

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. Mass – Pro - Populo

Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m. Mass + For Deceased members of the Arden Family by Jane LeBreton

11:00 a.m. Mass - For Souls in Purgatory by Karine Langley

Monday, December 16, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Novena Mass

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Novena Mass

Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Novena Mass

For the Personal Intentions of Fr. Pierre by Karine Langley

Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Novena Mass

Friday, December 20, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Novena Mass

For the Personal Intentions of Fr. Shroff by Karine Langley

Saturday, December 21, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Novena Mass – Pro - Populo

Sunday, December 22, 9:30 a.m. Christmas Novena Mass – Fourth Sunday of Advent

For the poor and all living and Deceased by a parishioner

11:00 a.m. - Christmas Novena Mass - For Souls in Purgatory by Karine Langley

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION: Luke's gospel gives prominence to John the Baptist as a social reformer. The question 'What must we do then?' resonates through this reading. The answers are of extraordinary relevance to us. We are called upon to share with the hungry and with the needy, to act with justice and to avoid violence. Luke also stresses the sense of expectation among the people, who even think that John might be the promised Messiah, the Christ. John then speaks about the mission of the Messiah, describing him as 'more powerful'. John is aware of the battle the Messiah will wage against the forces of evil. The baptism he will bring will demand a choice between working for goodness, truth and justice, or working for lesser and contrary aims. Notice that Luke tells us that John preaches 'good news', and refers to the 'many other things' John said to encourage the people. There is a demanding choice to be made for justice and love, a choice against violence, hatred and selfishness. But the overwhelming atmosphere here is of joyous anticipation of the one who will bring the good news, and who is the good news, the one who will bring healing, forgiveness and new life. During Advent, and particularly on this Third Sunday of Advent, we sense already the profound joy of the coming of the Saviour. What demands of justice and non-violence does the gospel bring to us today? Do we welcome the coming of Christ as good news in the deepest sense? Pray for those who strive for a just distribution of the world's riches. Pray for the grace to 'live simply so that others can simply live'.

Collection – December 7 and 8, 2024: Envelopes: \$1,055.00., Loose: \$319.10; St.

Vincent de Paul: \$506.00; Vigil Lights: \$26.00; Clergy Support: \$95.00; Catholic Mission: \$5.00

Grand Totals: \$2,006.10.

ADVENT PRAYER: Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER: will be held Saturday, December 14, 2024 in the parish social space area, after the 5 p.m. Mass. Please plan to join us for good food, a 50/50 draw, door prizes raffles, games for kids and community fellowship.

2024 – 2025 NEW SUNDAY MISSALS: HAVE ARRIVED! And You are welcome to purchase a copy or more of the new Sunday missal at the parish office for \$8.00 each.

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS NOVENA - SIMBANG GABI: All are invited to 9 days of Novena Masses for Christmas from Monday, December 16th - Tuesday, December 24th, It is a great source of spiritual nourishment to all of us, as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Jesus Christ. Invite your families and friends and come share in this wonderful time of Reflection. Please note that there will be No Weekday Morning Mass celebrated during our novena. Please see the start times listed. Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7pm, Tuesday, Dec. 17 @ 7pm, Wednesday, Dec. 18 @ 7:00 m, Thursday, Dec. 19 @ 7pm, Friday, Dec. 20 @ 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 21 @ 5pm, Sunday, Dec. 22 @ 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Monday, Dec. 23 @ 7pm and Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve @ 7pm. and 9pm.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions:

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for silent Adoration on **Friday, December 20, from 5:45 - 6:45 pm** followed by Benediction and the 7 pm Mass. Confessions will be available during the Adoration.

SPIRITUAL BANQUET FOR JUBILEE YEAR: Get ready for the Jubilee Year 2025 with this series of spiritual reflections on Luke's Gospel at Sheng Shen (Holy Spirit) Chinese Parish, 1187 Michael Street North. Speaker: Bible scholar, Bishop Yvan Mathieu Dates: Wednesday, December 18, 7-9pm (note date and time change) and Saturday, January 11, 10am-12pm.

DEAR FATHER, I lift those who are sick, suffering, or facing hardships. Please bring your comfort, peace, and strength into their lives. You are the Great Healer, and I ask that You touch their bodies, minds, and spirits with Your healing Power. Let them experience Your presence in a real and tangible way. Guide them through their pain, and grant them the grace to persevere. Surround them with love and support, and remind them that You are with them, even in the darkest moments. Help them to find hope in You. Knowing that You are a God who brings restoration and healing. Thank You, Lord, for being our comforter and healer. I trust that You are working all things for good, even in the midst of suffering. In Jesus' name....Amen.

LIFE IS AN ADVENT SEASON: Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us – as one of us – gives us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned. bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives.”