

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

God uses money to illustrate His power.  
*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,  
that there may be food in my house.  
Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty” (Mal. 3:10).*

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### CANTICLE 15 / THE SONG OF MARY

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

### SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**WE REMEMBER BEFORE GOD ALL PEOPLE  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN  
DISRUPTED BY VIOLENCE OR WAR.**

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE  
AND FOR NEW BEGINNINGS.**

✘ As we pray, let us remember Kim & Dan; Wade; Haley, Andrew & their twins; Michael; the Bishop's Search Committee, Sue; Harriet; Pat; Eloy; Sharyon; Natalie; HT; Debbie; Nini; Francisco; Anita; Zoey; Alex; Abel, Angelo; the Juanillo family; Tori; the Klamka family, Sue; Joe; Tommy; Alan; Colin; the Austin family; Emily; Joyce; John; John; Robert; Scott; Steve; Mike; Randall; Lori; Hollis & Denise; Keira.

Our altar flowers are given by Claudia Mocan.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**IF YOU FORGOT YOUR ANGEL TREE GIFTS, YOU CAN BRING THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BETWEEN 9:30 AND 10 TOMORROW MORNING.** Dan will pick them up at 10 on his way to the school for distribution. Thank you so much for your hard work and generosity!

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUBMITTED THEIR ESTIMATED GIVING FORM.** If you haven't already submitted your form please do so. If you give online or have an automated payment set-up we still need an estimated giving form reflecting your planned giving for 2018.

**ORANGE AIDE PRISON MINISTRY** Our next event is signing January Birthday cards, between services on Sunday, December 31st. A box in the Parish Hall will be provided for your continued donations of cards (Christmas and Birthday) as well as postage stamps.

**FAITH THROUGH THE ARTS INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR NEXT ART EXHIBIT "WOMEN OF THE WORLD" RECEPTION FEATURING THE COLLECTION OF REV. CANON CARMEN GUERRERO — FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018, 6 PM.** Rev. Guerrero will speak about her travels and her experiences collecting art. Refreshments will feature food from many countries. We realize this is a January 5th seems far off, but we don't want you to miss this, event. Be sure to put it on your calendar!. Friday, January 5, 2018.

**SOUL FOOD SUNDAY** We continue sharing the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. We meet 9:10 to 9:55 AM. If you have questions, contact Dan Basche, Mary Grace Gannon, or Rose Hartley.

**FROM OUR REFUGEE MINISTRY** Thank you for your generous donations of furniture and household items. Room 7 is overflowing with all this LOVE! When a Refugee family comes to us, we will be ready to set-up their home to welcome them. Hopefully we will have news of a new family coming to us soon.

**GOING, GOING, GONE!** That is the call of John Klems, our resident auctioneer. It's that time again for our Art Auction to be held April 14, 2018. More to follow, but if you have any art that you would like to donate, please notify Casey Klems at [kklems@cox.net](mailto:kklems@cox.net). This is a fun night, so mark your calendars!

**IF YOU NEED PRAYER FOR YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE,** a member of the Pastoral Care Ministry can be found in our Library during Communion at both services, for 10 minutes before & after the first service, and for 10 minutes after the second service.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SIGN UP SHEET

is in the Altar Flower notebook.

Deadline is TODAY

**Please consider signing up for altar flowers — ALL Sundays in January are open**

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today	Nursery care	7:45–11:15 AM
	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite I</b>	<b>8 AM</b>
	Soul Food Sunday (CH3)	9:10 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	9:45 AM
	Youth Group (CH 6)	9:45 AM
	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
	Praise Band Practice	11:30 AM
Tue.	Faith Through the Arts ((L)	4:30 PM
	Tuesday Night Bible Study	6 PM
	Joyful Noise practice	7 PM
	Bunco (PH)	7 PM
Wed.	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Thu.	Women's Bible Study (MR)	6 PM
Sun.	<b>We do not have services this morning</b>	
	Carol Sing	6 PM
	<b>Christmas Pageant/Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
	Carol Sing	8:30 PM
	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	<b>9 PM</b>

### OUR OFFICE IS CLOSED

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 22 THROUGH MONDAY JANUARY 1**

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

Carol Sing (Joyful Noise Choir /Congregation)	6 PM
Christmas Pageant/Holy Eucharist Rite II	6:30 PM
Carol Sing (Chancel Choir/Congregation)	8:30 PM
Holy Eucharist Rite I	9 PM

*We will not have Sunday morning services on December 24*

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
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### FOOD PANTRY

canned soup, gallon sized zip lock baggies  
brownie mix  
shampoo and conditioner, soap

### BLESSING BAGS

Travel size or individually wrapped please  
granola bars, small bottles of hand sanitizer  
cookies, travel sized bar soap