Jesus said,

“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.”

Matthew 11:4-5
Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A

Sunday, December 11, 2016

This Sunday’s Readings:

First Reading
Isaiah 35:1-6,10
In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,9-10
The Lord will save his people.

Second Reading
James 5:7-10
Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading
Matthew 11:2-11
Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today’s Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week’s Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus’ message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus’ ministry and Jesus’ assessment of John’s role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John’s arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today’s Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus’ message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifested in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God’s work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God’s kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.
DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST:

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support to religious communities in meeting current and future retirement needs. Traditionally, Catholic Sisters, Brothers and religious order Priests-known collectively as women and men religious-worked for small stipends. As a result, many religious communities today lack adequate retirement savings. At the same time, elderly religious are living longer and now greatly outnumber younger, wage-earning religious.

Parishes in the Diocese of Venice will conduct the annual collection for the "Retirement Fund for Religious", the weekend of December 10 and 11, 2016. Your gift provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and much more. Help is also provided to religious congregations to implement long-term retirement strategies that ensure quality eldercare.

Kindly support these men and women who have given their lives in service to our Church and the world, ministering to the faithful. Please join me in contributing to the Retirement Fund for Religious and pray for God's Blessing on all women and men religious. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your family. Have a Blessed Advent Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

If any parishioner is in need of assistance St. Vincent DePaul would be honored to help you. Any requests will be kept strictly confidential. Call the SVDP President at 908-256-1871.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:

When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171. Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily.

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. John XXIII Parish, 561-2245

* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161

* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

RESURRECTION CALENDAR

ALL events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.

Adoration, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Bereavement & Beyond Ministry, Every Monday, 8:30 a.m.
For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Coffee & Donuts, Sundays after 10:30 Mass
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00p.m., Sept. - May
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, after the 9:00a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, for info, call Judy at 287-1237
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30p.m., chapel
Rosary Makers, 3rd Thursdays Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 pm. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30a.m.
Sept. - May

RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

For prayer requests or to sign up as a volunteer call: 481-1170.

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS

Please join us every Thursday immediately after the 8:00 Mass to pray for priests.
My father recently moved in with us, and it’s been a time of great squishing. Making the journey to our home, we all squished, with all of his belongings, into a rented minivan. We then proceeded to squish everything into our home. It has been a little hard to move around all the stuff. Our house has been feeling markedly like a sardine can.

And so, the great purge of every nook and cranny of our home has begun. We are in the process of sharing-out toys, outgrown clothes, and superfluous belongings. We are letting go of the things we have held onto “just in case” and other things that have cluttered our lives just because we haven’t had the time to clear things out on a regular basis. The resulting space that we are recovering in our home is freeing. There is more room to move and more room to live. There is more space to focus on the things that really matter—and those things are not things.

As we clear the clutter from our home, I am reminded that Advent is a great time to clear the spiritual clutter as well. I ask myself, when Jesus comes, will there be room for him to stay, or will he find my heart and soul too cluttered? Am I hanging onto things I don’t need out of that “just in case” type of fear? Or, do I trust him enough to let everything go? Have I taken the necessary time to free up space for him? Is my priority, in fact, Jesus, or is it things or other attachments? When he comes, will I be able to respond to him freely, or will my movements be impeded by stuff that’s holding me back? My soul-cleaning goal is to be able to fling open the door to my heart and fearlessly let go of all of those things that might get in the way of his entry. Can I do this?

When soul-cleaning, I always turn to St. Ignatius Loyola, because he was a master of staying on top of the spiritual clutter. He advocated for a process of deciding whether to keep something or let it go, part of the process he called “discernment of spirits.” He taught his followers to ask in a consistent and disciplined manner: Is there anything getting in the way of my relationship with God? Are there any inordinate attachments cluttering up my heart or soul that might impede my spiritual progress?

Just as we do when we sort through the contents of our homes, we may discern every movement of our hearts. When discerning in the spiritual life, Ignatius teaches us to ask ourselves: Am I clinging to what I want or making room for what God wants? Does this bring me closer to God? Does this bring glory to God? If not, we get rid of it. So thorough was Ignatius’s ability to purge all that was not of God, that he even advised in his Spiritual Exercises that, “We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one” (SE 23).

St. Ignatius’s soul-cleaning method is based on a complete trust in God’s goodness. He was able to make ample room to welcome God into his soul, because he knew from experience that what God wants for each of us is far more than we could ever store up for ourselves. The result of his diligence was a pristine spiritual space with plenty of room for the Lord to operate.

