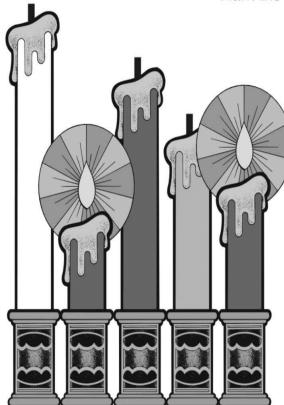
# **PREPARATION**

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Mark 1.3



### St. Regina's Church Staff

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## Remember In Prayer

Michaelle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello , Emanel Milligan, Leonard Humble , Martha Jo Neuenschwander , Judy Hendricks

,Genevieve Schachle

# Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low.

-Isaiah 40:4

#### **GOD'S DELAY**

In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?"

And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.

#### Watching for Christ's Coming

In the season of Advent, we look to the coming of Christ at the end of time, and we prepare ourselves to celebrate his first coming among us at Christmas. Remembrance of the past is combined with preparation for the future. Memory meets action.

In a certain sense, the Mass is an Advent prayer. At the Last Supper, Jesus did not tell his disciples, "Never forget what I did for you." Instead, he said, "Do this in remembrance of me." He calls us to remember by *doing*, to combine memory with action. In the celebration of the Eucharist, remembering and doing become one. Jesus is as present in our midst as he was in that upper room, breaking the bread and sharing the cup; but it is a new kind of presence, seen only with the eyes of faith. In the heavenly liturgy, there will be no need of sacraments, for there, "celebration is wholly communion and feast" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1136). Here, things are different. We have only glimpses and flashes of the beauty that is yet to be. And yet, in the liturgy, we truly participate in the heavenly liturgy. The Mass is our foretaste of the joys of heaven.

#### TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

#### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;

Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab;

Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;

Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the

Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;

December 8th: Mass at 9:00 am for the

Immaculate Conception in Lexington

**December 9th**: Penance Service

St Regina at 6:00 pm

December 12th: Spanish Mass at 6:30 pm for

Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lexington

#### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Ambrose;

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday: St. Juan Diego

Thursday: International Human Rights Day;

Hanukkah begins at sunset

Friday: St. Damasus I

Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

# DEC.13TH 2020 LECTOR MELISSA

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Necessity is the plea for every infringement on human rights. It is the argument of tyrants.

# **Special Collection**

Retired Fund for Religious

December 13th

#### **WEEKLY OFFERING**

BUDGET

\$ 1351.00

NOV. 29TH

\$ 1190.00