

**For The Bulletin Of
December 6, 2015**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

From Father Robert

Saved by the bell! The firefighter saved the baby from sure death. The relief pitcher saved the game. We hear the word “save” frequently in our everyday conversation and know immediately what it means to be rescued from a bad/dangerous situation or from an unwanted outcome. This Sunday’s gospel doesn’t have the “save,” but instead “salvation.” What does it mean to “see the salvation of God” that Isaiah the prophet foretold? Here the meaning of “save” is not quite so straightforward. Much more is promised than being rescued. In fact, what the gospel is about is not so much being saved *from* as being saved *by* and *for*.

John the Baptist clearly tells us how we are saved: seek “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” We are to actively level out the mountains and valleys of our own lives. We are to “make straight” our relationship with God and others. We sometimes don’t understand nor are we aware of the critical importance of repentance and forgiveness in our relationships with each other, and how critical they are for our salvation. Baruch’s prophecy of a glorious future was fulfilled when Israel returned from exile. Isaiah’s prophecy of future glory quoted in the gospel (“all flesh shall see the salvation of God”) is fulfilled when we return to God through repentance and forgiveness. “Repentance for the forgiveness of sins” is an essential requirement for us to “see

the salvation of God.” We are saved *by* the actions of God *for* putting on “the splendor of glory from God forever.”

The salvation of God is progressively revealed in repentance (our work) and forgiveness (God’s work). The meandering paths and winding roads our lives are characterized by attitudes of repentance. To repent means to change one’s mind, one’s life; this is how we reach the fullness that is promised and our true home: by increasing our love for one another, discerning “what is of true value,” and by being “filled with the fruit of righteousness.” Our work of repentance is a matter of turning ourselves toward the God Who embraces us in mercy and forgiveness and welcomes us home. Our work of repentance is our response to the word-initiation to “see the salvation of God.” We are to hear the “word of God” and act on it. Do we? How well?

Living The Paschal Mystery

Let’s be honest: it’s not just the busyness of Christmas preparation now in full December fury that distract us from our ongoing work of repentance and forgiveness. Every day of the year we tend to be distracted by mountains of work, paths of indecision, valleys of doubt and fear. Like John the Baptist, we are to hear “the word of God” that comes to us, that challenges us to embrace a more Godlike way of living, that not only promises salvation, but also shows us the path to it.

Changing our lives to live more faithfully Gospel values is not easy. Nor do we ever get to a point in our daily living when we have arrived at the mountain-top and no longer need to act on God’s Word, change our minds about

what is most important to us, open ourselves to God's forgiveness of our wrongdoing and learn how we in turn forgive other. This is the path to salvation. Not an easy one. But a rewarding one.

One week of Advent has now passed and we enter today the beginning of the Second. How well has our Advent journey gone so far? What have the "God moments" been in the last week? As we light the second candle on our Advent Wreaths, how is the Light of Christ growing within me?

- The "word of God" comes to me and...As a result, I must...
- I need to respond to John's call to "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" in terms of my relationship with...
- For me, salvation looks like...feels like...sounds like...

About Liturgy – Advent Penance Service

Many parishes offer communal penance liturgies at least twice a year: during Advent and Lent. The readings this Sunday remind us that this sacrament of reconciliation is not primarily about lists of sins but about repentance, changing one's heart. Just as with all the sacraments, we celebrate the ritual as a way of appropriating the insight of the sacrament, namely, to "take off" the robes of sin and "put on the splendor" of the gospel attitudes of repentance and forgiveness.

The "Penitential" Act – Sometimes people claim that they have no need for the Sacrament of Penance because every Sunday Eucharist begins with a "penitential act." Two points by way of response might be made to such

objections. First of all, the "penitential act" isn't the same as the Sacrament of Penance and so it doesn't replace in our practice the need for this special sacrament that is a concrete sign of God's forgiveness and promised healing. Second, the "penitential act" really isn't primarily about the forgiveness of sins as such but is about celebrating God's mercy and offer of salvation that always leads us to praise and thanksgiving.

Although it is always good to acknowledge our sinfulness and beg for God's mercy, it is telling that *The Roman Missal* gives us other choices for the Introductory Rites and it is good pastoral practice to choose carefully among them according to the liturgical season and/or festival. We have made good use of those options here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. Since Lent is a penitential season, on the Sundays of Lent the strongest option among the choices for the penitential act might be the use of a form of general confession such as "the Confiteor." On other Sundays of the year another choice might be more appropriate, especially since every Sunday is a celebration of resurrection.

