A Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

God of joy and exultation, you strengthen what is weak; you enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives for ever and ever.

Amen.
Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.

—Isaiah 35:10a

REASON TO REJOICE
Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and “the coming of the Lord.” But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as Gaudete (Latin for “rejoice”) Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today’s first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God’s saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God’s presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah’s prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus’ presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: “The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Matthew 11:5).

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FEAST OF FAITH—The Shape of the Mass
In the renewal of the liturgy that followed the Second Vatican Council, the full, conscious, and active participation of the assembly was the primary consideration. By participation, the Council Fathers did not mean just joining in the singing and the spoken responses, but active engagement and prayerful understanding of the rites. They envisioned a transparent liturgy, a worship that spoke so directly to the hearts and minds of the faithful that it would require no explanation at all.

The liturgy itself is the best possible catechesis on the liturgy. What does the liturgy teach us? It shows us the ministry of Jesus continuing in the present. He gathers a community. He calls us to prayer and repentance and praise. He teaches us with the very word of God. He does not send us away empty, but sets before us a marvelous banquet, feeding us with his very body and blood. Then he sends us forth to do what he has done—to give ourselves for others, not just in words, but in deeds. The Mass is the pattern of our Christian lives.

—Corinna Laughlin, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Pastor’s Corner
On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene— On December 1, 2019, Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic letter “to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.” Certainly the origin of the crèche is found in scripture, but it was St. Francis in 1223 that first came up with the idea “to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem.” St. Francis’ desire was to help the inhabitants of Greccio, Italy, experience a deeper and richer worship. When the inhabitants of that town arrived and found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey, “all those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. The priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. At Greccio there were no statues; the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present.”

Pope Francis points out that this is how our tradition began. “With the simplicity of that sign, St. Francis carried out a great work of evangelization. His teaching touched the hearts of Christians and continues today to offer a simple yet authentic means of portraying the beauty of our faith…”

The Pope in his letter then explains the significance of the different elements around the manger. When it comes to Jesus, he wrote “When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things. It seems impossible, yet it is true: in Jesus, God was a child, and in this way he wished to reveal the greatness of his love: by smiling and opening his arms to all.”

The Pope concludes his letter with this observation: “Standing before the Christmas crèche, we are reminded of the time when we were children, eagerly waiting to set it up. These memories make us all the more conscious of the precious gift received from those who passed on the faith to us. At the same time, they remind us of our duty to share this same experience with our children and our grandchildren. It does not matter how the nativity scene is arranged: it can always be the same or it can change from year to year. What matters is that it speaks to our lives. Wherever it is, and whatever form it takes, the Christmas crèche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition.”

—Fr. Dan
December 15—December 21, 2019

Sunday, December 15
7:30 Penny V. Munoz (D)
9:00 Mary Ann Zamora (D)
10:30 Parishioners of Saint Anne
Noon Fr. Mario Rosso (D)
5 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass in Convent

Monday, December 16
6:30 Rose Capili (D)
8:45 Opal Choy (D)
7 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass in Convent

Tuesday, December 17
6:30 Juan Canto, Jr. (D)
8:45 David and Ruth Derus (D)
7 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass in Convent

Wednesday, December 18
6:30 Juliana Unana (D)
8:45 Josie Rivero (D) and family
7 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass in Convent

Thursday, December 19
6:30 Rose Capili (D)
8:45 intentions, Cely Zapanta
7 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass in Convent

Friday, December 20
6:30 birthday, Ninfa Guevara
8:45 healing, Heather Frank
7 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass in Convent

Saturday, December 21
8:45 Confraternity of Saint Anne
5 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass in Church
for Parishioners of Saint Anne

Presider Fr. Tieng, LRMS
Bishop Walsh
Fr. Nascimento
Fr. Zhai, SVD
Fr. Patrick K
Fr. Paulo
Fr. Nascimento
Fr. Zhai, SVD
Fr. Arnold Z
Fr. Tieng, LRMS
Fr. Zhai, SVD
Fr. Kabipi
Fr. Tieng, LRMS

Christmas Novena Masses

Simbang Gabi at St. Anne of the Sunset

Beginning on Sunday, December 15 and concluding on Monday, December 23

Weekday Masses at 7pm
Weekend Masses at 5pm

Come join us! Prepare for His coming!

