



OUR MISSION

St. Vincent de Paul Parish is a welcoming faith community inspired by God's love to serve others, share our gifts, and nurture souls.

Pastor : Rev. John B. Boyle

Pastors Emeriti: Msgr. William P. Ward, Rev. Paul Mullen

Permanent Deacon: Joseph LaCorte

Deacons Emeriti: Joseph D'Aiello; Brian Drury

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Spirit-filled community of welcoming believers, helping each other spiritually, financially and practically. We show compassion, gratitude and appreciation toward God and one another as we dream big, spread joy, and share our tears and laughter.

To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are friendless and need friendship; to all who are discouraged and need hope; to all who are homeless and need sheltering love; to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whomsoever will, the Parish of St. Vincent de Paul opens wide its doors in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Parish Contacts

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Financial Secretary - Jo-Ann Fay

Majordomo - Lorraine Schmidt

Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds -

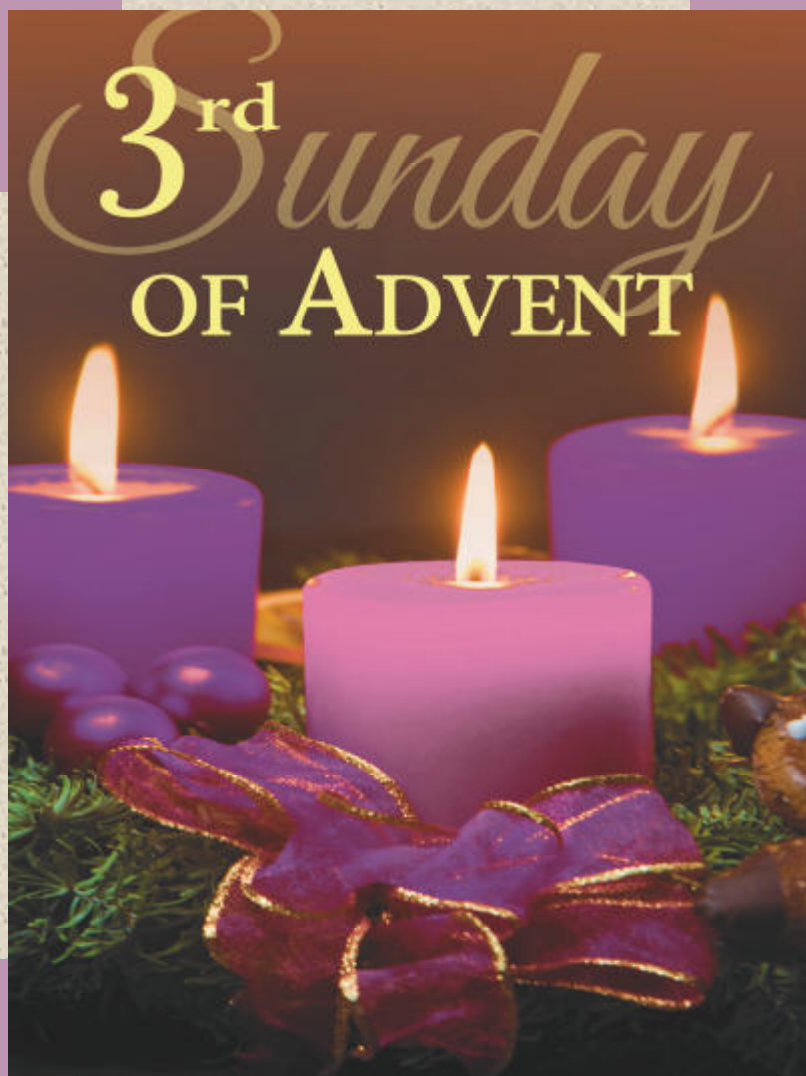
James Chiarello

Security - Shiloh, Kolbe, & Micah

Directors of Faith Formation -

Deacon Joe LaCorte

Laura Willson



DECEMBER 13, 2020 - STEWARDSHIP QUESTION:
REGARDING PROPHECY, ST. PAUL SAYS THAT JOY, PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING ARE WHAT BELIEVERS MUST USE TO "TEST EVERYTHING" IN THE PROCESS OF DISCERNMENT. ARE YOU READY TO SHARE WHAT IS GOOD?
1THESS. 5:16-24

