

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17TH 2023

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

Mary sings praise to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Bible Verse for the Week

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Pro Sanctity

You are invited to join Pro Sanctity

When: Monday nights for the Rosary and today's Gospel reflection

Thursday nights for Sunday's scripture readings and reflections

Why: To pray, learn and share

How: Call 3392073069 on Mondays and/or Thursdays ALL ARE WELCOME!

Prayer for Vocations

Lord of the Harvest, we petition you as you have instructed us to ask for more laborers to serve in the vineyard of Your Church. You have told us that the harvest is rich and laborers are few and we experience this great need in the face of the challenge of the New Evangelization we ask the Holy Spirit to inspire young men and women to seriously consider vocations for the priesthood and religious life. Help all of us to be effective instruments to encourage and support those whom you are calling to serve and lead the Church of Brooklyn and Queens in the future. Lord, you told the Apostles to put out into the deep. We ask for the grace and courage to accept your call as we pray and work for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Every First, and Third Sunday, of the month after each mass Fellowship is followed in the Parish Center all are welcomed

PC PROBLEMS? Call Mike

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For details or to schedule a repair

Call Mike at 718-257-2400

347-942-6770 or mwilkins235@gmail.com



Weekend Masses in the Canarsie Cluster Parishes:

Our Lady of Miracles
(E. 86th St. & Flatlands Ave.)

Sat. 5:30 PM (Eng.)
Sun. 8:30 AM (Eng.)
10:30 AM (Eng.)
12:30 PM (French/Creole)

Holy Family
(Rockaway Pkwy. & Flatlands Ave.)

Sat. 5:00 PM (Eng.)
Sun. 8:00 AM (Eng.)
9:15 AM (Creole)
11:15 AM (Eng.)
12:45 PM (Eng.)

St. Jude
(Seaview Ave. & Canarsie Rd.)

Sat. 5:30 PM (Eng.)
Sun. 8:30 AM (Eng.)
10:30 AM (Family)
12:30 PM (Bi-Lingual)
1st Sun ... Eng/French/Creole

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17TH 2023



Please Pray for ALL Our Sick In Our Parish

Gino Pizzuti, Raymond Abruzzese Deryck Ming, Maureen Ming, Dorthea C Hogarth, Marie Kernizan, Ann Bethany, Sue Vales, Rose-marie Campanilla, Rosamund Gilkes, Dexter Stiell, Joseph Esposito,

We will keep names on the sick list for three weeks.

Our Parish needs your Weekly Support TIME People

Saturday	5:30 PM	Eng	55
Sunday	8:30 AM	Eng	171
Sunday	10:30 AM	Eng	114
Sunday	12:30 PM	French/Kreyol	168

Weather: Sunny Day

Our weekly goal is \$4850.00

This Weeks Total was \$4,710.00

Previous Week \$3,800.00

Your generosity is greatly appreciated

Second Collection

Coming Up This Week



Monday: December 18

8:30 AM Mass

Tuesday: December 19

8:30 AM Mass

Wednesday: December 20

8:30 AM Mass

Thursday: December 21

8:30 AM Mass

Friday: December 22

8:30 AM Mass

Saturday: December 23

8:30 AM Mass & 5:30 PM Mass

Sunday: December 24

8:30 AM Mass & 10:30 AM Mass English

12:30 PM Mass French/Kreyol

Our Lady of Miracles Rectory Office Hours

Monday 10AM-5PM, Tuesday 10AM-5PM,

Wednesday 10AM-5PM, Thursday 10AM-5PM,

Friday 10AM-5PM, Saturday Closed, Sunday Closed

Our Lady of Miracles Rectory office is now open from

Monday-Friday 10AM-5PM

Saturday December 16

8:30 AM In Memory of Francoise Dorice Jasmin by Chela Lopez

8:30 AM Birthday Blessings for Sergo Blain by Sergo Blain

5:30 PM Birthday Blessings for Richard Augustin by His Mom

5:30 PM Birthday Blessings for Sergo Blain by Sergio Blain

Sunday December 17

8:30 AM In Loving Memory of Valentine Anthony Viechweg by Wife & Children

8:30 AM In Memory of Celestino Mallare Jr & Belin Mallare by Letecia Casipe

10:30 AM Christmas In Heaven for Concetta & Michael Petrizzo by Michael, Mary Anne, & Steve

12:30 PM In Memory of Giordani Desir by Immacula Desir

12:30 PM In Memory of Lancelot Menelas, Anthony Menelas, & Marie Rose Menelas by The Menelas Family

12:30 PM Action De Grace by Macienne Jean Gilles

12:30 PM In Memory of Jeanne Irene Leveille by Anne Marie & Silus Bazard & Family

12:30 PM Birthday Blessings for Martine by Martine

12:30 PM Honoring Mass of The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ by Marie Gisele Merisier

