



Stewardship Bulletin Reflection
December 15, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent
Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc.

IS 35:1-6A, 10; PS146:6-10;
JAS 5:7-10; MT 11:2-11

We are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. *"Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."*

This is excellent advice for us Christians as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life.

In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain.

We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.



December 12th (Thursday) - Advent **Reconciliation Service - 7:00pm**

December 15th (Sunday) - Confession for CCD students (after 8:30am Mass)

December 16th - 23rd - **Simbang Gabi Masses - 7:30pm.**

December 24th (Tuesday) - **Concluding** Simbang Gabi Mass - **6:00am** and **Christmas Eve Family Mass - 5:00pm**

December 24th/25th - **Midnight Mass (12:00am)**

December 25th (Wednesday) - **Christmas Day Masses - 8:30am and 11:00am**

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS

Sat	Dec 14	5:00 PM	
Sun	Dec 15	8:30 AM	Alice Salvado + Elmer Lunasco + Bong Lunasco + Claudio Gregorio + 11:00 AM Constante Antunes + Manuel Rosario +
Mon	Dec 16		Kathi Ippolito + Guillermo Ramos +
Tue	Dec 17		Marc Rettig +
Wed	Dec 18		Mario da Rosa +
Thu	Dec 19		Rafael Da Rosa +
Fri	Dec 20		Isaiah Immanuel Guevarra (BD) Erin Castilo (BD)
Sat	Dec 21	5:00 PM	Colin Syuarez (BD)
Sun	Dec 22	8:30 AM	Carmen Reynoso (Conversion) 11:00 AM Cornelio Moran + 12:30 <i>Mass for Parishioners</i>

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Third Sunday of Advent
Monday:	Las Posadas begins
Saturday:	St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

WELCOME TO OUR 20TH YEAR OF SIMBANG GABI FROM DECEMBER 16 TO DECEMBER 24. BRIGHTEN UP THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS. HANG YOUR GIFT UP ON OUR GIVING TREE FOR VICTIMS OF STORMS IN THE PHILIPPINES. FOR SIMBANG GABI INTENTIONS CALL EVELYN AT 510 969 7013 OR THE PARISH OFFICE



BE A KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS
 We are Catholic men building bridge back to faith. There is much more good and necessary work to be done in this world and that's what Knights do everyday.
 Be proud to be a Catholic.
 Be proud to be a Knight.

LAST WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday collection (for general operating expenses)
 Collected **\$2,592.00**

Restricted donations for: (Liability Insurance)
\$924.00

Immaculate Conception (Mass)	735.00
Christmas Flowers	350.00
Sacramentals	300.00
Diocesan Assessment	136.00
El Shaddai (Mass)	121.00
Votive candles	208.50
Adoration Chapel	192.00
St. Anne (donation box)	17.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT!
Next Week's 2nd Collection: GROUND MAINTENANCE

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (c. 1542-1591)
 December 14

How beautiful the experience of love for God and neighbor, a fire deep within! How disheartening when love suddenly cools and our souls grow dark, our prayer arid. How painful when misunderstanding, even rejection, comes our way, sometimes from those we least expect. For all such "seasons of the soul," an inspiring fellow-pilgrim is the poet and mystic John of the Cross. As a young Carmelite, he was recruited by Teresa of Ávila for her Discalced ("barefoot," evangelical poverty) Carmelite reform, striving to renew the Church from within after the Protestant Reformation had led countless religious away. John suffered unspeakably harsh abuse, even imprisonment, from friars who rejected this reform. Yet during these times of deepest suffering, John composed spiritual masterpieces that still guide souls to God, their titles reflecting his own painful yet ultimately victorious journey: from *The Dark Night of the Soul* through *The Ascent of Mount Carmel* to his *Spiritual Canticle* and *The Living Flame of Love*. John summarized his spirituality simply: "Put love where there is no love, and you will find love."

POSSIBILITIES Nothing is impossible for God and his Blessed Mother.—*Don Bosco*



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**Catholic
 Answers
 apomar2014**

Q. My question kind of has two parts, since it seems like you tend to not address the full scope of every question, and this question is really bugging me: **1st** First, we know that God can be sad, just as we can. And we have free will, which we will retain in heaven. In heaven, aren't we supposed to be eternally happy? What if we have regrets of not helping the world more while on earth, or are sad for another reason after all, we can choose to be sad. How then can heaven promise eternal happiness while we retain our free will?
Second, if it cannot absolutely promise eternal happiness, what are heaven's defining characteristics? Why is being in communion with God alone so great if we are unhappy? A brief summary will help. Please do not just recommend some book

A Who says that God is unhappy? Granted, in His human nature Jesus could experience pain and sorrow: but not in His divine nature. Emotions are human things. We need to try to think outside of the human box when we consider who God is. God is the one who designed us and created us out of nothing. He is the one who showed us something of His unlimited love by joining us in our human journey and suffering and dying for us. We can hardly grasp such love. To be united with Him for all eternity IS heaven. In heaven we will be able to know Him as He knows us.

To know goodness at its' source is more than we can imagine. We will be so taken by that nothing can possibly compete with it. appropriate to continue trying to lead him to repentance, but it is not fitting for him to be forgiven even before he has admitted he was wrong. God is perfectly merciful in the sense that he is merciful in the best way, not in the sense that he forgives every single sin people commit. Some sins (those of which people have not repented) are not appropriate to forgive, so God's mercy is the very thing that prevents him from forgiving them.



Virgilio Abar, Gary Anderson, Cesar & Ester Eugenio, Mercedes Go-Oco, Carmen Bryant, Corazon Belisario, Dulce Bufete, Jack Burns, Romeo Camantigue, Ed & Eliz Coyne, Priscilla Da Rosa, Elisa Ducusin, Belen Escondo, Cora Estanislao, Arnel Flores, Avelino Gapasin, Mark Litvinchuck, Willie Orpiano, Mary Moniz, Geri Murchison, Ruben Mislant, Edward Mejia, Gail Ocasion, Frances Pangelinan, Rosy Pereira, Pratima Prasad, Josephine Redard, Dan Sanchez, Maritess Sanchez, Ursula Santos, Jane Spivey, Augusto Uy, George Ybanez. Let us thank God for what doesn't need healing.



Welcome New Parishioners !

If you are not currently registered, please take a moment to fill this out and return it to the parish office, or you may drop it in the collection basket.

Name _____	Phone _____	_____ New Parishioner
Address _____	City _____ ZIP Code _____	_____ New Address
_____ Updating Parish Information	_____ Send Sunday Envelopes	_____ Put on mailing list

OLGC THROUGH THE YEARS

