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St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB St. Theresa's Parish Rosburn, MB

Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1): My soul shall exult in my God.

St. Theresa's Parish News & St. Joseph The Worker Parish News:

Due to Covid-19, both parishes are closed for Mass' until further notice.

Sunday Missal (2020-2021) now available! \$4.00 each. Also: Parish Advent Daily Reflection Booklets (new this year-space for journaling). Contact the Parish Office, if you would like one! 204-773-2924

THANK YOU to the parishioners who dropped in at the Church or mailed their donations for the Russell & Area Food Connections (\$565.00 collected so far) and the Orphanage in Peru (\$235.00 collected so far)! Your generosity was truly heartwarming considering the circumstances we find ourselves in right now. We collected an amazing amount of food items, socks and children's gifts for the annual Christmas Food Hampers to be distributed in our area. If you did not donate and would like to do so, please mail your cheque (made out to Russell & Area Food Connections or Oeuvres Regis-Vernet) to the parish, or drop it off at the parish office, or mail directly to Russell & Area Food Connections c/o Box 118, Russell, Mb. A big Thanks to all the parishioners, the CWL and the Knights of Columbus for the prizes they donated for our Draw! Stay tuned for the winners! The prize draws will be made on Dec. 24th.

Thank you also to all you participated in organizing/assisting in any way to make this event happen!

Welcome back Father Paul! We hope you had a relaxing time while away. We also recognize Father Paul's ordination date of December 16th – 15 years ordained to the Priesthood!

Zoom Along with Us

If you use the internet you can join St. Joseph & St. Theresa with the Zoom Mass Each Sunday as one more option to celebrate community and the sharing of the Word together. After Mass we will be having *Coffee Sunday* with each other who wish to stay and visit with the rest of the community. If you wish to join into the Zoom Mass send an email to St. Joseph The Worker, stjoewkr@mymts.net to get on the Access List.

St. Joseph Parish, Russell, St. Theresa's Parish, Rosburn Advent Confessions are available by request. Phone the Parish Office, 204-773-2924 to book a time.

Special Thanks to...

-St. Josephs Knights of Columbus for putting the outdoor church sign up: "Keep Christ in Christmas!"
-Grant Roszell who continues to upgrade/maintain our church tech needs!

Did you Know! The National Catholic Broadcasting Council offers Sunday & Daily TV Mass on the Web, visit the website at www.dailytvmass.com or www.youtube.com/dailytvmass to watch Mass each day.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for the month of December: "For a life of prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer."

The Advent Wreath

Four week before Christmas, Father Paul of St Joseph's was leading a children's service featuring an Advent Wreath. He had told them what the three purple candles represented, then asked, "Does anyone know what the pink one mean?" No one answered. Finally, little Sara's hand went up. "Are they expecting a girl?"

Mass Intentions For The Week:

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec. 12 Special intentions req. Jean Goba
Sunday Dec. 13 Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. – For all Parishioners req. Father Paul
&
+Marilyn Robb req. Bernadine Brown

Monday Dec. 14 +Emilienne Mangin req. George Mangin & family
Tuesday Dec. 15 Special intentions req. Albina Kozak
Wed. Dec. 16 Fr Paul req. Darin & Carlene Douglas
Thurs. Dec. 17 **Zoom on-line Adoration 10:30 a.m. Mass 11:00 a.m.**
+Suffering Souls in Purgatory req. Rose & family
Friday Dec. 18 Special intentions req. Simone

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec. 19 For health of family req. Jean Goba
Sunday Dec. 20 Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. – For all Parishioners req. Father Paul
&
+For deceased family req. Walter & Florence Shwaluk

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick in hospitals, care homes, or in their homes & those who care for them. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Anointing, Confession, or Holy Communion – please call the parish office & leave a message: 204-773-2924.

December 13, 2020 Stewardship Message

Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Speak out against expanding the criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide. The Government of Canada has introduced legislation to expand the criteria for euthanasia so that even more people will be eligible. This was triggered by a decision by a Quebec judge, who decided that the requirement that death be "reasonably foreseeable" is not constitutional. If this clause is removed, persons with disabilities will be eligible for euthanasia even in circumstances where death is not reasonably foreseeable. You may write your MP today to let them know what you think, to access a written letter or email to send see:

https://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/federal_government .

