

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Dec 11, 2022

Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Amos preached social justice. Hosea demonstrated compassion. Jeremiah was undaunted in the pursuit of truth. The Hebrew Scriptures prophetic books challenge us to witness these values in our own time. Prophets are deeply involved in society's concerns.

The author of Isaiah 35, in the sixth century B.C., encounters a dispirited community of exiles. Defeated in battle and driven from their homeland, they are without hope. The prophet responds by recalling the joyous memories of the exodus from Egypt. A second exodus is in store, symbolized by the healing granted to the blind, the dead, the lame, and the mute.

The author of James tells the suffering Christians to be like the Palestinian farmer who eagerly anticipates the winter and spring rains. Suffering demands patience. This was the case for the Hebrew Scriptures prophets who spoke out in spite of persecution. Modern prophets must be equally strong.

Matthew initially describes John the Baptist as a fiery preacher of judgment and reform. Now he addresses the Baptist's dilemma during his imprisonment. John learns that Jesus is not preaching fire and brimstone but curing the sick, raising the dead, and consoling the poor. John must have wrestled with this seeming contradiction, yet he remained true to his personal call. As a result, John found himself not in Herod's palace but in Herod's prison.

Baptism is a call to a prophetic career. The expression may vary with each individual: speaking out against injustice; denouncing leaders interested only in personal gain; offering hope to the distraught; embracing the lonely and the sick. These examples may not seem as dramatic as the adventures of an Isaiah or a John the Baptist, yet they are in that same great prophetic tradition. To be prophetic is to become involved.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Dec 18, 2022

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

**December 11** – Our vocation starts as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God's pull on our heart. It's often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. Are we to become another John the Baptist - that "voice of one crying out in the desert"? St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, "We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish."



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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,



Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

### ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

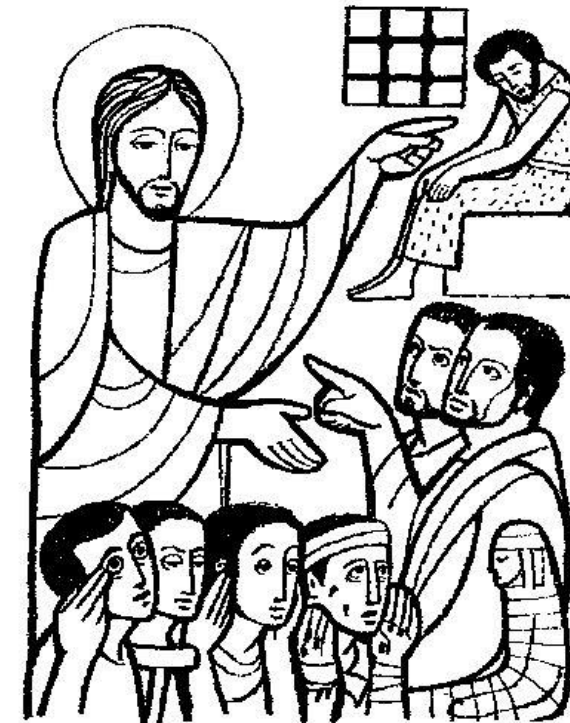
2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Becky Bowers

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm



Vol. 24 #3 December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent  
Schedule of Masses

Sun Dec 11 Retired Religious collection  
8:00 am Mass Sherry Miller  
Fri Dec 16 6:00 pm Communal Reconciliation Service  
Sun Dec 18 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson

Birthdays
Dec 11 Laurie Coleman
Gabe Ross
Dec 14 Frank Dueker
Amanda Zmuda

Liturgical Ministers

Lector	Greeter	EM	Servers	Ushers
Dec 11 M Slife	L Coleman	F Dueker	M Palmer, E Zmuda	*M McMahan S Widowski
	<u>Cantor</u>	C Ross		

Lector	Greeter	EM	Servers	Ushers
Dec 18 E Garrett	D Irby	Z Garrett	M Palmer	*M Slife, R Weeks
	<u>Cantor</u>	C Ross		

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Dec. 4 2022

General (24)	\$1410.00
Loose	\$83.00
Immaculate Conception(3)	\$35.00
Thanksgiving (1)	\$40.00
Hall use	\$100.00
Flower Memorials (11)	\$295.00

Total \$1963.00

Bld. & Maint (1)	\$5.00
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Total \$5.00

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Dec 11 Retired Religious collection  
8:00 am Mass Sherry Miller  
9:00 am Pancake breakfast and Children’s Christmas Pageant  
Fri Dec 16 6:00 pm Communal Reconciliation Service  
Sun Dec 18 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson

THANK YOU JESSE TREE “ANGELS”

The deadline for returning presents is today. If you forgot you can drop them off in the parish chapel in the parish hall.  
Special thanks to Madonna for coordinating this drive.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND CHILDRENS’ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

is today following mass. Delicious pancakes await. The PSR children worked all last Sunday to get ready to present the parish a really good show.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS IS TODAY.

We appreciate your generosity for the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This fund helps hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 21 Parish Council Meeting 6 pm following 5:30 pm Mass  
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass starting at 6 pm with Christmas carols before Mass  
Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass at 8:00 am  
Jan 1 New Years Day Mass at 8:00 am