12:30 PM Action De Grace by Andre Souffrant

12:30 PM Thanksgiving by Immacula St Germain

Monday December 18

8:30 AM For an increase to the Priesthood by OLM

Tuesday December 19

8:30 AM In Memory of all deceased OLM Parishioners by OLM

Wednesday December 20

8:30 AM Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Miracles by OLM

Thursday December 21

8:30 AM Peace and Safety for everyone in this world by OLM

Friday December 22

8:30 AM Birthday Blessings for Savion Blain by Savion Blain

Saturday December 23

8:30 AM Anniversary In Heaven for Angela Ruocco by Nina & Family

5:30 PM Action De Grace pour blessings received by Marcelle

You can donate to the parish by using our electronic giving page at <https://givecentral.org/olm-brooklyn> Or simply text the word SUDAY to 646-736-4700 or mail your envelopes to the rectory at 757 East 86TH St Brooklyn NY 11236

From February 2023 All Mass Intentions are now \$20 each

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17TH 2023

Pope Francis's Reflection for Sunday December 17th 2023

Third Sunday Of Advent

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

The invitation to joy is characteristic of the season of Advent: the expectation of Jesus' birth that we experience is joyful, somewhat like when we await the visit of a person we love a great deal, for example, a friend whom we have not seen for a long time, a relative.... We are in **joyful anticipation**. And this dimension of joy emerges particularly today, the Third Sunday, which *opens with Saint Paul's exhortation: "Rejoice in the Lord always"* (Entrance Antiphon; cf. Phil 4:4, 5).

"Rejoice!" Christian joy. **And what is the reason for this joy? That "the Lord is at hand" (v. 5). The closer the Lord is to us, the more joy we feel; the farther away he is, the more sadness we feel.** This is a rule for Christians. Once a philosopher said something more or less like this: "I do not understand how one can believe today, because those who say they believe have a face from a funeral wake. They do not bear witness of the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ". Many Christians have that face, yes, a face from a funeral wake, a face of sadness.... But Christ is risen! **Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"**

The Gospel according to John today presents us the biblical character who – excluding Our Lady and Saint Joseph – first and most fully experienced the expectation of the Messiah and *the joy of seeing him arrive*: naturally, we are speaking of **John the Baptist** (cf. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28).

The Evangelist introduces him in a solemn way: "**There was a man sent from God.... He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light**" (vv. 6-7). The Baptist is the first *witness* of Jesus, with the word and with the gift of his life. All the Gospels agree in showing that he fulfilled his mission by indicating Jesus as the Christ, the One sent by God, promised by the Prophets. John was a leader of his time. His renown had spread throughout Judea and beyond, to Galilee. But he did not surrender even for an instant to the temptation to draw attention to himself: he always oriented himself toward the One who was to come. He used to say: "**he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie**" (v. 27). Always indicating the Lord. Like Our Lady: always indicating the Lord: "Do whatever he tells you".

The Lord is always at the centre. The Saints around him, indicating the Lord. And one who does not indicate the Lord is not holy! This is the first condition of Christian joy: to decentralize from oneself and place Jesus at the centre. This is not alienation, because Jesus is effectively the centre; he is the light that gives full meaning to the life of every man and woman who comes into this world. It is the same dynamism of love, which leads me to come out of myself not to lose myself but to find myself again, while I give myself, while I seek the good of others.

This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith. And in dark moments, that inner joy, of knowing that the Lord is with me, that the Lord is with us, that the Lord is Risen. The Lord! The Lord! The Lord! This is the centre of our life, and this is the centre of our joy. Think well today: how do I behave? Am I a joyful person who knows how to transmit the joy of being Christian, or am I always like those sad people, as I said before, who seem to be at a funeral wake? If I do not have the joy of my faith, I cannot bear witness and others will say: "But if faith is so sad, it is better not to have it".



Scriptures For The Week

Monday December 18

Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25(194)

Tuesday December 19

Jgs 13:2-7; 24-25a Lk 1:5-25(195)

Wednesday December 20

Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38(196)

Thursday December 21

Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45(197)

Friday December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56(198)

Saturday December 23

Mai 3:1-4;23-24 Lk 1:57-66(199)

Our Lady of Trust Catholic Academy

up coming events

Open House for Pre-3, Pre – K4 & Pre K
9:00 to 11 AM

For more information call 718-241-6633

Record of PARISH contributions

If you use our church envelopes and need to have a record of your contributions to Our Lady of Miracles Church for the past year(2022) for income tax purposes, please contact the rectory during office hours or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to

Our Lady of Miracles Church, 757 East 86th street, Brooklyn, New York 11236. We will be happy to forward the information to you.

Due to the Corona Virus we will not be serving the Precious Blood we will let you know when we will be serving the precious blood.

