



Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Bar 5:1–9

Phil 1:4–6, 8–11

Lk 3:1–6

*Jerusalem, take off your robe
of mourning and misery;
put on forever the splendor
of glory from God.*

BARUCH 5:1



EUGENY ATAMANENKO / SHUTTERSTOCK

And the Word Was Made Flesh

Many of us grew up thinking that this life doesn't amount to much. It's full of pitfalls and enticements that threaten our eternal salvation. Such disdain often boils over into contempt for the world. According to this thinking, it is only the next life that is important, which will unfold in a much better place. Today's readings challenge such extreme thinking. They assure us that the glory of God is partially revealed to us even within this life. They astound us by insisting that God speaks to us through life's events—events that often appear to be quite mundane.

Baruch tells of Jerusalem, the city loved passionately by every Israelite. This was a city like so many other cities. However, God dwelt there and wherever God dwells is, for that reason, a holy city—be it is Jerusalem, Munich, or Detroit. God dwells in our midst, right here, right now. Hence, this imperfect life and this damaged world are holy.

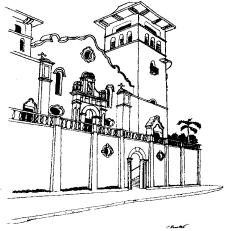
The Gospel situates John the Baptist in the middle of the ancient Near Eastern world. It was a Roman world controlled by Caesar and a Jewish province ruled over by Herod. John stated that it was to that place at that time that the Promised One would come, and it was up to John to “prepare the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:4).

Most importantly, we must never forget that God took on the troubles and sins of this world and entered our life, making it his life. This is the real reason that this world is holy.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Incarnation means that Jesus is made of the stuff of this world, just as we are. Think about this.*
- ★ *Nothing is too common that it can't be holy. What does that mean?*



St. Theresa's Cathedral

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Bishop Wes Spiewak, CR, Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

Chancery Office & Holy Calvary Cemetery Office: 232-4414 – orcc@northrock.bm

IN RESIDENCE: Rev. Julio Blazejewski, C.R., Portuguese Episcopal Vicar

Visiting: Permanent Deacon David Swain

St. Vincent de Paul Society Parish Rep: Joanne Judd & Tom Sinclair

Parish Catechetical Coordinator: (CCD) Beverly-Dawn Knights - benik@northrock.bm

St. Theresa's Gift Shop: 292-0416 – Shop Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Tuesdays, & Saturdays)

Confessions: By appointment only – Social distancing of 3' if a mask is worn or 6' if no mask is worn.

Baptisms: By appointment – 5 weeks in advance

Weddings: By appointment – 1 year in advance. Pre-Marriage Course is required for all weddings here or elsewhere

Facebook: Our Catholic Diocese is on Facebook. Visit our page & "LIKE" us and join our on-line community.

	DATES	TIMES		INTENTIONS FOR
Sat.	Dec. 04	6:30 pm		Intentions of Brandon DeSilva
Sun.	Dec. 05	8:30 am	+	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Soares, Sr. Miguel Franco, Kevin Ledo, Maria F. de Oliveira, José, Amelia, Rogério e Humberto da Família Almeida e Bolarinho.
		10:00 am	+	
		11:30 am 6:00 pm		Couples for Christ & Family Ministries St. Theresa's Parish Family
Mon.	Dec. 06	7:30 am		Bienvenida Agsalud & Grace Dolormente
Tues.	Dec. 07	7:30 am		
Wed.	Dec. 08	7:30 am		Joanne Judd
		12:10 pm		
Thurs.	Dec. 09	7:30 am 12:10 pm		Intentions of Christopher Rego
Fri.	Dec. 10	7:30 am	+	Catalina Hernandez Luz-Padila Arga
		12:10 pm	+	
Sat.	Dec. 11	6:30 pm		St. Theresa's Parish Family
Sun.	Dec. 12 (Portuguese)	8:30 am		Intentions of Mary, Arianna & Anais DeSilva
		10:00 am	+	
		11:30 am	+	
		6:00 pm	+	Victor Moniz & Manuel & Arminda Garrafa Paz Syjuco

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE: 11th/12th December, 2021

	6:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Proclaimers:	J. Judd	B.D. Knights	E. Mosley	J. Amper
			Needed	Needed
Communion				
Ministers:	C. Carreiro	T. Sinclair	N/A	N/A
Song Leaders:	D. Mutch	T. Weikl	M. Gravito	

SUNDAY & SPECIAL OFFERINGS WITH ONLINE BANKING & PARISH ENVELOPES

Please make direct payments to the Bank of Butterfield Acct #20-006-060-482732-100 and include "Sunday Offering" in the memo field. Also, the parish encourages the use of Sunday Offering Envelopes to promote the concept of stewardship of treasure.

Saturday Adoration in the Chapel of St. Theresa's Cathedral: 9am – Holy Mass in Portuguese followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration - 10:00 am – Benediction.

*The Lord is here.
The Lord will come.*

Advent helps us remember that God desires so deeply to be near to us that He sent his Son to be one with us.

In God's vision for the world, there is no distance between us and God. Nothing is beyond the great love of God, found in the Christ-child for whom we wait in this Advent time. "For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level round, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God." (Bar 5:1-9)

What steep challenges do you face that feel like mountains that must climb?

What valleys and dark places are you traversing?

What or who helps you to know that the Lord journeys with you?

Taken from Catholic Life & Faith 2021



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Some of the obstacles that keep us from "making a straight path" for the Lord are the same obstacles that keep us from embracing stewardship as a way of life. John the Baptist calls us to reform our lives and let go of the selfishness and greed that keep us

from following God's will.

