3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASSES:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:00 am

A Great Weariness of Soul

You never know when you're going to come across an observation or insight that sets you to thinking about something you had not truly considered before.

For observations of that magnitude, some folks turn to the great philosophers or novelists or perhaps Church theologians of ages past. But the observation that got me to thinking came from a decidedly more modest source: the CNBC TV program "Jay Leno's Garage."

Leno is, of course, best known as a late-night TV host. He is also quite simply a fascinating human being I admire, a man who has used large chunks of his fortune to fund the preservation and restoration of vintage autos and various bits of Americana. He provides a good living for a large contingent of skilled artisans in these endeavors.

Here's Leno's observation: "The last days of old technology are always better than the first days of new technology." He was referring to the fact that it has taken longer than expected for electric-powered vehicles to perform as hoped, while the world's automakers keep producing gasoline-powered vehicles with performance levels unimaginable even a decade ago. Still, Leno sees the emergence of the electric car, and the gradual extinction of gasoline-powered vehicles, as almost inevitable.

I'd never really given that much thought. Although electric cars date back to the early 1900s, the batteries needed to power them were never truly workable. Even a decade or two ago the first serious electric cars with decent mileage had real flaws and seemed wildly overpriced; consumers were slow to adopt them. Clearly deficient power grids were also a problem. These issues seem to be fading now.

This apparent inevitability of a world filled with electric-powered vehicles is, upon reflection, only one more "inevitability" we will be asked to embrace or to endure in the years to come. It's little wonder that folks of a certain age are often heard to say "count me out" to whatever is the latest change coming down the pike. Some days, I feel a great weariness of soul every time I am asked or forced to make one more change.

But as changes go, accepting electric-powered vehicles is, I believe, one most folks could live with. Change in other areas of life? For so many of us, that's where the real weariness of soul sets in.

— Lou Jacquet

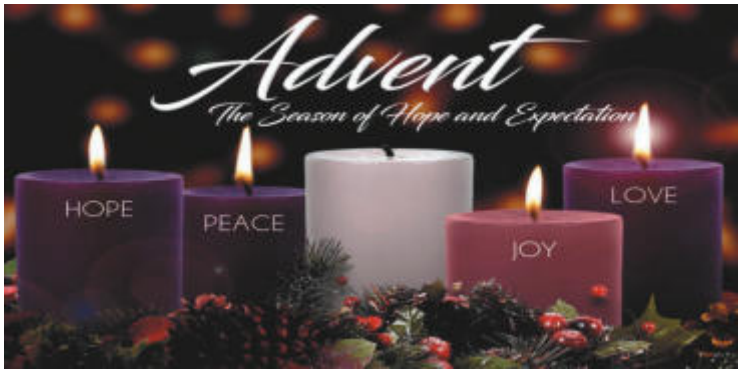
Advent Reconciliation Services

In preparation for the coming of Christmas, our region of diocesan parishes (Canfield, Austintown, Lake Milton, North Jackson and Newton Falls) have planned three Advent Reconciliation Services.

They will be held Dec. 13 at St. Michael, Canfield; Dec. 14 at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Austintown; and Dec. 16 at SS. Mary and Joseph, Newton Falls. All will be at 7 p.m.

These Communal Penance Services offer a perfect way to help Catholics "prepare the way of the Lord," as St. John the Baptist would have put it, as we grow closer to the birth of the Savior on December 25.

May our hearts be open to this opportunity to examine our lives and see where we can grow in grace and wisdom as the holy day approaches.



Sunday, Dec. 12

10:00 a.m. Mary Terese (Teri) Laret
By Rosie Marich

Wednesday, Dec. 15

9:00 a.m. Mike Infante & the Drozdik family
By Patty Infante

Sunday, Dec. 19

10:00 a.m. Josephine Rapchinko
By the Gatto family

Please Pray For Our Sick

Bob & Lois Slets, Fred Merlo, Catherine McCammon, Frank Modarelli, Jean Dascenzo, Christine Kalhoun, Lynn Osting, Blanche Ruggiero

Pray for the Faithful Departed, May They Rest from Their Labors

Steven P. Mesarich

Third Sunday of Advent

Annual Altar & Rosary Luncheon

The women of the Altar & Rosary Society held their annual Christmas luncheon on Wednesday December 1 in Room 102.

They would like to thank everyone who helped make the soup sale a success and they look forward to another successful sale in January. Profits from December's sales totaled $540.

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The office is closed on Friday.

Congratulations to
Brian & Megan Rosano
On the baptism of their son
Dominic Angelo Rosano
At the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Dec. 12

Sunday's Scriptures: Some Challenges From John the Baptist

The action plan of John the Baptist concerning the meaning of a baptism of repentance is proclaimed in the Gospel reading from the third chapter of Luke, verses 10-18. John's baptism is not meant to be a focus on positive thoughts or kind feelings toward others, but rather a change in one's life direction that is challenging and difficult.

John tells the crowd that if they desire the arrival of the Messiah, their preparation must include an examination of the justice they show to their neighbors. He gives them several examples of their new way of life. If they have two cloaks, they are to share with someone who has none; collect in taxes only what is prescribed; do not practice extortion or slander falsely against their neighbors.

He holds before them a look at their disobedience of the Commandments. He asks them to look deeper in their lives than mere observance of religious practices. Are they in right relationship with God and their neighbor?

The crowd, sensing his leadership and prophetic message, asks him if he is the Messiah. John answers in truthfulness and humility, when he makes a comparison between himself and Christ. He tells them that "the One who is coming is mightier than I. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals."

In the comparison he offers, John takes the posture of a servant. He would be on his knees at the feet of his Messiah and Master. Even in that subservient position, he tells the crowd, he would be unworthy in the presence of the Holy One of Israel. The prophet from the wilderness possesses a remarkable spiritual awareness of his strengths and weaknesses.

We are halfway through Advent. How is our journey to Christ progressing? Have our reflections, prayers, fasting and acts of mercy deepened our longing for Christ? Do we continue to see ourselves through a prideful or humble repentent lens? Perhaps we could today take time to read again this passage from Luke and reflect on the changes still needed in our lives.

—Geri Jacquet

Dining Hall Volunteers Needed

The Mahoning County St. Vincent de Paul Society's 2022 Dining Hall serving schedule has been released and St. Brendan's is scheduled for three weeks in the coming year.

The first is Jan. 31-Feb. 4. The last time we were scheduled, only one couple, Jerry and Amy Kernan, came forward to serve. We need to be sure that we are represented this time around by more volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the side and back vestibules.

Prayer to St. Lucy

"May the glorious intercession
of the Virgin and Martyr Lucy
give us new heart, we pray, O Lord,
so that we may celebrate her heavenly birthday
in this present age
and so behold things eternal.
Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen."
St. Lucy, Dec. 13 feast, martyred 303 A.D.

Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For December 2021	**$29,440.00**
Week of December 5	
Sunday Collection	$4,076.00
Increased Operating Exp.	$183.00
Major Repairs	$130.00
Rentals	$1,050.00
Maint. Support	$1,110.00
Total	$6,549.00

WE COUNT MEMBERS BECAUSE MEMBERS COUNT!

Mass 12/5 10 a.m. 103

1 Week Total $6,549.00 toward the goal of $29,440.00 $22,891.00 short

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Administrator
Father Steven Agostino Ext. 11
Email: sagostino@youngstowndiocese.org

Parish Secretary
Liz Shina Ext.10
Email: office@stbrendanyo.org
Music Director Geri Jacquet
Assistant Music Director Allyson Reed

MASS

Sunday *10:00 am*
Wednesday *9:00 am*

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