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12/12: *Our Lady of Guadalupe; recalls the apparitions of Mary at the hill of Tepeyac from 9-12 December 1531 to the native convert, San Juan Diego, known by the Aztecs as, Tecoatlaxope (or de Guadalupe in Spanish), meaning "she will crush the serpent of stone".*

12/13: *Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, †c.304, under Diocletian; patroness of those afflicted with diseases of the eye as well as of Syracuse and Sicily.*

12/14: *Memorial of San Juan de la Cruz, Priest, Doctor of the Church, †1591, mystic & poet. Authored The Ascent of Mount Carmel, The Dark Night of the Soul, The Spiritual Canticle, and O Flame of Living Love; known as the "Mystical Doctor".*

12/15: Novena of Simban Gabi begins. 9 masses, from 12/15 through 12/23, highlighting the Reason for the Season, Jesus Christ. Weekdays at 7PM, Saturday & Sunday at 5:30PM.

Bible Study for 12/11/16

Some guides to help you get the most out of God's Word.

Is 35: 1-6a, 10; i.e., Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 35, verses 1 to 6a & 10.

Jas 5:7-10; i.e., Letter of Saint James chapter 5, verses 7 to 10.

Mt 11: 2-11; i.e., the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 11, verses 2 to 11.

~ Can you find these passages in a Bible? Studying and praying with the Bible begins by knowing how to find your way around the Bible.

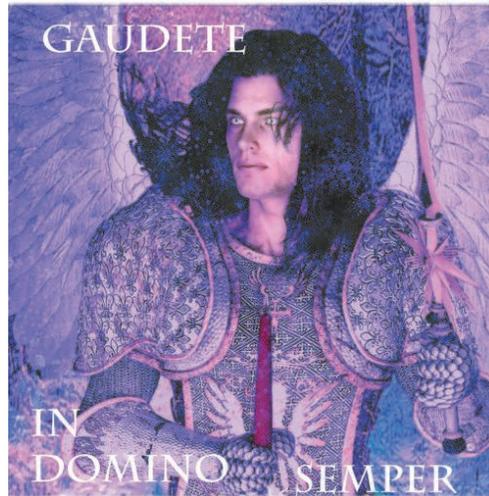
Is 35: 1-6a, 10

See last week's edition for a recap of Isaiah and role of a prophet. In keeping with that insight, although Isaiah's prophecy this week may seem like an extraordinary vision of nature, it's actually a reminder to us of what the earth was like from the very beginning, in the Garden of Eden. Renewal of the land is part of God's plan and, therefore, part of our mission as Christians. What are we doing, individually and communally, to help God's plan become a reality?

Jas 5: 7-10

The Letter of Saint James comes from a collection of New Testament writings called the "Catholic Letters," where *catholic* means universal, since they address Christians in general, and not a just specific group; e.g., Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans. Strongly Jewish in character - remember, the first Christians were mainly Jews who believed that Jesus was the *Messiah*; there's a focus on ethics; i.e., the conduct of faithful individuals and communities.

Lack of patience, complaining about other people, and a judgmental attitude seem to be the topics *du jour*. Could James have put them together because the three are connected? Could certain behaviors be connected to or a consequence of other behaviors or habits? The most frequently confessed sin is lack of patience. The runner-up is being judgmental of others. Do you think there could be a connection?



Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday is traditionally known as, *Gaudete* Sunday, because the introit or introduction to the day's mass begins with the Latin words, *GAUDETE IN DOMINO SEMPER*, Rejoice in the Lord always. It is one of two Sundays, the other being *Laetare* Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, when rose colored vestments can be worn by the priest presiding at mass. The rose or pink colored candle is lit this Sunday of Advent, reminding us that we are just one Sunday away from the celebration of Christmas, the birth of the Messiah. And so, in order to more fully enter into the Reason for the Season, we need to educate ourselves on the idea of 'messiah.' Who or what is a 'messiah'; what did it mean for the people of Jesus' time? Does it hold any meaning for us, and the people of our own time? In other words, is the birth of the Messiah truly a cause to rejoice for us today? Or has it become another cultural accoutrement? Done dutifully out of habit and custom rather than out of joyful hearts? Rendered in Greek as *christ, messiah* is a thoroughly Jewish concept and so we must first put ourselves in the shoes of our elder sisters and brothers in the Faith to appreciate what it meant for the people of Jesus' time. Imagine, you are part of a disparate, heterogeneous group of people, who know what it feels like to be a slave in another man's land; who know what it feels like to hurriedly gather your belongings and family and prepare to flee the only home you've known; who know what it feels like to run in terror towards an unknown shore with an army chasing you; who know what it feels like to be hungry and thirsty and lost in a desert for forty years; who know what it feels like to live under oppressive



Mt 11: 2-11

See last week's bulletin, 12/4/16, for a recap of the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptist, his relationship to Jesus, and his importance in the liturgical life of the Church.

Thomas Merton, a 20th c. Cistercian monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky, wrote in his book, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, **One has either got to be a Jew or stop reading the Bible. The Bible cannot make sense to anyone who is not "spiritually a Semite."** (p. 14)

Always remember, Christianity was an offshoot of Judaism; Jesus, Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, the Twelve disciples, Paul of Tarsus, all of the key people early on, were all Jews. Mary and Joseph in particular, we know were **devout** Jews, not just Jews in name only, as they say. We know this fact from the Bible; after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph observed Jewish law to the letter; they offered the prescribed sacrifice in the Temple at his birth, they had him circumcised, he underwent the process of mitzvah. Although we have no idea of what his home life might've been like, we know, again from the Bible, that Jesus was raised to be a practicing Jew. He attended the synagogue regularly, and participated in all the religious feasts and celebrations; e.g., the Feast of Booths. He knew the Law and Scriptures inside out. He freely quotes from the Hebrew Scriptures more often than we may realize; in this weekend's Gospel passage, he paraphrases Isaiah's prophecy. He even recited Psalm 22 while dying on the Cross, in keeping with the Jewish custom of praying that Psalm at the hour of one's death. It is even more important for Catholic Christians to remain always connected to the Jewish roots of the Church, since the source and summit of the Church's spiritual life, the Eucharist, is based on the Jewish ritualized meal known as Passover. Christmas is another feast with deep Jewish roots. It is the proclamation of the coming of the Messiah, translated in Greek, Christ. If we want to know the Reason for the Season, then we must learn what the Jewish concept of Messiah meant in Jesus' time. Only then will we know what He means for us and ours.

foreign rules; who know what it feels like to be discriminated against, rejected and bullied because of religious beliefs. Who saw the center of their lives ransacked and destroyed, not once, but twice. The *messiah* would be the answer to their woes, the champion who would deliver them from their enemies, destroy them even; firmly establish their right to a piece of land that they could call their own, where they would no longer be wanderers; who would draw them, in all their diversity, together. Many believed their champion would be another David, a warrior king who would come and slay once more, all their Goliaths, and thereby save them. A few, however, suspected that the messiah would save them in an altogether unexpected and much less dramatic way. This messiah would not only draw the Jewish People together, but all People. Jesus says an interesting line in his response to John the Baptist's query as to whether or not he is the 'one'. After speaking of the blind regaining sight, the lame walking, lepers being cleansed, deaf hearing, dead being raised, and the poor *'having the good news proclaimed to them,'* he says, *'...blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.'* Happy the one who is not disappointed, underwhelmed by a messiah who, instead of being a warrior king, turns out to be a teacher, healer and promoter of reconciliation and peace. Happy the one who is not scandalized by the Cross, but who sees in it the Way.

