

**DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2023  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:**



We light the third candle today to symbolize the joy of the gospel as we are called to be heralds of the good news of God's love that comes to us in the incarnation of Jesus.

**SEE+** Traditionally referred to as "Gaudete Sunday," the Third Sunday of Advent celebrates the joy of the incarnation of God's love in Jesus. We may wonder why this third week of Advent focuses on rejoicing. We will get to that in this reflection shortly.

We begin this week's reflection once again with the figure of John the Baptist. The gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent portrays him as a **herald**, someone who announces or proclaims good news. The gospel is very clear that John's primary focus as herald is to "testify to the light." John the Baptist is not the light but the one who testifies to the light which is dawning on the world. In Advent, we await the fresh outpouring of that light.

To get an insight into what John the Baptist as herald is testifying to, we need to look at the first reading for the Third Sunday of Advent from the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is speaking to his people who have been broken by exile and announces a message of good news that portrays God as a nurse reaching out to heal the brokenhearted, to set them free:

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me and has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and release to prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord."* [With this exact quotation from the prophet Isaiah the gospel of Luke characterizes Jesus' mission and ministry. (Lk. 4:14ff)]

We begin to see how Isaiah's words herald the good news of the one coming to heal and bring peace, freedom, and favor and how this leads to joy and hope for his brokenhearted brothers and sisters. Their return from exile became the fulfillment of God's word, which they expressed in this event's joyful commemoration.

As we wait for the commemoration of the incarnation, for the dawning of the light to which John testifies, we are challenged in two ways. One way indeed is to place our hope in God's continuing to bend toward us and our world in compassionate love, like a nurse that provides healing and mercy. Like Isaiah, we know that God continues to bind up our wounds and to heal our brokenness. This hope inspires joy in a world that desperately cries out for that healing and mercy.

The second challenge presented to us is to be **heralds of this good news**, like Isaiah and John the Baptist, pointing the way to this hope by becoming what it proclaims. This week we reflect on what it means to be a herald to our world. The Advent season provides some suggestions. The herald of the Gospel today is challenged

- to listen, be awake and alert to the movements of the Spirit in ourselves and others, as well as in God's word;
- to discern and hear the real cries of those in need and to attend to them;
- to accompany those that are brokenhearted and stand in solidarity with those suffering and afraid;
- to witness to the light which is Christ in the darkest corners of our world.

The joy that accompanies this restorative ministry comes from the privilege of walking with others as they discover and deepen their understanding of God's love and mercy active in our world and the healing and mercy that it unleashes. We experience the pull of compassion not only in God's mercy in our own lives but also in its presence in the lives of those we serve. When we experience this, we experience the joy that God is present and active in our world.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear parishioners,

Silence is essential in the spiritual life, and in our practice of prayer: both personal and communal. Thomas à Kempis, author of the spiritual classic *The Imitation of Christ*, teaches that "In silence and quietness the devout soul makes progress." The season of Advent is a perfect time for us to deepen our appreciation of silence, as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas mystery that took place on that silent and holy night in Bethlehem for our salvation. As a parish, I must say that this community is far better than many others in observing a prayerful silence in church. However, there is still room for improvement! As an insert in this Sunday's bulletin, I have included an excerpt of a pastoral letter from a Benedictine monk who currently serves as the Bishop of Aberdeen in Scotland. It is my hope that his wonderful explanation of the importance of silence will be a welcome reflection for our community during this holy season.

God bless you,

Fr. Pacheco

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S  
MASS SCHEDULE**

**CONFESSIONS**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

6:00PM – 7:30PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AND 23<sup>RD</sup> AT

4:00PM – 4:45PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

6:30PM – SPANISH MASS

12AM – MIDNIGHT MASS

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

10:00AM – ENGLISH MASS

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

12:05PM ENGLISH MASS

**TEMPORARY TUESDAY MASS TIME**

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, MASS WILL BE AT 5:30PM.



EVERY THURSDAY @ 11:00AM,

WE HAVE THE EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, FOLLOWED BY MASS AT 12:05PM.



