

St. Pius V Catholic Church www.stpiusv.org
3310 South Grand Ave. 63118

Second Sunday of Advent

Mary Loux

Comfort, give comfort to my people says your God.

How do we bring comfort to others when there is a loneliness and longing in each of us? St Augustine said, "Our heart is restless until it rests in you (God)" During this time of social distancing we long for God and community more than ever.

In the first reading Isaiah tells us to bring comfort and speak tenderly to God's people. As a mother of three I find myself in a rocking chair often trying to console a crying child. Most rocking sessions begin in silence as I try to connect with and calm their emotions before diving into the details of what happened. I imagine God waiting in a rocking chair for

His children to approach and allow Him to wrap His arms around us bringing love, comfort, and peace.

In the spirit of John the Baptist, may we prepare the way of the Lord this Advent and clear a path to rest in His love. What is blocking your path or taking you on a wrong turn? With hearts at rest we can then bring comfort and speak tenderly to those around us. How can you bring comfort and heal the wounds of our world?





**Second
Monday
of Advent**
*Nana Hilda
Bromley*

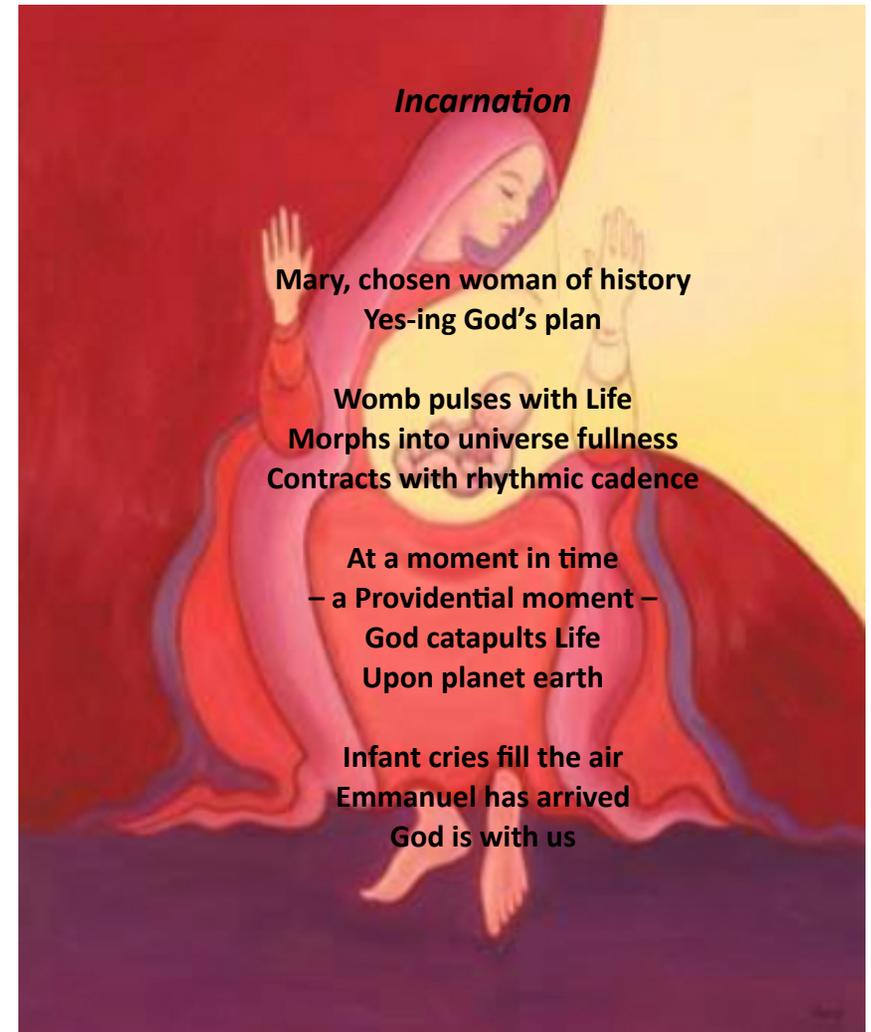
The only experience I have had with a desert has been what I have seen from an airplane window flying over the Sahara Desert to my home in Ghana, West Africa. Peeping through the window, I can see the dry and desolate riverbeds and mountains. There is nothing to rejoice about as it is so barren. How can such a desolate place exult and bloom as the Prophet Isaiah proclaims? And yet, I believe such wonderous things do happen in our daily life by the Grace of God.

Last year, from late November through most of December, I went through a tremendous challenge in the course of becoming chief of my clan in my hometown in Ghana. It was a desert experience for me. Sometimes I asked myself whether the end was worth it. It was emotionally and financially taxing. At the same time, I remembered how the LORD had come to my assistance many times over the course of my life and fought the spiritual battle for me. With Jesus opening His hands and asking us to come to Him when we are heavy burdened, how could I refuse to come to Him for help? He has never failed me yet. So, I placed my trust and hope in Him.

