

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 12/17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Matthew 1:1-17

TUESDAY 12/18

Jeremiah 23:5-8
Matthew 1:18-24

WEDNESDAY 12/19

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Luke 1:5-25

THURSDAY 12/20

Isaiah 7:10-14
Luke 1:26-38

FRIDAY 12/21

Song of Songs 2:8-14
Luke 1:39-45

SATURDAY 12/22

First Samuel 1:24-28
Luke 1:46-56

Solemnities, Feasts, & Memorials of the Week

Friday, Peter Canisius

IS DECEMBER 21 GOING TO BE THE END OF THE WORLD?

There is a lot of buzz in the media about the end of the world or the coming of Jesus or something happening in the solar system that is going to affect Earth in a negative this Thursday, December 21. Is it true? Hard to say, but we'll have a better idea of it come December 22. One thing I can tell you, there's nothing in the Bible or in the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church that says the world will end or that Jesus will return this week. But you never know. You may step out in front of a bus, take a major, neck-breaking face plant, or get into a Conway slide that sends you over the edge, and YOUR world will end and Jesus will come again for YOU. But what the Bible DOES say, and the Church teaches, is that the Lord is coming soon. That's why during this season we practice watching, waiting, and being ready.

ONLINE GIVING

Our parish website, www.mammothcatholicchurch.org, now welcomes secure online giving and financial support of the parish. From the home page, just click "Donate", then "Online Giving" to be taken to a secure off-site page where you can register for online giving and set up regular, automatic participation in the weekly offering, holy days, and annual special collections for national and global causes and organizations. Or, if you choose, you can make a "Quick Give" donation without signing up for an account. Visit us online and check it out. There's no obligation.

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm, 9:00 pm — St. Joseph's, Mammoth Lakes
Christmas Day, 8:00 am, 5:30 pm (Spanish) — St. Joseph's, Mammoth Lakes
10:00 am — Our Savior of the Mountains, Lee Vining
Noon — Infant of Prague, Bridgeport

PRAYERS

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreir, Julie Rogers, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, Glenn Inouye, Peter Mariniello, Consuelo Mendoza Aéyon, Brian Venneman, Gary Boyd, the Blackburn Family, and for the repose of the soul of Lori Obersheven of June Lake.



THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC

You must open the interior eyes of your soul on this light, on this heaven within you, a vast horizon stretching far beyond the realm of human activity, an unexplored country to the majority of human beings.
-Saint Vincent Ferrer

December 16, 2012

Third Sunday of Advent



*Shout for joy, O daughter
Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your
heart, O daughter Jerusalem!*

Zephaniah 3:14



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Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE
Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM
Lee Vining:
Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM
Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon

rejoicing to meet the Lord when he comes.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

In Luke 12:32, Jesus says: "Do not be afraid, little flock; it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." We have a Creator who is creating for us. This is always true no matter what, even if we're bad and we sin. God never stops creating for us. What part of forgiveness don't we understand? Sins get us off the track and fear gets us farther off the track, but God keeps on loving and creating a world to meet our needs. "I came that you might have life," Jesus said in John 10:10, "and have it to the fullest."

Jesus often attached what I call "The Great Perk" to his teachings on the benefits of belief: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you." (John 16:23) If I truly believe that—and that's a big if—then I will always be looking for the cool stuff from God. And when God's blessings, the answers to my prayers, come along, I'll spot them because I'll have been looking for them. If, on the other hand, I don't believe God is creating for me, then I won't be looking for them, watching and waiting in joyful hope. In fact, I'll find what I'm looking for, what I believe is coming, and if that is judgment, condemnation, and punishment, then that's what I'll find. Better to look for mercy, forgiveness, and blessing.

So, what's with all our anxiety? Why are we so fearful of coming up short, of a breach in security, or a failure of our resources? Is God looking out for us or not?

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.

"Do not be afraid." We get so caught up in obeying the commands of God, we ought to give this one some serious consideration because it is echoed a whopping 67 times in the Bible, 15 times in the gospels alone. God is trying his divine level best to do something good for us, and we keep thinking that something bad is going to happen.

Of course anyone brought up Catholic prior to the reform—and unfortunately after it as well—may have been made to understand that God actually is out to get you, especially if you're falling short on your resolve to sin no more and avoid the near occasion of sin, and that there was a lot to be afraid of.

Zephaniah laid it hard and heavy on the people of Jerusalem, too. They had fallen away from the traditional worship and had taken up other religions for the sake of convenience and the commercial advantage that comes with the connection it gave them to foreign merchants. But it was the same warning you would give someone about to step out in front of a bus. Their devotion to economics and financial gain would lead them to a bad end.

But those who held fast to the principles of justice for the poor, to kindness and benevolence, to humility and peace had nothing to fear. In the same way, those who hold fast to our faith, our belief in eternal life and the forgiveness of sins, will lead the crowd



Gozo y Alegría

Hoy se palpa la alegría del pueblo que vislumbra el cumplimiento de las promesas que Dios le ha hecho a través de la presencia de Juan el Bautista. Juan responde e interpreta sabiamente las preguntas que otros le hacen, pero su sabiduría provoca que muchos se cuestionen si él es el Mesías; obviamente, también aclara rápidamente que no lo es, explicando que su bautismo con agua es diferente al bautismo que realizará el Mesías, el don de Sí mismo, el Espíritu Santo.

La asamblea entera, unida en el canto, puede representar el grito de gozo y alegría que exclamamos porque sabemos que Dios está con nosotros. La presencia de Dios es evidente cuando, de la abundancia que tenemos, vestimos a los pobres y damos de comer a los hambrientos; cuando trabajamos por la justicia social y cuando trabajamos honradamente por un sueldo honorable.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

They asked John, "What should we do?" He replied, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." And to the soldiers he said, "Be satisfied with your wages."

John the Baptist was a fire and brimstone kind of a guy. He had just wrapped up a rousing sermon in which he called his listeners a bunch of snakes who might as well forget about their Jewish ancestry because God could make Jews from rocks, and if they didn't get right with God, they were going to be "cut down and thrown into the fire." This, of course, gave rise to the understandable question: "What should we do?"

People thought that John might be the Christ. They thought Jesus might be John the Baptist. It's hard to keep them straight when you've got two conflicting theologies. John was very sure that he wasn't the Christ (John 1:20) but even he at one point wasn't all that convinced about who Jesus was. (See Luke 7:18-19)

It's all because John was a prophet of the Old Covenant, and Jesus embodied the New Covenant. John was never a follower of Jesus; he simply did his job. But he had a pretty good idea where people needed to start if they wanted a piece of the kingdom. He knew that, when the kingdom comes and the last are first, empty are filled, and the full are emptied, you didn't want to be caught with too much on the wrong side of the kingdom's balance sheet. The scales of justice could work against you. So he counseled his questioners wisely.

What are we waiting for? What is the object of our expectations this Advent? Are we waiting in dreadful fear or in joyful hope? *FP*

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Mammoth Lakes from 5:30 to 5:45 on Saturday afternoons, 7:30 to 7:45 on Sunday mornings, y en español a las tardes del domingo de 5:00 a 5:15; and upon request before mass at Our Savior of the Mountains mission in Lee Vining and Infant of Prague mission in Bridgeport. The "Act of Contrition" is available in the confession room.