**The Mendocino  
Knights of Columbus**

**STEVE JORDAN IS BACK!!**

The Knights cordially invite you to the 47th Annual  
**BEST CRAB FEED ON THE NORTH COAST**  
Friday & Saturday, January 26 & 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

**COME AND ENJOY!**

Lloads of fresh Dungeness crab, fresh salad,  
toasted garlic bread, dessert AND entertainment

**\$ 150.00 pp — Friday or Saturday Crown Hall Dinner (VIP seating)\***  
Tickets for **VIP Seating** will go on sale on  
Friday, November 10  
at [KCMendo.org](http://KCMendo.org)

*\*VIP seating includes ticket, premier seating, premium wine and assigned servers*

**\$ 95.00 pp — Friday or Saturday Crown Hall Dinner (General Seating)**  
**\$ 95.00 pp — Saturday Take Out Dinner (includes 2 raffle tickets)**  
*(to be picked up at Crown Hall )*

Tickets for **General Seating and Takeout** will go on sale  
Monday, November 13 at [KCMendo.org](http://KCMendo.org)

As always, these tickets sell out quickly, so please purchase early  
Raffle tickets on sale online, as well as at the event  
Seating assignments for the Crown Hall dinners and information for Takeout  
pickup will be sent out on January 22, 2024  
Questions? [info@kcmendo.org](mailto:info@kcmendo.org) or (707) 710-7787



IN YEARS PAST, WE HAVE ASKED FOR DONATIONS OF POINSETTIAS  
TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS. THIS YEAR, WE ASK  
THAT YOU DONATE A POINSETTIA IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES  
WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY. PLEASE DELIVER THEM TO THE PARISH  
OFFICE OR THE CHURCH. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 707-964-0229.

**Help Support Our Parish Catholic School**  
**This Advent Season**

The families of SJSDR Catholic School will be selling  
Christmas Mystery Packages after the Masses during  
Advent. Help support our parish school and the students'  
hard work by buying a gift for someone you love! Prices  
range from \$1-\$15. Have a blessed Advent!



CALENDARS FOR 2024 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE  
OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE TAKE ONE.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT:**  
**Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish now provides**  
**“ParishSOFT Giving,” an online giving software!**

To get started, you can go to [olgcinfb.org](http://olgcinfb.org).

*From this link you will be allowed to manage your own account  
online, set up gifts on a schedule that you choose or a one-time  
donation, and can be set up with a credit card, debit card, checking  
or savings account!*

*If you have any questions, please contact  
the Parish Office at 964-0229.*

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**DECEMBER 16 - 22, 2023**

Saturday (16)	5:00pm	Fred & Clara White † Thomas Galemba † Joe Scott †
	6:30pm	Antonia Rentería † Juan Bermudez † Toñita García † Mauricio Escobedo † Victor Martín & Raquel Dzul † Gerardo Escobedo (healing)
Sunday (17)	8:00am	Antonia Rentería †
	10:00am	Missa pro populo
Monday (18)	—	NO MASS
Tuesday (19)	5:30pm	Antonia Rentería †
Wednesday (20)	12:05pm	Antonia Rentería †
Thursday (21)	12:05pm	Antonia Rentería †
Friday (22)	12:05pm	Antonia Rentería †

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

DECEMBER 9 & 10, 2023...\$2,018.00  
MAINTENANCE FUND....\$841  
ICBVM.....\$305.00

**THIS WEEKEND OUR SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR  
REIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving  
others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in  
need – usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious  
communities do not have enough retirement savings. As  
they age, they require essential care and medications.  
Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for  
Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly  
25,000 senior men and women religious.  
Please give generously.

**NEXT WEEKEND OUR SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR  
MAINTENANCE FUND FOR CHURCH**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT  
& CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY!!**

**LET'S PRAY FOR ALL OUR FAMILY MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY**

Jovany Baez, Justin Mertle, María de la Luz Ramírez, Rebeca  
Sánchez, José Araiza, Jr., Marina González, Alondra Jara, Sonia  
Jara, Matt Mills & Jared Schroeder.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**

Bertha Valenzuela, Carole Shoptaw, Gina Pivrotto, Angie  
Gómez, Judy Halren, Rose Cortez, Fidela Jara, Felix Santillán,  
Martha Sánchez, Gerardo Escobedo, Angie Freitas, Russel Bryant,  
Derrick Heater, Ann Gallagher, Brianna Lopez, Margaret Milliken,  
Gina Pivrotto, Nick Quin, Mary Servis, Matty Walker, Ofelia Ybarra.



IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH, ON THE SOUTHERN  
WALL IS A BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL TREE.

ITS BRIGHT LEAVES REPRESENT PERMANENT MEMORIALS TO THE  
DEPARTED OF OUR PARISH. FOR THE SUM OF \$200.00, YOU CAN GIVE  
TO THE PARISH SECRETARY, THE CORRECT SPELLING AND DATES OF THE  
DEPARTED AND IN DUE TIME THE LEAF IS PRINTED AND ATTACHED TO  
THE TREE, AS A PERMANENT REMINDER OF A LOVED ONE WHO IS  
GONE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 707-964-0229.



### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

When a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized and would like Father Pacheco to  
pay them a visit to receive Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick, please call  
the Parish Office at 707-964-0229 and after office hours,  
please call 707-813-4188.