

I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
Luke 3:16

John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness
Gustav Doré (French, 1832-1883), 1867
niekolae Adobe Stock

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Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021

Joy and exultation ring through the first reading, as Zephaniah's ancient messianic prophecy pictures God "rejoicing over (us) with gladness, renewing (us) in his love, singing joyfully because of (us) as one sings at festivals." This joyful God is not distant: the prophet declares twice that God "is in your midst." Zephaniah so trusts this joyful God's love for us that he declares our deliverance "a done deal": both from inward fear and guilt—"the Lord has removed the judgment against you"—and from external threats: "he has turned away your enemies." The Responsorial Psalm, from Advent's principal prophet, Isaiah, echoes an exultant joy that should prompt us to be "confident and unafraid," "for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." Paul likewise exhorts the Philippians—and us—to joy, to a kindness that should be evident to all, to prayer free from anxiety, serene and thankful.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

But then John the Baptist cries out on Jordan's bank: Repent! Prepare for a Messiah whose baptism "with the Holy Spirit

and fire," unlike John's water baptism, will utterly transform its recipients. His winnowing fan will clear away the dead wood, bundling wheat and burning chaff in unquenchable fire. If this is going to be "good news" for us, then well might we, like the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers who first heard John, ask "What should we do?" When John responds to the people then, and to us today, the answer, while supremely challenging, is almost surprisingly simple. Nobody is ordered to abandon the place in which their personal life's journey or the realities of a history beyond their control have put them. God saves us not despite or apart from our real-life circumstances but in them and through them. Our call now is to practical, generous charity: we are to share clothing and food; practice justice and professional and personal integrity; and be honest toward others and with ourselves. Such is the teaching of the Messiah that John heralded.

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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ST. ISIDORE CHURCH

Laingsburg, Michigan

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Office Hours: Wed. & Fri. 8:00 - 3:00 PM

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Outreach Ministry: Jesse Anguiano - 517-881-2227

Web Address: <http://stisidorechurch.org>

Saturday Mass: 5:30 pm - Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

Confession: Wednesday 5:30 to 6:20 pm

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Ovid, Michigan

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Deacon: John Marsh

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Saturday Mass: 4:00 pm - Sunday Mass 11:00 am

Confession: Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30 pm

Notes from Fr. Anthony ...

I am sure that I am not the only one to note the fact that when there really isn't much to do, the hands on the clock seem to crawl through the seconds and time moves ever so slowly. Now if we change the scenario and find ourselves with much to do, it almost seems that we see a trail of fire that the hands of the clock leave behind themselves from going so quickly around the hours. As we broach the third week of Advent, I believe many of us are starting to feel the time crunch, I guess we have come to almost expect it. On the other hand, there is the good news that Advent is almost four full weeks this year so there is still some time before the holidays. There is a lot going on right now, in our own lives, in our Church and in our country. This last week we celebrated the Solemnity of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception -the patroness of our country- and on the 12th we have Our Lady of Guadalupe (which is overridden by the liturgical celebration of Sunday) - the patroness of the unborn. Advent itself is an entire month dedicated to preparing to celebrate a birth. This is an important thing for us to meditate on as we see the recent case of Roe v Wade being brought up before the Supreme Court and the real possibility of it being overturned. Often we will hear the refrain that abortion is legal and the law of the land, therefore it is no longer a moral or religious matter – but a legal matter. The thought is that faith has no place in public policy or that we are forcing our beliefs on others and so on. The issue with that position is the fact that protection of the unborn or other vulnerable members of the human race is derived first and foremost from the natural law, not a religious precept, that moral guidelines in and of themselves are something objectively good for all. Every single law that exists is proposing and enforcing some form of guideline or rule of behavior, which means that it is enforcing some form of morality - good or bad. I am not forcing anyone to go to Mass or pray the rosary, those are purely religious tenets. Abortion is wrong and immoral because it goes against the first concept of natural law that we all know well – to do good and avoid evil, to save life rather than destroy it. It would help as people of faith to take a look at what St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us of concerning law: First, that “..the end of law is the common good” - therefore nothing morally evil or abhorrent can be considered as meeting the ends of the institution of law in itself. Secondly is that “human laws do not forbid all vices, from which the virtuous abstain, but only the more grievous vices, from which it is possible for the majority to abstain; and chiefly those that are to the hurt of others, without the prohibition of which human society could not be maintained: thus human law prohibits murder, theft and such like.”

