmas Masses (4:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. Christmas Eve & 9 a.m. Christmas Day). All church seating for the 4:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. Mass have already been reserved. However, the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will be live-streamed to the gym. **There will be no reservation needed if you choose to sit in the GYM during the 4:30 p.m. Mass.** Though very limited, the 9 a.m. Mass has some pew seating remaining. Please contact the parish office in one of two ways to register, by calling 859-336-3569 or via email at [stodom@bellsouth.net](mailto:stodom@bellsouth.net). Christmas Mass reservations can be made through noon on Dec. 23rd, if space allows.

**Masses:** Call ahead (Monday through Thursday) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at [stodom@bellsouth.net](mailto:stodom@bellsouth.net). Seating charts are finalized on Thursday afternoons.

**Special Thanks:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that packed a shoebox. St Dominic Church packed 104 Gospel Opportunities and St Dominic Elementary School had two classes that packed 36 Gospel Opportunities that will be shared with boys & girls on the other side of the globe. I know that 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone and your generosity is appreciated. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Operation Christmas Child. ~Lori A Tucker

**2020 Retirement Fund for Religious, Dec. 12/13:** Envelopes for this collection can be found in the pews.

**2020 Catholic Services Appeal - Bringing Christ to Others:** St. D Parish Goal: \$46,900 - St. D Parish Gifts to Date: \$50,665.00 - Parish Participation Goal: 159 Households - Parish Participation to Date: 121 Households. Even though we've exceeded our parish goal, you can still respond with a gift, if you haven't had a chance to do so. Gifts can be made online at [www.ArchLou.org/CSA](http://www.ArchLou.org/CSA) or by using a designated Catholic Services Appeal Envelope. Checks payable to CSA.

**Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction:** Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (after the 5:30 p.m. Mass) & on Sundays from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Adoration at 4:00 p.m., Vespers at 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Music &/or Liturgical Prayer at 6:00 p.m., Closing with Benediction at 7:00 p.m.)

**Parish Office Closed** will be closed for Christmas on Dec. 24, 25 & Dec. 28. & for New Year's Day on Jan. 1.