

December 13-19 2015
Third Sunday of Advent

Reflections for the Week

*With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.
~Isaiah 12:3*

[click
here](#)

Today's Readings

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalms — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

Readings this 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, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Please pray for the healing of
Our parishioners and extended family:**

Fr. Tom Seagrave, Fr. Tom Burns, Msgr. Labib Kaboti, Fr. Bill Brady, Msgr. Mickey McCormick (former Pastors at SJOG) Maureen and Don Francis, Mary Dunn, Mike and Gabriel Marty, Patrick Lee, Judy and Charlie Liteky, Jim and Nancy McDonald, Josephine Small,, Teresa Hyatt, Pat Hoffman, Dorla Gross, Dalia & Estela Becerra and all our 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.

It's always great to hear from friends ~ why not send a card or place a call to let them know you're thinking and praying for God's healing. Mass requests also available..

Mass Intentions:

December 11-17, 2015 (Fri-Thurs.)

- Fri. Jay Garvey (God's Healing Power) 12:10pm
Sat. All Former Pastors of SJOG 4:15pm
Sun. Fr. Tom Seagrave (God's Graces) 9:30am
Sun. Fr. Tom Seagrave(Healing Blessing) 11:30am
Mon. 12:10pm
Tues. Martin Joseph O'Brien (RIP) 12:10pm
Weds. John&Annie Golden (RIP Anniver) 12:10pm
Thurs. Elish Cawley (Rest in Peace) 12:10pm

Give the gift of a Mass Intention ~Life Blessings, RIP, Anniversary, Happy Birthday! Contact the office.

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

St. Lucy

Monday: St. John of the Cross

Tuesday: Blessed Mary Frances Schervier

Thursday: St. Hildegard of Bingen

Friday: Blessed Anthony Grassi

Saturday: Blessed Pope Urban V



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**SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS TV MASS
FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

Is someone you love unable to join us at church during this holy time of Advent and Christmas? For the faithful at home or in healthcare settings, the Heart of the Nation TV Mass brings spiritual comfort and the blessings of joyful hope in the coming of our newborn Savior.

Christmas TV Mass:

KOFY channel 20 at 7:00 a.m.

Sunday TV Mass: KOFY channel 20 at 8:30 a.m.

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

FUNDRAISING RAFLE : DECEMBER 20, 2015

CASH PRIZES, GOOD CHANCES FOR 5 BIG \$\$\$ WINNERS!!

Thank You from the Sanctuary Committee

The SJOG Community has once again shown its generosity and caring for the immigrants and refugees in our midst and for many young people in El Salvador struggling to get an education in an environment of gang violence. Your donations given during the Sanctuary Weekend allowed the Committee to fund our Salvadoran projects and to increase support to the three local organizations we supported last year.

We are grateful.

If any of you would like to join us in our work, please see or e-mail Adrienne at plasseadrienne@gmail.com

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

Hospital Ministry December 12-13

SCHEDULE FOR *LAUDATO SI* STUDY GROUP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015

Chapter Four: Integral Ecology

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

Chapter Five: Lines of Approach and Action

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

Chapter Six: Ecological Education and Spirituality

St. John of God

Thursdays, January 21 and 28, 2016

7:00 to 8:30 PM, Collins Hall

Fr. Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.

Two Reflections on *Laudato Si*

From the Perspective of the Year of Mercy

Laudato Si and the Continuing Rise of the World Church

Laudato Si reflects the universal worldview of the Second Vatican Council in two essential aspects: first, the Catholic Church as a whole reflects the movement of the Holy Spirit in the worldwide People of God; second, the Church Catholic in a real and substantial way has a dynamic relationship with every creature and person in the created order.

January 28, 2016

An Ecological Spirituality

After a brief review of the important teachings found in *Laudato Si*, we will explore Jesus' experience of the created order as found in *Laudato Si* (Chapter Two, Section Seven). This will serve as a basis for constructing a responsible Ecological Spirituality that is both meaningful and realistic.

Consider giving this inspiring and thought provoking book as a Christmas present!

Contact Paul Riofski sjogmusic@aol.com for more information.

Coffee Fellowship and Community Sharing

Sundays after 9:30 and 11:30 mass

approx. 10:30 in Collins Hall

approx. 12:30 in Ben's Room

coffee, pastry and friendship

Bring a Friend ~ or two!

At St. John of God, we all meet each other with compassion and respect.

Lights and Shadows

There are about 7.3 billion cellphone users today --- exceeding even the world's population. And this is where man's eyes are focused. Gadgets. Facebook. Instagram. Uploads. The gift of sight has been limited to practically the virtual reality. What is true today is what is on the cellphone.

Family sets out for dinner. Over dinner, however, they hardly talk to each other. The culprit? Cellphone.

Everyone stays at home. But everyone seems to be mute. Culprit? Cellphone.

You are in a party. Cellphone.

You are alone.

Cellphone.

In church, inside the movie house, while driving, attending your kid's performance, and even when engaged in a face to face conversation --- the cellphone is guaranteed to take center stage to keep you in tune and in touch. There's now even a term coined for the fear of being without your phone: nomophobia. The fear of being disconnected is inno-mo(bile) phone-phobia --- that rush of anxiety and fear when you realize you are disconnected.

The world is losing the essentials.

I am not saying that cellphones are wrong and bad. What I am saying merely is that we should not lose sight of the more important things, people and situations around us so we can see the real world. We were given the gift of sight not only to behold the grandeur of the world, but to help the world....

The book of Isaiah teaches us how mindful God is to us. His sight is focused on how He could reverse the world of misfortune to a world of joy and peace. What we have in this day and age is more than a cellphone issue. It is an issue of care, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. God is a God of pity. And when He is moved to pity, He does things to the pitiful. When we get to watch a sentimental movie and see pitiful characters, we are moved to tears. When we get to see pitiful people in the flesh --- those who cannot see even a glimpse of joy and hope in their lives --- we are moved to tears. But what comes next?

Last night, I ministered in our church by offering Advent reconciliation. I had a few penitents. It took me more than an hour listening to their struggles and pains in life. I realized that the world is full of battered people and what is oftentimes sad is that people can only have the chance of opening up through confession.

If we gaze our eyes more on people, see and open their hidden needs, then what a great opportunity it will be for us to just listen to them vent and feel a little relieved. And who knows? By so doing, we just might be able give them back their sight of hope.

There is, to my mind, a cure to the cellphone addiction. And that is to focus our sight on how we can be more sympathetic to those who need us to see their pitiful and miserable state and, in little ways, do something about it. This is the only addiction which entails no destruction.

This Advent, as we light the remaining candles of the Advent wreath, let us light up the lives of those who grope in darkness. Offer them back their sight by being involved in their lives, no matter how little, and in the process make a big and bright difference...

~ Fr. Norman