Steward's Sharing of Treasure

	Date	Actual
Collection:	27 th /28 th November:	\$ 3,187.00
	To Date: Week 48	\$171,459.00
Donation:	Organ Repair: \$500.00	

Thank you for your continued financial support!

ST. THERESA'S CHAPEL



5th - 11th December, 2021

Donation Given for Two Votive Candles
"Intentions of Hubert Faries and Family"

INTRODUCTION: Today we hear that John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. While repentance is a sobering act of admission of guilt, being forgiven of sin is a hope-filled relief that lifts the soul. Let us seek to prepare a straight path unto the Lord by pondering the lofty mountains we may have in our lives that need to be made low; and the age-old depths and gorges in our own character or soul that must be filled to level ground.

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION MASSES:



Congratulations to ALL of the Confirmandi, who were confirmed by Bishop Wes Spiewak, C.R. these past two weekends at St. Theresa's Cathedral. The 13 Confirmation Candidates from St. Theresa's Parish are listed as follows:

Vasco Aguiar
Diego Barclay
Andreia Correia
Keira Correia
Marcus Duarte
Liana Franco

Leyla Ganai
Anijahé Santos Martin
Aidan Medeiros
Ciara Mello
Ryan Saudade
Chelsea Scarth
Filipe Sousa



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS:

Forms are available on the communion rail or at the exit doors of the Cathedral for donations for Christmas Flowers "In Memory" of your loved ones. The flowers will be used to decorate the Cathedral during the Christmas season. All names will be remembered at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. **Deadline is Sunday, December 12th.**



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - Christmas

Vouchers: Distribution of food vouchers will be by a SVDP representative beginning **Monday, December 13th.** Thank you for your assistance in helping SVDP reach those in need.

ADVENT GIVING TREE: The Giving Tree is up at the back of the Cathedral and tags have been placed on the tree. The gifts are for the children from the Star Lighthouse Foundation. Once you have purchased your gift, place it in the bins provided after Mass on the weekend. When returning your gift, please have the tag attached to the gift. We look forward to your participation in this Parish outreach in making these children happier this Christmas! **Deadline is Sunday, December 19th.**



ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:

Come in and see their new shipment of Advent candles, wreaths, Christmas cards, Nativity sets, Holy Family figurines, children's story books and bibles, crucifixes, rosaries, calendars and so much more while supplies last! The Gift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. **Thank you for your continued patronage.** Also, Volunteers are needed for 2022! Please call the Rectory Office (292-0607 Ext 2) if you can spare 4 hours of your time per week!

BISHOP'S CORNER:



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

"The Church loves you and needs each of you to fulfill her mission at the service of the Gospel," wrote Pope Francis in his message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities that was celebrated on the 3rd of December. He emphasized that the vocation of all Christians is to be friends of Jesus.

The Pope noted that a trusting and personal friendship with Jesus can be a spiritual key to accepting the limitations we all experience and to come to terms with our condition. He noted that unfortunately many people are treated as foreign bodies in society. Disability is seen as a disease which creates barriers and strengthens stigma. The worst form of discrimination in the life of the Church is the lack of spiritual care, including denial of access to the sacraments. The difficulties experienced by disabled people have been further aggravated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. It has condemned many people to stay locked within the four walls of their own home or care facility, without access to remote education tools and contact with their loved ones.

Francis made a special appeal to the disabled, asking them for prayer. He wrote that, "Prayer is a mission open to everyone and I would like to entrust it to you in a special way. There is no one so weak that he cannot pray, praise the Lord, give glory to God's holy name, and intercede for the salvation of the world. Especially in the pandemic that has shown how we are all weak and confused, we are called to row together. The first way to do this is through prayer. We can all do it, even if, like Moses, we need support (cf. Ex 17:10), we are sure that the Lord will hear our request."

According to the World Health Organization, around one billion people worldwide live with some form of disability. In addition, the group of people affected by this reality increases in the case of aging societies, where age-related limitations are experienced by an ever wider segment of the population.

Have a restful weekend and a blessed second week of Advent!

Bishop Wes

Dear Padre,

My sister says that singing the *O Antiphons* are her favorite part of Advent. What are they?

An antiphon is a brief refrain, usually from the Bible, either sung or said during worship. An *O Antiphon* is an antiphon that starts with O, as in “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”—each verse of that song is made up of an O Antiphon.

The antiphons are most at home in the Liturgy of the Hours—the collection of psalms, hymns, prayers, and readings that make up the regular rhythm of the Church’s prayer at morning, midday, evening, and night. The O Antiphons your sister refers to are verses used during the Church’s evening prayer from December 17–23. With one verse spoken or sung before Mary’s Magnificat each evening, these antiphons call on the Lord to come to his people using titles taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

When the O Antiphons are sung in Latin, they present a sort of acrostic with a hidden message. The first letter of each title in the antiphon spells *sarcoph*, which is *ero cras* (Latin for “tomorrow I come” or “tomorrow I shall be”) spelled backward.

In their original language and context, the O Antiphons have a particularly rich significance, but they remain beautiful even when sung simply in English as in the verses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



JORISO / SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

To prepare the way of the Lord’s coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us....First of all we are called to fill the “valleys” caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 9, 2018

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 6
Advent Weekday
Is 35:1–10
Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday

DECEMBER 7
St. Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Is 40:1–11
Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday

DECEMBER 8
Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Thursday

DECEMBER 9
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday

DECEMBER 10
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17–19
Mt 11:16–19

Saturday

DECEMBER 11
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday

DECEMBER 12
Third Sunday
of Advent
Zep 3:14–18a
Phil 4:4–7
Lk 3:10–18