Happy Anniversary, Deacon Gary

Twelve years ago, **Deacon Gary** was ordained as a Permanent Deacon. He has served here at St. Ignatius of Antioch since then and has been involved in a number of ministries. Presently he is the Director of Pastoral Care and the Facilitator of "Silver and Gold," our Senior Ministry, as well as presiding and preaching for one daily Liturgy of the Word and Communion service each week as well as taking part in the preaching rotation. Today, we thank God for his vocation as Permanent

Deacon, Husband, Father, Grandfather, and member of our Community. Please join me in wishing him a very Happy Anniversary and many more years of service to God, the church, and our parish.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. We are privileged to celebrate Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., **5:30 p.m.**, and 7:30 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. Liturgy will be the Solemn Mass with procession, incense, the Parish Choir, Cantors, and Organ.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy Begins December 8th

In addition to Tuesday, December 8th being a Holy Day, our Holy Father, Francis, has proclaimed a Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will mark the beginning of the Holy Year of Mercy at each liturgy on Tuesday and then other opportunities to celebrate the year will be announced soon that will have events both here in our parish, in the Deanery, and in the Diocese.

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

The next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place on Friday evening, December 11th, at 6:15 p.m. We will be meeting once again at Antioch Church Family, 55 E. 18th Street and walking to the intersection of Cavallo Road and E. 18th. Please see the article in the bulletin by **Carolyn Krantz, Pastoral Associate for Social Justice.**

Breakfast With Santa

On Saturday, December 12th, our parish will sponsor its first-ever “Breakfast

With Santa” for the children of our parish and community. Our thanks to **Kathleen Clarke** for arranging this wonderful holiday event. Please see today’s bulletin for all the details.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

This coming Saturday, December 12th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will honor Mary under this title as a part of our Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m., followed by a traditional dinner in our parish hall. I am grateful to **Lidia Tarango, Coordinator of our Guadalupana Society** for all that she and they are doing to make this celebration possible.

Christmas Environment Help

Beginning Monday, December 14th, our Art & Environment Committee will begin the process of transforming the church from its Advent Environment to that of the Christmas Season. Many hands are needed to make this possible. We invite you to join us in this artistic endeavor and to experience how the environments are created. We begin each morning of that week at 9:00 a.m. Come and meet fellow parishioners and make new friends!

Simbang Gabi

Once again this year we will be joining our sisters and brothers from throughout the Deanery for the traditional Filipino observance of Simbang Gabi, nine days of Masses at 5:00 a.m. to prepare for Christmas. We will gather at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Brentwood, and each morning there will be a traditional Filipino breakfast served in their parish hall. I will be presiding on Thursday, December 17th, and the priests of the Deanery will each take turns presiding and preaching. The

Masses begin on Wednesday, December 16th and conclude on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

One of the most beautiful services to help us prepare for the Christmas Feast is “Lessons and Carols for Christmas,” which takes place this year **on Sunday, December 20th at 3:00 p.m.**, followed by a reception in the Spirit of the Season in our parish hall. Under the direction of our Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence, **Don Pearson, the Parish Choir and Cantors** will tell the story of Christmas by singing some of the most beautiful and beloved anthems of the Christmas Season. The Carols and anthems are interspersed with the scripture passages that tell the Christmas Story. There is no charge to attend, however, a free will offering will be received during the reception to help offset its costs. Please plan on being with us. Last year there were over 250 people present and we believe that there will be even more this year.

Christmas At St. Ignatius of Antioch
Christmas Eve, December 24th
4:00 P.M. Family Mass – Children’s
Christmas Pageant

10:00 p.m. The Solemn Mass of
Christmas Night – *Procession,*
Incense, The Parish Choir and Organ

Christmas Day, December 25th
9:00 a.m. The Mass At Dawn –
Procession, Incense, Cantors and
Organ

11:00 a.m. The Mass of Christmas
Day – *Procession, Incense, The Parish*
Choir, Cantors, and Organ

December 26th – The Feast of the Holy
Family
Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.

December 27th – The Feast of the Holy
Family
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

December 31st – Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God, New Year’s Eve
Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m.

January 1, 2016 – Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God, New Year’s Day, the
World Day of Prayer for Peace
11:00 a.m. Solemn Mass of New
Year’s Day – *Procession, Incense, The*
Parish Choir, Cantors, and Organ

January 2, 2016 – Solemnity of the
Epiphany
Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. – *Procession,*
Incense, Procession of The Three
Kings, Cantor, and Organ

January 3, 2016 – Solemnity of the
Epiphany
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. – *Procession,*
Incense, Procession of the Three Kings,
The Parish Choir, Cantors, and Organ

January 9, 2016 – The Feast of the
Baptism of the Lord
4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass – *Renewal of*
Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling
Rite

January 10, 2016 – The Feast of the
Baptism of the Lord
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. – *Procession,*
Renewal of Baptismal Promises and
Sprinkling Rite – The Parish Choir,
Cantors, and Organ; The conclusion of
the Christmas Season.

The Christmas Environment

You are invited to join in helping to make the Christmas Environment through your generous contributions to the Christmas Flower Fund. Your gifts provide the Christmas Trees, lights, garlands, wreaths, panels that grace the Icons, and Pointsettias possible. Your gifts may be made either In Honor of OR In Loving Memory of a loved one, family members, or friends. Please be sure to include the designation on the envelope with your gift. Flower Fund Envelopes are provided in our monthly envelope packet or may be found on the credenza or will be included in the Christmas Letter mailing. I thank you for what you will do to sustain the wonderful work of our Art & Environment Committee.

