



# Community News

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

We prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Savior, when we transform our ways through repentance and forgiveness of sins.

### PROMISE:

*"The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."* (Lk 3:5b-6)

### WORD:

Bar 5:1-9/ Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6/ Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/ Lk 3:1-6



## Breaking The Barrier To God

### REFLECTION:

The season of Advent is an opportune time to recall those occasions when we neglected to put Jesus at the center of our lives, when we disrespected Him in our thoughts, by our actions or inactions. We are asked to remember and recognize those times when we did not love others the way Jesus teaches us to love, failing to be His hands and feet to others and turning our backs to our Lord away from His grace and love. We are invited towards conversion of heart, to confess our sins, and to resolve in avoiding temptations, with sincere and fervent penance to restore our lost relationship with God.



The message for the 2nd Sunday of Advent reminds us to repent and ask forgiveness for our sins as the best way to prepare for the Lord's second coming. Repentance is going back to the heart of God, admitting our weakness and our failure in fulfilling the commandment to love. We must return to His mercy and grace, knowing that He is the only One who brings healing to our sick souls and release us

from the bondage of sin.

We encounter God's power to forgive and His mighty arm of mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation through the priest who acts as the minister of His forgiving love. When the priest grants absolution, the penitent is set free of his offenses. He is using the authority entrusted by Christ to His Church by which sins are forgiven. Confession is the indispensable sacrament and font of God's grace in making our preparation for this season fruitful, meaningful and

complete.

Sadly, nowadays going to confession has lost its value and attraction to many people. It is noticeable that present-day society is losing the "sense of sin." We learn that many countries have legalized divorce and some are making laws which circumvent the preservation of the unborn fetus. More and more countries are permitting same sex marriages. These horrible offenses against God, nature and humanity are no longer considered morally wrong

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### Tending the Flack

## Welcome The Word Who Saves

John the Baptist is described as *"the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight"* (Lk 3:4). The voice proclaims the word, but in this case the Word of God comes first, since the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness (cf. Lk 3:2). He therefore plays an important role but always in terms of Christ. St Augustine comments: *"John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning (cf. Jn 1:1). John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever. 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"* (In ev. Johannis tractatus 293, 3: pl 38, 1328).

Today it is up to us to listen to that voice so as to make room for Jesus, the Word who saves us, and to welcome him into our hearts. Let us prepare ourselves in this Season of Advent to see, with the eyes of faith in the humble Grotto of Bethlehem, God's salvation (cf. Lk 3:6). In the consumer society in which we are tempted to seek joy in things, the Baptist teaches us to live in an essential manner, so that Christmas may be lived not only as an external feast, but as the feast of the Son of God who came to bring men and women peace, life and true joy.

Let us entrust our journey to encounter the Lord who comes, to the motherly intercession of Mary, the Virgin of Advent, in order to be ready to receive, in our heart and in our whole life, the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

*~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, December 9, 2012*

### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.  
 Donate link can be found at [www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
 BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 1367  
 Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**November 26, 2021**

Tithes : \$205.00  
 Love Offer : \$ 2.00  
 Paypal  
 (October) : \$193.06

**Thank you for your generosity!!!**

### God's Blessings

#### Birthday

Clarissa Gomez	12/3	Leo Alquiros	12/6
Helen Hernandez	12/3	Jason Bustos	12/6
Rica Torralba	12/3	Norms Llave	12/7
Jun Torralba	12/3	Lucy Mabunay	12/7
Jomar Javier	12/5	Anne Belonia	12/8
Jerry Subang	12/5	Ludy Cuasay	12/8
Thomas Edralin	12/9		

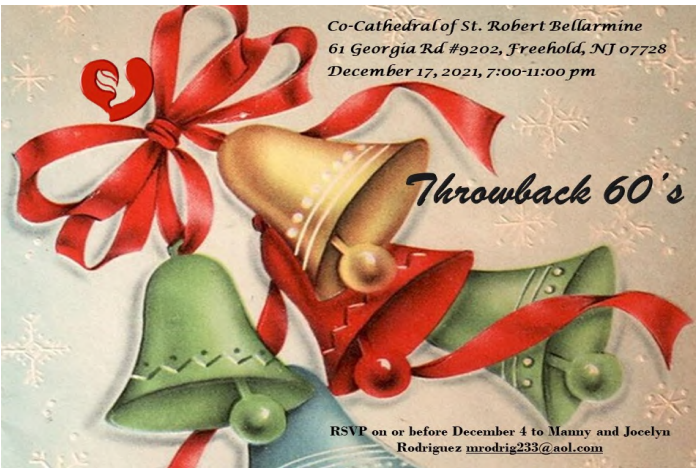
#### Anniversary

Mike & Argie Salada	12/5
John & Daday Young	12/7
Manny & Yoly Crisol	12/9

#### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
 For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

*Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert.  
 Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.*



### Community Prayer Time

Every Friday, starting at exactly 8:30 pm, all members are urged to pray together as one community the following:

*Prayer to Take Authority*

*Holy Rosary*

*Prayer: Oratio Imperata against the spread of Coronavirus*

*Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.*

*We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.*

*We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.*

*We thank you for the vaccines developed made possible by your guiding hands. Bless our efforts to use these vaccines to end the pandemic.*

*We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.*

*We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died.*

*Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.*

*Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.*

*We fly to your protection, o holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.*

*Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us.*

*St. Joseph, pray for us.*

*St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.*

*San Roque, pray for us.*

*San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.*

*San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.*



### Know Yourself

If we know ourselves, we humble ourselves, not holding our head high or becoming inflated with pride. Rather we bow our head in acknowledgment of the goodness God has showered on us.

*~ St. Catherine of Siena*

#### Barrier - Cont'd from Page 1

and sinful simply because these are accepted by society and are legalized. But as Christians, we know that not everything legal is morally right. Yet, some lawmakers think that personal freedom is absolute and they can change moral laws as they wish.

In the Acts of the Apostles, it is written, "Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out," (Acts 3:19). This may sound like a simple invitation, but it is really a command from the Lord for all of us to experience His forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation and to break the barrier between us and God which sin has created. He stirs our hearts constantly,

humbles and encourages us to allow Him to rule over our lives, making our heart His home. As the shining star of Bethlehem, we are led to Jesus, our loving Savior.

As we remain in God's grace, we become steadfast even in the face of insurmountable challenges of life, for the Lord has promised us, "The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Lk 3:5b-6). May Advent become meaningful for us as we continue our faith journey with Jesus, our Emmanuel, always with us until He comes again.

Adapted from [www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)