

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2017

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23rd

2:45 - 3:45 PM Reconciliation

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday December 23rd

4 PM Mass

Sunday, December 24th

7:30, 9, & 11 AM Mass

NOTE: NO 1 OR 7 PM MASS

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Masses –

December 24th

3 PM – 3:15 PM (gym) – 5:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Midnight

8 AM – 10 AM – NOON

**NOTE: NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS
DAY**

Catholics are expected to fulfill both their Sunday obligation and their Christmas obligation of giving thanks to the Lord for our redemption at separate Masses.

On December 31st, New Year's Eve, the 7 PM Mass has been moved to 4 PM.

Because the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1st) falls on a Monday, it is NOT a holy day of obligation this year. However, we will celebrate Mass at 7:30 AM & Noon on January 1st.

DOUBLE GIFTING

In today's Gospel (Mk: 1-8) we heard how people from the entire region of Judea and Jerusalem came to be baptized by John. That is a lot of people. I wonder what happened to them after their dip in the Jordan River. We know that even after John was arrested, at least some followers remained faithful to their baptismal commitment because they came to Jesus with a question from John. I imagine that many had their values and vision changed from hearing him and strived to be true to his teaching. I imagine there were a number whose lives were affected in some way by his proclaiming that the kingdom is near, but the initial fervor of their conversion wore off. John's preaching for them was just one more experience of life that glowed for a while. We know some disciples took John's preaching to heart and followed Jesus as John had instructed them with the words about Jesus, "Look; there is the Lamb of God, who I am not worthy to

even help by loosening the thong of his sandal."

The question we might ask ourselves is, "What has happened to our experience of hearing John's preaching that points us to Jesus. Do we follow it with a zeal and commitment that gives us life? Do we follow as if Jesus is somewhere on the list of our priorities, but not the top one? Do we live our life of faith when it is convenient only? If you wish to give God something great of Christmas, give Him yourself totally. You will be surprised at what you also have given yourself!

A Laugh with a Point

A person was telling a friend that he got mad at his pastor, and so he quit going to church. His friend asked, "Have you ever gone to a restaurant and not liked the food?" "Yes," his friend replied. "So, do you never go out to eat anymore, since you didn't like one cook?"