And so, in the spirit of St. Ignatius, I pray:

Lord, help me to make room for you this Advent. Help me to clear out every nook and cranry of my heart and soul and to let go of all things that are not of you. Come into my heart. Give me the grace to respond to you freely and trust you completely. Fill me with your love and your grace. I know that you are all I really need, so please help me to choose you—every time. Let every movement of my heart and soul bring greater glory to you, Lord. Amen.
WOMEN’S GUILD NEWS

To the Ladies of the Parish:
The Guild will have a special Christmas breakfast at the Parish Center following the 8am Mass on Wednesday, December 21st. Our guest speaker will be Deacon Reardon with St. Luke’s message of the Nativity. Please call Joan at 432-0656 or Rosemary at 482-1526 to make a reservation. There is no charge but we are asking for a special Christmas donation for the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Bring a friend or house guest and share some Christmas time with us. We will have a 50/50 drawing and door prizes. Looking forward to wishing you a Merry Christmas in person.

All reservations must be made by noon on Monday, December 19, 2016.
OPLATKI WAFERS
AVAILABLE AT THE GIFT SHOP & PARISH OFFICE

The Christmas wafer (opłatek, plural opłatki) is a Central European Christian Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish families during Christmas Eve Vigil).

The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to a round wafer which becomes the Host after the Consecration during Mass in the Roman Catholic Church. Being only a reminder of the Body of Christ used in private homes, Opłatki lack sanctification by a priest or bishop. The Opłatki wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus to the Star of Bethlehem.

Cost is $3.00 for a pack of 5 wafers.

GIFT SHOP HOURS
Thurs. 7:50 - 10:00 a.m.
Sat: 2:30 - 4:45 p.m.    Sun. 8:00 - 12:00 p.m.

THE GIFT SHOP IS LOCATED AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH

Looking for peace? 
Needing hope? 
Feeling God’s love?

RCIA is here for you! 
Resurrection Parish Center 
Call us, to ask your questions. 
We are here to listen... 
Peace, Hope, Love 
Awaits us through Faith 

Inquiry Classes available 
Call: Joanne MacPeek 
418-7171 ext. 216 

Resurrection Parish Mission Statement

Convinced that Jesus communicates a new life to those who believe in Him, and that He was raised from the dead in order that we might live, we are united to the risen Lord as a people born anew to a life of hope.

Wednesday Mornings
10:00 am - 11:30 am
At the Parish Center
Join us!
Dec. 14 - Advent 
Morning of Prayer
Personal Encounter w/ Jesus Christ
"Be still and know that I am God...”
Psalm 46:10

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Come and See!

Pope Francis says:
"There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail."
Take Time for a Deep Breath of Prayer each day! 
Make our Prayers Full of People!

Christmas Flowers
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE SANCUTRARY

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS as a thanks-giving, as a memorial to a loved one, in celebration of someone’s birthday or anniversary, please use the Christmas Flower Offering envelopes located at the entrances of the church. Place the name of the person you wish to honor on the envelope and return via the collection basket, or you may call the Parish Office, 481-7172.

During Advent there are no flowers in church.
Calling All Moms...

You are invited to share in a new ministry for mothers!

**SWF Catholic Moms:** Where mothers are nourished, strengthened and cherished, and families are celebrated!

Come join fellow Moms......
Every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 in the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall

For more information contact Amanda Gavini at:
239-222-0452 or girlyamanda@yahoo.com

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**Thankful**

RYM celebrating Thanksgiving with some of our friends at Catholic Charities!

We are very thankful to all of our parishioners who generously donated allowing our friends and neighbors to enjoy a Thanksgiving feast!!
Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time:

From the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem, from the origin of Saint Nicholas to the secret of the Christmas Angel himself!

Tuesday, December 20th
5:15 Pizza Dinner
6:00–7:00 PM Live Show
Church of the Resurrection
8121 Cypress Lake Drive, Ft. Myers
RSVP by Dec.18: deanna@resurrectionch.org or 482-6883
~ Donations Accepted ~

FRANK RUNYEON has starred in over 1,000 television shows over the last 20 years... opposite Meg Ryan on AS THE WORLD TURNS, on SANTA BARBARA, FALCON CREST, GENERAL HOSPITAL, LA LAW and MELROSE PLACE. He is also an honors graduate of General Theological Seminary and Princeton University.

WWW.FRANKRUNYEON.COM
Diocesan Catechetical Enrichment Day Rescheduled -
The Diocesan Catechetical Enrichment Day will be Saturday January 28, 2017 at Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers. Please mark your calendars for that Saturday morning, as you’ll not want to miss hearing national speaker and author Kathy Hendricks present on "The Faith Prayed." Details and registration will be available soon. Thank you for your interest!

Faith and Wine Lee County, an outreach to Catholic women, gathers one Thursday a month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for future dates:
January 26 at St. Columbkille Parish, Fort Myers
February 23 at Resurrection Parish, Fort Myers
March 16 at St. Leo the Great Parish, Bonita Springs

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FT. MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY

“A Nation That Kills Its Own Children Is a Nation Without Hope.”
~ Pope John Paul II

PLEASE DON’T FORGET THE POOR BOXES; THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE POOR!

Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk
Check out our newest CD’s, DVD’s, Books and Pamphlets at the front entrance of the church.

It’s a great way to increase your knowledge and understanding of our beautiful Catholic Faith.