

**For The Bulletin Of
December 13, 2015**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT – “GAUDETE”**

From Father Robert

In terms of our everyday lives, most of us are too over-scheduled even to think about asking a question such as, “What should we do?” We rush from one thing to the next, just barely squeaking by. Choices seem nonexistent. We just want to get through our day being on time for work, getting the kids to soccer, getting something to eat for ourselves and our family, finding time to get the homework finished, answering emails, checking up on our social media sites, texting a few messages. We fall into bed, sleep a few hours, then get up the next day and start the hectic routine all over again. “What should we do?” If only we had the luxury of being able to ask the question!

At this midpoint in Advent, the gospel calls us to stop, examine our lives and relationships, and perhaps prioritize in a different way how we spend our time.

John the Baptist challenged the people who asked him, “What should we do?” by admonishing them to far exceed their present way of acting toward others. When we are so rushed, or don’t put others first, or don’t have God as the center of our lives, it is very easy to fall into doing only what is minimally required. John is saying that minimum is not enough. Minimum responses in our relationships do not take us beyond ourselves to encounter the goodness that is present to us. Minimum responses surely don’t fill us with an expectation

that our anxieties can be diminished when we act out of the realization that the “Lord is near.”

Yet even such “good news” does not measure up to what the “one mightier” than John will ask of us. Christ, who baptizes us “with the Holy Spirit,” will require no less of us than living the Gospel He came to reveal, a Gospel that exacts the gift of our very selves. If we ask, “What should we do?” we must be prepared for an answer that challenges us. Are we willing even to ask the question? Are we willing to reorganize our lives so that Christ is truly at the center, so that the magnanimity of our hearts is measured by something other than getting through another hectic day? Just like John, our lives are about others. Like John, we are to give our all – yes, our very lives – so that others can live better and love more deeply. By taking the time to ask the right questions, we define ourselves not in terms of what we do but who we are in relation to other and others. The *relationship* to others is the key, not what we or they do.

Living The Paschal Mystery

When we go beyond ordering our lives around doing the minimal things – fulfilling the requirements of our state in life and job or ministry – then we can seek the greater things, the greater One our being baptized in the Holy Spirit means that we already share in divine Life. Relationships to others take on a whole new meaning because they give us the opportunity to live like Christ did: for others.

In our daily living we, like John, point to the One Who is to come by doing well what is expected of us. Even more importantly, we point to the One Who is

to come by being who we have become in Christ: the Presence of Christ for others; we ourselves are to be the “mighty one” for others. Because of God’s indwelling, doing for others and being like Christ collapse into one: whatever it is we do, we always do so as bearers of Christ because we are “in Christ Jesus.” For this reason – we are the presence of the risen Christ for each other – nothing we do is small or inconsequential. Everything we do brings the Lord near to those around us.

As the Antique Rose Third Candle is lighted in The Great Wreath, and as the light increases, where are you on the Advent journey? Have you allowed the call and challenge of Advent to touch your heart and life?

- If I could ask John the Baptist, “what should I do?” he would say to me...If I ask Jesus, “What should I do?” He would say to me...
- I am most willing to ask Jesus the question “What should I do?” when...I resist asking the question when...
- For me, being baptized in the Holy Spirit means...For the world, it means...

About Liturgy: The Ministry of the Assembly

We hear much about the “visible” liturgical ministries (hospitality ministers, music ministers, altar ministers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers). We also know that these ministries require preparation and formation. Rarely do we hear, however, about the Ministry of the Assembly itself. All these visible ministers – the presider and deacon, and all the others who are present at any liturgy – together make up

the *assembly*. We might think that the Assembly is just *there* to pray and the visible ministers have all the *doing*. This isn’t a very accurate assessment of the role of the Assembly. A most important ministry at any liturgy is the ***Ministry of the Assembly***.

To be sure, there is a *doing* on the part of the Assembly: standing, sitting, kneeling, singing, responding, processing, acclaiming, and professing. Sometimes we might fall into the trap of presuming that this is all the Assembly does and this is all there is to participation. The most fruitful role of the Assembly *comes out of* the doing. First and foremost the liturgical assembly is the Body of Christ gathered around its Head. The Assembly, then, makes visible the church, makes visible Christ. One fundamental role of the Assembly is to be present to one another, to relate to each other as the presence of the Risen Christ. This relational ministry of the assembly makes concrete and visible how we live our everyday lives: relating to each other as members of the Body of Christ. The Ministry of the Assembly is to be Body of Christ made visible. While the question, “what should we do?” is an important one with respect to liturgy, it must always lead to the questions, “Who shall we be? How self-giving are we?”

The Arrangement of Evergreens and Antique Pink Roses is placed to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Fara Costanza by Carole Miller.

Christmas Environment Help

Tomorrow morning, Monday, December 14th, we begin the transformation of the church from Advent to Christmas. We invite you to

join us in making this happen. If you have not been a part of creating the environment for a particular liturgical season, this is your chance! Come and work alongside fellow parishioners who are dedicated to creating an environment that says “Christmas!” for the entire Christmas/Epiphany Season. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and work each day of the coming week until everything is done. Coffee and breakfast pastries are provided each morning and lunch is provided at midday. I hope to see you there!

Simbang Gabi

The traditional nine days of Masses called “Simbang Gabi” which is celebrated by our Filipino Community begins this coming Wednesday, December 16th. Once again, we are joining our sisters and brothers from throughout the Delta Deanery at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Brentwood. The Masses begin each morning from this Wednesday through December 24th at 5:00 a.m. and are followed by a traditional Filipino Breakfast in their parish hall. I will be presiding on behalf of our parish and parishioners on Thursday, December 17th and our adopted seminarian, **Mario Rizzo**, will be giving the homily.

