

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2015



**Salesian Perspective**

Today we hear John the Baptist cry out his Advent message in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths." He is proclaiming repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke likens the Baptist's message to the prophecy we heard from Isaiah. In the ancient world, whenever an important ruler was set to visit an area, all the roads of the area were repaired: valleys filled in, winding roads made straight, rough roads made smooth. All this was done so that the visit would be pleasant and delays could be avoided. And the people would benefit too, because the ruler would bring gifts and declare a holiday. All this preparation led to a welcome.

The Baptist is inviting us to make a similar preparation for welcoming the coming of our God in Jesus. Those who wish to welcome the Lord of life should desire to fill in the valleys created by our sins, make the winding roads of our conflicting desires straight, and smooth the rough roads of our anxieties and fears. This is repentance: a graced change in the way we choose to live. And the gifts that the Lord will bring us are the forgiveness of our sins and a deeper sharing in the very life and love of our God.

The Baptist is reminding us: If you really want the love of God shown to you in Jesus to fill you more deeply, then you must be willing to make room for him in your heart. You must clean out anything that takes up the space that he wants.

As we continue our preparations for welcoming Jesus among us, let us heed the Baptist's invitation: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths." With the grace of God, let us choose to turn from our sinfulness more completely, so that our God can more easily come and dwell in us.

Rev. Michael S. Murray, OSFS,  
Executive Director of the De Sales Spirituality Center.

**"It is not necessary to always feel strong. It is sufficient to have hope that we will be strong enough at the proper time and place."**

- St. Francis de Sales

## Jubilee Year of Mercy



**Running from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016.**

How can we show others the mercy of God? We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but we hold grudges against our friends. Our actions need to authentically reflect God's

mercy. To explore the different ways that you can live out that mercy every day!

Learn more about the Corporal Works of Mercy and how you can live them in your daily life.

Learn more about the Spiritual Works of Mercy and how you can live them in your daily life.

The Reading for today's Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **735**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading ~ Baruch 5:1 – 9

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading ~ Philippians 1:4 – 6, 8 – 11

Gospel Reading ~ Luke 3:1 – 6

### *Mass Intentions for the Week*



*So that they and their families may be remembered in prayer by the community.*

8:30 am Wednesday ~ December 9th

✠ **In memory of Bob Martini**

*Requested by Barbara Martini*

### ~ THIS WEEK Mass Schedule ~

Saturday 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

**NO 6:00 PM SPANISH MASS THIS WEEK**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am

### Special Notice:

**SATURDAY ~ December 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ 6:00 pm Mass (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe) **WILL BE BILINGUAL** After Mass all are invited to a dinner in our Social Hall hosted by Latino members of our community.

**Music for the Liturgy at 9:00 am**

**Processional:** # 296 On Jordan's Bank

**Psalm Response:** "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."

**Gospel Acclamation:** Celtic Alleluia

**Offertory:** # 303 Patience, People

**Communion:** # 293 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Recessional:** # 310 Let the Valleys Be Raised

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**Gospel Reading** ~ Luke 3:1 – 6

**THE COLOR PURPLE**

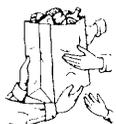
Advent is here, the time of expectant waiting and spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and for His Second Coming at the end of time. Our liturgies and our music help direct our minds and hearts towards the twofold meaning of the season. The liturgical color is purple, which represents the sovereignty of Christ as well as the penitential nature of Advent. The decor of the sanctuary is minimized, the Advent wreath is displayed, the Gloria--one of the most festive hymns of the Mass--is not sung. These are signs of the penitential nature of the season.

Maybe it's not easy for us to put a stop to our celebrations during Advent especially when we live in a culture that doesn't look at Christmas as we do; but we can try. That might be our Homework! Advent is a preparation for the Christmas season. Happy Advent everyone!



**THEY'RE HERE!!!**

ENGLISH & SPANISH Available after Mass in the vestibule. Limited supply.



**Hatteras Island Food Pantry**

Our pantry is still busy and requires regular replenishment. Please consider adding a few items each time you shop. Since the size of the families accessing the

food pantry varies, please avoid bulk sized items. Shopping suggestions and items needed are listed below  
**VISITORS:** Save room packing! Donate any unopened non-perishable items at our convenient 24-hour drop box on the Social Hall porch.

**No time to shop?** Checks may be made out to:

United Methodist Men,  
PO Box 1591

Buxton, NC 27920

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Our Stewardship 11/29/201 Weekend**

	Buxton	Spanish	Ocracoke
<b>Offertory</b>	\$1,362.00	\$71.00	cancelled
<b>Debt Reduction</b>	\$582.00		
<b>Attendance</b>	176	25	
<b>Principal Balance as of 10/30/2015 ~ \$227,151.31</b>			



**Las Posadas**

**"Las Posadas** is one of many Latin American holiday traditions in which participants symbolically retrace the steps of the Virgin Mary and Joseph on the night that baby Jesus was born."

**Beginning on Wednesday, Dec 16th through Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.** a light dinner will be provided by a host Latino family each evening in the Social Hall after prayers. All are invited.

**DONATING MADE EASY ON OUR WEBSITE!!!**



If you're one of the "billions" of people, who do your charitable giving on line, then you will be glad to know that Our Lady of the Seas website now has the ability to accept on-line donations. It is a secure easy way to make your donation and is available 24-hours a day for your convenience. Currently four categories are available for donation: Offertory, Debt Reduction, Pastor Discretionary & Hurricane Relief. Your comments and suggestions on this new capability, or other aspects of our web site, are encouraged and welcomed.



**Angel Gift Program**

Our Lady of the Seas is once again participating in the Angel Gift program for Hatteras Island children. Angels with specific "wishes" are available on the Christmas tree in the vestibule. Please pick as many wishes as you feel you can help fulfill and **return UNWRAPPED items**

**with the paper angel attached to the Christmas tree no later than December 6<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are interested in sponsoring all of the wishes/needs of a child, please feel free to contact Linda O'Neal at Hatteras Methodist 986-2149 (office) or 475-4390 (cell).

If you are unable to shop, you may write a check with "Angel Gift" in the subject line, place in a marked envelope in the offering or provide to Father Fred. Let's make this a great year for children on Hatteras Island. Thank you for your generosity.