

GOOD NEWS!

DECEMBER 6, 2020 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

The admonition in the title of this reflection is found in the reading from Isaiah and in the Gospel passage. Isaiah describes a long line of exiles returning to Jerusalem after many hard years in Babylon. God leads them back home. In preparation for God's and the people's entry, the way is made clear: Every valley shall be lifted up...The rugged land shall be a plain" (Isaiah 40:4). The road is repaired, just as we might do if someone important were coming to town. The Gospel writer reinterprets this passage. Instead of repairing an actual roadway, the words of John the Baptist prepare for the entrance of Jesus into his public ministry. Despite their differences, both passages speak of the "way of the Lord," which is the way of salvation.

The people are told they will get a new start. In the first reading it will be after exile; in the Gospel it is the new ministry of Jesus. Even St. Peter refers to this newness. He calls it "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). He goes on to explain what this means. It will be existence "in which righteousness dwells." Saint Peter further states that this will come to pass on "the day of the Lord," "the day when God's promises will be fulfilled and "all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9-10).

The events described in all three readings unfold because of God's merciful love of all. It is for such a day that we are called to prepare. Are we willing to exert the effort? Are we willing to listen to God's words?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Scripture Readings for the week of Dec. 7 - 13

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Is 35:1-10	Gn 3:9-15, 20	Is 40:25-31	Is 41:13-20	Is 48:17-19	Zec 2:14-17 or	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
Lk 5:17-26	Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	Mt 11:28-30	Mt 11:11-15	Mt 11:16-19	Rev. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Dear Padre

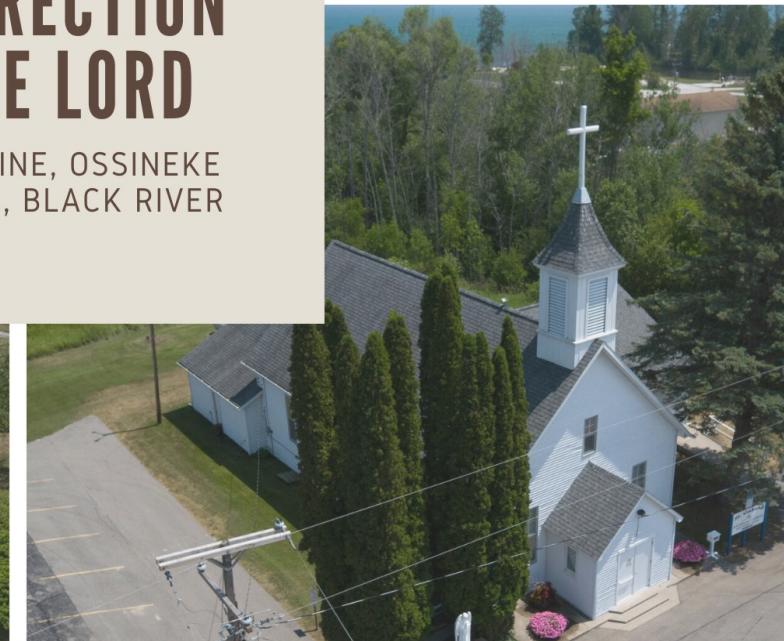
Do we need to evangelize, or spread the gospel, to fellow Catholics?

Yes! Evangelization is beneficial to Catholics who already practice the faith. As St. Paul VI pointed out, "The Church...seeks to deepen, consolidate, nourish and make ever more mature the faith of those who are already called the faithful or believers, in order that they may be so still more" (On Evangelization in the Modern World [*Evangelii Nuntiandi*], 54).

What about nonpracticing Catholics? Yes, again! A particular focus of the evangelizing Catholic ought to be those who have been baptized but who live outside the Christian life. We already know that a large number of the baptized have not formally repudiated their baptism but do not live in accordance with it. They resist the idea of evangelization out of indifference or a hostility based on the belief that he or she is one of the family, but is "in the know" and no longer believes.

Christ wishes God's love to be proclaimed and reproclaimed to all Catholics— practicing and non-practicing. This is the essential mission that Christ gives to his Church—to invite everyone to experience the full impact of God's love in Jesus.

— *Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



ST. RAPHAEL, MIKADO
ST. ANNE, HARRISVILLE

PARISHES OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

ST. CATHERINE, OSSINEKE
ST. GABRIEL, BLACK RIVER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — 6 DECEMBER 2020

ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Tyler Bischoff

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HOURS: Mon.-Thu. 8 am - 3 pm



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday our readings from the prophet Isaiah and the Gospel Mark invite us to "Prepare the Way of the Lord". As we prepare for the celebration of Our Savior's coming in the flesh, we need to prepare the way – we need to prepare ourselves. The greatest hope this world needs is Jesus Christ. There is no other Savior. And guess what! We cannot save ourselves. No amount of dieting and exercising, no amount of saving money and working harder, no amount of posting on social media will save us from death. The only savior of the world is Jesus Christ. He is our hope. He is our life.

How can we prepare ourselves to have Him come more deeply into our lives? One critical way for us is to clear away all the obstacles and junk that has accumulated in our lives. We need to go to Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation – so that we can receive Our Lord's forgiveness in our lives. Due to Covid we will not be having a communal penance service as is customary during Advent. Please choose one of our available times during the week to celebrate the sacrament. Spend some time with Jesus in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to hear Him calling you back to His love. Find a good examination of conscience to help guide your reflections. Confession is not about making us 'feel bad' but rather to be embraced by God's mercy in a real and tangible way - not to talk about it, but to experience it. The door is open. Prepare the way of the Lord and experience God's mercy and love.

