



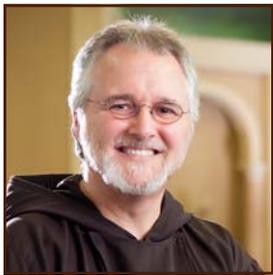
ST JOHN
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

3rd Sunday
OF ADVENT

“The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” —Mt 11:5

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as you saw in the bulletin, our parish is running a very large deficit budget. In an effort to help us turn that deficit around, Mrs. Newton and I have made, and will continue to make, adjustments in the structure of our parish and school staffs. In addition to several adjustments in the school, Mrs. Newton has resigned as Director of Religious Education, leaving that task to Lois Mersmann, who already is the administrator of R.E. Mrs. Newton will continue to help Lois with special R.E. events on a volunteer basis. Here in the parish office, we will be going to part-time hours for a twelve week period this coming summer. During that time, the office will be open for four hours each day, days and hours yet to be determined. Two full-time parish office staff will be going part-time, and two part-time staff will further reduce their hours during those twelve weeks. In addition, two parish staff will be going part-time permanently beginning in July 1st. In this way, we hope to recover a significant portion of that deficit. I am working with our finance council to see what further adjustments in other areas of the budget might be made. - Fr. Jeff

BREAD TO OFFER



DIGGING DEEPER

By Fr. Jeff Ernst, OFM, Cap.

As I sit here in my office writing this Bread to Offer, outside of my window a deep hole is being excavated for the foundation of the convent. It is entertaining to look up from my desk and see the heavy equipment moving scoops of earth to the dump trucks!

We already are into the third week of Advent, the liturgical season in which we ritualize and bring to prayer the spiritual hunger within the human heart. The digging outside of my office reminds me of the deep longing within our hearts and souls for union with God. The Holy Spirit goes deep within us to reach those areas of our hearts that we have covered with a tough surface of scars, grudges, and grievances. As I watch the claw on that backhoe break through the tough asphalt and concrete that had been a driveway in order to get to the softer, loamy soil beneath, I wonder how tough might be the surface of my heart as God works to break through, heal the depths of my spirit, and bring the fulfillment of his presence to the more soft and vulnerable part of my heart. As a priest I wish I could say that I cooperate with God's grace, but I am sure that is not always the case!

This is really what the essence of Advent is, a time to "open wide our hearts!" as St. Paul says, in order to allow Christ to become incarnate in us once again (2 Corinthians 6:13). "Opening wide the heart" implies making ourselves vulnerable to God's grace deep within the heart. Yet, we need not fret over our inability to fully open ourselves to God's grace. The Lord works within us and through us – in spite of us. Yes, we cooperate with God's grace, but we surrender ourselves to God as well with a sincere heart, recognizing that we need the mercy and love that God holds out to us in Jesus. This third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy and signals the approach of one of the greatest celebrations in the Church which is the celebration of the birth of Christ. As we move through these last two weeks of Advent, let us continue to allow the Lord to break through the rough surface of our hearts so that Jesus might go deep within our hearts to heal us and bring us joy and fulfillment in our life of faith.

On another note, if you were not able to make the Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe this past Saturday morning, please consider joining us this evening (Sunday) at midnight as we celebrate Mass in honor of Our Lady who opened wide her heart so that God might plant the Seed of Life deep within her . . . the Seed which became the fulfillment and hope for every longing human heart!

- Fr. Jeff

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS

The 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass will be a Children's Mass, with opportunities for the young people to participate as choir members, lectors, taking up the bread and wine at the preparation of gifts, and acting as members of the living nativity during the Gospel. Youth ages 4 and up are invited to participate. Practice will be Friday, December 23 at 3:30pm in the Church. Contact Melissa Tanking, meltanking@yahoo.com, to let us know you are interested in participating. If you cannot attend the practice but would still like your child(ren) involved during the Mass, please contact Melissa.

ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24

4:30 p.m. (Children's Mass) and 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
and 2:00 p.m. (Spanish)

*there will *not* be a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.



Why St. John?

Dear St. John School Families,

My family is new to the parish, having moved here in June. It was important to my wife and to me that we enroll our son, Evan, at St. John School prior to our move, and he commuted with me from Leavenworth to Lawrence for all of the 2015-2016 school year. Needless to say, we did not imagine it would take the entire year to sell and purchase a new home!

Every family has its own story for "Why St. John." There are other education choices in our community, but all of us choose to send our children to St. John. For our family, we chose St. John because faith is an integral part of the experience, the school has a reputation for strong academics and small class sizes, and there is a real sense of community. As you consider your parish pledge for the new year, I encourage you to reflect upon your St. John Story. What has St. John meant for you and your family? What can you do to ensure our school's future success?

—Mike McDonald, Member, St. John School Council

Visit online at sjevangelist.com/school, call (785) 843-9511 or email Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal, at newton@saint-johns.net for more information and to schedule a tour for you and your student!



SAINT JOHN YOUTH

Giving Tree Present Sorting: Sunday, December 11, 6pm, St. John Church

HIGH SCHOOL: Come and help sort all of the gifts for families in need! The more hands, the quicker everything gets done! :) Afterwards, we will all walk over together to the White Elephant Party in St. Bosco! Wahoo!

Sixth Annual White Elephant Exchange Party : Sunday, December 11; 6:30-8:30pm; St. Bosco Room

HIGH SCHOOL: Spend \$5 or less (or nothing) on a wrapped gift that you bring to add to the pile. Then, everyone will choose a gift, and there will be lots of stealing as well! This night is everyone's favorite night of the year--you won't wanna miss the wacky gifts that show up! Come one, come all!

Christmas Cookie Decorating & Carols: Wednesday, December 14; 3:45-5:00pm; Neuvant House

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL: Come and decorate Christmas cookies and sing Christmas carols with the elderly who live at the Neuvant House, a home for those struggling with Alzheimer's disease. We will meet at 3:45 p.m. at the Neuvant House, located just west of Wakarusa Drive at 1216 Biltmore Dr, Lawrence, KS 66049.

Learn more about St. John Youth and our upcoming events: sjevangelist.com/youth

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor, Social Concerns Committee

On November 21, 2016, Pope Francis signed an apostolic letter to close the Jubilee Year of Mercy, *Misericordia Et Misera* (Mercy and Misery.) You can access this 19-page letter on the Vatican's website. In the meantime, I'm happy to provide you with a few enticements:

- Pope Francis calls for a culture of mercy in our Church and world, as Pope Saint John Paul II called for a culture of life. As Disciples of Christ, we are responsible for bringing about that culture of mercy.
- The principle and practice of mercy nudges us through the readings and prayers of the Mass. Every time we attend Mass, we ask God to have mercy on us. During Mass, we are called to be mercy in the world.
- God's mercy calls to us through the narratives of our salvation history. Examples of God's mercy to us and of calls to us to be merciful are found in the Psalms, in narratives of Old Testament prophets and in the early Old Testament and are all over the Gospel narratives and apostolic narratives of the New Testament.
- Pope Francis suggests "pastoral conversion" which is "shaped daily by the renewing force of mercy" (5) as part of the new evangelization. The footnote explains that "pastoral conversion" is a conversion of the Church's ministry to more openness and outreach. He also urges us to find new and creative ways to practice mercy

Francis concludes with a concrete suggestion that, "The entire Church might celebrate, on the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, the World Day of the Poor." (21) This is the Sunday two weeks before Advent begins in mid-November.

As a conclusion to the Year of Mercy, Francis tells us, "The Jubilee now ends and the Holy Door is closed. But the door of mercy of our heart continues to remain wide open."

