

## Focusing the gospel

“Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever.” Those words from Baruch are in the first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent. Luke's Gospel offers us a first look at the promise of John the Baptist as he cries out, “Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Monday is the Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with its own special readings. On Saturday, much of North America celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with its own special readings.

We focus on the first readings from the Prophet Isaiah this week. With the Babylonian Captivity, the temple was destroyed, the leaders of the people were taken away to Babylon and a remnant was left behind. A life-threatening desert separated the people. In this context, Isaiah proclaims God's vindication of the people in exile. The desert will be reborn. A highway will bring their liberation. And the signs will be that there is healing and peace. “Comfort, give comfort to my people,” says the Lord. The valleys will be filled in, the mountains leveled - every obstacle will be overcome - to build a highway for our God to come and save us. The people can hardly believe the good news. They are weak and weary of their captivity. Isaiah proclaims, “They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings.” He offers support: “I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'” The people have been at a distance from the Lord for some time and were not obeying the commandments. The Lord says, “I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go.” The final first reading this week is a piece from the book of Sirach in which the prophet Elijah is praised. Elijah, who was destined to come again to restore order before the day of the Lord, is seen in the reading from Matthew's Gospel to be John the Baptist.

*Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer” on Creighton University's Online Ministries Website: <http://www.creighton.edu/collaborativeministry/prayer>. Used with permission.*

## CYM Babysitting Night

Sat, Dec 19th, St Joe's Catholic Youth Ministry will host a babysitting night. For \$20 per family, send your kids to an evening filled with fun - graham cracker "gingerbread" houses, games in the gym, a visit from St Nick, a movie, and much more! Proceeds donated to foreign missionary families from our diocese!

## Parish Directory Photo Sessions

In conjunction with our church building's 100th anniversary, a new parish pictorial directory is being planned. Look for detailed information for the upcoming photo sessions to each parishioner. A new directory is an important piece of documenting the St. Joseph Parish History.

## Confirmation 2016

Confirmation classes are scheduled to begin on Thursday, January 7, 2016. Confirmation Mass with Bishop Kemme will be the 8:15 a.m. Holy Mass on Sunday, February 14, 2016. If you are of high school age, are not yet confirmed and would like to be, please contact the Parish Office to register.

## Please Remember In Prayer:

Sr. Lucille Kerschen  
Matilda Puetz  
Katy Carney  
Juanita Mans  
Jim Ridder  
Sue Warren  
Regina Gaytan  
Jeanne Sullivan  
Joyce Armstrong  
Nancee Scheffer  
Kadie McDonough  
Deannie Little  
Andy Little  
Ray Rancuret



Cheryl Burke Julian  
Jim Monroe  
Leroy Nedeau  
Charles T. Morton  
Gail Alcaez  
Robie Campbell  
Evelyn Monty  
Sarah Skidd

Clair Vanzelfden  
Eldon Freund  
Duane Wilson  
Nancy Bradley  
Vernie Bloch  
Joan Kandt  
Jim Flanigan  
Peggy Bowan  
Marci Limon  
Robert Range  
Doug Howell  
Betty Sherlock  
+Leah Stepanek

## Gerard House Mass

The school will host its annual Gerard House Mass on Friday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. Each year, the teachers donate a crib to the Gerard House and we fill it with baby supplies. This year we will be collecting diapers up to size 4. Join us for the 8:15 mass as we shower the Christ Child with our gifts. Following mass will be a reception hosted by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in the Parish Hall. If you cannot attend Mass, please feel free to drop off your diaper donation to the school office.

