



**Those whom the LORD has ransomed
will return and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.**

— *Isaiah 35:10a*

PROMISE FULFILLED

Today's readings address the faithful one, the one who waits on God but may not feel God's presence. Every person who seeks God has at one time or another experienced the absence of God. Jesus himself cried out during his dark night of the soul.

The Epistle of James speaks to this. The author says that we must be as patient as the silent, fallow earth that awaits the slow, soaking rains of winter and the hard, necessary rains of spring. As the farmer is sure of the precious yield of the land, we can be sure of the precious yield of our patient waiting. God is never far away.

The messengers from John the Baptizer asked Jesus if he was the one whose coming John had announced. The messengers wanted to hear the answer that the imprisoned John already knew. Everything that John said was finally happening: because of Jesus, light shines in eyes; words of promise are received; people leap and dance.

The promise of Isaiah is fulfilled in Jesus. Wobbly knees and feeble hands are strong, the desert blooms, the savanna and steppe flower, the darkness is chased away. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Joy is different from happiness. Happiness is a transient experience, but joy has more depth to it, more lasting roots. It can be independent of what is going on around us. In John's Gospel, the night before he died, Jesus says to his disciples that he wants his joy to be

in them and their joy to be complete (John 15:11). And Paul writes to the Thessalonians: "Rejoice always" (2 Thessalonians 5:16).

Today's readings invite us to think about what brings us joy. Isaiah offers images of a world that will blossom or bloom, flowering into fullness. The prophet gives us wonderful images of dry, parched land suddenly breaking into a colorful display of new and abundant life.

This fullness also results from something being restored that had been lost or that was missing from the start: sight, hearing, being able to sing and leap with joy, health of body and spirit. Such fullness comes from God. It is gift, pure and simple.

God wants us to have this fullness of life, to be sure. It will come with the coming of the Lord. In the meantime, we are to wait patiently, not complaining, but with hearts marked by certitude. We have assurance in that we have already been welcomed into the kingdom at our baptism. The rest is only a matter of time. In speaking of John as more than a prophet, Jesus concludes by saying, "Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11).

—*James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.*

Copyright © 2013, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We make transitions along life's journey, and search for meaning. Watch an infant take those first wobbly steps. Inevitably they are toward the arms of a dear one, and the gleeful smile and wordless laughter let us know that the baby understands that the whole world is renewed in an instant. Parents may see that wide-eyed smile again some years later as they flip car keys in the teenager's direction, and by God's grace at in-between moments of forgiveness and affirmation.

Sacraments open a window to the blessings of everyday life and help us claim their deep meaning. A voice from a fiery bush warned Moses to take off his shoes because he stood on "holy ground." Your first steps, your first word, taking your place at the family table, stirring to new love, forgiving and being forgiven: all of this is holy, laden with meaning, full of possibilities. Sacraments are not escape pods from the realities of the everyday; rather they invest us ever more deeply in life and recruit us for the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. We take baby steps all our life long. In the world of sacrament, they are always directed toward the arms of a loving God, and always on the common holy ground of a community's life.

—*Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*



Saturday, December 13th -
5:00PM-IHM– For our seminarians Francisco Camacho, Cameron Moore & Martin Luna; +Belinda Gomez, Tomas y Guadalupe Morales; +Manuela Solano

Sunday, December 14th -
“Third Sunday of Advent”

8:00AM – +Por Grupo Misionero y en acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Miguel Montealvo, Guadalupe Gutierrez y Eustolia Saavedra; +Sarah Gomez, Ysidro y Elvira Navarrette, Eulalio y Sarita Olvera
11:00AM – For the People of Nolan County

Tuesday, December 16th 9:00AM - HF
 +Ray T. Reyes

Wednesday, December 17th 9:00AM-HF
 +Khris Torrez

Thursday, December 18th 9:00AM HF
 +Leticia Acopa

Friday, December 19th 9:00AM HF
 In Thanksgiving for the birthdays of Maritza y Alhlya Montealvo

Saturday, December 20th -
5:00PM-IHM– +Maria Morales & Carlos Guerrero & Rodolfo Morales; +Ruben Gutierrez, +Alma & Frances Solano

Sunday, December 21st -
“Fourth Sunday of Advent”
8:00AM – +Martina Herrera; +Rodrigo DeLoera; +Christopher Cardoza
9:30AM – HF – For the People of Nolan County
11:00AM – +Marcelino & Esther Rodriguez; For our seminarians Noah Hernandez, Humberto Diaz, Martin Luna; For the well-being of Solis Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
 Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
 Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
 Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
 Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

● **PENANCE SERVICE** – The Parish Advent Penance Service is Friday, December 19th, at 6:30pm.

MASS will be celebrated at Holy Family, next Sunday, December 21st, at 9:30am.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Bishop Sis will celebrate Mass with us on Monday, December 22nd, at 6:30pm. Posada will follow in the parish hall.

WEDNESDAY - Reminder - No Wednesday evening Masses during the month of December. All weekday Masses will be at Holy Family @9:00am. **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:00-7:00pm at Immaculate Heart.** We’ll be back on schedule in January.

WHY AM I CATHOLIC? Deacon Bill’s sharing session is every Tuesday at his home, @6pm. All are invited!

ULTREYA in English, meets -- Sunday, December 14th, at 6:00pm, IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit <http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – will meet this Sunday, December 14th, @4:00pm at Holy Family Hall.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES - in the surrounding area @ 6:30pm

- December 16 – Sacred Heart, Abilene
- December 17 – Sacred Heart, Coleman
- December 18 – St. Ann, Colorado City
- December 19 – **Holy Spirit, Sweetwater**

COLLECTION DATA – 12/06-07

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$3580.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1512.94
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.....	770.25
CCD.....	806.81
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$6670.00

THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?
 It has feet to go to the poor and needy.
 It has eyes to see misery and want.
 It has ears to hear
 the sighs and sorrows of others.
 —St. Augustine

Looking Forward *Children look forward to Christmas, teens look forward to the winter break, adults look forward to a time of relaxation—a weekend, a quiet evening. By this time in Advent, Christmas looms even closer and anticipation, intensifies as we count off the days. Christmas is at most two weeks away. On this Gaudete Sunday we rejoice. We can hardly wait, and the joy spills over. Gaudete!*

POSADAS



The word *posada* means “inn” or “lodging.” During Las Posadas, families and neighbors reenact the moment when Mary and Joseph, about to welcome baby Jesus, go from door to door asking for a place to stay. Each night from **December 16 to 24**, a different home or community space becomes the setting for this living Christmas tradition.

All Posadas begin at 7:00pm, except *Monday December 22nd; Posada will follow after the Mass with Bishop Sis.

Tuesday	12/16/25	Grupo Misionero	IHM Hall
Wednesday	12/17/25	Lorenzo & Aurora Ruiz	1111 Hickory
Thursday	12/18/25	OCIA	HF Hall
Friday	12/19/25	Shelly Montevalvo	IHM Hall
Saturday	12/20/25	Guadalupanas	IHM Hall
Sunday	12/21/25	Aleja Ortega, Irene Montemayor	611 W. Broadway
* Monday	12/22/25	Cursillistas	IHM Hall
		*6:30PM Mass with Bishop Sis	
Tuesday:	12/23/25	Argelia Gonzalez	1211 Bawcom
Wednesday	12/24/25	Immaculate Heart Church	