

Second SUNDAY of Advent



December 6, 2020

John the Baptist appeared
in the desert proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:4

COMFORT

In 2020, we heard plenty of voices speaking out and sharing their opinions, but many of those words were not comforting or hope-filled. Sometimes, it was hard to know which expert or “instant expert” to listen to, and it is still difficult to hope as we struggle to regain our balance as a nation and as a Church. The Word of God offers us peace this day. All our readings remind us of a faithful God who always keeps the promises made. Isaiah prophesied about the end of Jerusalem’s time away from God, and the Psalm speaks of “seeing God’s kindness and hearing what God proclaims.” Second Peter explains that God’s timing may not be the same as ours, but good things await those who are alert. In the Gospel, John the Baptist reiterates and completes the prophecy of Isaiah by laying the groundwork and preparing the way for those who await the coming of the Messiah.

THE BEGINNING

With COVID-19, much time is spent wondering “where did it start?” or “who passed it on to whom?” Though science can tell us much there are many unanswered questions. Today’s Gospel is about as concrete as sacred scripture gets. We know this is the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, which was the first Gospel to be written down in about 70 AD. Unlike Luke and John, Mark does not begin with an infancy narrative of Jesus. He starts by proclaiming the prophecy of Isaiah. This section was written six hundred years before Christ, in another time of great upheaval, as the Israelites were displaced from their homeland during the Babylonian Exile. The first words of Isaiah 40 are “Comfort, comfort, my people.” John the Baptist starts by explaining he is the go-between, sent to “Prepare the way.”

DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

While proclaiming the coming Christ is a thing of joy, John’s words are also harsh, reminding us to repent and prepare. People were threatened by them two thousand years ago, and some still are today. People can hear them and be turned off by “fire and brimstone,” and none of us like to be told what to do. But think about it. This year, we have all engaged in social distancing and endured hardships to protect our families and others.

Similarly, when you have company coming, you do house cleaning, meal prep, and lots of things to make the place ready for the arrival of your guests—necessary preparation. So we as individuals must make ourselves ready for the coming Christ to reside in us. This may mean repenting for sins, seeking the sacrament of penance, or taking time with a spiritual director. Perhaps it means carving out more times and places for Christ to be born in our hearts or taking on another spiritual practice. Maybe it means simply doing what the psalm asked and using our eyes and ears and mind and heart to seek Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

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ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

RICK FAGAN, DEACON

PHONE: (859)336-3569 EMAIL: stdom@bellsouth.net WEBSITE: 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 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOD'S DELAY: In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?" And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance. God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert. We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.
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FEAST OF FAITH- Watching for Christ's Coming: In the season of Advent, we look to the coming of Christ at the end of time, and we prepare ourselves to celebrate his first coming among us at Christmas. Remembrance of the past is combined with preparation for the future. Memory meets action. In a certain sense, the Mass is an Advent prayer. At the Last Supper, Jesus did not tell his disciples, "Never forget what I did for you." Instead, he said, "Do this in remembrance of me." He calls us to remember by *doing*, to combine memory with action. In the celebration of the Eucharist, remembering and doing become one. Jesus is as present in our midst as he was in that upper room, breaking the bread and sharing the cup; but it is a new kind of presence, seen only with the eyes of faith. In the heavenly liturgy, there will be no need of sacraments, for there, "celebration is wholly communion and feast" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1136). Here, things are different. We have only glimpses and flashes of the beauty that is yet to be. And yet, in the liturgy, we truly participate in the heavenly liturgy. The Mass is our foretaste of the joys of heaven. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading: Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel: I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8). 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: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19;
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (12/7-12/13)

Monday 8:30 AM: Nora Smith

Tuesday - Holy Day, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

8:30 AM: For the Parish

5:30 PM: Mr. & Mrs. P.S. Barber Jr, Joe David Barber

Wednesday 11:00 AM: Bo Mattingly

Thursday 5:30 PM: Mike Wheatly, Wilburn Kelty

Friday 8:30 AM (No school/open to anyone): Peggy Noel

Saturday 8:30 AM: Healthcare Workers

4:30 PM: Maurice Begley

Sunday 8:30 AM: Jim & Fanny Rudd

10:30 AM: Bob Goodlett

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

LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Perry Carrico, (Tues.) Mary Ann Hale @ 8:30 a.m. & Betty Carol Barber @ 5:30 p.m., (Wed.) Belle Sutton, (Thurs.)

