



December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Upcoming Dates

Dec 11, Parish Christmas Dinner 6pm
 Dec 25, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
 Jan 4, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
 Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners

Readings

Is 35: 1-6a. 10
 Ps 146: 6-7. 8-9. 9-10
 Jas 5: 7-10
 Mt 11: 2-11

Parish Donations

New feature: Scan the QR code to make a donation.

December 3-4	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$188.00	\$232.00
St. Catherine	\$108.00	\$97.00
St. Colman	\$40.00	\$50.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$715.00

Pastor's Desk

I have a new watch, an inexpensive one.

The old one had worn out. This new one had something I like very much, a second hand. I can watch the seconds tick by and I can "time" anything I want to.

Who wants to time things?

Well I do, especially when I get caught by a traffic light that changes to red just as I pull within a half a block. I glance at my wrist to see just how long the light sits on red. Some of them last—listen to this—a minute and fifteen seconds!

Imagine having to sit with nothing to do when you are late and in a hurry, with a mechanical device deciding for an entire minute and a quarter the second when you are allowed to go on!

As you can see, I need to put on some patience.

The Second Reading for Sunday says it this way:

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 st Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall
Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman

* of February, May, August and November

See the farmer await the yield of the soil.
 He watches it in winter and in spring rain.*

The farmer is attentive and tolerant because crops do not come up in a day. He has learned patience through many seasons.

How about those of us who are not farmers? How do we "put on" patience?

I think there are two parts to the answer.

First, I have noticed that when I am being impatient I am also failing to notice what is happening in the present time. I am stuck in the future worrying about what will occur and how to make it happen; about where I am supposed to be by now; and how the light will not let me go.

And a lot of us reside in the past instead of the present. We re-hash mistakes we made and finally think of a retort that would have topped someone's nasty remark, and so on.

The present moment is the only one we actually live in. The precious goodness of God makes everything exist right now, not tomorrow or yesterday, which are only memories or projections. We will miss the present by looking backward or forward too much.

Second, we need to recall that God makes the future safe. God has promised that, in ways we cannot understand, the crooked will be made straight. Our gnarled lives will be filled with goodness.

Patience is really a way of remembering the constant love of God, no matter how frightening or disconcerting the future may seem or may actually be. We need to slow down, look around, and live.

Think about Mary's "be it done unto me," her lifelong daily prayer, her nine months, her place at the cross. Notice that, when the angel gave her the annunciation, she did not demand guarantees and full details. She relied on God's love. She waited.

And, the Second Person of the Trinity, alive to earth's ways, waited until it was time to come into the world as Jesus. Then when he sensed that he was hungry, he suckled at his mother's breast, burping only when the occasion presented itself, not before. And think of his years of being just a carpenter day after day. God's beloved, making a chair!

But that is Advent.

Christ is with you. His presence needs to grow.

Just open. Watch for the signs.

Patience, people.

Announcements

A gift for a child

A few gingerbread people are still available on the trees in the back of the church. Take a tag and shop for a child. Presents should be delivered directly to River to Coast Child Care located on First Street across from the entry to Johnson's Beach. Please shop and deliver by Saturday December 17. Thanks for making a child's Christmas a little brighter.

2022 Christmas Dinner at the Highland Dell

Sunday December 11th, 2022 at 6 pm

Tickets \$67.50 per person Kids Entree 6-12 years of age \$19.50, Kids 5 or younger- no charge.

Choice of entree: Prime Rib, Grilled Wild Sockeye Salmon, Grilled Portabella Mushroom. Kids Entree: Macaroni and Cheese with Grilled Chicken Strips.

Come enjoy a fun-filled, festive holiday gathering with your fellow church community members!

For questions, or, to order tickets, please call the the rectory office at (707) 869-2107, or, contact Linda Payne at (707) 953-9166 or email cocomokidd@aol.com.

See's Candy Christmas Treats 2022

The deadline for ordering online is December 2, 2022. So, don't delay if you want to purchase online. This year, the church has pre purchased best sellers from 2020 and 2021 seasons and will have them available for purchase the weekend before Thanksgiving. We will also have a Storefront online for individual purchases, which will include items available after Mass in addition to other best sellers that could not be purchased in advance. Our link is https://www.yumraising.com/secure/stecc_st_elizabeths_christmas_treats45/Mic_McD9043/candy (we will get this out via a church trac email). Our goal is to raise \$2,500.

Confessions

Fr Luis is available to hear Confessions after 9 am Mass on Fridays and before weekend Masses. Please call the rectory at 707-869-2107 to confirm with him, so that he knows to arrive early on the weekend, or stay late on Friday. Alternatively, a more convenient time can be scheduled with him by calling the rectory.

Discussion Questions

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6A, 10

1. Isaiah said God would give signs to tell the Israelites of their delivery from slavery. What were these signs? What

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similar signs of God's loving presence are there in your life? And what about in the fields of medicine, social justice and climate change?

2. Who does God use to transform the world now? Is there anything you could do, small or large, in the areas of racial or ecological justice, or of ending the war in Ukraine?

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

1. "See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth." How does this statement relate to Advent? How is patience involved in both situations?

2. What are some qualities that patience brings with it? What does impatience bring? St. James warns his community about complaining about one another. Is this a fault peculiar to James' community? How does it relate to patience?

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

1. John asked Jesus if he was "the one who is to come." Jesus answered, "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised." Explain this in both the literal and metaphorical senses. The people who came to John were seeking the deepest desires of their hearts. How was Jesus' response an answer to those desires?

2. Does God always come into your life the way you expect? John the Baptist might have expected a mighty one and was confused by the gentle, healing Jesus. Was he called to conversion? Can Advent be a time of conversion for us to recognize new or different ways Jesus comes into our lives?

[Jesus'] description shows us that salvation envelops the whole person and regenerates him. But this new birth, with the joy that accompanies it, always presupposes a death to ourselves and to the sin within us. Hence the call to conversion, which is the basis of the preaching of both the Baptist and Jesus; in particular, it is a question of converting our idea of God.

And the time of Advent stimulates us to do this precisely with the question 2 that John the Baptist poses to Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Mt 11:3). We think that all his life John waited for the Messiah; his lifestyle, his very body is shaped by this expectation. This is also why Jesus praises him with those words: no one is greater than him among those born of a woman (cf. Mt 11:11). Yet he too had to convert to Jesus. Like John, we too are called to recognize the face that God chose to assume in Jesus Christ, humble and merciful.

*Pope Francis, Angelus
 Dec 15, 2019*