FAITH FORMATION

ST. JOHN CAFÉ

Join us this Sunday! St. John Café meets Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the St. Bosco Room of St. John School.

Come enjoy good coffee and interesting conversation with your fellow parishioners—everyone is welcome!

THE FRANCISCAN JOURNEY A Class with Fr. Mike

Tonight (Sunday), December 11, at 7:00 p.m., Fr. Mike will continue teaching his ongoing course on Franciscan living. This class will meet in the church basement.



This course will deepen your understanding of Franciscan thought and how elements of Franciscan thought can be applied to decision making and actions we perform in our day-to-day living. You will gain a deeper understanding concerning how the teachings of Francis of Assisi of the 13th century have relevance for us today and why his teachings have survived for 800 years.

Come learn how the example of St. Francis has impacted the lives of fellow parishioners as you study and grow together in your appreciation of St. Francis and what his example can offer you. The hour long presentation will include input from Fr. Mike, time for discussion, and close with a short prayer service.

MARRIAGE MINUTE

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Couldn't we also add to this list of miracles in this Sunday's Gospel that marriages are renewed through grace? Imagine what this Gospel verse would look like if it were specifically applied to our marriage:

- We see our spouse with new eyes like when we first fell in love.
- We walk toward our spouse when we are hurt rather than hiding in self-pity.
- We allow our heart to be cleansed through Confession for our sins against our spouse.
- We listen to our spouse with eager anticipation for what they desire to share.
- We allow the Lord to resurrect our seemingly broken relationship.
- We speak positively about the greatness of marriage.

For marriage enrichment opportunities and suggestions, check out the website:

www.joyfulmarriageproject.com

PARISH INFORMATION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Come receive the sacrament of reconciliation in the Padre Pio chapel during any of the following times:

**Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.**

Saturdays: 3:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment. Call (785) 843-0109 to schedule, or email:

frjeff@saint-johns.net fbarnabas@saint-johns.net

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastoral Council

Frank Lemus, chair	Sarah Hartsig	Chris Wenger
Mary Menendez	Sean Smith	Nancy Albrecht
Brian Walter	Lily Romero	Bob Trepinski

Finance Council

Brad Finkeldei, chair	Teresa Kempf	Brian Green
Vince Romero	Meredith Lang	Chris Wenger

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

There will be a midnight Mass to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe **this Sunday, December 11**, beginning with the Holy Rosary at 11:00pm, followed by Mass (with mariachi music) at midnight. Everyone is invited to attend!

THE HOMILIES OF FR. EARL MEYER

We have just entered into Year A in the liturgical calendar, and Fr. Earl has a collection of homilies for all three liturgical years. Copies are available now in the parish office for \$10. Pick up a copy of Year A today, or complete your collection with all 3!

JUSTICE MATTERS

AN INTERFAITH NETWORK WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN LAWRENCE.

Generally, I write about the processes and facts of the organization we know as Justice Matters. This time I'd like to share a personal experience with you.

Recently, at an orientation for a Justice Matters Strategic Planning Committee there were 6 people from as many different faith traditions present. At one point we were talking about growing the network in order to assure a full house at the Lied Center for our Nehemiah Action Assembly each year. The large number of people is how we work as one to change systems for the benefit of brothers and sisters in need. It is the public show of support for proposed changes that can influence decision makers in our community.

One of the youngest of the group admitted he had hosted a house meeting the first year and joined a research committee but the second season chose not to host a house meeting. He didn't see how using his time in that way was helpful but he did continue as a network member.

During that second season his pastor preached about our biblical mandates to do justice, love mercy and walk faithfully with God (Micah 6:8 and Matthew 23:23). The young man had read those scriptures many times but with hearing his pastor talk about that mandate as a whole package there was a new insight that he wasn't fulfilling his obligation. His words to us were, "Until then, I didn't get it."

I had the same experience during the first season when I realized this was going to be a long and hard journey to system changes. I realized that as a Catholic I had never learned the difference between mercy and justice. Working with Justice Matters is the first time as a church member I've had the experience of 'doing justice'.