Christmas At The Rectory

You are invited to join me at the Rectory on Sunday, December 27th, for an afternoon/evening of fellowship, great food, and Christmas “cheer!” The Rectory will be open from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and I ask that you bring your favorite appetizer (hot or cold) to share and I will provide the “cheer!” The house will be decorated once again by **Theresa Nelms, Rich Confetti, and Don Benson**. Because of the numbers who attend, we will also have tents across the back and side of the house that will also be decorated and heated. This is a wonderful way for us to be together and to continue celebrating God’s wondrous gift of the Word made Flesh in Jesus. I hope you will plan to join us.

Be A King Or A Star For A Day!

You are invited to sign up to be one of the Three Kings for the Solemnity of the Epiphany on Saturday, January 2nd and

Sunday, January 3rd. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the Sacristy for each liturgy, including a Star-bearer to lead their procession. We already have two individuals signed up to be kings for the Sunday morning 8:00 a.m. Eucharist. This is your chance to be “a king for a day!”

Christmas Cards For Archbishop Brunett

Please don’t forget to send a Christmas card and greetings to Archbishop Alexander Brunett, Retired Apostolic Administrator of our Diocese. He is so grateful to all our parishioners who have sent him cards, notes, and Christmas greetings over the past years. His address is as follows:

Archbishop Alex J. Brunett
Archdiocese of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-2017

He repeatedly tells me how grateful he is for our parish and will never forget his visit here with us.

Thank You To Our Art & Environment Committee

On Friday, November 27th, our Art & Environment Committee and other parishioners gathered to transform the environment from Fall/Autumn/Thanksgiving to Advent. The current environment for these four weeks before the Christmas Feast is characterized by its sleekness and elegance. Our thanks to: **Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Peter Degl’Innocenti, Lee Oliver, Patricia Britton, Paul Burgarino, Joanna Burgarino, Gail Burgarino, Pablo & Norma Villegas, Tom & Stevie Catchings, Vanessa & Jacqueline Aguasvivas, Oscar Tellez,**

Kathy Romeo, and Denise Moss. Also, a special thank you to **Pablo Villegas and Oscar Tellez** who installed the exterior Christmas Lighting on the church.

Thank You

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who arrived early last Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend and week ahead: **Jun Bajet, Steve Rojek, Kelly Wetzel, Tracy Wetzel, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Reno & Thelma Benasfre.**

...to our equally faithful volunteer parishioners who cared for and maintained the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, and Harlan Young.**

Thank You From The Society For The Propagation of the Faith

Dear Parishioners of St. Ignatius of Antioch,

We are most grateful for your Mission Appeal Collection in the amount of **\$3,774.00.** Your generosity helps us in joining in the world-wide mission of Jesus and His Church.

The Mission Appeal Collection helps sustain the preaching, teaching, healing, and life-giving mission of Christ throughout the world. The support of mission priests, Sisters, Brothers and lay Catechists, through your prayers and sacrifices, help others come to know Christ better and experience His love and healing in their daily lives.

Thank you again for your generosity.

The Society For The Propagation of the Faith, Diocese of Oakland

*Our collection came in response to the presence and preaching of **Father Cosmos**, a Missionary from the Missionary Society of St. Paul in Nigeria, on Diocesan Missionary Cooperative Appeal Sunday. We will not soon forget his joy and the great experience he had in our parish.*

Appointment Anniversary

Today, December 6th, marks the Tenth Anniversary of my appointment to St. Ignatius of Antioch and the beginning of my Eleventh Year with you as your Shepherd and Brother. I thank each and every one of you for your support, prayers, and love for me during these past ten years. Ministry with you and for you has been one of the greatest blessings and experiences of my life. Together we have accomplished much and grown in our understanding of what it means to be a church of mission in service to one another and to the wider community. I cannot tell you how proud I am of all those who have responded so selflessly and generously to each of the opportunities for service within and without our parish, for meeting the needs of the poor, the marginalized, those who live on the periphery of life here in Antioch and beyond. You continue to say a heartfelt "Yes!" to each invitation from the Lord to serve His people and respond to their needs. I give thanks to God for you and remember you in my prayers and at each liturgy. It is my hope to remain here for at least nine more years when I will reach the 50th Anniversary of Ordination and then retire. One of the goals that I have for myself and all of us is to somehow see that our much needed parish hall is finally built. Please continue to pray for me to continue to lead, shepherd, and guide our parish with energy, enthusiasm, love, and vision for all that is yet to be. — Fr. Robert

***Additional Thanksgiving
Basket Project Thank You's***

A few names were inadvertently left out of last week's "Thank You" article.

12 cases of fresh broccoli and 150 pounds of butter were donated by **Will Avitable and Catherine Vidaurri**. These items were added to each of the baskets delivered.

Fresh produce from our community garden also supplemented some of the baskets.

Our own Faith Formation classes donated **12 baskets** to this project as well.

Thanks also to **Don Benson** for all his work on this project.