

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

THE VOICE IS JOHN, THE WORD IS CHRIST

John is the voice, but the Lord **is the Word who was in the beginning**. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever.

Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: **The word ought to grow, and I should diminish?** The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: **My joy is complete**. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. **I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet.** And the question came: **Who are you, then?** He replied: **I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord.**

The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. **Prepare the way for the Lord**, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."

To prepare the way means to pray well; it means thinking humbly of oneself. We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

DAILY MASS READINGS

- Monday:** *Advent Weekday*
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47
- Wednesday:** *Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial)*
Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
- Thursday:** *Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)*
Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
- Friday:** *Advent Weekday*
Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday:** *Advent Weekday*
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday:** *Third Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28

This Week's Program Schedule

Monday, December 11

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Bible Study	Lounge
7:00PM	Penance Service	Church

Tuesday, December 12~Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:00AM	Mañanitas	Church
6:30AM	Mass	Church

Wednesday, December 13 ~ HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FATHER MATTHEW!!

10:00AM	Bible Study	Conf. Rm
1:00PM	Mass @ CSUS	Lakeside Rm
4:00-5:00PM	1 st Session CRE	Church
5:15-6:30PM	2 nd Session CRE	Church
6:45-8:00PM	3 rd Session CRE	Church

Thursday, December 14

Friday, December 15

4:30PM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, December 16

3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	YLI Bake Sale	Lobby

Sunday, December 17

9:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	Children's Liturgy	Conf. Rm
10:00AM	YLI Bake Sale	Lobby
6:00PM	Mass	Church
7:00PM	YLI Bake Sale	Lobby

Something for our Children!

Can you unscramble the following words from today's Gospel?
 SPEOLG PPHTERO PABSMIT
 WRTEA LYHO PIITRS

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Give back to the Lord a sacrifice, a share of what the Lord has so generously given to you.

Last Sunday's Offertory: \$ 7,053.30
 Building Fund: \$ 4,181.50

Thank you and God bless you!

MASS INTENTIONS

5:00PM	Sat., Dec. 9	David Amesquita†
9:00AM	Sun., Dec. 10	Albina Lopes†
6:00PM	Sun., Dec. 10	All Saints Community
8:00AM	Mon., Dec. 11	Jose Moules†
8:00AM	Tues., Dec. 12	Margaret Novotny†
8:00AM	Fri., Dec. 15	Sandra Estrella

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

All Saints, Turlock	December 11 @ 7:00pm
Our Lady of the Assumption, Turlock	December 13 @ 6:45pm
Sacred Heart, Turlock	December 14 @ 7:00pm
Sacred Heart, Patterson	December 15 @ 7:00pm

ANGEL TREE: You may select an angel from the tree to provide a gift for a child in need. Turlock Together distributes gifts for children ages 0-12. United Samaritans distributes gifts to children ages 12-17. Please return your unwrapped gifts to the office by **December 17**. **In years past we have had one or two families that we assist directly. If you would be interested in sponsoring a family, please call the office at 669-0473.**

TURLOCK TOGETHER: Each year Turlock businesses and agencies combine their efforts to collect toys and food for needy families in Turlock. A receptacle has been placed in our church lobby to collect your non-perishable food donations. Please return your donations by **December 17**. Distribution will take place on Saturday, December 23.

LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE CELEBRATION is on Tuesday, December 12. Please join Fr. Matthew for Mañanitas at 6:00AM followed by Mass at 6:30AM. A special hospitality of *pan dulce*, coffee and hot chocolate will follow Mass. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us to honor our Lady.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE: YLI Queen of Faith Institute #254 will hold a bake sale after all masses on December 16 and 17. Proceeds will be split between the Seminarians and the Sisters of the Cross. God bless you for your generosity!

NATIVITY PLAY: We are seeking children, ages 5 and up who would be interested in participating in a Nativity Play during the 5:00PM Christmas Eve Children's Mass. Second practice is scheduled for this Sunday, December 10 after the 9am Mass. Please meet in the church. Call the office for more details.

THIS SUNDAY'S 2nd COLLECTION is for our *Community Assistance Fund*. God bless you for your generosity.

This week's helpers include ...

Altar Linens ~ Regina deBos

Thank you and God bless you for your unselfish service!

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS: GOSPEL, PROPHET, BAPTISM, WATER, HOLY, SPIRIT. *How did you do?*

TIPS FOR TITHING

Jesus' Standard ... Giving should be planned, proportionate, and sacrificial. It should be budgeted in accordance with your personal circumstances and, at the same time, requires some personal sacrifice to exhibit true generosity.

Happy Birthday, Fr. Matthew!!

Please join us for a piece of birthday cake after each mass in celebration of Fr. Matthew's birthday! God bless Fr. Matthew on his birthday (*Wednesday, December 13*) and always!

... and many happy returns of the day!

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Please pray for our sick community members and friends:

Gustavo Delgadillo	Socorro Aguilar	Ed H
Peggy Howard	Rita Yonan	Andres...
Sarah Anderson	Linda Seymour	Stephen...
Jim Perdomo	Flynn Hillman	Janet Fiorini
Carol Soares	Robert Screen	Jack B. Shaw
Cynthia Basco	Jackie Ferreira	Thelma Tamis
Edie Ferrari	Efren Ramirez	Sharon...
Patti & Tom Scott	Beto Garcia	Ed Rocha
David & Paula Back	Catherine Harris	William Jackson
Joanne Mattos	Isabel Rodriguez	Edward Lytle
Ubaldo Sanchez	David Brian Baca	Wayne Maass
Elena Sandoval	Artie Romero	Raul Campusano
Katarina Renenger	Doree O'Connell	Kevin Downs
Maritza Dominguez	Josephina Camacho	Shelly...
Bernard & Ann Pannella	Keith Bentley	Taylor Holt
The Merchant Family	Cecilia Renenger	Fred Clerici
Taurino & Concepcion Lopez	David & Linda Back	Matthew...
Pat B.	Charlie W.	

Your special prayers for these and others suffering from illness are gratefully appreciated. Thank you and God bless you!

Notify the office if you have anyone you would like to place on our list of persons in need of prayer due to illness. So that space will always be available for your loved ones, names will be kept on our list for three months. (However, your prayer requests can be renewed.)

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION (CSA)

Sunday, December 10, Christmas Party (White Elephant) will be in the lounge. All college students are welcome.

Tuesday, December 12, Body and Soul (Reading Day) – Hockey, meet at the church at 3pm. We will be moving the CSA booth at 5pm, please meet at the CSA booth.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CRE)

CRE Christmas Program, Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00pm.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held every Wednesday at 10:00AM in our conference room. Come join us – *all parishioners are welcome!*

RCIA

Any adult wishing to embrace the Catholic faith or any Catholic wishing to be confirmed should contact Michael Fuller by calling the church office at 669-0473.

2017 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the lobby **this weekend**. Please stop by and pick up your box of envelopes. The boxes are arranged **alphabetically by last name**. If you do not see your name, please take an unassigned box, record your name on the line corresponding to the box number on the sign-up sheet. If you have questions please contact the office at 669-0473.

YLI MEETING: CHANGE OF LOCATION: The YLI meeting for Monday, December 11 has been moved to a different location. Dinner will be at 5pm at Toscano's Restaurant, 1801 Colorado Ave, inside The Tower. The meeting will be at 6:45pm at Western View Mobile Ranch Clubhouse, 1400 N. Tully Road. Please try to carpool, as parking is limited.