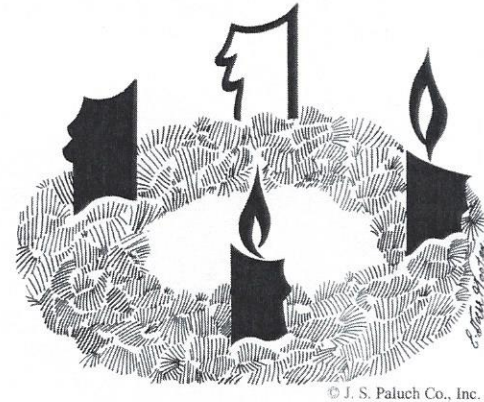




Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2019
 The earth shall be filled with
 knowledge of the LORD, as water
 covers the sea.
 — *Isaiah 11:9*



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
 Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13;
 Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
 Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,
 or any readings from the Common of the
 Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10;
 Mt 11:2-11

We would like to start a Saturday Work Party here at St. Joseph.

Things come up during the month to be done around the grounds and buildings here and a few volunteers to work a few hours on a Saturday morning will make it easy for all. If you can help us out, please sign up at the table in the back of the church.

Sunday Dec. 15th will mark the 40th anniversary of ordination for Fr. Francis. We will be hosting a reception that day after the 9am Mass.

Yvette Lepine, a former choir member here at St. Joe's, will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Dec. 19th. We are asking that anyone who has extra yarn they are willing to donate, to please give it to Maddy Adkins. She will deliver it to Yvette, who is living in a healthcare facility. Yvette passes her time by knitting the hats that are collected at this time of year for our military.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
 Monday: Immaculate Conception of the
 Blessed
 Virgin Mary
 Tuesday: International Human Rights Day
 Wednesday: St. Damasus I
 Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Friday: St. Lucy
 Saturday: St. John of the Cross



Parish club meeting on
 Dec. 11th at 5pm

Christmas food basket
 pickup will be on Satur-
 day Dec. 14th at 11am in
 the chapel area.



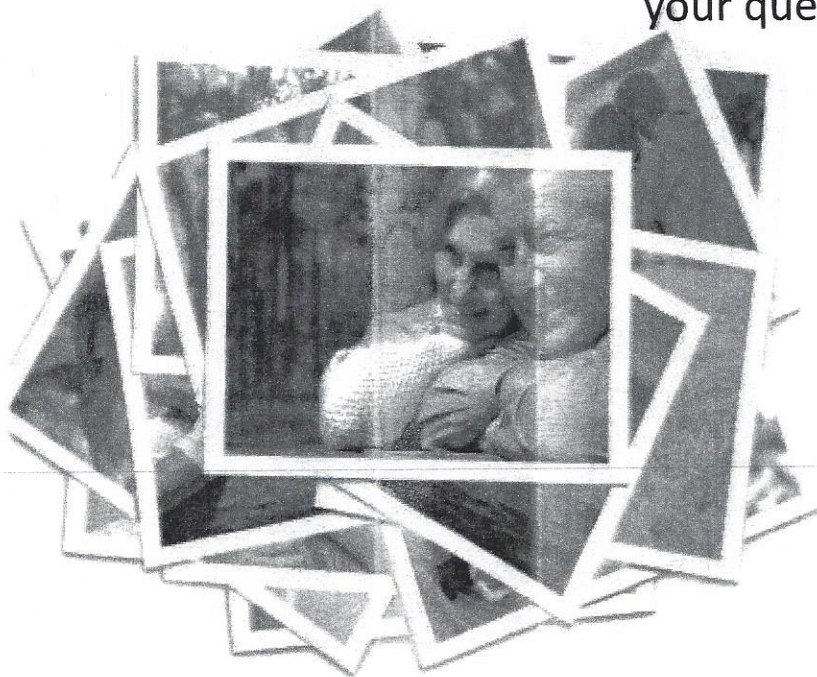
National Cremation SOCIETY®

We are Back ...JOIN US FOR AN
INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR
ON THE BENEFITS OF PREPLANNING YOUR CREMATION

Our Lady of the Springs

Saturday, December 14, 10:30 AM

Barbara Shoop and Clare Spiegel will be available to answer all of
your questions.



LEARN ABOUT:

- The Benefits of Preplanning
- Affordable Options & Savings
- Veteran Benefits
- Travel & Relocation Protection Plan
- Costs of Body Burial vs Cremation

Sign up sheets at the church or
call your speaker, CLARE SPIEGEL
954-234-7766



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2nd Sunday of Advent

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist declared, *"Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth"* (Lk 3:5).