ALL PUBLIC MASS' ARE CANCELED PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule for St. Joseph's & St Theresa's
parish will be on Zoom

The celebration of Christmas this year will look and feel much different from what we are used to. Nevertheless, we will still celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and related feast with faith and devotion. If you want to receive Zoom Mass' contact the office by e-mail stjoewkr@mymts.net to enable us to send you the direct link.

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve Zoom Mass 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25th Christmas Day Zoom Mass 10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 1st, 2021 New Year's Day Zoom Mass 10:30 a.m.



Dear Padre,

Who was John the Baptist?

What we know about John the Baptist comes from a combination of Scripture and Church traditions that evolved during and after the writing of the Scriptures of the New Testament.

John's parents were Zechariah, who was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Elizabeth, who was related to Mary. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife would bear a son, even though she was quite old. It is believed that John was born in the region of Ain Karim, southwest of Jerusalem. When he was in his early twenties, he was a member of the Qumran community, and later was a hermit in the desert. John began his public ministry in his late twenties in the Jordan River Valley. His preaching followed the long line of Jewish prophets who preached against the evils of the day and demanded inner repentance and outer baptism as a sign of that repentance.

John continued his preaching in the Jordan Valley even after encountering Jesus. Eventually John was arrested by Herod Antipas and imprisoned at Machaerus Fortress by the Dead Sea. He was beheaded at the request of Salome, the daughter of Herodias, and buried at Sebaste, in Samaria. After John's death, many of his disciples followed Jesus, including Andrew and John.

John, whose name means "God is gracious," is usually represented in pictures holding a long slender cross with a small lamb partially hidden behind him.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



NICOLAUS OF HAGUENAU AND MATTHIAS GRUNEWALD: JOHN THE BAPTIST, DETAIL OF THE ISENHEIM ALTARPIECE

Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 14
Advent Weekday
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a
Mt 21:23–27

Tuesday
DECEMBER 15
Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1–2, 9–13
Mt 21:28–32

Wednesday
DECEMBER 16
Advent Weekday
Is 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25
Lk 7:18b–23

Thursday
DECEMBER 17
Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8–10
Mt 1:1–17

Friday
DECEMBER 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5–8
Mt 1:18–25

Saturday
DECEMBER 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a
Lk 1:5–25

Sunday
DECEMBER 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Rom 16:25–27
Lk 1:26–38

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent (B)
Is 61:1–2a, 10–11
1 Thes 5:16–24
Jn 1:6–8, 19–28

Who Are You?

So far the readings for Sundays in Advent have shown God leading the people into a new way of life—a way of righteousness and loyalty, of honesty and responsibility. Today the readings show the people beginning to see that the accomplishment of this transformation would come through the leadership of one individual. Who might that person be?

The passage from Isaiah describes a prophet, one anointed by God and bringing good news to the poor. When the Baptist appears on the scene in John's Gospel, people wonder if it might be him. He insists he is not the one, nor is he a prophet. Then, "Who are you?" (John 1:19) Recalling the passage from Isaiah read on the First Sunday of Advent, John tells them he is the one repairing the road, getting it ready for the long-awaited one to arrive. He adds that his baptism is a baptism of repentance. He is readying them to be what Paul describes as "perfectly holy...blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

We now see that these readings are preparing us for salvation. We are now told that such divine graciousness will be inaugurated by an individual, one who has not yet been identified. Will it be a powerful king? A mighty warrior? A spectacular prophet? Those in the time before Christ didn't know. We now know that it will be someone powerful enough to initiate a revolutionary change in the lives of the entire people. Now waiting gets exciting.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

[John the Baptist said,] "There is one among you whom you do not recognize... whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
JOHN 1:26–27



KYLE COTTRELL/UNSPASH

FOR Reflection

- ★ How might you envision this long-awaited one? What do you think the nation needs in a leader?
- ★ What kind of revolutionary transformation do you think we need today?



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Anxieties, difficulties, and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert....But the words of [John] the Baptist reveal that our joy rests on the certainty that this desert is inhabited: "Among you there is one whom you do not know."

—ANGELUS, GAUDETE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017