



*I am not
worthy
to loosen
the thongs of
his sandals*

December 16, 2018 • Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah's description of God in today's first reading is quite striking. It is remarkable that after most of the book of Zephaniah paints a dark picture of God's judgment on the "Day of the Lord," we see God singing with joy, partying and celebrating, bursting with love for the Chosen People. Such is God's delight in us human beings.

In the scriptures, there seem to be two kinds of moments when God is especially delighted. First, during creation, when God creates something beautiful: not only the whole universe, but also individual human persons, made in God's image. Second, after times of separation, when God celebrates the restoration of intimacy with God's beloved.

As Paul writes to the Church in Philippi, those on the path of faith might somehow get swept up in God's joy. Because in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, God continually speaks and listens to those in united in faith. We participate in God's delight in creation when we are creative ourselves, when we add to the world's beauty. We also participate when we join in the work of reconciliation and act to heal human divisions and restore relationships.

BEGIN WHERE YOU ARE

In today's Gospel, those who listened to John the Baptist's prophetic preaching were quite troubled, and moved to ask "What should we do?" Although John had given dire warnings about what might happen if they did not sincerely repent, he did not suggest drastic actions. He recommended that people begin where they are, and work within their daily circumstances. Share generously. Treat people fairly. Be content with what you have. These were perhaps small steps turning them, in God's time, toward deeper change.

A first step for us might be to learn, however slowly, to listen to God speaking within the context of our lives. We can respond with small concrete actions and perhaps learn what God wishes to say through them. We can then listen anew for the next step.

Today's Readings: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

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Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

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|----------------------|---------|---|
| Saturday—December 15 | 5:30 PM | ✠ Jerry Barnum by Ann Barnum |
| Sunday— December 16 | 9:00 AM | ✠ Sylvester "Bud" Rourke by the Family |
| Monday | NO MASS | |
| Tuesday | NO MASS | |
| Wednesday | 6:30 PM | ✠ Don Smith by the Knights of Columbus |
| Thursday | 8:30 AM | ✠ Reverend Monsignor Vincent James Howard |
| Friday | 8:30 AM | Reparations for Sins & Healing of Abuse Victims |
| Saturday—December 22 | 5:30 PM | ✠ John Peter VanGeertruy by Sandra and Family |
| Sunday— December 23 | 9:00 AM | ✠ Charles & Dorothy Kendall by the Family |

PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR MELVIN PAMMENT, - JIM CARBARY, (FATHER OF MAGGIE SAYLES), - KEVIN PLATTE, OLIVER WASHINGTON, - LINDSEY KING (GRANDDAUGHTER OF GEORGENE KING), - GERRY PACE, - PAT SIMPSON, - RAY DOYLE, - BEN SINIARSKI, - KYLE WALLER, - TYLER KING (GRANDSON OF GEORGENE KING) - JUDITH MARTELL (MOTHER OF TERESA PICKENS), - TERRY MILLER, - JIM (MAYO) HURST, - CHARLES OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - PAT ROWLEY (SISTER OF JIM ROWLEY), - BRUCE CHANDLER (BROTHER OF MARTI ROWLEY), - JIM OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - NICHOLAS SCOTT (SON OF VERONICA SCOTT), - ROSE MORRILL, - JULIE STONER (DAUGHTER OF GENE & BARB STONER), - JOHN MARTINEZ, - FRANK LUNDIE, - JANET ARTHUR, - KIM (KOONTER) BALCARCEL, - PAM DELONG, - SUSAN DELONG, - MARY CHADWICK, - LEAH ZAMARIPA, (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), THERESA HEEG (DAUGHTER OF JOHN & SANDY VANGEERTRUY), - BETH MUSELLA (COUSIN OF ANITA LEATHERS), - ALBERTO ZAMARRIPA (RELATIVE OF JESSE ANGUIANO)

OFFERTORY
Dec. 8 & 9, 2018

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 68 Adult Envelopes | \$2,591 |
| Loose Collection | \$306 |
| 8 Children's Envelopes | \$8 |
| 9 Building Fund Envelopes | \$390 |
| 17 ACH Electronic Offertory | \$1,360 |
| Total Weekly Offertory | \$4,655 |

Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday in Advent
12:30 - 1:00 pm - St. Isidore
3:00 - 3:30 pm - Holy Family
Or Anytime by Appointment.
Sunday, December 16

Regional Advent Reconciliation Service

2pm - St. Thomas, East Lansing
OR St. Gerard, Lansing



Third Sunday of Advent

THANK YOU FROM MARYLIN VANANTWERP

I would like to thank everyone who helped me after my fall on Thursday morning. I suffered a concussion and know I wasnot thinking too clearly afterward. All your help, concern, and prayers were greatly appreciated. It made me realize how truly wonderful my church family is.