If the *messiah* is a warrior king, then we put our trust in the power of violence and the threat of death. However, if the *messiah* is Jesus, then we put our trust, our faith, elsewhere, in the power of healing and forgiving, in the power of dying to self in order to give life in service to others, in the power of turning the other cheek rather than returning blows. Which ever kind of *messiah* we follow, whether intentionally or through our words and actions, silences and lack of action, Jesus will always be the reason for the season. NRM

Welcome to the Body of Christ!

Last Sunday we had 2 more Baptisms bringing our count to 29 for this calendar year, 3 more than the previous year. Pictures are not available but we say, Welcome to the Body of Christ to

- **Avery Samantha Cynthia Hernandez** and **Ethan David Torres**. Blessings and prayers to their parents, Raquel & David and Hector & Stephanie, and godparents, Davindra & Rosa (Avery), and Chris & Athena.

Psst...Look who got married in the church in a quiet ceremony last month... Love and prayers to Cathy & Steve!



🙏 Schedule of Masses December 12 th -18 th , 2016 🙏			
Day	Time	For	By:
Mon 12/12	9 AM	In Honor of St. Lucy	Frank & Gemma Infante
Tues 12/13	9 AM	Christina Burke	Fr. Nigel
Wed 12/14	9 AM	Honor of St. Lucy	
	7 PM	Special Intention	OL Perpetual Help Group
Thurs 12/15	9 AM	(Liv) John Shin	Family
Fri 12/16	9 AM	(Liv) Lawrence Shin	Family
Sat 12/17	9 AM	(Liv) Angela Aversano	Family
	5:30 PM	Joseph Piezzo	“Nanna” Madeline
	7 PM	Olimpia C. Molina	Family
Sun 12/18	8 AM	Mercian & Minguel Travassa	Children
	10 AM	Helene Clifford	Marie Carlson
	12 PM	Christina Burke	Fr. Nigel

🍷🕯️ Sanctuary Gifts December 11 th -17 th , 2016 🍷🕯️		
Gift	In Memory of	Requested By
Altar Wine	Daniel Weir	Parish Intention
Altar Bread	Lorraine Proscia	Parish Intention
Sanctuary Lamp	John Norton	Parish Intention
Altar Candles	Dolores DelMonte	Parish Intention

 **LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK**

AnnMarie Williams, Constance Czegular, Rosemary Perduto, Juliet Nawrocki, Doreen Busacca, Kathleen Link, Orlando Basile, Marie Carlson, Patricia Kucinski, Frank McNamara, Jennifer O'Connor, Donna Tuzzo, Matt Bolger, Lawrence Shin, Lupe Pena, Frances Kearns, Josephine Cermak Rowan, Steve & Rachel Mastin, Diane Shea, Joseph Callandrillo, Humberto Quintana, Javier Vega, Jennifer Moloughney, Antoinette Maddi, Carol Jordan, Anthony Biggio, Sammy DeLeon, Shane Quinn, Alice Daly, Sadie Krieger, Dianne O'Sullivan, Carl Carlson, Larry Bello, Miyuki Campbell, Diane Albert, Meghan Connaughton.



The Giving Tree will be placed in the Church vestibule on the First Sunday of Advent - November 27th.

(Beginning with the 5:30 pm anticipated Mass on Saturday, Nov. 26th)

Please take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift(s), wrap gift, attach tag to gift and drop off at the Church or Rectory by Dec. 12th.

All gifts are requested to be gift-wrapped with the original tag attached.

 Thank you! 

Simbang Gabi

@

St. Anne

December 15 -23, 2016

7:00 PM Weekdays

5:30 PM Sat & Sun

Simbang Gabi is a 9-day Novena of masses that anticipates the celebration of Christmas.