Haitian Prayer group meet every Monday night at 7:00 Pm in the church. All are welcomed

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Office Of Faith Formation News

Registration for Religious Ed classes for 2023-2024 is closed. Thanks to all parents and guardians who enrolled their children for this year. Remember classes begin with the 8:30 mass after which the children will proceed to the school auditorium for the continuation of class.

Adults who are interested in learning more about Catholic Faith, please contact Sr Francesca at 718-649-1006

Our office Days and Hours

Tuesday: 9:30AM-4:00PM

Friday: 9:30AM-4:00 PM

Email: dre101163@diobrook.org

All children beginning the first grade in Public or Catholic school must register their child for the 2 year communion preparation program. After communion all public school children must register for on-going classes till the 7th grade at which time all Public and Catholic school children must register for the 2 year confirmation preparation program.

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Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday, from 9:30 AM till 12:00 Noon, we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction. We are looking for people to sit in church while the Blessed Sacrament is on the altar. Please come to the rectory to put your name down for an hour or two.

The only time we will not have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is if we have a funeral

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 CATHOLIC APPEAL PRAYER

Loving Father, through Baptism you have made us members of the Body of your Son and His Priestly People. You have enriched us with the outpouring of the gift of your Holy Spirit. You continue to make your Son present among us through the Sacrament of His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

We are ever grateful for what you do for us and we seek to respond by revealing your goodness through the witness of our lives.

Help us to nourish and support those members of the Body of Christ who are in need of our generous sharing of our time, talent and treasure.

We make this prayer through Christ our High Priest and Lord. AMEN

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 Goal at Our Lady of Miracles R.C is \$35,000

Thank for your generous support.

God bless you!

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE WHEN YOU ARE ENTERING THE CHURCH. THIS IS QUITE DISTRACTING TO THE PRIEST AND OTHER PARISHIONERS THANK YOU.

Bible Puzzle

Adam and Eve Crossword

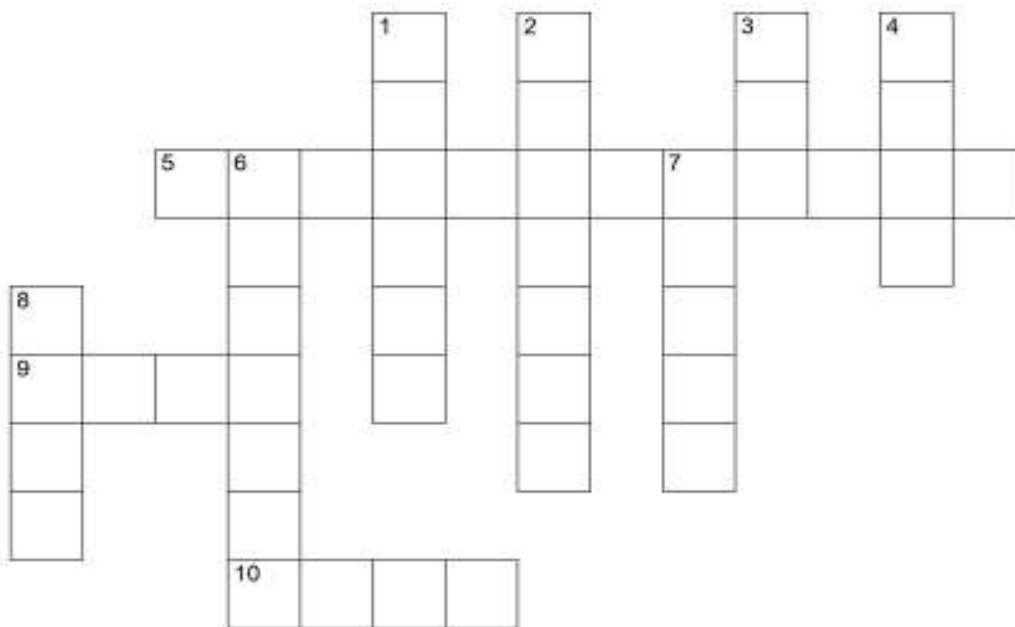
Work the puzzle to review what you know about Adam and Eve and their sons. Look up the verses to be sure of your answers.

Across

- At first Adam and Eve lived in the _____ (3 words). (Genesis 2:8)
- The first man was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
- Adam and Eve's third son was _____. (Genesis 4:25)

Down

- God told them not to eat the fruit of the tree in the _____ of the garden. (Genesis 3:2-3)
- After Adam and Eve sinned, they were _____ (2 words) of the garden. (Genesis 3:23)
- The first woman was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
- God was pleased with _____. (Genesis 4:4)
- Adam named all the _____. (Genesis 2:20)
- Adam and Eve sinned by eating the _____. (Genesis 3:6)
- _____ was jealous of his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:8)



Adam, Eve, and Cain all sinned against God. What should you do when you sin?