SECOND SUNDAY
OF Advent

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4

DECEMBER 10, 2017
The Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10, 2017

First Reading
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 85:9-14
The Lord’s salvation is near.

Second Reading
2 Peter 3:8-14
Peter teaches that we must always be holy because the return of the Lord cannot be predicted.

Gospel Reading
Mark 1:1-8
John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today’s Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus’ birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark’s description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John’s continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark’s description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings.

The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark’s Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist’s role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John’s preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus’ baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today’s Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today’s Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John’s baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which...
WEEKLY OFFERING

December 3, 2017

Offertory: $22,915.31  
Education: $4949.00  
Latin: $507.00  
SVDP: $561.00 + $243.00 (Thanksgiving)

Thank You!

When ill - SVdP offers an assist to those at Salua Care. A beautiful young lady needed a prescription for an infection costing $207.00! We were blessed to assist.

When in prison - SVdP received a letter from a man in jail. We will assist him in getting clothing, housing and mental health care.

When Hungry - SVdP has food available for all in need. No questions. Food is prepared for Hispanic families, the homeless or those living in hotels.

When thirsty - SVdP provides water, juice to the poor. Prayer quenches the thirst for God’s love.

When a stranger - SVdP seeks out and finds those in need regardless of creed, ethnic background, health, gender or political background.

When naked - Clothing and diapers are provided. SVdP Thrift Shop referrals clothe those in need.

...‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

~ Matthew 25:40

Letter from Bishop Dewane -

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), benefits nearly 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose communities lack retirement savings. The funds offer financial support to religious communities by providing long-term care for older members while ensuring younger religious can continue the good works of their community.

Through generous self-sacrifice and devotion, the retired Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have educated the young, cared for the sick, and ministered to the neediest among us, etc. With the ever-rising cost of health care and the increased number of those needing care, many religious communities struggle to provide for their aging members. Your support truly makes a difference.

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will be held December 9 and 10, 2017 in the Diocese of Venice. Your gift provides vital support for medications, nursing care, senior living space and much more. This Collection gives the opportunity to say thank you for your example of faith, hope and love. Kindly support retired religious who have dedicated their lives to serve our Church and the Faithful. Thank you for your generosity to this collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

I take this opportunity to extend to 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

The Gift Shop is in need of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering a few hours a month please contact the Parish Office at 239-481-7171.

2017 CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Our assessment for this year is $366,000.00
Payments made thus far Total: $362,201.04
We still need $3,798.96 to pay our assessment.
Thank you for your loyal support of this annual assessment!
If you have not yet made a pledge, please do so today!

St. Vincent DePaul is in need of peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken, food in pop-top cans, cereal, mayo, sizes 5 & 6 diapers, wipes, toilet paper, and hotel size toiletries such as shampoo and soap.
Please drop off donations at the Parish Center
Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
Thank you for your generosity!
Please join us at the abortion clinic at 3900 Broadway, Fort Myers every 2nd Saturday (after the 8:00 Mass) for the rosary.

A society is best judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members.

~ Anonymous

We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life - the unborn - without diminishing the value of all human life.

~ Ronald Regan, former U.S. President

I can do anything

I have started houses with no more than the price of a loaf of bread and prayers, for with him who comforts me, I can do anything.

—Frances Xavier Cabrini

The gap

It’s interesting that there is such a huge gap between advice and help.

—Anonymous

Music Announcement!!

Come join the "Children's Choir" at the 10:30 Mass on the first Sunday every month!

The music will be chosen specifically with our younger parishioners in mind. We will meet in the choir room one-half hour before Mass to warm up and review. Anyone who would like to serve as the cantor should see Connie to sign up for a specific month. Children's choir will take place on: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, and May 6.

In addition, we will also sing at the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve (4:00 pm, 12-24-17).

If you have any questions, please call Connie (239-464-3437) or the Parish Office. Looking forward to seeing all singers this season ....