So to summarize, this is not an issue with no bearing on the other aspects of law or justice, this strikes at the heart of them. If killing the unborn is considered acceptable, one must be able to point to the objective good that such an action brings with it and makes it a just resolution or how this legitimately advances the common good. If there is no objective good that comes from it, but rather destruction or harm, then it is the duty of law to prevent such actions from taking place. It is not only because we are Catholics that we support the right to life, it is because we are trying to be upright, moral human beings doing what is best for the protection and propagation of the human race, honorably defending the defenseless and acting in accord with the natural law and with a well-formed conscience. Add to that the principles of people of faith who believe that God is the author of all life, the origin and source of all just laws, then we have a doubled responsibility in this fight: for the good of humanity and out of basic decency and a desire for the common good and for the triumph of the truth that our God is a good, loving God, who offers us the opportunity to cooperate with Him in the act of creation by bringing life into the world, our God who is the beginning of all life and that eternity with Him is the ultimate goal for every person created in His image and likeness. Maybe each of us can take a few minutes this week to pray for all of those involved in this battle - for perseverance or for a change of heart. This is the least we can do.

God bless, Fr. Anthony

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Collection—This Weekend—Dec. 11 & 12

From Catholic schools and hospitals—to parishes, retreat centers, and works of mercy—elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have prayerfully served our Church and world. Most ministered for little pay. Now, without enough retirement savings, many religious communities are struggling to care for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medicine, and other necessities. Please be generous.

2022 Offertory Envelopes

The new offertory envelopes are out at both churches in the hall. If your envelopes are not there please contact the office.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - Friday— 4 pm—Holy Family

Christmas Eve—Friday—6 pm—St. Isidore

Christmas Eve—Mid-Night—St. Isidore

Christmas Day—Saturday—9 am—St. Isidore

Christmas Day—Saturday—11 am—Holy Family

(No evening Masses)

Dec. 26—Sunday—9 am—St. Isidore—(Regular Sunday Mass)

Dec. 26 - Sunday—11 am—Holy Family—(Regular Sunday Mass)

New Year's Day Mass—Saturday—Jan. 1—9 am—Holy Family

Jan. 1— Saturday—4 pm—Holy Family - (Regular Sunday Mass)

Jan. 1—Saturday—5:30 pm—St. Isidore—(Regular Sunday Mass)

Jan. 2—Sunday—9 am—St. Isidore - (Regular Sunday Mass)

Jan. 2 - Sunday—11 am—Holy Family- (Regular Sunday Mass)

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Thurs.— **NO Quilting**—Dec. 23 & 30
Dec. 15—Spiritual&Corporeal Works of Mercy-6:30 HF
Dec. 19—Pancake Breakfast—St. Isidore

GIVING TREE St. Isidore

All gifts are due today! - Dec 12



HOLY FAMILY GIVING TREE

We have just found out that all gifts for the Giving Tree must be in by **this weekend, Dec. 11/12**. We apologize for any inconvenience that this has caused. Many have donated in the past to this cause and all donations are appreciated. If you have bought a gift for the Giving Tree, you can take it to the Ovid Lions Club Hall on Main Street on Monday, Dec. 13th between 9 am and noon. They do not need to be wrapped—just drop them off at the Lions Club Hall. They will be packing all gifts boxes at this time. Any gifts left here at the church will be taken on Monday. Again, we thank you for your generosity.

PILLOWS & BLANKETS

Due Today! - Dec 12

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

You are cordially invited to sing with the choir at Holy Family on Christmas Eve. If you would like to join us for practice, we will be working on a new Mass setting, and will meet at Holy Family at 6:00 PM on Sunday evenings, December 12th and 19th. Thank you.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS Poster Contest

Completed posters must be returned by **December 15** and placed in the box. We will announce the winners on December 19.

Religious Education Formation—REF

Holy Family—9:50—10:50 am—Sundays
St. Isidore—10:15—11:15 am—Sundays
Questions: Email—
marystevens@stisidorechurch.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dec. 19—Pancake Breakfast

Jan. 13—Business Meeting—7:00 pm

Knight of the Month: Mel Comeau

Family of the Month: George & Georgia Lehman



Thank you to all who donated sweatshirts to the Holy Cross young people. 41 shirts were donated. It does our hearts good to see this church caring for our neighbors.



Last Sunday we welcomed three people from RCIA who have expressed an interest in joining our church. They have been attending RCIA and last Sunday were introduced to the parish. Their names are Janis Adams, Lisa Hurst and Taylor Busse (Taylor is a candidate for Confirmation) We need to lift them in prayer and fellowship.



QUILTING QUIPS...

It's never too late to join our Quilting Ministry. This past week we welcomed a new quilter to our group — Konnie VanGeertruy. She joined in and started making some items for the Christmas Store. Then she moved on to a quilt top piecing project. She has made great progress and is ready for the next sewing session! Welcome Konnie to our group!

