

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 9, 2018**

**Salesian Perspective**

In today's Gospel we experience John the Baptist urging us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. St. Francis de Sales has us start with our hearts:

Our heart is the source of our action. As our heart is, so are our actions. Whoever wins a person's heart has won the whole person. Yet even the heart, where we wish to begin, must be instructed. John the Baptist wants us to fill our fearful hearts with faith and hope. Certain fears and anxieties, when excessive, unnerve the heart and often lead to discouragement. These are the ditches and valleys that must be filled with confidence and hope to prepare for Our Lord's coming.

Make straight the paths. Roads that twist and turn fatigue and greatly mislead the traveler. We must straighten our ways with confidence that God will give us the necessary help to acquire an even disposition. Don't lose heart. Be patient. Do all you can to develop a spirit of compassion. I have no doubt that God is holding you by the hand. If God allows you to stumble, it is only to let you know that if God were not holding your hand, you would fall. This is how we learn to take a tighter hold of God's hand.

It is not possible for us to have a change of heart so totally right away. We need patience. If you strive to practice patience faithfully God will give it to you. We must be like the mariner who, in steering his vessel, always keeps his eye on the needle of the compass. We must have only one intention and that is pleasing God. Let us pay attention to the Word of God and digest it well. How delightful it is to reflect on our Savior. He had perfect equanimity of spirit shining brilliantly in the midst of all sorts of changing circumstances. How pleasing it is to find this even disposition in someone. Those who have Jesus Christ in their heart will soon have Him in all their ways.

*(Adapted from the Introduction to the Devout Life, St. Francis de Sales.)*

**Our Lady of the Seas Pastor - Fr Fred Smuda**

If you need to reach our Pastor please call (home) 252.995.6613 or please contact Anita Bills, Church Administrator at (home) 252.995.7892 or (cell) 252.202.1412

**THEY'RE HERE!!!**  
**THE "LITTLE BLUE BOOKS"**

ENGLISH & *Española* Available after Mass in the vestibule. Limited supply.

**AFTER the 9:00 am MASS NEXT Sunday, Fr.**



Fred will administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. While the sacrament does address the physical conditions of illness, the

primary emphasis of Anointing is to bring spiritual strength and healing. Who can receive it? Besides people with illnesses, it is also for those who are facing surgery, for people who are struggling with depression, anxiety, grief, stress, drug and alcohol addiction, and even for those who are lost in what we might call a spiritual "dessert". It offers people strength, peace, and the courage to overcome hardships including the increasing frailty of old age. This sacrament celebrates and carries out the healing ministry of Jesus. If you are in need of the grace that this sacrament offers, then please stay after Mass for the anointing

**Principal Balance on our Mortgage ~ \$102,698.36**  
**Thank you for your continuing support...**

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

**Pope's Intentions December**

*Intention for Evangelization: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith. That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.*



**~ Christmas Mass Schedule 2018 ~**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00 Christmas Vigil OLS**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 11:00 am OLS (Tuesday - only)**  
**Mass bi-lingual Homily in English)**

**We will continue morning Mass on Wednesday & Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am**

***Confessions before Mass or by Appointment***



**RCIA ADULT CLASS**

**IS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE COMING INTO THE CATHOLIC FAITH. SHOULD YOU HAVE**

**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SPEAK TO FR. FRED.**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation & RCIA Classes

~1<sup>st</sup> COMMUNION- will meet right after the 9:00 am Mass today . **Please have your parents pick you up at the Hall at 12:30 pm**

~CONFIRMATION -will meet this afternoon at 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm. **Please have your parents pick you up at the Hall at 4:45 pm**

~YOUTH RCIA - Thursday, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. **Please have your parents pick you up at the Social Hall at 4:30 pm.**

Religious  
Education  
News

## Rebuild, Renew and Rejoice in God's Service

**"Truly it is a blessed thing to love on earth as we hope to love in heaven, and to begin that friendship here which is to endure for ever there."**

~St. Francis de Sales

### MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

12/11 Tuesday 8:30 am  
12/12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 5:00 pm  
12/14 Friday 6:00 pm Taizé  
12/16 Sunday Morning 9:00 am (Coffee Fellowship)

### Ladies, Don't Miss the Fellowship and Fun!

The Martha & Mary Ministry is adding contacts to our email list. If you want to be a part of this OLOTS' Ladies' Group, please send your name and email to [janesgrimm@aol.com](mailto:janesgrimm@aol.com). All are welcome.

### TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

AN ECUMENICAL AND CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP CONSISTING OF MEDITATIVE SINGING, LITURGICAL READING AND PERIODS OF SILENCE.



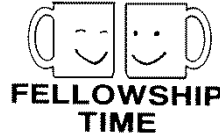
*"NOTHING IS MORE CONDUCTIVE TO A COMMUNION WITH THE LIVING GOD THAN*

*A MEDITATIVE COMMON PRAYER WITH, AS IT'S HIGH POINT, SINGING THAT NEVER ENDS AND THAT CONTINUES IN THE SILENCE OF ONE'S HEART WHEN ONE IS ALONE AGAIN"*

~Brother Roger of TAIZÉ

**JOIN US, FOR A PEACEFUL HOUR OF PRAYER, ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 6:00 PM**

## Next Sunday immediately following 9:00 am Mass is our Coffee Fellowship Sunday



Please remember to bring your bake goods or any goodies you wish to share with you to the Social Hall next week.. The hall will be open before mass for this convenience.

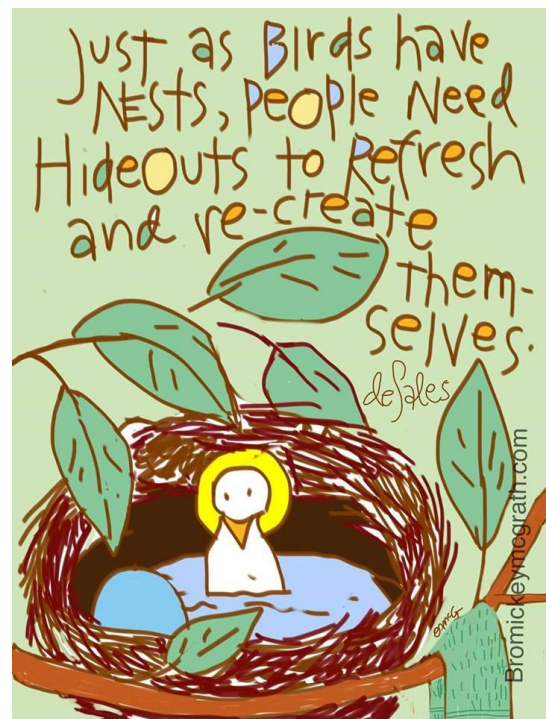
## Oblates on Facebook

Please like and join the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales **NEW** Facebook page. Continue to get you daily prayers and inspiration <https://www.facebook.com/DeSalesOblates/> on our new page. We look forward to continue sharing our Salesian Spirituality with you!



Holy  
Sacrifice  
of the  
Mass

**Our Lady of the Seas MASS CARDS**  
**MASS INTENTIONS** to be said at OLS. Please speak with Fr. Fred to specify the date for the Mass. Donations would be accepted.



Inspirational artwork by Brother Mickey McGrath, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales. You can learn more at [bromickeymcgrath.com](http://bromickeymcgrath.com)

## The 26th Annual Island-Wide Food Drive



Is here are again, our parish has a convenient drop-off location. (24-hr. drop box on porch - that's the hall, NOT the church)

**Many thanks to all who supported our Food Drive through the years. Your generosity helps us to help those in need with our Charitable Outreach Programs. God bless.**