Coffee & Donuts -

Please join us in the Parish Center after the 10:30 Mass for coffee, donuts and fellowship. All are welcome!

Save the dates...

2018 Women's Conference - Women of all ages, you are invited to a day filled with the richness of our faith at the 2018 Diocese of Venice Women's Conference. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 3, at Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers. Cost in advance is $20 (pre-registration online), students $5 pre-registration. Cost at the door is $30, and $10 for students. This year’s speakers are Kimberly Hahn, Sonja Corbitt, and Rosario Rodriguez. Join us in enjoying the tenderness of God's love and mercy! For Conference details and to register go to dioceseofvenice.org/womens.

2018 Men's Conference - The Diocese of Venice extends an invitation to all men who desire to encounter the presence of God to attend the 2018 Diocese of Venice Men's Conference from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 24 at Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers. Cost in advance is $20 (pre-registration online), student preregistration $5.

A Meditation from the Diary of St. Faustina, entry 1485 - Jesus: I am your strength, I will help you in the struggle. Soul: Lord, I recognize your holiness, and I fear you. Jesus: My child, do you fear the God of Mercy? My holiness does not prevent Me from being merciful. Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth - the tabernacle - and from this throne I desire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue or guards. You can come to me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace.
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, Mondays, 10:00 a.m. For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00p.m., Sept. - May
Men’s Gospel Forum, Fridays 8:30 a.m.
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.,
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

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

Save the Date, Couples Celebrating Marriage -
All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in two locations: 11a.m. Saturday February 17, 2018 at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice and 10 a.m. Saturday March 10, 2018 at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs. Check with the parish office in January for more information.

Save the Date, Venetian Charity Ball -
6:00 p.m., Saturday February 3, 2018 the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort. Watch future bulletins for more details.

What will separate us…
from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness,
or peril, or the sword?

“What then shall we say to this?
If God is for us,
who can be against us?”

Have you considered becoming Catholic?
We are here to listen to your questions…

Inquiry Classes on Sundays
Following 9:00am Mass
Please contact: Joanne MacPeek
e-mail: resurrectionre@gmail.com

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December -
The Elderly
That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.
BIBLE STUDY: An ADVENT & CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

“The Second Coming is Now”
“A People of Hope”

ALL SCRIPTURE IS WRITTEN SO YOU MAY HAVE HOPE

 Romans 15:5

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS In PARISH CENTER

10AM—11:30AM
Dec. 13, 20

Join us!

ALL are WELCOME!

ALL ARE WELCOME...
JOIN US MONDAY NIGHTS

DEC. 11, 18

“Put on the mind of Christ”

7:00 pm - 8:30pm Resurrection Parish Center

PHILOPIANS

Life in Christ

Saint Paul exhorts the Christians at Philippi to have the mind of Christ. But to what exactly is he referring? Join Dr. Tim Gray as he opens up this heartfelt correspondence. Learn the key to Christian friendship. Learn how Paul is able to rejoice in the midst of suffering. Learn from the Philippians how to become partners in the Gospel. Discover what it means to share in the citizenship of Heaven. Glory with Saint Paul as his eloquent hymn reveals the mind of Christ.

Featuring the insightful biblical teaching of Dr. Tim Gray and the hallmark artistry of the Augustine Institute, this dynamic video series explores the power and joy of life in Jesus Christ and the partnership to which we are called in sharing the Gospel—in the early Church and today.

RSVP: 481-7172 - Joanne MacPeek
Sign up for dessert to share!
About Advent

Advent can come as a surprise to us sometimes, beginning right after the busy Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. It’s not unlike the surprise of Mary when she received news that she was pregnant with Jesus. Like her, we take the season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God’s love coming to us through the baby Jesus.

The word Advent in Latin, ad-venio, means “to come to.” This special time is considered to be a period of renewal in the Church year. We “come to” a different set of readings from one of the three cycles (cycles A, B, C) and focus our hearts on the Christ child.