When I returned home I resumed wrapping Advent and St. Nickolas gifts. I love to make the packages look as nice as possible with pretty paper and lush bows. As I finished tying a bow I wondered, "How would it affect the recipient to receive only 2/3 of this gift". What would the gift look like if I cut off a third of a book, shirt or sweater? Does God notice that I'm giving only 2/3 of the mandate to love God and neighbor by neglecting one of the weightier things of the law?

For me, there is no going back. I am compelled to stand with those in need and do what I can to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. As we observe this season of waiting and anticipation please remember in charity and mercy those in need and resolve to work for justice to make their plight better in the coming years.

For more information please contact me, Pat Lechtenberg, at plek10berg@aol.com or 785-842-1992. Happy Advent.



ST. JOHN SERVES LINK ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen (LINK) is located at First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky, and provides nutritious meals to 150 people in need. Our parish helps LINK by rotating with other Lawrence churches to furnish food and volunteers.

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Email _____ Evening Phone _____

FOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CHECK MARK WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Chili - 11 batches of Chili. Each batch needs to feed 15 people. No need to bring it in a disposable pan. Simply go to LINK with your meal and volunteers will remove it immediately, you can take your pan/pot, and you are done.

- I can make one batch I can make two batches

Vegetarian Chili or Casserole - 1 batch to feed 15 people. No need to bring it in a disposable pan. Simply go to LINK with your meal and volunteers will remove it immediately, you can take your pan/pot, and you are done.

- I can make one batch

Bananas - 120 bananas needed. When you sign up to bring bananas, we ask that you bring 15 bananas.

- I can bring 15 bananas I can bring 30 bananas

Salad - Be creative. Bring enough to serve 15 people.

- I can bring one salad I can bring two salads

Sliced Peaches - We need 4 large cans of sliced peaches.

- I can bring 2 large cans I can bring 4 large cans

Shredded Cheddar Cheese - We need 5lb of cheese.

- I can bring 1lb of cheese I can bring 2lb of cheese

Fritos - We need 5 large bags.

- I can bring 1 bag I can bring 2 bags

Milk - We need 10 gallons of 2% milk.

- I can bring 1 gallon I can bring 2 gallons I can bring 3 gallons

Those who are
generous are blessed,
for they share their
bread with the poor.

-Proverbs 22:9



Return this form in collection plate or Parish Office, or contact: mcmurray@sunflower.com

Bring items to the LINK kitchen located at First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky, on December 29 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CHECK MARK WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Servers - 9 volunteers needed. There are two shifts available.

- 11:30am-2:00pm — prep work and serving
 12:45pm-2:30pm — serving and clean up

Help in the Kitchen - 5 volunteers needed. There are two types of jobs available.

- 12:30pm-3:00pm — dish washing
 12:30pm-3:00pm — gopher/multi-tasker

Questions? Contact Vicki McMurray, mcmurray@sunflower.com

**Can't help with
LINK this time?
That's okay because there
is another opportunity
coming up soon!**

We are excited to announce that our parish has subscribed to an exciting new online platform: Formed.org.

- 24/7 access to the truth, beauty, and meaning of the Catholic Faith anytime, anywhere... with FORMED
- Use it on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
- Informative and inspiring teaching from renowned speakers Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Edward Sri, Bishop Robert Barron, Dr. Tim Gray, Father Michael Gaitley, Teresa Tomeo... and many more
- Multiple programs to address multiple parish needs:
 - Adult Faith Formation, Marriage Preparation and Enrichment, Scripture Study, RCIA, Sacrament Preparation, Small Group Teen Discipleship, and much more!

Here's how easy it is:

- Go to Formed.org
- Enter our PARISH CODE **adf3aa** on the homepage.
- Create a personal account with your user name/email and password.
- Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!