Lessons and Carols

One of the most beautiful and traditional services of the Advent/Christmas Season is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which through Music and the Spoken Word tell the story of the Birth of Our Savior. Under the direction of our Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence, **Don Pearson and the Parish Choir** will be performing some of the most beloved anthems of the

Christmas Season. The service takes place next Sunday afternoon, December 20th, at 3:00 p.m. and is followed by a reception in the parish hall. While there is no charge to attend, a free will offering will be received to help defray the cost of the reception. Please invite your family members, relatives, friends, and neighbors to join us for this memorable service. Last year, there were over 250 people present and we sense that there will be even more this year because of the quality and power of the music. What a wonderful way for us to prepare for the Christmas Feast! I hope you will join us.

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 Poinsettias 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**. 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.

From St. Vincent de Paul

Dear Fr. Robert & Members of
St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish,

Thank you so much for your generosity of over 200 food baskets at Thanksgiving. With a turkey added to each, many families had a wonderful day and were very grateful. Thanks also for the “muscle power” to get all the food to cars of the families. You are such a blessing to Holy Rosary Parish and the St. Vincent de Paul Society with your ongoing donations of Fifth Sunday Collections, groceries donated each week, along with the fresh vegetables from your Community Garden. May God reward you for your kindness and generosity.

Have a Blessed Christmas,
May Hennessey, Secretary
St. Vincent de Paul

Thank You

...to **Sharon Wetzel, Tracy Wetzel, and Kelly Wetzel** who participated in last Saturday’s Antioch Neighborhood Clean-up.

...to our faithful parishioners who prepared the Christmas Mailing: **Vicki Ancheta, Joe & Carol Fanfa, Bernice Campbell, Teresa Conley, Clem Bushman, Mary Kendrick, Anthony Gumina, Ruth Landry, Vangie Parrilla, Geri Chiechi, Nancy Newton, Lorraine Lohmeier, and Carole Miller.**

...to our parishioners who come early each Saturday morning to clean the church in preparation for the weekend:

Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Carole Miller, Reno & Thelma Benasfre, Steve Rojek, and Jun Bajet.

...to our parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall throughout the week:

Mary Ewing, Robert Goncalves, Harlan Young, Gino Ramos, and Geri Abaya.

...to our parishioners who faithfully “stuff” the bulletin and prepare it for distribution each weekend: **Judy Quicho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Bobbie Ocang, Vangi Parilla, and Vicki Ancheta.**

Deanery Planning Process

The next Deanery Planning Process meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Anne Church, Byron. The process is being facilitated by **Chuck Siebanand**, retired Director of Pastoral Planning for the Diocese. The representatives from our parish are **Brian McCoy, Carolyn Krantz, Will Avitable, and myself.** I will continue to keep you updated and share the minutes with you as the meetings unfold.

St. Nicholas Festival Dinner

Last Saturday evening we marked the Tenth Annual St. Nicholas Festival Dinner. Each of the tables was set with

beautiful centerpieces, all in keeping with this year's theme, "A Vintage Christmas." Parishioners sponsored tables and brought their table settings of flatware, stemware, china, and accents in keeping with the Advent/Christmas Season. This event would not be possible were it not for all those who work to make it happen: **Chef Dave Costanza and his Kitchen Crew: Tomas Lucia, Carole Miller, Brian & Vicki McCoy, and Al Cosce; Table Hosts: Jane Sharpe, June Stuhlreyer & Kathleen Clarke, Jan Degl'Innocenti, Anna Tellez, Annette Pisani, Frances Rojek & MaryAnne Douville, Jeannine Ford, Pam Confetti & Fran Barbanica, Pam Silva, Diane Hack, Maryann Peddicord & Alicia Perez, Carmen Mayne, Gail & Joanna Burgarino, Marla Plurkowski, and Susan Batterton.** We are also grateful to our Knights of Columbus and **Rich Confetti** for all their work to set up and prepare the parish hall. We are also grateful to **Mary Anne Douville and Faultless Cleaners in Pittsburg, Pat Dunleavy for the wonderful Door Prizes, and the Members of our Social Events Committee as well as all those who stay afterward to help clean up and restore the parish hall.**

Lost Gold Ring

Two weeks ago, a parishioner found a men's gold ring with three diamonds set into the left side of the ring and a capital "J" inscribed into the center. If this belongs to you, please contact the parish office so that we may return it to you.

Advent Communal Penance Liturgy

You are invited to join with our sisters and brothers of our sister parish, Holy Rosary, for an Advent Communal Penance Liturgy on Monday evening,

December 21st, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a number of confessors to hear confessions, including myself. This is a wonderful opportunity to receive one of the graces and blessings of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

From The Gubbio Project

Dear St. Ignatius of Antioch,
This letter is to acknowledge the receipt for the non-monetary donation of seven boxes of socks that you graciously donated to The Gubbio Project on November 3, 2015 and to thank you for helping to keep the doors of St. Boniface open to our sisters and brothers without homes in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. We could not make *sacred sleep* a reality without the support of donors like you.

If you are in the Tenderloin area between the times of 6:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. please stop in and spend a couple of minutes with our guests and staff and see firsthand, if you have not already, the work that you are so generously supporting.

Sincerely,
Laura Slattery
The Gubbio Project