

Advent

December 13, 2015 ♦ Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14–18a

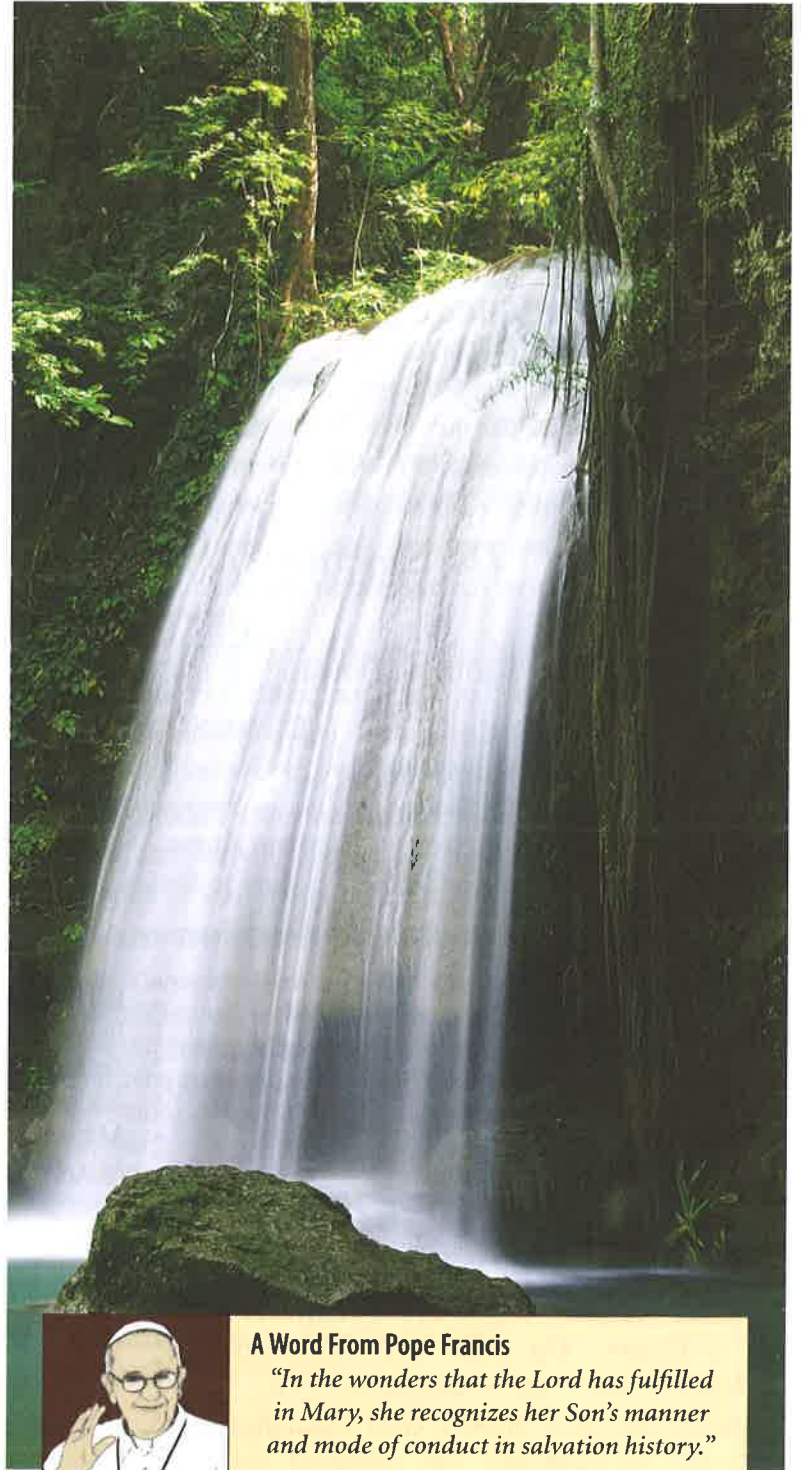
Phil 4:4–7

Lk 3:10–18

I love waterfalls. When I am out hiking, I will take any side path that leads to a waterfall. The first time I swam in a waterfall pool was memorable. I am not sure where this love came from, but there is something about the motion and sound of the water as it is falling that soothes my mind and enlivens my soul. I also know that waterfalls can be dangerous: The force of the water can sweep everything over the edge. Still, when Jesus refers to his living water in the encounter with the woman at the well (John 4), I immediately think of water falling into a pool and the abundant life that grows around the area.

