



BLD Trenton



Community News

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<http://bldtrenton.com>

December 9, 2022

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our salvation is at hand when we joyfully accept Jesus as our Savior.

PROMISE:

"Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you." (Is 35: 4b)

WORD:

Is 35: 1-6a, 10/ Ps 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10/ Jas 5: 7-10/ Mt 11: 2-11



Send your prayer requests to:
[https://](https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory)
www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory



Source Of Our Joy

REFLECTION:

The messages offered by the First Reading and the Gospel for 'Gaudete' (Rejoice) Sunday give us the reason to rejoice – the Lord will come personally to save His people and to renew the face of the earth! God will come with mercy, kindness, and "with vindication" (Is 35:4b).

John the Baptist expected a Messiah who would execute judgment "to cut down and throw into the fire every tree that does not bear good fruit" (Mt 3:10-11). John expected the cleansing fire of swift divine judgment, prophesying that "the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire" (Mt 3:12). Apparently, many expected the same. John was quite surprised that Jesus came as a gentle Rabbi, yet still one who performed the miraculous works of God. What John heard and saw was one who brings forgiveness, healing, and mercy. Jesus explicitly says: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13; 12:7).

The Community theme for this week



states: Our salvation is at hand when we joyfully accept Jesus as our Savior. John was surprised to find Jesus manifesting both power and humility that would reveal that He is indeed the awaited Messiah and that His mission is to bring salvation to all those who long for it.

Jesus assured John that the miracles and healing He performed were to fulfill the Messianic prophecies announced by Isaiah some 700 years before. That the Messiah would come to save His people, "the eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened ... the lame shall leap ... and the mute sing for joy," (Is 35:5). Jesus did not come to gain earthly power, but to serve His people and bringing life to them, to restore and save especially the marginalized.

Let us make God's plan our own by accepting the challenge to joyfully answer the call to be instruments of His love. As we wait for the coming of the Lord, our vigilance presupposes that we need to be

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Tending the Flock

Blessed The One Not Offended

Jesus knew the mind of John who sent them, for he knew, as God knows, our inner thoughts. There he was, actively healing the blind, lame, and many others. He healed not to teach John, who was already convinced, but those who had come to him doubting. Having healed them he said, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them." And then he added pointedly, "And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." By saying this Jesus implied that he knew even his questioners' unuttered thoughts. For if he had said simply "I am he" this would have fallen short of overcoming their unstated sense of being offended. And it would have given fuel to some Jews who were already saying to him, "You bear record of yourself" (Jn 8:13). Hence he answered nothing directly concerning his identity but left them to learn of it from the miracles, freeing what he taught from suspicion and making it plainer. Then Jesus gently chided them for being silently offended in him. He made their case for them, leaving it to their own conscience alone to judge, calling no witness of his reprimand other than they themselves who knew what they had been thinking. For it was of their own inward offense that he was thinking when he said, "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." In this way Christ drew them all the more closely to himself.



~ John Chrysostom, 347-407 A.D.
Homily 36.2, The Gospel of Matthew

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.
Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com
Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
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The Lord's Provision

December 2, 2022

Tithe : \$ 495.00
Love Offering : \$ 221.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Thomas Edralin	12/9	Phoebe Panahon	12/13
Faye Dizon	12/11	Chinky Rubiato	12/13
Alvin Hernandez	12/12	Kat Madamba	12/15

Anniversary

Manny & Yoly Crisol	12/9
Ed & Olyn Bautista	12/11
Bong & Faye Dizon	12/11
Abbot & Chie Del Pilar	12/14
Glenn & Jo Ramos	12/14

Begin Again

Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks – every one of us has them – and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God's pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended. This is how to begin a new life. There is only one way, the way of humility – to be purified from the sense of superiority, from formalism and hypocrisy, to see ourselves, along with our brothers and sisters, as sinners, and to see Jesus as the Savior who comes for us, not for the others, for us, just as we are, with our poverty, misery and failings, above all with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved

Let us remember one thing: with Jesus, there is always the possibility of beginning again. It's never too late. There is always the possibility to begin again. Be courageous. He is near to us, and this is the time of conversion. Everyone might think: "I have this situation inside, this problem that I am ashamed of". But Jesus is next to you. Begin again. There is always the possibility of taking a step forward. He is waiting for us and never gets tired of us. He never gets tired! And we are annoying, but he never gets tired! And let us not let this Advent go by like days on the calendar because this is a moment of grace, a grace for us too, here, and now! May Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us to meet Him, Jesus, and our brothers and sisters on the way of humility, which is the only one that will help us go ahead.

~ Pope Francis

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

*The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The Lord shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations.*



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attentive to the signs of the times. We cannot be blind in responding to the most pressing needs of people who are suffering, grieving and severely affected by the effects of the pandemic, natural calamities, wars and discrimination in society.

John the Baptist paid with his life for courageously proclaiming God's word and preparing the way for Jesus. Our Lord Jesus offers us the same assurance of faith and strength to stand against every force that would try to rob us of our determination to live and proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. Let us be content, knowing we have what matters most – Christ's presence in our lives, the only source of our inner strength, joy, and wisdom. Let us

give glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for coming into our lives! God comes with kindness and mercy. He comes with humility and justice to save. For this is His assurance: *"Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you,"* (Isa 35:4b).

As Christ's followers, we have come to know of the Savior's great love for us. *"Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me"* (Mt 11:6). This is the time of the year to be firm and to stand to the truth that our Lord Jesus died and rose again so that we might live eternally with Him. It is the time to welcome Him to be borne in us, to stay deep within our hearts. It is the time to offer Him our gift of steadfast commitment and

unwavering resolve to go back to Him and to persevere in Him.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, in our moments of doubt and darkness, fill us with Your presence. Strengthen our trust in Your word with hope in the saving power of Your kingdom. Free us from everything that would hold us back from pursuing Your will for our life. Lord Jesus, you are the fulfillment of all our hopes and desires. Set our hearts afire, burning for Your love, your righteousness, peace and joy. May we always radiate Your love and mercy to others, as we lead them to the joy and truth of the Gospel. Amen.



Adapted from www.bldworld.org