

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

MASS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - BILINGUAL MASS 10:30 AM (ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE)

SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

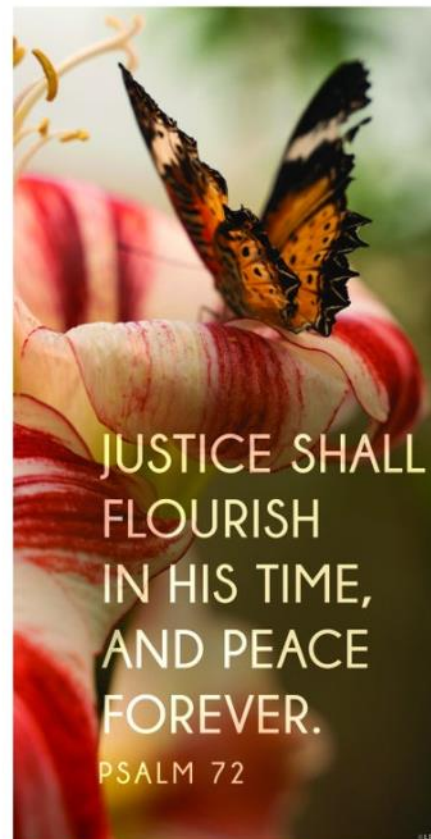
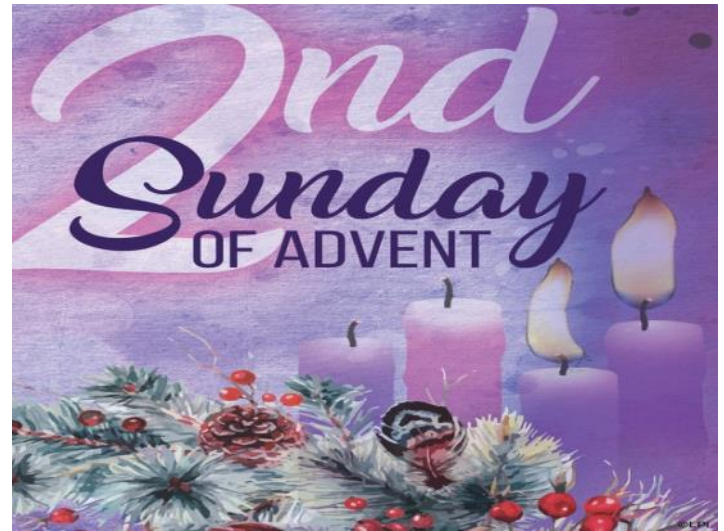
Monday: Closed
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (NOVEMBER 26TH – 27TH)

Donation	\$1,905.00
Donation Online	\$1,195.00
Maintenance Fund	\$60.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$3,160.00

2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL \$24,876

GIFTS RECEIVED \$42,772.50 as of 11.01.22



JUSTICE SHALL
FLOURISH
IN HIS TIME,
AND PEACE
FOREVER.

PSALM 72

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

- Mt 3:4-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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Catholics Are Called to Be Christians

Homily for 2nd Sunday of Advent

There are two ways that we can live out our Catholic faith.

We can live it passively, or we can live it personally.

When we live our faith passively, we are like the Pharisees and Sadducees that came to be baptized by John in the Jordan River.

- They were the religious and social leaders in Israel.
- They were the most visible and active members of their parish.
- They knew what to do when they went to Church, they knew all the prayers - on the surface, they appeared to be models of religion.
- They placed their confidence in being "children of Abraham." In other words, culturally speaking, they were good Jews. They came from Jewish families and followed Jewish customs.

But John the Baptist warns them that being cultural Jews wasn't enough. "God can raise up children of Abraham from these stones," he says.

Their religion was on the surface: it didn't touch their hearts.

We are constantly tempted to make the same mistake.

- Little by little, we can become too self-satisfied just because we come to Mass, receive the sacraments, go to Catholic schools...
- We can become complacent because we look like model Catholics on the outside, cultural Catholics.

But our faith is about much more than that.

To be Catholic is to be Christian,

- to be an active, dedicated, energetic follower of Jesus Christ,
- to have a personal friendship with him,
- to know him deeply and to love him passionately by striving to build up his Kingdom.

When we live our faith passively, we are like artificial plants: we look nice, but we bear no fruit.

Today, Christ is reminding us to live our faith more personally, so that our lives can be branches of the true vine, "producing good fruit."

Upgrading Our Prayer Life

It is not hard to deepen our personal friendship with Christ.

He really wants it to happen, and so for every small step we take closer to him, he takes a thousand steps closer to us.

Like every friendship, the one thing that best feeds our personal relationship with Christ is spending time together.

Spending time with Christ is called prayer.

A Christian who does not pray can hardly call himself a Christian.

- All of us here today are Christians who pray - and our Lord is full of joy at the mere sight of us gathered together to listen to his words and offer him our worship.
- And yet, we live in a society that is no longer Christian. It is secular. There are many Christians in this society, but the culture itself has put God in the closet.
- When was the last time you saw a TV show or movie that showed people praying?
- It's a rare occurrence.
- That's the culture we live in, and it affects us, whether we realize it or not.

Our prayer lives are not as healthy as they could be, and as a result, we don't know Christ as well as we could, and so we don't experience as much as he wants us to the meaning and deep joy that comes from living close to him.

- This Advent, let's change that. Maybe we can't change all the TV shows and the movies, but we can change ourselves and our schedules.
- At least for the couple of weeks still remaining in Advent, let's spend some quality time with Christ every day, even if it's only ten minutes.

Jesus has so much he wants to teach us and do for us - let's give him the chance, let's upgrade our prayer life.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,
but he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide aright for the land's afflicted.
(Is 11:3-4)



PSALM

Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever. (Ps 72)



SECOND READING

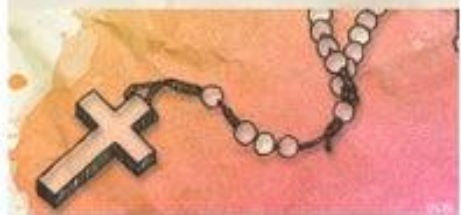
Welcome one another, then, as Christ
welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Rom 15:7)



GOSPEL

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in
the desert of Judea
and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand!" (Mt 3:1-2)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated. Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her. She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness? Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God. There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are. There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us.

God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." God is not indifferent. He is the God of "endurance and encouragement." In God, we see what we may be, what may come and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust. She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined. She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be. In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her.