

### Third Sunday of Advent C

- Well its time Rejoice Sunday – Readings literally say REJOICE and be glad!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading from PHIL “Rejoice in the Lord **always** – Again I say Rejoice!
  - It’s why we wear Rose-colored vestments – Rejoice, Messiah is coming, HE'S ALMOST HERE
  - Listen – my wife made this stole – its reversible  
Its Rose on this side – Jesus is coming REJOICE -  
But why did Jesus have to come in the first place? (FLIP THE STOLE)  
Its purple on this side for a reason – Advent is a season where we GET to repent  
SO THAT (FLIP) – we can REJOICE because we are forgiven – Repentance is JOY!
- So if this is true – what is it we should do to prepare for this coming the Lord?
  - There is a story of a little 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girl who came for confession.
  - She climbed up into the chair and said, “Well, I’ve been naughty.”
  - The priest smiled and asked how she’s been naughty and she told him her sins.
  - She understood that she had freely chosen to do things that were wrong & wanted forgiveness. (NOT NEW)
  - It seems today that no one wants to take responsibility for sin (**Adam → Eve → Snake**)
    - We all rationalize and make excuses for why we do what we do that's sinful,
    - But this girl knew that she had done wrong and wanted forgiveness.
    - The priest looked at her with compassion and He thought, that’s how God sees us.  
He sees us as lovable. He sees us as His children that need forgiveness.
- Well then what is it that we should do?
  - First - If we seek forgiveness, are we willing to forgive?
  - **Scripture says salvation comes from forgiveness of sin (WE CAN FORGIVE)**
- John the Baptist was a radical – but what he called for was simple
  - Repent and live a moral life
  - He called people to change their lives by living justly – what he asks is really simple:  
Do you have more clothes than you need? GIVE SOME AWAY  
If you see someone in need – HELP THEM!
  - Jesus came to change the world SO -  
Christmas is about changing the world and it can begin with us.

There are two weeks in Advent – make them count:

Spend time in Prayer                      Spend time in Scripture  
Stop by for confession - (we have 4 priests) St. Tim, MargMary, Denis,

God wants to come close to us –

In fact – He wants to come so close, that he becomes one of us  
REJOICE AND BE GLAD – God is with us