History of Advent

Advent begins nearest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle and can vary in length from twenty-one to twenty-eight days, or about four weeks. The historic origin of the season is not for certain; no evidence exists around the feast of the Nativity of the Lord before the end of the fourth century.

Several homilies and synods made mention of a specific liturgical time before Christmas, but no rule existed until a note on the Mass parts appeared during the time of Pope St. Gregory VII from 1073-1085.

Much like a Lenten period of fasting and sacrifice, the early Church urged Christians to dedicate this time to readying themselves for Christ. Their practices remind us that we are also called to be attentive to the message of repentance and the end times. This may seem unexpected considering the extravagant ways we eat, shop, celebrate, and rejoice as Christmas approaches!

Advent Traditions

The four weeks of Advent are popularly considered to symbolize the four thousand years of darkness before the coming of Christ. We set up Nativity scenes, light Advent candles, and decorate wreaths in our homes to signify Christ’s presence coming in the darkness of sin and suffering. Four candles adorn an Advent wreath, one for each week. A fifth candle is sometimes placed in the center for the beginning of the Christmas season.

Advent colors are worn by the priests and deacons and decorate the church. They are represented in the candles that surround the Advent wreath:
- **Violet:** royalty, repentance, and fasting (First, Second, and Fourth Week of Advent)
- **Rose:** abundant joy (Third Week of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, joy in Latin)
- **White:** light and purity (Christ Candle, center candle completes the season and begins Christmas)

Scripture and Prayers for Advent

During Advent there are three prevalent themes we see as we wait patiently for the coming of Christ. We long for the Messiah, are urged to be alert for Jesus’ Second Coming, and meditate on Christ’s presence in our lives now. The Scripture readings for the four weeks of Advent and the Liturgy of the Hours revolve around the first two of these themes.

They encourage proper preparation, point to the grace and humility of Mary, show us how to adore God in the Incarnation, and recognize the glory of Jesus and how he frees us from sin and ingratitude. We hear from the prophet Isaiah and are drawn to the compelling message of John the Baptist in the Gospels.

It is important to consider how we can grow in spiritual wholeness during such a busy commercial season. Take time for silence and reflection each day with Scripture, a devotional prayer, or with an Advent calendar. Dwell with the scene of the Nativity. What is it like to imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph, to be with them as they bring Jesus into the world? St. Ignatius had a deep reverence for this manger scene that we see in the Spiritual Exercises. Consider praying with saints like him, with the Liturgy of the Hours, or with the O Antiphons the last week before Christmas. A prayerful journey with the Holy Family and the Church throughout Advent will lead to gifts of gratitude and joy when we enter the Christmas Season.

Have a blessed Advent and rejoice in Christ’s light!
Advent Waiting
by D. Todd Williamson

Waiting in line can be one of two experiences. See if you identify with the examples below:

First Example: Waiting in Dread
You’re standing in line at the post office or the grocery store, waiting for your turn. You’re tapping your foot and keep looking at your watch. You don’t want to be in this line. Before long, you begin to think, “Oh, I can’t wait for this to be over!” Often times, the other people in line with you feel the same way! No one speaks to anyone else. Clearly few are enjoying the experience; the impatience or irritability you feel might even be visible on your face. Such an experience of waiting in line can seem isolating, almost lonely.

Second Example: Waiting in Excitement
Now think about the times when you waited in line at an amusement park, to buy tickets to see your favorite baseball team, or to hear your favorite band. In these instances, the waiting is much different. People are excited and you might even be talking to some of them about the ride you’re getting ready to experience, the sports team that you love, or the band you’re about to hear.

This second example is the kind of waiting we are called to in Advent.