For Christians, water signifies both life and death. At creation, God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures” (Genesis 1:20). God then used the waters of a flood to destroy wickedness on earth (while saving Noah and others). Water washes us clean and keeps us alive. On a recent trip to Israel, I had an opportunity to stand in the Jordan River and renew my own baptismal vows. I was struck by the power of the words and the coolness of the water. It also occurred to me that simply renewing my vows was not enough. Our promise, inherent in the Creed, is that we will live a life transformed by grace with the help of the Holy Spirit. That is both comforting and challenging. But Jesus, who is living water, whose Spirit brings us life and whose fire is ready to purify and make us ready, is with us now and forever.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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A Word From Pope Francis

“In the wonders that the Lord has fulfilled in Mary, she recognizes her Son’s manner and mode of conduct in salvation history.”

—2014 homily on the feast of Guadalupe

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 13, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	MARY DOLAN	THU	7:00 PM	BARNEY ROBERTI
SUN	7:30 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE EVANS FAMILY	FRI	7:30 AM	THOMAS GRACE, SR.
	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	JOSEPHINE, PETER & JOHN BOGUS
	11:00 AM	EVELYN HAIGHT	SUN	7:30 AM	DAVID PALKO
MON		NO MASS		9:00 AM	HELEN & FRANK JANISZEWSKI
TUE	7:00 PM	SOPHIA & ANDREW LAKATOSH		11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
WED	7:30 AM	WILLIAM PETERSON, SR.			

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Tom Hafer

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Dowling 5:15 Costanzo 7:30 Schwendt 9:00 Carvalho 11:00 Hafer

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Mary Schwendt	Joe Bailey	Meghan Grieco, Olivia Ruff, Tim Stewart
SUN	7:30am	Adelina Kieffer	Dan Sweeney	Austin Lobaugh, Sean Purretta, Will Gray
	9:00am	Isabelita Santos	Pam Amos	Steven and Marissa Tepper, Sidney Wolf
	11:00am	Mary Ann Cotter	Mary Jo Simon	Beth and Gracie Cote, Avery Lang

The second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

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 Dear Parishioners,
 As we begin the Holy season of Advent
 in preparation for Christmas, I invite you
 to set time aside to celebrate the
 Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions
 are heard every Saturday from 4:00 to
 5:00pm.
 Our Advent Parish Penance Service
 will be held on Monday, December 21st
 at 7:00pm. On that occasion, visiting
 priests will be available to hear
 confessions and impart God's pardon and
 peace. As always, be assured of my
 continued prayers for you and your
 family.
 Monsignor John McCann

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Alice Smyk, , Yolanda Marino, Marie Snyder, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Kathy Patrick, Doris Slater, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Linda Ritchie, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Walter & Marjorie Hansen, Betty Erjavec, Irene Wade, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Stephen Thomkins, Carolyn Creech, Frances Bambrick, James Smith, Mike Kovach, Ronald Schwendt, Jr. and Madge Butto
 Welcome our new parishioners: Ms. Marie P. Beideman
 Congratulate the newly married: Danica Ann Dowling and William Allan Grubb
 Pray for the newly baptized: Gabrielle Christine Clay, Stella Lynn Longacre and their families
 Pray for the recently departed: Shirley K. Palmieri

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	12/13	Women's Society Cookie Sale
Mon	12/14	4pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm RCIA
Tues	12/15	7:30pm Bell Choir
Thurs	12/17	12:30pm Prime Time 4pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir
Sat	12/19	4-5pm Confession Operation Reindeer Candy Cane Sale

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please note there will be **NO MASS** on Monday, December 14th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, December 21 - 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24 - 4:00pm, 7:00pm, Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25 - 9:00am, 11:00am

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

NEW YEARS EVE

Thursday, December 31 - 5:15pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Friday, January 1 - 9:00am, 11:00am

ICA HSO 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

December 14 - \$225 Visa Gift Card

December 15 - \$250 Target Gift Card

December 16 - \$275 Visa Gift Card

December 17 - \$300 Amazon Gift Card

December 18 - Grand Prize - \$500 Visa Gift card

Tickets \$5 each or \$20 for five.

