

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018

Salesian Perspective

In today's Gospel we continue to experience John the Baptist urging us to conversion. He tells us to give of our abundance, have a sense of integrity in our daily activities, and know who we are and who Our Messiah is. St. Francis de Sales notes:

John the Baptist is too great a lover of truth to be carried away by ambition. He informs those who came to him that he is not the Messiah. He tells us, we must look into our actions, reforming those that are not of good intentions and perfecting those that are.

John the Baptist was a firm rock, a man possessed of unshakable stability in the midst of changing circumstances. He has courage to admit who he is. Indeed, he who truly knows himself is not annoyed when he is held and treated for what he is. Surely, it is a sign of great interior conversion when God gives us light to know who we are.

To be a Christian is the most beautiful title we can give ourselves. Yet, it is not enough to be called a Christian. We must live in a way that one recognizes clearly in us a person who loves God with his or her whole heart. One who keeps the Commandments and frequents the sacraments, and who does things worthy of a true Christian.

When we know we are loved, we are compelled to love in return. So it is when we live our life in Christ. The sacred love of Christ presses down upon us in a special way to have us share our abundance with others. Compassion makes us share the sufferings, sorrows and affections of those we love. Mothers and fathers suffer because of the great afflictions of their children. The dearer one is to us the deeper one's welfare enters into our heart. Whether their welfare is sad or joyful, we commiserate with them. Our goal is to act with only one intention: conforming ourselves to the true image of God in us. For the reason why Jesus came, was to show us our true self in God.

(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 MASS TODAY



**ANointing
OF THE SICK**

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 **738**

1st Reading ~ Zephaniah 3:14 – 18a

2nd Reading ~ Philippians 4:4 – 7

Gospel Reading ~ Luke 3:10 – 18

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.



Las Posadas the Advent Novena organized by the Hispanic community starts on Sunday, **Dec 16 thru Dec 23**. Every evening **at 6:15 pm in the Social Hall**. A light dinner will be served every night after the prayers. It will be prepared by the organizers. All are invited.

"God will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it."

~St. Francis de Sales



~ Christmas Mass Schedule 2018 ~

December 24th ~ 7:00 Christmas Vigil OLS
December 25th ~ 11:00 am OLS (Tuesday - only
Mass *bi-lingual* Homily in English)

**We will NOT HAVE morning Mass on Wednesday
& Thursday December 26th & 27th**

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.

CCD & RCIA Classes

- CCD Class- will meet tomorrow, Monday at 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm. **Please have your parents pick you up at the Hall at 4:30 pm**
- YOUTH RCIA – This 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

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

12/18 Tuesday 8:30 am
12/19 NO MORNING MASS
12/20 Thursday 8:30 am
12/22 Saturday 5:30 pm
12/23 Sunday Morning 9:00 am
12/23 Domingo 5:00 pm (*Lengua Española*)

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. All are welcome.

CARE MINISTRY



The Parish Council is establishing a Care Ministry. Anyone who lives alone and/or anyone who would like a WELLNESS CHECK with a daily phone call is encouraged to sign up. You may sign up to receive a call or you may sign up to make a call. You can find the sign up sheet in the vestibule of the church.



Oblates on Facebook

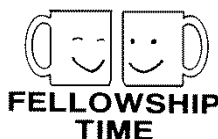
Please like and join the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales **NEW** Facebook page. Continue to get you daily prayers and inspiration <https://www.facebook.com/DeSalesOblates/> on our new page. We look forward to continue sharing our Salesian Spirituality with you!

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.



It's Coffee Fellowship

Sunday!!! Immediately following 9:00 am Mass **please join us at the social hall for coffee, goodies, and fellowship.**

For your convenience the hall will be open before mass for anyone who wishes to drop off their bake goods.



Inspirational artwork by Brother Mickey McGrath, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales. You can learn more at 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.

SPECIAL thanks to our Martha & Mary Ministry! (previously known as the Women's Guild) For setting up a schedule to make sure "coffee fellowship" is set up. Please be sure to give thanks to our wonderful women in this special group.