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, December 13, 2020
 8:30 a.m. - **FOR ALL PARISHIONERS**

11:15 a.m. - **HARMON MASKER**
 The Lusick Family

MONDAY, December 14, 2020
 9:00 a.m. - **LYDIA SEIDLER**
 Sons

TUESDAY, December 15, 2020
 9:00 a.m. - **ALETA WYKA**
 Valerie Wyka

WEDNESDAY, December 16, 2020
 8:00a.m. - **RICHARD MICHAEL BENZKOFER**
 St. V de P Stitchers & Crafters

THURSDAY, December 17, 2020 -
 9:00a.m. **NO MASS**

FRIDAY, December 18, 2020
 9:00a.m. **HARRY ZEINO**
 Gerry & Sandy Boyle

SATURDAY, December 19, 2020
 4:00 p.m. **FRANCIS BOYLE**
 Sons

SUNDAY, December 20, 2020
 8:30 a.m. - **FOR ALL PARISHIONERS**

11:15 a.m. - **GREGG STEDMAN/**
 Jeannie Sarlo

PASTOR'S CORNER

Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Corner: Today we are at the beginning of John's Gospel. Like Mark John has no birth story, except the single line from his opening Prologue: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we have seen his glory: the glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love." Not much here to enact in a Christmas pageant, is there? John the Baptist is a major person in Advent. He climaxes the Hebrew prophets and is sent by God to prepare and point to Jesus (Malachi 3:1). In the fourth Gospel John's main role is that of witness. This gospel is clear: John is not the light, but a witness to the light. With emphasis the Baptist asserts his lesser role to that of Christ. He is only a voice crying out in the wilderness to prepare for the coming of the light. (It is thought that there was a rivalry between the followers of John the Baptist and those of Jesus, hence the Baptist's emphasis on not being the light.) Jesus has not yet appeared in this gospel. Instead, what we have is the voice of one "sent from God." It might interest us to check how the other three Gospels portray the Baptist. In John's gospel, when asked by the religious authorities who he is and what authority he has to baptize, the Baptist answers with a series of disclaimers: "I am not...." He does not even describe himself in his own words, but by the words of the prophet Isaiah. He is not the featured player in this God-composed drama. He is just a witness to the one coming after him who will fulfill God's promises. "There



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUN 12/13 Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/
 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1

MON 12/14 Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/

TUES 12/15 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/
 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/

WED 12/16 Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14

THURS 12/17 Gn 49:2, 8-10/
 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

FRI 12/18 Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

SAT 12/19 Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

SUN 12/20 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]

PASTOR'S CORNER -Continued

December 13, 2020

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Third Sunday in Advent - B

is one among you whom you do not recognize."

John was giving witness to the light, Jesus. When Christ comes, he will shine a light on our world. By that light we will be able to see our misplaced priorities that have taken us into shadows and darkness. We can pause here and ask ourselves: To what "lights" have I turned and been disappointed? By the light of Jesus, we can see a new way of living in union with God – a life of joy, peace and thanksgiving. We are also shown how to respond to the least by the light Jesus gives us in the example of his life.

John tells the Pharisees that they do not know the one who is coming, and indeed, who is already among them. How's that for an Advent reflection? How is Jesus among us already and we don't recognize him? If we believe he has already come and is among us, then are we missing him by looking in the wrong places? We know his presence is sure and permanent, not like the tinsel and decorations of these weeks that will be tossed out, or boxed until next year.

