

December 14-20

*Let us not be justices of the peace,
but angels of peace.* —St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Reflections for the Week

Third Sunday of Advent

Today's Readings

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53)

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

Readings for the Week

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

MEASURING SUCCESS

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one has overcome while trying to succeed.

—Booker T. Washington

Please pray for the healing of our parishioners and extended family:

Jim McLoughlin, Fr. Tom Seagrave, Jerry O'Leary, Maureen and Don Francis, Mary Dunn, Mike and Gabriel Marty, Patrick Lee, Judy and Charlie Liteky, Jim and Nancy McDonald, Chuck Witherell, Mary Purpura, Josephine Small, Teresa Hyatt, Mary Donnelly, and all our community members who reside in assisted living and care facilities.

This list and additional prayer requests may be found on the "Circle of Prayer" link on our Website www.sjog.net; it is also available through email.

To request prayers for someone and/or receive the "Circle of Prayer" by email please contact Judy Laxen at judithfl@aol.com.

Mass Intentions: December 12-18(Fri-Thurs.)

Fri.	Our Lady of Guadalupe	12:10pm
Sat	John and Genevieve Riordan (RIP)	4:15pm
Sun.	Chris Diner (Healing)	9:30am
Sun	Bea Wirth (Birthday Celebration)	11:30am
Mon.	Martin Joseph O'Brien (RIP)	12:10pm
Tues.	Pat Ford (RIP)	12:10pm
Wed.	Laura Busby (RIP)	12:10pm
Thurs.	Caregivers in our Community	12:10pm

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Third Sunday of Advent
Monday:	Blessed Mary Frances Schervier
Tuesday:	Blessed Honoratus Kozminski <i>Las Posadas</i> begins; Hanukkah begins at sunset
Thursday:	Blessed Anthony Grassi
Friday:	Blessed Pope Urban V

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The tradition of anointing the sick with blessed oil is very old, but developed slowly and unevenly in the first eight centuries of the church's life. St. Augustine, who wrote volumes of homilies from his thriving church in North Africa, plus pastoral directives, letters, and memoirs, never mentions it at all. We know from ancient prayers that it did happen in Rome, Milan, Gaul, and the British Isles. In Rome the bishop blessed the oil of the sick, but it could be applied by a priest, deacon, or a layperson. It seems that sick persons could even anoint themselves. St. Genevieve of Paris was known for anointing the sick in her care. The purpose of anointing, however, is not simply healing, but forgiveness of sin and an experience of saving power of Christ. By the year 800, dioceses everywhere were organizing rituals for priestly anointing. Although anointing of the sick is reserved to priests today, perhaps this treasured memory will enrich the future of the sacrament.

Bring a Friend ~ ALL ARE WELCOME !

At St. John of God, we follow the example of our Patron Saint who opened his doors to all in need. We ask that all who come to seek God's Grace honor Universal Diversity when we come together to worship as a community. A special time is during the prayers of the faithful : We all meet each other with compassion and respect.

If you have a desire to join a community of wonderful friends who accept all,

PLEASE COME JOIN US!

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER – ONLY ONE MORE WEEK FOR TICKET SALES!

The drawing will be held **December 21 right after the 9:30 Mass** – and just in time for Christmas. The parish counts on the income from this annual fundraiser to end the year in the black. All of the raffle expenses (prizes, printing, postage, etc.) have been underwritten by generous parishioners, **Can we count on you to sell lots of tickets so we can end with another successful year?** Please turn in your tickets and checks (payable to St. John of God Church) or cash **before** the deadline of December 21 after the 9:30 Mass.

Children's Mass !

Calling all children who want to participate in our annual Christmas Eve Children's Mass on December 24. We need angels, sheep, shepherds, magi, inn-keeper and narrators, as well as Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus. This traditional celebration of Christmas is very meaningful for the St. John of God community. Participation is also open to friends and family who may be just visiting for the Holiday.

Please call Judy Grady 415.566.0163 or email her: judithgrady19@gmail.com to volunteer.

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The Saint John of God Prayer

Dear God, through the intercession of St. John of God, patron of the poor and the sick, grant me the grace this day to greet every person that I meet with understanding and compassion. Reveal to me their needs and give me the means and inspire in my heart the humility and generosity of St. John so that I might be to them revelation of Christ's love. Amen
~ Rev. Thomas L. Seagrave

Around the Community City and SF Bay

Holiday Gathering for Hospital Eucharistic Ministers Tuesday, December 16th. 2p.m.

SJOG Rectory ~ Living room

We will celebrate the season together, have some refreshments, share tidings of Peace and Joy. Father Norman will give us his special blessing, and some inspiring words. Rev. Peter Clark will update us on UCSF-hospital news and we will meet Flora Avecilla the new Administrative Secretary at Spiritual care services. Feel free to bring something to share for the refreshment table! Please RSVP to Pat at : Kpatoconnor@att.net or call the office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Will be meeting in Ben's Room at 1:00 PM every Sunday, with the exception of December 21 and December 28. We would like to reserve this time slot (1-3 PM, Sundays) permanently on the calendar, as we have for the Friday night Scripture Study in Ben's Room.

Join us in caroling—Saturday December 20

St. John of God Church is reviving a past tradition of caroling to the wider community. Join us in caroling at St. Anne's Home on Lake Street at 4th Ave, SF on Saturday December 20.

Music sheets provided. Parking excellent.

Families invited. We will gather there around 11:45AM to adjust halos and antlers before going in to sing. E-mail Pat O'Connor at kpatoconnor@att.net or Judy Morrow at judithmorrow@pacbell.net to let us know you're coming.

Decorate St. John of God Church - December 21 at 1:00 PM (after the 11:30 AM Mass):

We will be gathering to decorate the Church for Christmas after the 11:30 AM liturgy on Sunday, December 21! Use your creativity to enhance our Christmas Celebration! Decorating wreaths, Dressing Christmas Trees, Arranging Poinsettias, Setting Up the Crèche, Placing banners. There will be plenty to do, so the more the merrier! If you have any questions, please contact Bill Becker: Home: (415) 506-4153 Cell: (415) 971-0107. Thank you for Help!

Scripture Study

Scripture Study will resume Friday, January 16, 2015 at 6:30 PM in Ben's Room. Subsequent dates: January 23, January 30, February 6, February 13. After that we will have the Lenten series (*without soup suppers this year*).

SAVE THIS DATE: BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
FOOD BANK WORK DAY On Saturday, February 7th from 9 a.m. to noon. SJOG will work at their warehouse.