WEEKLY PLANNER

SUNDAY 12/11

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 AM Family Mass-Church

10:00 AM-1:00 PM H.N.S. Mass/Mtg-Church/Cent Hall

1:00 PM-3:00 PM Fil-Am Mtg-Cent Hall

5:30 PM-9:00 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena-Church

MONDAY 12/12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

1:00 PM-3:00 PM St. Anne Seniors-Cent Hall

3:30 PM-4:30 PM Legion of Mary-Cent Hall

**7:00 PM-11:00 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Celeb-Church/
Cent Hall**

TUESDAY 12/13

12:15 PM Bingo-Cent Hall

4:00 PM-5:00 PM Rosary Society Mtg-Cent Hall

WEDNESDAY 12/14

6:00 PM-8:00 PM Daisy/Jr. Mtg-Cent Hall

THURSDAY 12/15

9:30 AM-10:30 AM Holy Hour for Priests-Church

5:30 PM-11:00 PM Simbang Gabi-Church/Cent Hall

FRIDAY 12/16

12:15 PM Bingo-Cent Hall

5:30 PM-11:00 PM Simbang Gabi-Church/Cent Hall

SATURDAY 12/17

5:30 PM-11:00 PM Simbang Gabi-Church/Cent Hall

SUNDAY 12/18

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 AM CCD Christmas Party-Church/Cent Hall

5:30 PM-11:00 PM Simbang Gabi-Church/Cent Hall

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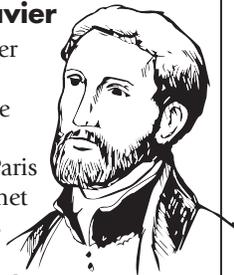
Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

December 2016

One Minute Meditations

St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier was born to a Spanish noble family. He taught in Paris where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and joined the new Society of Jesus. In 1541, he was sent as a missionary to India and Japan. He tirelessly served the poor with joy. Although he yearned to spread the Gospel in China, he died en route but wasn't bitter or disappointed. He is called the "Apostle of Japan" and "Apostle of the Indies."



Living in the present

Sometimes, we get so bogged down by worries about the future or regrets of the past, we forget to live in the present. Instead of worrying about what you can't control, entrust those worries to God knowing that he will help you through them all. Trust that his grace is enough.

"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people"

(Luke 1:68).



Who was that baby in the manger?

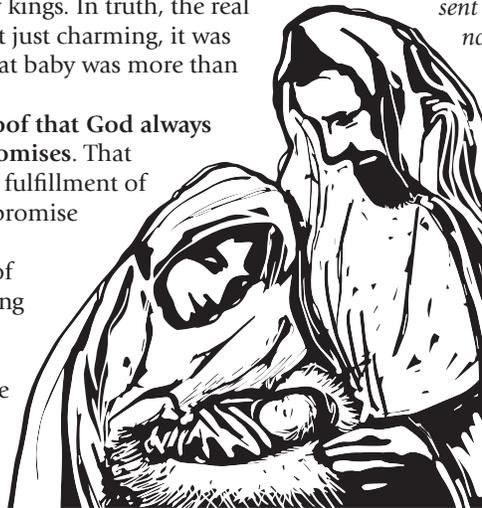
At this time of year, we tell a charming tale of a long ago journey on a donkey, a baby born in a cave, and a visit by kings. In truth, the real event was not just charming, it was awesome. That baby was more than a child ...

He was proof that God always keeps his promises. That baby was the fulfillment of an amazing promise made to generations of faithful assuring a savior to heal the rift created by the sin of our first parents. God spoke his word *"(a)nd the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son*

from the Father" (John 1:14). God always keeps his word. Trust him.

He was love in the flesh. *"For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him"* (John 3:17). Out of love for us, Jesus willingly took on the indignity of a human body and its frailty to share our nature. Love him back.

He is God. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). God came to free us from sin and open the way to everlasting life. Follow him.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th?

The Gospels do not identify a specific date for Jesus' birth. December 25 was chosen for several reasons, including that the date was close to the winter solstice.