### Weekly Readings

Mon. 12/07: Is 35:1-10, Ps 85:9-14, Lk 5:17-26  
 Tues. 12/08: Gn 3:9-20, Ps 98:1-4, Eph 1:3-12, Lk 1:26-38  
 Wed. 12/09: Is 40:25-31, Ps 103:1-10, Mt 11:28-30  
 Thur. 12/10: Is 41:13-20, Ps 145:1-13, Mt 11:11-15  
 Fri. 12/11: Is 48:17-19, Ps 1:1-6, Mt 11:16-19  
 Sat. 12/12: Zec 2:14-17, Jud 13:18-19, Lk 1:26-38  
 Sun. 12/13: Zep 3:14-18, Is 12:2-6, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18

### Holy Mass Schedule & Intentions

Monday, December 7  
 Saint Ambrose  
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Leah Stepanek  
 6:00 p.m. Mass S.I. People of St. Joseph

Tuesday, December 8  
 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Wilma McDonough  
 6:00 p.m. Mass +Winnie Love Simon

Wednesday, December 9  
 Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin  
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Isaac Stump

Thursday, December 10  
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Pat Knolla

Friday, December 11  
 Saint Damasus I  
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Tom McGlenn  
 10:00 a.m. Masonic Home Mass +Dorothy Beyer

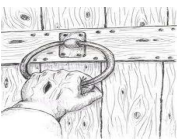
Saturday, December 12  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Frank Darland  
 4:00 p.m. Mass S.I. People of St. Joseph

Sunday, December 13  
 The Second Sunday of Advent  
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Randy Ireland  
 10:00 a.m. Mass +Kathy Dugas

### Thank you for your gift of treasure! July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016

Weekly Collection 11/29/2015	\$10,546.02
Weekly tithe amount needed	\$12,960.77
Surplus or (Deficit) YTD	(\$7,975.99)

Prepare the way of the Lord! As we contemplate the Word of God to make our personal preparation for the coming of the Savior, we hear how the prophets described the coming of the Lord. Make straight the crooked paths and level out the hills and valleys. We want to be ready for the King's return and we want him to come quickly. At Christ's coming we pledge to worship him and follow him. Jesus invites us to follow him and to prepare for his return. Through our discipleship we spread the message of salvation and share a life of love. May Christ our teacher lead us into discipleship and may our stewardship lead the world to Him.



### He is Standing at the Door. He Knocks.

“Come to me all you who labor and are overburdened and I will give you rest (Mt 11:28)”

There are 21 open hours in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Please consider spending one hour with our Lord in His gentle oasis. For more information, call Jana Schoen at 945-5379.

Sunday - 2 a.m.

Monday - 1 a.m. & 2 a.m.

Tuesday - 2 a.m., 5 a.m., & 8 a.m.

Thursday - 1 a.m., 2 a.m., 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Friday - 2 a.m., 7 a.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. & 9 p.m..

Saturday - 1 a.m., 2 a.m., 1 p.m.,  
 6 p.m., 9 p.m. & 10 p.m.

He is waiting for you.

### Ministry Schedule Dec 12th & 13th

#### 4:00 PM

(S) Mike McDanel	(Rosary) Linda Bolster
(L1) Linda Bolster	(M. Server) Jacob Stickney
(L2) Kate Gruver	(Candle 1) Zach Stickney
(H) Jennifer Martin	(Candle 2) Jacob Villa
(C1) Beth Patterson	(GB) Deb Lowery
(C2) Marvin Patterson	

#### 8:15 AM

(S) Charlie Deitchler	(Rosary) Alice Mertens
(L1) Bill Babich	(M. Server) Jackie McCreery
(L2) Marie O’Neal	(Candle 1) Nick Wagner
(H) Carissa Cummings	(Candle 2) Thomas Kucera
(C1) Jeff Cummings	(GB) Judy Shideler Family
(C2) Cassidee Cummings	

#### 10:00 AM

(S) Donna Riddel	(Rosary) Florence Marx
(L1) Kaitlin Johnson	(M. Server) Trenton Samples
(L2) Richard Johnson	(Candle 1) David Sanders
(H) Mike McDanel	(Candle 2) Patrick Sanders
(C1) Bridget Sublett	(GB) Paul & Amber Riggles
(C2) Jack Johnson	

### Prayers for Our Military

Please pray for all members of the military,  
 especially our parishioners:

Jay Schoen	Tony Jeffress	Jonathan Burke
Sam Francis	Matt Mork	Timothy Collier
Justin Light	Jeff Cranor	