

December 13, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. If you're like many of us, your sense of the days and months is confused! This day is also called "Gaudete Sunday," meaning in Latin "be joyful" Sunday, since the celebration of Christmas is coming near. It is Sunday's second reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians 5.16-24 and begins "Brothers and Sisters, rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit...Test everything, retain what is good...The one who calls you is faithful and he will also accomplish it."

So what are we learning during this time that is brand new for all of us? What might the God who is faithful be revealing to us about ourselves and each other? I don't want to presume to speak for you since many of our experiences are unique to each of us. I invite you to sit quietly or take a walk and ask yourself, your deepest self, that question. Here's what I've learned in order of least to most important: I've learned that I really am not gifted with details and that this lack in my ability often ends up inconveniencing others. I don't sleep well when I'm worried about small happenings or major ones. I need to be grateful for all the small and huge acts of kindness being offered from little ones to senior citizens towards those most in need. I want to make the Sign of the Cross when I awake and consciously offer my day, whatever it holds, to God for the healing emotionally, physically and spiritually of all my sisters and brothers.

Many people these days are praying to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe for those affected by the virus. Since she visited the Indigenous people of Mexico in 1531 after the invasion by Cortez and the Spanish army and assured them of her protection, the faithful of many countries have sought her intercession.

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas, we come to you today as your beloved children and ask you to intercede for us with your son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, Loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for our families and all our loved ones, the protection of your Holy Angels, that we may be spared the worst of Coronavirus. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our Compassionate Mother, Health of the Sick and Cause of our Joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of our arms. Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Peace,
Sr. Sheral