Mary Lynne Fenwick, (Fri.) Julee Jones, (Sat.) Hamilton Simms

Weekday Sacristans: (Mon.) Katie Simms, (Tues.) Deacon Rick Fagan @ 8:30 & 5:30 p.m., (Wed.) Hamilton Simms, (Thurs.) Perry Carrico, (Fri.)

Belle Sutton, (Sat.) Cheryl Mattingly

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, Megan O'Bryan, Stephanie Bueschel Warner, Joe Lee Spalding, Jesus Gonzalez-Gomez, 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.): \$23,009.18

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

Holy Day of Obligation-The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

Mary: Two Masses will be offered up on this day, Tuesday, Dec. 8, an 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Since school is not in session, both Masses will be open to anyone who wish to attend. Reservations are not needed, please sit in the numbered pews and practice social distancing.

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 get the names of those remembered printed in time, please drop envelopes in the collection plate or bring them to the church office by Wednesday, 12/16.

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 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. has 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.** The 11 p.m. has very limited seating left in the narthex (baptismal font area). The 9 a.m. has pew seating remaining. Please contact the parish office in one of two ways to register, by calling 859-336-3569 or via email at stdom@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 stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts are finalized on Thursday afternoons.

(Items yet to be posted or temporarily removed from the bulletin):

Special Thanks: I would like to take this opportunity 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 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 Collection: The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held in our parish, **Dec. 12th & 13th.** Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. A designated envelope for this collection can be found in parishioners tithing packet and in the pews. Feel free to drop your envelope in the collection any time between now and Dec. 13th.

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.)

2020 Catholic Services Appeal - Bringing Christ to Others: St. D Parish Goal: \$46,900 - St. D Parish Gifts to Date: \$27,345.00 - Parish Participation Goal: 159 Households - Parish Participation to Date: 107 Households.

There is still plenty of time to respond with a gift. Gifts can be made online at www.ArchLou.org/CSA or by using a designated Catholic Services Appeal Envelope, which can be found in the pews. Checks payable to CSA.

Possibly interested in joining the Catholic Church? Contact Fr. David at 336-3569.

St. D School Scrip Program: Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money for St. Dominic School. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn money for St. D on your purchases. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted. How it works: Buy gift cards at face value, St. D can earn up to 20% on every gift card you buy, use gift cards at full value for your everyday purchases.

Get started: **Create an account on the RaiseRight app or at ShopWithScrip.com using St. D's enrollment code: 6L353D8L3433L.**

Seamlessly check out by securely paying online. Have questions? Contact: Theresa Mattingly by email @ theresa.mattingly@yahoo.com.

AmazonSmile is now available in the Amazon Shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. AmazonSmile customers can now support St Dominic Church (proceeds benefit St. D School) in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device, go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings', tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process. If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app & make sure that you still have St. D Church

selected. It's a great & easy way to help support St. D School, without costing you any extra.

The St. D Newspaper Recycling drive is held the second Monday of the month, weather permitting. If you live within city limits & participate in our newspaper drive, please have your papers by the curb no later than 9 A.M. This will help accommodate the volunteers who need to do pick-up in the morning hours. Pick-up times vary from driver to driver. There is no pick-up during the months of July & December.

IGA Receipts, BOXTOPS for Educations & Campbell's labels are all fundraisers for our school. We ask that you continually save them and drop them in the wooden boxes in the back of church.

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