Waiting in Joyful Hope
At Mass, after praying the Lord’s Prayer, we hear “...as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” This prayer reminds us that during Advent, we wait in joy, in hope, and in anticipation for the wonderful event we are about to experience—the feast of Christmas, the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways, the return of Christ in glory at the end of time. As the Church, we wait during Advent and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us. This waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of the hope that God promises us as we prepare for Christ in the feast of Christmas.

D. Todd Williamson is the Director of the Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago. He has been involved in liturgical ministry and formation for over 15 years.

The Second Coming
During Advent, we eagerly anticipate the coming of Christ. However, we are not waiting for Jesus to be born—that event occurred over two thousand years ago. While we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus that has occurred, we also use the season of Advent to anticipate The Second Coming. When Jesus comes again, the Kingdom of God will appear in its fullness. The just will reign with Christ forever, glorified in body and soul, and the material universe will be transformed.

Courtesy of: Loyola Press, A Jesuit Ministry

Christmas Flowers
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS as a thanksgiving, 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. Write on the envelope, the name of the person you wish to honor, your name and phone number, and return via the collection basket, or you may call the Parish Office at 481-7172.

During Advent there are no flowers in the church.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:
Thurs: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Sat: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Sun: 8:10 - 11:45 a.m.
open between morning Masses.
CLOSED DURING MASSES

Calling All Catholic Moms
SEPT. 2017 - MAY 2018
JOIN US FOR HOT COFFEE, BRUNCH, CHILDCARE & FELLOWSHIP
1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS
9:30AM TO 11:30AM
CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION PARISH HALL
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WWW.SWFLCATHOLICMOMS.COM
“Let us give ourselves to the Immaculata [Mary]. Let her prepare us, let her receive Him [Jesus] in Holy Communion. This is the manner most perfect and pleasing to the Lord Jesus and brings great fruit to us. Because the Immaculata knows the secret, how to unite ourselves totally with the heart of the Lord Jesus... We do not limit ourselves in love. We want to love the Lord Jesus with her heart, or rather that she would love the Lord with our heart.”

-St. Maximilian Kolbe

As we continue our preparation this Advent, which we remember means, “coming” (i.e. the coming of Christ), we move towards our next Saint in our preparation for total consecration to Jesus through Mary. St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Franciscan priest who is most known for offering his life in place of another man in a concentration camp during World War II. He is known as the martyr of charity. Kolbe was also a brilliant and holy theologian who wrote primarily on the Immaculata: the Blessed Virgin Mary.

His entire life permeated with a deep love for the Blessed Mother, whom he gave everything to leading him to say, “rest confidently assured that whoever belongs to her will not be lost.” It is the Immaculata who will best and most properly prepare us for the coming of Christ, thus our Advent journey is rightly with and through her. With Mary, there is nothing to fear, there is no need for worry: “Let us let ourselves be led, then; let us not attempt to do more than that which [Mary] wills or more quickly. Let us let ourselves be carried by her; she will think of everything and take care of all our needs, of the soul and of the body.”

She herself will prepare us if only we would give ourselves to her. The fruits of such a devotion and resignation to her are these: an increased love for God and His will, a greater love of the beauty He has created in ourselves, a profound love of neighbor, and a boldness in faith. “Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”

In the arms of the Immaculata, let us be carried to Jesus. Let us give ourselves this Advent to Jesus through His Mother, who magnifies the Lord by her life. In this endeavor, for the glory of God, let us follow the example of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Knight of the Immaculata, and the martyr of charity, and be commissioned by his words:

*It is not enough to become the Immaculata’s within some defined limit. In every respect, we must desire to radiate her, so as to draw to her the souls of all others who are, will be, and might be—without restriction. In a word, we are to become hers, more and more ready to sacrifice self entirely for her, to the last drop of blood in the conquest of the whole world and every soul in particular—as soon as possible, as soon as possible, as soon as possible.*
From the WLP Vault comes the Bible Story of Christmas featuring 8 Classic Christmas Carols and a reading of the Gospel of Luke 2: 4-20 by Bing Crosby! Also available on vinyl.

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