Jesus is already with us, even when the signs seem to indicate he is absent. Where is he when we look through a glass partition at a loved one on a ventilator in an intensive care unit? Where is he at the mile-long lines waiting for food? Where is he when we have to wait anxious days for testing? I hope this is not a cop out, but I'll leave you to answer those and other desperate questions we have had recently. Here is a hint where to look for Christ among us from the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins:

" – for Christ plays in ten thousand places
Lovely in limbs and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces."

– "As Kingfishers Catch Fire"

~~~~~  
***Sacrament of Penance:*** The Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated in anticipation of Christmas on Monday, December 14, at 7:00 P.M. There will be 3 priests hearing confessions. This, undoubtedly, is your best opportunity to celebrate the sacrament prior to Christmas. Please make every effort to avail yourselves to this special time to encounter the Lord during Advent.

***Byzantine Nun's Bakery:*** The baked goods many of you ordered from the Byzantine Nuns will be delivered this week. Weather permitting, the items will be available on Tuesday, December 15, in the early afternoon. You will receive a call from the Parish Office as to the correct time and place.

## **Christmas Mass Reservations:**

*Normally at Christmas, we have our church packed with parishioners and friends to worship at our Masses. However, these times are not normal! To accommodate as many people as we can this Christmas but still maintain safety protocols. St. Vincent de Paul Parish will have two Masses on Christmas Eve (4:00 PM & 7:00 PM). The Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. will be livestreamed into our Parish Hall, where overflow seating and Holy Communion will be available. The Mass on Christmas Day will be celebrated at 11:15 A.M.*

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Longing

God, our faithful Lord,  
you accomplish your will in all things.  
We await the fulfillment of your promises.  
We long for the fullness of your kingdom,  
and that longing is our ceaseless prayer.  
Until the advent of that glorious day,  
lift up our hearts in unwavering joy.  
Show us the light that has already come into  
our world,

so that we may give you thanks in all that  
we do.  
Keep us holy and blameless  
as we undertake works of justice and  
promote peace.  
so that others may see and hear and know  
your goodness,  
and be drawn to your light.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 13, 2020

## Expectations



*Today's Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.* St. Paul tells the Christians in Thessalonica to discern carefully whether a word or action is truly from God, but he also warns them not to oppose the action of God's Spirit simply because it is new or unfamiliar to them. A few decades earlier some people wondered if John the Baptist was acting according to God's Spirit. They questioned him thoroughly, but despite John's testimony, they refused to believe that God had sent him. They did not rejoice in his words because John did not fit their expectations.

Although the words of our First Reading are beautiful and compelling, some people did not believe this prophecy

because their experience was very different. The prophet describes the glorious restoration of Israel, but decades of ruin made the fulfillment of that promise seem remote. People struggled to rejoice in the prophet's words.

When God doesn't meet our expectations, we struggle to rejoice, too. We may question what, if anything, God is doing. As we light the pink candle of our Advent wreath, we ask God to permeate our darkness, especially our perplexed hearts. We ask God to help us see all that God is doing and wants to do through us. We also ask God to help us meet his expectations for us: expectations that we will always seek his light and rejoice and give thanks in the light we will find.

# LITURGICAL LIFE & STEWARDSHIP LIFE

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## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

### Mass Schedule - Reservations Required

**Saturday: 4:00pm**

**Sunday: 8:30am & 11:15am**

**Daily Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri  
9:00am in Chapel**

### Parish Office Hours:

**Monday & Tuesday 12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday & Friday 9:00a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**Emergency situations will be handled on an  
"as needed basis"**

### Sacramental Information:

#### Reconciliation

**Mondays—7:00 p.m. Held in Chapel  
each week with parishioners to wait  
outside Parish Office door until it is your  
turn. Masks are required.**

#### Sacrament of Baptism

**Parents/legal guardians are to call  
Parish Office to schedule preparation.  
Baptism preparatory classes are held in  
the Resource Center the second  
Thursday of each month. Baptisms will  