**IMPORTANT: Do not sign up as an individual.
Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription.**

If you have any questions please contact Samantha Romero at sromero@saint-johns.net



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Location is the basement of St. John Church.

Our council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Darin Denning at **(785) 760-0788**.

On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church starting at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend!

MINISTERS DECEMBER 17-18

LECTORS

Saturday

4:30pm L1: B Augusto; L2: J Snyder

Sunday

7:00am L1: B Kish; L2: C Zebas

8:30am L1: J Wyatt; L2: L Sheppard

11:00am L1: T Edgecomb; L2: I Hartsig

5:00pm L1: A Hill; L2: B Walter

CANTORS

4:30pm..... C Watgen

7:00am.....K Colson

8:30am..... A Koster

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday

4:30pmD Depenbusch, D&K Guth, A Hewitt

.....J Halderman, L Heiserman

Sunday

7:00am B Harmon, M Heath, B Menke

8:30amJ Huss, M Ice, S Jahn, C Johnson

..... T Kempf, B Kessler, K Kohnke

11:00am N&J Otter, D Shobe, P Smith, S Stewart

..... D Thimmesch, L Tiffany

5:00pmA McCabe, S Murray, T Reznicek

..... J Weeks, D&E Schmidt

STEWARDSHIP OF GENEROSITY

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
Information below reflects donations received
July 1, 2015 through December 4, 2016.

Budgeted weekly amount \$27,403.84
Average weekly amount **\$26,076.44**

Budgeted YTD.....\$630,288.32
Actual YTD.....**\$599,758.24**

Net Shortage \$30,530.08

Contact Cris Denning at cdenning@saint-johns.net
or **(785) 843-0109** if you have any questions.

GIVING TREES

If you haven't picked up yours already, please remember that tags are available for you to choose on the giving trees at each entrance of the Church. **Please leave your gift at Church this weekend, December 10-11**, complete with its tag from the tree; the tag lets us know to whom the gift belongs. The gifts will be organized and prepared for families to pick them up at Catholic Charities on Monday, December 12. As always, thank you so much for your caring generosity!

ONLINE GIVING RENEWAL PROCESS

How to renew your Online Giving account:

Thank you for generous support of St. John through the online giving program. There are some steps you will need to take in order to update your information in Online Giving for the coming pledge year. Each year these steps can be taken only if changes need to be made in the amount or the date that your tithe is withdrawn.

Steps to take:

1. Login to your ACCOUNT. You can find the Online Giving link on the St. John website home page www.sjevangelist.com. (If you need to find out your username or password check your junk mail when they send the email with that information)
2. Click on "My Active Online Giving" — This gives a list of all your active giving. Take a note of the gift type that you have clicked. (Pledge or Recurring)
 - A. If the "Gift type is Pledge" — Payments will end when that pledge amount is reached. You will need to go in and change that to a recurring gift. You can do that by clicking on "Give a New Gift" and enter as a recurring gift.
 - B. If the "Gift type is Recurring" — Payments will continue until you tell them to stop. If you wish to change the amount or the date which the payment is withdrawn you will do this from the "My Active Online Giving" screen (at the end of the line there is a little pencil, click on the pencil to change the amount and/or date).

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

MENTOR MINISTRY

We are looking for individuals and families who would like to help by being mentors to new parishioners! For more information, contact Samantha Romero :

sromero@saint-johns.net or **(785) 843-0109**

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

St. John is starting a new ministry called the Marriage and Family Life Ministry. We are looking for people to serve in a helping capacity on three sub-committees. Your commitment can be as little as helping with the various events or you can actually be someone who helps to organize and facilitate.

Please contact Samantha Romero with any questions at sromero@saint-johns.net or **(785) 843-0109**.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for people to help with a new Hospitality Committee. The mission of the St. John Hospitality Committee is to make every new and current parishioner feel that they are part of a warm, supportive and hospitable community where "all are welcome."