The early Church attempted to replace existing pagan celebrations with Christian ones. Under



the Emperor Aurelian, December 25 was celebrated as the "birth of the unconquered sun." As Christianity became more widely practiced, the pagan celebration was replaced by Christmas to celebrate Christ's birth — the real "unconquered" light of the world.

'Tis the season to be jolly

Family dynamics can make holiday celebrations anything but jolly. Try these tips to make this your happiest holiday season:

Repeat, "It's not about me." Taking what others say or do personally makes you easy prey for someone trying for a reaction or looking for attention. Keep your power by choosing not to get offended.

Smile and nod. Arguing your point of view in heated discussions may feel momentarily satisfying but only serves to prolong tensions. Happy holidays come from smiling, nodding, and changing the subject.



Develop a bad memory. Reliving past hurts can make holidays miserable. Decide that this will be the year to forgive and forget.

Get up. Stand up. The more we focus on irritations, the more they irritate. When feeling irked, take a break to fill your water glass, stretch your legs, or engage in a different conversation.

Have compassion. You can wish your family experience were different but trying to change others is pointless. Instead use compassion to find new ways of love during holiday gatherings.

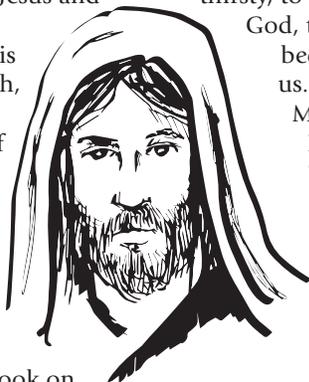
from Scripture

John 1:1-18, Who Is Jesus?

On December 25 we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Just who is Jesus and what does he mean to us?

John explained that Jesus is God's Word born into flesh, the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the source of life. Jesus enlightens us about God and his nature. To know Jesus is to know God because grace and truth come from God, through Christ to us.

At the same time Jesus took on our human nature. He lived as we live, experienced what we experience, and suffered what we suffer. He knows



what it's like to be hungry and thirsty, to be tired, to be tempted. God, the Son, understands us because he became like us.

Many who saw Jesus on Earth rejected him. They didn't recognize him as the Messiah. We each have to make a choice about Jesus. Do we choose Jesus as our Savior? Do we live our lives as if we are children of God? If our

answers are "yes," then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for truth and grace.

Q & A Is the Immaculate Conception about Mary or Jesus?

The Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's conception without Original Sin. It refers to our belief that Mary was



preserved from the stain of Original Sin at the moment of her conception in view of her role as Jesus' mother (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #491).

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX declared this truth infallibly.

Because she was not tainted by Original Sin, she could be completely filled with grace. In fact, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel calls her, "full of grace," (Luke 1:28). This grace enabled Mary to say "Yes" to the angel's invitation, and to continue saying "Yes" when faced with hardship and suffering, including standing at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday.

God did not preserve Mary from Original Sin simply because he favored her, but because she had been chosen from all eternity to be the mother of his Son. Her role as Jesus' mother was crucial to his mission of salvation. Her grace-filled "Yes" opened the way to Jesus' "Yes" on the Cross.

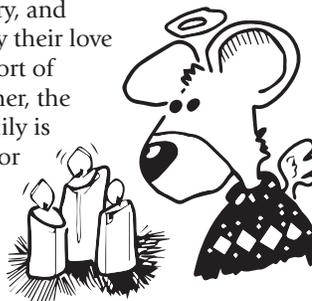
Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 5 – St. Sabas (532). St. Sabas was born in (now) Turkey, and fled to a monastery to escape an abusive home. He became a hermit and moved to the desert. He attracted many followers, and formed a community. Though unwilling, he was ordained and eventually was named the superior of all hermits in Jerusalem. He died at the age of 93.

Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego, a Native American, and asked him to have the bishop of Mexico

build a chapel for her. She sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses from his cloak, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

Dec. 30 – The Holy Family (1st century). On the feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. By their love and support of one another, the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



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