Soon, what had seemed impossible, became possible. Doors opened, and miracles occurred. Even though people with money opposed my first election, a second election confirmed my chieftaincy. There was joy, gladness and hope again for my clan. Jesus had moved people's hearts to vote on the basis of the common good and not narrow self-interest. I thank God for His faithfulness, which brings Him glory and praise. God's glory has overshadowed the gloom and darkness.

Have you seen miracles in your life where God has made the desert bloom?

Second Tuesday of Advent
Sr. Jacqueline Motzel, FSM



Second Wednesday of Advent

Kevin Wells

“Do you not know... or have you not heard?”

The prophet Isaiah asks this question in response to the people of God saying things like: “My way is hidden from the Lord,” and “I have been disregarded by God...”

In these times of winter, prolonged darkness, and the isolation that can be part of dealing with a pandemic we may feel that God does not look upon us as he once used to, or that we have been disregarded. Isaiah reassures us that God does not get tired or grow weary of loving us and looking after us. Even though we may be getting tired and weary during these trying times, we are told that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.



Advent is a particular time of hope... hope for light, for new life, for God among us. A verse from the song “Do Not Fear to Hope” tells us: “Hope is for a pilgrim people, searching for a promised land. Hope is like a rose in winter, or an open hand. It celebrates the light of morning, while working in

the dark and cold. It gathers us together to share what we’ve been told.”

In the Gospel, Jesus invites us to “come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you.” If we are able to put down other things and carry the yoke of love and hope, we will find the burden to be light.

Second Thursday of Advent

Michael Stephan

FEAR NOT with the Lord at your side.

The Lord will not leave you alone to figure things out in your life. Pray to the Lord and he will help you.

Nothing is too large, too formidable, too unsolvable, too impossible, too hopeless for God.

Isaiah states in this reading, God can grow the cedar, acacia, myrtle and olive in the middle of the dry desert with no rainfall. Being a gardener and putting things in perspective, I know how impossible and miraculous this would be. The Lord can make the impossible a reality.

Imagine what you can do when you have faith that the Lord is at/on your side.

When you walk hand in hand with him through your life, there is nothing you can’t achieve. God is that great and compassionate towards us. He wants us to be all we can be; to be successful (whatever that means to you), fulfilled and loved.

And after we weather the storm, with his help, we must bless the Lord and praise his glory so that all may see his goodness.

HOW SIMPLE IS THAT?



Second Friday of Advent

Justin and Peggy Stein

In today's gospel, Jesus compares the people of Israel, "this generation," to children. These children are vocal in their criticisms and judgements of others. They seem to delight in voicing their opinions and dissatisfaction with the behaviors of those around them. Wow, it's like Jesus predicted social media. Have you ever been on a NextDoor site? People are very comfortable sharing their thoughts, opinions, and yes, condemnations of others. It's not just on social media. It happens on the phone, in the newspapers, face to face. I, unfortunately, realize that I am part of "this generation." Have you ever played judge and jury without knowing the full story, all the before and afters, all the nuances of a comment or action by someone else? I do it all the time.

Jesus also tells us in this gospel, "But wisdom is vindicated by her works." Her works. What are "her works"? In the first reading from Isaiah, we are told "God will teach you what is for your good and lead you in the way you should go." In other words, stay grounded in God, and let all the idle chatter fall by the wayside. There will always be judgements and opinions, but do not be distracted. Listen for God's voice, which is always there to lead us in the way we should go. And remember that others are often trying to do the same.



Second Saturday of Advent

Sr. Paulette Weindel, CPPS

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Empress of the Americas

La Virgen Morena

(The Brown Virgin)

This feast day is celebrated with great exuberance throughout the Americas but especially for those who claim Mexican heritage. Our Lady appearing to Juan Diego in 1531, a conquered people, speaking Nahuatl the indigenous language of the Aztecs and gave this message to him and also to us in the 21st century:

"No estoy yo aqui que soy soy tu madre?"

"Am I not here your mother who you can always ask for help?"

Yes—like her Son she listens to the cries of the poor, the oppressed, the disenfranchised. She listens to our personal cries of anguish, to those devastated by the pandemic which crosses all borders, to those in detention centers and being exposure with covid 19, to the children separated from their parents, to those living in fear and to all those who reach out to

welcome, to assist, to advocate and to accompany.

Under her banner, we are called to rise up with those who suffer and heed these words

from the prophet Micah:

to act justly,

to love tenderly

to walk humbly.

And then we too rise to call her blessed!

Our Lady of Guadalupe pray for us!