If interested please contact Samantha Romero at:

sromero@saint-johns.net or **(785) 843-0109**.

ST. JOHN RUMMAGE HOUSE

The Saint John Rummage House is run by volunteers from the Saint John Community and is in need of new volunteers to help keep the ministry thriving.

If you are interested in helping the parish with this ministry, email Linda Brey (lbrey525@gmail.com) for more info.

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

Frank Acinger, brother of Bernadette West
Nicole Allensworth
Grace Austin
Gayla Barnes
Mariele Berthold
Remi Brown
Chris Crandon
Brock Edwards, son of Scott and Tara Edwards
Mary Felton
Buddy Hadl
Terry Hadl
Judy Hill, mother of Marti Frost and Tim Hill
Bob Holek
Paula Hollen, sister of Bev Mater
Barb Marden
Patricia McGlamery, mother of Cheryl Hunter
Lou Musante
Theophilus Obiefule
Julie Patterson, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter
CB Riling
Mark Salaman
Teresa Schwartz
Julia Scott, friend of Monica Cordova
Mary Kay Seidl
Gerald Simon
Ruth Thesing
Chuck Umscheid
Angelica Villa
Greg Walker, brother of Ted Walker
Tasha Williams
John Woods

ST. JOHN PRAYER CHAIN

The power of prayer is truly an amazing thing and something all parishioners at St. John can do to help those among us in need of God's divine mercy. Please join our prayer chain to lend your voices and thoughts for those in need. For more information contact Lois Mersmann at lmersmann@saint-johns.net.

ST. MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP

This prayer group meets every Monday at 12:00 noon in the Padre Pio Chapel to pray for our children and grandchildren. In addition to the prayers to St. Monica, we pray the rosary and other prayers for special intentions. Everyone is welcome!

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

MASS INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 12-18

Monday: 7:30am Mary & Pete Jamest
Tuesday: 7:30am Gary Jonest
Wednesday: 7:30am Mhari Rowellt
Thursday: 7:30am Clyde Simont
Friday: 7:30am Critobal & Angel Galarzaf
Saturday: 8:00am Mhari Rowellt
4:30pm Doris Hoagt
Sunday: 7:00am Wilma Winkelbauert
8:30am Clarence Nolant
11:00am St. John Parish
2:00pm (Sp.) Fidencio Carlost
5:00pm Joe Ellenbeckert

WOMEN'S PRAYER & REFLECTION GROUP

Women's Prayer and Reflection Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month to be prayerfully inspired by Biblical women and the third Tuesday of the month to be inspired by Women Saints.

Join us any time, no preparation necessary. We will meet in St John's school library. If interested contact: Beth Fox (785) 840-5561 or Sophia Compton (785) 727-5784.

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

Meets every **Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.** in St. John's Church. The Queen of Peace Prayer Group is committed to responding to the Blessed Mother's call at Medjugorje to pray from the heart to bring about her plan for peace in the world.

The hour includes the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Everyone welcome.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE Festejaremos como cada año a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, si quieres cooperar para pagar los mariachis anótate lo más pronto que puedas. Empezaremos a las 11 de la noche con el Santo Rosario y a las 12 de media noche la Misa con mariachis, todos están invitados.

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA ¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **(785) 218-1511**.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

CLASE PREBAUTISMAL La clase pre-bautismal es **cada segundo sábado del mes** en un salón del Ministerio Hispano. Es obligatorio registrarse primero en la oficina parroquial llamando a Jessie al tel. 913 321 1958.



