

Focusing the gospel

Sunday of the Third Week of Advent begins with the Prophet Zephaniah's announcement of liberation and God's presence among the people after decades of their own infidelity. In Luke's Gospel John the Baptist is the focus of the expectation in the people who come to him asking what to do. He exhorts them to integrity and charity and announces the one who is to come: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

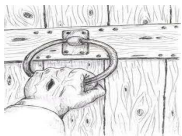
Monday is the Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church.

We continue to focus on the first readings in this first part of Advent. From the Book of Numbers, we have the proclamation that "a star shall advance from Jacob..." Zephaniah is the prophet of impending doom, if the people don't abandon their idolatry. But this week we read about consoling healing, "on that day," when the Lord comes. Isaiah's message is full of promise: "Turn to me and be safe ... for I am God; there is no other!"

On Thursday, we reach December 17th and in these last eight days of Advent the focus returns to the gospels with stories from Jesus' family in the time before he was born. Matthew's gospel offers the genealogy of Jesus' family. On the 18th we read Matthew's account of the nativity: Joseph decides to divorce the pregnant Mary until an angel appears to him in a dream, saying, "It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." On the 19th, in the first chapter of Luke's gospel, Elizabeth and Zechariah struggle with their inability to have a child. They are told they will have a child named John who will be filled with the Holy Spirit. When Zechariah doubts, he is struck speechless.

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

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.

Wednesday -

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.



Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Please join us in praying this beautiful chaplet at 3 p.m. every Friday in the Church.

Please Remember In Prayer:

Sr. Lucille Kerschen
Matilda Puetz
Katy Carney
Juanita Mans
Jim Ridder
Sue Warren
Regina Gaytan
Jeanne Sullivan
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
+Joyce Armstrong



Let's Retire Our Debt



Goal: \$300,000.00
Total received: \$273,860.50
Still needed: \$26,139.50

An anonymous donor pledged to match up to \$5,000.00 of funds raised for the Let's Retire Our Debt Campaign between now and December 31, 2015. We're delighted to announce that we have met the match!! Thank you to everyone who made contributions to help in reaching this exciting goal. Please continue to prayerfully consider a donation towards the debt payoff.

Weekly Readings

Mon. 12/14: Nm 24:2-7, Ps 25:4-9, Mt 21:23-27
 Tues. 12/15: Zep 3:1-13, Ps 34:2-23, Mt 21:28-32
 Wed. 12/16: Is 45:6-25, Ps 85:9-14, Lk 7:18-23
 Thur. 12/17: Gn 49:2-10, Ps 72:1-17, Mt 1:1-17
 Fri. 12/18: Jer 23:5-8, Ps 72:1-19, Mt 1:18-25
 Sat. 12/19: Jgs 13:2-25, Ps 71:3-17, Lk 1:5-25
 Sun. 12/20: Mi 5:1-4, Ps 80:2-19, Heb 10:5-10, Lk 1:39-45

Holy Mass Schedule & Intentions

Monday, December 14
 Saint John of the Cross
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Kay Hipp

Tuesday, December 15
 6:00 p.m. Mass +Paul Shideler

Wednesday, December 16
 8:15 a.m. Mass All Poor Souls

Thursday, December 17
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Betty Showalter

Friday, December 18
 8:15 a.m. Mass Living and Deceased
 Members of the Bertha Family

Saturday, December 19
 8:15 a.m. Mass +Bea Gerstenkorn
 4:00 p.m. Mass +Jerry Bolster

Sunday, December 20
 The Fourth Sunday of Advent
 8:15 a.m. Mass S.I. People of St. Joseph
 10:00 a.m. Mass S.I. The Limon Family

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

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Weekly Collection 12/06/2015 | \$15,072.24 |
| Weekly tithe amount needed | \$12,960.77 |
| Surplus or (Deficit) YTD | (\$5,864.52) |

Among you is the great and Holy One of Israel! The first and second readings today tell us to be joyful because the Lord is in our midst. When God is with us how can we be discouraged or fearful? Yet that is what Jesus promised, that he would remain with us until the end of the age. The Gospel relays the words of John the Baptist preaching stewardship to the people of his day: Share your abundance and love your neighbor as yourself. The crowd responded to his message and desired to know what it meant to live for the Kingdom. May we be open to living as stewards of God's love when we choose to follow Christ.

Ministry Schedule Dec 19th & 20th

4:00 PM
 (S) Mike McDaneld (Rosary) Ann Blick
 (L1) Angie Bolster Epps (M. Server) Matthew Redick
 (L2) JoAnn Morton (Candle 1) Kaleb Mans
 (H) Martha Raybourn (Candle 2) Jimmy Janzen
 (C1) Shawn Vredenburg (GB) Vredenburg Family
 (C2) Heather Vredenburg

8:15 AM
 (S) Charlie Deitchler (Rosary) Alice Mertens
 (L1) Barbara Wattman (M. Server) Caleb Cummings
 (L2) Gabby Shideler (Candle 1) Minnie Schreffler
 (H) Tom Voboril (Candle 2) Dylan Morch
 (C1) Sr. Nancy Jane Kuntz (GB) Leroy & Regina Orth
 (C2) Charlie Deitchler

10:00 AM
 (S) Mike McDaneld (Rosary) Florence Marx
 (L1) Judy Johnston (M. Server) Hanival Olivo
 (L2) Janet Walsh (Candle 1) John Woolheater
 (H) John Riddel (Candle 2) David Olivo
 (C1) Mike Irvin (GB) Dave & Betty Ewing
 (C2) Bert Purcell

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 request information and register for the upcoming class.