2019 Offertory Envelopes are in the back of church. If you do not see you envelopes please contact the office. Children's envelopes are available, please record the name and child's envelope number on the list. 2019 Calendars are also available



PARISH WIDE

Dec. 16—Pancake Breakfast
Dec. 16—Cooking Club—(During REF) 10:15-11:15
Dec. 18 -Advent Catechesis -6:00—7:30 PM

High School Youth Group

Sunday, January 6th, 10:15 – 11:30 AM

- FORMED – Session 5: Engaging Moral Relativism

MITTENS FOR THE HOMELESS

Monday, January 7

Large Hall—9 am to 2 pm

All ladies are welcome to join us. No sewing skills needed. **Donations needed:**

Sweaters and Polar Fleece

Please leave donations near office door.

At this time we really need sweater donations to continue

As Christmas approaches, you may have noticed that your box of envelopes does not contain an envelope marked “Pastor’s Gift” as in years past. Our diocese discourages this practice since it gives the impression that the pastor is actively soliciting gifts.

Also, contrary to “urban legend” or past practice, the Christmas Day collection does NOT go to the pastor. It is treated like any Sunday offering.

If you would like to remember Fr. Bob at Christmas with a card or monetary gift, you may drop it in the collection basket anytime. -Please place it in a separate envelope with Fr. Bob written on the outside.

--Parish Financial Committee



GIVING TREE
Gifts are due Today,
Dec. 16th



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

Sundays—10:15 AM—11:15 AM

Dec. 16—REF Sessions

Dec. 23—NO REF

Dec. 30—NO REF

Jan. 6—REF Sessions Resume

More REF details contact:

Mary Stevens—marystevens@stisidorechurch.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dec. 16—Pancake Breakfast

Dec. 26—Planning Meeting— **CANCELLED**

Knight of the Month: Keith Kienitz

Family of the Month: The Ladies who make up the Mitten Markers. So far this year they have made and distributed more than 500 pairs of mittens.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Over 60 parishioners from St. Isidore and Holy Family attended the Christmas Potluck on Thursday, December 13. Good food, good fun, and good fellowship. Photos from the potluck are available on the website.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Dec. 24

5:00 pm—St. Isidore

5:00 pm—Holy Family

Christmas Day

12:00 am Midnight Mass—St. Isidore

9:00 am—St. Isidore

10:00 am Holy Family



NOTES FROM FR. BOB BACIK

Advent is moving right along, already we find ourselves in the 3rd week and Christmas is just around the corner. As my previous pastor, Fr. Andrew Czajkowski, liked to say — we're still in the waiting room waiting for the celebration of the Lord's birth.

Don't forget there is a regional penance service at 2pm this Sunday (Dec 16) at St. Thomas, East Lansing and St. Gerard, Lansing. I will be hearing confessions at St. Gerard. Regularly scheduled confessions will also take place next Saturday at St. Isidore (12:30 - 1pm) and Holy Family (3- 3:30pm), or by appointment.

This weekend I am happy to introduce a new tradition to our parish family, Baminelli Sunday. This is another way of reminding us all that this whole season is all about the Child— so pure, so innocent, and so full of promise. What an important reminder that Jesus is the reason for the season!

I hope many of you will attend my Advent Catechesis this Tuesday evening entitled "Mary's Advent." Utilizing a video from the popular "Wild Goose" Series, we will explore together the MODEL of Mary in our Advent Season.

We are in a dark time of year. The mornings are dark and the evenings darker still. This coming Friday,

December 21 is our winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. It is within this darkness that we light our third Advent Candle. The days may be getting shorter, but our Advent wreath is getting brighter. Even more, the brightness of our Advent readings draws us toward the great feast of light, Christmas, the birthday of the one who is the light of the world. With the birth of Jesus, the light of God's love shines out for all to behold!

Fr. Ray, Deacon John and I are looking forward to celebrating the great feast of Christmas with you this year. Fr. Ray will celebrate both masses at Holy Family (5pm Vigil and 10am Christmas Day.) I will be celebrating all the Masses at St. Isidore— in addition to our regularly scheduled 5pm Vigil and 9am Christmas Day Mass, we are excited about bringing back the tradition of the 12am Midnight Mass. All are invited to the hall following Midnight Mass for a Christmas toast of eggnog. (NB: Incense will be used at the Midnight and 9am Mass).

God bless you and your families!

- Fr. Bob
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