



*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

**THIS SUNDAY – DECEMBER 14TH, 2025**

## **ABUNDANCE; OUR PART IN HIS PROMISED KINGDOM**

### **Waiting for the Precious Crop**

We come to the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, or Rose Sunday as it is also known, which reminds us that this is a season for patient and expectant waiting, but also a season for great rejoicing in what is awaited.

Imagine the joyful expectation of someone whose living depends on farming, knowing that when the crops are gathered there will be abundance for them and their family, and even enough to give to those who are lacking. Such joy is great indeed. Nevertheless, the expectant joy of those who await the coming of our Savior into our lives cannot compare to any other kind of joy.

In his letter the Apostle James urges his addressees to "be patient until the coming of the Lord", and uses the image of the farmer I just referred to above. He also reminds them of how the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord are the good examples they must heed, and spurs them with these words: "Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near."

The prophet Isaiah is widely cited by the New Testament writers due to the abundance of references that he makes to the coming of the Day of the Lord, and also to his depiction of the "suffering servant", a character that most closely resembles the messianic image of Jesus Himself as the Savior.

His images in chapter 35 are really beautiful and joyful, bringing great hope and consolation to his contemporaries, and great inspiration even for present-day followers of Christ: "then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy...for waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert..."

These are images of great comfort. They speak of restoration, of fullness of life and health, of desert places transformed by living waters. The prophet is clearly referring to a future time, but he urges the people to prepare accordingly. He proclaims, "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"



Psalm 146 gives us images of justice and righteousness based on the Lord's great compassion, but also makes clear that the greatest blessedness consists in imitating God's ways. The writer states, "Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! Whose hope is in the Lord their God...the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; He sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked."

The prophetic message that runs throughout the Holy Scriptures is always one of full trust and joyful hope in God's plan for the restoration of our broken relationships, with the Creator, with one another, and with creation itself, but it is also a message that urges us to cooperate, to be active participants in the process, to co-create this restored world with Him.

The farmer who joyfully awaits the crops has done a lot of previous work: sowing, weeding, fertilizing, watering. Farmers know the earth with its nutrients will in due time yield the expected crops. There is a certain degree of certitude in the joyful wait. A storm or some other unexpected event may ruin the crops, but most of the time there will be abundant crops.

In our case, as Jesus' followers, even if we happen to be "the least among them", there is total certitude in our joyful wait of the consummation of His Kingdom of Love. We do not believe in a lying Savior, but in one who enfleshes God's Spirit of Absolute Truth. Still, as in the farmer's case, we need to do our part. We are active participants. We are urged to enflesh Him in our daily lives, thus aiding to bring about His promised Kingdom of abundant and true life.

*Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector*

## READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-10 + Psalm 146:4-9 + James 5:7-10 + Matthew 11:2-11

# CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10:00 AM. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

**SUNDAY     December 14th, 2025   The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church**  
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)  
Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**  
Ages 5 - 12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

**Christian Formation for Adults (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)**  
Youth and adults around Noon after the Mass in the Library  
Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

## OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally