



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

Volume 21, Issue 50

<http://bldtrenton.com>

December 17, 2021

THEME:

We prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Savior, when, like Mary, we humbly obey the will of God.

PROMISE:

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord will be fulfilled." (Lk 1:45)

WORD:

Mi 5:1-4a/ Ps 80:2-3,15-16, 18-19/ Heb 10:5-10/ Lk 1:39-45



Joyful Anticipation

REFLECTION:

Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in your life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" (*makarios* in Greek) literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.



God gives us supernatural joy with hope in his promises

There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a great teacher and Archbishop of Canter-

bury (1033-1109), spoke these words in a homily: *"Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed."* To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that *"no one will take your joy from you"* (Jn 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life given over to God in faith and trust?

They were filled with the Holy Spirit

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of

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Tending the Flack

Expectation and the Expected One

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent that comes just before the Nativity of the Lord, the Gospel speaks of Mary's visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth. This event is not merely a courteous gesture but portrays with great simplicity the encounter of the Old Testament with the New. Indeed the two women, both of them then pregnant, embody expectation and the Expected One. The elderly Elizabeth symbolizes Israel which is awaiting the Messiah, whereas the young Mary bears within her the fulfillment of this expectation for the benefit of the whole of humanity.

First of all in the two women the fruit of their wombs, John and Christ, meet and recognize each other. The Christian poet Prudentius comments: *"the child imprisoned in the aged womb greets by his mother's lips his Lord, the maiden's son"* (Apotheosis, 590: pl 59, 970). John's exultation in Elizabeth's womb is a sign of the fulfillment of the expectation: God is about to visit his People. In the Annunciation the Archangel Gabriel spoke to Mary of Elizabeth's pregnancy (cf. 1:36) as proof of God's power; in spite of her old age her barren state was made fecund.

The scene of the Visitation also expresses the beauty of the greeting. Wherever there is reciprocal acceptance, listening, making room for another, God is there, as well as the joy that comes from him. At Christmas time let us emulate Mary, visiting all those who are living in hardship, especially the sick, prisoners, the elderly and children. And let us also imitate Elizabeth who welcomes the guest as God himself: without wishing it, we shall never know the Lord, without expecting him we shall not meet him, without looking for him we shall not find him. Let us too go to meet the Lord who comes with the same joy as Mary, who went with haste to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39).

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, December 23, 2012

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
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

December 10, 2021

Tithes : \$495.00
Love Offer : \$ 10.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Eric Alberto	12/17	Ace Camposano	12/19
Leo Llave	12/17	Ross Jacinto	12/19
Ricky Gomez	12/17	Tet Edralin	12/20
Dan Catarata	12/17	Kagot Arigorat	12/21
Yoly Alcasid	12/18	Criselda Gabriel	12/21
Bill Bunoan	12/18	Timothy Canete	12/22
Isabel Guerrero	12/18	Elnor Jamolod	12/23
Nicole Salada	12/23		

Anniversary

Nest & Ling Navarro	12/21
Jerry and Lieza Subang	12/21
Mon & Mense Miranda	12/22

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

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Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leaped for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born.

The Lord wants to fill each of us with his Holy

Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Do you live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with you through his Holy Spirit?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking you more earnestly. Increase my faith in all your promises, my hope in the joy of heaven, and my love for You as my All. Amen.

Adapted from www.dailyscripture.net



Concrete Faith



Faith is not an abstract theory, a generalized theory – no! Faith touches us personally and transforms each of our lives. Let us think about the concreteness of our faith. Is my faith abstract, something abstract or concrete? Does it lead me toward serving others, helping out?

~ Pope Francis



2021 Simbang Gabi Schedule



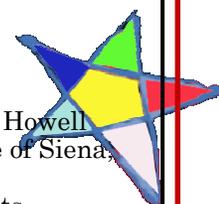
Ocean County

December 11, 6:30 p.m.-	St. Monica, Jackson
December 12, 6:30 p.m.-	St. John, Lakehurst
December 13, 6:30 p.m.-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Seaside Heights
December 14, 6:30 p.m.-	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Whiting
December 15, 6:30 p.m.-	St. Justin the Martyr, Toms River
December 16, 6 p.m. -	St. Joseph, Toms River
December 17, 6:30 p.m.-	St. Mary, Barnegat
December 18, 7:30 p.m.-	St. Luke, Toms River
December 19, 4:30 p.m.-	St. Maximilian Kolbe, Toms River



Monmouth County

December 13, 6 p.m. -	St. Veronica, Howell
December 14, 7 p.m. -	St. Catherine of Siena, Farmingdale
December 15, 7 p.m. -	Holy Innocents, Neptune
December 16, 7 p.m. -	St. Benedict, Holmdel
December 17, 7 p.m. -	St. Jerome, West Long Branch
December 18, 7 p.m. -	St. Ann, Keansburg
December 19, 7 p.m. -	St. Joseph, Keyport
December 20, 7 p.m. -	St. Dorothea, Eatontown
December 21, 7 p.m. -	St. Clement, Matawan



*** Rosary will be prayed 30 minutes before the Mass

*** Rosary and Confession will start 30 minutes before the Mass