



BLD Trenton



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

Volume 21, Issue 49

<http://bldtrenton.com>

December 10, 2021

THEME:

We prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Savior, when we joyfully proclaim the Good News to His people.

PROMISE:

"The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

WORD:

Zep 3:14-18a/ Is 12:2-3, 4, 5- 6/
Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18



What Must I Do?

REFLECTION:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice!" (Phil 4:4). This is the exhortation of

St. Paul to all of us as we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Traditionally, the Third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* Sunday, from the Latin word for "rejoice." It is symbolized by the pink candle of the Advent wreath. The reason of rejoicing is the Good News that Jesus Christ, our Savior, has come. Jesus was born; He became man to bring salvation to this world. His ministry of teaching and healing proved that He was the awaited Messiah and His mission was to bring man back to God. The prophecy of Zephaniah tells us: *"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love,"* (Zep 3:17). Celebrating Advent is truly a fulfilling way to prepare our mind and heart for Christmas.

"What should we do?" (cf. Lk 3:10). People, filled with much expectation, asked John the Baptist as he told them to pre-



pare for the coming of the Messiah, preached repentance to them and baptized them with water. He strongly exhorted them to mend their ways, by being kind and generous, by showing compassion and justice to everyone, by being truthful and

contented with the blessings they received. He taught them conversion from all forms of abuses, wrongdoings, and undisciplined ways which have remained uncorrected.

For us disciples of our Savior, Advent is a good time to reflect and pray, asking the Lord the question, "what must I do," and prepare ourselves to meet the Lord every time we celebrate Christmas. It is a season of giving, a time to share gifts. Perhaps, it is an opportunity to forego buying things for ourselves and, instead, find ways to share our material resources with our less fortunate neighbors. The gospel teaches us to give with love and responsibility, more than casual charity but sharing with empathy and concern for the poor, to allow

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Tending the Flock

A Proclamation For The Poorest In Joy

The joy that the liturgy reawakens in the hearts of Christians is not reserved for us alone: it is a prophetic proclamation destined for all humanity and for the poorest of the poor in particular, in this case, those poorest in joy!

Let us think of our brothers and sisters who, especially in the Middle East, in several regions of Africa and other parts of the world, are experiencing the drama of war: what joy can they live? What will their Christmas be like?

Let us think of all the sick and lonely people who, in addition to being tried in their body, are also sorely tried in their soul because they often feel abandoned: how can we share joy with them without disrespecting their suffering?

But let us also think of those people, especially the young, who have lost their sense of true joy and seek it in vain where it is impossible to find it: in the exasperated race to self-affirmation and success, in false amusements, in consumerism, in moments of drunkenness, in the artificial paradise of drugs and every form of alienation. We must obviously face the liturgy today and its "Rejoice" with these tragic realities.

As in the times of the Prophet Zephaniah, it is particularly to those being tested and to "life's wounded and orphans of joy" that God's Word is being addressed in a special way.

The invitation to rejoice is not an alienating message nor a sterile palliative, but on the contrary, it is a salvific prophecy, an appeal for rescue that starts with inner renewal.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, December 17, 2006

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 3, 2021

Tithes : \$655.00
Love Offer : \$ 75.00

*Thank you for
your generosity!!!*

God's Blessings

Birthday

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

Anniversary

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

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them to experience life with joy and a bright hope for their future.

Another lesson we can learn from the gospel is the call to overcome self-centeredness, greed and abuse of authority, and instead act with honesty and justice. It is a challenge to ones dignity to practice Christian virtue and integrity at the workplace and in all our professional and business transactions. The culture of wrongdoing becoming socially acceptable poses a great test which may confront us in our dealings, and requires a lot of discipline and resolve to do what is morally right.

Finally, John proclaimed to the people that "one mightier than I is coming," (Lk 3:16). He pointed to Jesus Christ who came to baptize us with the Holy Spirit, em-

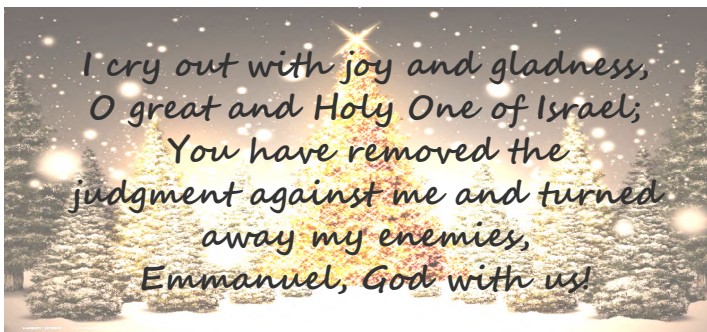
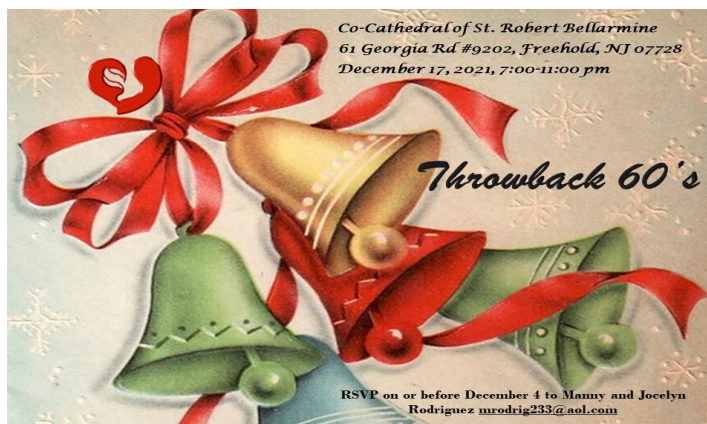
powering us with fire by His Gifts and Fruit. We are to live a life in the Spirit to maintain our relationship with the Lord, allowing Him to take over every aspect of our being and continue transforming us into righteousness, away from any transgressions that keep us away from God.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us pray that peace and harmony may reign in our hearts. Let us be grateful and truly rejoice in the Lord. As we acknowledge the Good News of our salvation and share this with others, we will live the promise of St. Paul to the Philippians, "The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus," (Phil 4:7).

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

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

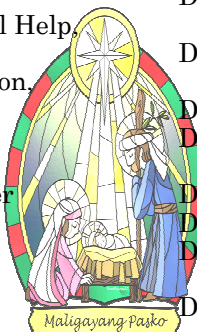


2021 Simbang Gabi Schedule



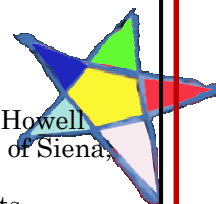
Ocean County

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