be private ceremonies and need to be  
scheduled.**

#### Sacrament of Marriage

**If you are thinking about marriage in  
the next 6 months, it is time to contact  
the Parish Office. After speaking with  
the Office, you need to register for a  
Diocesan Pre-Cana session. Visit the  
diocesan website to find more details:  
[https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/  
parish -life/community/marriage/  
marriage-preparation](https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/marriage-preparation)**

#### Anointing of the Sick

**As an aid to comfort and strengthen the  
sick, the sacrament is administered to  
those advanced in years, those  
preparing for surgery, and those in  
danger of death. Contact the Parish  
Office to make arrangements.**



## Mary: A Missionary Companion

*"Mary was an incredibly perceptive woman and she paid close attention to Jesus' every word and action. The subtleties of His teaching were not lost on her; she progressively came to realize the unfolding mystery of her own unique motherhood."*

*("Jesus's First Missionary—Mary"; Pontifical Mission Societies, Archdiocese of Philadelphia)*

"Mary is a disciple and a pilgrim in faith. A Christian, a missionary disciple, is called to follow and participate in Mary's journey of faith." (Baptized and Sent, 341)

St. Augustine once asserted that "Mary's greatness does not lie in the privilege of having generated the Son of God in the flesh. Rather, she is great thanks to the faith with which she welcomed, conceived, gave birth and nourished the Son of God"...

Mary's life as a daughter, disciple and mother demonstrates a witness to self-giving faith. At every step of her journey, she was invited to transform her earthly service to her son into service for the whole of humanity. Saying 'yes' to God and entering into a daily surrender can be a challenge as we face our daily responsibilities. Her example offers us a glimpse of how our own fiats can prepare us for full unity with God in glory.

~ Does Mary's example of faith inspire or intimidate me? Why?

~ Who is a person (can be currently living, a saint, or a spiritual model) who I look up to as I grow deeper in discipleship?



**LOAVES and FISHES GIFT CARDS** - available in the Parish Office. Please call office to relay your requests so we can have them ready for you. Updated list is on our website of cards available.

# PARISH & COMMUNITY NEWS

## Daily Mass Schedule During Inclement Weather:

For the safety and consideration of all involved we will observe the following during inclement winter weather: ***If the Delaware Valley School System cancels school due to snow or ice or other weather issues, Daily Mass will be cancelled. These masses will be rescheduled at a future date.***

If DVSD delays the opening of school due to snow, ice or other weather related issues the time the time of the Daily Mass will be delayed as well. ***Therefore, if DVSD issues a 2 hour delay, Mass will be delayed 2 hours – hence Mass would begin at 11:00a.m.***

If DVSD schools dismiss **EARLY** due to inclement weather, there will be **NO AFTERNOON OR EVENING ACTIVITIES AT ST. VINCENT'S.**

**This Inclement Weather Mass Schedule does not apply to Saturday and Sunday Masses.**

I hope that everyone would consider their safety and safety of others when inclement weather occurs on Saturday or Sunday! The Lord does not want you to kill yourself or others by driving when the roads are treacherous. If He desires you in heaven, he will call you His way! **It is important to check with the radio, TV or computer announcements for delays or cancellations due to inclement weather.**

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An important request as we enter cold and flu season....if you are experiencing any type of communicable illness, please stay safe and stay home.

GROW, GO & PRAY

December 13, 2020 - Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

GROW: The prophet's words in the Book of Isaiah are bursting with hope: "The Lord ... has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord." As we enter the third week of Advent, these words may resonate more deeply for many of us as we look back on 2020. We know that for many of the world's people, struggle can be an everyday reality; however, after this year marked by pandemic, mourning, racial injustice, and mounting unemployment, the prophet's hope-filled words may hit home more acutely. Regardless of what 2020 has been like for us, Advent is a reminder that we have reason for hope: in Emmanuel, God with us. Let us prepare our hearts and our minds for Christ's coming through prayer, confident that the Lord will fulfill the promises of the prophet.

GO: Light! Here in the Midwest in December we don't see nearly enough of it. Every year I consider purchasing a "happy lamp" and vow to "up" my Vitamin D intake. Perhaps that's why I was taken by the line in today's Gospel describing John the Baptist: "He came ... to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him." As predicted by John the Baptist and the prophet, Christ came to dwell among us, and remains within us through the Eucharist and the working of the Holy Spirit. We, like John the Baptist, can "testify to the light" by sharing Christ's presence through our witness to others.