Las lecturas de la semana del 11 de diciembre de 2016

Domingo: Is 35, 1-6. 10/Sal 146/Sant 5, 7-10/Mt 11, 2-11
Lunes: Zac 2, 14-17 o Ap 11, 19; 12, 1-6. 10/Jdt 13/Lc 1, 26-38 o Lc 1, 39-47
Martes: Sof 3, 1-2. 9-13/Sal 34/Mt 21, 28-32
Miércoles: Is 45, 6-8. 18. 21-25/Sal 85/Lc 7, 18-23
Jueves: Is 54, 1-10/Sal 30/Lc 7, 24-30
Viernes: Is 56, 1-3. 6-8/Sal 67/Jn 5, 33-36
Sábado: Gn 49, 2. 8-10/Sal 72/Mt 1, 1-17
Domingo siguiente: Is 7, 10-14/Sal 24/Rom 1, 1-7/Mt 1, 18-24

11 de diciembre de 2016

3er DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

El reto para nosotros en este Tercer Domingo de Adviento es: ver profundamente y creer en lo que vemos. Lo que descubriremos depende de la apertura de lo que vemos y escuchamos. En tiempo de Juan Bautista cuando las personas iban al desierto sabían exactamente lo que encontrarían ver y escuchar. A un profeta vestido con piel de camello llamando a la conversión. Cuando las personas veían y escuchaban a Jesús, se desconcertaban ya que ellos no esperaban un Mesías como él. En nuestro tiempo podemos hacer la misma pregunta. ¿Es a Jesús a quien esperamos? O, ¿debemos de esperar a otro? Al buscar la identidad de Jesús en nuestra vida, la respuesta no solo debe de venir del catecismo, sino de nuestra experiencia personal e íntima con Jesús.

Pronto celebraremos el misterio del Nacimiento del Salvador y nos dará la misma respuesta que a los discípulos de Juan. Llevar a cabo su ministerio por medio de las obras de misericordia llevando la Buena Nueva a todos los rincones de la tierra. "Los ciegos ven, los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios de la lepra, los sordos oyen, los muertos resucitan y a los pobres se les anuncia el Evangelio" (Mt 11, 5-6). Dios se encarna en cada uno en esta Navidad, para que los otros vean y escuchen a Jesús por medio de cada persona que escucha y vive el Evangelio cada día de su vida. El punto del Evangelio sin lugar a duda es la pregunta de Juan de quién es Jesús y la conclusión es la forma de cómo Jesús ensalza a Juan. ¡Adviento es reconocer a Jesús, haciendo su ministerio para que al final él nos reconozca como a Juan!

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Llega el tiempo en la vida de cada uno de nosotros cuando ponderamos que todo nuestro trabajo quizá no haya servido para nada. ¿Estamos con nuestro trabajo haciendo la diferencia en el mundo? ¿Estamos haciendo con nuestra vida lo que hemos esperado? ¿Hemos dejado pasar buenas oportunidades en nuestra vida? En el marco de este Evangelio parece que esto es lo que le pasó a Juan Bautista. Está en prisión y sus días están contados. Él había tomado una vida radical, con un estilo profético único, ayunando, orando, llamando a las personas al arrepentimiento y preparando el camino para el que había de venir. ¿Estaba en lo correcto?

Por esta razón Juan envía a sus discípulos a preguntarle a Jesús si todo lo que él había predicado estaba en lo correcto. "¿Eres tú el que ha de venir o tenemos que esperar a otro?" (Mt 11, 3). ¡Lo que esperaba Juan es lo que nosotros esperamos en este Adviento! Me imagino que hemos trabajado arduamente preparando el camino para que el Señor entre en nosotros y pueda curar y alegrar a muchos por medio de nuestro testimonio. Pues bien, ahora es el tiempo para pedirle al Señor que nos muestre los signos de su presencia en la sociedad de hoy. ¿Dónde encontraremos al Señor? Desde la predicación de Juan bautista hasta el Papa Francisco en nuestros días, el Señor está en el pobre y en el necesitado. El mundo de ahora tiene hambre espiritual, aparte de la necesidad física. Aprovechemos este Adviento y llenémonos de gozo y agradecimiento porque el Señor no se cansa de venir y hacer su casa entre nosotros.