

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015

Salesian Sunday Reflection



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:

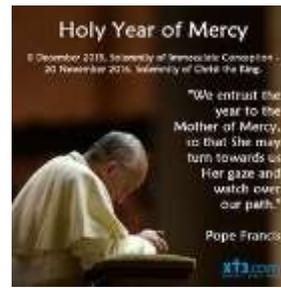
John the Baptist is too great a lover of truth to be carried away by ambition. He informs those who came to him that he is not the Messiah. He tells us, we must look into our actions, reforming those that are not of good intentions and perfecting those that are.

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 writings of Saint Francis de Sales.)



Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has composed a special prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy which will run

from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016. In the prayer, the Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, "with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind."



Below, the publish text of Pope Francis' prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;

the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Music for the Liturgy at 9:00 am

Processional: # 297 Every Valley

Psalms Response: "Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel."

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia

Offertory: # 300 People Look East

Communion: # 454 River of Glory

Recessional: # 293 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- vs. 1 & 5

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



Holiday Mass Schedule 2015

- 22nd Tuesday 8:30 am
- 23rd Wednesday 8:30 am
- 24th Christmas Eve Mass at 11:00 pm OLS
- 25th Christmas Day ~ 11:00 am OLS (Friday - only Mass *bi-lingual* Homily in English)
- 26th Saturday 6:00 pm
- 27th Sunday Mass ~ 9:00 am
- 27th Misa en Español ~ 6:00 pm
- 29th Tuesday 8:30 am
- 30th Wednesday 8:30 am
- 31st Thursday 8:30 am

January 2016

- 1st Friday 11:00 am followed with 1 hour Adoration
- 2nd Saturday 6:00 pm
- 3rd Sunday Mass ~ 9:00 am
- 3rd Misa en Español ~ 6:00 pm

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Las Posadas

"Las Posadas is one of many Latin American holiday traditions in which participants symbolically retrace the steps of the Virgin Mary and Joseph on the night that baby Jesus was born." **Beginning at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays, Dec 16th through Dec 23rd** in the Social Hall. After prayers a light dinner will be provided by a host Latino family. All are invited.

ROSE ~ Subdued Joy

Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) was first to formalize the usage of colors for holy vestments. This rare tint conveys muted joy in a time of prayer, and is worn only twice during the year - the third Sunday of Advent (the season preceding Christmas) and the fourth Sunday of Lent (a period of penance before Easter).

Walk always near to God, for the gentleness of His shadow is more wonderful than the brightness of the sun.

~ St. Francis DeSales

~ THIS WEEK Mass Schedule ~

- Saturday 6:00 pm
- Sunday 9:00 am
- NO 6:00 PM SPANISH MASS THIS WEEK**
- Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am



Hatteras Island Food Pantry

Our pantry is still busy and requires regular replenishment. Please consider adding a few items each time you shop. Since the size of the families accessing the food pantry varies, please avoid bulk sized items. Shopping suggestions and items needed are listed below **VISITORS:** Save room packing! Donate any unopened non-perishable items at our convenient 24-hour drop box on the Social Hall porch. **No time to shop? Checks may be made out to:** United Methodist Men, PO Box 1591 Buxton, NC 27920 **Thank you for your generosity!**