WITNESS: Last week we focused on making God's kindness visible through our words and actions toward the people with whom we live and interact regularly; this week, let our witness focus on testifying to the light in our digital presence and encounters. Make your words be those that foster hope and promise rather than incite division.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our parishioners born
December 13 - December 19

If you see these people, wish them a very Happy Birthday!

Douglas Wilklow, Patrick Doyle, Deborah Ertola, Amanda Falkenburg, Sean Goetz, Donna O'Grady, Blanca Macias, Marisa McTernan, Victoria Wilklow, Jacqueline Actisdano, Ian Berrios, Thomas Duncan

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 9832

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PIEROGIES ON SALE

A variety of pierogies are on sale after masses this weekend. \$8 a dozen for most and 2 dozen for \$15. Mushroom are \$10 a dozen.

Potato & Cheese, Potato & Cheddar, Spinach & Feta, Sauerkraut, Potato & Onion, Mushroom and Uszka.



ADVENT MEDITATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 14 - Authority

Balaam has been hired to curse Israel, but instead he blesses God's people. He insists that he speaks for God. When the elders in the Gospel passage ask Jesus by what authority he speaks, he turns their question back on them. He asks these leaders to make that judgment themselves. They abdicate their authority by refusing to answer. In time, Jesus' words, like Balaam's, are proved true. Pray that all who possess authority submit to the authority of God. *Today's Readings: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 21:23-27.*

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Tuesday, December 15 - Despite the Delay

Zephaniah condemns the people for failing to obey God. They are like the second son in the parable who says he will do his father's will but then doesn't. The first son rebels against his father, but something makes him change his mind. Jesus commends those who obey God, no matter how long it takes them to do so. Jesus then rebukes those who profess their faithfulness but persist in their disobedience. What are some promises that you have made that you have not yet fulfilled? *Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Matthew 21:28-32.*

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Wednesday, December 16 - He Has Come

John the Baptist wanted people to repent in order to receive God's mercy. Jesus, by contrast, offered God's mercy in order to inspire people to repent. Upon questioning Jesus, John is invited to examine Jesus' ministry and decide for himself. Jesus' ministry evokes the life-giving work of God that we hear about in Isaiah. Read slowly through the First Reading, and pray for God to transform our world. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 7:18b-23.*

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Thursday, December 17 - Titles

The First Reading conveys strength, while Matthew presents an orderly progression of the generations that culminates in the birth of Jesus. Despite the image of strength, Jesus is not the strong and mighty Messiah that people expect, nor does his ministry go as they would have planned it. Look up the "O" Antiphons and reflect upon how Jesus fulfills these titles. *Today's Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17.*

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Friday, December 18 - Totally New

Jeremiah draws on Israel's past as he assures them that God will lead them again through the difficult times they are facing. Joseph had no such experiences to draw from when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He had to hope without knowing what was happening and without knowing what he was hoping for. Despite whatever doubt he might have felt, he obeys God immediately. Volunteer at or make a donation to a crisis pregnancy center. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25.*

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Saturday, December 19 - A Muted Response

By bearing and rearing children, the women of ancient times ensured the continuation of their families and tribes. Manoah's wife and Elizabeth would have felt neglected or even punished by God because they did not have children. When these women discover that they are pregnant, they rejoice. Zechariah's response is muted: he either does not believe the angel or does not trust the experience he is having. Consider how you have failed to accept what God is doing in your life. Discuss this during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Today's Readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.*

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