Thank You!!!

On behalf of Our Daily Bread Food Pantry and the 13 other programs at Catholic Charities stabilizing and strengthening families in our community:
 THANK YOU!

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



Men's Group Poker Night

There will be no regular Men's Group meeting on Thursday, Dec 17th. Instead, all men of the Parish are invited to join us on Friday, Dec. 18th for an evening of snacks and cards. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and for men who have not attended a meeting to learn more about what we do for the parish. Snacks will be provided, though you may bring anything you want to share. We will gather in the Mother Teresa room at 6:30 pm, have a brief overview of the Men's Group purpose and goals, followed by poker or other card games.

Personal Directed Retreats

For more information regarding spiritual direction or personal directed retreats, you can call Sister Kathy Goetz (Dominican Sisters of Peace) at 316.267.4551, email kgoetz@oppeace.org, or write 201 S. Millwood, Wichita, KS 67213. Brochures are also available in the Vestibule of the church.



CYM Babysitting Night

Saturday, December 19th, St Joseph's Catholic Youth Ministry is hosting a babysitting night. For \$20 per family, you can send your kids to an evening filled with fun! Activities will include graham cracker "gingerbread" houses, games in the gym, a visit from St Nicholas, a movie, and so much more! All proceeds will be donated to foreign missionary families from our diocese! Save the date for a night out or wrapping up Christmas preparations. Whatever you do with your time, you will be helping a good cause at the same time! For more info, please contact CYM coordinator Darci Shideler at 316.841.7655. We hope your little ones can join us!

*Be still and know that I am God.
Psalm 46:10*

Spiritual Life Center

Docentium: Did God Really Say That? Thursday, Dec. 17; 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us on the third Thursday of every month for an evening of food, friendship, and learning. Fr. Sherman Orr presents this month. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., food is served at 6:30 p.m., followed by a lecture given on a topic related to religion and culture. \$15

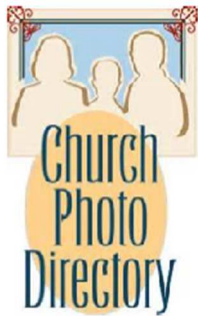
New Year's Eve Marian Retreat: Our Lady of Guadalupe Thursday, Dec. 31; 7 p.m.-midnight (overnight accommodations available). Celebrate New Year's Eve by ringing in the New Year with Our Lady. Program includes conference, adoration, Mass and an indoor procession. \$20

A Great Christmas Present!! Retreat: Street Smart Saints: Holiness in the Secular World Friday, Jan. 8 - Sunday, Jan. 10. We can always learn from the saints how to live a life devoted to God in our busy modern world. This retreat focuses on saints or potential saints who received their calls to holiness "on the road." How can a man who sat on death row for murder be proposed for canonization? Join Msgr. Andrew Vaccari and Teresa Monaghan from the Pro-Sanctity Movement for this wonderful weekend of learning and discerning! Early bird rates end Dec. 28. Cmtr \$100; Sng \$145; Dbl \$120.

For more info and to register, visit www.slwichita.org, call 316.744.0167, or email: kristi@slwichita.org

Parish Family Agreements

The 2016-2017 Parish Family Agreements were mailed to the High School Families on December 2nd. All forms need to be signed and returned to the parish office by January 4th, 2016.



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 January 2016 photo sessions. A new directory is an important piece of documenting the St. Joseph Parish History. We hope you and your family will participate!



Dillon's Rewards Update & Re-Enrollment Reminder

St. Joseph has received another quarterly statement for the Dillon's Community Rewards program! To date, we have 132 families enrolled and proceeds for St. Joseph from July 1, 2015 - Sept 30, 2015 were \$1,433.04. It's not too late to enroll and have a percentage of your purchases at Dillon's donated to our parish. Thank you to everyone who has enrolled so far!

As a reminder, you must renew your enrollment for Dillon's Community Rewards each year. To renew your enrollment, or to enroll for the first time, visit <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>, log in to your account and click "Enroll Now". You can search for St. Joseph Parish, or enter organization number 29572.

This program provides thousands of dollars to the parish each year, and it's a quick and easy way for you to contribute! Please spread the word to family and friends who may be interested!



Sunday Rosary Leaders Needed

Our Lady made the request at Fatima for us to pray the rosary; to pray the rosary daily for peace. As a parish, we pray the rosary before the afternoon Mass on Saturday and before each Mass on Sunday. We presently have 1 person who leads the rosary before the Sunday 8:15 a.m. Mass. We are in need of additional volunteers. Would you be willing to help lead the congregation in the Sunday recitation of the rosary? It is a beautiful prayer that we all know, and your participation would be so appreciated. Please contact Linda Bolster at 316-650-1878 with any questions and interest. Thank you, and God Bless!



Heavenly Helpers

Please join us for 8:15 a.m. Holy Mass on Saturday mornings and stay afterwards to clean Our Lord's House. There is always a need for more volunteers. Many hands make the work light! This is an excellent way to fulfill stewardship hours. Supplies are furnished. *Thank you for your generous help!*



Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. only

Memorial Mass

If you have lost a loved one this past year, you and your family are invited to attend the Memorial Mass at 8:15. a.m. on Saturday, January 9th, 2016. Breakfast to follow in the Mother Teresa Room of the Parish Center. Please R.S.V.P. to Susan at 261-5812 by Wednesday January 6th.