Mark your calendars — the Quilting Ministry will **NOT** be meeting on Dec. 23rd or Dec. 30th. Everyone deserves a little time off for the holidays. See you after the New Year on Jan. 6th! Thanks to everyone who has donated their time and talent to making a brighter day for others.



MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

ST. ISIDORE, LAINGSBURG

Saturday—Dec. 11—(5:30 PM) † Jerry Barnum by Ann Barnum
 Sunday — Dec. 12 —(9:00 AM) † Steve Kaiser by the Woodbury Family
 Wednesday— Dec. 15— (6:30 PM) † Frances Lundie by the Knights of Columbus
 Thursday— Dec. 16 -(8:30 AM) People of the Parish
 Friday— Dec. 17—(8:30 AM) † Sheila Doyle by the Family
 Saturday—Dec. 18—(5:30 PM) † Sylvester "Bud" Rourke by the Family
 Sunday — Dec. 19 —(9:00 AM) † Charles H. & Dorothy Kendall by the Family

HOLY FAMILY, OVID

Saturday—Dec. 11—(4:00 PM) † Joe Thering by the Family
 Sunday—Dec. 12—(11:00 AM) Rosemarie Goodwin by Eleonore Schussmann
 Tuesday— Dec. 14 —(12:10 PM) † Pat Latz by Leonard Mitchell
 Thursday - Dec. 16 - (6:30 PM) † Maria Jones by Dan & Vickie Csapos
 Saturday—Dec. 18—(4:00 PM) † Kevin Angell by Mom & Dad
 Sunday—Dec. 19—(11:00 AM) † Marian Shipley by the Family

PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR Archie Schebester (Friend of Jesse Anguiano), Theresa Pickler (Friend of Jesse Anguiano), Autumn Michels, Pamela & Dan Morgan, Tori Martens, Tom & Mary Hughly (Friends of RoseMarie Thering), Janice Smith, Hugh Smith, Beth Ann Elliott (Daughter of Don & Denise), Clarence Dell, Craig & Caren Henning, (Nephew & Niece of Leonard Mitchell) Vince Minarik, (Son in Law of Leonard Mitchell), Terri Sue (Daughter-in-Law of Leonard Mitchell), Brad Walker, Virginia Bernal (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Fr. Mathias Thelen, (Brother of Pam (Ryan) Fabus), Bonnie Ehlert, Gary Delaney (Nephew of Bev Delaney), Pat Spencer (Friend of Bev Delaney), Charles Oleniczak, Judith Bond, Sandy McPherson (Sister of Cooky Hawkins), Sharon Darling, Jim & John Ginther (Sons of Ron & Charlene), Ron & Charlene Ginther, Carlos Duncan (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Steve Butler, Sean Robinson, Chasidy Martin, (Niece of Doug & Char Angell), Jesse Loar (Great Grandson of Leonard Mitchell), Dawn Wrobel, Mary Lou Willoughby (Sister-In-Law of RoseMarie Thering), Rosa Zamarripa, (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Taylor Nixon, (Friend of RoseMarie Thering), Bob Bunn (Nephew of Pat White), Bob McCue, Kathy Latz, (Daughter in Law of Pat Latz), Star McCann (Niece of Marian Horsley & Nancy Shipley), Tom Hulburt (Son of Nita Hughes), Larry Miller, Diane Mead (Friend of Joanne Evans), Gary Hrncharik, Donna Fruchey, Col-lene Smith, Nancy Byrnes, Nancy Alice Carbary (Mother of Maggie Sayles), Marguerite Sarkozi, Great Aunt of Stacy Voisinet, Bob Koger, Michelle Houska

Please contact the office to add or remove names from the prayer list.

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 :SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE WE HAVE
 :LOST RECENTLY

Clifton Tobias
 Mary Jane Schoendorf



Remember our service members in your prayers:

Taylor Earl Parsons—Air Force—Space Force
 Aubrey Hurst—National Guard
 Christian Garza—Army
 Fr. Brandon Oman—Air Force
 LTC Nathan Cooley - USN
 MSGT Joshua Delaney - Air Force
 Alexandra Cultra - Navy
 Andie Ostrander—Navy (To add names, - contact the office.)
 Patrick Schiffer—Air Force

ADORATION

St. Isidore Church- Wednesdays
 5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions
 6:30 pm Mass
 Adoration & Confessions Following Mass
 Until 7:45 pm

Holy Family—Thursdays
 5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions
 6:30 pm Mass



ADVENT
 CONFESSION
 TIMES WILL BE
 THE SAME AS
 THE
 REGULAR
 SCHEDULE

WEEKLY OFFERTORY December 4 & 5, 2021

St. Isidore Offertory - \$3,805
 Holy Family Offertory - \$2,871
 Online Offertory - \$1,340

TOTAL: - \$8,016