Advent Resources on Archdiocesan Website
Advent is a time of preparation for the feast of Christmas and the incarnation of God in Christ. For a rich supply of Advent resources, visit the archdiocesan website sfarch.org/advent to find prayers, daily reflections, devotions, activities, projects, etc.

Support Groups Fridays at St. Mary’s Cathedral
St. Mary’s Cathedral Event Center, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco, Monsignor Bowe Room (west side of parking lot level) Sr. Elaine Stahl 415-567-2020 ext. 218 estahl@stmarycathedralsf.org

December 20, January 17: Third Friday of every month, 10:30 am – 12 noon: Grief support Program: These sessions provide information on the grief process, and tips on coping with the loss of a loved one. No charge. Facilitator: Deacon Christoph Sandoval. For details, contact Sr. Elaine Stahl, above.

January 3: First Friday of every month, 1pm – 3pm: “Strength for the Journey” is a free monthly support group for people with life-threatening illness. Diagnosis can be an opportunity to seek spiritual support through scripture, sacrament, and community. Sessions also provide guidance on Catholic teaching and the preparation of Health Care Directives. No charge. Facilitator: Deacon Christoph Sandoval. For details and registration, contact Sr. Elaine Stahl, above.

Seeking Children to Be Angels, Shepherds, Kings and Adults and Children to Be Singers in the Choir for the St. Anne Christmas Vigil Family Mass on December 24th at 5:00pm

For the Pageant: Please contact Jane Anne Sullivan sullivanjaneanne@gmail.com or 415-902-1533
Pageant Rehearsal: Dec. 23, 10:30am—12 in Church
For the Choir: Please contact Jun Alvar junior.alvar@gmail.com or 415-530-0474
Choir Rehearsal: Dec 21, 10—11:30am, 1390 Room or rehearse at 4:15pm on Christmas Eve!

If you wish any donation to Saint Anne Church to be included in this year’s Tax Letter, please be sure to get it to the rectory by Sunday, December 29, 2019. Any donation that is received after that date will be counted as a 2020 donation.

Last Week’s Collections
1st Collection, December 7, 8—$4,713.00
Retired Religious Fund—$1,064.00

This Week’s 2nd Collection
Property and Insurance Fund

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2019
Campaign Goal—$50,289
Donations Received as of December 10—$42,957

Thank You All for Your Generosity!
For on-line giving, visit: www.stanne-sf.org

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ST. ANNE REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass
Sat., 5pm; Sun: 7:30, 9, 10:30am & 12pm (Chinese)

Daily Mass
Mon - Fri: 6:30am & 8:45am
Sat: 8:45am (Devotion to St. Anne)

Holy Days of Obligation
6:30am, 8:45am, 12 noon & 6pm

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
1st Friday following 8:45am Mass until 10am

Reconciliation: Sat., 4 - 4:55pm or by appointment

Baptism: 2nd Saturday @ 12:30pm
Preparation Class: 3rd Saturday @ 10am in Rectory

Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9am - 4:30pm
Church Hours: Mon—Fri: 8am-4pm
Sat: 8am-6pm Sun: 7am-1:30pm

ST. ANNE STAFF
415-665-1600
info@stanne-sf.org

Parish Emergency Number 415– 866-6455

Pastoral Staff:
Fr. Daniel Nascimento, Pastor
Fr. Peterson Tieng, LRMS, Parochial Vicar
Sr. Mary Francis Melencion, Pastoral Associate
Rachel Gee, Coordinator of Religious Education
Jun Alvar, Parish Music Director

In Residence:
Bishop Daniel Walsh, Bishop Emeritus of Santa Rosa
Fr. Peter Zhai, SVD, Chinese Ministries

Office Staff:
Ken DelPonte, Parish Manager
Mie Mie Kwong, Athletic Director
Jessica Guevara, Bookkeeper
Tessie Evelyn Velicaria, Secretary

School Staff:
Tom White, Principal, Elementary School
white@stanne.com 415-664-7977
Judy Glaeser, Director, Preschool
stanneps@gmail.com 415-731-2355
Eva Wong, Director, Chinese School
evawong467@gmail.com 415-665-3929

Looking for Gifts? Our Gift Shop is open Saturdays
at 4:00 p.m. and after the 5:00 p.m. Mass;
and on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Sr. Mary Francis and her assistants
are always happy to assist you!
ST. ANNE SCHOOL CENTENNIAL GALA

February 1, 2020 — 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

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Questions: stanne100years@gmail.com

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