As we are preparing for the birth our Lord , John the Baptist exhorts us that We need to prepare the way for the Messiah in our hearts: We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls which have resulted from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist way of living our faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. If we have been pushing God off to the side of our road, if we have been saying to Him that we don't really have the time for Him, now is the time for us to get our priorities straight. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism.

We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and fellow-human beings: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We have to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. There are basically two reasons why people who have recognized their sins fail to receive forgiveness for them. The first is that they fail to repent. But the second is that they fail to forgive. Jesus was very explicit about this in Matthew 6:14 and 15. He says, *"For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."* Is there someone I need to forgive today? We must not let what others have done destroy our lives. We can't be forgiven unless we forgive. We must release our bitterness if we are to be able to allow God to do His healing work in our lives, so that the Child Jesus may find a place to be born in our good, clean heart as Christmas is drawing closer.

God Bless
Fr. Justin

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

From outer space, the United States must seem peculiarly aglow these nights: we have strung lights on every tree within reach. Sometimes, even tie-tacks and earrings twinkle with "microlights." Clearly, something is afoot: there is a deep-down yearning for the world to change. Yet, John the Baptist would probably be unplugging most of these lights if he had the chance. In today's Gospel he turns people away from his baptism of repentance. "Give some evidence that you mean to reform!" he cries.

What meaning do our holiday lights convey for you? In the deep and dark countryside, a single candle glowing in a window can be seen for miles. It signals welcome and readiness; it is a beacon guiding strangers to the door, a token of a warm hearth, a loving embrace, a sign that those who have placed the candle are awake and waiting. This year, set the timers aside, and each night as you light the candles in your windows, pray: "May Christ find an eager welcome here. May this household be filled with the light of his word." One candle at a time, our faith community can reclaim the meaning of the lights of Advent hope.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

We are in need of non-perishable food item so that we are able to provide food baskets to families in need during the Christmas /Easter seasons. What ever you can donate will be much appreciated.

Saturday Dec. 7th 4pm: Intention of all choir members past & present

Sunday Dec. 8th 9am: Intention of Garton & Seagrave families

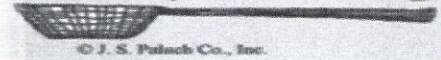
Tuesday Dec. 10th 9:30am We pray especially for all those dying today

Wednesday Dec. 11th 9:30am In thanksgiving for the gift of life

Saturday Dec. 14th 4pm: Repose of the soul of Steven Metzler

Sunday Dec. 15th 9am: Repose of the soul of Helen Henderson

Weekly Offering



Nov. 1st-30th: \$5794

Please remember to use your envelopes

Thank you for your continued support

Prayer Requests

Averi Antich
Blaine
Marvin Bordetsky
Dawn Brennan
Janice Cahill
Danny Canzolino
Mary Canzolino
Catherine Coleman
Diane DaSilva
Eric Day
Thelma Einboden
Ruth Faulkner
Lorraine Fitzkee
Pamela Fitzkee
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Dawn Fraher
Gene Loosemore
Mary Sutton
Samantha Houldson
Pamela Mickiewicz
Mary Porter
Patsy Beam
Ruvia Doyle
Petra Herb
Peggy Dowd

Gail Garrett
Martha Gartland
Lisa Gibson
Ben Hall
Maggie Hall
Lawrence Harris
Edward Hickey
Florence Humble
Raymond Jaskiewicz
Chris Keller
Jeff Keller
Rodney Keller
Jennifer Kesse
Caleb Knaggs
Helen Kocijan
Joan Langlie
Laquittia Linquist
Adam Linquist
Morris Lunn
Jim Mansfield
Bob Benjamin
Haley Falconbury
Roger Soucey
Christopher Cochran
Diane Lemon

Rick Muhlig
Joan Nchiley
Carolina Pape
Nancy Payne
Madeline Pynn
Marie Sample
Concetta Santangelo
Woody Salisbury
Dennis Soucey
Kitty Thompson
The Homebound
Greg Trace
Michael Vilt
Adele Ward
Margaret Wimberly-
Charles Young
Adele Fournier
Carolyn Ashe
Chris Jones
Shaunee March
Charles Dougherty
Francis Carrizzo
Chris Ulrich