

this week ...

we REJOICE!
We want to see!

Gaudete Sunday Advent



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

December 14, 2014

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

After saying clearly who he is not, John does say who he is: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert." **"Voice"**: the audible revelation of self. **"Crying out"**: testifying to core convictions.



"Desert": place of barrenness and desolation as well as a place of testing and growth. So who is John? The one who in his very being recognizes the Christ who

has come to lead the people into the fullness of light and Life.

Testifying with conviction to the light of Christ must be more than speaking words; the conviction is conveyed —**cried out**— by the way we choose to live each day. We are to do good works ("bring glad tidings to the poor", "heal the brokenhearted" etc.). Testifying with conviction also means that we must constantly grow in our relationship to Christ and learn to recognize him even where we might not expect to find him. **The work of Advent** is to intensify our good works so that we become attuned to recognizing Christ here and now; even more, it is the work of our whole Christian lives. As we near the celebration of Christmas, we ourselves must take up John's conviction, John's cry.

Words to reflect upon: testifying with conviction, learn to recognize Him even where we might not expect to find Him.

*Lord, grant us the eyes to see, the ears to hear,
and the heart to love all of those who cry out and
have no one to help. Enlarge our hearts so that
we might make room for more compassion
and loving kindness toward all.
And through our willingness to help,
may Your name be glorified
in all the Earth, Amen.*

BECOMING AN ADVENT PERSON

Advent: Gestating Hope Into Reality (III)

And what power will bring this about? The power that God showed in the resurrection of Jesus, the power to bring a dead body back to life, to redeem what's been lost, to write straight with crooked lines, and to bring people together, despite and beyond hatred, sin, selfishness, mistakes, tragedy, resistance, death, and all that will ever be seen on CNN.

To live in hope is to live in the face of that promise and that power and, in that light, to fundamentally shape both our memories and our future. As regards memory, to hope is to look back on our lives and see no need to count the losses, underline the hurts, play the victim, or stew in bitterness because all our wounds and losses can be redeemed as part of a greater promise. The same holds true for our future. All our plans and schemes must reflect the wider plan of God and we should be prepared to live in great patience as we wait for the finished symphony.

Mary, Jesus' Mother, is the pre-eminent figure of this. She shows us hope: Not only did she believe the promise, she became pregnant with it, gestated it, gave it her own flesh, went through the pains of childbirth to give it reality, and then nursed a fragile new life into a powerful adulthood that saved the world. In that, she needs imitation, not admiration.

Advent is the season for us to imitate Mary's hope by, like her, gestating faith, God's promise, into real flesh.

— Fr. Ron Rolheiser

9:30 COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Next Saturday, December 20th, at 8 am,



our 9:30 community will host the traditional Aguinaldo Mass. We'll miss you if you're not there, so get up early, pick up your *pandereta* or any old thing that makes noise and worship with us in true Puertorican Christmas style!

Gaudete Reflection

Today is **Gaudete Sunday**, the beginning of rejoicing! The colors of rose, of hues of the dawn, of the sky streaked before the sun appears daily in the sky—this is how close our God is to us.

John the Baptizer's words are beginning to sink into people's hearts and transform them, but they don't know exactly what to do. What do they—we—need to do to have God sing joyfully because of them—us—and cover us with gladness? We know the answer: each of us is to shift our behavior, our priorities, from focusing on ourselves to the service of others, especially the neediest among us.

This is the kind of living that causes God to rejoice and sing over us! What if we never live with rejoicing and sharing with others? What if another season of **Advent** passes and we didn't do anything that would give God cause to sing over us. This week, keep asking:

What song is God singing?



WE WELCOME Fr. Lawrence Searles, SJ (Fr. Larry) as our new pastor in San Ignacio Parish! Assisting him in the financial/economic administration of the Parish is **Rev. Deacon Ángel Galiñanes**, a longtime member of San Ignacio. We wish to assure both Fr. Larry and Deacon Ángel of our total support in their endeavors to help our Parish to flourish and thrive on all fronts!



- To start off, Fr. Larry has announced that **confession** will be offered every Saturday afternoon from 4:15 - 5:15pm.
- Also both 8am and 5:30pm Masses will be offered at the Parish on **weekday holidays**, except where noted otherwise, as during Christmas Season.
- Fr. Larry will offer an **Advent Retreat** (in Spanish) on Saturday, December 20th from 9am - 12 Noon, immediately following our Misa de Aguinaldo. The retreat will take place in the church.

**We Rejoice!
Come, Lord Jesus! Come!
Hurry!**

Praying with Scripture THE "O" ANTIPHONS

The O Antiphons, so called because they all begin with the exhortation "O", are prayed at Vespers and the masses on the seven days before the Vigil of the Nativity, beginning on December 17th. They speak of man's desire and longing for God and recall a quality of Christ that must be realized before his presence can consume the world.

December 17: **O Wisdom** flowing from the mouth of the most high; reaching far and wide, disposing all things sweetly and mightily, come teach us the way of prudence.



December 18: **O Adonai** ruler of the House of Israel, giving Moses, while in the burning bush, the law of Sinai, come with outstretched arms and teach us.

December 19: **O Root of Jesse** standing as protector of the people; silencing rulers, inspiring the people to make supplication, come, do not delay, deliver us.

December 20: **O Key of David** rod and staff of the house of Israel, One who opens and no one closes, the one who closes and no one opens, come lead prisoners caught in darkness.

December 21: **O Dayspring Sun of Justice**, bright eternal light, one who shows the way, the one who sets us free even in darkness and death, come disperse the gloomy clouds of night.

December 22: **O Ruler of Nations** cornerstone of the people, desire of all, from the clay of the earth, by your own hand you have formed us and fashioned us, come and open hearts to one another.

December 23: **O Emmanuel** leader and desire of all the nations, You set captives free, comfort the lonely; you feed the poor and hungry, come be born in us, God of life.

Today the **O Antiphons** are most familiar to us in the hymn "O Come, O come Emmanuel" but praying all the antiphons with the church will make beautiful additions to your family prayers during these final days of Advent preparation.

What names would you give to the God you are waiting for? Write your own O Antiphons, your own longing for the coming of God into your lives.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

1 Timothy 2:1

LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Fr. Vega, Jerry Vega, **Maggie Maziarz**, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, and Peter Fiorito. *Let's join hearts as a community this week praying the O Antiphons starting Wednesday with:*

O WISDOM, flowing from the mouth of the Most High; reaching far and wide, disposing of all things sweetly and mightily. **Come teach us the way of prudence.**