Tickets are available in the church office or by emailing ica.hso@gmail.com. Winners are announced at www.ica.hso.org.

Thinking about becoming a Catholic?

Looking for a "Faith Refresher?"

Join Msgr. McCann, Deacon Paul Hiryak and guest speakers on Monday evenings to learn more about our Catholic faith. RCIA isn't just for persons interested in Catholicism, it's for everyone who desires a deeper understanding of what we believe and practice as Catholics. Classes are 7:30-9pm. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as your schedule permits. Call 610.582.2411 for information.

The Women's Society will be holding our annual **Christmas Cookie Sale** before and after all Masses December 12th/13th. We will have our beautiful pre-packaged assortments in addition to our bagged cookies to add to your cookie collection.

Pope Francis declares Jubilee Year of Mercy (December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016)

"I present, therefore, this Extraordinary Jubilee Year dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us. The Church feels the urgent need to proclaim God's mercy. Her life is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy. She knows that her primary task, especially at a moment full of great hopes and signs of contradiction, is to introduce everyone to the great mystery of God's mercy by contemplating the face of Christ. The Church is called above all to be a credible witness to mercy, professing it and living it as the core of the revelation of Jesus Christ. From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends. The profundity of the mystery surrounding it is as inexhaustible as the richness which springs up from it.

In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old" (*Ps 25:6*)." **Pope Francis**

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat others, as if they were Christ in disguise.

Feed the hungry

Give drink to the thirsty

Shelter the homeless

Visit the sick

Visit the prisoners

Bury the dead

Give alms to the poor

The Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to help our neighbor in their spiritual needs.

Counseling the doubtful

Instructing the ignorant

Admonishing the sinner

Comforting the sorrowful

Forgiving injuries

Bearing wrongs patiently

2016 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CALENDARS are now available in the narthex. We are most grateful to the Dengler Funeral Home for providing these beautiful religious art calendars to our parishioners.



December 13, 2015

dear Padre

Monday

DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross,
Priest and
Doctor of the Church
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

DECEMBER 15

Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

DECEMBER 16

Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Thursday

DECEMBER 17

Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Friday

DECEMBER 18

Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Saturday

DECEMBER 19

Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Sunday

DECEMBER 20

Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

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Why do we celebrate feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe?



I never used to hear about Our Lady of Guadalupe, but now every year my parish celebrates the feast. Why?

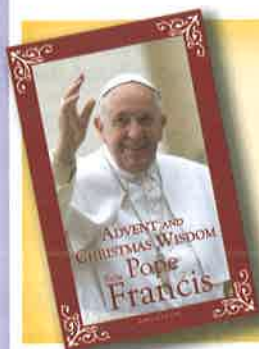
In 1531 the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego in the form of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She sent him to the bishop to ask that a church be built where she appeared so all may see and know her compassion. As a sign, she left her image on his cloak. This cloak is still venerated in Mexico and is as bright as ever, defying scientific explanation.

Devotion to Mary under this title began almost immediately. Pope Leo XIII made her celebration a memorial for the universal Church. During the twentieth century, she was proclaimed the **Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas**. In 2002, John Paul II canonized Juan Diego. Since then the growing Hispanic population in the United States has made her feast increasingly visible and popular.

In his 2014 homily on the feast of Guadalupe, Pope Francis reminds us why this feast is so relevant to the Advent season: "In the wonders that the Lord has fulfilled in Mary, she recognizes her Son's manner and mode of conduct in salvation history. Overturning worldly judgments, destroying at all costs the idols of power, wealth and success, denouncing self-sufficiency, arrogance and secular messianism which distance people from God." Guadalupe lifts the lowly and draws all to her Son and his Church.



FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR
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During this Advent season, "remember the real gift: God giving himself to us through the Incarnation. Reflect on yourself. In how many ways can you become a gift from God to those you know and to those you do not?"

—From *Advent and Christmas Wisdom From Pope Francis* by John Cleary

To see sample pages from this book, visit Liguori.org, type the title or 826467 in the search bar, and click on the book.