Practical note: You can call any of the phone numbers on the cover of the bulletin if you would want an appointment time for confession. You don't even have to mention that it is for confession. If you would like me to come to the house, please call and I would be happy to come to you. Our confession times are on Saturdays at 3:30 pm at St. Raphael, Tuesdays at 9:30 am at St. Anne, and Wednesdays at 5 pm at St. Catherine. Or at All Saints in Alpena on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays at 11 am, and Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 pm. Or at Sacred Heart in Oscoda on Saturdays at 4:30 pm. Or at Holy Family in East Tawas on Saturdays at 3 pm.

God bless,



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

SEE ONLINE CALENDAR FOR FULL DETAILS

Sunday, December 6, Second Sunday of Advent
 4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael
 6:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Catherine
Dorothy Kauffman
 9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
Fr. Robert Bissot
 11:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Edwin & Mary Curtin

Monday, December 7,
 9:00 am Mass, St. Anne
The unborn
 6:30 pm **Vigil Mass Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,** St. Catherine
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael

Tuesday, December 8, **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 9:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael
 9:30-10:30 am, Adoration & Confession at St. Anne
 4:30 pm Mass, St. Raphael
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael

Wednesday, December 9,
 9:00 am Mass, St. Gabriel
Fruitful Advent
 9:30 am Rosary, St. Gabriel
 5:00 pm Adoration & Confession at St. Catherine

Thursday, December 10,
 9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
Lyle Beatty
 9:30 am Adoration, St. Catherine

Friday, December 11,
 NO MASS

Saturday, December 12,
 3:30 pm Confession, St. Raphael

Sunday, December 13, Third Sunday of Advent
 4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael
Respect for all life
 6:30 pm Mass, St. Catherine
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael
 9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
John Dumont
 11:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Retired Religious

PARISH STEWARDSHIP



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10).
 Thanks you for all the sacrifices you make as we all labor in God's vineyard to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors. 10% of everything received is donated to support charities near and far.

	St. Anne	St. Catherine	St. Gabriel	St. Raphael
Needed each week	\$2,144.23	\$2,593.95	\$555.10	\$740.38
Needed year-to-date	\$49,317.29	\$54,472.95	\$11,657.10	\$17,028.74
Actual year-to-date	\$46,316.08	\$54,221.28	\$10,913.17	\$16,377.90
November 29	\$2,306.00	\$3,380.28	\$756.28	\$669.80
Other Collections:	\$20.00	\$447.53	\$50.00	\$465.00

Pray for Our Priests & Religious

Sunday—Rev. Stanislaw Bereda
 Monday—Rev. Tyler Bischoff
 Tuesday— Deceased Priests
 Wednesday— Rev. Joseph Blasko
 Thursday—Rev. Lawrence Boks
 Friday—Rev. Msgr. James Brucksch
 Saturday—Most Rev. Walter Hurley

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection next weekend, December 12/13. Your gift provides vital funding for medications, nursing care and other necessities to our elderly religious. If you are unable to give during Mass, please mail your offertory envelope to the parish office. Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer Tags: St. Catherine and St. Anne parishioners, take a random tag off the tree and pray for the parishioner on the back of the card. St. Raphael parishioners, look for your name on the front of the tag and pray for the parishioner on the back of the tag. St. Gabriel's tags have been distributed.

Formed.org

We are excited to announce a new resource for EVERYONE! Tired of channel surfing and finding nothing good and wholesome to watch on TV? Try FORMED.ORG. There are thousands of videos, talks, ebooks, and movies to watch for all ages.
 How to sign up:
 Go to www.formed.org
 Click the "Sign up" button
 Click the "Sign up as a parishioner" button
 Type in the zip code 49766 (you must use 49766).
 Select the Parishes of the Resurrection
 Type in your Name and Email address.
 Click the "sign up" button

You can also sign up for daily video reflections and

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:
 4:00 pm, St. Anne—Harrisville
 8:00 pm, St. Catherine –Ossineke
 Christmas Day, Dec. 25:
 9:00 am, St. Gabriel– Black River
 11:00 am, St. Raphael—Mikado

Christmas Flower Memorials: This Christmas our four parishes are accepting Christmas flower donations in Memory Of/In Honor of your friends and loved ones. The names will be listed and honored in our Christmas bulletin. There are special envelopes in the gathering spaces of our churches, or simply use your own envelope and drop in the collection basket or mail into the parish offices. The deadline is Friday, December 18th.

Alcona St. Vincent de Paul is looking for volunteers to help fill Christmas baskets on December 21st. If you are willing and able to assist, please contact Sharon Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm 989-736-6071. She will set up a schedule to accommodate social distancing guidelines.

Protecting our children— Diocese Promise to protect; pledge to heal.

In an effort to protect all children and to promote healing, the Diocese of Gaylord encourages victims of child abuse or neglect to report the matter. In fact, many professionals are required by Michigan State law to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child or minor. Individuals should contact their local office of the Department of Human Services. If an allegation involves sexual misconduct of a minor by clergy or any employee of the Diocese of Gaylord, even if it is in the past, individuals may also contact Larry LaCross at (989) 705-9010.